



RSPBA North West England Branch

GM 28th October 2018 at Padgate Community Centre.

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
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- K Thacker Vice- Chairman
- C Eyre President, Treasurer & Webmaster
- T Brown Music Board representative
- Vacancy Branch Director

Bands in attendance: -

- Warrington
- Wirral
- West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue
- Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue
- Manchester Phoenix
- Oldham Scottish

Apologies: -

- Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue
- J Thomson Chairman

A quorum was attained, and the meeting started @ 13:15

Opening

The vice-chairman welcomed those attending and thanked them for travelling to the venue to progress branch business.

The secretary reported that Jim Spindley the Drum Major of Nottingham Police passed away on Monday the 22nd October 2018 following his battle with Cancer, at the start of the year he had agreed to be the Director for the Midlands Branch. The Branch would like Paul, Theresa and Calum who have been invited to attend the funeral at Bretby Crematorium on the 29th October 2018 at 12:45 to pass on the condolences of our members to the family for their sad loss.

Minutes

The GM minutes for the 28th September 2018, having been circulated to members, were accepted in full.

Proposal by Warrington

Seconded by Phoenix

All others were like minded.

Matters Arising.

Bolton St Andrews was transferred to the Ayr, Dumfries and Galloway branch following a request by them at the last meeting of the Board of Directors on the 6th October 2018.

This branch, under the rules, does not qualify for representation on the Board of Directors but is receiving updates because the Branch Secretary is the Vice Chairman of the association and we have a Music Board representative (Theresa).

The matter of representation will be discussed further at the December board meeting as there are a number of branches who need to consider the falling number of bands within their branch.

We need an action plan to try and get bands to join the branch over the next 12 months, what can we offer them in terms of support / education, to encourage membership of the Branch.

This would need individuals to give up their time to teach piping and drumming basic skills, pointing individuals and bands in the right direction prior to going to the next step, ie. formal education through Headquarters.

It was agreed that the key points from the last meeting were still valid and they would by Email forward details to Theresa (theresamacd@hotmail.com) and Chris (riperepiper@hotmail.com) of:-

- Those willing to pass on skills to other bands including availability and contact. To facilitate monthly training.
- Details of Bands to be contacted. Address (post/email) and contact name.
- Suggest focus of training (beginners – drumming / piping) using the structured learning manuals on the web.
- Ask what the bands would need of the branch to get them to join.
- Design Information Circular.

Until the registration system has been looked at by headquarters there is not likely to be a change in the fee for registering a band with headquarters. At a branch level a “ one off “ incentive could be provided.

The secretary outlined the details of a letter from the Education Officer regarding the geographical representatives to the Pipe Band College. Do we have a candidate or would we continue to support an English representative (who we believe is Cameron Edgar).

Treasurers Report

There has been no movement in the Branch accounts since the last meeting.

The accounts have been posted on the branch web site, it was agreed a copy should be forwarded to headquarters.

Proposal by Oldham Scottish

Seconded by Wirral

All others were like minded.

The hall rental will increase next year to £8 / hour for our meetings. We must thank the Warrington band for their support in using the premises.

Other Financial information provided is included in the directors' report.

Directors Report

Next BoD meeting is on the 2nd December 2018.

It was agreed that the office should distribute a form to all officials requesting updated contact details to be compliant with GDPR.

A letter from the BBC producer of the World Pipe Band Championships programme advising details of live stream success was noted.

Applications from N West and S Muir for acceptance to the Tenor Drumming Assessors' Group were approved.

A request from St Andrews Bolton Pipes and Drums to be transferred to the Ayr, Dumfries and Galloway Branch was approved.

Major Championship Feedback in the main was positive. Improvements in the march past and prize giving particularly at the Worlds needs to be addressed. Other points raised are to be considered by the Vice-Chairman in preparing the events and operational plan for the 2019 Championships.

- Bands were not happy with the clarity of their announcements at the Wolds.
- BBC delayed the prize giving
- Directors reported that cameramen occasionally interfered with band performances, ignoring requests from the officials on duty
- The Board was unhappy that information regarding the winning Grade 1 had been leaked to the press.

Other feedback in the APMB and MB minutes and the Liaison Group Report have been noted.

New adjudicator application forms are to be added to the web following the correction of a number of inaccuracies

The item to consider the feasibility of increasing the number of Ensemble and Drumming adjudicators to two was considered, it was decided not to progress this further for a number of reasons the main one being the financial constraints.

The Education Officer presented his report which included the structure of the Pipe Band College. It was agreed that the Education Officer should now advertise the positions and we should proceed to interview stage at the earliest opportunity. Hence the letter to the secretary regarding the regional representative.

It was agreed the RSPBA would purchase licences for a video conference call application "Go To Meeting".

The Finance Committee proposals were agreed:-

1. Championship Prizemoney / Entry Fees – no change
2. Petrol allowance increased to 40p per mile. Car sharing allowance increased to 10p per mile. Glasgow and Edinburgh accommodation allowance increased to £120. (If officials are called in at short notice and have difficulty securing reasonably priced accommodation please contact branch).
3. Music Board budget application
 - a. Solo/tenor drumming review £600
 - b. Grading structure review £1,000
4. Marketing and Media budget application (Agreed in principle further details required)
 - a. Website £2,500
 - b. Pens etc. £750
 - c. Facebook £250
5. Premises
 - a. Meeting to be arranged with Scottish Government to re-apply for funding.
6. Website and compiling/maintenance contracts to be continued.
7. Salaries 3% increase.

It was agreed that the Marketing and Media Convenor should write to each Branch secretary to ask if they wished to change their compiling programme.

An update on progress with the redevelopment of Washington Street was provided by the Chairman and Chief Executive. 45 Washington Street has been vacated. As we have not yet received any substantial offers of funding, it was felt that we should have one last attempt to secure grant funding before commencing physical work at the end of the year by meeting with Historic Environment Scotland.

Standing Orders and Steering Committee provided a report on the Articles Review, the last section on how to run a meeting is being progressed ;Articles 41 to 69 (Including Articles 116 to 119).

Ideally any change from the membership should use the appropriate branch representative Director, Music Board, possibly Pipe Band College to take forward the request, if this then has merit following consideration it is put to the SOSOC for the necessary rule changes.

The resulting changes proposed will need to be accepted by Companies House / Charities commission

A discussion on Branch sizes to be included in the agenda for the next meeting.

Music Board Report

The Convenor of the Music Board advised the Board that the results of the Grade 4 survey regarding playing requirements indicated that no change was required.

The Grade 4 questionnaire was issued to 203 bands, 17% responded (36 bands). Of those who responded 72% indicated they were content. The MB are to prepare a summary of the survey for communication to the Bands via the Web.

The Terms of Reference of the Grading Review were agreed by the Directors.

The Pipe Band College would like input on the symbols and names for flourishing techniques for Tenor Drummers, to enable a standard to be considered within our teaching. This has come out of the sub group working on the International Tenor Drumming contest review.

The pilot scheme for the Drum Major contest at this year's World Championships was cancelled since the Board was notified that this had never been discussed at a Music Board meeting. It had been originally arranged based on information that all parties had been involved which was later proven not to be the case.

The Chairman advised that it is physically impossible to hold the heats of all grades simultaneously, with the number of arenas and adjudicator panels available.

Due to the timings of qualifying events and finals it is not possible to only use bands who have not qualified for the final to play for Drum Majors.

The Board would like specific feedback from the Juvenile Bands and Drum Majors with regards to the use of the Friday for the hosting of a Juvenile World Championships (from 2020). The MB are to prepare a survey to be issued by HQ, a statement to be added to the Web site once the survey has been posted.

Vacancies still exist for members on the MB particularly from English Branches.

Prescribed tunes on the web site, instructions included on how to request tunes for consideration, some drum scores also to be added, and that these are guides for the use of the Bands.

Workshops

A question was asked why the branch does not run a summer school, the response was provided, that we would need a sponsor and some serious funding, simply to provision instructors / assessors, accommodation, travel particularly when we have no idea how many candidates of what level would actually turn up.

The branch has arranged single day workshops that have been poorly attended by branch band members. Drumming instructor available for a full day with no candidates for any of the time.

This item to be linked to the above what do bands want the branch to deliver discussed above. It was agreed that we should consider having a day workshop after the Solo or Trio events., using this a stepping stone to delivering more local training. Any ideas on what subject the workshop to be arranged around must be e-mailed to Theresa prior to 17th November, next MB meeting.

Branch Competitions.

The 2018 events were successful, thanks to all who helped organise and run the events.

The proposed dates have been forwarded to headquarters to be added to the Calendar of events.

Adjudicators: Once we have confirmed the events, adjudicators will be requested to be allocated. Chris is to provide details of the use of adjudicators over the last 6 years to see if there are any we would like to approach. When we approach headquarters, they will assign any adjudicators who are available, we cannot indicate who we would not like, we could include our preference to keep costs down would be those with flights from Ireland, or rail from the central belt.

Possible venues continue to be investigated by GMFRS, Oldham and Wirral.

The proposed dates are:

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Solos – 9th Feb 2019 to be held in Oldham (practice venue of Oldham Scottish)

Trios – 2nd March 2019 to be decided

Mini Band, Quartet and Solo Drumming (and Full Band if time allows) – 27th April 2019 to be held at St Joseph's Birkenhead.

All events open to RSPBA Bands, entry forms and format will be available on the NW England Branch web site. No changes to the 2018 format were identified.

AOCB

Increase in hall fee (noted above) to £8 per hour.

Additional Medals required to be purchased for next year's events.

Last month's AOCB question was answered, the player would be subject to higher and lower transfer rules as they move between bands.

Meeting Closed 14:45

Next GM will be the AGM and will be held on Sunday 3rd December 2018 at 13:00.

P L Brown
Secretary
NWE Branch



The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association

45 Washington Street, Glasgow G3 8AZ. Telephone 0141 221 5414



Dear Branch Secretary,

Pipe Band College

At the Annual General Meeting earlier this year, approval was given to establish the RSPBA Pipe Band College. The College will be formed in part by restructuring the existing Education Management Group prior to the 2019 RSPBA Annual General Meeting. Part of the rationale for this exercise was to ensure proper governance of the College and bring it into line with other structures within the organisation. The new structure differs from the previous Education Management Group Structure in several aspects:

"Positions will be appointed in accordance with the process outlined in articles 72-76 of the RSPBA Articles of Association:

Post holders shall serve for a period of three years and shall thereafter be eligible for re-election provided that at the first annual general meeting of the Pipe Band College which will take place in **December 2019**, one third of the post holders shall retire from office, and at the annual general meeting in every subsequent year one-third of the post holders shall retire from office. A retiring post holder shall be eligible for re-election."

All of the post holders in the Pipe Band College are required to be members of the PVG Scheme.

The following posts are of a voluntary nature and are identified within the new structure:

Geographical Representatives (Piping and Drumming) who will be responsible for the locality planning and delivery of piping and drumming tuition. Geographical representatives will be 1 piper and/or 1 drummer who has attained at least SCQF 6 in either Piping or Drumming (or an equivalent) with extensive experience of instructing at a suitable level.

Branches are therefore requested to nominate individuals to take on these roles. The Pipe Band College will have within its structure a **Principal of Piping** and a **Principal of Drumming** who will support geographical representatives in developing local strategies for raising standards in piping and drumming tuition and supporting the development for piping and drumming tuition within their area.

This is a major new development within the RSPBA and is intended to raise standards in education and performance at branch level. It is therefore of the highest importance that geographical representatives are identified by branches, thus ensuring direct links with the membership. It is incumbent on Branches to pass on their nominations for geographical representatives to the Chief Executive, Ian Embelton, by end of December. Any Branch who had existing representative(s) on the Education Management Group are requested to advise the Chief Executive, Ian Embelton by end of December if the individual(s) who previously represented that branch is/are to continue in the new role of Geographical Representative.

Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Pat Whelan

Education Officer.

Company No. SC394198

www.rspba.org

Charity No. SC018153



THE ROYAL SCOTTISH PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION OFFICIALS AND ADJUDICATORS ALLOWANCES AND EXPENSES

Directors Allowances

- Indoor Contests & Outdoor Local Contests	£50.00
- Championships	£75.00

Stewards, Compilers Allowances

- Indoor Contests & Outdoor Local Contests	£50.00
- Championships	£75.00

Ensemble, Piping & Drumming Adjudicators Allowances

- Indoor Contests & Outdoor Local Contests	£75.00
- Scottish, British, European & UK Championships	£100.00
- World Championships	£120.00

Drum Major Adjudicators Allowances

- Local Contests	£50.00
- Championships	£75.00

Travelling expenses and meals when incurred **wholly and exclusively** on Association business, may be claimed as per the following:

1. Travel by bus or standard class rail. Taxis should not be used unless public transport is not available.
2. Mileage allowance of 40 pence per mile.
3. Air tickets will be issued from Headquarters when necessary.
4. All officials and adjudicators should utilise the most economical method of transport available. If required, airport parking should be booked in advance at the most economical rate.
5. Overseas officials and adjudicators expenses will be paid only from their British Isles base. Overseas Adjudicators may claim an additional allowance of £50.00 per day up to a maximum of 3 days to attend a major championship.
6. When the Promoter does not provide lunch or evening meal, the maximum amount claimable is £20.00 per meal, or actual cost of meal if less.
7. Claims for evening meal can only be made when the distance from home to venue is over 50 miles (i.e. 100 miles total journey).
8. When Bed and Breakfast is required, approval **in advance** must be obtained from the Promoter through Headquarters. When approval is received and the service is not provided by the Promoter but arranged personally, the maximum claimable amount will be £80.00 per person per night, with the exception of Glasgow and Edinburgh where the maximum claimable amount will be £120. Bed and breakfast claims will only be accepted when the distance from home to venue is over 100 miles (i.e. 200 miles total journey). Claims for more than one night Bed and Breakfast will only be accepted in exceptional circumstance.
9. Where meals provided by Promoters for Officials and Adjudicators are not taken, the claim against the Promoter will not be met.
10. When more than one Official or Adjudicator is travelling in the same car, the driver may charge an additional 10 pence per mile per passenger.
11. **Official receipts must accompany all claims with the exception of mileage allowance. THIS WILL BE STRICTLY ADHERED TO.**