



## RSPBA North West England Branch

GM on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2013 at Padgate Community Centre.

A quorum **was** 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}.

### Present Officials

- P Brown Secretary
- J Thomson Chairman
- C Eyre President, Treasurer & Webmaster
- P Brown National Council representative
- T Brown Music Board representative

### Welcome

In opening the meeting at 13:00 Jeff Thomson the branch chairman commenced the GM by thanking those present for attending considering the recent inclement weather. A warm welcome was made to the representatives of the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Pipe Band as the band has not been represented for some time.

### Bands in attendance:-

- West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue
- Black Thistle
- Bolton Caledonia
- Greater Manchester ACF
- Oldham Scottish
- Warrington
- Wirral
- Manchester Phoenix

### Apologies were received from:-

- City of Liverpool

### Other Bands in the Branch:-

- Scots Guards Association Manchester
- City Of Sheffield Pipe Band
- Chorley
- Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service -2003

### Previous Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the AGM and GM of the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2012 have been circulated to members.

Manchester Phoenix had notified the secretary that the Bands listed in attendance was incorrect. *The secretary apologised in trying to account for all the bands in the branch, the third category of not attending and no apology was omitted.* The format has been corrected in these minutes.

The queries regarding proposer and seconded details in the 2011 AGM minutes discussed at the AGM, were resolved post the meeting. The details are correct as the details are related to the year when the individual was appointed; the table has been updated to reflect this. The typo's within the accounts were also corrected and circulated.

The AGM minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2012 were accepted.

Proposed: Oldham Scottish

Second: Warrington

Accepted: Unanimous

The GM minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2012 were accepted.

Proposed: Greater Manchester ACF

Second: Manchester Phoenix

Accepted: Unanimous

The Branch Accounts as corrected were accepted.

Proposed: Warrington

Second: Oldham Scottish

Accepted: Unanimous

### Matters Arising

On the 13<sup>th</sup> Jan 2013, Jim Campbell of the RSPBA ran the single day "Introduction to MAP – A P/M's Perspective" at Padgate. Attendance from bands in the branch was light. Fortunately this was increased by members of the Midlands Branch (Seaforth Highlanders & Leicester and Rutland).

Those attending thought it was a useful introduction to what is required. A suggested option for taking this forward, was for the instruction to be given to individual bands, where the focus could be on both the piping and drumming. This would require more instructors (at least two) so the cost would increase.

The costs for the 1 day were approx £335, the instructor fee of £100 has been paid by the RSPBA, raffle/donations were £40, leaving the branch to pay £195.

To run a course over a weekend with 2 instructors would be around the £1,000 mark. This could be potentially split between bands, by sharing the cost / attendance over the weekend. For example 4 bands getting 1.5 hours instruction each day, or 2 bands for 3 hours on each day.

Bands should pass on their requirements to Theresa regarding pre/post season needs, dates and how much of a weekend they think they would require. The more notice we can give the RSPBA the better, they will be able to plan in suitable resources.

Chris Eyre has arranged for a Drumming Workshop to be held on the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2013 at the Polish Club – Oldham Scottish venue. Guidance for Grade 4 side drummers on approach for building appropriate beatings for a selection of MAP tunes.

### Treasurers Report

The accounts from 2012 have been accepted at this meeting. The recent training day as discussed has cost the Branch approximately £195. Bands are paying their branch levies more will come in with the competition entry fees.

Travel costs have been kept to a minimum for our Indoor Competitions, due to being able to book early and use cheap Flights or Rail Travel.

The branch funds are still in the black around the £2,000 mark.

### Music Board

Education discussed in matters arising.

PDQB information and instruction can be obtained from Theresa. The Midland Branch is currently holding assessments after 8 weekends of instruction. Only viable because the instructors were local and they only needed to pay for a single assessor from the RSPBA. Options are to train locally and travel to an assessment centre to keep costs down.

Order of play for Grade 3a at the Worlds confirmed as MSR in heats and Medley in the final.

Grampian Corby requested move from 4a to 4b.

A branch may be proposing an amendment to the rule(s) that require a band to “put pipes down”. Various view, good idea musically, not so good from discipline/spectacle. If you have strong views make sure your band vote counts at the RSPBA AGM.

There is also a proposal for a Grade 5. This has arisen from the fact that at majors there are 4a and 4b competitions, at other times promoters can run a Grade 4 and an additional MSR competition if desired, where the bands can also play up in grade 3. The new grade would change this to be a simple progression 5 can play up to 4, and 4 can play up to 3. Possibly needed where there are lots of bands but would not be achievable at the majority of English competitions.

Possible changes to World Solo drumming format, requiring qualification at Branch events.

### Directors Report

A Branch qualifier for the world solo drumming could be quite an earner for the branch, particularly if the last one in the calendar and everyone is fighting for the last four places.

Remember the RSPBA AGM in March, your vote counts. There are only a small number of rule changes being presented, the key ones are:-

- Recognising the Stewards and Compilers as a Standing Committee.
- Clarifying when a band can be asked to come forward to the line.
- Drum Major instruction by an adjudicator.

- Membership of the association by an Adjudicator
- Contest Definitions.

All bands should receive an Order paper for the AGM towards the end of February, besides the specific reports and proposals that are being made for consideration; the pack also contains details of proxy voting options. Please use your vote.

### **2013 Branch Competitions.**

The indoor contests have been arranged, just need your entries to make these viable, entry forms and closing dates are available on the website. Late entries £5.00 per band surcharge.

1. Oldham Scottish Pipe Band are to host the Solo Competitions.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Feb – Solo Piping – Harry Stevenson  
3<sup>rd</sup> Feb – Solo Drumming (snare and tenor) – David Brown
2. Greater Manchester ACF are to host the Trio Piping at Holcombe Moor on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March – Jim Wark.
3. Wirral Pipe Band are to host the Mini Bands /Quartets/ Open Drumming at St Josephs Birkenhead on the 14<sup>th</sup> April. Piping - William Garrett and Drumming – Adrian Hoy

Raffles go down well if not all alcoholic prizes, please see what you can donate after the festive period.

### **AOCB**

Can the minutes be distributed by Email, Chris Eyre to perform a bulk delivery when they are uploaded to the Website. Bands to ensure Chris has the right contact details available.

Updates to Band Details and links to Band Websites that are on the Branch Website are to be passed to Chris Eyre for implementation.

Two Trophies are to be donated by the Greater Manchester ACF for use by the Branch.

Bands are to make sure the RSPBA have the latest address (contact details) for the Band Secretaries, would also be useful to let Chris Eyre have details to ensure minutes are distributed to those actively involved.

Remember to bring raffle prizes to the Branch events.

The next branch meeting: (TBD)

P L Brown  
Minutes Secretary