



RSPBA North West England Branch

GM held on 2nd October 2011 at Padgate Community Centre.

Apologies for the late issue of the Minutes

A quorum **was** attained within one half hour after the 13:00 (1PM) start time of the meeting in accordance with rule 14.1 {Five Band Representatives entitled to vote shall form a quorum at Branch Meetings}.

J Thomson	Chairman
P Brown	Secretary
C Eyre	President, Treasurer & Webmaster
T Brown	Music Board representative
P Brown	National Council representative

Welcome

The representatives of the bands in the branch were welcomed by the Chairman to the Padgate community centre. The bands who participated in the branch and outdoor competitions over the summer were congratulated for their support of these events.

Apologies were received from:-

Chorley Pipe Band
South Cheshire Pipe Band

Bands in attendance:-

City of Sheffield Pipe Band
Warrington Pipe Band 2004
Wirral Pipe Band
Manchester Army Cadet Pipe Band
City of Liverpool Pipe Band
Oldham and Scottish Pipe Band
Greater Manchester Pipe Band

Previous Minutes

Minutes of the previous meeting were NOT reviewed, a quorum was not available at the last two meetings before the summer. The 2011/12 season is off to a good start with a good proportion of the bands in the branch being represented.

Music Board

Theresa attended a Music Board meeting on the 1st October, hence all the news is hot off the press.

The revised band grades are available on the RSPBA web site, subject to ratification by the National Council and appeal by the Pipe Majors. The bands which may be of interest are Pride of Murray and Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue, both bands have been down graded.

Due to an administration error the revised playing criteria for the grade 4a was not announced in the Worlds 2011 programme. The criteria is to be 2*2 part March + 2*2part Strathspay + 2*2part Real.

The branch can hold a workshop to enable bands to look at the 4a playing requirements relating to the March, Strathspay and Real. The branch to provide the venue and accommodation, headquarters will cover the travel costs.

The music board are looking at the format of a 2 day World Championships for 2013. If any one has any ideas that they would like to be considered please let Theresa know. Lower grade bands to have the Heats and Finals on the same day. Grade 1 no pre qualifiers, MSR one day, Medley the next both with an on the line draw.

Work is ongoing with Pipe Band Studies; PDQB is being progressed by bands and branches. We had a good drumming day earlier in the year; need to look at running one at another venue so we get greater participation from more bands.

National Council

There has not been a National Council meeting following the outdoor season, there should be more to report at the next meeting.

We are in interesting times the RSPBA became a Ltd company at the end of Feb 2011. The constitution has been replaced by company documents; Articles of Association along with Rules and Standing Orders.

Your Band Secretary is a key official; the band membership and band relationship with the RSPBA is centred on the secretary, the annual renewal will be a key declaration going forwards (no secretary no band!). It is the secretary that has the voting option at the RSPBA AGM.

Although the RSPBA do not allow postal voting, proxy voting is allowed. This potentially allows for Branch or block voting. There were 39 band votes counted at the 2011 AGM, this could increase considerably in future. It is both good and bad we need to ensure that large cartels work for the benefit of the true majority.

The RSPBA are expecting bids to be received for the Worlds then the other majors, these will be reviewed to obtain the best financial plan for the next 5 years, the bids are to include the option for a 2 day world event.

The Directors (National Council) are looking at:-

- a) The appointment of an education officer. The Music Board and Adjudicators Liaison Panel Management Board see this post as being key to promote the work of the music board (PDQB), facilitate the continuous development of the adjudicators training and instructors (including the trainers).
- b) The role of the various standing committees.

- c) The relocation of RSPBA headquarters to a venue that represents aspirations of the organisation.
- d) Review of the format of the World Pipe Band Championships, 260+ bands is becoming too large an entry to manage.

Treasurers Report

We are continuing to keep costs down as much as possible. Slight increase expected on last year's expenditure, due to the flight times resulting in overnight hotel costs as well as hold luggage costs. Use of medals instead of trophies is also helping

The branch continues to be in a healthy state, the Solo piping generated a profit, while the solo drumming a minor loss. We have made a profit on the year of £255.98 as can be seen in the spreadsheet circulated.

Paul Brown will prepare a profit/loss statement from the spreadsheet so this can be submitted to headquarters before the branch AGM.

2012 Branch Competitions.

1. Solos Sunday 26th Feb 2012 at Oldham and Scottish Pipe Band.
Piping - Harry Stevenson.
2. Solo Drumming (Snare and Tenor) Saturday 10th March 2012. Venue required to get more of the branch involved.
Drumming - David Brown, Adrian Hoy.
3. Drumming Workshop date and venue to be agreed. Adrian Hoy
4. Trio Piping Saturday 24 March at Sheffield.
Piping – Jim Wark/David Clarke/??
5. Mini Bands / Open Drumming Saturday 14th April 2012 at Birkenhead
Piping Cameron Edgar
Drumming TBD

Learning points: could do with more bands / entries. In the case of the Tenor competition could possibly use CD music to encourage entries as a Side / Piper would not be physically required.

Need to amend the solo entry form, the late entry fee should be payable per contestant not band. Appreciate the need to encourage entries but we need to balance this against those who commit early to make the events financially viable.

Trophies to be returned at the first branch meeting of the year to avoid them being missing at a competition.

Trophies to be collected in uniform.

Restrict tuning up time in solos, specify on entry form.

The drum exam/workshop was also a success, the City Of Sheffield drummers soon found they had a considerable way to go with their practical development. The key message was one should coordinate ones feet and hands.

AOCB

The branch AGM will be on the 4th December 2011. I will let headquarters know we do not need their presence.

The next meeting will be held on the 20th November 2011 to prepare for the AGM.

P L Brown
Minutes Secretary