



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

Minutes from Branch Meeting Monday 4th June 2012 in Glencarse Village Hall

1. Chairman's welcome:

Paul opened the meeting at 7.05 pm and welcomed everyone.

2. Presence and Apologies:

Present:

Paul McAndrew, Gary Mair, Irene Black, Neil Myles, Nigel Kellett, Bruce Cargill, Barbara Stronach, Ian Campbell

Guest: Pat Whelan, RSPBA Education Officer

Apologies:

Jim Mills, Gillie McNab

3. Matters arising from minutes of last meeting:

Mtg-Act	Action	Owner	Status *
Jun-A5	Finalise and test the Excel compiling sheets prior to Crieff	Nigel	CLOSED. This continues to evolve, but was ready and used at Crieff
Sep-A9	Go ahead and re-plate the damaged Crieff trophy (Mill Hills Cup) as long as existing engraving will still be clearly legible	Paul / Gary	OPEN. We now have the cup back, and Paul will get this re-plated
Oct-A1	Call Pitlochry Games committee to ask if possible to attend one of their next meetings to discuss options for inclusion of branch bands in future contests	Gary	OPEN. No luck so far, but continue liaising with Pitlochry to try and include their contest in the Branch Championship
Oct-A9	Bring up the question of whether Juvenile Side Drumming in the World Solo Drumming can be competed by Grading category, like the new World Tenor contest	Paul / Bruce	CLOSED. A review group being set up. The suggestion has been put forward
Oct-A14	Review feasibility of running a new Pipe Band contest in Kinross now that we know the date of 12 th May (to combine the event with the Half Marathon and Feel Good Fair) is a theoretic possibility.	Nigel / Ian	CLOSED. Contest successfully went ahead. Feedback below.
Dec-A3	Review PDQB course options with a view to holding one in the Branch	Bruce Gary	OPEN. Some discussion on this at end of document.
Feb-A1	Request grant funding for two tents for adjudicators	Nigel	CLOSED. 3 tents and 3 feather banners were purchased. Now with Paul.
Feb-A4	Gary and Paul to arrange to go up to Forfar Academy to review arrangements for Mini Bands	Gary / Paul	CLOSED. Contest went ahead successfully.
Feb-A6	Neil to put photos of all Branch trophies and shields on the website, along with the current holders	Neil	CLOSED. All trophies now on website
Feb-A8	Review if there are any trophies available locally to Carnoustie for donation to the Loch Leven contest	Ian / Jim	CLOSED. Ian found one trophy from Carnoustie and Jim organized two trophies. Thanks very much to both
Mar-A1	Write to HQ to request the New Player Registration document include signatures from the Band to be joined	Gary	OPEN. No response so far, Gary will re-contact for further info.
Mar-A2	Confirm the adjudicators for the mini-bands contest	Gary	CLOSED. Contest completed.
Mar-A3	Re-type and review Constitution and Rules	Nigel / Paul	CLOSED.

Other matters arising:

Constitution and child protection. General consensus that it would be useful for the RSPBA to provide some guidance on these issues. All in any case to review the latest constitution before next meeting, with a view to making any final changes and adopting it at next AGM.



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Willie Ferguson Memorial Contest (Best inter-branch players) was won by Ailis Sutherland, so the contest will next be held in Kinross in November at the Branch Solos.

DPA Mini-Bands went ahead in Forfar as planned. As there was no grant this year it made a small deficit, details in Treasurer's report.

The new Kinross Loch Leven Pipe Band Contest went ahead on 12th May.

14 bands entered, 12 actually played on the day fielding a total of 23 entries..

Feedback was requested from bands who were there. The majority of the feedback was positive. A few areas for improvement were noted, 1) Final tuning was too close to the actual arena, 2) the programme cost was too expensive, 3) no bus parking,

Positive points were noted. The catering at the school allowed people to sit down and get a good meal, use the toilets, etc. And feedback in general was it was a good, well organized event.

The Campus also appeared quite happy in the end with the way it all turned out.

Nigel has a debrief meeting this Friday with the Road Runners and the KLEO local events committee to hopefully set the date for next year and review what can be improved.

Thanks were expressed to Nigel for all the organization, and particularly for the raising of funds for the event.

4. **Approval of previous minutes:**

Approved: Bruce

Seconded: Ian

5. **Correspondence:**

- New costs from Angus Council for Mini-Bands. Everything has gone up slightly, but Gary will go back and ask if possible to maintain costs. Agreed that we will aim for the same Saturday.
- Correspondence from Perth concerning 2 day Worlds in 2013. There has been some dialogue on this in order to find a resolution so that the two do not clash.
- Correspondence from "First Post" as an alternative to the Royal Mail. (Given to Pat Whelan to take back to HQ as they use a lot of postage)

6. **Treasurer's Report:**

Irene presented the latest figures

[figures confidential – available in a separate document]

7. **National Council Report:**

Paul reported as follows from the minutes (he could not attend the meeting):

- Solicitor is considering how or whether to bring the Branches into the same constitution / protection as the overall HQ.
- No significant additional news to report.

8. **Music Board Report:**

Bruce reported as follows, from the Music Board meeting of 15th April:

- Grading issues were dealt with, but generally available on website.
- For DM's at Majors they are looking at using every second band to do DM's to give the DM adjudicators time to write up the sheets. (instead of every band)
- Looking at education options for DM's for 2014
- 2 day Worlds, starting 2013:
 - Grade 1. All bands will play on Saturday according to their placement. Saturday they will play own choice MSR and own choice Medley. Top 6 from each heat will go through and play their alternate sets on the Sunday
 - Grade 2. Will play MSR for any qualifiers, and will be drawn as usual from the bag. For the final they will play their Medley.



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- Grade 3. Medley to qualify, MSR for the final
- Grade 4. If more than 47 bands are entered, an There will be an18 band final after 3 qualifying heats. (Applies to both 4A and 4B)
- Grade 4B and N/J are re-introducing MAP adjudication for Qualifiers (at the Worlds only) for 2013 as a trial

9. Website Report:

- No specific website report at this meeting due to lack of time. But Neil did request photos from the Jubilee "Parade of a 1000 pipers" for posting onto the site

10. AOCB:

- **Crieff Entry Form**
 - To be changed to match Cowal playing requirements
 - A probable mistake was noted on the Cowal entry form as Juvenile appears to have a different playing requirement to Grade 3. They are normally always aligned.
 - Change the date, change the Grade 4 MSR requirement
 - Ensure that it is clear that the Grade 4 MSR contest is only open to bands already entered for the regular Grade 4 contest.
 - Agreed to leave the entry fees as they were

11. New Action Items

Mtg-Act	Action	Owner	Due By	Status *
Jun-A1	All committee members to review the Branch Constitution prior to the October meeting, with a view to finalizing it and adopting it at November's AGM	ALL	Oct-11	NEW
Jun-A2	Gary to see if possible to keep the Forfar Academy costs the same as this year for next year's event	Gary	Oct-11	NEW
Jun-A3	Amend and publish the Crieff Entry Form	Gary	Mid June	NEW

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

12. Next meeting:

**Next Committee Meeting: Sunday 14th October
(AGM will be Sunday 4th November, for info)**



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ADDENDUM TO MEETING, WITH PAT WHELAN, RSPBA EDUCATION OFFICER

Present In addition to Committee Members already noted:

Stephen Russell, Arbroath RBLs
Wendy Addison, Mains of Fintry

Paul introduced Pat Whelan.

Pat explained he has no previous background in piping or drumming, so this can be an advantage. Quick learning curve so far, now touring Branches to find out how they work.

Pat is looking for feedback on perception of education and training currently happening and available for branch bands, officials, etc.

RSPBA Structured Learning Books. Are they fit for purpose – do they need to be reviewed?

Bruce mentioned that the DPA Branch is actively looking at trying to get an education course up and running by the winter of this year.

Pat explained that the **PDQB** encompasses the 5 organisations below and ensures consistent standards throughout.

RSPBA
Pibroch Society (or Piobaireachd)
College of Piping
Piping Centre
Army School of Piping

Bruce mentioned a Grade 4A MSR course which should be available to any bands wishing to attend. Most Branch bands are probably interested in this, both Kinross and Mains of Fintry specifically mentioned their interest.

Info should go to Jim Campbell and Pat Whelan to work out when and how to deliver the course.

Nigel raised the issue of Political engagement to encourage piping and drumming within schools. Pat agreed that this was necessary and was something the RSPBA ought to be promoting by engaging directly with politicians.

Stephen suggested that the website could be used a lot better, particularly to make education resources available for download.

There was also quite a lot of discussion on how to deliver structured learning within bands, and ensure that the standard of tuition is always similar, such as a “learning passport” type system.

Pat left his email: pat.whelan@rspba.org and encouraged members to write to him with issues, although we suggested that within the Branch it might be better if we write to Gary in the first instance, and he will then pass everything on to Pat.

Particular topics he would like feedback on include:

- Types of training you would like to see
- How HQ can better support branch activities
- How HQ can assist with setting up contests
- Any other education or training-related points