



## RSPBA North West England Branch

AGM 8<sup>th</sup> December 2013 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 Director RSPBA
- T Brown Music Board representative

### Welcome

In opening the meeting at 13:15 Jeff Thomson the branch chairman thanked those in attendance for representing their bands interests at the AGM.

No apologies were received.

### Bands in attendance:-

- City of Liverpool
- Greater Manchester ACF
- Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service -2003
- Oldham Scottish
- Warrington
- Wirral
- Manchester Phoenix

### Bands not in attendance:-

- Scots Guards Association Manchester
- Bolton Caledonia
- Black Thistle
- Chorley
- West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service.
- City of Preston

The 2012 AGM minutes were circulated along with the 2012 accounts. The AGM minutes had been reviewed at the January GM in 2013.

There is no representation from headquarters attending the AGM.

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.

A discussion took place around the future of the branch and do we need to consider a merger with either the Midland or NWE Branch. The feeling was we should remain independent and contact the bands in the area to encourage them to consider joining the branch (and the RSPBA) as members.

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

In the mean time the fees for Black Thistle are to be paid to ensure the branch has representation at headquarters.

### **Treasurers Report**

The accounts have been circulated and a copy forwarded to headquarters. A copy has been attached to these minutes for members.

Competition entry fees have been increased by £0.50p.

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**

It has been a good year both for the branch and the RSPBA.

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 2013 venues, Oldham Scottish – Polish Club, Greater Manchester ACF - Holcombe Moor, Wirral – St Joseph's School.

The Cowal championship has been replaced by the UK Championship to be held in June in Belfast. Cowal will go on as a championship. During 2014 the bidding process for all 5 major championships will commence.

The 2013 two day World Championship was a success. Following feedback the 2014 event will be a two day event for Grade 1 only. The Grade one qualifying events will take place on the Friday, and the Saturday will be the main event for all other grades.

The directors continue to look at the operational aspects of running the company and how best to support the volunteers needed (Adjudicators, Music Board, Stewards/Compilers Instructors and Assessors) with respect to duty of care.

There are to be a number of Standing Order changes to be proposed at the 2014 AGM. The likely playing ones are a) Pipes Down at the line to be made optional and b) Possibly NI will propose Dual Registration of Drummers. 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, the feeling was that the rule on pipes down as it stands is a little military and does not take the needs of the Band into account. The dual registration of side drummers could be considered from a number of perspectives; give those in a lower grade a change to improve in a higher grade; or give a lower grade an advantage by having a high calibre player direct the core,

### **Music Board Report**

This has been a good year for the branch having held successful MAP and Drumming workshops, as well as the active participation in the branch indoor competitions.

The Music Board business continues to look at completion format. There are no changes that impact the playing or format for the 2014 season.

The scores on the website have been updated for the strathspeys and reels, with the marches being updated in 2014. While this is taking place a working party is looking at the general playing requirements (considering giving a free choice / increase the list of recommended tunes or both).

Feedback from our MAP workshop looks to have influenced the education approach. The outreach process looks to be following a three step approach.

PDQB:-

- Step 1 instructors come to the branch and pass on information to the local instructors (bands and branch) for the candidates looking to be assessed.
- Step 2 after a period of local instruction a second visit to the branch to assess the progress of individuals and finally
- Step 3 assessments.

MAP / Band Progression:-

- Step 1 instructors come to the branch and pass on information to the bands on MAP, what is expected..
- Step 2 after a period of band development a second visit to the branch to assess the progress of bands and provide further advice.
- Step 3 Individual Band assessments, how have things come together, final advice on areas to be improved.

In steps 2 and 3 the focus is more on the band so it is envisaged that bands would book a couple of hours / half a day.

It is important that the bands consider their needs so we can put in requests for instructors early to enable us to make successful use of the time from late September 2014 to run some activity over the winter 2014 / 15.

### **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) Music Board, 2) Director and 3) Trophy Steward, Web Site Design and Competition Secretary asked to remain in post. 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	Dec 2015	2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec 2012 AGM Prop: Black Thistle Pipe Band. Sec: City of Liverpool Pipes and Drums
Music Board	T Brown	<b>Dec 2016</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Dec 2013 AGM</b> <b>Prop: Warrington Pipe Band – 2004.</b> <b>Sec: Oldham Scottish Pipe Band.</b>
National Council	P Brown	<b>Dec 2016</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Dec 2013 AGM</b> <b>Prop: Wirral Pipe Band</b> <b>Sec: Oldham Scottish Pipe Band</b>
Trophy Steward, Web Site Design and Competition Secretary	C Eyre	<b>Dec 2016</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Dec 2013 AGM</b> <b>Prop: Greater Manchester ACF.</b> <b>Sec: Greater Manchester Fire And Rescue</b>

The AGM Business concluded 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.

Are we looking to run a drumming workshop early in the New Year?  
What do we want regarding Piping / MAP?

The Grade 5 proposal looks to have gained no support.

### **2014 Branch Competitions.**

We continue to plan the 2014 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 GM ACF are unable to host the Trios and GMFRS have not been able to fill the gap due to logistic reasons. We can look to use St Josephs as an alternative but it would be better if we could get a more central venue.

The current proposals are for holding:-

- Solo Piping and Drumming on 1<sup>st</sup> (piping) /2<sup>nd</sup> (drumming) February at Oldham  
Cameron Edgar and Adrian Hoy
- Trios 1st March at TBD  
Harry Stephenson
- Quartets, Mini Bands and Drum Salute 12<sup>th</sup> April at Birkenhead  
David Clarke (or Jim Wark) and David Brown

We are intending to open the events to all branches, to increase the viability of the events and vary the competition.

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

The new veterans (Age 60 and over) categories will be 6/8 March and 2/4 March (both of 4 parts or more).

Details to be added to the Entry forms as soon as possible.

### **AOCB**

Question raised on the appeal by City of Newcastle.- details as yet unknown

Next Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> Jan 2014 @ 13:00

Closed @ 14:45.

P L Brown  
Secretary  
NWE Branch



North West England Branch  
Of the RSPBA

Review of Accounts for the Year Ended  
December 2013  
Version 3

North West England Branch  
Balance Sheet – November 2013

Assets Employed

2013

£

**Current Assets**

Bank Account	2,005.62
Cash in Hand	<u>219.86</u>
	2,225.48

**Current Liabilities**

Sundry Creditors	<u>0.00</u>
Net Current Assets	2,225.48

**Accumulated funds**

Balance Brought Forwards	2,233.52
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	<u>(8.04)</u>
	<u>2,225.48</u>

In my opinion the Accounts give a true and fair view of the state of the branch affairs as at 31<sup>st</sup> October 2013 and of the balance for the period at the end.

This report has been prepared from the details provided to the membership by the branch Treasurer. The records kept are clear and reflect the activities of the branch fully.

P L Brown  
3<sup>rd</sup> November 2013

**North West England Branch**  
**Income and Expenditure Account**  
**For the year ending November 2013**

	2013	2012
<b>Income</b>		
Levy	440.00	400:00
Entry (Solo Piping)	160.00	174:00
Entry (Solo Drumming)	97.50	72:50
Entry (Trio Piping)	275.50	225:50
Entry (Quartet/Minibands)	271.00	261:00
Door	0.00	22:00
Donation	0.00	0:00
Raffle/Teas	272.45	264:50
Total Income	<b>1,515.95</b>	<b>1,419:50</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Hall Competition	173.80	275:00
MAP Workshop	181.00	0:00
Drumming Workshop	158.98	0:00
Adjudicator (Solo Drumming)	296.07	210:89
Adjudicator (Solo Piping)	91.98	221:43
Adjudicator (Trio Piping)	166.00	94:00
Adjudicators (Quartet/M'bands)	275.96	314:89
Misc	10.00	367:88
Hall Hire Meetings	83.20	40:00
Expenses	87.00	15:00
Total Expenditure	<b>1,523.99</b>	<b>1,539.18</b>
Profit/(Loss) for Year	<i>(8.04)</i>	<b><i>(119.68)</i></b>
Income Due	0.00	0.00
Profit/(Loss) for 2013		<b>(8.04)</b>