



RSPBA North West England Branch

GM held on 13th March at Padgate Community Centre.

Apologies for the late issue of the Minutes

A quorum **was not** 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
C Eyre President, Treasurer & Webmaster
T Brown Music Board representative
P Brown National Council representative

Apologies:-

T Brown Music Board representative
J Thomson Chairman

Welcome

The representatives of the bands in the branch were welcomed by Paul Brown to the Padgate community centre, actions that needed a vote were not taken, however a discussion on recent events and the recent RSPBA AGM were discussed.

Apologies were received from:-

Chorley Pipe Band
City of Liverpool Pipes and Drums
Oldham and Scottish Pipe Band

Bands in attendance:-

City of Sheffield Pipe Band
Warrington Pipe Band 2004
Wirral Pipe Band
Manchester Army Cadet Pipe Band

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.
- 13) Greater Manchester Pipe Band.
- 14) Manchester Army Cadet Pipe Band

Previous Minutes

Minutes of the previous meeting were NOT reviewed, they were only used a prompt for those bands present. All the details from the 13th Feb 2011 meeting have been carried forward in this document.

Treasurers Report

We are continuing to keep costs down as much as possible. Slight increase expected on last year's expenditure, due to the flight times resulting in overnight hotel costs as well as hold luggage costs.

The branch continues to be in a healthy state, the Solo piping generated a profit, while the solo drumming a minor loss. There is a need to amend the signatories to the branch bank account; Chris is progressing with those involved.

Music Board

Theresa has not attended a meeting in 2011 (last one was on Burns Night) minutes have not been issued. The 2011 calendar has been set.

Local interest is the formation by RAF Waddington of a Grade 3B band for this years outdoor competition, this has arisen from the pooling of experienced pipers who play for the RAF with the Beaston drum corps.

The music board continue to progress the competition format, looking the implications of bringing back MAP adjudication as well as considering what the future playing and structure of competitions needs to be to meet the changing needs of both promoters and competitors.

The music board are in the final stages of the development of Pipe Band Studies, the first course is being run by the Army, this will finalise the material and allow the RSPBA to train the trainers before offering courses. The SQA/PDQB courses and education material continues to be developed with many bands and braches having successful courses and candidates.

National Council

National Council meeting was held on 5th Feb when Paul was in China, minutes have not been received.

The RSPBA AGM report to band secretaries is expected to contain the Memorandum of Association as well as the Standing Orders and Rules. There are amendments tables to the Standing Orders relating to Dual Registration and Drum Majors.

Please ensure your band is represented at the RSPBA AGM.

The RSPBA AGM ran to time and business was conducted quickly and smoothly. The Chairman is G Hamill and the vice Chair is J Hughes.

The rule changes as notified to all band secretaries were passed and accepted by those bands who chose to cast their vote.

We are in interesting times the RSPBA became a Ltd company at the end of Feb 2011. The constitution has been replaced by company documents; Articles of Association along with Rules and Standing Orders had chosen to vote. These are mainly a transfer of the Constitution to these documents.

The band secretary is now extremely important, the band membership and band relationship with the RSPBA is centred around the secretary, the annual renewal will be a key declaration going forwards (no secretary no band!).

Although the RSPBA do not allow postal voting, proxy voting is allowed. This potentially allows for Branch or block voting. There were 39 band votes counted at the 2011 AGM, this increase considerably in future. It is both good and bad we need to ensure that large cartels work for the benefit of the true majority.

The Directors (National Council) are looking at:-

- a) The appointment of an education officer. The Music Board and Adjudicators Liaison Panel Management Board see this post as being key to promote the work of the music board (PDQB), facilitate the continuous development of the adjudicators training and instructors (including the trainers).
- b) The role of the various standing committees.
- c) The relocation of RSPBA headquarters to a venue that represents aspirations of the organisation.
- d) Review of the format of the World Pipe Band Championships, 260+ bands is becoming too large an entry to manage.

2011 Branch Competitions.

1. Solos 20th Feb 2011 as Oldham and Scottish Pipe Band have found us a venue (other than Sheffield or the Wirral)
Draw to be held after this meeting.

Completed successfully, venue provided by Oldham and Scottish was a success. A good day was had by all. There was a good representation from the branch, could do with more bands taking part.

2. Solo Drumming (Snare and Tenor) 26th Feb 2011
Venue – SYF&R Training Centre Sheffield.
Adjudicator: Adrian Hoy
Draw to be held after the solo piping.

A good day was had by those who attended. The format of the day worked and the Tenor drummers got their turn to be centre stage for a change. Thanks to the bands that made the day a success.

Learning points: could do with more bands / entries. In the case of the Tenor competition could possibly use CD music to encourage entries as a Side / Piper would not be physically required.

Need to amend the solo entry form, the late entry fee should be payable per contestant not band. Appreciate the need to encourage entries but we need to balance this against those who commit early to make the events financially viable.

Trophies to be returned at the first branch meeting of the year to avoid them being missing at a competition.

The drum exam/workshop was also a success, the City Of Sheffield drummers soon found they had a considerable way to go with their practical development. The key message was one should coordinate ones feet and hands.

3. Trios 26th March 2011
Venue – SYF&R Training Centre Sheffield.
Adjudicator: Jim Wark

A good entry from a small number of bands, two bands from the West Midlands attending.

Also on 27th Mar 2011 there will be a MAP, Competition Format and Piping forum/workshop. Please contact Theresa for details.

This is your day to ask any questions you need.

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

The draw for the mini bands will be on the 3rd April 2011. A GM will be possible if there are sufficient band representatives available.

Advance notice: Apologies Paul and Theresa cannot make the meeting on the 3rd due to a band engagement on the 3rd April with the RAF.

P L Brown
Minutes Secretary