



RSPBA North West England Branch

GM 1st October 2017 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
- T Brown Music Board representative
- J Thomson Chairman

Bands in attendance: -

- Warrington
- Wirral
- St Andrews Bolton
- GMFRS
- Manchester Phoenix
- WYFS
- Liverpool Regimental Association

Apologies: -

- None received.

A quorum was attained and the meeting started @ 13:30 having located to the lounge of the nearby hostelry.

Opening

The chairman welcomed those attending this first post competition season meeting.

The branch has not had a meeting since the 15th January 2017 as the March meeting was cancelled due to many bands having engagements.

The GM Minutes of the 15th January have been circulated. The minutes were accepted in full:-

Proposal by Warrington

Seconded by Wirral

All others were like minded.

Treasurers Report

A draft set of accounts has been prepared, showing the branch made a loss of £106.39 on the year. The branch has an asset balance of £2,344. The Income and Expenditure are

comparable to 2016. A key difference was the moving of the solo drumming to run alongside the mini bands. The workshop was funded by the branch. For a more detailed breakdown of the accounts refer to the spreadsheet issued by the treasurer. Please review the accounts so they can be approved at the next meeting.

Music Board Report

Theresa did not attend the recent MB meeting; however, the focus of the meeting was the post season gradings review, details of which are on the RSPBA web site.

The Prescribed Tunes page on the Web site has been reviewed over the summer, it now has an Introduction which gives some pointers on what to consider when selecting tunes for your band, it also provides information on how tunes can be added to the lists. There are six linked pages that gives information on each tune category.

<https://www.rspba.org/html/prescribedtunes2017.php>

A question was raised on how a band's grade is managed throughout the season. The process was outlined covering on the bands request / appeals and the post review. Higher to Lower transfers are monitored by the office and significant movements in personnel are also flagged to the gradings group. Also, an adjudicator can make a recommendation to the grading group if they think a band is playing in the wrong grade.

A general question was asked about the purpose of the critique sheets, ie. How does a PM make sense of two sheets that have conflicting statements about the same performance? It was confirmed that the Music Board is only responsible for the competition format. Adjudicators are managed by the Adjudicators Panel Management Board (APMB) and the Adjudicators Development Group (ADG). The critique sheet is meant to help the PM understand how the adjudicator has interpreted the performance. Adjudicators are willing to answer any questions a PM may have.

How do bands feel about the prescribed tunes being limited to 2/4? A lengthy debate was had by those present. It was felt that the prescribed tune lists should be maintained, irrespective of the idiom but there could be some merit in adding 4/4, 6/8 and 3/4 categories.

Board of Directors Report

The next BoD meeting will take place on the 7th Oct 2017 so there will be more to report at the next meeting.

The Insurers have come to a settlement with respect to the fire damage sustained at headquarters. The funds are being put towards a 2-story refurbishment of 45 Washington Street.

The bidding process has started for the Majors for 2019 onwards.

Members of the branch committee were invited to a Protecting Vulnerable Groups meeting. It was informative but was centred around the Scottish Administration of the Scheme. Policies and procedures for headquarters have been drafted and reviewed over the summer.

Once adopted at headquarters, these will be used as a template for the branch, which may influence the bands' procedures.

Feedback on the Majors – At Paisley there was too much aircraft noise and the Park and Ride was too remote from the site.

Do we know if competitions are taking place in Birmingham and Ashbourne in 2018?

2018 Indoor Competitions

This year's events went well. We still incur a cost in bring in adjudicators particularly for drumming. It was felt we should not combine a competition with a workshop on the same weekend as there is not an appetite from individuals to attend both on the same weekend.

The chairman was asked to write a letter of thanks to 103 Regiment for their support at this year's events.

All events in the coming year will be open to all branches to increase the viability of the events and vary the competition. Within each section of the open competitions, confined branch results will also be announced.

103 Regiment will be invited again to help with stewarding at our competition events.

The entry forms will be available shortly on the NWE Branch Website.

www.eyrewaves.co.uk/rspba

The venue for 2018 will again be St Joseph's, Birkenhead, pending other premises becoming available at a reasonable cost.

The proposed dates are:-

- Solo Piping: **Saturday 17th February (St Joseph's, Birkenhead)**
- Trio Piping: **Saturday 3rd March (St Joseph's, Birkenhead)**
- Solo Drumming, Quartets and Minibands: **Saturday 7th April (St Joseph's, Birkenhead)**. *PMs can decide on entry to Quartets and/or Mini Bands.*

Workshops

It was felt a further Drum Majors workshop would be useful, as a follow up to the one held earlier in the year. Need to give Calum notice of the proposed date. This might be useful as a debate took place on the possible involvement of local bands in the City of Liverpool Tattoo in September 2018. **Date to be decided (Padgate Community Centre, Warrington).**

It was also suggested a workshop on ensemble adjudication should be considered, some bands may purchase slots to be given advice on their progress in balancing the band. Funding would need to be considered, perhaps taking deposits to ensure we have branch representation.

AOCB

All points covered throughout the meeting

Next GM meeting will be 29th October 2017 @ 13:00

Closed @ 15:45

P L Brown

Secretary

NWE Branch