



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

Minutes from Branch Meeting No 6 Sunday 6th December 2015 in the Glencarse Village Hall

1. Chairman's welcome:

Paul opened the meeting at 7.00pm and welcomed everyone including some new faces to this, the sixth and final meeting of the year.

2. Presence and Apologies:

Present: Paul McAndrew, Irene Black, Andrew Donaldson, Bruce Cargill, Andrew Downie, Alexandra Donaldson, Gary Mair, Stewart Findlay, Greig Ogilvie, Ian Hughes, Jim Mills, Willie Tait, Paul Winter, Nicola Liddell

Apologies: Nigel Kellett, Owen Sweeney, Gillie McNab, Dawn Waddell

3. Matters arising from minutes of last meeting:

Actions from minutes in June 2015

Mtg-Act	Action	Owner	Status *
June-A1	Circulate draft constitution to committee initially, then round band secretaries for option to comment in, say a 1 month time scale	Gary	CLOSED. Distributed prior to AGM and subsequently approved.
June-A3	Decide on 2016 Branch Championship format at the next meeting	ALL	CLOSED. This was discussed at meeting and agreement sought.

Actions from minutes in October 2015

Mtg-Act	Action	Owner	Status *
Oct-A1	Review possibility of allowing Band secretaries (if not in uniform) to be allowed free entry to all contests with their bands	Paul	CLOSED. Raised at Board of Directors meeting and has been covered (see 'Registration' information under Director's Report).
Oct-A2	Write to request permission to hold separate 4B and 4A contests at all branch minor contests next year	Gary	CLOSED. Written to HQ and confirmation received with approval to run separate Grade 4B and 4A contests.
Oct-A3	Bring up at Directors Meeting the need to ensure that all RSPBA instructors are PVG checked	Paul	OPEN. Now in progress; meeting scheduled for Wednesday 9.12.15 with Volunteer Scotland and RSPBA.
Oct-A4	Amend the draft recommended child protection policy with the intention of it being adopted at next meeting	Morag	CLOSED. Policy document adopted at AGM.
Oct-A5	Amend the draft constitution to show the explanation for 2 directors, and send out to committee for comments	Gary	CLOSED. Completed, adopted at AGM. Entitled to have more than 2 directors if more than 21 bands (the branch currently has 39).

Further matters arising:

- No other matters arising.

4. Approval of previous minutes

Approved: Jim Mills

Seconded: Stewart Findlay

5. Correspondence:

- Gary Mair received RSPBA communication regarding Grade 4A and Grade 4B with agreement to hold separate contests (impact on online registrations highlighted).



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- Following AGM, Perth & District email communication received outlining suggested rule changes, specifically:
Lay Members – restriction on how many committee members can come from one band. Paul McAndrew advised this is informally no more than 2 members however agreed needs to be written down formally.
Co-opted Members – Suggest “a person may be co-opted to attend committee meetings provided they have a written role (eg. in the minutes) to undertake which will benefit the branch’s members or bands. The co-option will not last for more than one year or until the AGM (the co-option could be voted on to continue at that point). Voting on the nature of the role, timing and nomination must be carried out when the proposed co-opted person is absent from the meeting”.
Data Protection – Suggest inclusion of “the Branch will hold data in compliance with data protection legislation. The Secretary will be the Branch’s Data Controller”. Paul McAndrew proposed that a branch policy is required on who has access, where and how the branch is keeping this information.

Gary Mair to review wording with thought to the existing Branch Constitution points (17) *Each band shall be entitled to one vote only, voting by proxy is not permitted*, and (22) *Associate Membership may be available within the Branch at the fee determined by the Management Committee. Associate Membership shall not entitle the holder to any voting powers, but shall permit him/her to take part in the business of the Branch at the discretion of the Chairman*. Action recorded below.

- Gary to confirm if HQ has received a copy of Constitution; requires approval by Board of Directors.

6. Treasurer’s Report:

- Irene presented the accounts, contained in a separate confidential document **Nigel to attach as separate document**

7. Music Board Report:

- Bruce reported as follows:
 - Asked if anyone in the Branch had any complaints regarding security etc. at the World Championships. It is believed there may be some information not reaching the Directors. An issue was queried regarding not being able to tune up at Glasgow Green; Paul McAndrew clarified an existing bylaw which does not permit anyone to play before 9am outside the park.
 - The Music Board had an in-depth discussion on the merits of a concert style formation (pipers in front and drummers behind) from circular arrangement at contests. Where it was agreed this may appeal to audiences, some problems were posed for the bands to control sound levels and coordination between players.
 - A gradings appeal was upheld for Central Scotland RAF Pipes and Drums.

8. Director’s Report:

- Paul reported as follows
- An offer was made for HQ building and rejected. Following a reasonable quote received, authorisation was given for a significant repair on the leaking roof.
- Cupar Games – Board of Directors refused license as historic Shotts contest held on the same day. Cupar event has been granted licenses in past but not gone ahead, would have been one of our branch contests. RSPBA to notify Cupar directly.
- Stirling branch AGM taking place today, Sunday 6.12.15 - no update available.
- Registration – A working document now exists and project being led by Vice Chairman. Board believe will be progressed with individual membership cards whereby bands will be responsible for their registrations and billed accordingly (looking at minimum/maximum fees if only 1 member etc). Cards expected to be non-photographic with scanning ID chip storing name, date of birth (if relevant), address (or school address), photograph and playing history – all currently under review. Band secretaries likely to be issued with log-in details to manage online membership scheme; with regard to previous query raised this shall also enable Band Secretaries to display cards to receive free entry. Presentation planned during AGM and implementation expected 2017, with a 9 month grace period envisaged for bands to bring their lists up-to-date. Paul McAndrew encouraged bands to start to review and tidy up their rosters in preparation for this new proposed scheme.



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- Crit sheets – Adjudicators will now adopt a triplicate crit sheet in order to retain their own copy. If bands wish to discuss any point raised, this will assist the adjudicator in recalling any comments.
- **Branch bands** confirmed as follows -

6/8 Boys Brigade
Arbroath
Alyth and District
Bowhill and District
Carnoustie and District
City of Brechin x 2
City of Discovery
City of St Andrews x 2
Communities of Cardenden
Coupar Angus Burgh
Crieff High School
Edradour, Pitlochry and Blair Atholl
Kelty and Blair Adam

Kinross and District
Lochgelly
Lochgelly High School
MacKenzie Caledonian x 2
Mains of Fintry
Methil and District
Perth and District
Peter Vardy and District 2010
RAF Central Scotland Pipes and Drums
Strathearn
Strathmore
Vale of Atholl x 3

It was noted that Police Scotland Fife has moved to L&B. Kirkcaldy to remain with L&B. Gary Mair to follow-up with RSPBA HQ to clarify status of any communications sent to Branch bands; Action noted below.

- **Branch contests** for 2016 were confirmed as -

Kinross	Saturday 14 th May 2016
Markinch	Saturday 5 th June 2016
Strathmore	Sunday 12 th June 2016
Lochore	Saturday 18 th June 2016
Thornton	Saturday 2 nd July 2016
Perth	Sunday 14 th August 2016
Crieff	Saturday 27 th August 2016 TBC
Pitlochry	Saturday 10 th September 2016

The following key events will remain with L&B: Burntisland (16th July 2016), Inverkeithing (6th August 2016, falls on same day as North Berwick) and Dunfermline (unlikely to go ahead this year). Board of Directors approved inclusion of branch solo events (to help each of the branches know what is going on elsewhere).

- **Branch Championships** will be made up of the following 6 events – Kinross, Markinch, Strathmore, Lochore, Thornton and Perth (with Champion of Champions unable to be decided until Perth contest). Top 3 results to be taken from any of the 6, if there's a tie – broken on best result to next best result. A discussion followed on whether points should be added for bands who attend all 6 events, or other form of incentive – unanimous approval to offer complimentary branch levy for the year ahead to any band participating in all 6 in thanks for their attendance. Lochore, Markinch & Thornton may not have AB breakdown for Grade 4; Paul McAndrew to follow-up and discuss.
- **Minibands** – Craigie High School, Saturday 23rd April 2016. A summary of playing requirements was summarized by Gary Mair (entry forms to follow). Agreement to host full band indoor contests following this year's success but in a more limited capacity of maximum 12 pipers, 5 sides, 3 tenors and 1 base. Grade minimums to be adopted; Gary Mair to review. Participating bands to ensure they are aware of prescribed sizes in place in advance of the event. £10 entry fee agreed. Play-up permitted if time allows. Contest will operate with a dedicated room set-up for circular arrangement with adjudicators around sides and 2 rows of seating. Will run by Grade and will be open to any band. Consideration given to no existing trophies although can be deemed a pilot initially, or if sufficient entries are received a nominal 1st prize cash sum allocated / financial sponsorship considered. To be kept under review; action added.
- **Branch solos** – thanks was extended to Andrew Brown for ensuring the competition went ahead following rewiring works at the Craigie High School venue. Paul McAndrew also took the opportunity to apologise for the delay in issuing the results following some complications with results – Action noted for Nigel Kellett



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to simplify results sheets to avoid any future confusion. A large entry for chanter was noted – it was the intention for this event to have taken place in the larger Library venue had it not been for rewiring situation.

- **World solo qualifiers** can be held anywhere across branch (using RSPBA judges). Same format as this year to be adopted. Although the event was known, more notice in future would pull-in a bigger entry.
- **Loch Leven** entry forms - playing requirements as per British and assumption to include Drum Majors pending negotiation between Paul McAndrew and John Hughes; Action noted below. Paypal wording to be reviewed by Gary Mair, and following decision on Drum Majors, arrange for entry forms to be uploaded on Branch website. Irene Black confirmed the following account to be used for payment of Branch entries - TSB Dundee branch - sort code 30 25 87 / account number 11332660.

9. Education

Now falls under the remit of the Education Officer and not the Music Board (amended at 2014 AGM but never taken up until now).

- Pipe Band College - looking at being established. 2 Directors appointed; Paul McAndrew and John Gibb. Terms of reference being put together to include Music Board representatives, adjudicators and people with relevant experience.
- RSPBA Summer School - event to go ahead from 1st - 5th August 2016 at the Glasgow Gaelic School. All in agreement to once again support 3 funded places for Branch winners @ £150 each – 1 x piper, 1 x drummer, 1 x tenor drummer (novices). To avoid future 'no shows', respective band(s) will be asked to pay for place(s) initially and thereafter cost to be recouped from Branch Treasurer.
- Outreach Programme - some issues arose in relation to this event being set-up by the Branch but subsequently having to withdraw one week prior due to lack of uptake. Will look to try to promoting this again. Paul McAndrew confirmed money is set aside for education; any training using approved RSPBA staff can be coordinated through Pat Wheelan, Education Officer, and covered under Outreach. Following some discussion, it was suggested workshops were perhaps too late to consider as Bands have competition sets already in place. Some general tuition to be considered and discussed at the next meeting, action recorded below.
- Approved Gradings - empower the Directors to have delegated authority to approve any actions from committees they are assigned to.
- Bruce Cargill further reported the standards group is looking at a realignment of all grades; the Board of Directors has requested that a working paper be drawn up to bring back to a future meeting.
- Adjudicators Panel Management Board (APMB) – a batch of new adjudicators are now qualified, details as follows:
Piping (38 in total) - Attached adjudicators x 28 / International unattached piping x 5 / Attached piping adjudicators x 5
Drumming (24 in total) – Unattached x 15 / International unattached x 2 / Attached x 7
Drum Major – adjudicators x 7, and a further 3 due to complete exams next weekend taking up to 10.
- APMB voted and accepted the allocation group will now avoid selecting adjudicators who have immediate family members playing in that particular grade (refers to biological relatives and those related through marriage).

10. Media Report:

- **Branch Website:** Paul McAndrew advised a redesign of the existing HQ site had been requested and is likely to follow the format of the newly updated DPA and L&B sites. Nicola Liddell confirmed all online registration work, including Paypal set-up, is on track for completion by end-December; minor queries to be progressed. Outstanding band levies will be added to account when band enters next competition (all competition entries to be made online going forward). All recent updates have been uploaded, including 'Protection of Children & Vulnerable Adults' policy document. The 2016 events calendar will be uploaded end-December (in conjunction with RSPBA calendar to avoid duplicate work). Reminder of any band updates and changes to be notified to Nicola Liddell nicola.m.liddell@btinternet.com.

Non-RSPBA events to be included for information on website. Includes; Vale of Atholl Solos (Saturday 16th



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January 2016, Pitlochry), Strathmore Solos (Saturday 19th March 2016 PROV, Kirriemuir), Kingdom Thistle Solos (9th/16th April 2016 PROV, Lochgelly High School). Action added below.

- **RSPBA Magazine:** Gary Mair reported that due to business commitments, Craig Black has taken over this role from Craig Fyall for the Branch. Any articles to be forwarded to pmcraig11@yahoo.co.uk. RSPBA contact: Robert Wallace mob 07957 818672 or email pipebandmag@gmail.com. Future submission dates are: 15th Nov (for Jan 2016), 15th Feb (for April 2016), 15th May (for July 2016) and 15th Aug (for October 2016 issue).
- **Branch Facebook page:** Any updates to be forwarded to Stewart Findlay (either by private mail, or you can message the Branch Facebook page directly).

11. AOCB:

- Andrew Downie asked if there was any follow-up to a proposed change of name for the Branch. Paul McAndrew advised of a potential realignment being looked at by the Board of Directors with no plans to change anything at present. Paul McAndrew agreed to raise again if no movement at next meeting.
- Ian Hughes thanked Bruce on his assistance with grading appeal for Central Scotland RAF Pipes and Drums.
- Jim Mills expressed his thanks to the committee for the success of the recent solos; extended thanks was noted to the venue and to helpful janitors who took in a hand in the smooth running of the day.

12. New Action Items

Mtg-Act	Action	Owner	Due By	Status *
Dec-A1	Gary Mair to review wording of potential introduction of rules in line with comments received from Perth & District.	Gary		New
Dec-A2	Gary Mair to confirm receipt of Constitution by RSPBA HQ.	Gary		New
Dec-A3	Gary Mair to clarify status of band changes with RSPBA HQ	Gary		New
Dec-A4	Irene Black to monitor bands who enter all 6 Branch Championships to offer complimentary branch levy where relevant	Irene		New
Dec-A5	Paul McAndrew to review AB breakdown for Grade 4 at Lochore, Markinch & Thornton contests	Paul		New
Dec-A6	Minibands (Craigie HS), 23.4.16 – Gary Mair to review and adopt grade minimums / Paul McAndrew to revisit possible prize monies	Gary / Paul		New
Dec-A7	Nigel Kellett to simply results sheets (unlock cells + as discussed with Gary Mair)	Nigel		New
Dec-A8	3 places to be reserved for Branch winners on RSPBA Summer School	Gary		New
Dec-A9	Outreach Programme / General tuition to be considered and discussed at next meeting.	Paul		New
Dec-A10	Non-RSPBA events to be included on Branch calendar for info.	Nicola		New
Dec-11	Potential Branch change of name – Paul McAndrew to raise again if no update received at next Board of Directors meeting	Paul		New

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

13. Next Branch Meeting Date(s):

Next meeting to take place on **7th February 2016**, 6.30 for 7.00pm start. Future meeting dates scheduled for 13th March 2016, 1st May 2016 (last one prior to competition season). Continuing on 2nd October 2016, AGM on 6th November 2016, 4th December 2016.