



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

Minutes from Branch Meeting No 6 Sunday 7th February 2016 in the Glencarse Village Hall

1. Chairman's welcome:

Paul opened the meeting at 7.00pm and welcomed everyone, and in particular John Nevan, Principal of the RSPBA Summer School, who started the evening with a presentation and discussion on education.

2. Presence and Apologies:

Present: Paul McAndrew, Irene Black, Bruce Cargill, Gary Mair, Stewart Findlay, Jim Mills, Paul Winter, Nicola Liddell, Owen Sweeney, Gillie McNab, Ian Stevenson, Ian Finlay

Apologies: Greig Ogilvie, Jayne Sweeney, Ian Hughes, Dawn Waddell, Claire Scott

3. Matters arising from minutes of last meeting:

Actions from minutes in October 2015

Mtg-Act	Action	Owner	Status *
Oct-A3	Bring up at Directors Meeting the need to ensure that all RSPBA instructors are PVG checked	Paul	OPEN. Meeting took place on 9/12/15. Suggestion to run in the branch along a 'hub and spoke' principle, having one person in the branch responsible, and then one person in each band to report in to this person. Paul to circulate document to the committee.

Actions from minutes in December 2015

Mtg-Act	Action	Owner	Status *
Dec-A1	Gary Mair to review wording of potential introduction of rules in line with comments received from Perth & District.	Gary	OPEN. Gary going through L&B rules to see what we can develop that fits with our constitution
Dec-A2	Gary Mair to confirm receipt of Constitution by RSPBA HQ.	Gary	CLOSED. Done on 07/12/15
Dec-A3	Gary Mair to clarify status of band changes with RSPBA HQ	Gary	CLOSED. All clear now which bands are with which branch
Dec-A4	Irene Black to monitor bands who enter all 6 Branch Championships to offer complimentary branch levy where relevant	Irene	OPEN. Ongoing to end of season
Dec-A5	Paul McAndrew to review AB breakdown for Grade 4 at Lochore, Markinch & Thornton contests	Paul	OPEN. Paul has made the suggestion and is awaiting feedback from the various contests
Dec-A6	Mini bands (Craigie HS), 23.4.16 – Gary Mair to review and adopt grade minimums / Paul McAndrew to revisit possible prize monies	Gary / Paul	CLOSED. Entries now available on website
Dec-A7	Nigel Kellett to simplify results sheets (unlock cells + as discussed with Gary Mair)	Nigel	OPEN. Nigel still to simplify and send back out to Irene etc
Dec-A8	3 places to be reserved for Branch winners on RSPBA Summer School	Gary	CLOSED. The 3 names are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jack Liddell (piping) - Andrew Mands (drumming) - Ewan Noble (tenor) Plan is to ask parents to pay and the branch will refund them after the event (1 st to 5 th August, £180 cost)



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Dec-A9	Outreach Programme / General tuition to be considered and discussed at next meeting.	Paul	OPEN. Clarified that the previous Outreach money can be used to fund branch education. If we provide venue, then HQ will fund the tuition team. Consider possible dates in March next year, possibly in Dundee, for central location, ease of parking. Suggest all levels, rather than just P/M.s and L/D's
Dec-A10	Non-RSPBA events to be included on Branch calendar for info.	Nicola	CLOSED. All events on website
Dec-A11	Potential Branch change of name – Paul McAndrew to raise again if no update received at next Board of Directors meeting	Paul	OPEN. No news on this

Further matters arising:

- None

4. Approval of previous minutes

Approved: Stewart Findlay

Seconded: Paul Winter

5. Correspondence:

- Invoice received from Jason Lafferty
- Nigel intending to step down as Minute Secretary and Vice-Chairman before this AGM at latest
- Email received from someone interested in helping out compiling if needed. Gary will also notify HQ

6. Treasurer's Report:

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

7. Music Board Report:

- Bruce reported as follows:
 - Short but sweet meeting!
 - Proposals for re-alignment of grades starting again as 'plan A' wasn't agreed by all
 - 2 branch bands regraded on request, Carnoustie to 3B and Kelty to 4B

8. Director's Report:

- Paul reported as follows:
- Working group set up to look at PVG
- Adjudicator allocations now complete for all contests
- Confirmed no age limit on co-opted members for RSPBA committees, sub-committees and branches
- Lengthy debate on consultative adjudication. (where the 2 piping judges confer to agree a consensus, rather than two separate results) A pilot took place last year. 2nd pilot initially proposed where they would confer before releasing the results. At the AGM the convener will be asked to do a presentation on the findings of the previous pilot, the proposals for the next pilot, and then a proposed amendment to 2 contests (Belfast and Forres) for how to carry this next pilot phase forward.
 - *There was some discussion at the present meeting on this point with queries as to how this could work in reality as there can often be one, more dominant, adjudicator (experience, reputation, etc) who's views are more likely to be carried, thereby effectively negating the benefit of having an average of two, independent views.*
- Proposal to develop a RSPBA app around the 6 main pages used on the main site. (Main site currently runs to some 800 pages). Also looking further to how to take online registrations forward. For example the app might allow band secretaries to take photos of band members and upload them.
 - *One strongly expressed view from the branch is apps are non-secure so this (the taking and sharing of photos from an app) should not be allowed to happen*



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- The question about education costs was asked. Clarified that 10% of both tuition expenses and equipment related to education can be claimed back.
- Rule about adjudicators not being able to judge bands with family members playing in them. 13 of the 15 adjudicators this affects have signed up to it, so this rule now stands. (creating, in the process, significant logistical difficulties in allocating adjudicators)

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).

- *Following John Nevan's presentation, we will add permanent sub-titles to this section of Recruitment and Retention to this section, to promote discussion and ideas on these subjects within the branch*
- Current HQ is not suitable for Glasgow-based education purposes, but if any groups wish to hold educational events in Glasgow HQ will organize and book a suitable event for them
- Presentation with regard to re-establishing a RSPBA College of Piping & Drumming. Pat Whelan driving it. Job descriptions proposed along with a network of regional reps. Ideally they would be put forward by the branch.
- **Recruitment:** (place holder for future meetings)
- **Retention:** (place holder for future meetings)

10. Media Report:

- **Branch Website:** Nicola reported that general maintenance of the site is ongoing, filling in any gaps etc. Online entries now in place. Too early for feedback, no entries so far. When bands do try, if they haven't paid their annual levy it will be automatically added to their basket at checkout.
- **RSPBA Magazine:** Paul spoke to Craig, who is looking for anyone with any information to send it to him.
- **Branch Facebook page:** Paul mentioned a small concern about Facebook page. One post was very inaccurate. How do we approve this? Stewart mentioned it is possible to switch off the side bar which allows all comments, meaning that anyone wishing a post to go on will need to private-message the administrators.
 - It was agreed that this should be done
 - Stewart indicated there are currently around 700 likes, but encourages everyone to share to help increase the visibility of the page

11. AOCB:

- May meeting now cancelled
- Still awaiting decisions from Lochore, Markinch and Thornton regarding the grade entries. Perth also wish to retain control over the entry forms.
- Kingdom Thistle contest going ahead on 26th March, (on branch website)
- Kirriemuir solos on 30th April
- Owen reported that a Meeting took place last week on possible new Crieff contest. Not a great turnout so a new meeting called for Monday 15th Feb. If a poor response to this one then it will not go ahead
- Adjudicators confirmed for Loch Leven (Kinross): G. Wilson (piping), A. Craig (drumming)
- Nigel briefly discussed the draft grant application for the running costs of the Loch Leven contest and that we need to submit a signed adopted copy of the constitution, a recent bank statement, the committee member list, etc. But more importantly, that even with a grant, it is very unlikely we will get much take up this year from local businesses to fund the prize pot (which we can never fund from a grant source) A short discussion took place on possible sponsorship sources, and the feeling was generally positive that some of the piping and drumming suppliers/manufacturers would look favourably upon the contest. It was agreed that Ian, Paul, Gary and Nigel will all take actions forward to approach sponsors.



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12. New Action Items

Mtg-Act	Action	Owner	Due By	Status *
Feb-A1	Potential education events. All to take back to their own bands to discuss what they want to see. Suggested P/M and L/D event at end of season, followed by event for all levels early next year	ALL	March	New
Feb-A2	Put info about Branch Solo spectator fee on website	Nicola	March	New
Feb-A3	Copy Derek Potter on committee minutes from now on	Nigel	March	New
Feb-A4	Purchase an overhead projector for the branch and claim back 10%	Gary	March	New
Feb-A5	Nigel, Ian, Paul and Gary to approach potential piping & drumming related sponsors (and campus officials) for potential sponsorship	Per action	March	New
Feb-A6	Circulate document on PVG proposal to committee	Paul	March	New

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

13. Next Branch Meeting Date(s):

Next meeting to take place on **13th March 2016**, 6.30 for 7.00pm start. Continuing on 2nd October 2016, AGM on 6th November 2016, 4th December 2016.