



RSPBA North West England Branch

Minutes of the meeting at Padgate Community Centre on 8th February 2009

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

Band Representatives

Sheffield	T Brown
Greater Manchester Pipe band	Apologies
Warrington	K Thacker
Warrington 2004	Apologies
Wirral Pipe Band	C Eyre
WYFS	No Info
GMF&RS	R Brown
Scots Guards	No info
South Cheshire Pipe Band	No info
Henderson Caledonian	No info
City of Preston	No info
Bolton and Scottish	No info
Chorley	A Paton
Oldham	No info

Minutes of previous meeting presented in summary

Minutes of the previous meeting on the 7th December 2008 are accepted by those present at the meeting. After acceptance any members present can discuss them in matters arising.

Proposed K Thacker
Seconded T Brown
Voted Unanimous

Matters Arising / Ongoing / Completed from previous meetings

GMF&R cannot attend Ferguson Trophy. C Eyre to enquire on alternative candidate from his band.

Secretaries Reports

1. Solo Drum Entry received from City of Preston
2. Entry received for Trios from West Midlands Fire and Rescue Service.

3. Adjudicator for the competitions has been requested from headquarters for both the Trios and Mini Band competitions.

Treasurers Report

Treasurer requested an additional signatory to bank account be found to reduce the cash float he currently needs to maintain. K Thacker accepted the nomination as he is regularly present at the branch functions.

Drumming workshop: Entry and the sale of coffees raised £220, a good day with 22 drummers from 8 bands. Day cost £600 to cover the venue and the course tutors. The branch payment for the day was £380.

Music Board Report.

Music Board – PDQB – Pipe Band Studies is being progressed. The Level 1 is aimed at Pipe Majors of all grades of band, the aim being to cover a wide range of Pipe Band topics, moving away from single instrument studies. The Level 2 takes this to an advanced level looking at Pipe Band orchestration playing with other instruments and orchestras. Please refer to the PDQB web site for further information.

The MAP format for 2009 remains unchanged and is required for major championships. Ideas for the MAP format going forwards are being considered, suggestions include, playing 4 tunes (from the list) in the final.

Discussion followed on the various formats and ideas, there was a feeling that at local competitions it was “Russian roulette” to focus on MAP when competing against bands playing easier 4/4 sets, depends on judges and band entries as to which option to focus upon.

The branch had looked into running a MAP workshop previously. Theresa suggested the branch look to hosting one at the end of the 2009 season. A Paton raised a question of how the bands obtain the latest information on MAP, tune list etc. Theresa to request MAP info to be sent to Chorley from HQ.

National Council

1. The last National Council Meeting on 7th Feb 2009, this consisted mainly of the ratification of input from the various boards and panels and preparation for the AGM.
2. All please refer to the RSPBA web site, the Music Board competition procedures and guides for competitions format are to be uploaded
3. All bands please review the RSPBA web site and attend the AGM. This is the bands independent chance to participate and voice their concerns. There are a number of constitution / standard changes that will require the bands to vote on at the AGM. Please review the current Dual Registration details.
4. In branch Solo events, the adjudicator does not have to be RSPBA approved. This possibly makes finding an adjudicator for the branch solo piping easier to resolve. There was some discussion over the allocation of RSPBA adjudicators, some branches contact the adjudicators directly others (like us) contact headquarters. Following on from this

discussion headquarters will advise the branch of the adjudicators assigned for our Trio's and Mini Band Competitions.

5. There is to be a working party established across the Executive, National Council and Music Board to look at the format of competitions. This is to look at the event as a whole; venue, structure; advertising, order of play etc
6. The RSPBA has made a small profit – balance sheet to be presented at the AGM.
7. Instructors required. CV to be presented to HQ

AOB

Trio Competition venue – will no longer be Manchester. C Eyre is looking at the school in Wirral. T Brown has offered the school in Scissett. Once finalised C Eyre will notify the bands taking part the location and directions to the venue. P Brown to progress with headquarters the adjudicator allocation.

PDQB Development is progressing within the branch on a number of fronts by individuals, some progressing through association with the TA/Cadet bands. Many bands are focusing on their immediate needs and the coming competition season. Sheffield (/RAF Waddington) are looking to host an examination session in May 2009, will depend on the number of candidates who are at the right level to be examined.

A question was raised over the equivalence of the existing RSPBA certificates to the PDQB Levels, conflicting information has been received. P Brown to follow up with a query to headquarters.

The format of the branch solo drumming completion will remain unchanged for 2009. Drummers entering more than on section will be allowed to play the same drum beating they played in an earlier section if this is an appropriate time signature to that section.

R Brown had a query regarding the Trios and a Pipe Major being only allowed to play three times. This was discussed and a playing for points compromise agreed.

The draw for the Trios will follow the meeting.

The next branch meeting will need to be rearranged as this was scheduled for the day after the AGM at Glasgow on 14th March. The mini band draw only will be held on the 15th March as planned by C Eyre.

The next branch meeting is scheduled to be the 19th April following the Music Board meeting on the 18th April.

P L Brown
Minutes Secretary