



# RSPBA North West England Branch

GM 3<sup>rd</sup> November at Padgate Community Centre

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
- C Eyre President, Treasurer & Webmaster
- Vacancy Branch Director

## Bands in attendance: -

- Warrington
- Wirral
- West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue
- Manchester Phoenix
- City of Manchester Pipe Band

## Apologies: -

- K Thacker Chairman / Vice-Chairman
- T Brown Music Board representative

A quorum was attained, and the meeting started @ 13:05.

## Opening

The secretary welcomed all those attending our second Branch Meeting of this season at Padgate.

## **Minutes**

The GM minutes for the 9<sup>th</sup> September 2019 having been circulated to members, were accepted in full.

Proposal by Manchester Phoenix

Seconded by Warrington

All others were like minded.

## Matters Arising.

The City of Manchester Pipe Band is the name adopted by the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Pipe Band.

The Bod have agreed in principle the creation of a North of England Branch. NWE and NEE Branches are the designated sections. This way initially on paper our bands qualify for representation at HQ, but the indoor contests can continue as "Section" events.

## **Treasurers Report**

A profit and loss statement of accounts has been produced and forwarded to headquarters from the spreadsheet produced by the treasurer that shows a surplus for the year of £12.94.

The accounts having been circulated were approved

Proposal by Warrington.

Seconded by Manchester Phoenix.

All others were like minded.

No expenditure due, however medals for next years contests will need to be sourced.

## **Directors Report**

The BoD was held on the 5<sup>th</sup> October 2019. The key points for the branch to note are.

As noted in our accounts the Branch now has public liability insurance, arranged in conjunction with the RSPBA provider. Renewals will be progressed with each of the Branches at renewal in 2020.

Headquarters has received a request from South East Italy for bands to play at a festival. Any Band interested to obtain contact details from Headquarters and progress independently.

Braemar Highland Gathering have expressed an interest in hosting a Pipe Band Championship, this was passed to the North of Scotland Branch Directors to progress.

The Association is to produce Guidance on using Social Media Responsibly, as some postings are not acceptable to the association or members that have been targeted. Please consider the impact of postings, comments and like etc.

A decision on conferring procedures took place and it was agreed that time should be given to allow conferring after the last band had played, only then would the summary sheet be handed out by the Director.

It was agreed that the Summer School date be brought forward to 27<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

The rules relating to the taking of alcohol onto the March Past to be re-iterated to all bands as part of the entry forms for all Major Championships in 2020.

The Directors are to donate their allowance from the first couple of Championships in 2020 to the Association to assist with the refurbishment of HQ. This request would be extended to other officials and it was stressed that this was voluntary.

Marketing and Media reported that there had been 60 Facebook posts since January and traffic was increasing. For example: the announcement of next year's Championship dates received 22,000 views. A sponsoring of a slate initiative is being to raise funds for HQ.

Premises - the building is complete with snagging outstanding, there are some final bills to pay plus the furnishing of the rooms with Chairs and Desks. Some pictures have been posted.

The SOSC are to provide a list of proposals for the Order Paper for the 2020 AGM, to enable feedback to be collated by mid-November, to ensure those changes to be taken forwards can be debated fully at the December BoD meeting. They are in the main administrative clarifications, at this stage there are no competition format rule changes on the horizon that directly impact the competing Bands.

Board Members were reminded that 2020 is the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Association.

It was agreed that when bands are disqualified from Championships this should be highlighted on the result sheets.

### **Music Board Report**

There was a MB meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> September, the minutes were approved by the BoD.

The proposed introduction of a sixth major championship is to be discussed at the next MB meeting and should include a solution as to how this could be funded.

The Grade Realignment project document has been issued for early comment. Two items were a) The introduction of a Development Grade and b) The merging of the current 3B and 3A grades.

A discussion took place which summarised the situation as follows.

- Don't see the need for additional grades, previously rejected Grade 5.
- Review the Playing Requirements of Each of the Existing Grades, to include progression from Development to Grade 1
- Assign the right bands to each of the Grades.
- Consider Registration to manage a member being associated with the Right Band. Having been in a band does not always mean one attained that grade, similarly
- quantity is not always a measure of impact (Higher to lower)

A number of bands thought the right moves were being taken with monitoring bands and moving them within the season based on them being monitored / recommended for a change of Grade.

World Solo Drumming, there will be only 4 qualifiers from each Adult heat in the morning as proposed in the WSD Review report presented. A request from the Metro Cup to host a qualifier again in 2020 was accepted.

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

### **2020 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 continue to be sought. It is envisaged we will be able to hold some in Manchester however provisionally St Josephs will be booked. Chris is to contact both Oldham and the Manchester Community Band to see if they have suitable venues.

- Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2020: Solo Piping.
- Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2020: Trio Piping.
- Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2020: Solo Drumming, Drum Salute, Quartet Piping and Mini Bands

Local Rule Changes for our indoor contest were confirmed.

1. In the Trio Piping, Quartet Piping and Miniband events the Pipe Major is now allowed to play 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 workshop / contest extension 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.

The aim is to check / advise on the bands development, and as such 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. Paul to see if outreach would offset some of the cost, also look if the college "Pipe Band Musicianship" had something to offer.

## **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 17<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

The Branch AGM will take place on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019 at 13:00 nominations for the Chairman and Secretary are needed

Meeting Closed 14:30

P L Brown  
Secretary  
NWE Branch