



The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association – Dundee Perth & Angus Branch

Minutes from Branch Meeting Sunday 6th February 2011 in Glencarse Village Hall

1. Chairman:

Paul opened the meeting at 7.30 pm and welcomed everyone.

Present were Paul McAndrew, Gary Mair, Nigel Kellett, Irene Black, Barbara Stronach, Neil Myles, Bruce Cargill, Scott Phillips, Gillie McNab and Jim Mills.

2. Apologies:

Teresa Walker, Isobel MacKay

3. Minutes from last meeting:

There was no mention of who was present. Nigel will rectify this for the approved version and future minutes. Also Isobel MacKay to be added to the apologies.

Greig Canning's name was misspelled. This to be corrected

Approved: Bruce

Seconded: Neil

4. Matters Arising:

Mini-Band and Trio Piping contest.

- Lots of debate and review of the proposed entry form. Agreement reached on the final wording during the meeting, at least for this year. We may choose to make certain changes to the format for future years.
- Entry Form now ready to be published after final check by Barbara.
- Nigel will email as many of the Scottish based Grade 1 bands as possible to try and encourage their attendance if possible. Gillie confirmed that the Vale of Atholl are unlikely to make the contest, although agreed to ask if they could manage the Trio Piping event, if not the Mini-Bands.
- Gary to contact HQ to ask for unattached judges if possible for this event. 2 piping, one drumming.
- The cost is higher than anticipated of hiring Forfar Academy. Gary in touch with Angus council to see if some subsidies could be possible. Gary to submit estimates for judges expenses, etc.

Review of Actions from previous minutes

Mtg-Act	Action	Status
Dec-A1	Paul to talk to Ken MacGregor about the possibility of running a Grade 4 MSR competition at Crieff	Paul spoke to John. They will look at this and the option of £100 prize money. Still to be confirmed.
Dec-A2	Bruce to request amendment at Music Board to dual registration rules to allow a Grade 4 P/M to also play for Juvenile or Novice Juvenile.	Proposed rules are now being put forward, see Music Board Report
Dec-A3	Paul to propose alternate Medley and MSR playing through Championships at next National Council meeting	Paul tried to bring this up but was told it was Music Board remit. Bruce to bring this one up as a new action.
Dec-A4	Nigel to add a link to the DPA site from the Kinross Band site and also run trial download of DPA site	Nigel confirmed a link was already in place on the Kinross site, and had agreed with Neil not to try a download of DPA site until up and running with compatible software
Dec-A5	Gary to send list of emails for all Branch Band secretaries to Neil and Nigel	Complete
Dec-A6	Nigel to scan different Mini-Bands rules and send round a draft proposal for rules and entry form for Mini Bands.	Complete, document finalized during this meeting
Dec-A7	Bruce to send playing requirements for 2011 and copy of pilot scheme for Northern Ireland Branch	Complete, included in last minutes
Dec-A8	Everyone to try and send in photos (e.g. Remembrance Day) and/or news items to Neil for website	Some bands had offered additional material. Action complete

5. Correspondence:

- One letter from Glasgow HQ saying the position of Chairman is vacant and nominations are being invited. People nominated so far are Gordon Hamill for Chair (working Chairman) and John Hughes for Vice-Chairman. After discussion, the Branch has decided to support these two nominations. Gary to write to HQ accordingly.

6. Treasurers Report:

[Confidential – available in separate document]



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7. National Council Report:

Paul reported various pieces of news from the last NC meeting as follows.

- DM's flourishing at Cowal during the street march. This year the police have confirmed that flourishing is not permitted due to the risk of the mace hitting any bunting and causing injury when landing. Police will monitor and action accordingly.
- The RSPBA voted last year to move to the status of Company limited by guarantee. This will be completed shortly. In this context, Band Secretaries must re-register every year with the RSPBA as secretary and will be considered to be members of the Company, with a nominal liability in the event of insolvency. (National Council reps will be considered as directors of the Company, and have a higher liability)
- Branch committees will now probably be understood to be sub-committees of the National Council.
- National Council minutes will not be published on the internet as certain items are confidential.
- BBC Scotland want to do a longer World's program this year and are looking for bands to visit during their practices. The Branch has put forward the Vale of Atholl as an option.
- Some letters have been received from sponsors of games and contests who are unhappy at bands leaving Massed Bands early.
- New registration forms should be used from now on which specifically include sections for bass and tenor drummers.
- Piping and Drumming Qualification Board (PDQB) Timeline. Current intention (if all goes to plan) is for first courses to start September this year, with first exams taking place March 2012. This will be a 160 hour module, comprising 80 hours directed and 80 hours non-directed learning.
- The RSPBA is inviting bids from councils who wish to hold a Major contest from 2013 onwards, or 2014 in the case of the (currently) Cowal contest.
- The Worlds as a 2 day event will be going ahead as from 2013. There will be a presentation to this effect at the AGM.

8. Music Board Report:

Bruce reported as follows:

- The 2011 grading changes are now on the RSPBA website.
- Proposed changes to the rules:
 - Dual registration rule 2.1.8 change now reads as follows: "*Only the Pipe Major or Assistant Pipe Major of a Novice Juvenile or Juvenile Band, or the Pipe Major of a Grade 4 Band, may be registered with one other band.*"
 - Rule 2.1.9 reads "*Only one dual registered player may play in the same band at any one time and must carry out the role of the pipe Major by giving the words of command, and being responsible for the competition performance of the band.*"
 - Rule 2.20, "*A drummer cannot be a dual registered player.*"
 - Rule 3.83 "*When a band has been disqualified, a placing will not be awarded by the adjudicators, but any adjudicator critique sheets will be issued to the band.*"
- Splitting of ties at solo contests. "*Any tie on overall result will be decided on MSR preference as the first choice.*"
- Rule change on placings in a junior contest qualifier. Only the first 6 places in a qualifier will be allocated. Everyone else will be deemed to have come "7th."

9. AOCB:

- **RSPBA policy on OSCR disclosure:**
 - The RSPBA encourage all Bands to fully comply, but do not provide any resources as such to assist with this. It is up to bands to manage their own disclosure.
- **Advice on charity registration**
 - The RSPBA encourage and support bands who wish to do apply for charitable status, but do not provide advice on the issue.
- **Voluntary VAT registration of bands**
 - It was suggested that this can be useful as Bands can claim VAT back on certain purchases. (VAT registration becomes mandatory for any organization who's turnover is in excess of £70,000)
- **Website**
 - Web Plus software. Neil paid a back-up copy of the software for Nigel (and handed it over during the meeting). Irene will refund this from Branch funds.
- **Branch solos**
 - Nigel mentioned that we have a similar issue to the Forfar Academy problem whereby Loch Leven Community Campus in Kinross are saying they will need to levy a far higher charge than the previous token hire for the Branch Solo contest this year; but that they (and Nigel) will work with Perth & Kinross Council to see if any subsidies are available. If not, we will have to look elsewhere once again for a suitable (and suitably priced) venue.
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10. Action Items

Mtg-Act	Action	Owner	Due By	Status *
Feb-A1	Bruce to propose alternate Medley and MSR playing through Championships at next Music Board meeting	Bruce	March	New
Feb-A2	Re: Dec-A1. If this competition goes ahead, the Branch will consider donating a trophy in Rankin McWilliam's memory.	Paul	March	New
Feb-A2	Gary to write to HQ supporting the nominations of Gordon Hamill and John Hughes for Chair and Vice-Chair respectively	Gary	March	New
Feb-A4	Nigel to send Mini-Band entry form to Barbara for one final check, then forward on to Neil and RSPBA for posting to both websites	Nigel	February	New
Feb-A5	Gillie to ask Vale of Atholl if they could support the Trio Piping (open) contest even if not the Mini-Band event	Gillie	March	New
Feb-A6	Gary to send a letter to HQ expressing the interest of the Branch in running a PDQB course	Gary	March	New
Feb-A7	Gary to ask HQ to provide unattached adjudicators if possible for the Mini-Bands and Trio event, 2 piping and 1 drumming	Gary	March	New
Feb-A8	Gary to continue to work with Angus council to see if some subsidies can be provided towards the cost of hiring the Academy	Gary	March	New

* Status should be "New", "Outstanding", "Closed" or "Cancelled"

11. Next meeting:

Sunday 13th March 2011 at 7.00 pm

Please note the earlier time, to try and avoid finishing so late

(Gillie has already given her apologies in advance of the next meeting)

Paul closed the meeting at 10.00 pm