



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

Minutes from Branch Meeting Sunday 16th March 2014 in the Glencarse Village Hall

1. Chairman's welcome:

Paul opened the meeting at 7.03 pm and welcomed everyone to this, the second meeting of the year.

2. Presence and Apologies:

Present:

Paul McAndrew, Gary Mair, Nigel Kellett, Gillie McNab, Jim Mills, Neil Myles, Bruce Cargill, Irene Black, Owen Sweeney, Jayne Sweeney, Sandy Duthie

Apologies:

Ian Campbell, Gordon Barton, Stewart Findlay

3. Matters arising from minutes of last meeting:

Actions from minutes in 2013

Mtg-Act	Action	Owner	Status *
Sep-A3	Suggest at next Director's Meeting that Jason Lafferty be authorized to publish any Open event summaries along with the regular grades from minor contests. (Band's actual grades would be shown in the same way as when playing up)	Paul	OPEN. (Not mentioned at last 2 meetings) Paul to bring up at next meeting
Sep-A5	Investigate recent winners' names and dates of the Open Drumming trophy and arrange to have details added to it.	Gary / Paul	OPEN. (This was the NCR trophy) Trophy currently with McKenzie – dates to be given to Neil to publish question on the website? 16/03 Trophy still with the BB's. Jim to contact and ask which years were missing

Actions from 2014 Meeting No 1 / January

Mtg-Act	Action	Owner	Status *
Jan-A1	Request feedback from all branch bands regarding branch solos in Dundee (location, competition format, facilities) Also to ask all bands for new photos / up to date info on bands	Gary	CLOSED. Only formal feedback was from Brechin. Kinross discussed it at Committee meeting but no objections to new format. Perth. Discussed further under AOB below.
Jan-A2	Try and locate possible options for additional archiving	Gary	CLOSED. Gary has spoken to Dundee Central Library but limited progress so far. Another option is just to put it all with Perth. New action below
Jan-A3	All to provide a couple of photos of bands for latest updates	Neil	OPEN. Alyth and Carnoustie have given some items. Other bands still to deliver
Jan-A4	Gary to write to Jim Campbell to request potential assessment days (e.g. Sundays) between now and end April.	Gary	OPEN. Discussed below under AOB. Gary to request Sunday 21 st September

4. Approval of previous minutes

Approved: Jim Mills

Seconded: Gillie McNab

5. Correspondence:

- Email from HQ informing of Pipe Band Summer School. Bands present confirm they've seen it.
- Re our own summer school, info received from Fife about possible funding route. Gary spoke to Creative Scotland but this year's funding closes end March (and is all used up). So speak again early next financial year, for an event possibly to take place in October. Possibility of starting with just a weekend, rather than a full week – particularly as a week might be difficult to find that ties in with all the school terms. Gary to look at dates for either a week or a weekend.



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- Jim Campbell replied re Outreach training for branch band tutors. No availability of tutors at this time of year, but September/October may be do-able. Provisionally suggest Sunday 21st September, potentially here at the Glencarse Hall, or at Craigie High School.
- Craigie High School looking for confirmation on booking for Branch Solos. Provisionally request Sat 15th November.
- Email from Alyth to say Jaquie Bissett has stepped down as Secretary and Elaine Sturrock has replaced her. They were also wondering if anyone can help them update their own website, as the person originally doing it has left.
- Letter from HQ re UK Championships. All branches being asked if they wish to fund an engraved trophy for this new championship. £200 for a first place trophy or £50 for a shield for places 2nd to 6th. Each branch can request which grade they want the trophy for, but it will be on a first come first served basis. Discussed and agreed to go for a trophy for 'RSPBA Dundee, Perth & Angus Branch', ask for Grade 1, and if not, any other Grade.
- Piping Times wish to know if we want to advertise in Piping Times for £40 + VAT. Discussed => No.
- 3 quotes received for programmes for Loch Leven contest. £495 for 800 copies, 2nd quote £516, 3rd quote £520.

6. Treasurer's Report:

Irene presented the Treasurer's report to all present. (Separate report, data remains confidential)

7. Director's Report:

- Paul reported as follows:
 - AGM on 8th March. Report didn't appear until the week leading up to the meeting so no time to register proxy votes. So they were accepting proxy votes up until the opening of the meeting.
 - Stirling Branch having an EGM on Sunday 30th March. If they cannot form a committee the branch will be disbanded (18 bands) and those bands re-distributed.
 - Music Board have authorized that we now have Strathmore as a 3B band in the branch.
 - Now a Vice-Chairman's action to take action against any bands leaving the field before end of Massed Bands
 - Looking at possibility of making the digitized Structured Learning Book free. Difficulties because the app is chargeable, and might cost RSPBA £10 a copy.
 - The new Adjudicator's Development Group is chaired by the Education Officer, with 2 of each adjudicator type and 2 directors. The previous panel has been disbanded.
 - HQ request the dates of all Branch indoor and outdoor contests for the next again year by October latest from now on.
 - Child protection. The Education Officer has now been given the additional post of Child Protection Officer for the RSPBA. A draft volunteer policy is now in place. Also there is a lady in Arbroath who will assist branch bands with their own CP policies.
 - The Worlds is confirmed as Friday and Saturday, but currently Glasgow Council are proposing to charge for entry on the Friday, £5 entry and £3 for band members on advance application. HQ will be stressing to the Council that they are unhappy with this and that band members should be free.
 - Electronic membership. 4 directors have been put on another working group to look at membership of the RSPBA in general, and how best to do it.

8. Music Board Report:

- Bruce reported as follows:
 - Reviewing the jump from Novice Juvenile to Juvenile. Very difficult to compete the way it's currently set up. (e.g. Grade 4 bands have a 2 step transition)
 - Big discussion re number of competitors in any one band, but concluded that we cannot legislate
 - Discussion about re-grading overseas bands, e.g. some overseas have Grade 2 Juveniles
 - Grade 4B and possibly 4A. 15 to 18 band finals at the Worlds, effective from this year.
 - All higher to lower transfers now come to the Music Board convener (Bruce)
 - A document exists regarding grading and appeals criteria, and how to challenge if needed. (Not yet publicly available, but will go onto the website as soon as possible)



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- A pilot for consultative adjudication is being run on a trial basis. Results will not be published, information will simply go to one of the directors.

9. Website Report:

- Neil reported as follows:
 - Kirk was going to give Neil some advice on re-vamping website. Still outstanding. Everyone happy to wait for Neil to be ready
 - Very little news or publicity received from the bands. All bands encouraged to send something on to Neil at pipeband@neiltmyles.plus.com or webmaster@rspba-dpa.org
 - Still no information in from Crieff High School band

10. AOCB:

- Feedback on new format for Branch Solos
 - Neil obtained info on North of Scotland format for discussion
 - After some discussion, proposal to add in an under 14 Novice age group, but if either age group Novice class is less than 5 people, classes may be merged. (Or by age group)
- Ian Campbell in his absence had sent an email in regarding news for the magazine. Looking for an article on Ian Duncan at the Vale. Neil could also potentially send something in. All bands encouraged to send in info or articles
- Gary. John Connor, Tom Brown and Paul Turner will be judges for the DPA Mini-Bands. In consultation with Perth to get their entry forms out. Lastly, will be sending an email out looking for volunteers at mini-bands and also Loch Leven in May. Owen gave feedback that bands were unhappy
- Nigel. Loch Leven contest all pretty much in hand. Fund raising going reasonably well. Looking to apply to charitable foundation for assistance with admin costs. (e.g. printing costs and/or adjudicator fees)
- Owen. Are only affiliated bands able to put articles forward to P&D magazine. Suggests they put something forward to Ian.
- Neil. Perth & District apologises for missing Strathmore this year as that will be the same day as the Kirking of the Council, but will try hard to make Carnoustie this year.
 - Request a slightly later starting time for the AGM to allow people from further afield to attend.
 - Request about the band not having been contacted in the case of FaceBook comments last year. Response from Paul: If a member of a band puts an inflammatory article on FaceBook, then that band and/or that band member may face sanctions. In the case where it was a branch official, then that member, or their band would not necessarily be contacted.
- Irene. Request that on entry forms it clearly states that bands should pay their money with their entry forms
- DPA will be running drumming workshops on the day of the mini bands for Angus area school children, led by Paul Brown. A piping/chanter workshop will also be run as part of the Kirriemuir Solos.

11. New Action Items

Mtg-Act	Action	Owner	Due By	Status *
Mar-A1	Gary to contact Perth Library to give them minutes up to a year from now	Gary	June	NEW
Mar-A2	Gary to talk to Creative Scotland about possible funding for October School	Gary	May	NEW
Mar-A3	Gary to talk to Craigie High School and Outreach for tutor training on Sunday 21 st September, and also Branch Solos on Saturday 15 th November	Gary	May	NEW
Mar-A4	Apply to fund a trophy for the UK Championships, request Grade 1 or any other Grade	Gary	May	NEW

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

12. Next meeting: **Sunday 4th May, 6.45 for 7.00 pm start**