



RSPBA North West England Branch

GM 9th September 2019 at Padgate Community Centre

with the option to participate using the GoTo Video Conference Application.

A quorum **was** attained within 30 minutes of the 13:00 start time of the meeting.

Present Officials

- P Brown Secretary / Vice Chairman of RSPBA
- K Thacker Chairman / Vice-Chairman
- C Eyre President, Treasurer & Webmaster
- T Brown Music Board representative
- Vacancy Branch Director

Bands in attendance: -

- Warrington
- Wirral
- West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue
- Manchester Phoenix
- *Manchester Community*

Apologies: -

- Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue – were expected to attend.

A quorum was attained, and the meeting started @ 13:30. No one joined the video conference when opened.

Opening

The chairman welcomed all those attending this first Branch Meeting at Padgate after the summer break.

Minutes

The GM minutes for the 14th April 2019 having been circulated to members, were accepted in full.

Proposal by Wirral

Seconded by Warrington

All others were like minded.

Matters Arising.

The Mini Band contest was cancelled due to a number of factors, low entries, high cost, lateness in requesting adjudicators, possible availability clash with World Solo Drumming. Representatives of the Manchester Community Pipe Band attended to gain some background on the branch and insight in applying for membership of the RSPBA once details have been posted on the HQ Web site.

The number of bands within the Branch is seven (possibly eight now). This number is well below the 12 required for headquarters representation. It is likely the BoD will push for a North of England Branch, for administrative purposes, where the current Branches are the designated sections. This way initially on paper or bands qualify for representation at HQ, but the indoor contests can continue as "Section" events.

Treasurers Report

The Solo and Trio Piping events have been completed and were successful in keeping these events on our calendar. Both events had a successful Raffle. The entries (and hence fees) were down on previous years. The major costs remain premises and adjudicator travel, the Branch Levy is key in enabling these events to continue by offsetting any loss incurred.

The spreadsheet was circulated and shows a surplus for the year of £12.94.

A profit and loss statement of accounts will be prepared and sent to headquarters; the membership will be provided a copy for approval at the next Branch meeting.

Directors Report

The next BoD meeting is on the 5th October.

The Premises are in the process of being handed over, the aim is to relocate the office staff into the building by the end of the year.

The Worlds will continue as a 2-day event.

The principals of the Pipe Band College have been appointed, they are focusing on SQA piping and drumming qualifications, Pipe Band Studies and the Summer School.

The Branch will need Public Liability Insurance in 2020, this will be in the order of £107 as part of the larger RSPBA policy provider.

Music Board Report

There was a MB meeting on the 21st September, the minutes have not yet been approved by the BoD.

The annual grading decisions have been posted on the Web site and RSPBA Facebook page.

The MB are undertaking a Grade Realignment project, as well as continuing to develop the World Solo Drumming event.

Vacancies exist for reps for Music Board (Drumming) and the Pipe Band College.

2019 Branch Competitions / (and workshop).

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.

Venues are to be sought and confirmed at our next meeting. It is envisaged we will be able to hold some in Manchester

- Saturday 15th February 2020: Solo Piping.
- Saturday 8th March 2020: Trio Piping.
- Saturday 25th April 2020: Solo Drumming, Drum Salute, Quartet Piping and Mini Bands

Local Rule Changes for our indoor contest.

1. In the Trio Piping, Quartet Piping and Miniband events the Pipe Major is now allowed to play in as many times in any grade as required. *The limit as to how many times a Piper Major could play has been removed.*
2. In the Solo Piping, pipers entering the A Grade MSR, Hornpipe and Jig events will only need one set of tunes which must be submitted in advance with their entry form. *Removes the need to specify two sets, allowing those who are above the B grade standard to enter where they did not have two sets to offer.*

A discussion took place around a workshop / contest extension that had been proposed by a Band who unfortunately could not attend the meeting. The scope centred around obtaining feedback on a full band performance. It was felt getting just a set of critique sheets at the end of a long day might not be that beneficial.

If the aim is to check / advise on the bands development, it would be better to get adjudicator(s) to work with the band for a dedicated period. This would need to be worked up on a Band basis where premises (Padgate) could be booked and the costs / time be shared between those Bands wanting to participate. Further insight into the aim of the request is needed to enable the idea to be progressed.

AOCB

Please Recycle Unwanted Gifts as Raffle Prizes as this is a key revenue generator at the Branch events.

The Manchester Mass Bands which is becoming an annual charitable event will take place on the 17th May 2020.

The Branch AGM will take place on Sunday 1st December 2019

Meeting Closed 15:30

Next GM Sunday 3rd November 2019 at 13:00 at Padgate (and conference facilities if we can arrange them).

P L Brown
Secretary
NWE Branch