



## RSPBA North West England Branch

AGM and GM 4<sup>th</sup> December 2016 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
- P Brown Director RSPBA
- K Thacker Vice- Chairman

### Apologies Officials

- T Brown Music Board representative
- J Thomson Chairman

### Bands in attendance:-

- Warrington
- Wirral
- Chorley, Croft and Culcheth
- Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue
- St Andrews Bolton

### Apologies:-

- None Received.

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 support they give to their bands and the branch throughout the year.

It is good to see our bands are regrouping despite the many challenges they face.

The Branch Indoor competitions and a Drumming / Piping workshop were well attended, and it was good to see some of our bands managed to get out to competitions, both Major and Local.

The minutes of the 2015 AGM were already accepted by the branch members at the January 2016 GM. These approved minutes were used as a template for progressing the meeting.

### **Treasurers Report**

As reported as GM throughout 2016 the branch is in a stable financial position considering the membership and events run throughout the year.

The accounts have been prepared and were issued with the October GM minutes for review, these show a modest balance of £2,450.76; this reflects a profit of £98.51 for the year 2015/16. This includes £75 received towards the 2017 drumming prizes.

The use of the school reduced the cost of premise hire. We have to hope this continues, but be prepared for a hike in 2017. The cost of provisioning adjudicators is a large overhead, which is kept down by looking at travel arrangements in advance. In 2017 we will need to ensure the events are well supported, and there are sufficient entries to make it a worthwhile competition for both the entrant and the adjudicator alike.

We must thank our helpers who sold raffle tickets at each event as this revenue contributed considerably to reducing the loss.

The accounts as distributed for review were accepted.

Proposer: Warrington

Seconded: Chorley, Croft and Culcheth

All others were like minded.

The branch secretary is to forward a copy of accounts to headquarters for their records.

### **Music Board Report**

The Branch Indoor competitions and a Drumming / Piping workshop progress has been reported throughout the year in the GM minutes, these events have been covered in the Welcome and Treasurers report.

The Music Board (MB) has met four times (January, April, September and October) throughout 2016 since the branches last Annual General Meeting (AGM). Each Branch is entitled to nominate a Piping and Drumming representative (subject to holding the necessary qualification).

The Music Board considers competition format, as well as maintaining a Standards Group that makes recommendations on band gradings. Since January notification of decisions made by this group to Bands has been made more responsive, as the Board of Director (BoD) members who sit on the MB can ratify the recommendation hence (in most instances) avoiding the delay of waiting for the next BoD meeting.

Throughout the year, particularly leading up to the worlds, a small sub group reviews the Approved Tunes list (details available on the RSPBA Web site). This year the strathspeys and reels came under scrutiny by adding the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> parts to some tunes to give 4A bands an option of playing more challenging combinations if they desire.

MB members have commented on matters raised at branch meeting regarding competition format, such as parking, location of arenas, issues with the trigger line placement, delays at the line. Similarly, education queries on both delivery and what is available where and when are also discussed and arranged. Following a general discussion, the key points are captured in the MB minutes and directed to the relevant area of the RSPBA, to the

Education Management Group or the BoD, unless it is a matter directly concerning the MB. The aim is to ensure lessons are learnt and a better experience is delivered to the Bands where the issue can be addressed.

Members of the MB have also been looking at the format of the World Solo Drumming championship, linking this to branch events, where winners qualify into the semi-finals hence avoiding the heats because they have supported a branch event. The playing requirements of the Junior and Juvenile events has been adjusted to cater for the different abilities of individuals of the same age, by providing sections appropriate to ability and playing experience.

The MB 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 these wide-ranging subjects let your MB or BoD know, so the ideas can be thrown into the melting pot.

There is a shortage of MB members particularly drummers, please consider volunteering your time and talent.

### **Board of Directors 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 has ten paid up members with fees outstanding from two bands, continues to be a team within the branch, we need to encourage bands to join the Branch / RSPBA.

Five successful five major championships have been held, reported issues and problems have been fed back, to be considered in improving next seasons events (where possible):-

- British at Paisley – 21<sup>st</sup> May
- United Kingdom at Belfast – 11<sup>th</sup> June
- European at Forres – 25<sup>th</sup> June
- Scottish at Dumbarton – 30<sup>th</sup> July
- World at Glasgow Green 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> August

The focus has recently switched from seeking New premises, to investigating what we could do with the existing site at 45 Washington St. The BoD are considering options and needs while seeking funding prior to making any commitment. The BoD are looking to recruit a fund-raising member of staff to facilitate the pursuit of grants and finding that the association will need to provision premises and deliver the education programme to our members.

The Summer School was once again a success and the 2017 event is in plan, and should now be advertised on the RSPBA web site.

The review of RSPBA band registration and fees is ongoing, the focus is on how we allow the Band Secretary to easily maintain their roster using the web in the first instance, possibly leading to band members having registration cards to facilitate transfer.

Finally we will be progressing the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) advising the bands via the branch what policies and procedures they should consider putting in place to protect themselves and their members.

## **Branch Officials**

No nominations for consideration for the branch official posts coming up for renewal were received. The current post holders were asked if they were willing to continue in post. The table below shows the proposer and seconder, and all others present were like minded.

All other Branch Officials were ratified in post.  
Proposed: Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue  
Seconded: Chorley, Croft and Culcheth  
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 2017	7 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2014 AGM Prop: Manchester Phoenix Sec: Oldham Scottish
Chairman	J Thomson	Dec 2017	7 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2014 AGM Prop: Manchester Phoenix Sec: Oldham Scottish
Vice-Chairman	K Thacker	Dec 2017	7 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2014 AGM Prop: Manchester Phoenix Sec: Oldham Scottish
Secretary	P Brown	Dec 2017	7 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2014 AGM Prop: Manchester Phoenix Sec: Oldham Scottish
Treasurer	C Eyre	Dec 2017	7 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2014 AGM Prop: Manchester Phoenix Sec: Oldham Scottish
Music Board	T Brown	Dec 2019	4 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2016 AGM Prop: Chorley, Croft and Culcheth Sec: Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue
Director	P Brown	Dec 2019	4 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2016 AGM Prop: Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Sec: Wirral
Trophy Steward, Web Site Design and Competition Secretary	C Eyre	Dec 2019	4 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2016 AGM Prop: Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Sec: Chorley, Croft and Culcheth

## **AOCB**

Following a question regarding increasing the Branch Levy and Competition Fees. It was proposed they would not be amended this year. The Levy would remain at £40 and the competition entry fees remain as published on the entry forms available on the Branch web site.

Proposed: Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue

Seconded: Chorley, Croft and Culcheth  
All others were like minded.

AGM closed at 13:40 and the meeting progressed into the GM after a short break.

### **Welcome**

Covered by the AGM

The GM Minutes of the 30<sup>th</sup> October were circulated. The minutes were accepted in full on a:  
Proposal by Warrington  
Seconded by Wirral  
All others were like minded.

### **Matters Arising.**

The branch accounts circulated were approved at the AGM.

### **Treasurers Report**

Update as per AGM.

### **Directors Report**

Update as per AGM.

### **Music Board Report**

Update as per AGM.

### **2015 Branch Competitions.**

Those present discussed the branch competitions in depth, in particular regarding introducing the Trios as a separate competition again and running the workshop / training day prior to the competition. It was agreed that:-

- All events will be held at St Josephs, Birkenhead. Other premises will be considered should they become available. We need to be mindful that the cost of premises is increasing.
- Trios will be included as part of the Mini Band competition in place of the quartets, allowing more branch bands to participate once again in 2017. A separate Trios competition will be considered again in 2018 should the entries received suggest this would be viable.
- To complement the event and take advantage of the adjudicators if we can, it is proposed that we host Piping/Drumming workshops on Sunday 9th April at Padgate Community Centre, Warrington. The drumming workshop would look particularly at

scores for both Snare, Base and Tenor. The piping workshop would look at reed manipulation / maintenance and band improvement. The aim is to use the adjudicators from the Minibands competition.

- Additional Intermediate drumming categories to be introduced, ie. Hornpipe/Jig and MSR. Chris will be updating the entry forms in the next few days. These will be conditional upon there being at least three entries in each category.

All 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.

£75 (£50 and £25) prize fund available for the Drum Salute.

103 Regiment will be asked to help with stewarding on the day.

### **Proposed Dates**

- Solo Piping: Saturday 25th February (St Joseph's, Birkenhead)
- Solo Drumming/Trio Piping/Minibands: Saturday 8th April (St Joseph's, Birkenhead)

The dates have been notified to headquarters.

It was agreed that Chris would contact Cameron Edgar to see if he is available to adjudicate the Solo Piping, and Paul contact Robert Matheson and David Brown to see if they would consider adjudication at the mini bands and providing tuition at our workshop, prior to requesting formal allocation from RSPBA headquarters.

A follow-up workshop would be considered for October to enable further development / issues to be resolved.

Drum Majors workshop: Saturday 4th March (Padgate Community Centre, Warrington).  
Basic mace movements and body flourish.

The entry forms are available on the NWE Branch Website.

### **AOCB**

The branch can have two qualified representatives on the Music Board does anyone want to stand as drumming representative?

Please bring Raffle prizes to the next meeting – all donations gratefully received.

Next GM meeting will be 15<sup>th</sup> January 2015 @ 13:00

Closed @ 14:25

P L Brown  
Secretary  
NWE Branch