



RSPBA North West England Branch

AGM (and GM) 7th December 2014 at Padgate Community Centre.

A quorum **was** attained within one half hour after the 13:00 (1PM) start time of the meeting.

Present Officials

- P Brown Secretary
- J Thomson Chairman
- C Eyre President, Treasurer & Webmaster
- P Brown Director RSPBA
- T Brown Music Board representative
- K Thacker Vice- Chairman (following the AGM)

Welcome

In opening the meeting at 13:20 Jeff Thomson the branch chairman thanked those in attendance for representing their bands interests at the AGM.

Bands in attendance:-

- Warrington
- Wirral
- Manchester Phoenix
- Oldham Scottish
- Chorley, Croft and Culcheth

Bands not in attendance:-

- Scots Guards Association Manchester
- Bolton Caledonia
- West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service.
- City of Preston
- Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service -2003

The Secretary advised those present that in reviewing the Branch Constitution and Rules on the branch website for this AGM, a quorum for a meeting is three bands under rule 9 "Three Band representatives entitled to vote shall form a quorum at Branch Meetings."

There was no representation from headquarters attending the AGM.

The 2013 AGM minutes were circulated along with the 2013 accounts. No corrections or comments on these minutes have been received, and they have been on the branch website since the beginning of the year. The minutes were accepted on the proposal by Warrington, seconded by Wirral and unanimously supported. The minutes were accepted.

It was requested that the AGM and GM be progressed together with the AGM business being completed first. This was accepted by all.

The branch needs a minimum of 12 bands to have representation at headquarters. At the time of the AGM only 10 bands have paid their membership.

To keep our identity and avoid merging with another branch, we need to contact bands in the area to encourage them to consider joining the branch (and the RSPBA) as members. A couple of candidates have been identified.

Members are to pass contact details to the Secretary so we can make contact and see what these bands would like/need.

Treasurers Report

The 2014 accounts have been circulated and a copy forwarded to headquarters. The accounts were proposed by Warrington and seconded by Chorley and unanimously accepted.

It was a good year for the Branch as previously reported. Oldham advised that there had been changes in the committee at the Polish club and it was likely that their venue would incur a cost in the future. The branch has indicated that we are very willing to pay for the venue if the cost is reasonable. The representative from Oldham will get back to us as soon as he has a response.

Trophies are to be returned ready for the 2014 branch competitions. In 2014 trophies will be awarded to NWE branch members, medals to be issued to non-branch winners.

Directors Report

Major Championships 2014:

United Kingdom [Belfast]

The original venue at Ormeau Park was deemed unfit for the championship due to various refurbishments and replaced by our well tried venue at Stormont Estate.

Bathgate [British]

Various improvements from the previous year, disappointment was the lack of the additional bridge that was promised. Next year [2015] may see the contest at a different venue on the outskirts of Bathgate.

Forres [European]

Once again the Piping Hot Forries committee continued to "think outside the box". Licensing of the complete Grant Park, with three beer tents charging normal pub prices, was greatly appreciated. Feedback from all who attended was extremely positive.

Dumbarton [Scottish]

Due to inclement weather the massed bands were cancelled in liaison with the promoter and the presentation of prizes held in the guest marquee.

Glasgow [Worlds]

Very little negative feedback. Mixed feelings on the Friday massed Grade One Bands. Huge positive was the introduction of the whole of the park being licensed for the first time. Interesting fact that during the Commonwealth Games bed/night occupation in Glasgow Hotels was 92% whilst week commencing 11th August was 95% and Thursday, Friday and Saturday of the "Worlds" was 99%.

World Solo Drumming/ International Tenor

Once again successfully held in Glasgow Caledonian University.

Major Championships 2015 and beyond

Next year sees the end of our three year contracts with Bathgate, Forres, Dumbarton and Glasgow. Also, our two year contract with Belfast.

Glasgow has just been awarded the World Pipe Band Championships for the next 6 years, commercially guaranteeing income for the RSPBA (Saturday 15th November 2014).

Invitations are now being sent out to all interested parties to bid for the Scottish, British, United Kingdom and European Championships, with bids closing at mid-day on Friday 6th February 2015.

Premises Update

Negotiations continue with various groups within Glasgow City Council and beyond. St Martyrs Church in Townhead [adjacent to the Caledonian University Campus] was investigated as a possible new headquarters. A survey was completed and an "indicative bid" was deemed unsuccessful. Discussions continue with Glasgow City Council.

Association Finances

It is anticipated that the Association will show a working surplus in excess of £100K to year end 31st December, 2014. This together with the balance and investments carried forward from the previous year will show an anticipated total of £620K going forward.

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 2014 venues, Oldham Scottish – Polish Club, Wirral – St Josephs and Warrington - Padgate

The number of bands in the branch is diminishing as discussed earlier.

There are to be a number of Standing Order changes to be proposed at the 2015 AGM. Splitting the Novice Juvenile into two grades at major championships; increasing the number of waiting days when transferring a registration from fourteen days. Please consider your views and how your band is to vote, remember a band can appoint a proxy if the Band Secretary cannot attend.

There was debate; it was felt that the Novice Juvenile and Juvenile may need to be re aligned at minor contest.

Music Board Report

This has been a good year for the branch having held a successful Drum Major Workshop, as well as the active participation in the branch indoor competitions.

The Music Board business continues to look at completion format. The number of marches has been increased from 22 to 42 tunes. Grade 4A bands can now introduce 4 parted marches.

The Music Board are working on adding 4 parted Strathspeys and Reels to be available in August (Worlds Programme) for use in the 2016 events.

The Novice Juvenile Grade is to be split for major championships from 2016. There was debate; it was felt that the Novice Juvenile and Juvenile may need to be re aligned at minor contest.

Branch executives for 2011/12

The secretary took the chair for the ratification and election of officials. There were no nominations made prior to the meeting. The current holders for the posts of 1) President, 2) Chairman, 3) Secretary and 4) Treasurer were asked to remain in post. K Thacker was asked to take the post of Vice-Chairman as he is a signatory to the branch bank account. All other posts were ratified. Proposed by Manchester Phoenix, seconded by Oldham and unanimously accepted.

Post		In Post until	
President	C Eyre	Dec 2017	7 th Dec 2014 AGM Prop: Manchester Phoenix Sec: Oldham Scottish
Chairman	J Thomson	Dec 2017	7 th Dec 2014 AGM Prop: Manchester Phoenix Sec: Oldham Scottish
Vice-Chairman	K Thacker	Dec 2017	7 th Dec 2014 AGM Prop: Manchester Phoenix Sec: Oldham Scottish
Secretary	P Brown	Dec 2017	7 th Dec 2014 AGM Prop: Manchester Phoenix Sec: Oldham Scottish
Treasurer	C Eyre	Dec 2017	7 th Dec 2014 AGM Prop: Manchester Phoenix Sec: Oldham Scottish
Music Board	T Brown	Dec 2016	8th Dec 2013 AGM Prop: Warrington Pipe Band – 2004. Sec: Oldham Scottish Pipe Band.
National Council	P Brown	Dec 2016	8th Dec 2013 AGM Prop: Wirral Pipe Band Sec: Oldham Scottish Pipe Band
Trophy Steward, Web Site Design and Competition Secretary	C Eyre	Dec 2016	8th Dec 2013 AGM Prop: Greater Manchester ACF. Sec: Greater Manchester Fire And Rescue

The constitution needs to be reviewed and agreed by the membership of the Branch. A revised Constitution and Rules has been circulated (an updated one will be issued with these minutes). It was proposed by Warrington and seconded by Chorley and carried unanimously that the Constitution and Rules can be reviewed at the Feb 2015 GM having given all Bands an opportunity (at least 14 days notice) to provide comments for consideration.

The AGM Business concluded @ 14:20 the meeting then progressed through the branch GM business.

Treasurers Report (Chris)

As reported above.

Directors Report (Paul)

As reported above.

Music Board (Theresa)

As reported above, plus.

We are looking to run a Drum Workshop on the 14th /15th Feb at the Padgate Community Centre in Warrington. Eric and Lynn Ward are looking forward to visiting the branch.

The possible agenda is starting from very basic and building up to understanding the written score, mainly for individual players on the Saturday, with some full drum corps booking out slots on the Sunday. The workshop is to be mainly practical rather than written given the standard of the bands in the branch are mainly Grade 4. This may also include a practical on how to tune drums.

Costs will be free to branch members (covered by the bands levy) on the Saturday, (£20 for none branch guests). Slots for bands on the Sunday cost £20 per Band. To manage numbers please notify the Secretary if interested in attending as an individual on the Saturday and/or as a Band on the Sunday.

Contact has been made with headquarters regarding a Drum Major Instructor running a course in April (18th?). Please let the secretary know if you have interested Drum Majors to confirm the viability of the event.

Through the outreach programme the instructor fees will be paid for by headquarters, the branches are responsible for travel, accommodation and the venue expenses of running the workshop.

2015 Branch Competitions.

We continue to plan the 2015 branch indoor competitions. We hope as in previous years to make preliminary contact with individual adjudicators who have shown interest and are available to attend one of our events, and then contact headquarters for them to be officially allocated to enable early travel arrangements to be finalised.

The key is finding suitable Branch venues.

The events are to be open to all branches, to increase the viability of the events and vary the competition.

In each of the categories there will be both an open competition and branch confined competition.

Note Trophies will be awarded to branch competitors and medals to non branch members.

Proposed dates for our indoor contests for 2015:

1. Sat. 7th or 21st Feb: Solo Piping
2. Sun.8th or 22nd Feb : Solo Drumming
3. Sun. March 1st or 8th: Trio Piping
4. Sat. Apr 11th: Minibands, Quartets, Drum Salute

The venues and adjudicators will be announced as soon as confirmed.

Oldham are to identify if the Polish Club is available to host the solo events.

Chris to confirm the availability of Cameron to adjudicate at one of the events.

Chris has polled the bands and has received good initial feedback on likely entries; the Solo Piping based on last year's entrants and the movement of players at first glance, may not be.

The Solo Drumming categories are to be reviewed to make it more interesting for the Intermediate and Advanced drummers. Chris to update the entry forms.

AOCB

Next Meeting 1st Feb 2015 @ 13:00

Closed @ 15:00.

P L Brown
Secretary
NWE Branch