



RSPBA North West England Branch

GM 28th September 2014 at Padgate Community Centre.

A quorum **was NOT** 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 Director RSPBA
- T Brown Music Board representative

Welcome

Apologies were received from:-

- City of Liverpool

Bands in attendance:-

- Warrington
- Wirral
- Bolton Caledonia
- Chorley

Bands not in attendance:-

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

The Chairman welcomed those attending and in his opening address he recorded his thanks to Bolton Caledonia, Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service, Manchester Phoenix and the Scots Guards Association Manchester in their representation of the Branch at outdoor competitions such as the British and World Championships, Annan, Ashbourne and Chatsworth

Although a quorum was not present Branch business was progressed and duly recorded. It is important that the Branch be able to function; there are a number of limiting factors which need to be discussed and options considered.

- a) The number of bands in the Branch is reducing and we may fall below the required number for having a nominated representative as a Director.
- b) Ratification of decisions at a meeting is not constitutional if a quorum is not present. We need to consider altering the Branch constitution to reduce the quorum; and possibly allow nominated / proxy voting at meetings.
- c) The 2013 AGM minutes have not been ratified and we are rapidly approaching the 2014 AGM. It was suggested we circulated and obtain Email from Band representatives.
- d) Look at alternative meeting options such as conference calls, evenings. Suggestions welcome.

Finance Report.

The balance sheet provided indicates the branch made a surplus of £578.53 in the year. This mainly came from good housekeeping, planning ahead, the donation for trophies and well supported raffles.

Thanks to all who supported our Branch events.

The accounts will be prepared for the next meeting as they need to be sent to RSPBA headquarters in advance of our AGM.

Music Board Report.

There was some discussion around the information on the RSPBA web site regarding the recent end of season regarding of bands. Theresa advised the meeting she had been unable to attend that Music Board meeting and had no additional information available, the next meeting of the Music Board will be on the 22nd November 2014.

It was announced at the Worlds that the prescribed tune lists were being reviewed and the tunes available for selection increased. In support of this Theresa has been sourcing the various pipe scores so an example is available on the RSPBA Web site, although a band can play any version. As announced on the web site:-

GRADE 4 AND NOVICE JUVENILE COMPETITION FORMAT FROM 2015

24th September 2014

Whilst the criteria for 4A retains the principle of 4 parts March in 2/4 Time Signature, the requirements have been altered. 4A can now play either 1 x 4 Parted March or 2 x 2 parted Marches. This change will also be applied to Minor Grade 4 MSR Contests. Grade 4 requirements of Quick March Tempo for Minor Contests remain unchanged.

Major Championships:-

4B and Novice Juvenile will play 4 x 2 parted Marches from the "RSPBA Prescribed Tune List" - (Bands may choose Parts 1 and 2 of any of the 4 parted tunes offered on the list).

4A will play MSR - 4 Parts March Tempo (This can be 1 x 4 parted March or 2 x 2 parted Marches where Bands may choose Parts 1 and 2 of any of the 4 parted tunes offered on the list), 2 x 2 parted Strathspeys and 2 x 2 parted Reels. All tunes played must come from the "RSPBA Prescribed Tune List"

Minor Contests:-

Grade 4 and Novice Juvenile remains as stipulated currently being "2 1/2 to 4 1/2 Minutes Quick March Tempo".

Grade 4A Major Championship requirement change will also be applied to Minor Grade 4 MSR Contests.

Please note some tunes are still in the verification process and will be added as they become available. In the meantime bands can of course use any resource they wish to obtain the music.

For the complete tune listing please check our our dedicated page for [Prescribed Tunes](#).

A summer school was held in Glasgow for the first time in some years. There is also a school being run by Dumfries and Galloway Branch, which is open and may give those interested from the branch an alternative venue.

There are some rule changes being considered in the pipe line such as the splitting of Novice Juvenile grade in Major Championships and the possible amendment of the registration period being changed from 14 days to 42 days before a transferred player can play with their new band.

Directors Report

Paul advised that the Directors meeting is to be held on the 4th October 2014.

The activity of the board of directors is focusing in a number of areas such as Premises for RSPBA headquarters; Managing Band and Member registration as well as progressing bids for the Major Championships from 2016.

The 2015 Pipe Band Championships will take place as follows:

1. British Championships - May 30th at Meadow Park, Bathgate
2. United Kingdom Championships - June 13th at Belfast
3. European Championships - June 27th at Grant Park, Forres
4. Scottish Championships - July 25th at Levensgrove Park, Dumbarton
5. World Championships - August 15th* at Glasgow Green, Glasgow

The Board of Directors have completed their review of 2014 and it has been agreed that the 2015 World Pipe Band Championships will be in the same format as 2014 ie. Grade 1 qualifiers on Friday 14th August and all other grades and finals on Saturday 15th August.

There are some rule changes being considered in the pipe line such as the splitting of Novice Juvenile grade in Major Championships and the possible amendment of the registration period being changed from 14 days to 42 days before a transferred player can play with their new band.

Post meeting news, the RSPBA structured learning books are now available on the RSPBA website as free down loads.

<http://www.rspba.org/documents/learning/Elementary.pdf>

<http://www.rspba.org/documents/learning/Intermediate.pdf>

<http://www.rspba.org/documents/learning/Advanced.pdf>

Branch Competitions

Proposed dates for our indoor contests for 2015:

1. Sat. 7th Feb: Solo Piping
2. Sun. Feb 8th: Solo Drumming
3. Sun. March 1st or 8th: Trio Piping
4. Sat. Apr 11th: Minibands, Quartets, Drum Salute

The venues and adjudicators will be announced as soon as confirmed. The competitions like 2014 will be open events, all are welcome.

Education

The branch as in previous years is looking at what we can provide to the members.

The RSPBA Education Officer will (has been) contacted by the Secretary to obtain confirmation that the instructor's fee will be met by headquarters as part of the outreach program if the branch covers the venue, travel and accommodation expenses in respect of:-

1.A Drumming weekend (side, bass and tenor). Emphasis to be at practical Grade 4 level. Dates proposed: 10/11th or 17/18th January. Theresa is making contact with Two Grade 1 level instructors through the Music Board.

2. A Drum Majors workshop. (One day or two?) Dates proposed: 18th and/or 19th March. There was a debate as to what would be more desirable - draw on local talent (the same two instructors we had last year), go for a top competing D/M or an official RSPBA adjudicator. Details have been sought from the Education Officer as to who may be available.

AOCB

Next Meeting 2nd November 2014.

Branch AGM will be the 7th December 2014, please ensure the band is represented if possible.

The branch levies is paid to participate in Branch activities, it is not related to the RSPBA annual registration fee paid to headquarters. Bands in the branch only pay the levy if they take part in the competitions or a branch paid for event.

Closed @ 14:30.

P L Brown
Secretary
NWE Branch