



## RSPBA North West England Branch

GM on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 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 Director representative
- J Thomson Chairman
- T Brown Music Board representative

### Welcome

The GM meeting was opened at 13:10 by Jeff Thomson thanking those present for attending. The PM of Warrington is making good progress following his recent heart surgery, the Chairman and the Branch wish him well on his road to recovery.

### Bands in attendance:-

- Greater Manchester ACF
- Warrington
- Wirral
- Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service -2003
- Bolton Caledonia
- Black Thistle

### Apologies were received from:-

- Oldham Scottish
- City of Liverpool

### Other Bands in the Branch:-

- Manchester Phoenix
- West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue
- Chorley
- Scots Guards Association Manchester

### Previous Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the GM of the 29<sup>th</sup> September 2013 have been circulated to members.

No omissions or corrections have been reported or mentioned by those members present at the meeting.

The GM minutes were accepted.  
Proposed: Greater Manchester ACF  
Second: Warrington  
Accepted: Unanimous

### Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

### Treasurers Report (Chris)

The 2012-13 accounts have been prepared from the spreadsheet maintained by the Treasurer, minor corrections have been made and version 3 has been issued to the band representatives / contacts for review in advance of the December AGM.

The accounts show that Warrington has paid their Levy and this has been used to pay for the hall hire at Padgate. The hall hire is now £12:00 per meeting hence the expenditure amount is higher than the £40 Levy.

It was highlighted that because we have increased the number of sections in the indoor competitions as well as accepting entries from outside the branch, we would need to purchase around 90 medals.

In discussion it was hoped that an increased number of entries would generate the income to offset this additional cost, however it was recognised that our contest entry fee had not changed for a long period. It was proposed by Wirral and seconded by GMFRS that the entry fee be increased by 50p across the board. The motion was unanimously supported.

As the discussion progressed it was agreed that offers of sponsorship or donations of medals (and trophies) would be welcome.

Trophies should be returned by Individuals / Bands at the December AGM. Chris will take action to identify any gaps in the allocation that need to be filled prior to the next season.

### Directors Report (Paul)

The branch had no representation at the Board Meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> October; input had been passed to the CEO by Email to ensure business could be progressed.

The minutes of the meeting had not been received (by Paul) hence there was little update to be provided to the members present.

There is a note on the Website with respect to a change in the format of the 2014 World Pipe Band Championships, however the specifics of the proposal are unclear at this point in time.

The Board are also looking at policies relating to volunteers and where/how we comply with the legislation to protect Children and Vulnerable Adults.

### Music Board (Theresa)

The next music board meeting will take place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

There has been no feedback from the minutes of the 29<sup>th</sup> September with respect to the Education needs or the Grade 4 proposal. What message do we need to feedback to MB.

The branch are looking to run a drumming workshop early in the New Year, plans to host one in November have collapsed due to a communication breakdown. Both Oldham Scottish and Bolton Caledonia have offered their premises, Chris to progress with his contacts.

In the case of Piping the view was there is likely to be a need for a “show and tell”. The branch needs more information on what the members need; exam / education based; band by band specific or arrange a day and see what happens. The branch at the moment does not have the funds or take up by members to buy in to the outreach proposal, but we are happy to support other branches and participate and contribute to costs.

Core delivery should be by the band and branch Instructors, with periodic checkpoint initiatives where headquarters support the branch, at the beginning, during and with the final assessment (where needed)

A discussion took place on the Grade 5 proposal. The debate moved backwards and forwards as the implications were discussed:-

- Why only grade 4, why not 3?
- How would it impact on the few competitions with limited number of entries we have in England?
- Impact is on a bands playing up / playing in multiple competitions

Make your views known, and have your say at the AGM if a motion is proposed.

The general consensus of the Branch seems to be Grade 5 not really viable for England. Any Grade 4 bands entering competitions in England should be encouraged to enter Grade 4, and Grade 4 MSR before considering competing in Grade 3, but this would be for the competition promoters and organising Branch to decide..

### **2014 Branch Competitions.**

We continue to plan the 2014 branch indoor competitions. We hope as in previous years to make preliminary contact with individual adjudicators who have shown interest and are available to attend one of our events, and then contact headquarters for them to be officially allocated to enable early travel arrangements to be finalised.

The GM ACF are unable to host the Trios, GMFRS are looking to see if they can use their premises.

The current proposals are for holding:-

- Solo Piping and Drumming on 1<sup>st</sup> (piping) / 2<sup>nd</sup> (drumming) February at Oldham
- Trios 1st March at TBD
- Quartets, Mini Bands and Drum Salute 12<sup>th</sup> April at Birkenhead

We are intending to open the events to all branches, to increase the viability of the events and vary the competition. Note earlier discussion on trophies and entry fees.

Trophies will be awarded to branch competitors and medals to non branch members.

The new veterans (Age 60 and over) categories will be 6/8 and 2/4.

Chris to ask Cameron if he is available to adjudicate and what his preference would be Solos or Trios.

Details to be added to the Entry forms as soon as possible.

## **AOCB**

Bolton Caledonia has reached their first anniversary, following the merger of two bands last year. Their new P/M is Andy Markland, thanks to him from the band, much progress been made.

2014 marks 100 years since the start of the 1<sup>st</sup> World War, do we know of any plans for remembrance events by the Branch or RSPBA? Some bands like Bolton Caledonia have community ties and would welcome the opportunity for involving the band.

Gordon and Theresa to look at the possibility of having a Recital / Workshop towards the end of 2014.

Please consider registering for Pipefest 2014, taking place in Stirling.

The branch should consider making a donation to the new Piper and Drummer memorial monuments being erected by The Army School of Piping and Drumming at Redford Barracks in Edinburgh.. It is not known if the RSPBA are making a donation. Warrington has received a request to donate, due to their involvement with the TA.

The meeting closed 14:53

P L Brown

Minutes Secretary