



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

### Minutes from Branch Meeting No 10 Sunday 12th February 2017 in the Glencarse Village Hall

**1. Chairman's welcome:**

Paul welcomed all those present and opened the meeting at 7.10pm.

**2. Presence and Apologies:**

**Present:** Paul McAndrew, Gary Mair, Irene Black, Stewart Findlay, Kenny Traill, Ian Hughes, Bruce Cargill, Andrew Keatings, Nicola Liddell

**Apologies:** Gillie McNab, Jim Mills, Andrew Downie, Judith Connon, Ally Bryce, Chris Hawkes, Paul Winter

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

**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 – Draft rules circulated by GM 30.11.16. Discussion to be rolled forward.

**Actions from minutes in February 2016**

Mtg-Act	Action	Owner	Status *
Feb-A1	Education event – Workshop hosted by Vale of Atholl / venue Craigie HS TBC.  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.  4.12.16 – Paul advised this had been delegated to Fiona McKay; expected to run on a Sunday in February. Dundee venue being considered / need to ensure availability of school (free venue). 6.11.16 Update – Paul in communication now with Fiona McKay about running a workshop.	ALL	12.2.17 OPEN. Workshop put back from February to October 2017 (more beneficial) - targeted at players as well as Lead Drummers / PM's for putting sets together. Bruce Cargill referred to new document made available on HQ website which will provide guidance on selecting prescribed tunes.
	Northern Branch 2-day workshop; info circulated to Branch. 12.2.17 previously discussed not necessarily best suited.		12.2.17 CLOSED

**Actions from minutes in October 2016**

Mtg-Act	Action	Owner	Status *
Oct-A1	Additional adjudicators required for qualifiers for 2017 world solo drumming [due by Nov] 4.12.16 – Paul noted this event had been a huge success. Adjudicators: Paul Brown + Ciaran Mordaunt. Paul reported a miscommunication on contact details for an adjudicator which led to complications and attempts to source internationally including North America; Ciaran agreed to travel. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Action: There was a deficit for contest; Paul to approach Chief Executive to reimburse travel.</li> <li>• Action: Contact details for all adjudicators to be made available in drop box (adheres to Data Protection).</li> </ul> 6.11.16 – confirmation of adjudicators as Paul Brown and Alec Dudgeon.	Gary Paul	12.2.17 - CLOSED



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Oct-A2	<p>Gary Mair to write to Ian Embelton with proposal for full Board ref. a suggested Outdoor Ensemble Quartet event as part of Strathmore Highland Games following correspondence received from Charlie Murray. For review at the next Branch meeting pending the Board's response. [Due by November]</p> <p>4.12.16 – agreement to go ahead with Quartet event; made up of 2 pipers, 1 drummer, 1 tenor and must be judged by RSPBA adjudicators. Action: Gary to update Charlie Murray.</p> <p>6.11.16 – Gary has written to Ian Embelton; a response is anticipated following the Directors on 5.12.16.</p>	Gary	<p>12.2.17 – CLOSED</p> <p>Error in previous Minute of 4.12.17 recording '2 drummers' incorrectly; should read "2 pipers".</p>
Oct-A10	<p>Concert formation agreed for 2017 indoor contests. Action Gary Mair to produce visual layout as per outline below to avoid any confusion (to show stage / viewing public in front of adjudicators / semi-circle with drummers behind).</p>	Gary	12.2.17 – OPEN
Oct-A10	<p>Gary to ask Board to test out concert format for 2017 Full Band contest. [Due by November]</p> <p>4.12.16 - Board of Directors relaxed as to which way the Branch wishes to adopt, noting all bands would have to play in whichever format was decided. 50/50 feedback previously received. Decision to opt for Concert formation (indoors) this year to offer a direct comparison for feedback when considering in Year 3. [Concert formation = semi-circle with drummers at back or side (not split), PM at front]. A general Health &amp; Safety discussion took place regarding indoor contests; no action.</p> <p>6.11.16 – Ongoing. Gary has written to the Board; a response is also anticipated following the Directors meeting on 5.12.16.</p>	Gary	CLOSED

**Actions from Interim meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

<b>Mtg-Act</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Status *</b>
Nov-A1	<p>Annual Branch levy – annual fees for bands are now due. Currently £45 for adult bands and £35 for under 18 juvenile bands. It was noted fees were raised last year to recoup Paypal costs. Paul McAndrew proposed fees remained the same for 2017, all in agreement.</p> <p>4.12.16 – Online payment facility now available. Nicola asked if column could be removed showing whether bands have paid levies or not; agreement for this data to be removed. The system will not permit bands to enter contests until levy is paid. Paul wished to establish which bands had not yet paid 2016 fees.</p> <p>6.11.16 - Nicola to request online payment options are opened on web with Jason.</p>	Paul Gary Nicola	12.2.17 CLOSED. Active on Branch website.
Nov-A1	<p>Branch levy arrears - Nicola to query with Jason if outstanding levy arrears could be automatically added.</p> <p>Branch membership - currently if 3 years have lapsed, and the band does not intend to compete at RSPBA events it is their choice effectively to not pay the branch levy (the band</p>	Nicola	12.2.17 – OPEN. NL to follow-up on outstanding request.



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	may wish to rejoin at year 4 or 5, and the branch levy for that particular year will apply). If however, a band returns within the 3 years of non-payment; arrears will apply and be backdated accordingly. Approved by Ally Bryce, seconded by Bruce Cargill.		
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**Actions from minutes in December 2016**

<b>Mtg-Act</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Status *</b>
Dec-AA1	Development of Branch education pack. Vale of Atholl books being used in schools – Gary Mair to approach Gillie McNab to gain access to these.	Gary Gillie	OPEN
Dec-AA2	Vale of Atholl solos 21.1.17	Gillie	CLOSED – entry forms uploaded.
Dec-AA3	Perth Games (13 <sup>th</sup> August 2017) – awaiting confirmation if event will go ahead as a contest or with guest bands only. Gary Mair to approach new Games Secretary to seek clarification; everyone keen to see this contest remain.	Gary	OPEN Paul McAndrew noted the 2018 event due to fall the week before the Worlds.
Dec-AA4	Inclusion of additional column on branch contest spreadsheet to include Major results for comparison exercise. Action Gary Mair to progress spreadsheet update and do a measurement for this year's results.	Gary	OPEN
Dec-AA5	Review of playing requirements for pipers/drummers in solo contests. Overview provided by Paul McAndrew.		CLOSED 12.2.17. Previously 8 parts but deemed too much for youngsters – all in agreement to proceed with 4 parts for novice and grade 4.

**Further matters arising:**

- A query was raised whether a band can play up twice; clarification that bands are only able to play up one grade however if a contest also has an 'open' section, they are permitted to play in this also.

**4. Approval of previous minutes**

**Approved:** Ian Hughes  
**Seconded:** Bruce Cargill

**5. Correspondence:**

- Notification from Pat Whelan, RSPBA Education Officer, on 1.4.17 meeting re. safeguarding of children and young people – to be held in Glasgow with branch representatives Paul McAndrew and Morag McKenzie. In addition to PVG (Protection of Vulnerable Groups) Bruce Cargill commented if information was required from Board of Directors when someone excluded from a band on a PVG issue, as a Branch we need to put a Fairshare protocol in place; allowing information to be reported back to PVG promptly. Fairsharing protocol adopted by PVG is being supported by the Board however envisaged to be a long process. Not all bands have PVG in place and the protocol would only work if that were the case however not currently a legal requirement.
- Reminder received from Jason Lafferty, Scotia Web Design, any personnel changes in bands (particularly for PM's, leading drummer, secretary posts) be updated at HQ. Data is automatically populated from HQ website.
- Email received from Jerry Randalls (Music Support Officer, Angus Council) to advise of permanent full-time piping tutor appointment in Angus schools from January 2017; Claire Wilton. Jerry Randalls enquired as to what members may attend Angus schools – Gary Mair directed to DPA web pages with links to bands to approach directly. Stewart Findlay recommended that new bands also be approached to include; 44<sup>th</sup> Boys Brigade (Dougie Rennie), Mackenzie Caledonian, 6/8<sup>th</sup> Boys Brigade. Action Gary to send follow-up email.
- A discussion followed on a drumming initiative in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year in Angus as featured in 'Pipes and Drums'. Interest in gaining more knowledge about the initiative was raised to look at whether a similar format could be adopted in Perthshire. Action Gary Mair to email Jerry Randalls to request more information as well as request feedback on conversion/success rates.



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#### 6. Treasurer's Report:

- Irene presented the accounts, contained in a separate (confidential) document
- Irene requested Pitlochry contract from HQ. No request for levy on contract, need to make sure it is in for next year at 10%.
- A query was raised on whether bands should be fined if fees aren't received by a certain date. Action Gary Mair to issue reminder fees now due.

#### 7. Music Board Report: Bruce reported as follows -

- 1 regrading for Dollar Academy band into Novice Juvenile from Juvenile. Confirmation that Dollar Academy now have Novice Juvenile B, Novice Juvenile A and Juvenile.
- Queen Victoria School, Dunblane Pipe Band added to the Branch in January 2017; details to be added to website.
- A Music Board meeting with Donald McPhee was held to discuss proposal to extend pilot scheme for adjudicators option to confer at all 5 Majors (this was carried out at 2 events during 2016); the current rule states adjudicators are not permitted to comment on their observations prior to completing their crit sheet. It is believed the North Americas removed this initiative as it was felt there was potential collusion. **Any rule changes will be addressed at the next AGM on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2017. All bands are reminded and encouraged to cast their vote - anyone wishing to vote who is unable to attend in person, can proxy vote by advising RSPBA HQ and notifying Gary Mair in advance in writing who can do on their behalf.**  
It was noted a 3<sup>rd</sup> page of the crit sheet is now available for adjudicators to retain their own copy.
- Drum Majors – Bruce reported the Music Board are looking for a qualification for Drum Major events.
- RSPBA Summer School to go ahead w/c 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017.
- Next Music Board meeting to take place on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

#### 8. Director's Report: Paul reported as follows -

- Branch AGM Northern Ireland - Proposals were noted to remove prescribed list of tunes but play in same competition format however cut-off date for rule change was missed and therefore not taken forward.
- Rule change proposals coming through at the AGM on 11<sup>th</sup> March were highlighted as follows:
  - Rule 3.7  
whilst 42 days is proposed for higher to lower, all others remain 14 days, and the player should not play for ANY band during the transfer period
  - Rule 3.11-3.15  
The Pipe Major of a Novice Juvenile or Juvenile band should only be registered with 1 non Novice/Juvenile band. They may however be registered as Pipe Major in all the Novice/Juvenile bands in the same organisation.
- A brief presentation is due on proposed new RSPBA membership cards (credit card like ID with a number). The first roll-out is expected to cover smaller groups of overseas bands / Grade 1 bands. Phase 1 encompasses band secretaries being given access to a secure database to ensure rosters are in order. Likely that cards won't show band names to avoid reprints when players move and likely to be £5 replacement fee if lost. Cards won't necessarily have to be shown on the day as a name check on the system will automatically show a photo for data checks. Checks will continue in the meantime for Major, and some Minor, events.
- Band rosters – if rosters are incorrect, Secretaries are asked to score through the name and return to HQ office. If anyone is unsure whether a person has been released from a previous band, they are able to check directly with the office. Once system is in place, rosters will no longer be printed and issued by RSPBA. Suggestion that bands take a photo of their roster – hard copy not required.
- RSPBA HQ staffing – Erin is leaving. Staff in place at HQ office include Alike Papageorgiou (Office Manager), Rachel Gillespie and Gayle Hunter.

#### 9. Education

- Request received to run some of the SQA workshops from Mackenzie Caledonian. Paul McAndrew confirmed money is available to run education events in the Branch noting RSPBA will pay for travel, subsistence and



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instructors (leaving the Branch to pay for the venue although 10% of this cost could be recouped). No charge for attendees although minimal fee applicable if member opted to sit SQA exams thereafter. Workshop proposed to be a 1 day assessment day whereby assessors would review and break into groups, issuing pack to complete. An SQA certificate would be issued at the end of this. RSPBA stipulation that all program dates are set at the outset; putting a team of assessors and instructors together as a block. Discussion followed and all in agreement to progress and aim to build on year on year (George Watson's and Johnston Pipe Bands running SQA workshops well at the moment). Action Gary Mary to write to Pat Whelan to advise the Branch wishes to pursue in September/October (Bruce Cargill proposes the last date falls in February and not December) and establish what the required format would be.

- Paul McAndrew noted a Survey Monkey questionnaire is due for circulation to Band secretaries and Pipe Majors to establish Education priorities for the Branch.

#### 10. Media Report:

- **Branch Website:** Nicola Liddell reported the following updates -  
Administrative updates ongoing as per band requests.  
Suggestion to invite bands to submit images to populate branch Gallery.  
It was noted that Peter Hazzard carries out photography for the branch; Action Gary Mair to request if photos can be reviewed and relevant Branch ones uplifted.

Gary Mair reported a targeted scam alert involving Committee email links on the Branch pages on 4.2.17. This was alerted immediately to all those concerned with a stop placed on email accounts whilst investigated further by Jason Lafferty (Scotia Web Design) and reported to Police [CRIME REFERENCE NUMBER 2654322017]. Jason Lafferty confirmed the main server had not been breached, and email systems are safe to use again.

- **RSPBA Magazine:** no update
- **Branch Facebook page:** no update

#### 11. AOCB:

- Gary Mair report HQ have agreed a Quartet can be included at this year's Strathmore Contest on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2017; to include 2 pipers, 1 tenor, 1 snare [previous Minute incorrectly lists makeup as 2 drummers]. The main contest entry form is available online – discussion followed on whether bands could enter on the day or if this should be pre-arranged to avoid having to do a draw on the day. Gary Mair to adapt entry rules to state bands can enter more than one quartet however "each player can only play once". No additional charge for Quartets agreed. Pipe Band contests to take priority on the Main Arena then Quartets to follow. Playing requirements agreed as own choice medley 3-7 minutes. Gary Mair to discuss possible trophies with Charlie Murray.

#### 12. New Action Items

Mtg-Act	Action	Owner	Status *
Feb-A1	World Solo Drumming 2016 costs – following Paul McAndrew's approach to Chief Exec; Gary Mair to write letter to Finance Convener to request financial assistance for this aspect of the November 2016 contest.	Paul Gary	OPEN
Feb-A2	Irene Black to advise Gary of costs incurred for solo drumming part only (with intention to try and recoup flight costs etc).	Irene	OPEN
Feb-A3	Irene Black to confirm amount of cheque anticipated from Paul Brown and advise Paul McAndrew accordingly.	Irene	OPEN
Feb-A4	Gary Mair to send follow-up email to Jerry Randalls to advise specific Angus bands with members in schools.	Gary	OPEN



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Feb-A5	Gary Mair to email Jerry Randalls to request more information on format of drumming initiative as well as conversion/success rates.	Gary	OPEN
Feb-A6	Pitlochry levy not given – action Gary Mair to contact HQ and ascertain contract details.	Gary	OPEN
Feb-A7	Queen Victoria School, Dunblane Pipe Band details to be loaded to website.	Gary Nicola	OPEN
Feb-A8	AGM on 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2017 – all bands encouraged to vote or vote by proxy if unable to attend in person.	ALL	OPEN
Feb-A9	2017 Adjudicators – 4 requested for contests (including Dundee and Crieff) however only 2 allocated. Gary Mair to write letter to RSPBA and include copy of original request. It was highlighted that 14 new adjudicators are coming through for this season. Discussion on rule adopted last year for solos whereby adjudicators with connections to competitors are not permitted to judge; query raised on why not in place for Majors.	Gary	OPEN
Feb-A10	RSPBA prescribed MAP tunes – reminder new suggestions are welcomed and will be considered by the Music Board for inclusion on the playlist. It was noted prescribed tunes are a guideline and can be customised. Bands can ask to be regraded at any time and don't have to win a Major before doing so.	All	OPEN
Feb-A11	Communication to members – info to be distributed to members to include: reminder of change in personnel details to be flagged to HQ, update on list of contests, reminder of fees due, request to submit gallery images for web pages.	Gary	OPEN
Feb-A12	Gary Mair to write to Pat Whelan re. SQA workshops running in DPA branch and establish required format.	Gary	OPEN
Feb-A13	Gary Mair to approach Peter Hazzard to request possibility of reviewing images photographed during last season and uplift relevant Branch shots.	Gary	OPEN
Feb-A14	Strathmore Quartets – Gary Mair to follow up with Charlie Murray regarding trophies and agree format.	Gary	OPEN

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

#### 13. **Next Branch Meeting Date(s):**

Next meeting to take place on 12th March 2017. The next meetings thereafter for 2017 will be held on:

30<sup>th</sup> April 2017, 8<sup>th</sup> October 2017, AGM 5<sup>th</sup> November 2017 and 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017. The meeting closed at 9.50pm.