

The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association

North of England East Section

Annual General Meeting

Held on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2022

On-Line Via Zoom

Those Present: M.D.D Robertson (Chairman)(Houghton -Le-Spring) (MDDR) Colin Smith, (Morpeth) (Music Board) Piping Rep (CS) Paul Wright (Beverley) (PW) Alan Jamieson (City of Newcastle) (AJ) Paul Brown (RSPBA VC North West Section) (PB), Mark Jamieson (East Ridings Pipe band Guest) (MJ) Kevin Reilly (Houghton ) section Sec (KR)

1. MDDR thanked everyone for giving the time up to attend the meeting
2. Apologies: Lex Parsons – RSPBA Board of Directors, Frank Bonnar
3. Adoption of Standing Orders Proposed Houghton Le Spring Seconded Morpeth Carried.
4. Minutes of the previous AGM had been circulated. There were no matters arising so they were proposed a true record by Beverley, Seconded by Morpeth Carried At this point PB joined the meeting as an observer.
5. MDDR stated that this had been another quiet year due to coming out of the pandemic, but it is up to us to keep it going and keep teaching Proposed Houghton – le – Spring Seconded Beverley and Carried.
6. Secretaries Report As contained in the paperwork. The Branch is 50 years old (50<sup>th</sup> AGM) so it would be nice to do something as a Branch/Section. It may be that in the next couple of months the two sections combine, and we have the ‘North of England’ Branch. Seems to be a shortage of Bands and players at the moment I sure that all bands are going through this but we need to keep offering the instruction and hope that we can get young and old along to the bands. Proposed Morpeth Seconded Beverley and Carried.
7. Treasures Report as contained in the paperwork. Due to the lack of activity and the fact that there was nothing in or out of the account I did not feel it necessary to have two auditors look at a blank piece of paper. We are left in the band with £4,717.33 as we had last year. (AJ) asked on a typical year what would we pay money out on? I was explained that we would pay for premises unless, as with Ampleforth they were free. We would have to pay for Adjudication for the competition i.e., piping and drumming at the RSPBA rates. No expenses were paid to Stewards, Secretary, Treasurer or compilers for Branch work. (AJ) was happy with this explanation. (PW) asked if Ampleforth had been closed to external bodies due the pandemic. This was agreed with. (CS) commented on the school he works at they were reluctant to allow outsiders in. (KR) also alerted the meeting to the probable increase of ‘lets’ on there way. Report Proposed by Beverley Seconded Morpeth and carried.
8. Board of Directors Report. As our new Director was at a wedding there was no physical report to give only to ask people to read the report online within the RSPBA. Org site. Comment from (PB) that Lez our director had fully immersed himself into the role and had supported the Association in a very positive way. Proposed Beverley Seconded City Newcastle Carried.
9. Music Board report (CS) Colin commented on the ‘Static Start’ trial by the Music Board. The trial was successful for the Novice B Bands. Grade one P/M were looking at ways to make it a more challenging format that will make the performance better for the public. (PW)

Comment on standing start making it easier is not the way forward. (AJ) left the meeting dues to communication issues. (PB) left the meeting. Proposed Beverly Seconded Houghton le Spring Carried.

10. Election of Officers MDDR happy to stay in post no other nominations Proposed Houghton Seconded Morpeth. The only other vacancy is because LP is now a director and perhaps Paul Wright would like to step up. Proposed Houghton Seconded Morpeth Carried
11. AOCB Proposed by (KR) that the bands pay no branch fees this year Carried.
  - a. Possible indoor contests dates as done last time. (PW) looked at some venues in the Leeds areas but not a lot of success. We need to find someone in that area. Great venues in Hull but not central. I had opened up the meeting to bands who are out there but not necessary members City of Leeds to be involved in looking for venues. (PW) not only competition but also Education. We will seek information from Brian re Ampleforth but also seek help from City of Leeds.
12. AOCB None.

Mark Jamieson had joined the meeting as an observer, and he wished to know what advantage was there in his band joining the RSPBA. (KR) Access to a big club access to the finest piper and drummers in the World. Access to the finest education systems, RSPBA work closely with the SQA with levels from SQA 1 Piping and Drumming up to level eight which is equivalent to Degree level, these certificates can be used as currency within education systems. RSPBA can offer 'Out-Reach' where if you are a member you can arrange a venue and the RSPBA can help with educational courses specific to your band and or pipe corps and drum corps. The use of geographical reps on the Pipe Band College who can assist in the planning of the 'Out-reach'. Access to recognised 'instructors' who are approved by the RSPBA. Security, the RSPBA can offer some security if members decide to 'not play the game'. Access to All major, minor and the World Solo drumming and Tenor Drumming competitions held under the auspices of the RSPBA. (PW) commented on the fact that his band only played at one competition had they took more prize money than the subs cost them. Access to the RSPBA Summer school which is a week-long intensive course in piping and drumming in HQ in Glasgow. KR made the offer to go to Marks band and have a chat with his band and answer any questions that they may have.

Meeting Close 11.30am.