



RSPBA North West England Branch

AGM and GM held on 16th Jan 2011 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}.

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

Welcome

The representatives of the bands in the branch were welcomed by Jeff Thomson the branch chairman at Padgate.

Apologies were received from:-
Chorley Pipe Band

Bands in attendance:-
City of Sheffield Pipe Band
Oldham Scottish Pipe Band
Warrington Pipe Band 2004
Wirral Pipe Band
City of Liverpool Pipes and Drums

Bands who are being reported to the Branch who have not paid their 2010/11 subscriptions are:-

- 1) Bolton Scottish Pipe Band.
- 2) Greater Manchester Pipe Band.
- 3) Henderson Caledonian.

Bands in the branch who have paid their 2010/11 subscriptions:-

- 1) Chorley Pipe Band.
- 2) City of Liverpool Pipes & Drums.
- 3) City of Preston Pipes and Drums.
- 4) City of Sheffield Pipe Band.
- 5) Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service Pipe Band.
- 6) Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service Pipe Band – 2003.
- 7) Oldham Scottish Pipe Band.
- 8) Scots Guards Association Pipe Band Manchester.
- 9) South Cheshire Pipe Band.
- 10) Warrington Pipe Band – 2004.

- 11) West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service Pipe Band.
- 12) Wirral Pipe Band.

It is important that the paid up bands support their branch and the volunteer officials. It is now time to “use it or lose it”.

2010 AGM Outstanding Items

2009/2010 Accounts

The 2010 accounts are presented for adoption. A copy has already been sent to headquarters. This has been a good year for the branch; costs have been kept to a minimum by use of adjudicators that can make use of low cost flights.

Motion to accept the Accounts:

Prop: Oldham Scottish Pipe Band.

Sec: Warrington Pipe Band – 2004.

Accepted: Unanimous

Branch executives for 2010/11

The holders of the posts due for election in 2010 have agreed to be considered again for a further term of office (three years). Motion to ratify the candidates was unanimous.

Post		In Post until	
President	C Eyre	Dec 2011	Prop: City of Sheffield Pipe Band Sec: Warrington Pipe Band 2004
Chairman	J Thomson	Dec 2011	Prop: City of Sheffield Pipe Band Sec: Wirral Pipe Band
Secretary	P Brown	Dec 2011	Prop: Oldham and Scottish Pipe Band Greater Sec: Manchester Fire and Rescue Service Pipe Band.
Treasurer	C Eyre	Dec 2012	Prop: Oldham Scottish Pipe Band. Sec: City of Liverpool Pipes and Drums
Music Board	T Brown	Dec 2013	Prop: Warrington Pipe Band – 2004. Sec: Oldham Scottish Pipe Band.
National Council	P Brown	Dec 2013	Prop: City of Liverpool Pipes and Drums Sec: Wirral Pipe Band
Trophy Steward, Web Site Design and Competition Secretary	C Eyre	Dec 2013	Prop: Oldham Scottish Pipe Band. Sec: City of Sheffield Pipe Band

The Pipe Band Magazine representative is Calum Brown.

2010/11 Branch Levy

Discussion took place regarding the Branch Levy that member bands are asked to pay to support the branch. The Levy must be paid if the band wishes to take part in Branch arranged activities. A motion was put forward to keep the Levy at its current level of £40:00.

Prop: Wirral Pipe Band

Sec: Warrington Pipe Band – 2004.

Accepted: Unanimous.

Jan 2011 GM

The minutes of the previous GM meeting of the 7th November were accepted:

Prop: Wirral Pipe Band

Sec: City of Sheffield Pipe Band

Accepted: Unanimous

Treasurers Report

Last year was good because costs were kept to a minimum by use of adjudicators that can make use of low cost flights.

To ensure the Branch competitions are again cost effective we have booked advanced travel for the adjudicators who have agreed to visit the branch. This has come to just over £431:00.

What we need now is a good entry to offset this investment.

Music Board

It has been agreed that changes to band grading will be posted on the RSPBA web site following announcement at the MB, with a statement "subject to ratification by the NC".

There has been continued debate around MAP and the G4MSR. Work is ongoing between the MB and Adjudicators regarding MAP adjudication at competitions.

A guide for 4A MSR (MAP) as well as the tune list is available on the RSPBA Web Site. Competitions (not majors) should have a G4 (march) section, with the option of hosting a G4 MSR, both classes open to all G4 bands.

There will be a summer school this year, the RSPBA are to place details on the Web site before the end of February 2011. The proposed school to run from Sunday 17th July until Friday 22nd July in Glasgow.

National Council

The December 4th meeting was rescheduled for the 8th Jan as summary of the key activities are:-

Work is ongoing to progress to a Company Limited by Guarantee, it is expected that supporting motions will be presented at the AGM in March. The secretary of each band will become one of the liability members of the company (up to a maximum of £1:00) along with the NC members who also are to become directors.

Notes for guidance were presented with the 2010 AGM Order papers.

Question: City of Liverpool Pipes and Drums / Oldham and Scottish Pipe Band asked when the bands will receive details. **Action:** NC (Paul) to write to headquarters for details.

The position of Chairman of the RSPBA is vacant following the recent resignation of the post holder. City of Sheffield Pipe Band proposed that the Branch support the current vice chairman (Gordon Hamill) for the position; Gordon has a hands on approach and can be

seen assisting with the advance party at the Major Championships. Should Gordon be successful this will leave vice chair vacant and as such we should support Gordon with the nomination of John Hughes to this position. Members present agreed and were like minded; the branch had no other nominees to put forward. **Action:** The President and NC to write to headquarters to support the nomination on the AGM order paper.

The NC is investigating options for:-

- 1) Adjudicator's fees – using a central fund and allocation process to try and limit costs while providing flexibility (hence do not need to have the same local adjudicator(s) all the time).
- 2) Headquarters – what do we need of a new headquarters, location and facilities, when and how.
- 3) Future Majors – progressing the invite to tender and evaluation of bids for the hosting of the Major Pipe Band championships post 2012.

The NC is supporting the MB with PDQB and Pipe Band Studies initiatives, there is a need for branches to make use of the examination facilities now available through the RSPBA, and call on where required the instructor resource available.

A PDQB study period is approx 40hours, this can be a combination of time; local tutor, private study, branch instructor and RSPBA instructor. The key is the need for assessment to ensure candidates' have reached an acceptable standard before being assessed by the formal exam process.

At the AGM the Standing Orders and Steering committee will be presenting changes to the rules in three areas:-

- 1) Dual Registration – in this branch would only impact G4 bands, change would ensure dual registration can apply to the PM of a G4 band and the dual registered player can only be a piper.
- 2) Drum Majors – removal of obsolete rules, make the Drum Majors manual central to the adjudication standards.
- 3) Update the rules for tie breaks in multi component competitions (ie MSR and Hornpipe/Jig).

Additional Competition Dornoch 11th June and Isle of White 21st August 2011.

Bands who have something to say should attend the RSPBA AGM and represent themselves and the Branch.

2011 Branch Competitions.

1. Solos 19th Feb 2011
Sedgeley Park Manchester is not available. Venue is still required so we can book an adjudicator.

Post Meeting

The Solos will now take place on the 20th February as the Oldham and Scottish Pipe Band have found us a venue (other than Sheffield or the Wirral) in Oldham. The entry

forms on the branch website are being updated. Action Competition Secretary (Chris) to advise current entries of the change.

2. Solo Drumming (Snare and Tenor) 26th Feb 2011
Venue – SYF&R Training Centre Sheffield.
Adjudicator: Adrian Hoy
Also on the 27th Feb 2011 there will be a PDQB Drumming examination day and workshop. Please contact Theresa for details. Exam Candidates to be notified no later than 1st Feb 2011 (Sheffield Drummers have little option).
3. Trios 26th March 2011
Venue – SYF&R Training Centre Sheffield.
Adjudicator: Jim Wark
Also on 27th Mar 2011 there will be a MAP, Competition Format and Piping forum/workshop. Please contact Theresa for details.
4. Mini Bands 9th April 2011
Venue - St Josephs Birkenhead.
Adjudicators : Harry Stevenson and Ciaran Mordaunt.

Headquarters have been notified of the above dates and the availability of the adjudicators.

AOCB

City of Liverpool Pipes and Drums – can minutes /meetings be sent to the bands, not all are using the branch website. The secretary responded that this would be feasible once an up to date details were received from headquarters. **Action:** Post Minutes.

City of Liverpool Pipes and Drums/ Oldham and Scottish Pipe Band – need to encourage Pipe Bands to support the branch events by taking guests. This would create an atmosphere as well as a source of revenue teas/coffees and raffles. **Action:** MB (Theresa) to add details of the Drumming and Piping workshops for circulation to the Bands. (See Below)

Meeting close @14:45. The next meeting will be on the 13th February, to allow for the Solo Piping draw.

P L Brown
Minutes Secretary

Drumming

RSPBA NW England Branch is introducing a solo tenor drumming competition. This will be held after the solo snare drumming on Saturday 26th February. Tenor drum competitors will require a piper and a snare drummer as accompaniment (can be borrowed on the day). Categories as per entry form which is available on the Branch website.

PDQB exams in drumming will take place on Sunday 27th February, starting at 9.30am.

Anyone interested in sitting the exam please notify me (Theresa@tmacd.freeseve.co.uk) before 27th January as exam papers need to be ordered and registrations completed and sent to HQ along with £30.00 exam fee.

Anyone sitting exams will be entitled to free lunch and attendance of the drum workshop to be held from 1.00pm to 3.30pm. (Times approx).

Anyone interested in attending the workshop only, fee will be £10.00 to include lunch, please let me know so I can arrange lunch for the right number of people.

The workshop content will be influenced by the competition the day before, and those attending the workshop. It is anticipated that everyone can benefit from the independent input available from Adrian.

Piping

Trios piping competition will be held on Saturday 26th February. Entry forms are on the Branch web-site.

On Sunday 27th February, Jim Wark will provide a Pipe Band Competition Workshop from 9.30am to 3.00pm (Times approx). Anyone interested in learning all aspects of what is required to take a band into the competition arena will benefit from this day. All grades will be catered for.

Cost for the day - £10.00 per person, to include lunch.