



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

Minutes from Branch Meeting Monday 6th June 2011 in Glencarse Village Hall

1. Chairman:

Paul opened the meeting at 7.10 pm and welcomed everyone.

2. Presence and Apologies:

Present:

Paul MacAndrew, Gary Mair, Irene Black, Barbara Stronach, Nigel Kellett, Neil Myles

Apologies:

Gillie McNab, Scott Phillips, Bruce, Cargill, Teresa Walker, Isobel MacKay, Jim Mills

3. Matters arising from minutes of last meeting:

- Action Feb-A2 should state “Grade 4 MSR”, not “Grade 4A MSR”, also same mistake at top of page 2.
- In Music Board report, from 2012 onwards add, “all to be chosen from the current selection of 2 parted tunes.”
- Action Apr-A6. (Discussions re a possible implementation of a Branch championship prize to be awarded at the end of the season for the highest overall bands in each grade at all contests combined held in the Branch area) Pitlochry, Crieff, Perth and Strathmore are the 4 current branch-area contests, not counting the mini-bands. (only Crieff actually being run by the Branch). Strathmore would need to have a Grade 1 contest to make this possible, and ideally Pitlochry would add an RSPBA adjudicated element to their existing Drum Majors “display” competition to make a DM championship possible also.
 - a) Send a message to the 4 contest organisers explaining the plans. i.e. Championship run as per RSPBA championship rules (6 points for 1st place, 1 point for 6th; no points awarded when playing up and no points for any Grade 4 MSR contests)
 - b) Send a specific message to Strathmore asking if they could add a Grade 1 contest to make it possible for Grade 1 bands to take part
 - c) Send a separate letter to Pitlochry asking if they would consider adding a RSPBA adjudicated DM contest alongside their existing DM display contest. Again this would make it possible for Drum Majors to take part in the Branch Championship.

Summary of actions and status from April’s meeting:

Mtg-Act	Action	Owner	Due By	Status *
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	April	Closed. Angus council have awarded a grant towards the cost of the event.
Mar-A4	Jim to organize a suitable response to Susan Jensen from Canada, looking for information on the old City of Dundee Prize Pipe Band.	Jim / Scott	April	Closed. Scott has replied to Gary, this has been sent to Susan Jensen who has replied delighted with the information.
Mar-A5	Gary to contact local companies in Forfar to ask for anything that can be sold as part of the event catering	Gary	April	Closed. Gary successfully obtained donations of pies from Strathmore foods, and vouchers from Farmfoods which were used for catering. The Branch
Mar-A8	Paul to send compilers sheet to Nigel for potential modification to include Actual Grades when playing up	Paul / Nigel	April	Closed. Nigel received sheets, modifications ongoing, but successful first trial at the mini-bands.
Mar-A9	Gary to contact all local branch	Gary	April	Closed. Gary has all of these now, and will



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Mtg-Act	Action	Owner	Due By	Status *
	competitions to forward Adjudicator's expenses to HQ.			ensure they are all forwarded on to Paul.
Apr-A1	Purchase the "Rankin McWilliam Memorial Shield" and donate to Crieff for their new Grade 4 MSR contest.	Paul	August	Closed. Shield is purchased, need to add the inscription, top banner " Rankin McWilliam Memorial Shield " and in the middle " RSPBA Dundee, Perth & Angus Branch "
Apr-A2	Post the Mini-Bands and Trios draw onto the main and branch websites	Nigel / Neil	April	Closed.
Apr-A3	Write to accept the offer of a donation of CD/Book to all competing bands at the Mini-Bands contest + copies for raffle	Gary	April	Closed. The donation of 20 copies was gratefully received and they have been handed out to most bands now.
Apr-A4	Write to branch bands asking them all to donate one or more raffle prizes for the Mini-Bands and Trios contest	Gary	April	Closed. This was done, and plenty of prizes were received. Thanks to all who donated.
Apr-A5	Create a "What's happening – Branch Bands" section on the website, possibly even on the front page, and promote this to all the bands	Neil / Gary	May	Closed. This section now exists and all bands are encouraged to use it.
Apr-A6	Review what is needed to implement the Branch Championship contest from next season onwards	ALL	September	Closed. This was discussed in the current meeting and further actions are tabled below to try and take this forward for 2012 season onwards.

4. Approval of previous minutes:

Approved: Barbara

Seconded: Neil

5. Correspondence:

- A cheque was received from Angus council. A report now has to be written within next 12 months to show how the money has been spent. Gary to action this.
- New prices have been received for next year for Forfar Academy. To be taken into account when planning next year's event.
- An email from P/M Ewan Whitmore of Stockbridge Pipe Band thanking the Branch for and supporting the re-introduction of the Mini-bands contest.

6. Treasurers Report:

[confidential – available in a separate document]

7. National Council Report:

Paul reported as follows:

- As of the start of this season National Councilors will no longer receive payment for officiating at championships.
- Bands will no longer be sent out a copy of the draw for Major Championships as it is clear that all Bands now know how to access the draws on the website.
- Centre Bands at Majors will no longer be the 6 winners from the previous year. (apart from the Worlds) At the others it will be the first 6 bands to play on the day from grades as follows: Scottish - Grade 1, British - Grade 2, Europeans - Grade 1, and Cowal - Grade 2.



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- The suggestion from the Music Board that there be a seeding process at Major Championships has invited a lot of debate so far. This was discussed at the Branch and the majority feeling was it was a good idea - it should help ensure a more even spread of stronger bands within qualifying heats, and should not unduly penalize any other bands, whether from here or abroad. **The Branch therefore supports the proposal.**
- Cowal. Western Ferries will continue to take buses on a queuing basis only (i.e. no bookings). Cal Mac have decided to stop taking buses. There will be a meeting on 13th June with the operators to discuss this and review how it will affect Bands travelling.
- It appears that North of Scotland Branch contests are holding separate Grade 4B and 4A contests and this matter will be raised with Head Office.

8. Music Board Report:

There has been no music board meeting since the last Branch meeting.

9. AOCB:

Mini-Bands Event – Review and provisional date for 2012

- Feedback very good, from the head-teacher of Forfar Academy
- Also good feedback from Stockbridge Pipe Band in particular
- One request was to have a final tuning room nearer the contest arena. (This should be possible for future events)
- Better signage for the canteen area would be good. (Nigel to bear in mind for next year when creating the Band room signs)
- The new Excel compiling sheet generally worked well, but needs to be tweaked to better allow for bands scratching, to add a sheet for Drum Majors, and to have a single prizes/placings sheet at the end. Nigel to action.
- Provisional date for next year: the weekend before Gourock. All grade formats to be the same as the first Major Championship. **Provisionally Sat 28th April 2012.**
- Date for trophy return: 1 month before the contest, but we will suggest that Bands attending the RSPBA AGM bring their trophies along and a Branch rep will collect them then. Letter to go out to all trophy winners end February.
- After discussion, the consensus is to add 3 further trophies for next year, 2 more for Grade 4 (3rd and 4th place) and 1 for Grade 3 (3rd place). The Branch can fund these if required, but it was agreed to approach the participating bands to see if they or any associated organizations would care to donate a trophy.
- Decided to not put prize money up again next year as Branch finances could not necessarily fund this on a yearly basis.

Needed for Crieff Highland Games

- More adjudicator pads (plus Drum Major pads) to be ordered, e.g. 4 of each
- Notify all branch bands, mini-bands and any other bands we are aware of.
- Chase RSPBA for contract documentation.

Dumbarton

- There has been a request to see if the contest could take place in any more sheltered parts of the grounds in times of really inclement weather. Apparently this is unlikely to be possible – promoter's rules.

Band Workshop

- An idea was discussed to hold a workshop day, possibly here at Glencarse, aimed at Bands. Provisionally, it would include instruction on creating a set, setting up a band sound, plus holding a PDQB awareness session. The idea would be to not charge Branch bands or bands that attended the



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Mini-Bands. This would then show a good use of the money earned at the Mini-Bands. A small charge would be levied for any other bands wishing to attend. Provisional dates 24 or 25 Sep, or 1 or 2 Oct.

Branch Solos

- Provisional date **Sat 19th November**.

10. Action Items

Mtg-Act	Action	Owner	Due By	Status *
Jun-A1	Send a message to the 4 Branch area contest organisers explaining the plans. i.e. Championship run as per RSPBA championship rules (6 points for 1 st place, 1 point for 6 th ; no points awarded when playing up and no points for any Grade 4 MSR contests)	Gary	July	New
Jun-A2	Send a specific message to Strathmore asking if they could add a Grade 1 contest to make it possible for Grade 1 bands to take part	Gary	July	New
Jun-A3	Send a specific message to Pitlochry asking if they would consider adding a RSPBA adjudicated DM contest alongside their existing DM display contest. Again this would make it possible for Drum Majors to take part in the Branch Championship.	Gary	July	New
Jun-A4	Report to be sent to Angus Council to show how the grant money given has been spent.	Gary	April 2012	New
Jun-A5	Finalise and test the Excel compiling sheets prior to Crieff	Nigel	July	New
Jun-A6	Order more adjudication pads for Crieff	Gary	July	New
Jun-A7	Write to all branch bands, all Mini-bands participants and any other bands we have addresses with the Entry Form for Crieff	Gary	June	New
Jun-A8	Chase the RSPBA for contract documentation	Gary	June	New
Jun-A9	Discuss with potential instructors possible dates and format for the suggested Workshop Day	Paul	July	New
Jun-10	Write to all Mini-Bands trophy winners to remind them to return trophies one month prior to the event or bring to the RSPBA AGM	Gary	Feb 2012	New

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

1. Next meeting:

Sunday 4th September at 7.00 pm.

(Note: Please plan to arrive around 6.30 / 6.45 pm)