

North of England Branch

Report of a Meeting held by video conference on the 26th September 2021 at 1pm

Attendees

Kevin Reilly – Branch Chairman & Houghton le Spring

Colin Smith – Music Board Rep & Morpeth

Lez Parsons – Houghton le Spring (Trophy Convenor)

Chris Eyre – NWE President & Wirral

Theresa Brown – Music Board Rep

Paul Brown – RSPBA Vice-Chairman

Welcome

The Branch Chairman welcomed all those attending this meeting of the North of England Branch. Details of the meeting had been communicated to the members of both the NWE and NEE Section members. The invite had been extended to the Midland Branch Bands who had paid their 2021 Membership Fee.

The Report of the Previous Branch Meeting held on the 18th February 2021 had been made circulated for review.

It is hoped that as we emerge from the Covid-19 lockdown and impact on social gatherings, Bands will return to practices and consider renewing their membership of the Association and the Branch.

General Discussion.

The number of Bands in England who are paid up members of the association is quite low. This is obviously having an impact on running the Branch and the planning of future events.

Many Bands have not fully returned to practice and those that have had to adapt to the circumstances by minimising tuning up, using different premises or outdoor space. Members of Bands are having to focus their time on business needs rather than their hobby at this point, hence it will take some time for some bands to get back to some form of normality.

The Chairman reported that many of the G1 Bands had not yet met or either had a Zoom meeting instead and it is possible that, having had time out, some members may not be able to offer the commitment needed to participate at this level. Only time will tell.

Quite a lot of Bands chose not to pay their 2021 Fee due to the uncertainty of there being a competition season. We can only hope that bands regroup and take part in the 2022 season. The venues and the dates for the Major Championships have been announced.

Precise minutes of the BoD meetings continue to be made available on the Association website. The various standing committees have continued to meet and look ahead to some form of normality.

Website

Following a discussion, it was agreed that Chris Eyre would look into providing a website for the benefit of both Sections. He would make contact to obtain details of the officials and links to the member Bands.

Online Event

Using the format devised by C. Eyre for the North West England Piping Society, a similar event has been developed to enable a band to submit a recording and obtain a set of critique sheets that may offer guidance on where to focus their winter development. It is an Open event, and there is no entry fee.

Prepare for 2022, obtain a critique by Playing for Sheets.

The objective of this Open event is to provide a Band with a challenge on their journey of preparing for the 2022 Season as they return to practices following the Covid-19 enforced lockdown.

Click the link for details on the [Playing for Sheets](#) event and how to enter.

Competitions

It had been agreed that the indoor contest(s) run by the North East Section would be subject to the Covid-19 restrictions and postponed until further notice. Ampleforth College, which is quite centrally located, is not at present allowing its premises to be used for third party events. It is unlikely we will be able to run an event for the membership in 2021.

The sections should look to 2022 and the running of their separate solo contests but ensure there was no clash of dates. The events will open to enable all Branch band players to participate.

Similarly, we should progress with the combined minibands, trios and quartets, at a central location, possibly Ampleforth College, but the Branch is open to any other suggestions.

There is a possibility of an outdoor contest being held at the Thornaby Football Ground in 2022.

Branch End of Year and AGM Matters

The Sections need to submit their annual accounts to Headquarters. There has been no movement on the North West England Section account over the last 12 months.

The North of England Branch needs to seek an individual from its members to act as Branch Chairman. The post became vacant when K Reilly was appointed Chairman of the Association in March 2021. Those interested in the position should contact kevin.reilly@rspba.org.

Those present agreed the following Dates for the Annual General Meetings. They will be held online using Zoom, and the meeting details will be circulated by Social Media once set up.

- North East England Section 6th November 2021.
- North West England Section 7th November 2021.
- North of England Branch 21st November 2021

North England Branch Post		In Post until	
Music Board	T Brown	Dec 2022	Appointment rolled over from NWE Section on establishing the NE Branch Nov/Dec 2019; 1 st Dec 2019 Last NWE Branch AGM Prop: Manchester Phoenix Sec: Warrington
Music Board	C Smith	Nov 2021	Appointment rolled over from NEE Section on establishing the NE Branch Nov/Dec 2019
Regional Representative	C Smith	Nov 2021	Appointment rolled over from NEE Section on establishing the NE Branch Nov/Dec 2019
Director	K Reilly	Nov 2021	becomes North England Branch director.

North West England Section Post		In Post until	
President	C Eyre	Dec 2020	26 th Nov 2017 NWE Branch AGM Prop: Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Sec: Manchester Phoenix
Chairman	K Thacker	Dec 2022	1 st Dec 2019 Last NWE Branch AGM Prop: Manchester Phoenix Sec: Warrington
Secretary	P Brown	Dec 2020	26 th Nov 2017 NWE Branch AGM Prop: Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Sec: Manchester Phoenix
Treasurer	C Eyre	Dec 2020	26 th Nov 2017 NWE Branch AGM Prop: Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Sec: Manchester Phoenix
Trophy Steward, Web Site Design and Competition Secretary	C Eyre	Dec 2022	1 st Dec 2019 Last NWE Branch AGM Prop: Manchester Phoenix Sec: Warrington

Paul Brown
NWE Section Secretary