



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

Minutes from Branch Meeting Sunday 17th March 2013 in Glencarse Village Hall

1. Chairman's welcome:

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

2. Presence and Apologies:

Present:

Paul McAndrew, Gary Mair, Nigel Kellett, Irene Black, Neil Myles, Bruce Cargill, Barbara Stronach, Ian Campbell, Jim Mills, Owen Sweeney, Jayne Sweeney, Gordon Barton

Apologies:

Gillie McNab

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.
Dec-A3	Review PDQB course options with a view to holding one in the Branch	Bruce Gary	OPEN. Gary chatted briefly to Pat Whelan at the AGM. He will send a letter of invitation to Pat to come and meet with either the committee or band P/M's to explore PDQB options.
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

New actions from February minutes

Mtg-Act	Action	Owner	Status *
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	OPEN. Debated in AOB. Gary to send a proposal to the committee and to the bands.
Feb-A2	Gary to clarify with Crieff High School that they must pay the RSPBA HQ levy (including any late payment penalty) in order to remain a RSPBA registered band	Gary	CLOSED. Crieff confirmed that they have paid the levy to HQ.
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	OPEN. One school has stated it would not be possible, however Morgan Academy might be an option, Gary to investigate. Also, Owen will enquire with Crieff High School Pipe Band if they are interested in hosting.
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	OPEN. Kinross is held at present and cost will be similar to last year, but it has NOT been booked, so need to make a decision on this next month latest.

Corrections to February minutes

Barabara suggested replacing the phrase "will be" by "are" expected to take part in the Crieff Street March. No objections – this will be changed.



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4. Approval of previous minutes

Approved: Bruce

Seconded: Jim

5. Correspondence:

Gary confirmed that requests have gone to HQ for adjudicators for all branch contests, plus for permission for Strathmore and Carnoustie contests.

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:

- Pre-AGM meeting, nothing to note
- Post AGM meeting. As Cowal will no longer be hosting the 5th Major as of next year, they have now submitted a bid to (re-)become a Major, which will go to the Finance Committee and then the Directors for consideration along with all other bids.
- The Summer School would appear to have been withdrawn again this year
- Urgent meeting has been called between the Music Board and the APMB (Adjudicators' Panel Management Board) to resolve outstanding areas of debate/disagreement
- Still awaiting feedback on Branch Constitutions
- Paul and Ian Finlay have been asked to attend the Stirling Branch of the RSPBA to officiate as they currently have no National Councillor in active post
- Music Book. Rule 4.10 needs to be tightened up to clearly say "mainland UK only" (Or indeed this could apply to the whole rule book)

8. Music Board Report:

N/A as there was no meeting. Bruce explained there will be no further Music Board meeting until April.

9. Website Report:

Neil reported as follows:

- Newer members of the Committee to provide details to Neil to include a short bio.
- All names and addresses of committees to be updated on the website

10. AOCB:

Branch Solos:

- Future proposal: On Drumming on pad and chanter, every player will get a (positive / encouraging) crit sheet, then depending on entry size, a maximum of 6 places will be awarded, or half the field (whichever is least) and then a certificate of Achievement given to all the remaining contestants. Proposal carried unanimously. Paul will order some certificates of Achievement.
- Playing formats for Branch contests. Currently there are 19 classes. Proposals to change playing formats to be made and circulated for Bands' input.

Crieff Contest:

- Owen has only had brief contact from Crieff regarding the contest – they don't appear to be looking for any major assistance, but would probably appreciate stewarding
- Sounds of Strathearn have been asked nonetheless to put on the Street March
- Prize money at Crieff for Grade 4MSR has been raised to the same level as that of Grade 4
- There was some suggestion that the Games Committee may be prepared to raise the Grade 1 first prize substantially if it would encourage more Grade 1 bands to come



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Loch Leven Contest

- Nigel reported that donations are going to be OK this year, as there has been a substantial (one-off) donation from the new Co-Op. They will provide marketing material (banners etc) which will be displayed on the day
- Street March will be going ahead, starting from the Gacé Garden towards the bottom end of Kinross, to kick the Half Marathon runners off, and will finish up near the gates of Kinross house
- Positive indications so far regarding entries. Most if not all of the 12 bands from last year said they would come back, and at least another 8 additional bands have confirmed they will be attending

Perform in Perth

- Nigel suggested that Branch Bands try to send some of their youngsters to the Perform in Perth music festival – usually around the second weekend in March. Gary to check if OK to widen their player pool to take in players for DPA branch bands

Strathmore Contest:

- Request from Strathmore to see if more local adjudicators could be obtained, in order to reduce the cost
- Gary has been trying to get in touch

New Carnoustie Contest:

- Gary has produced a draft entry form for Carnoustie and will send on to Ian for review
- Ian reported that the Gala Committee are happy with the contest
- Fund raising is ongoing, trophies being organized.
- Carnoustie will be applying for a grant, so there may be an opportunity to apply for any additional capital equipment needed for the event. All to forward suggestions on to Ian of items that may be required

General

- A proposal was made to co-opt Owen and Jayne Sweeney on to the Committee
 - **Proposed:** Nigel
 - **Seconded:** Bruce
 - And Owen and Jayne both accepted
- Neil mentioned that RSPBA could save a lot in postage if they would give members the opportunity to receive communications by email instead (over £9K in postage last year!)
- Neil suggested an alternative Mini-Band Format, to allow more flexibility for bringing extra players. i.e. an option to have 4/5 pipers, for example. A quick vote in the committee showed 2 in favour of a review by the Music Board, 2 against, the rest abstentions, and Chairman's casting vote was against. However, no problem to raise again in the future if we so choose.
- Email received from the secretary of Perth Games regarding the possible placement of a second ring at Perth Highland Games. Paul will reply with the suggestion.
- Player registration database. Paul has brought this up, and has been given the opportunity to prepare a pilot or presentation to the Finance and Media sub-committee towards the end of the year. It was suggested that we might like to organize a pilot ourselves with a few bands from the Branch. Nigel and Paul to consider.



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11. New Action Items

Mtg-Act	Action	Owner	Due By	Status *
Mar-A1	Find out from Perform in Perth if they can accept players from bands residing in DPA Branch	Gary	May	NEW
Mar-A2	Gary to check with Crieff if they would be prepared to put up a higher first prize for Grade 1	Gary	May	NEW
Mar-A3	Consider implementing a pilot player registration database	Nigel, Paul	Aug	NEW
Mar-A4	Advise Ian of any needs in terms of equipment for a grant application to run the Carnoustie contest	ALL	ASAP	NEW
Mar-A5	Open a new Bank Account for the purpose of collecting Patron's regular contributions to Branch contests	Irene	May	NEW
Mar-A6	Circulate proposed new playing format for Branch solos, first to Committee, then to all bands for comment / input	Gary	May	NEW

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

12. Next meeting:

Sunday 12th May 2013, 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm start