



RSPBA North West England Branch

GM held on 20th November 2011 at Padgate Community Centre.

Apologies for the late issue of the Minutes

A quorum **was** attained within one quarter hour after the 13:00 (1PM) start time of the meeting in accordance with rule 14.1 {Five Band Representatives entitled to vote shall form a quorum at Branch Meetings}.

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

Welcome

The representatives of the bands in the branch were welcomed by the Chairman to the Padgate community centre.

Apologies were received from:-

Chorley Pipe Band
South Cheshire Pipe Band
Greater Manchester Pipe Band

Bands in attendance:-

City of Sheffield Pipe Band
Warrington Pipe Band 2004
Wirral Pipe Band
Manchester Army Cadet Pipe Band
City of Liverpool Pipe Band
Oldham and Scottish Pipe Band

It is understood that Pipe Major M Quinn has now taken charge of Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Pipe Band, it is hoped that this band will once again become active in the branch.

Previous Minutes

Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted by all the bands present as a true reflection of the meeting held on the 2nd October 2011.

Music Board

Theresa had attended a Music Board meeting the previous day.

Bands: Pride of Murray appealed against their down grading to 3b and this was upheld.

Playing requirements for 4A band secretaries should have received a letter, members reported they had not received one.

Active debate took place regarding the need to play from the selected tune list, the Pipe Majors thought that this was restricting choice. The playing requirements for the MSR (4A) format of 2*2 part Marches + 2*2 part Strathspeys + 2*2 part Reels was reiterated by Theresa, needs the formal communication from the RSPBA. Local competitions format to be grade 4 March selection, the promoter can also host a grade 4 MSR section (both sections must be open to all grade 4 bands).

In light of the debate and the need to give the bands in the branch clarity, it was decided to request a presentation/workshop be provided to the branch. The Secretary to contact the RSPBA, with a preferred date of the 14th January 2012 at Padgate Community Centre. The branch to provide the venue and accommodation, headquarters will cover the travel costs.

ACTION – Secretary to issue request to RSPBA.

The music board are looking at the format of a 2 day World Championships for 2013. Initial Feedback was the format would be dictated by the BBC. There should be an opportunity for all lower grades to observe the grade 1 contest. The travel needs of the bands needs to be taken into consideration, particularly if the band has entries on both days.

If anyone has any ideas that they would like to be considered please let Theresa know.

Work is ongoing with Pipe Band Studies; PDQB is being progressed by bands and branches. It is hoped the appointment of an Education Officer may facilitate the full training needs of RSPBA, internal for adjudicators and instructors and organising delivery to through the branches and bands. The position is on the Hays Recruitment web site.

The NI pilot of Dual Registered drummers has been deemed a success. NI is to keep the option under local contest rules, there is a possibility that this may be proposal at the 2012 AGM.

National Council

As indicated in the Music Board report, the directors are looking to appoint an Education Coordinator. The Music Board and Adjudicators Liaison Panel Management Board see this post as being key to promote the work of the music board (PDQB), facilitate the continuous development of the adjudicators training and instructors (including the trainers).

Ongoing activity continues with:-

- a) The role of the various standing committees.
- b) The relocation of RSPBA headquarters to a venue that represents aspirations of the organisation.
- c) Review of the format of the World Pipe Band Championships (covered in the Music Board report).

The RSPBA will be reviewing the bids received for the major championships from 2013. The finance committee will be assessing the bids. Paul thought the results will be announced at the AGM in 2012, will confirm at the next Directors (NC) meeting.

ACTION – National Council to obtain details on how the decision(s) will be announced.

Treasurers Report

We are continuing to keep costs down as much as possible, we have made a profit on the year of £255.98.

Paul Brown prepared a profit/loss statement from the spreadsheet (issued at the last meeting), a copy has been provided to Chris, as well as being sent to headquarters as required in advance of our AGM.

The branch levy of £40:00 is to be paid to the “RSPBA (North West England Branch)” preferably by the AGM. Branch bands need to pay this to take part in branch activities.

2012 Branch Competitions.

A number of Emails have been circulation regarding the dates and format of the 2012 branch events.

We are currently finalising the details for a special weekend of events on February 4th and 5th. We will be staging our Solo Piping competition on the Saturday and our confined drumming competitions (side and tenor) on the Sunday. Both of these events will be held in the morning and followed by workshops on piping and drumming given by the adjudicators, both of who will be drawn from Field Marshall Montgomery Pipe Band. Craig Munroe will adjudicate the piping and Gareth McLees will judge the drumming. Scott Wallace will also be helping out with the piping workshop. The whole weekend is being sponsored by Essey Musical from Belfast. The venue will be the Polish Catholic Club in Oldham.

They will craft the workshops around whatever our needs are, so it is important for us to find out if there are any particular areas you would like to see covered. For instance, two bands have already asked for help in writing suitable side/tenor beatings for the Grade 4 MAP tunes. Another would like guidance in putting together a G4 MAP MSR, ie, choice of tunes and how best to tackle them. Another is interested in learning rudiments and routines for tenor drum flourishing.

1. Solos Saturday 4th Feb 2012 at Oldham and Scottish Pipe Band. Start at 09:30. Include a Hornpipe and Jig (open).
Piping Workshop will be held in the afternoon after the competition. **ACTION (GM) – Format of the day to be publicised to ensure we get the maximum attendance.**
2. Solo Drumming (Snare and Tenor) Sunday 5th Feb 2012 at Oldham and Scottish Pipe Band. Start at 09:30.
Drumming Workshop will be held in the afternoon after the competition. **ACTION (GM) – Format of the day to be publicised to ensure we get the maximum attendance.**

The branch will have accommodation and travel costs for some of the party to pay, should not be significantly different to previous years if flights can be booked early.

3. Trio Piping Saturday 24 March at Sheffield.
Adjudicator to be contacted, Piping – Jim Wark/David Clarke/??
4. Mini Bands / Open Drumming **Sunday 15th April 2012** at Birkenhead
Piping Cameron Edgar
Drumming Adrian Hoy

Need to amend the solo entry form, the late entry fee should be payable per contestant not band. Appreciate the need to encourage entries but we need to balance this against those who commit early to make the events financially viable.

Trophies to be returned at the first branch meeting of the year to avoid them being missing at a competition. Trophies to be collected in uniform. Restrict tuning up time in solos, specify on entry form.

AOCB

The branch AGM will be on the 4th December 2011. A letter was sent to headquarters indicating we did not need a representative, however if one attends it would not be a problem. Posts open for election are President, Chairman and Secretary.

Oldham and Scottish want our support, purchase their fund raising CD for the modest sum of £5:99, for more details see their new web site.

The meeting closed at 15:25.

The next meeting will be held on the 4th December, back to back AGM then GM.

P L Brown
Minutes Secretary