



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

Minutes from Branch Meeting Monday 5th August 2013 in Glencarse Village Hall

1. Chairman's welcome:

Paul opened the meeting at 7.15 pm and welcomed everyone to this, the third meeting of the year.

2. Presence and Apologies:

Present:

Paul McAndrew, Gary Mair, Nigel Kellett, Irene Black, Barbara Stronach, Ian Campbell, Gordon Barton

Apologies:

Gillie McNab, Bruce Cargill, Jim Mills, Owen Sweeney, Jayne Sweeney, (Neil Myles)

3. Matters arising from minutes of last meeting:

Actions from previous minutes

Mtg-Act	Action	Owner	Status *
Oct-A1	Call Pitlochry Games committee to ask if possible to attend one of their next meetings to discuss options for inclusion of branch bands in future contests	Gary	OPEN. Update. Gary still trying to contact, but still no news. Last reply did not acknowledge this issue.
Dec-A3	Review PDQB course options with a view to holding one in the Branch	Bruce Gary	OPEN. Gary has been in touch with Pat but no date set yet for him to come along, so agreed to offer date of next meeting and take it from there.
Jun-A1	All committee members to review the Branch Constitution prior to the October meeting, with a view to finalizing it and adopting it at November's AGM	ALL	OPEN. The question re constitutions has been raised with HQ, but no feedback as yet. Aug: No change.
Feb-A1	Debate how to place chanter and drumming on pad, i.e. allocate all places right to last place, or just (e.g.) place lots of players "4 th " Also debate other ideas for the playing format in general (age categories, etc)	ALL	CLOSED. Debated in AOB. Gary has sent a proposal to the committee and to the bands
Feb-A3	Jim to make enquiries regarding possible use of a school in Dundee for the Branch Solos this year. (Required ideally: 3 contest rooms, 3 final tuning rooms, a canteen area we can use to do our own catering and around 12 band preparation rooms.	Gary	CLOSED. Craigie High School have agreed to let us use their facility for effectively no charge. So Branch Solos are going to be there on Sat 30 th November.
Feb-A4	Nigel to confirm costs and provisionally hold the Loch Leven Community Campus in Kinross in case we don't get a Dundee area option	Nigel	CLOSED. Nigel has advised the Kinross Campus that it will not be required this year

New Actions from March minutes

Mtg-Act	Action	Owner	Status *
Mar-A1	Find out from Perform in Perth if they can accept players from bands residing in DPA Branch	Gary	CLOSED. This IS possible. New action (Aug-A1) below
Mar-A2	Gary to check with Crieff if they would be prepared to put up a higher first prize for Grade 1	Gary	CLOSED. Crieff offered £1,000 first prize if 4 Grade 1 bands minimum entered. We tried hard, spoke to many Grade 1 Bands at both Forres and at Dumbarton, but too difficult to get them to come out 3 weekends in a row.
Mar-A3	Consider implementing a pilot player registration database	Nigel, Paul	OPEN. Not straightforward, but need to create a draft spec first of all, and get provisional costings to then present to HQ.
Mar-A4	Advise Ian of any needs in terms of equipment for a	ALL	CLOSED. Generator, 3 tables, 3 x 2-way



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	grant application to run the Carnoustie contest		radios all acquired. Some discussion required to re-transfer remaining monies from Carnoustie back to the Branch.
Mar-A5	Open a new Bank Account for the purpose of collecting Patron's regular contributions to Branch contests	Irene	CLOSED. This account has been opened.
Mar-A6	Circulate proposed new playing format for Branch solos, first to Committee, then to all bands for comment / input	Gary	OPEN. Still outstanding with the Bands. Gary will re-send and all to respond promptly.

4. Approval of previous minutes

Approved: Ian

Seconded: Gordon

5. Correspondence:

- Pitlochry have replied, but no resolution regarding Branch contests
- Pat Whelan has offered to come and talk to us at a date to be arranged
- John Nevans (piping tutor with Lathallan Schools and RSPBA piping adjudicator) wrote with the idea of holding a Summer and/or Easter school between Northern and DPA Branches, using the Curriculum for Excellence as a potential funding stream. Format would be piping & drumming in the morning and outward bound activities in the afternoon. All agreed this was worthwhile, Paul to speak further with John
- A list of instructors and examiner's fees has been received. PDQB courses have a £75 charge, instructors and examiners charge £15/hour up to max £75 per day. (Info only)
- A gentleman was trying to get in touch with Coupar Angus Band regarding Aberfeldy Highland Games, Gary put him in touch
- 700th Anniversary of a town in Germany in 2014, who have written offering to host Scottish Pipe Bands interested in going over. Suggested forwarding on to Stirlingshire Branch (Battle of Bannockburn) and also to HQ website for News.
- Forfar Academy is in touch about potentially hosting Mini-Bands again. Discussed this and decided to approach suitable candidates in Forfar to see if we can get a reduction, and if not potentially go to Craigie if they will do the same deal as for the Solos.

6. Treasurer's Report:

Irene presented the latest figures in the Current and Special Accounts.
(Separate report, remains confidential)

7. Director's Report:

Paul reported briefly as follows:

- 3 bids in for Cowal replacement Major for the next 2 years, and this will be in Belfast (venue to be defined) and current expectation is that it is likely to be mid-June.
- RSPBA Directors do not make decisions during the season, only the Executive Committee.

8. Music Board Report:

N/A as Bruce was absent

9. Website Report:

Neil was absent so no report regarding the main Branch site.

- Re: Facebook, Ian commented that the Facebook site was created on 29th April, and now has 193 "Likes"
- Average weekly reach of around 450 people (actually reaches around 40,000 "friends of friends")
- There are a few posts here and there, a few opinions, but not a lot
- Avoiding adverts etc. 171 fans in UK, and the remainder from a wide variety of different countries.
- Generally going well, would like to see more videos this year.



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10. AOCB:

Carnoustie (Ian)

As a Grade 4B band, not happy with 4B and 4A competing together in Minor contests, as the 4B bands have little incentive to participate when they know they are unlikely to be in the prizes.

After some discussion on this point the wish is to make a proposal to change the grading structure from 1 to 5 (without A's and B's) with the possible option for a premier Grade (top 12 Grade 1 bands) (In line with other Pipe Band Associations, and similar to motions previously discussed)

Paul

Paul put forward a proposal for a system to enter and pay electronically for Branch level contests, thereby ensuring that all monies are received in a timely fashion.

Generally agreed that this should be possible through PayPal. Nigel to discuss potential implementation with Neil.

Paul has received a list of funding sources for music. For information, and available to the Committee if interested, but of potential use in any case for funding Branch education.

Crieff Draw

The draw took place, and will be published shortly to the Branch and HQ websites, Gary to check if Tulliallan is a RSPBA registered band before finalizing.

11. New Action Items

Mtg-Act	Action	Owner	Due By	Status *
Aug-A1	Print out plenty of Perform in Perth entries and bring to the Vale contest in January. Also make a point of mentioning at the AGM.	Nigel	January	NEW
Aug-A2	Speak further with John Nevans to explore the idea of a week-long Easter/Summer/Autumn "Band Camp"	Paul	September	NEW
Aug-A3	Forward on details of German 700 th Anniversary invite to Stirlingshire Branch and also Jason / HQ for "News"	Gary	September	NEW
Aug-A4	Draft a proposal for presentation to HQ regarding grade restructuring, probably to 5 Adult Grades, with a possible "Premier" Grade for the top 12 Grade 1 Bands.	Gary / Ian	September	NEW
Aug-A5	Check Tulliallan is registered with the RSPBA and then publish Crieff draw to both websites	Gary	ASAP	NEW

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

12. Next meeting:

Sunday 29th September 2013, 6.45 pm for 7.00 pm start
AGM 3rd November