



RSPBA North West England Branch

GM 30th September 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
- J Thomson Chairman
- K Thacker Vice- Chairman
- C Eyre President, Treasurer & Webmaster
- Vacancy Branch Director

Bands in attendance: -

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

Apologies: -

- T Brown Music Board representative

A quorum was attained, and the meeting started @ 13:10

Opening

The chairman welcomed those attending the first meeting following the summer recess. It was pleasing to see bands out on parade over the summer, with a few bands out competing, with Manchester Phoenix doing well at Chatsworth. It's also good to see we had outside branch interest in our solos earlier in the year.

Minutes

The GM minutes for the 6th May 2018 having been circulated to members, were accepted in full. A minor issue with accessing them via the Web was identified and resolved. All bands agreed to accept the minutes and proceed with the meeting.

Matters Arising.

Bolton St Andrews has written to Headquarters requesting to be moved to another branch. This will likely take the number of Bands who will pay their membership in 2019 to nine.

The 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, and we have a Music Board representative (Theresa).

We need to consider our options before they are forced upon the branch from headquarters, such as considering joining with North East England for Branch representation at headquarters but retaining our own identity, ie. functioning as a NW England section within the new branch, still running our own indoor contests, workshops, etc.

Some bands (Phoenix, GMFRS and Oldham) suggested that we need to try and search out the bands in our area that we know exist and ask them what would entice them to join the branch and try with local support to run workshops / training sessions for them.

This would mean individuals giving up their time to teach basic skills in piping and drumming and 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 Bands at the meeting would, by email, forward details 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 available on the RSPBA website.
- Ask what the bands would need of the branch to get them to join.
- Design an Information Circular.

Is there an option for a reduced fee for a non-competing band?

Might be good to include the Pipe Band College area representative, Secretary to investigate.

Treasurers Report

It has been a good year considering the weather event that impacted the Trio Piping event.

The balance sheet shows a loss of £69.62 on the year, with the final cost of using the Padgate Community Centre offset by the Warrington P/B levy to be added.

Our major cost is the Miniband event where we need two adjudicators.

Secretary to produce accounts from the balance sheet for the next meeting, ready for submission to RSPBA Headquarters.

Directors Report

Next BoD meeting is on the 8th October 2018.

The Standing Orders and Steering Committee are undertaking a review of the articles of association as agreed at the March AGM.

45 Washington Street has been vacated pending the final stages of planning consent, funding and review of the tenders for the refurbishment. Slight delay in the timetable as once work commences it is unlikely that additional grant funding will become available.

Pipe Band College moving forwards.

Looking at web conferencing application, might be useful to the branch in inclement weather or if some bands are tied up with practice timetables.

The branch had no feedback on the Majors for headquarters to consider but agreed that the Worlds was a long day.

Music Board Report

The Grade 4 questionnaire was issued to 203 bands, 17% responded (36 bands). Of those who responded 72% indicated they were content. MB to consider the responses and publish on the RSPBA website a response visible to all bands.

The MB are hoping to progress with the previously reported "Grade Realignment Project" which will consider the adult Grades and competition Format. As well as a review of the International Tenor Drumming Contest.

The MB reported that there was little support for a "Juvenile World Championships". They want to be part of the main event.

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

Prescribed tunes are available on the RSPBA website. Instructions are 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. At the last workshop a drumming instructor was available for a full day but had nothing to do as no-one turned up.

This item to be linked to the above "What do bands want the branch to deliver?" discussed above.

Branch Competitions.

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

Could we get the 2019 events put on the RSPBA Calendar? Secretary to advise RSPBA Headquarters.

Adjudicators: a request for new faces came from the floor. Secretary to request adjudicators are assigned to the events (preferably flights from Ireland, or rail from the central belt).

Possible venues are being investigated, GMFRS, Oldham and Wirral all to check on availability for the proposed dates for the next meeting.

The proposed dates are:

Solos – 9th Feb 2019

Trios – 2nd March 2019

Mini Band, Quartet and Solo Drumming (and, if time allows, Full Band) – 27th April 2019

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

Question was raised from the floor which is to be passed to headquarters for a full answer. Can a player from an overseas band be registered with an RSPBA Band, and allowed to play in local contests, when the player is also on the roster to play in an RSPBA major (at a higher grade)?

Meeting Closed 14:45

Next GM meeting will be on Sunday 28th October at 13:00.

P L Brown
Secretary
NWE Branch