



RSPBA North West England Branch

GM 24th February 2019 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
- 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

Apologies: -

- J Thomson Chairman – Letter of resignation
- K Thacker Vice- Chairman

A quorum was attained, and the meeting started @ 13:05 once all had connected to the meeting and enabled the video and voice connections.

Opening

The secretary welcomed all those who were able to join the conference. Many thanks to Chris for forwarding the Email with connection details and putting a reminder on the Branch Facebook page.

Minutes

The GM minutes for the 2nd January 2019 having been circulated to members, were accepted in full.

Proposal by West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue

Seconded by Wirral

All others were like minded.

Matters Arising.

The secretary has received a letter from the Branch Chairman (Jeff Thomson) resigning from the post due to his ill health and personal circumstances. Those members present wished to

record a vote of thanks to him for his services over a number of years. He will be a loss to the Branch committee.

Treasurers Report

There has been no major expenditure since the last report.

The Solo Piping competition balance sheet is still being compiled, and we are expecting to have a surplus on the event, mainly due to the use of a local adjudicator and a sizable entry.

We still have to wait for the cost of the premises for both the solo and trio piping contests.

Directors Report

The premises upgrade has commenced on 45 Washington Street expected to take 28 weeks.

Interviews for the principle posts of the Pipe Band College are being scheduled, it is expected that details of the successful applicants will be announced around the RSPBA AGM.

At this time there will be no rule changes presented at the RSPBA AGM as there has been insufficient time to get support from the members and Board of Directors for them to be placed in the Order Paper.

The Worlds from 2020 is likely to revert to a single day contest as feedback from the grade 1 bands is they don't feel they get anything out of participating on the Friday.

Music Board Report

The next MB meeting is scheduled for the 13th April 2019.

The Prescribed Tunes details on the RSPBA web Site are being updated with some late entries.

Band Gradings are now being handled by the Gradings group to enable quicker turnaround of decisions within the competition season.

Theresa is taking on the role of MB Secretary (Administrator) from the April meeting.

The subgroups working on the Grade Review and the Snare and Tenor Drumming events are analysing information and preparing their recommendations for consideration.

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.

Following a review of the costs involved, it was agreed that Cameron Edgar would adjudicate the solo piping event and Harry Stevenson would adjudicate the Trio events. Both would be held at the Oldham Scottish Pipe Band venue.

Solos – 9th Feb 2019 held at Oldham was a successful event. The only limitation was the tuning rooms. Had the entry being larger there may have been a problem.

Trios – 2nd March 2019 will be held at Oldham, draw to made latter in the day. The entries to date will be able to use the downstairs training rooms.

It has been decided to postpone the Mini Band, Quartet and Solo Drumming (possible full band) to be held at St Joseph's Birkenhead (Wirral Pipe Band) to early October. To be discussed further at the next meeting. **Provisional date for your diary is Saturday 5th October.**

Need to look at possibly a workshop after the mini bands, where each band requests some time with the instructor / adjudicator. This way the costs are covered by the branch and participating bands.

AOCB

Please Recycle Unwanted Gifts as Raffle Prizes.

The video conference facility may be useful for bands when considering distance tuition / participation in practice or remote members.

Meeting Closed 14:35

Next GM Sunday 14th April 2019 at 13:00 (at Padgate and conference if we can arrange).

P L Brown
Secretary
NWE Branch