



RSPBA North West England Branch

Minutes of the meeting at Padgate Community Centre on 7th February 2010

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

Apologies were received from:-

The Chairman

Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service Pipe Band.

Bands represented at the GM:-

City of Sheffield Pipe Band

Wirral Pipe Band

Warrington Pipe Band 2004

Greater Manchester Pipe Band

Chorley Pipe Band

Oldham Scottish Pipe Band

The assembled wished the Chairman a speedy recovery from his recent operation.

Minutes of previous meeting presented in summary

Minutes agreed.

Proposed Oldham and Scottish Pipe Band

Seconded Warrington Pipe Band 2004

Voted Unanimous

Matters Arising / Ongoing / Completed from previous meetings

The bands within the branch are approaching the limit for representation at the RSPBA. We have 11 paid up bands. Bolton and Scottish have stated they want time on their own, Henderson Caledonian has disbanded and West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service are regrouping. There was no mention of the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service G4 Pipe Band being established.

W Ferguson Trophy is to be held on 24th April by Lothian and Borders: Chorley Pipe Band may have a candidate who may wish to enter, the pipe major will follow up.

Secretaries Reports

Letters exchanged between branch and RSPBA regarding branch competition adjudicators. RSPBA have agreed we can contact the adjudicators to enable us to take advantage of cheap flights.

Adjudication sheets have been collected from headquarters.

List of paid up band in the branch has been received, discussed in Matters Arising.

Treasurers Report

No real movement since the accounts were prepared. The cheapest flights have been sourced for the adjudicators to save on costs. The payment of a flight saves in comparison to a mileage claim.

It is hoped that a good raffle (door charge/donation) could go a considerable way to offsetting the cost, along with a good entry.

Music Board Report.

There is ongoing discussion surrounding "Dual Registration" as well as the implications of NI trialing Higher grade drummers playing in a Lower grade drum core.

Education is still on the agenda; branch and bands to look at PDQB with the possibility of Theresa running an assessment session to brief candidates on what is involved and their potential entry point.

National Council

The BIG company has made a merchandising agreement with the RSPBA, this is to provide a range of merchandise (caps, jumpers, shirts etc) that will carry an updated RSPBA tag/logo.

Please register your interest in the World Pipe Band Championship review. Register on the RSPBA web site, those registered will be able to put their views forward on the World Pipe Band Championship experience not just the competition format.

There is a proposal that a Tenor Drum competition be held in world's week. There are discussions taking place on venue and format.

The prize fund allocation across the majors has been amended to bring the grades into alignment as well as apportioning the funds based on the revenue the competition brings to the RSPBA.

Those English branches with an outdoor competition are to look at rotating the English Championship. The Midland Branch NC representative is to look at finding a promoter. The idea will need to consider the years when Chatsworth and Cowal align.

Question from Chorley Pipe band. What is the cancellation procedure for competitions, can bands recover travel costs (deposits)? This was brought up at this point as the discussion was around the English Championships.

The 2010 meeting dates have been set. National Council meetings are 6th Feb and 16th October, with the AGM on the 13th March. The executive meetings are on the 8th May and 4th Dec.

The judge allocation of the majors is progressing watch the RSPBA web site for details.

There are some new minor competitions being added to this years list and a few of the existing ones are struggling and may be cancelled, competing bands keep reviewing the situation on the RSPBA web site.

Please note the constitution 1.66 **“The Executive Committee shall be empowered to carry out all necessary business”** it is important that Bands represent themselves at the AGM.

At the AGM Order Paper will contain two proposals:-

- 1) From Bucksburn & District Pipe Band relating to raising the Age limit of juvenile from 18 to 21.
- 2) The way forward and the move to a Company Limited by Guarantee (see motion attached).

Registered Charity Number: SC018153

THE ROYAL SCOTTISH PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION

PROPOSED MOTION

The following motion is proposed by the National Council in accordance with Rule 1.34, Section One of the Constitution, Standing Orders and Rules:

“THAT Section One of the Constitution be amended by inserting after Rule 1.91 the following new Rule:-

“The National Council shall have the power to do all such things as in the opinion of the National Council are necessary to incorporate the Association as a charitable company limited by guarantee. This power shall include (without limitation) the power to incorporate a company limited by guarantee with Articles of Association in a form approved by the National Council (“the Company”), to adopt Standing Orders and Rules of the Company in a form approved by the National Council, to register the Company as a charity with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator, and to transfer the undertaking and assets of the Association to the Company (“the Transfer”). Any two members of the National Council are authorised on behalf of the Association to execute all such documents as may be required in connection with the Transfer and the incorporation of the Association and do all

such other acts and things as they may consider necessary or desirable in connection with the Transfer and the incorporation of the Association as a charitable company limited by guarantee.”

and renumbering the remaining Rules accordingly.”

As the branch National Council representative, I support the move to a company and the replacement of personal liability to that of protection by a company. The company has to work within the company law and the directors have to be kept informed and be able to influence decisions. Ignorance is no excuse under company Law, a director can still be liable for an action (or lack of action) taken by the Company. There is some way to go internally with how the groups (Music Board, Standards, Adjudicators etc) will report to the Directors and be held accountable for business. This includes the relationship between the Directors and Executive. Please review the motion attached and its meaning, you must attend the AGM to have your questions answered and vote on your point of view.

AOB

Competitions we have the adjudicators and have firmed up the Competition dates and venues (see web site):-

Solo 20th Feb – Manchester Police Training Centre, Sedgeley Park, Manchester

Trio 20th March. - City of Sheffield Pipe Band – South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Training and Development Centre, Beaver Hill Road, Handsworth, Sheffield S13 9QA

Mini Bands 10th April.- Wirral Pipe Band – St. Joseph's Primary School, Woodchurch Road, Prenton Birkenhead CH43 5UT

Draw:-

7th Feb - Solos

7th March – Trios

28th March – Mini Bands.

The College of Piping have donated some items to be used as raffle prizes.

Fire Training Centre @ Chorley may be available for the 2011 competitions to keep travelling down for bands in the branch.

There is a good entry for the branch solos compared with previous years, the draw will take place after the meeting.

At the previous branch meeting a question arose over confusion at HQ over an alleged question from GMFRS which Theresa had personally answered in depth. After contacting David Clark, Gradings convenor, the question actually came from Greater Manchester Pipe Band. Rick Brown has been notified by e-mail.

Closed @ 14:30

P L Brown

Branch Secretary

Minutes Secretary