



RSPBA North West England Branch

AGM and GM 2nd December 2018 at Padgate Community Centre.

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

Present Officials

- P Brown Secretary
- C Eyre President, Treasurer & Webmaster
- K Thacker Vice- Chairman
- T Brown Music Board representative

Apologies

- J Thomson Chairman

Bands in attendance: -

- Warrington
- Wirral
- West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue
- Oldham Scottish Pipe Band

A quorum was attained, and the meeting started with the AGM @ 13:15

Opening

The vice - chairman welcomed those attending the meeting and thanked them for the continued support they give to their bands and the branch throughout the year.

The secretary reported for the AGM records the passing of Jim Spindley the Drum Major of Nottingham Police and Midland Branch Director, and Nicholas Fagan one of the founding members of the North West England Branch.

The minutes of the 2017 AGM had already been accepted by the branch members at the January 2018 GM. These approved minutes were used as a template for progressing the meeting.

Treasurers Report

As reported at the General Meetings throughout 2017 the branch is in a stable financial position considering the events run throughout the year.

The accounts were accepted at the 28th October 2018 General Meeting, showing a loss for the year of £65:62 and a respectable closing balance of £2278.75. The branch secretary has forwarded a copy of the accounts to headquarters for their records.

A discussion took place regarding the branch Levy. It was decided that the Levy would remain set at the current £40 and this would be used to offset the competitions and workshops run by the branch.

It was also agreed there would be no change to the 2019 competition entry fees.

The hall rental will increase next year to £8 / hour (£16 per meeting).

RSPBA Report

The work of the Board of Directors has been reported to the branch membership at each of the General Meetings held throughout the year, the branch is surviving but we need to encourage bands to join the Branch / RSPBA.

The number of branches within the branch has fallen below the number required for having Director representation at headquarters, information is being presented to the branch by the Secretary as he attends the meeting in his role as Vice-Chairman of the association.

The association is looking at forming a North of England Branch, with the current branches becoming sections retaining their identity under this umbrella structure.

The branch Indoor competitions were successful and went off as planned, many thanks to those who participated, with special thanks to the Competition and Trophy Secretary for all the hard work that goes on behind the scenes.

The branch did not hold a workshop this year, the branch did facilitate an ensemble day for Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue, no other Band requested targeted education at their site for a specific need.

Major Championships 2018

This past season we were again fortunate with the weather for our major championships, although the afternoon of the Scottish at Dumbarton threatened to turn a bit nasty weatherwise. This was our last year at both Belfast for the UK and Forres for the European. We are sad to leave both venues as we have developed an excellent working relationship with both these promoters over the years which allowed us to deliver excellent events in both locations. We hope at some point in the future that we may return to at least one of these locations, if not both.

The World Championships were again held in Glasgow Green over the Friday and Saturday with little negative feedback. The licensing of the total area of the Green was again well received. The use of the large screen adjacent to RSPBA offices to declare the qualifiers for all grades has become a key component of delivering what is an extremely challenging event for all involved.

The Scottish at Dumbarton was well received and the changes to the catering for our officials was a welcome improvement, saving a trek to the other side of the park as in previous years.

The World Solo Drumming and International Tenor Drumming was again successfully held in Caledonian University, Glasgow. This year there were a number of developments in both the playing criteria and the presentation of the event. This year we not only live streamed the adult final, we also recorded all Adult Final performances as well as the Juvenile 5 event. These were all published on the RSPBA You Tube channel, and feedback from both have been very positive, with over 1,000 subscribers to the You Tube channel. With an increased workload due to the large entry and reduced availability of adjudicators, those Adjudicators on duty played a major role in the success of the championships.

Major Championships 2019 and beyond

As mentioned previously, this season saw the completion of our contractual agreements with Forres and Belfast, so for the next three years the UK Championship will be in Lurgan Park, in the town of Lurgan, in County Armagh, which has hosted the All Ireland on a couple of occasions. The European Championships will be at Bught Park, Inverness. We were last here in 2007 for the Europeans Championship, but there have been a number of improvements to the park since then, and the promoters are not the local Council, but a specialised events company LCC Events.

We are back at Paisley for the British for the next three years, and we are continuing to develop the event including the possibility of moving the event to the King George V park in Renfrew. However, ground work on that venue is not yet completed, so may need to stay at St James Park.

The Scottish at Dumbarton is covered by a rolling contract, with a two-year exit clause for either side, so will be back again to Dumbarton in July. The renovation work at Levensgrove Park continues, and we are keeping close to the planning schedule to understand any likely impact on our event. There is work planned for the red blaze area that we use for car parking, so we will work with East Dunbartonshire Council to minimise any impact.

The Worlds remains under contract with Glasgow until 2021, and the WSD sponsorship from Andante is secured until 2020.

Premises Update

Since March this year we have been operating out of the Pentagon Centre in Washington Street, as the HQ building was not wind and water tight. We have progressed with a planned refurbishment of the building, and we had hoped to have started this at the end of the season. However, delays to planning permission and securing appropriate grant funding has meant that the work has not yet started.

We now have a set of architects plans signed off, planning permission approved, building warrant issued, and we have identified our preferred contractor for the work to refurbish both floors of 45 Washington Street. This will include improved tuition and training room facilities, improved multi-media capability, full DDA compliance, and improved facilities throughout the building.

We are meeting again with a number of bodies to try and secure funding, but at this point we have been unsuccessful in attracting grant funding despite application to more than 40 bodies. We are due to meet with Glasgow City Council to see what assistance, if any, they can provide.

The use of the Pentagon Centre has been well received by the staff, and they are successfully running the administration of the Company from the first-floor office.

Association Finances

It is anticipated that the Association will show a small working surplus to year end 31st December, 2018. This together with the balance and investments carried forward from the previous year will show an anticipated total of c.£1m going forward. However, the vast majority of this will be used to carry out the refurbishment of the building unless we secure some additional funding.

At the Board of Directors meeting on 6th October, 2018 the following was agreed: -

1. Championship Entry Fees - No Change
2. Championship Prize Money- No Change
3. Officials Fees and Expenses
 - Mileage allowance increased to £0.40 per mile.
 - Car share allowance increase to £0.10 per mile.
 - Accommodation allowance for Glasgow/Edinburgh increased to £120.
4. Instructor/Assessors Fee's No change

Pipe Band College

The 2018 Annual General Meeting approved the formation of the RSPBA Pipe Band College. The main purpose of the College will be to improve standards in education and training for pipers and drummers leading to improved performance in the competition arena. All the positions within the structure have specifically defined roles and educational and experiential criteria.

The positions of Principal of Piping and Principal of Drumming are new to the structure. The Board of Directors have agreed that expressions of interest from the current RSPBA membership will be sought for these posts. These two posts will be responsible for developing strategies, in conjunction with other members of the Pipe Band College, for raising standards in piping and drumming.

A key function will be supporting geographical representatives to develop local strategies for supporting local bands to achieve greater success.

Individuals interested in either of these two posts, should contact Ian Embelton in the first instance to formally register their interest by end of December 2018.

Summer School

Thanks to our Education Officer Pat Whelan, Summer School Principle John Nevans and their highly professional team of Instructor, another successful Summer School was held in the Gaelic School in Anderson at the beginning of August. Over 40 students attended from all over the UK.

Music Board

The Board of Directors have asked the music board to progress the following items.

1. Grade Realignment and ensuring the current structure it is fit for purpose,
2. A review of the competition format of the World Pipe Band Championships.
3. A review of the international Tenor Drumming Championships.

The Music Board (MB) has again met four times (January, April, September and October) throughout 2018 since the branches last Annual General Meeting (AGM). Each Branch is entitled to nominate two representatives (subject to holding the necessary qualification), the four English Branches are sparsely represented now with just three representatives in post out of the eight available seats on the board.

The Standards Group has worked hard throughout the year actioning grade requests, appeals as well as monitoring transfer. Grading decisions are ratified by the Board of Directors sitting on the Music Board, with the decisions being posted to the RSPBA Web immediately following the meeting. Band registrations have been checked by the BoD at both major and minor contests.

The Tunes Group is a sub-committee of the Music Board that maintains the Prescribed Tunes List(s), for which details are available on the RSPBA Web site. There is also information on how you can request a tune be added to the lists. The group are currently working on the some of the tunes to be added for 2019. All the tunes are currently listed but may not be linked to a score as yet, however if a tune name is on the list, a band may choose it as part of their repertoire.

Sample Drum scores have been added to some of the Marches, again for guidance only.

News Item <http://www.rspba.org/html/newsdetail.php?id=613>

Sample Score http://rspba.org/html/prescribedtunes_march_2PT.php

The Music Board are also looking at a review of competition format and the grading structure, as well as band member registrations.

If you have any thoughts on any competition format or education let your Music Board or BoD know, so the ideas can be thrown into the melting pot.

As mentioned, there is still a shortage of Music Board members particularly drummers, please consider volunteering your time and talent.

Branch Officials

No branch official posts were due for renewal this year. The current post holders were asked if they were willing to continue in post.

All Branch Officials were ratified in post.

Proposed: Wirral

Seconded: West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue

All others were like minded.

The branch secretary is to forward details of the branch officials to headquarters for their records.

Post		In Post until	
President	C Eyre	Dec 2020	26 th Nov 2017 AGM Prop: Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Sec: Manchester Phoenix
Chairman	J Thomson	Dec 2020	26 th Nov 2017 AGM Prop: Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Sec: Manchester Phoenix
Vice-Chairman	K Thacker	Dec 2020	26 th Nov 2017 AGM Prop: Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Sec: Manchester Phoenix
Secretary	P Brown	Dec 2020	26 th Nov 2017 AGM Prop: Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue

			Sec: Manchester Phoenix
Treasurer	C Eyre	Dec 2020	26 th Nov 2017 AGM Prop: Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Sec: Manchester Phoenix
Music Board	T Brown	Dec 2019	4 th Dec 2016 AGM Prop: Chorley, Croft and Culcheth Sec: Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue
Director			VACANCY dependant on Bands in the Branch
Trophy Steward, Web Site Design and Competition Secretary	C Eyre	Dec 2019	4 th Dec 2016 AGM Prop: Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Sec: Chorley, Croft and Culcheth

AOCB

No AOCB on the AGM raised.

AGM closed at 114:05 and the meeting progressed into the GM at 14:15 after a short break.

Welcome

Covered by the AGM

The GM Minutes of the 28th October were circulated. The minutes were accepted in full on a:
Proposal by Warrington
Seconded by Oldham Scottish
All others were like minded.

Matters Arising.

No news has been received regarding the health of K Reilley.

Treasurers Report

Update as per AGM.

Directors Report

Update as per AGM.

Articles of Association Review is progressing, no changes to go to the AGM Order Paper for 2019.

Music Board Report

Update as per the AGM

2019 Playing Requirements

	1 st Major	2 nd Major	3 rd Major	4 th Major	Worlds Heats if required Friday	World's heats Saturday if required	World's Finals
Grade 1	MSR	Medley	MSR	Medley	MSR/Medley		MSR/Medley
Grade 2	Medley	MSR	Medley	MSR		Medley	MSR
Grade 3A/3B	MSR	Medley	MSR	Medley		MSR	Medley
Grade Juv.	Medley	MSR	Medley	MSR		N/A	MSR
Grade 4A N/J A	MSR	MSR	MSR	MSR		MSR	MSR
Grade 4B N/J B	2/4 March	2/4 March	2/4 March	2/4 March		2/4 March	2/4 March

- (1) Grade 4A & Nov/ Juv. A- 4 Parts of March, Strathspey & Reel either 4 parted or 2 x 2 Parts each from the prescribed tunes list.
- (2) Grade 4B & Nov. Juv. B – 4 x 2 parts of 2/4 Marches from the prescribed tunes list

2019 Branch Competitions.

The events are open to all branches, to increase the viability of the events and vary the competition. Within each section of the open competition, confined branch results will also be announced.

The entry forms are available on the NWE Branch Website.

Adjudicators: Once we have confirmed the events, adjudicators will be requested to be allocated.

Venues are available in Oldham and Birkenhead.

It has been proposed by Oldham Scottish to have the drumming solos at their venue the day after the Solo Piping. The competition secretary is to gauge the support for this by contacting the members by Email and Facebook.

The list of adjudicators has not yet been approved to allow contact to be made to see if they would adjudicate one of our events.

The proposed dates are:

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Solos – 9th Feb 2019 to be held in Oldham (practice venue of Oldham Scottish)

Trios – 2nd March 2019 to be decided

Mini Band, Quartet and Solo Drumming (possible full band) – 27th April 2019 to be held at St Joseph's Birkenhead (Wirral Pipe Band)

Workshops

It looks like we will be hosting a workshop after the solo or trio events at Warrington, subject to contacting a suitable Adjudicator / Instructor.

We need an action plan to try and get bands to join the branch over the next 12 months, what can we offer them in terms of support / education, to encourage membership of the Branch.

Theresa (theresamacd@hotmail.com) and Chris (chris@eyrewaves.free-online.co.uk) have agreed to support bands training / education needs by passing on skills and knowledge to teach piping and drumming basic skills, pointing individuals and bands in the right direction prior to going to the next step formal education through Headquarters.

Bands can then request formal training / dedicated time through the "Outreach Programme" and Pipe Band College assigned Instructors, subject to meeting the costs involved.

The branch could do with a geographical representative on the Pipe Band College.

AOCB

Happy Christmas And New Year to ALL.

Please bring Raffle prizes (recycled Christmas presents) to the next meeting – all donations gratefully received.

Next GM meeting will be 6th January 2019 @ 13:00

Closed @ 14:55

P L Brown
Secretary
NWE Branch