

RSPBA – Dundee, Perth and Angus Branch

Meeting held on Zoom

Thursday 17th September 2020

In Attendance:

Garry Mair (GM), Paul McAndrew (PM), Gwen McAndrew (GMc) Alistair Duthie (AD), Alison Duthie (AFD), Dawn Waddell (DW), David Hunter (DH), Irene Black (IB), Paul Brown (PB), Kathleen Mitchell (KM), Ryan Kennedy (RK), Gillie McNab (GMcN), Craig Black (CB), David Wilton (DW), Matt Wilson (MW), Andrew Brown (AB)

Apologies:

Ian Hughes (IH)

Item No:	Description:	Action:
1.	Chairman Welcome: PM welcomed all those to the Zoom meeting, good to see a large number of attendees.	
2.	Apologies: Were noted from the above	
3.	Previous Minute: Unavailable due to IT issues. AFD to forward to GM	
4	Correspondence (GM): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There has been a request from John Nevan to look at Crieff High School for the RSPBA Summer School for 2021. GM was asked to liaise with Crieff High School, the response currently, is that they cannot commit to anything due to current circumstances. GM to carry forward. 	GM
5.	Music Board (AD): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numerous meetings have taken place during the lockdown period both by the main Music Board as well as the sub Formation Group. Items discussed have been: <p>The formation of the Grade 1 bands at the Worlds – this led to a situation after the meeting with the band, as there had been a leak of information from a member present at the meeting to a social media platform, G1 bands not happy at this situation, resulting in some bands not willing to take part in future discussions until there is a mechanism in place to prevent this happening.</p> <p>World Solo Drumming – Discussions have been held round this for 2021, 2020 has been</p>	

cancelled, venues may be an issue due to current Government/University Guidelines.

COVID-19 has been discussed at length and until we have proper research into our instruments we will be held with the same rules and regulations as other instruments. Stakeholders (NPC, ASBMHD, PBC, etc) are to be asked to get involved and help with monetary donations in order for us to move forward with a research programme for Pipes and Drums.

- No up-gradings or down-gradings at this current time.
- Online competitions under the RSPBA and branches were discussed and information to follow.

MW we require to be proactive in our approach to the COVID situation, this is people's lively hoods as well as a social activity.

- G4 and NJ – Survey regarding the way forward for these bands – starting line or starting in the circle – There have only been 30 surveys returned to the Music Board. Please work with the MB when they ask for information, they are trying to make things easier for the membership, but they require bands to get involved.

PB - Would like to reiterate what MW was mentioning, along with, why don't we approach the Scottish Government ourselves – where would we stand? John Hughes has had a meeting with Fiona Hyslop (Culture Secretary) and Jason Leitch (National Clinical Director) but there has been no feedback from the meetings – are we able to get this?

PM – The statement that the Chairman (Mr John Hughes) made to press – he was caught off guard and misinterpreted, he did not make the statement that was issued. Ian Embleton would not speak to the press. Any press releases now, are to be submitted through the Marketing & Media Department at HQ, there are two Directors within this dept.

AD – The previous mention of the Format Group – this consists of Stephen McQuillan, Alistair Duthie, Julie Brinklow, Theresa Brown, Kevin Reilly

	<p>MW – The research has to be worldwide; this is hitting not only Scottish Bands but all bands round the world, culminating in the “Worlds” potentially being hit very hard. There is also the potential for people to drop off from bands the longer this goes on, feeder bands won’t have the members to augment the “Big” bands. All Chairman’s from all over the world should get together to propose a plan and carry forward.</p> <p>DW – Is there any word from HQ regarding a recuperation plan? This hasn’t been discussed at Board level, PM & GM to draft a letter to be tabled.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AD has requested that if you have anything your band would like brought up at the Music Board to contact himself or GM and he will take it forward to the next meeting 	<p>PM/GM</p> <p>ALL</p>
6.	<p>COVID 19:</p> <p>Physical practices have come to a halt, bands are doing their own thing to keep teaching going online. Went round a few bands present the following was mentioned:</p> <p>RK – Arbroath are teaching on Zoom/Teams for both corps including a learners group. They have been conducting 1:1 lessons in order to keep everyone going and have found it a positive experience – Microsoft Teams is their preference. They have put in place PPE for return to their band hall along with all the appropriate screening etc and have a completed Risk Assessment, which has cost a small fortune.</p> <p>PB – Lochgelly not met at all, in person or on media platforms</p> <p>KM – Kinross haven’t practised as a band, they have been teaching learners 1:1 on Zoom, the Pipe Major has been sending out tunes, members record themselves and send to the Pipe Major to critique.</p> <p>AFD – Strathallan have purchased 25 Deger electric chanters in order for chanter practices to carry on within the school, MW intimated that Dollar had purchased Glencoe electric chanters also, they have to be sanitised after use.</p> <p>MW –Explanation of the “new” reed distribution was intimated by MW in that the piper has to do this on</p>	<p>PB</p>

	<p>his/her own currently with distanced guidance from Tutor, if a reed is not suitable it has to be placed in quarantine for 72 hours having been sanitised. PB to send MW a tester bottle of the sanitiser that he has just brought into the shop to experiment with.</p> <p>If bands are caught to be not adhering to Government Legislation and are fined, this is the responsibility of said band, if taken to court they are bringing the good name of the RSPBA into disrepute and will be dealt with accordingly as the RSPBA have a “duty of care” to their members.</p> <p>Successes from bands tuition are to be sent to GM and he will populate round the Branch bands.</p>	
7.	<p>Directors Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HQ regular staff are on furlough until the end of October, they will be brought back to work as of the 1st November, however, they will be working from home. The IT Technician that works for HQ is also our branches IT Technician, he has been furloughed from HQ but can still do work for us as a branch due to us not employing him. • New Bullying and Harassment Policy to be put in place. • Nothing new will be tabled for the 2021 AGM it will be for the following year 2022 • Tenor drummers SQA – Ongoing – Education Officer currently on furlough, • DPA Branch Contests and Branch Solo’s – Supplied all our paperwork including our rules and regulations to Music Board for discussion ,Format group have invited PM to a meeting on Monday 21st September to discuss, PM would like this meeting changed as he cannot be present PM to contact Kevin Reilly. • Chief Executive is to be retiring after 19 years of service, this position will be advertised. He has intimated that he is happy to stay on 1 day a week for a short spell of time in order for there to be a smooth handover to the new incumbent. 	
8.	<p>Education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PB & CB – Nothing to report at this stage as no meetings have been held whilst staff on furlough. <p>PM – Asked if they had given any thought to an online Summer School. Two of our branch members had</p>	<p>PB</p>

	<p>attended the Piping Hot one in Canada and it had been a fantastic success even with the time difference. PB to take forward to John Nevans for discussion.</p> <p>PM – It might be an idea to have educational support online currently on Zoom sessions, it is something to keep members interested at this time when they are desperate to get back to their instruments. PM/GM to write a letter to the Education Officer, the suggestion is to use PB College approved teachers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SQA Exams – are not happening currently due to the current situation we find ourselves in 	<p>PM/GM</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Media Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facebook page still operating • Webmaster to be approached to carry out some work • Bands are reporting the following: <p>RSPBA website has incorrect details – the Branch can only go with the information that it currently holds, numerous emails have been sent to bands requesting up to date information, this has not been completed by a vast majority of bands, it was suggested it be sent to Pipe Majors rather than secretaries.</p>	
<p>10.</p>	<p>AOCB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Branch Solo Competition • As mentioned previously in this minute of meeting, information was given to the Format Group for the above competition. PM spoke to our meeting regarding the paper, which including the recording format for the entrants, closing dates for various parts of the competition suggested dates being: 24th October 2020 – Entries to be submitted 7th November 2020 – Video recordings submitted 22nd November 2020 – Results Day Previously we have approached Grade 1 bands to be our adjudicators, we would have to reconsider this as would have to use qualified APMB adjudicators. Entry form would be published online, dropbox licence to be bought. <p>PB – Suggested that a lead adjudicator be appointed and let him appoint the panel</p>	

	<p>AD – Our Branch are going to be the guinea pigs. Need to request from the APMB a list of solo piping adjudicators. Perhaps get the Piping College on board. Theoretically If we get this right we could be the leading band in this field.</p> <p>PM – PVG not required online, fundamental flaw.</p> <p>MW – Has judged online and it is fundamental that it is a video recording and not just a sound file. Tenor Drumming is very visual and it prevents cheating.</p> <p>PM – Will call a meeting after the next Music Board meeting</p> <p>GM – Intimated that he had sent a condolence card on behalf of the Branch to Ian Duncan and Chris Ross on the recent passing of their son Alex who was known to us all.</p> <p>GMcN – Taken on board all comments regarding the online competition, The Vale are to be looking at what they will do about their solo competition in January.</p> <p>PM – Referred to the fact that we had a large turnout at the online meetings, is this the way to go ahead from now on? It was agreed that this would likely be the case with an occasional in person meeting.</p>	
11.	Date for next meeting to be advised.	
12.	Meeting closed at 10:53pm	