



RSPBA North West England Branch

GM on the 3rd March 2013 at Padgate Community Centre.

A quorum **was** 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
- C Eyre President, Treasurer & Webmaster
- P Brown National Council representative

Apologies

- J Thomson Chairman
- T Brown Music Board representative

Welcome

In opening the meeting at 13:15 Paul Brown apologised for being late due to traffic and commenced the GM by thanking those present for attending. A warm welcome was made to the representatives of the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Pipe Band as the band has not been represented for some time.

Bands in attendance:-

- Bolton Caledonia
- Greater Manchester ACF
- Oldham Scottish
- Warrington
- Wirral
- Manchester Phoenix
- Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service -2003

Apologies were received from:-

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Other Bands in the Branch:-

- Scots Guards Association Manchester
- City Of Sheffield Pipe Band
- Chorley
- West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue
- Black Thistle
- City of Liverpool

Previous Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the GM of the 20th January 2013 have been circulated to members.

No omissions or corrections were identified

The GM minutes were accepted.

Proposed: Manchester Phoenix

Second: Greater Manchester ACF

Accepted: Unanimous

Matters Arising

The solo piping and drumming competitions were a success. Many thanks to those involved. It was agreed that Chris in his role as Competition Secretary performs a sterling job and his input prior to an event is not recognised and should not be taken for granted. Paul Brown in recognition of this apologised for omitting his thanks to Chris in the results presentation on the drumming day.

We should perhaps consider making the events open competitions. This would give those in the branch an additional challenge, increase the income from entries and ensure we have entries that make a section viable to run. Branch placing could still be awarded within the open sections.

We must thank Oldham Scottish and the Greater Manchester ACF for their late entries on the drumming day that led to the event being a success.

It was felt we need to be consistent with the allocation of trophies, medals and certificates across the two days. Winners in some events received only a certificate where on the next day a winner received a certificate and a medal. In future we should present medals in all categories and avoid the use of certificates.

Chris was presented with two trophies by the Greater Manchester ACF and a further 10 trophies from Oldham Scottish.

The solo piping format could be reviewed to include revised sections, Strathspeys and Reels to provide a challenge and encourage participation. The drumming could end with a Drum Fanfare event where the whole drum core is involved (suggestion from the adjudicator David Brown). Please let us have your ideas so we can plan ahead for next year.

The Drumming workshop run by Adrian Hoy was also an enjoyable day. It did not get off to the best of starts, took 40 minutes to set up, organise the hall and the lap top to projector connection. It was not clear that pipers were required and would have aided in delivery of the content.

Each band had different expectations of the day. The pre requisites were vague, ability to read music, playing standard of individuals. A lot of information was made available, such as the beating needs to fit the pipe tune, dynamic aspects such as light and shade to emphasise the tunes rhythm, did not look at the whole drum core (piano and forte aspects).

Like the piping workshop it was felt to take this forward, was for the instruction to be given to individual bands. Costs could be shared between bands to make a day or weekend cost effective and make full use of the instructors availability.

Treasurers Report

The branch funds are still in the black around the £2,137 mark.

This figure takes into account the Levy (+400) Map Workshop(-193), Drumming workshop (-158), Solo Piping and Drumming (+119 and -138).

The entries for the trio competition are looking promising.

Music Board

Nothing further to report, let us keep pushing our education needs, the more notice we give the more likely we are to receive what we need.

Theresa is involved in the revision of the music for grade 4 that is available on the RSPBA web site. Once the corrections have been agreed the scores on the website will be updated.

Education discussed in matters arising.

Directors Report

All bands should have received their AGM Order Papers. The changes to the Standing Orders were discussed and no specific issues were identified.

- Recognising the Stewards and Compilers as a Standing Committee.
- Clarifying when a band can be asked to come forward to the line.
- Drum Major instruction by an adjudicator.
- Membership of the association by an Adjudicator

Remember your bands vote counts.

The focus is now on preparing for the outdoor season and ensuring the new venues and the two day worlds are a success.

2013 Branch Competitions.

The indoor contests have been arranged, just need your entries to make these viable, entry forms and closing dates are available on the website. Late entries £5.00 per band surcharge.

1. Greater Manchester ACF are to host the Trio Piping at Halcombe Moor on the 9th of March – judge Jim Wark.

Preparations are in hand, plenty of helpers available on the day. The number of entries is high so we may need to see if Jim can get a later train. Chris is picking Jim up from the station and the contest will start as soon as he arrives. Meals will be provided by the Greater Manchester ACF for the officials.

The draw for the event took place.

2. Wirral Pipe Band are to host the Mini Bands /Quartets/ Open Drumming at St Josephs Birkenhead on the 14th April. Piping - William Garrett and Drumming – Adrian Hoy

Raffles go down well if not all alcoholic prizes, please see what you can donate after the festive period.

AOCB

Minute distribution and the news letter issued by Email is working well. Bands can use the News Letter distribution to circulate information.

Need to look at Tenor Drumming and Drum Major tuition opportunities, within the branch and/or across bands.

Playing Members need to transfer between bands at least 14 days before they compete with their new band, to ensure their registration is correct on the day of the event.

Branch Competition format for 2014 to be reviewed.

The next branch meeting will be held on 7th April 2013.

Sheffield have also approached the Midland Branch regarding a transfer.

P L Brown
Minutes Secretary