



## RSPBA North West England Branch

GM 27<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at Padgate Community Centre.

A quorum **was** attained within one half hour after the 13:15 start time of the meeting.

### Present Officials

- P Brown Secretary
- J Thomson Chairman
- C Eyre President, Treasurer & Webmaster
- P Brown Director RSPBA
- T Brown Music Board representative
- K Thacker Vice- Chairman

### Welcome

In opening the meeting at 13:40 the chairman thanked those in attendance for representing their band's interests. The chairman acknowledged the achievements of the branch bands throughout the 2015 season in both major and minor contests. It was good to see Chorley, Croft and Culcheth back out on the circuit.

### Bands in attendance:-

- Warrington
- Chorley, Croft and Culcheth
- Wirral
- Manchester Phoenix

### Bands represented

- (none)

### Band Apologies

- (none)

### Bands not in attendance:-

- Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service -2003
- Scots Guards Association Manchester
- West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service.
- City of Preston
- Oldham Scottish
- Bolton Caledonia

The Secretary requested that the minutes should record a statement of thanks for the work undertaken by the Treasurer and Competition Secretary in making the branch indoor events a success.

The first item of business was to agree the date of the AGM and other branch meetings.-  
25<sup>th</sup> October 2015 – Next Branch Meeting  
29<sup>th</sup> November 2015 – Branch AGM  
10<sup>th</sup> January 2016 – Branch Meeting.

The minutes of the GM of the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2015 have been available to the Branch Bands on the web site for review. No questions or corrections were received. The minutes were accepted in full on a:-

Proposal by Warrington  
Seconded by Chorley, Croft and Culcheth  
All others present were like-minded.

Matters Arising.

The branch membership was discussed. A couple of bands are being approached with respect seeking their membership of the RSPBA with a view to keeping the branch a viable concern with full representation at Headquarters.

It was noted that the Fife Branch at this point in time has been suspended and the bands assigned to another branch.

The Director asked if there was feedback on the major championships. In the main feedback was positive, a couple of niggles on parking. The use of online forms and correspondence by email with headquarters was recognised as a positive move forward.

### **Treasurers Report**

The Treasurer presented the meeting with a financial summary of the 2014/15 year to date.

The key points to note are for unforeseen reasons the branch did not host its separate Trios Competition and a name change was needed for the MiniBand drumming adjudicator's flight.

The branch held a successful Drumming workshop which unfortunately made a slight loss, even though partly funded by RSPBA Outreach program, and tuition fees charged to non-branch members.

A query was raised on the Levy; the branch Levy is paid by bands who want to take part in Branch activity such as the indoor competitions or workshops. It is optional to bands who do not participate in any branch activity.

The branch accounts show a modest balance of £2,352.25; this reflects a loss of £451.76 in the year 2014/15.

Branch accounts that show the Profit / loss, Income and Expenditure have been produced. These will be circulated with the minutes for approval at the October meeting.

## **Directors Report**

The last directors meeting was on the 25<sup>th</sup> April 2015 and the next meeting is not due until the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2015.

The board are still progressing on behalf of bands and branches the day to day business of running the RSPBA:-

1. Supporting the Education Programme – Summer School and Outreach (which we used to fund part of the drumming workshop).
2. Obtaining a venue for the fifth Major.
3. Premises (Medium and Long term goals).
4. Competition Format.

## **Music Board Report**

The 4 parted Strathspeys and Reels scores announced in the worlds programme are now available on the web site (as a guide).

This year's proposals for up or down grading have been agreed by the Music Board and are on the RSPBA website. These need to be ratified at the Board of Directors meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October. Bands can appeal where the decision is not felt appropriate.

The branch would look to running a further Drumming workshop as well as a local Drum Major workshop in 2016.

## **2015 Branch Competitions.**

Those present discussed the branch competitions in depth. It was agreed that the branch would not hold a separate Trios contest, but include this in the Mini Band competition in place of the quartets.

The events are 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.

To host an event we need entries and premises, with this in mind we are looking to host the events as follows:-

- 20<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup> Feb Solo Piping
- 21<sup>st</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup> Feb Solo Drumming
- 2<sup>nd</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> April Trios and Mini Bands
- 3<sup>rd</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> April Drumming Workshop

Venues are needed, possible availability at Oldham and Birkenhead, other venues will be considered.

## **AOCB**

Does one have to be a band member to take part in our competitions; to play in our competitions? As the Branch competitions are run under the auspices of the RSPBA, then the player must be registered with the RSPBA, either as a band member or an associate member. Associate membership may be obtained directly from HQ.

Next meeting 25<sup>th</sup> October 2015 @ 13:00

Closed @ 15:00

P L Brown  
Secretary  
NWE Branch