



RSPBA North England Branch North West England Section

GM 7th March 2020 at St Joseph's School, Birkenhead.

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
- Manchester Phoenix

No apologies received.

A quorum was present, and the meeting started at 14:15

Opening

The Chairman welcomed all those attending. The Section needed to progress matters relating to the Indoor Contests.

The GM Minutes of the 23rd February 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

Matters arising:-

- 1) Mini Bands – request for support posted on section Facebook page. **Comments made, but little support for the contest received.**
- 2) Warrington band had a registration query to be progressed with Headquarters. **The matter has been resolved.**
- 3) The Secretary was asked if the Midland Branch are holding an indoor contest this year. Enquiries will be made. **The Midland Branch are holding a contest on the last Weekend in March.**

Treasurers Report

The Trio contest held prior to the meeting is believed to have made a small profit (circa £20), even, thanks in the main to the Raffle and sale of Teas/ Coffees and the attendance of Houghton le Spring Pipe Band.

Music Board Report

The next MB meeting is scheduled for the 4th April 2020.

No new business to report, band reminded of the following -

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.

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.

Directors Report

The next meeting is the Associations AGM on the 14th March 2020

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

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

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	Prescribed MSR: 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 RSPBA list of prescribed tunes.	Prescribed Marches: 4x2-parted Marches All tunes to be from RSPBA list of prescribed tunes.
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 / (and workshop).

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 the NWE Website.

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

The proposed dates are:

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

The section wishes to record it thanks to Cameron Edgar who adjudicated the Trio Piping today for support to the Section.

We must thank Houghton le Spring Pipe Band for traveling from the North East Section and making a contest for the Section Band taking place in the Grade 4 events.

The event made a slight profit due to the support of the Raffle and Sale of Tea / Coffee, and the late increase in entries.

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 25th.

Those present at the Section Meeting agreed to Cancel our own MINI Band Contest scheduled to be held on the 25th April and recommend bands interested in competing support the NE Section event on the 26th April for the following reasons: -

- 1) It would be financially beneficial to support a single event rather than two on the same weekend, where bands are unlikely to travel to both.
- 2) Despite posting a request for support on the Section Facebook page, no comments were received indicating there were not going to be enough entries to support the event and make it a contest. (2 bands * 6 entries at £6 = **£36.00**)
- 3) The costs of an event are quite high where two adjudicators are required. Depending on travel location and number of nights hospitality required, the section would need to budget for a cost between £500 and £900 at today's allowances (£150 = 375 miles): -

Cost	Judge 1	Judge 2
Fee	75.00	75.00
Hotel 1 Night	80.00	80.00
2 Meals	40.00	40.00
Travel	150.00	150.00
	345.00	345.00
Hotel 2nd Night	80.00	80.00
Meal	20.00	20.00
	445.00	445.00

- 4) The costs of a contest over the last 10 years, the costs in some years are split over two days where a training course has been held. In other years travel and hotel has been sponsored. Hospitality has been provided by the Competition Secretary all to limit the cost to the Section and ensure an event takes place.

	Entry	Bands	Raffle	Income	Expenditure	Profit / Loss
2019	£0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

2018	£220.00	6	105.00	325.00	503.18	-178.18
2017	£314.50	5	183.61	498.11	661.58	-163.47
2016	£181.50	6	102.00	283.50	405.00	-121.50
2015	£96.00	4	78.00	174.00	572.96	-398.96
2014	£221.00	8	153.00	374.00	190.00	184.00
2013	£271.00	8	62.00	333.00	425.96	-92.96
2012	£261.00	8	87.00	348.00	464.98	-116.98
2011	£275.00	8	55.50	330.50	577.12	-246.62
2010	£321.00	9	88.00	409.00	441.08	-32.08
2009	£251.50	9	47.00	298.50	454.08	-155.58
Ave	£219.32		£87.37	£306.69	£426.90	-120.21

- 5) The section would incur a loss to host an event that does not have a great deal of support (Income £36 entry + £166 raffle/refreshments - £427 average adj cost = a loss of £225). This could rise to £650+ depending on the adjudicators assigned.
- 6) We may struggle to get adjudicators to attend that would need to fly, due to the collapse of Flybe.
- 7) The North East Section is to have a contest on the 26th April 2020 at Ampleforth College, York, YO62 4EY. This fits in nicely because: -
 - Comments received were for a Branch Contest, this could be the start of moving in that direction.
 - Adjudicators have already been approached
 - Travel is only modestly increased for the Manchester Bands compared to travelling to Birkenhead (*roughly a 50 mile increase. Houghton le Spring traveled 166miles to Birkenhead.*)
 - Those Bands already committed to the NW event were supportive of potentially attending the NE event.
 - The NW Section had no offer of other premises in which to host our own event.

From 2019 – still valid

Theresa (theresamacd@hotmail.com) and Chris(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

It is sad to say we have received a number of complaints about the management of our Indoor events: Spectator(s) interrupting the adjudicator whenever there was a gap in performances or in the break, thinking that refreshments were free, entering practice and tuning rooms without invitation. This is not acceptable behaviour of individuals attending our events, and to police these situations will place more pressure on the limited few who try to run the contest for the benefit of the Bands who enter.

Next Section GM meeting will be at Padgate on the 3rd May 2020, to report to the Section details from the last MB (4th April) and Directors (25th April) meetings prior to the commencement of the Competition Season.

Please remember to go to the AGM and put your view forward.

Closed @ 14:50

P L Brown

Secretary

NWE Section