



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

### Minutes from Branch Meeting Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2011 in Glencarse Village Hall

**1. Chairman:**

Paul opened the meeting at 7.15 pm and welcomed everyone.

**2. Presence and Apologies:**

**Present:**

Paul MacAndrew, Gary Mair, Irene Black, Barbara Stronach, Nigel Kellett, Bruce Cargill, Jim Mills

**Apologies:**

Gillie McNab, Neil Myles, Scott Phillips

**3. Matters arising from minutes of last meeting:**

- It would be preferable to refer to competitions “within the branch area” when talking about the Branch Championship, as the only current contest actually run by the branch is Crieff.

Summary of actions and status from June’s meeting:

Mtg-Act	Action	Owner	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 <sup>st</sup> place, 1 point for 6 <sup>th</sup> ; no points awarded when playing up and no points for any Grade 4 MSR contests)	Gary	Open. Pitlochry replied saying proposals would be considered, but no decision as yet. Follow up email from Nigel highlighting options for including more bands as Pitlochry are currently turning bands away due to lack of time, and could therefore not currently guarantee to include any branch bands wishing to compete.
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	Open.
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	Open.
Jun-A4	Report to be sent to Angus Council to show how the grant money given has been spent.	Gary	Open. Draft ready but not yet sent.
Jun-A5	Finalise and test the Excel compiling sheets prior to Crieff	Nigel	Open – Excel sheets for Crieff still need to include DM’s but were useable on the day.
Jun-A6	Order more adjudication pads for Crieff	Gary	Closed
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	Closed
Jun-A8	Chase the RSPBA for contract documentation	Gary	Closed
Jun-A9	Discuss with potential instructors possible dates and format for the suggested Workshop Day	Paul	On hold until next NC and Music Board meetings.
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	Open.

**4. Approval of previous minutes:**

**Approved:** Barbara

**Seconded:** Irene



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#### 5. Correspondence:

- Information back from various sources regarding dates for future competitions.
- 31<sup>st</sup> March for L&B Mini-Bands
- 28<sup>th</sup> April for our own Mini-Bands
- (Gourock 6<sup>th</sup> May, Dunbar 12<sup>th</sup> May)

Secretary of Strathmore Games mentioned North of Scotland DM contest, hosted by RSPBA NE Scotland, used to be held at Old Meldrum and wondered if it could be resurrected. Gary to go back and explain about the existing North of Scotland Championship.

Clan MacBeth Pipe Band in the Netherlands is planning to take part in Perth in 2012. In the spring they contacted the RSPBA who apparently replied that Perth and Crieff were never held in the same year. (We believe this should have read “never in the same week” and was either written by mistake or misunderstood. Perth will be on the 12<sup>th</sup> August this year – the day after the Worlds. Gary to write back and confirm.

A branch band member wrote regarding a long serving member due to retire and wondering whether the RSPBA would make any award. Apparently, this is not generally done, other than for RSPBA officials.

#### 6. Treasurers Report:

[figures confidential – available in a separate document]

There was a difference of opinion regarding the RSPBA contest levy. Paul will check which percentage level applies to contests.

#### 7. National Council Report:

No National Council meeting since last branch meeting/

#### 8. Music Board Report:

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

Bruce mentioned, however, that the next meeting is due 3<sup>rd</sup> October, and some work has started on gradings.

#### 9. AOCB:

##### Review of Crieff contest

- Everyone was generally impressed with the way it ran.
- Finale was a little bit disappointing, most of the crowd drifted away before Massed Bands, but mainly due to the onset of a heavy shower.
- A comment regarding the high admission price. Gary to write to Crieff and ask if a reduced ticket option would be possible for band members and supporters, even if purchased in advance, for example.
- Owen Sweeney had problems with the Street March due to the timing of the Grade 4 MSR contest, and was considering stating that any bands entering the MSR would be excluded from the Street March. The committee's view here was this might discourage bands from entering the MSR contest as the bands earn money from the Street March, and it might be better just to start the contest a little earlier.

##### Possible new Kinross contest

- Nigel outlined plans for a possible new Pipe Band contest in May, to be combined with the existing Loch Leven Half Marathon and Feel Good Fair in Kinross. Both existing organisations are positive towards the move, but the current proposed date is Sat 12<sup>th</sup> May, which would clash with Dunbar.
- Nigel to explore alternative dates with the Road Runners and if a suitable date can be found, to present this to the committee for requesting to Headquarters.
- Funding would also have to be found, particularly for prizes. Nigel explained that it should be possible to get grant coverage for most other aspects, but the prize money is the difficult aspect.
- Paul suggested, if approaching local businesses for sponsorship, to aim for a 3 year contract where possible



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#### **AGM**

- Date for the AGM set for **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November at 7.00 pm**, no need for a committee meeting beforehand.
- Gary to send out the AGM reminder to all branch bands, inviting nominations for committee members prior to the AGM.

#### **Branch Solos**

- The entry form was reviewed with a view to this being sent out to all branch bands at the same time as the AGM reminder.
- Drumming on pad, it should be stated that all entrants must never have **competed** with any band on the drums
- The Branch solos last year made a loss of £183, and some discussion surrounded how to make it profitable.
- Nigel to talk to the High School regarding possible use of canteen facilities (or just an area) to provide and sell food for ourselves.
- Time for the whole event to start approx. 9.30 am.

#### **Scott Philips**

- Scott is now based in Manchester, and has already resigned from his own band. (Carnoustie) It is suggested
- that Carnoustie send an interim member to serve on the committee until new committee members can be
- elected at the AGM.

#### **Branch Championships**

- There was some discussion as to whether it would be acceptable to be eligible to win the branch trophy for the grade above if consistently playing up. The general consensus was that, although there are arguments for and against this, it would be very complicated to administer if any branch area contests were to restrict or even prevent playing up, which is quite likely in some cases.

#### **Trophies.**

- One trophy from Crieff needs to be either replaced (up to £400) or re-plated, £100.
- The general consensus is to re-plate it as long as the engraving will still be visible. (Believed to be the case)
- Paul to confirm with the trophy shop and action.



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#### 10. Action Items

Mtg-Act	Action	Owner	Due By	Status *
Jun-A1	Send a message to the 4 Branch contest organisers explaining the plans. i.e. Championship run as per RSPBA championship rules (6 points for 1 <sup>st</sup> place, 1 point for 6 <sup>th</sup> ; no points awarded when playing up and no points for any Grade 4 MSR contests)	Gary	July	Open
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	Open
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	Open
Jun-A4	Report to be sent to Angus Council to show how the grant money given has been spent.	Gary	April 2012	Open
Jun-A5	Finalise and test the Excel compiling sheets prior to Crieff	Nigel	July	Open
Jun-A9	Discuss with potential instructors possible dates and format for the suggested Workshop Day	Paul	July	On hold
Jun-A10	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	Open
Sep-A1	Advise the Secretary of Strathmore Games about the current North of Scotland Branch Championship	Gary	October	New
Sep-A2	Write to Clan MacBeth Pipe Band in the Netherlands and confirm date for Perth Games	Gary	October	New
Sep-A3	Advise the branch member enquiring about long service awards that these are generally only made for RSPBA officials	Gary	October	New
Sep-A4	Check and confirm what the correct percentage levy is for RSPBA contests now – 10% or 7.5%	Paul	October	New
Sep-A5	Write to secretary of Crieff Games and ask if a reduced admission price may be possible for band supporters / non-playing members, if, for example applying in advance, or through the Branch	Gary	October	New
Sep-A6	Advise Owen Sweeny that we are prepared to start the Pipe Band contests earlier next year to avoid the problem of the MSR contest clashing with the Street March.	Gary	October	New
Sep-A7	Establish whether possible to hold the proposed Kinross contest on a date in May not clashing with Dunbar, Gourrock or the Scottish.	Nigel	October	New
Sep-A8	Send out AGM reminder to all branch bands, and include the Branch Solos Entry Form	Gary	October	New
Sep-A9	Go ahead and re-plate the damaged Crieff trophy as long as existing engraving will still be clearly legible	Paul	October	New

\* Status should be "New", "Open", "Closed" or "Cancelled"

#### 1. Next meeting:

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October at 7.00 pm.

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