



RSPBA North West England Branch

GM on the 29th September 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
- C Eyre President, Treasurer & Webmaster
- P Brown Director representative
- J Thomson Chairman
- T Brown Music Board representative

Welcome

The GM meeting was opened at 13:05 by Jeff Thomson thanking those present for attending. He also congratulated those bands who competed over the summer on their successes, mentioning GMFRS and Manchester Phoenix for their success in the RSPBA Major Championships as well as the All England (Ashbourne) Championship.

Bands in attendance:-

- Greater Manchester ACF
- Oldham Scottish
- Warrington
- Wirral
- Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service -2003

Apologies were received from:-

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Other Bands in the Branch:-

- Manchester Phoenix
- City of Liverpool
- West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue
- Chorley
- Bolton Caledonia
- Scots Guards Association Manchester
- Black Thistle

Previous Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the GM of the 7th April 2013 have been circulated to members.

No omissions or corrections were identified

The GM minutes were accepted.
Proposed: Warrington
Second: Greater Manchester ACF
Accepted: Unanimous

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising that needed to be carried over from pre season.

Treasurers Report (Chris)

The branch funds are still in the black having made a loss of approximately £8.00 over the year.

We have funds to support branch activities such as Piping and Drumming workshops, and would hope in 2014 to keep the costs down for running the Branch Indoor competitions while opening the contests to bring in more revenue.

Branch levies are due for 2013/14 to be paid by the AGM.

Chris is to forward the finance spreadsheet to Paul so the accounts can be prepared for review prior to submission to HQ.

Directors Report (Paul)

At the directors meeting on the 27th April the focus was on moving into the outdoor competition season, and ensuring actions relation to Education (PDQB etc) were progressing.

There was an Executive Directors meeting prior to the Scottish Championships where it was confirmed the 5th Major had been awarded to Belfast.

The World Solo Drumming entry criteria for Juvenile and Junior categories have been split further by age and band grade.

All bands should have received and returned their questionnaire on the Worlds 2013 event, if not please return your views to headquarters so they can be considered along with the other feedback by the Board at their meeting on the 12th October.

A general discussion took place regarding the positives and negative experiences encountered over the weekend such as; Periods of inactivity, Intrusive Security, Rings placed out of the way with no seating, captive food court, drinks tokens purchased on Saturday not redeemable on Sunday.

Unfortunately I will not be able to attend the Board meeting on the 12th October 2013.

Music Board (Paul on behalf of Theresa)

The end of season re-grading of bands was completed subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. No bands in the branch are directly impacted, the recommendations are:-

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Nov/Juv. to Juvenile Boghall and Bathgate
George Watson's College
North Lanarkshire Schools
Scots College Melbourne

Grade 4B to 3B City of Newcastle
6/8 Dundee Boys Brigade
Glenmor (by request)

Grade 4B to 3A West Coast Highlanders

Grade 4B to 4A Raphoe
Battlehill
Kirkcaldy and District
Vale of Clyde
3rd Batt. Royal Regt. of Scotland
Grade 4A to 3B Newtongrange
St Colmcilles
Tullintrain
Lewis
East Kilbride (by request)

Grade 3B to 3A Stockbridge
Vale of Athol
First Scottish Milngavie
New Ross
Tullylagan
Theipval Memorial
Syerla

Grade 3A to 2 City of Edinburgh
Coalburn

Grade 1 to 2 Seven Towers
Torphican and Bathgate
Dysart and Dundonald

Grade 2 to 3A Dumfries and Galloway Police

Grade 3A to 3B Troon Blackrock (by request)

Grade Juv. to N/Juv. Robert Malcolm Memorial (by request)

The RSPBA Structured Learning books have been digitised from the current printed form. It is hoped they will be put on the web in PDF form for download just like the DM manual.

There will be a Summer School held in Glasgow between the 20th and 25th July 2014.

The roll out the first of the Advanced modules in Pipe Band Musicianship are ready to deliver with a target exam day in March. The entry criteria would be the Intermediate RSPBA certificate/ PDQB L4 / SQF L6 or equivalent.

Education is to be delivered via the branches engaging in an "Outreach" method of delivery. A paper has been prepared which has not yet been reviewed by the Board of Directors on how this is to be implemented.

Please take time to review this and if you have any questions / comments direct then to the MB via Theresa.

Core delivery is by the band and branch Instructors, with periodic checkpoint initiatives where headquarters support the branch, at the beginning, during and

A general discussion took place around the education / instructional needs of each band and what could be delivered centrally via the Branch.

It was agreed that we would look to deliver a drumming workshop at the end of October. Chris agreed to contact Gordon Brown with respect to availability and a venue and publicise this to Branch members to ensure the event is viable.

Oldham has a specific need for a tutor / instructor to assist with bringing more life into the practice nights for the piping members of the band, looking to vary / increase the bands portfolio of sets.

All bands to consider their piping needs for the next meeting so we can look at what educational event / workshop can be requested for early 2014. We need to see if the suggestion from the beginning of the year for bands sharing instructor's time over a weekend for their specific needs is still required and viable.

There is also a need for bands to consider and provide feedback on the Grade 5 proposal.

2014 Branch Competitions.

We are planning our 2014 branch indoor competitions. We hope as in previous years to make preliminary contact with individual adjudicators who have shown interest and are available to attend one of our events, and then contact headquarters for them to be officially allocated to enable early travel arrangements to be finalised.

The current proposals are for holding:-

- Solo Piping and Drumming on 1st (piping) / 2nd (drumming) February at Oldham
- Trios 1st March at the ACF venue in Bury
- Mini Bands and Drum Salute 12th or 13th April at Birkenhead

We are intending to open the events to all branches, to increase the viability of the events and vary the competition.

Trophies will be awarded to branch competitors and medals to non-branch members.

The Drum Salute competition will be based on-

- A minimum of 1 bass, 1 tenor and 2 sides, must incorporate all three sections.
- No rule on time signature
- Duration in the range of 2 – 4 minutes.
- May include bongos / tom toms.
- Freedom for the Lead Drummer of each entry to be inventive.
- No extra points for fancy dress, although this may make it entertaining.
- Multiple entries per band accepted providing different snare and tenor drummers play. Same bass player may be used.

You can go on YouTube and watch various drum corps fanfares over the years, and you will get an idea from that.

AOCB

The band membership (new and release) forms and band secretary forms are available for download from the RSPBA website. It is important that now we are a Company the details of the Band Secretary is kept up to date and current.

Next meeting will be on Sunday November 3rd.

Branch AGM to be held on Sunday 8th December.

Meeting in January 2014 – Sunday 5th.

P L Brown

Minutes Secretary