



RSPBA North England Branch North West England Section

EAGM 30th October 2022 by Zoom Meeting.
Note this is a Report.

Present Officials	
P Brown	Section Secretary.
C Eyre	Section President, Treasurer & Competition Secretary.
T Brown	Branch Music Board representative.
Vacancy	Section Chairman.

Bands in attendance: -

- Warrington Ken {Secretary} and Jonathan {PM}
- Wirral Chris {PM} and Richard {Pipe Sergeant}

Bands who sent an observer: -

- Scots Guards Association Manchester {Cameron}.

Notice was given that the Annual General Meeting of the North West Section, North of England Branch of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association was to be held on the 30th October at 1:15pm as an Extraordinary Annual General Meeting.

The meeting was advertised by Email, the Website and the Sections Facebook page.

The meeting started at 13.20pm giving time for members to join the 13:15pm meeting.

The motion to be considered is the future of the Section due to lack of participation / engagement by the members. A decision whether or not to close down the section and to request that any section bands be reassigned to the Branch or North East Section was the key item on the Agenda.

A quorum was NOT attained. The meeting progressed with those present to enable matters discussed to be reported.

Opening

The secretary welcomed those who joined the meeting.

Comment was made on FB as to why we were not having face to face meetings. Members of the committee were attending the Padgate Community centre to find no representation from the member bands were in attendance.

Section / Association Report

All the office bearer posts within the Section become vacant at the 2022 AGM, the current incumbent post holders are reluctant to remain in post without positive support from the Bands and Members of the Northwest England Section.

Chris has spent many years supporting the Section and the RSPBA. It is becoming a struggle to arrange events (contests and workshops) that are supported by members of the Section.

Ken queried the need for paying an association fee and what was the RSPBA doing for them. Paul pointed them in the direction of the minutes available on the RSPBA website.

There has been no expenditure over the year. The statement of accounts has been prepared and a copy forwarded to headquarters. This shows no income and no expenditure. A copy will be added to the website.

Jonathan questioned the benefit of amalgamating the sections, as this would likely increase the need for members to travel. Travel to the Wirral was seen to be acceptable due to the availability of premises, however unless a central location was available Bands were unlikely to travel.

Paul pointed out that over the last 10 years the availability of suitable premises (size and cost) and attendees had diminished making events harder to be run cost effectively. The core was now below critical mass and it is difficult to move forward.

The need for both piping and drumming adjudicators for a band contest increases the cost. At other times a scheduled workshop was only saved from being a failure by inviting none RSPBA members.

As reported in 2021 (7th November 2021) the Section planned to continue with its own Solo Piping contest and were looking to having a Branch contest for the Drumming and Mini Bands, to share the costs and create a larger pool of entries to make the event viable at a central location.

Richard asked why we could not operate online contests. Paul referred Richard to the minutes of the RSPBA on the website and said he should raise this at the association AGM. It had been a directive from the Music Board that Band contests could not be run online.

Jonathan asked for details of member bands within the section and Branch. The table below was generated post the meeting.

Paid 2022	Section	Band Number	Band Name
YES	E	154	Houghton-Le-Spring
YES	E	155	Beverley and District
YES	E	157	Morpeth
YES	E	597	Newton Aycliffe Pipes and Drums
YES	E	741	City of Newcastle
No	E	158	North Tyneside and District
No	E	585	City of York
No	E	713	Scunthorpe and District
No	E	797	Ampleforth Highlanders

No	E	966	Northumberland Scottish Pipes and Drums
YES	W	298	City of Manchester
YES	W	301	Oldham Scottish
YES	W	302	Scots Guards Association Manchester
YES	W	308	Wirral
YES	W	591	Warrington
YES	W	631	Manchester Phoenix
No	W	299	City of Preston Pipes and Drums
No	W	309	Chorley, Croft and Culcheth

Jonathan then went on to suggest we perhaps not connecting with the Bands through these meetings and went on to agree to contact the Pipe Majors of the Section bands to obtain their thoughts on the section and the likely participation in indoor contests.

Chris confirmed that he had contacted all the Pipe Majors and the Band contacts he held but would pass on the details for Jonathan to progress.

Cameron commented there was a need to consider options, the current committee had voiced their concerns. The Bands need to support each other through the Section or participation in the Branch.

There were no members wishing to step forward to take up a committee post, which all become vacant this year 2022, having been extended in 2021 due to Covid-19 and the lack of attendance at the AGM.

It was agreed to schedule an AGM for the 4th of December 2022, to enable Jonathan to contact the Pipe Majors, and for members of the Section Bands to come forward as nominees for the posts becoming vacant (see table below).

Closed @ 14:00

P L Brown

Secretary

NWE Section

North West England Section Post		In Post until	
President	C Eyre	Dec 2022	Extended at 2021 Section AGM 26 th Nov 2017 NWE Branch AGM Prop: Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Sec: Manchester Phoenix
Chairman	Vacancy	Dec 2022	1 st Dec 2019 Last NWE Branch AGM Prop: Manchester Phoenix Sec: Warrington
Secretary	P Brown	Dec 2022	Extended at 2021 Section AGM 26 th Nov 2017 NWE Branch AGM Prop: Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Sec: Manchester Phoenix
Treasurer	C Eyre	Dec 2022	Extended at 2021 Section AGM 26 th Nov 2017 NWE Branch AGM Prop: Greater Manchester Fire and 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