



## RSPBA North England Branch North West England Section

GM 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2020 at Padgate Community Centre.

### Present Officials

- P Brown      Section Secretary
- C Eyre      Section President, Treasurer & Webmaster
- K Thacker    Section Chairman
- T Brown      Branch Music Board representative

### Bands in attendance: -

- Warrington
- Wirral

A quorum was NOT present, and the meeting started at 13:15

### **Opening**

The Chairman welcomed all those attending. As the Section needed to progress with matters the meeting continued without a quorum being present to progress business. No structure of finance decisions could be progressed.

The GM Minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> January 2020 were circulated and placed on the Section Web Site. The minutes were the basis on which the meeting would progress:-

Proposal by Wirral

Seconded by Warrington

### **Treasurers Report**

The purchase of medals of the indoor contests has been completed.

The levy has been received from four bands as well as a donation from further band, bringing in £200.00 to the section.

The Solo contest made a minor profit of £36.00 due to the raffle and the modest travel expenses of the adjudicator.

## **Music Board Report**

The next MB meeting is scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

The MB members have been asked to continue to promote the Historical Society if anyone has information of interest or would like to be involved please let Theresa know.

The request from the MB that the MB Convenor and the sub-group Standards Convenor should be a Director has been supported by the BoD.

The MB agreed unanimously the International Juvenile Tenor competition should award prizes to 6 places.

The summer school will commence the 4<sup>th</sup> August with a theme of "Back Home"

Presentation from the College Principal of Musicianship (Tom Brown) on some thoughts on competitions is attached as a separate .pdf and Powerpoint. Members of the MB are to discuss further and seek views from within Branches and Bands, this may result in format changes if suggestions are taken further. Please pass your comments to Theresa.

PDQB exams in drumming have changed, if interested please check the PDQB Web site.

Grade Re-alignment Project was stood down.

World Solo Drumming Championship Review is ongoing, no changes to report.

Tunes Group work is always in progress, tunes and their scores are added as requested when approved by the group.

The Standards Group discussed and approved Grading decisions, the decisions were ratified by the two BoD representatives present.

The 2016 Terms Of Reference for the Standards Group is to be updated. There is ongoing confusion over the group's name. It has been suggested that it should be the "Standards & Grading Group."

- between September and January the MB would deal with issues when and as they occurred to speed up the process.
- that the Standards & Gradings Group would deal with all grading decisions between now and September 2020.

The draft Competition Format document is to be updated following the investigation and resolution of two queries for the next MB meeting. This will be then accepted as a baseline document against which changes can be proposed.

The MB is to produce a TOR for a Competition Format Group {for approval by the BoD}, the aim of which is to maintain the newly baselined Competition Format document, look at any proposals for change and work with other standing

committees (APMB, SOSC etc) prior to seeking approval from the member Bands for implementation.

### **Directors Report**

The association has moved back into 45 Washington Street. Meetings of the Directors and Sub-Committees are now using these facilities.

Time has been taken to respond to OSCR (Charities commission for Scotland) in response to their requests and the recent press articles. Our response regarding Transparency will be to our members at the AGM in March.

The refurbishment has been covered in minutes of BoD meetings and is cascaded to the membership via Branch Meetings and then the Band officials cascading to the Band Members (structure as per the Articles of Association).

It would have been wrong to respond to the press article(s) ahead of a response to the Members.

The fund for the refurbishment has been reported in the accounts presented at the annual AGM. The proposed refurbishment plans were presented in 2018 to the Members attending the AGM and matters to progress were hastened by the fire and our obligation to maintain the premises.

2020 is the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Association, as yet no commemorative initiatives have been tabled.

The Registration Group would be re-established after the association AGM.

A letter of thanks to be sent to Mick O'Neill for his work while being a member of the Music Board.

Only changes agreed at the December BoD meeting that required no amendment would be presented to the membership at this year's AGM.

Due to complaints, as a prior competition season request, bands are reminded that there should be no alcohol on the march past.

It was confirmed that changes to competition format must be notified by the Worlds for implementation the following season.

Summer School fees agreed at £150 for 2020.

Look for feedback from the branches regarding the closeness of the dates for the Major championships.

Considered if a review of the Complaints Procedure is required.

## 2020 Playing Requirements

Contest Date	Closing Date / Draw	Contest Info Bus Forms	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade Juv	Grade Nov A / 4A	Grade Nov B / 4B
23 May British Championships Paisley	TBC Draw: 11:00 TBC	Awaiting Contest Information	Medley (5-7 mins) (Submit 2)	MSR (Submit 2)	Medley (3-5 mins)	MSR	<b>Prescribed MSR:</b> 1x4-parted March or 2x2-parted Marches 1x4-parted Strathspey or 2x2-parted Strathspey 1x4-parted Reel or 2x2-parted reel All tunes to be from <a href="#">RSPBA list of prescribed tunes.</a>	<b>Prescribed Marches:</b> 4x2-parted Marches All tunes to be from <a href="#">RSPBA list of prescribed tunes.</a>
13 June United Kingdom Championships Lurgan	TBC Draw: 11:00 TBC	Awaiting Contest Information	MSR (Submit 2)	Medley (4-6 mins)	MSR	Medley (3-5 mins)		
27 June European Championships Inverness	TBC Draw: 11:00 TBC	Awaiting Contest Information	Medley (5-7 mins) (Submit 2)	MSR (Submit 2)	Medley (3-5 mins)	MSR		
25 July Scottish Championships Dumbarton	TBC Draw: 11:00 TBC	Awaiting Contest Information	MSR (Submit 2)	Medley (4-6 mins)	MSR	Medley (3-5 mins)		
14 and 15th August World Championships Glasgow	TBC Draw: 11:00 TBC	Awaiting Contest Information	MSR (Submit 2) Medley (5-7 mins) Submit 2)	Medley (4-6 mins) Submit 1 MSR (Submit 2)	MSR (Submit 1) Medley (3-5 mins) Submit 1)	Medley (3-5 mins)		

### 2020 NEW Section Competitions / workshops.

The events are open to all branches, to increase the viability of the events and vary the competition. Within each section of the open competition confined section results will also be announced. The entry forms are available on our website.

Venues continue to be sought, St Josephs, Birkenhead has been booked and will be the assumed venue unless an alternative is agreed.

The dates are:

- Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2020: Solo Piping. **COMPLETED**
- Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2020: Trio Piping.
- Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2020: Solo Drumming, Drum Salute, Quartet Piping and Mini Bands

The section wishes to record it thanks to Alvis Kerr adjudicating the Solo Piping contest.

Cameron Edgar who is adjudicating the Trio Piping has requested an early start to the competition, as soon as possible after 10am.

For context from the Jan Section minutes *"It was agreed the **competition secretary** would poll the section bands to see what format they would support. The **Section***

**Secretary** would also contact the other Branches / Sections to see if they hold an Open Full Band Indoor Contest which our bands could attend.”

The Secretary contacted other branches with regards to full indoor contest on 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb. Dundee Perth and Angus (DP&A) and Dumfries and Galloway (D&G) hold Full Band Indoor contest, there could be others as final decisions have yet to be made (Lothian & Borders, Midlands).All dates TBD.

They manage this by having all their events on a single day in a central premise (coming with a high cost). At previous meetings we have had feedback that bands don't want two events on the same weekend, drummers can't get pipers if there is a piping event; some bands not in a position to compete in mini bands due to lack of drummers; some bands not able to participate in a full band contest. Don't want to travel that far.

We have only just formed the North England Branch, cannot quickly find a central venue that would allow bands to travel from NE and NW to take part as a combined offering. We should note that our event is open to all Bands and we get few outside of area bands travelling to take part. This will be progressed with the Branch Director but the timeline is too tight for this year's April event.

Based on feedback from the section Bands and entries received it was agreed the Trio Piping will go ahead as planned on March 7th but there is a major doubt about the viability of the Quartets / Minibands / Solo Drumming events scheduled for Saturday April 25th.

It was agreed there was a need for a Section meeting to be held at St Joseph's School, Birkenhead, immediately after the Trio Piping competition. It is at this meeting that we will decide whether or not to go ahead with the competitions on April 15th.

This is to ensure by the time of this meeting there is a firm idea of the entries to expect. So far we have received entries from one band in Quartets and Minibands and a fair idea of what one other band will put forward. This, at the moment, is not enough.

The costs of the event over the last 5 years will be collated for the financial viability to be considered, as well as looking into the entries needed such as a minimum of four bands / and six entries per grade to allow for the adjudicators to have some variation.

If you want our local contests to survive, please let the Competition Secretary know before March 7th if your band is intending to take part.

In the meantime, tentative contact will be made by the Competition Secretary with adjudicators to see if they will adjudicate our April event.

London and South East Branch: Mini Bands, Quartets, Solo Piping and Solo Drumming Competitions on Sunday 19 April 2020. The closing date is Wednesday 1 April 2020. The venue is the University of Bedfordshire, the Postgraduate & CPD Centre, University Square, LUTON LU1 3JE.

### **From 2019 – still valid**

Theresa ([theresamacd@hotmail.com](mailto:theresamacd@hotmail.com)) and Chris([riperpiper@hotmail.com](mailto:riperpiper@hotmail.com)) have agreed to support bands training / education needs by passing on skills and knowledge to teach piping and drumming basic skills, pointing individuals and bands in the right direction prior to going to the next step of formal education through Headquarters.

Bands can then request formal training / dedicated time through the “Outreach Programme” and Pipe Band College assigned Instructors, subject to meeting the costs involved.

### **AOCB**

Reminder from Ron Paterson, London and South East Branch Education Officer, regarding the Spring Training Day on 21<sup>st</sup> March. Please apply using the application form and return by 8 March. The training day will take place at Reading Scottish Pipe Band practice hall, St Andrews United Reform Church, London Road, Reading, RG1 5BD.

Please bring Raffle prizes to the Trio Piping event – anything gratefully received.

Warrington band had a registration query to be progressed with Headquarters.

There are changes to the PVG process in the pipeline, a copy of the presentation made to DP&A Branch is attached for reference.

Next Section GM meeting will be at St Joseph's School, Birkenhead, immediately after the Trio Piping competition on the 7<sup>th</sup> March.

The RSPBA AGM is on 14 March 2020. Venue - Trades House of Glasgow. Please attend if you want to put your view forward.

Closed @ 14:15

P L Brown

Secretary

NWE Section