



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

### Minutes from Branch AGM Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2013 in Glencarse Village Hall

#### 1. Welcome & Chairman's Remarks

Paul welcomed everyone, noting a large attendance, necessitating moving to the larger Kitchen area for the first time. He also thanked the standing committee for all their work over the past year, particularly Gary, as Secretary, which entails a fairly hefty workload. Paul also mentioned Barbara Stronach's departure after some 30+ year's service, for those who may not have been aware.

#### 2. Presence and Apologies

**Bands Represented:** 6<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Dundee Boys Brigade; Carnoustie & District; Kinross & District; MacKenzie Caledonian NJ & G2; Mains of Fintry; City of Brechin G3 & G4; Perth & District;

**Apologies:** Gillie McNab (Vale of Atholl), Gordon Barton (Alyth & District), Jayne Sweeney (Perth & District), Claire Scott (Edradour Pitlochry & District).

#### 3. Adoption of minutes from 2012 AGM

**Proposed:** Brechin

**Seconded:** McKenzie

#### 4. Matters arising from 2012 AGM

Playing members' database is still being looked at, a plan is to be put forward to the Finance Committee. Not likely to happen before next main AGM, so not happening in 2014.

#### 5. Reports

##### Chairman's Report

Paul delivered his report as per the typed copy in the Appendices, and then welcomed Jim Campbell, Education Co-ordinator, who had come to make a presentation on the RSPBA Outreach program.

Jim then made his presentation using a PowerPoint support. In summary, if the Branch can nominate early next year their band tutors to follow the program, it will run typically from early September to end December / early January, finishing with a set of assessments for each of the people being tutored. And this will then continue on an annual basis, with financial support from HQ. Structure and initial cost detail all included in the presentation.

Jim took questions from the floor, one of which surrounded the possible certification for the tutors themselves, not just their charges. This is not yet fully covered off, but it seems that there should be some available routes for this.

##### Secretary's Report

Gary made his report, as per the copy in the Appendices

##### Treasurer's Report

Irene presented the financial statement (in Appendices) and invited comments and questions. No major issues and in summary the Branch is slightly better off this year than last.

##### Music Board Representatives Report

###### Piping Report:

As per Bruce Cargill's report, in Appendices. (Bruce kept the verbal version short as much of it had already been covered by Paul and Gary in theirs)

A question was raised regarding the Grading Committee's procedure for re-grading bands. Bruce explained that all the members of the committee listen to all grades throughout the year, so they have a good understanding of what level constitutes which grade. They then sit down with all the results from all the contests (not just the Majors), and taking both that and any knowledge of higher-to-lower or lower-to-higher player transfers they will make recommendations to change grade up or down. However, all re-grading decisions can be appealed, and in many cases the Music Board will listen sympathetically to the appeals if made for good reason, as they want bands to feel comfortable that they are playing in the right grade for their level.

###### Drumming Report:

[None, as the Branch does not currently have a Drumming Representative to the Music Board]

#### 6. Director's Report

As per typed copy of Chairman's Report, in Appendices

Paul mentioned that in 2 years' time (from 2016) all 5 Majors will be open for tender at the same time, so any council wishing to bid for a Major will just put a bid in, but there will be no guarantee which one they will get.

The World's format will again be a 2 day format next year, but the plan currently is to have it on Friday and Saturday, with really just all the Grade 1 Bands doing their qualification rounds on the Friday, and then everyone else on the Saturday.

Paul underlined that as he was a member of the Standards Sub-Committee, anyone with a proposal for an amendment to the rules could make such a proposal through him, and asked if there were any such proposals at this stage:

- **Kinross proposed an amendment to the competition rules**, to effectively delete the rule requiring that pipes have to be put down at the line prior to coming back to attention. **This was seconded by Perth, and there were no objections.**



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- Carnoustie proposed a motion to back “The Case for Grade 5” as documented recently by Bruce Cargill. This was seconded by Kinross with no objections.

In addition there were a number of questions from the floor:

**Q (Carnoustie): Will the MAP judging continue for Grade 4?**

A: The MAP adjudication will cease, and all grades at majors will now be judged by 2 piping, 1 drumming and 1 ensemble judge, but Grade 4 will continue to choose their tunes from the selection of MAP tunes

**Q (McKenzie) How can bands fielding more than one band ensure they are able to play both bands at very busy events like the Worlds where the timing is very limited?**

A: The precedent exists to allow for the lower grade band to play slightly earlier than scheduled in order that both bands can compete.

**Q: (6<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Boys Brigade): The social media communications at the Worlds was generally quite good, but some of the lower grades appeared to be neglected, e.g. the 4B results did not feature on Twitter. Why?**

A: (This was more of a discussion) All agreed that it would be good to improve this aspect, and indeed the displaying of qualifying results in general. Now we are in the 21<sup>st</sup> century we should be able to find a better method than a white board and pen. The use of the large central screen was mentioned, and also Twitter feeds, just timed to be 5 or 10 minutes after the actual results are announced.

**Q: (6<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> BB's): Some of the local papers have a distinct lack of results for piping contests, whereas dancing appears to be very well covered. Why?**

A: (Discussion). A lot of this comes down to the willingness to communicate the results to the papers. Generally if they are given the information it will be published, but unless you have keen pipers or drummers on the news staff it is unlikely they will go looking for it.

**Q (Perth): In the Results by contest on the HQ website, why is it that some contests do not have their results included?**

A: Because it depends on someone at each contest communicating the results to the HQ webmaster. (Jason Lafferty) Usually this is the job of the Director officiating on the day – but some appear to manage this more easily than others!

#### 7. Election of Office Bearers and Review of Branch Levy

Office (Current bearer)	Elected Office Bearer	Proposed by	Seconded by
<b>President (VACANT)</b>	Jim	City of Brechin	Perth
<b>Chairman (Paul McAndrew)</b>	Not due for re-election	-	-
<b>Vice-Chairman (Nigel Kellett)</b>	Not due for re-election	-	-
<b>Secretary (Gary Mair)</b>	Not due for re-election	-	-
<b>Treasurer (Irene Black)</b>	Not due for re-election	-	-
<b>Minute Secretary (Nigel Kellett)</b>	Not due for re-election	-	-
<b>Music Board Rep: Piping (Bruce Cargill)</b>	Bruce	McKenzie Caledonian	City of Brechin
<b>Music Board Rep: Drumming [currently vacant]</b>	[No proposals] (Kirk from 6 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> mentioned that he might be interested if he could gain the certification next year)	-	-
<b>Magazine Representative (VACANT)</b>	Ian	Kinross	Perth
<b>Committee Members</b>	Neil Myles, Gillie McNab, Ian Campbell, Gordon Barton, Stewart Findlay	McKenzie Caledonian	City of Brechin
<b>Webmaster, (currently still informal) (Neil Myles)</b>	Not due for re-election	-	-

#### Branch Levy

This is currently set at £30 for adult bands and £25 for novice juvenile

In the pre-AGM committee meeting the committee decided to once again keep the levy the same, as the Branch was not currently struggling for funds.



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#### 8. AOCB

**Perform in Perth: (Kinross)** Nigel mentioned that this contest at the Perthshire Music Festival in March could be better attended, and there is no restriction on any branch bands fielding competitors, even if out with the Perthshire area. Worth noting that entries have to be in by 17<sup>th</sup> January, though, so an entry form was given to each of the bands represented. In addition, Neil will put a link on the Branch website to make it easier for any bands looking for the info.

**RSPBA and political affiliations:** Neil (McKenzie) made a point that some communications recently may have given the impression that either the RSPBA or some of their associated bands or members support the Pro-Independence campaign – and may even be encouraging bands to take part in events or rallies supporting this (or other) political movements. All agreed that the RSPBA should endeavor to remain politically neutral, and not be seen to be supporting either one political side or another. (in any issue) This could also be an issue for social media sites such as our own Branch Facebook site, and moderators should be vigilant to ensure that no political leanings are inferred on the part of the Branch.

#### 9. Chairman's Closing Remarks

Paul thanked everyone for attending, and reminded all that any branch member is welcome to attend and listen to Committee Meeting proceedings, with the exception of the Finance section.

He closed by re-iterating that the proposed improvements to Pipe Band education would be the main priority for the Branch over the coming year.

#### 10. Next meeting:

**Next Committee Meeting: TBD**

**Next year's AGM: TBD**

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Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2013 in Glencarse Village Hall

APPENDICES TO AGM MINUTES

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#### **CHAIRMAN / DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

##### **Chairman's report**

I would like to welcome everyone to the 2013 AGM.

The 2013 season has been very busy as usual with branch bands doing well at local and Major championships. I would like to thank all the organizing committees for their support at the local contests.

I would like to extend my thanks to the committee for all their hard work over the past 12 months especially Gary Mair who does a huge amount of work behind the scenes without which we couldn't function.

Many thanks to Barbara Stronach who has stepped down from the committee and also her role as magazine rep after a long haul!!

You will notice that we have amended not just the location but also the format of the branch solo piping and drumming contest. This has been done due to falling entries as a trial, and should allow players of all ages & abilities the opportunity to compete on a level playing field with their peers whilst playing at a higher level if capable. We have not removed any of the previous requirements but have reorganized the age groups to allow this.

Also the branch are working hard to increase the educational provision of Piping & Drumming including a weeklong school in conjunction with the Northern & Fife Branches. I would like to thank Jim Campbell for coming along tonight to share his vision of a new project which I hope that we can be part of.

Finally, I would ask that if anyone has some spare time on their hands please come and join the committee, it's not that much work and it lets your band have a voice.

##### **Directors Report**

It has been a busy year at the RSPBA, I have managed to attend all the major championship events in 2013 and all board of director meetings except the April meeting which was the same day as the Branch mini band contest.

Significant events over the past 12 months have been, the allocation of the Major championship to Belfast for the next 2 years. This has attracted a significant amount of comments and although I personally enjoy Cowal as a championship event I put forward the branch view during discussions.

Also following feedback from branch bands on the format of the 2 day worlds in 2013, I proposed an alternative event which was accepted by the board of Directors at the October meeting which if accepted by Glasgow council will see a Grade 1 qualifier on the Friday and all other bands playing on the Saturday.

I am currently a member of the standards sub-committee so if anyone has any changes to the rules etc please pass these to me asap to allow for them to be examined prior to the RSPBA AGM.

I look forward to the 2014 season, although I intend to play with Mackenzie Caledonia this coming season, so will not be on duty at contests as much as I have been.

I would ask that if anyone has any suggestions, comments or complaints relating to the RSPBA or Branch that they come and talk to myself or Bruce Cargill, and we will try to offer some assistance.

Paul McAndrew

Branch Chairman & Director RSPBA

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#### Secretary's Report

Chairman, Committee members, Band Members, can I add my welcome to that of the Chairman and to thank you for taking the time this evening to make it along to our AGM.

The 2011 – 12 competition season seems to have passed by very quickly and once again, Branch bands and Branch band members have had a busy time competing in both major and minor contests at “home” and overseas.

As a Branch we currently have 17 bands -

Grade 4 Alyth, Arbroath, Carnoustie, City of Brechin, Coupar Angus, Crieff High School, Kinross, Mains of Fintry, Perth, Robert Wiseman Dairies Vale of Atholl; (10 bands)

Novice Juvenile 6/8<sup>th</sup> Dundee Boys Brigade, MacKenzie Caledonian NJ;

Grade 3 City of Brechin, Edradour Pitlochry and Blair Atholl, Robert Wiseman Dairies Vale of Atholl; (3 bands)

Grade 2 MacKenzie Caledonian; (1 band)

Grade 1 Robert Wiseman Dairies Vale of Atholl (1 band)

Reviewing our Branch area competitions, the year started with Branch Solo Competitions held in Kinross at Loch Leven Community Campus. Competitor numbers were comparable with 2010 (101 entries in 2010, 94 in 2011) although the distribution of entries varied with a drop in numbers in novice piping but slightly greater numbers in tenor drumming. Despite a financial loss on the day, (details will be given in the Treasurer's Report), I think that it's fair to say that the event was still enjoyable and we look forward to this year's Branch Solo Competitions on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November, once again at Loch Leven Campus, Kinross. (If anyone has trophies to return, I'll be happy to accept them at the end of this evening's meeting).

In April, we held our Trio Piping and Mini-Bands Event at Forfar Academy. We received some 31 miniband entries – that was down somewhat from the 44 that had entered the previous year. In 2013 we will return once again to Forfar Academy for the mini-bands, the date for your diaries is Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April.

May saw the inaugural event at Loch Leven Community Campus for a new outdoor pipeband contest. A healthy entry of some 25 bands competed over Grades 2 to 4 plus an “Open” competition. At this point, can I record particular thanks to Nigel Kellett for a huge amount of work undertaken not only to get the project off the ground but also to secure funding and prize money which as we all appreciate, is very scarce to come by. Plans are already underway for next years competition which will be on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May.

Crieff Games in August attracted 21 competing bands, which was quite encouraging, knowing that there was also a competition in Edinburgh on the same day. The date for the 2013 Crieff Games Pipeband and Drum Major Competition is still under discussion – a topic that will be covered during this evening AGM.

Away from competitions, the Branch website continues to expand and we are indebted to Neil Myles and Nigel Kellett for their help in maintaining the website. The website carries a wide range of information not only on Branch events but also Branch band activities – for example Mains of Fintry performing in Poland (in November 2011), several Branch bands playing as part of the Queen's visit to Perth in July this year and City of Brechin's fund raising charity day out white water rafting in September – not for the faint-hearted !!

If I can ask that bands try to keep details and information up to date and if there are changes necessary, please let us know as quickly as possible so that the website can be updated.

Another notable success within the Branch was that of Ailis Sutherland from City of Brechin who won the PM Willie Fergusson Competition held as part of Lothian and Borders Branch Solo competitions in February this year. As far as we are aware, this is the first time that a solo competitor from the Branch has won this competition – congratulations to Ailis.

As with all of the bands within the Branch, there is a large draw on funds for hosting competitions, venue costs, trophy repairs etc so any ideas for fund raising that anyone would like to bring along to Branch meetings would be very welcome.

Lastly, whilst we are here to help you, the Branch would not exist without your support. Please take our thanks back to your bands and we wish you every success for the new season. Thank you.

Provisional diary dates for 2013 are as follows: -

Forfar Mini-Bands	27 <sup>th</sup> April
Loch Leven	11 <sup>th</sup> May
British Championships, Bathgate	25 <sup>th</sup> May
Strathmore Games	9 <sup>th</sup> June
European Championships, Forres	29 <sup>th</sup> June
Scottish Championships, Dumbarton	27 <sup>th</sup> July
Perth Games	11 <sup>th</sup> August
World Championships, Glasgow	17 <sup>th</sup> & 18 <sup>th</sup> August
Cowal Championships	31 <sup>st</sup> August

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#### **Music board Rep report 01/11/2012**

The music board held 4 meetings over the last year, September, November, January & April  
Main business at each meeting is summarized below.

#### **September**

Main item was Band Grading's and 1<sup>st</sup> look at possible set up of the 2 day world championships.

#### **November**

1<sup>st</sup> priority of the day dealing with any appeals from the previous meeting grading decisions.

2<sup>nd</sup> Further discussions on the 2 day worlds, It was announced that the promoter and the BBC both preferred Saturday , Sunday contest.

#### **January**

Music board was visited by the chairman to present his vision of the 2 day worlds after a lot of discussion it was agreed that all grade 1 bands would play in 2 heats on the Saturday and the top 6 from each heat would go through to the final on Sunday.

It was also agreed that each grade 1 band could play the MSR and Medley of their choice on the Saturday, on the Sunday would play their second MSR and second Medley on the Sunday.

All grade 2 and grade 3 bands would play either MSR or Medley in the qualifiers and alternate in the finals.

#### **April**

Drum Majors have issues that have been passed to the Board of directors which were never sent to the music board to be addressed, to this end the Drum Majors have been invited to join the education group to work towards the education of Drum Majors through workshops etc.

2 day worlds format agreed including number of adjudicators & non reintroduction of MAP adjudication as there needs to be education of the adjudicators and further workshops with the grade 4 & N/J bands.

At the board of directors meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April the chairman introduced a change to the world format adjudication in that at the suggestion of APMB members he has introduced a trial of the MAP adjudication and heats system, this was not agreed by the music board. As competition format is the remit of the music board why was this proposal forced through at the April board of directors meeting?

And on a personal note why would we trial this at the biggest contest run by the RSPBA?

It would appear that this was forced through due to issues with a lack of adjudicators, if this is the case then the board of directors is failing in its duty of care to the membership by not ensuring that enough training is being carried out to ensure an adequate supply of judges for the future?



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