



## RSPBA North West England Branch

AGM 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2012 at Padgate Community Centre.

A quorum **was** attained within one half hour after the 13:00 (1PM) start time of the meeting {rule 14.1 Five Band Representatives entitled to vote shall form a quorum at Branch Meetings}.

### Present Officials

- P Brown Secretary
- J Thomson Chairman
- C Eyre President, Treasurer & Webmaster
- P Brown National Council representative

### Apologies

- T Brown Music Board representative

### Welcome

In opening the meeting at 13:05 Jeff Thomson the branch chairman thanked those in attendance for taking the time out of their schedules to represent their bands' interests at the AGM. He also introduced Ian Embelton, the CEO of the RSPBA, to the members.

### Apologies were received from:-

- Scots Guards Association Manchester
- Bolton Caledonia
- City Of Sheffield Pipe Band

### Bands in attendance:-

- Black Thistle
- Chorley
- City of Liverpool
- Greater Manchester ACR
- Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service -2003
- Oldham Scottish
- Warrington
- Wirral
- Manchester Phoenix

It was good to see active support from the bands in the branch with nine bands in attendance and apologies received from a further three, a significant step forward from 2010 when we did not attain a quorum at the AGM.

The 2011 AGM minutes were circulated along with Version 1 of the 2012 accounts. The AGM minutes had been reviewed at the January meeting in 2012.

City of Liverpool raised two points on the AGM minutes, they referenced 2012 and if they were not present how could they be listed as a Proposer (in the table of Branch Executives). Post meeting investigation by the Secretary has concluded that:

The title for the 2011 minutes on the Web Site index is correct. There is a typo within the minutes stating 2012 instead of 2011 which may not have been spotted, but if it was it was never corrected within the published minute, or recorded in the subsequent GM meeting. The secretary apologises for this administrative error.

The information in the table of officials is correct. The Posts came up for renewal on the 5th December 2010. This AGM could not take place as we did not have a Quorum of bands in attendance at the AGM. The posts were ratified in the January meeting. In looking at the minutes the table in the 2010 AGM shows blank for the Posts Treasurer onwards in terms of Proposed and Seconded. In the January meeting bands present proposed and seconded the individuals. At this meeting we also agreed that the post of Treasurer would be until 2012 to stagger the renewals. The details are carried forward as a matter of record, until the post comes up for renewal, which this year was the Treasurer.

The table in its current form could be misleading, I have added details to the table of branch executives to indicate the AGM/GM meeting at which the nomination took place, to clarify when the proposal occurred.

City of Liverpool stated that the accounts presented did not tally; should the -119.68 not be -120.09. This was taken away to be investigated. The post meeting investigation highlighted two transcription errors when transferring the figures from the spreadsheet maintained by the Treasurer to the accounts format. The document has been updated. The branch loss is as stated £119.68.

Version 3 of these accounts has been issued because a typo was present in the Total Income on the Income Expenditure page; the value should have been 1,419:50 and not the 1,41:50 presented and the Trio Entry was 225:50 and not 225:00.

The branch accounts will be circulated for approval at the January General Meeting.

### **Treasurers Report**

Although we made a loss of £119.68 in the year we still have a strong balance of £2,233.52 going in to 2013. We managed to cover our indoor competitions as well as piping and drumming workshops.

### **Directors & Music Board Report** - Combined report presented by Paul Brown.

The number of bands in attendance highlights the growing interest in what we are doing collectively. Bands, please ensure you have paid your membership fees to the RSPBA.

The RSPBA has been focused on operating as a Company and the delivery of the Major Championships. Key areas have been securing the new agreements for the majors for the next three years as well as planning the 2013 two day Worlds.

The bands are to be commended for their hard work during the year; we had good participation in the branch indoor competitions, and bands did represent themselves and the branch in the outdoor events.

We must thank the providers of our venues, Oldham Scottish – Polish Club, Greater Manchester ACR - Holcombe Moor, Wirral – St Josephs, without them we would have great difficulty hosting our events.

Successful Piping and Drumming workshops have been held, and there is some interest in PDQB being shown. It is hoped we can do more in 2013.

### **Headquarters Brief**

New venues have been agreed for two of the Majors, ie. Bathgate and Forres, with the contracts for the four Majors having been renewed for the next three years. The only exception is Cowal which is on a rolling 1 year contract.

In 2013 the Worlds will be a 2 day event. The existing single day event is a victim of our own success, because of the number of bands attending it is becoming too hard to manage for both the Adjudicators and Stewards. Other than Grade 1 bands will play on one day. There are some who do not see this as a good idea or agree with it being held on a Sunday. There will be a full review in September collecting feedback from Organisers, Bands and the Public to see if we have got it right. The BBC are currently only filming on the Sunday. However, negotiations are only in the early stage.

Cowal. There have been several changes over the years to accommodate both the Gathering and the Pipe Band Championships. The facilities are now a little dated and do not support the number of Bands attending and the investment they make. A number of concerns relate to Health and Safety, Security, Stewarding have been raised by bands. Cowal as a competition will continue and will have the support of the Glasgow West of Scotland branch, but may not be renewed as a major championship.

The education officer appointed by the RSPBA has produced a paper regarding his strategy for review by the directors and is now responsible for the organisation of training.

Discussions are in the early stages with Glasgow City Council on options for relocating the RSPBA headquarters.

The finances of the RSPBA are sound. With a balance approaching £450,000 we have sufficient funds to continue operation for 1.5 years should our contract/chartable income stop for any unforeseen reason. Prize funds have been increased by 50%, based on the new 3 year contracts agreed for the Major Championships.

### **Branch executives for 2011/12**

Ian Embelton took the chair for the ratification and election of officials. There were no nominations made prior to the meeting. Paul Brown was asked to remain in post as Secretary and Chris Eyre to remain as Treasurer. All other posts were unanimously ratified by the membership.

Post		In Post until	
President	C Eyre	Dec 2014	4 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2011 AGM Prop: City of Sheffield Pipe Band Sec: Warrington Pipe Band 2004
Chairman	J Thomson	Dec 2014	4 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2011 AGM Prop: City of Sheffield Pipe Band Sec: Wirral Pipe Band
Secretary	P Brown	Dec 2014	4 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2011 AGM Prop: Oldham Scottish Pipe Band Greater Sec: Greater Manchester ACF.
Treasurer	C Eyre	<b>Dec 2015</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Dec 2012 AGM</b> Prop: Black Thistle Pipe Band. Sec: City of Liverpool Pipes and Drums
Music Board	T Brown	Dec 2013	16 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2011 AGM/GM Prop: Warrington Pipe Band – 2004. Sec: Oldham Scottish Pipe Band.
National Council	P Brown	Dec 2013	16 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2011 AGM/GM Prop: City of Liverpool Pipes and Drums Sec: Wirral Pipe Band
Trophy Steward, Web Site Design and Competition Secretary	C Eyre	Dec 2013	16 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2011 AGM/GM Prop: Oldham Scottish Pipe Band. Sec: City of Sheffield Pipe Band

#### AOCB

Possible rule change being brought forward regarding the need to put Pipes Down. There was debate. The feeling was that the rule as it stands is a little military and does not take the needs of the Band into account.

The RSPBA AGM packs will be out in Feb and will contain details of all the proposed changes. Please try and attend if possible. Your vote counts.

#### AGM

Closed @ 13:45.

P L Brown  
Secretary  
NWE Branch