



RSPBA North West England Branch

GM on the 7th April 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
- J Thomson Chairman
- T Brown Music Board representative

Welcome

The GM meeting was opened at 13:05 by Jeff Thomson thanking those present for attending.

Bands in attendance:-

- Greater Manchester ACF
- Oldham Scottish
- Warrington
- Wirral
- Manchester Phoenix
- Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service -2003
- City of Liverpool

Apologies were received from:-

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Other Bands in the Branch:-

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

Previous Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the GM of the 3rd March 2013 have been circulated to members.

No omissions or corrections were identified

The GM minutes were accepted.

Proposed: Warrington

Second: Greater Manchester ACF

Accepted: Unanimous

Matters Arising

The Trios competition was a success. Once again a good venue and the support from the GMACF were tremendous. The cadets kept the day running with their help. The largest number of entries the branch has had for some time made for a challenging day for the adjudicator. Feedback was that he was happy with the admin and was delighted with the day, just made it in time for his return to Glasgow.

Treasurers Report

The branch funds are still in the black around the £2,210 mark. The Trio piping has made a profit to date of £150.

The mini band entries are also good but the open solo drumming entries are down.

Music Board

The RSPBA Structured Learning books have been digitised from the current printed form. It is hoped to put them on the web site either as modules or full manuals. The download options / distribution methods are being considered. The next step will be to link the manuals to the SQA/PDQB training to support self study.

The Education Sub Committee are to roll out the first of the Advanced modules in Pipe Band Musicianship in September with a target exam day in March. The entry criteria would be the Intermediate RSPBA certificate/ PDQB L4 / SQF L6 or equivalent.

There is to be a Summer School somewhere in Glasgow in the period 14th – 19th July. There have been difficulties finding a premise available at a reasonable cost.

It is proposed to deliver training to bands and branches in a different way. It is a type of distance learning. The first session is to inform tutors and candidates what is involved in the PDQB Syllabus and what a candidate needs to know. This would enable the tutor to pass on this information over a 6-8 week period. The second session is more focused on the candidate, how are they progressing, where do they need to focus their efforts. After a further 6-8 weeks there is an assessment day where those who are likely to attain a grade can sit the theory and practical assessment. Once the information pack has been approved it will be circulated to all bands. This sits well with the comments we had on the piping (MAP) and drumming workshops. Feedback forms will be circulated when received from HQ to allow feedback on both the MAP and drumming day to be made by those who attended.

Note: there may be a requirement for the practical assessment to be recorded / videoed for moderation purposes.

Directors Report

The AGM has been and gone, the membership was represented by approximately 35 bands.

All the Standing Order and Rule changes were accepted.

A question regarding Cowal was raised from the floor. Bids are being requested from promoters who wish to host the 4th major. Just like all the other majors looking for a contract for three years to allow stability.

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. 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.

All arrangements and trophies arranged, no admin outstanding.

The draw for the competition took place, after clarification of the number of pipers required 4 or 5 Pipers, and who can play in the Juvenile sections. The competition secretary to review the rules for 2014.

AOCB

When signing for trophies, please cover up the details of those not yet awarded.

Consider making all the branch competition events open, presenting medals/ keeper trophies to the bands for the competition 1,2 and 3 places and retain the trophies for the branch bands 1,2 and 3 places.

Move the Open Drumming from mini band day to the Solo drumming day, possibly introduce a drum fanfare at the end of the Mini Band Contest instead of solo drumming.

Introduce a new “class” in the solo events – VETERAN, age to be decided.

Change the “OPEN” category in the solos to “ADVANCED” , also keeping the A or B grading options for competitors, but making the whole competition open to any RSPBA member.

Meeting Closed at 14:35. No date was set for the next meeting as all the bands are now busy with parades / contests. Please keep the Music Board and Secretary notified of your training requirements. We need to get our requests in early to avoid disappointment.

Please advise on your availability for a meeting in July or early September.

P L Brown
Minutes Secretary