



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

### Minutes from Branch Meeting No 4 Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2015 in the Glencarse Village Hall

**1. Chairman's welcome:**

Paul opened the meeting at 7.05 pm and welcomed everyone to this, the fourth meeting of the year.

**2. Presence and Apologies:**

**Present:** Paul McAndrew, Gary Mair, Nigel Kellett, Bruce Cargill, Irene Black, Stewart Findlay, Jim Mills, Greig Ogilvie

**Apologies:** Gillie McNab, Nicola Liddell, Morag Mckenzie, Owen Sweenie, Paul Winter, Iain Finlay, Craig Fyall

**Guests:** Nicola Wilkie (City of St Andrews), Ian Hughes (RAF Pipes & Drums)

**3. Matters arising from minutes of last meeting:**

**Actions from minutes in 2013**

Mtg-Act	Action	Owner	Status *
Sep-A5	Investigate recent winners' names and dates of the Open Drumming trophy and arrange to have details added to it.	Gary / Paul	<b>OPEN.</b> (This was the NCR trophy) Trophy now with the latest winner, Calumn Burns, now got all dates except 68, 72, 75, 83, 94 and 2000 to 2007. (Plus 2013) Suggestion to now post them onto the website to see if anyone can help.

**Actions from minutes in May 2015**

Mtg-Act	Action	Owner	Status *
May-A1	Request clarity from HQ regarding alleged rule that higher to lower transfer players cannot play until their appointment has been approved by the Board of Directors	Bruce	<b>CLOSED.</b> Clarified that in the event of higher to lower transfers it is the Gradings Group that approves the players initially, which is then confirmed by the Board of Directors. If in doubt on eligibility to play, check with HQ or the Gradings Convener. (currently Bruce Cargill)
May-A2	Write to all bands entered for Kinross that registration checks will be carried out on the day, and that sanctions will be applied	Gary	<b>CLOSED.</b> Confirmed that this can and will be done at both Majors and Minor contests
May-A3	Try and organize transport for Coupar Angus to play runners off at Kinross	Nigel	<b>CLOSED.</b> All went off smoothly – thanks to Coupar Angus Burgh
May-A4	Write to HQ copy Jason to request that the Pitlochry contest calendar entry shows 'Invitational contest – Entry forms on application only' instead of 'Awaiting Entry Form'	Gary	<b>CLOSED.</b> This is now clear on the website
May-A5	Send cheque to Craigie High School for printer damage	Gary	<b>CLOSED.</b> Gesture much appreciated by school
May-A6	Send info out to bands about Glencarse contest on 23 <sup>rd</sup> August	Gary	<b>CLOSED.</b> Perth & District have volunteered to play – thanks
May-A7	Write to all new (ex-Fife branch) bands to ask them to pay the branch levy, and also to submit details to Nicola for the website, and to advise them of special additional meeting on Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Gary	<b>CLOSED</b>

**Further matters arising:**

- Summer School all set up and local branch novice contest winners are going as planned



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#### 4. Approval of previous minutes

Approved: Stewart Findlay

Seconded: Jim Mills

#### 5. Correspondence:

- Correspondence between Branch and Morag in relation to child protection policy, draft document submitted. Key points: this should be linked to the National policy. Decided to go with 'encouraged / recommended' that all branch bands should have a child protection policy, rather than mandating it
- New website. Copy of constitution should go on the website. In progress looking at a proposed draft document. Gary will circulate to committee for initial comment, then to band secretaries.
- Request from Perth for acknowledgement for Major entries, because the first they find out about a cheque not arriving is they have not been entered. Paul and Bruce will look into this
- Channel 4 will be filming at Strathmore. (info only)
- Request from Kinross to look at consequences of disqualification due to registration irregularities as at the Kinross contest, due to the 3<sup>rd</sup> placed band being subsequently disqualified, the 2<sup>nd</sup> placed band improved their drumming place putting them on equal points with the 1<sup>st</sup> placed band, at which point the previously 2<sup>nd</sup> placed band became first on piping preference. So as a result of a band being disqualified the previously winning band was **downgraded** from first place. A lengthy debate ensued:
  - On the one hand the argument was that on this basis it is inherently unfair that, for example, a band could win the World Championship in Grade 1 on the day, only to have it taken off them at a later date due to another band's registration failures. A proposal to avoid this was to keep all the individual adjudicator scores as they stood on the day, but simply 'grey or score out' the disqualified band, and bump up by one **overall** place only the bands that were underneath the band in question. In this way, no band would ever be penalized as a result of another band's problem.
  - On the other hand, the counter argument was that whether any disqualifications take place on the day, or later after having double-checked, then the final result - after disqualification – **is the only fair result**, and all adjudicator scores for the disqualified bands are removed, therefore it is possible that the final overall places will be different.
  - Finally, it was pointed out that trying to change this could involve changing a number of different, associated, rules, and the precedent had already been set, and therefore it would be difficult to bring about this change.

#### 6. Treasurer's Report:

- Irene presented the accounts, contained in a separate confidential document

#### 7. Music Board Report:

- Bruce reported as follows:
  - No music board meetings since last branch meeting, re-gradings of various bands taking place
  - Reminder to bands that there is the option to request some of the locally based adjudicators to come along early in the winter and give pointers for bands

#### 8. Director's Report:

- Paul reported as follows
- No meetings since last branch meeting.
- Registration checks have been continuing, one major, and one minor so far. Most contests averaging 15 bands being checked with 3 or 4 coming up with a problem
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#### 9. Education

- No date yet for Outreach. Still trying to get hold of Jim Campbell. Gary will write to Pat Whelan to ask, copy John Hughes



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**10. Website Report: (this section to be re-named Media Report from next meeting onwards, to cover website, magazine and Facebook)**

- **Branch Website:** New website is up and running now under Jason Lafferty, and all bands (new bands from Fife included) are requested to send pictures etc through Nicola Liddell for publication to the site
- **RSPBA Magazine:** No news, a couple of articles have been sent, but no news from Craig
- **Branch Facebook page:** Stewart is Administrator, and confirmed he will add the Fife bands as members

**11. AOCB:**

- **Strathmore contest.** Entry fees go direct to organisers and we will not be applying a levy – basically to support what is a small contest
- **Branch Championship.** For this year only Perth will be classified as the Branch Championship contest (as Strathmore is quite small, Kinross was too early for the Fife bands joining, and there is no Crieff this year) so best branch bands on the day at **Perth** will win branch championship trophies. For next year the championship is likely to include some of the Fife contests such as Markinch, Lochore, Thornton, and Cupar (if going ahead). And hopefully also Kinross, Strathmore, Crieff, Perth, and hopefully the new Dundee contest.
- The touted Dundee contest at the Michelin factory will not now take place this year, but they are hoping to run it next year.
- Question from Nicola: Is there an official requirement to register bands at minors? (Instance at Dunbar where a band not registered turned up late, and were ‘shoe-horned’ in ahead of another band ready to go on – and went on to win) Answer was that there does not appear to be an official requirement, but this is common courtesy and should be reinforced, and possibly Stewards should be made aware that in this case the band should go on last (if other bands agree). To be clarified.
- Potential re-naming of Branch. Discussed a couple of options such as ‘Tayside and North Fife’ or ‘Tayside and North-East Fife’ or ‘East of Scotland’. After a short debate, it was decided to propose ‘East of Scotland’ Branch to HQ.
- Congratulations from Jim to all local bands who took places at the British Championship.

**12. New Action Items**

Mtg-Act	Action	Owner	Due By	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	August	New
June-A2	Check whether electronic payment acknowledgements are in place for Major entries, and if not, is it possible	Paul / Bruce	October	New
June-A3	Decide on 2016 Branch Championship format at the next meeting	ALL	October	New
June-A4	Clarify rules regarding need to register a band's arrival at a contest	Paul	October	New
June-A5	Propose name change to HQ ‘East of Scotland Branch’	Paul	October	New

\* **Status** should be “New”, “Open”, “Closed” or “Cancelled”

**13. Next Branch Meeting: Sun 4<sup>th</sup> Oct, 6.30 for 7.00 pm start.**

- Reminder of Branch meeting dates for 2015:
- 8<sup>th</sup> Feb, 22<sup>nd</sup> Mar, 3<sup>rd</sup> June, Mon 8<sup>th</sup> June, **4<sup>th</sup> Oct, AGM on 1<sup>st</sup> Nov, 15<sup>th</sup> Nov, 6<sup>th</sup> Dec**