



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

Minutes from Branch Meeting Sunday 3rd February 2013 in Glencarse Village Hall

1. Chairman's welcome:

Paul opened the meeting at 7.00 pm and welcomed everyone to this first meeting of the year.

2. Presence and Apologies:

Present:

Paul McAndrew, Gary Mair, Nigel Kellett, Irene Black, Neil Myles, Bruce Cargill, Barbara Stronach, Ian Campbell, Jim Mills, Gillie McNab, Owen Sweeney, Jayne Sweeney, Gordon Barton

Apologies:

None

3. Matters arising from minutes of last meeting:

Nigel mentioned that there were a few actions still showing as open in the June minutes that did not appear to have been closed out in the October minutes:

Actions from June minutes

Mtg-Act	Action	Owner	Status *
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	CLOSED. New shield "Former Mill Hills Cup Shield" purchased with previous winners inscribed. (Less expensive option than re-plating)
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. Update. Still no confirmation from Pitlochry. Suggested Gary writes one final time to reiterate that we are happy to work with them to include Pitlochry in the branch championship, and that they know where to contact us.
Dec-A3	Review PDQB course options with a view to holding one in the Branch	Bruce Gary	OPEN. Gary to write to HQ to invite Pat Whelan along for a presentation / discussion on PDQB options.
Mar-A1	Write to HQ to request the New Player Registration document include signatures from the Band to be joined	Gary	CLOSED. Various correspondence. According to HQ they will check with the Band secretary and sign off accordingly, so not need for signature on New Player forms.

Actions from October minutes

Mtg-Act	Action	Owner	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	OPEN. Question regarding appropriate constitution has been asked, but still no guidance, awaiting feedback from HQ
Jun-A2	Gary to see if possible to keep the Forfar Academy costs the same as this year for next year's (Mini-Bands) event	Gary	CLOSED. Update. Costs are within £40 of last year's costs, but no grant is available from Angus Council. All agreed to carry on with Forfar
Oct-A1	Gary to contact Crieff committee to request a meeting	Gary	CLOSED.
Oct-A2	Gary to gather branch band feedback on continuation of Cowal as a Major Championship	Gary	CLOSED. All are aware that 2013 is likely to be the last year of Cowal Games as a Championship

Corrections to October minutes

Item 8. There was a mistake previously. For the Worlds, the playing format for Grade 3 will be MSR to qualify, Medley in the final, and Grade 2 will be Medley to qualify, MSR in the final.

Item 9. Neil clarified that the "Mission Fish" option requires individual bands to be registered as charities and apply for themselves – they cannot apply under the "umbrella" of the RSPBA itself



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Corrections to November minutes

Typo on November minutes header “Sunnday”
Mistake on Honoraria - £200 for the Treasurer, not £250

4. Approval of previous minutes (October, November and remaining Actions from June):

Approved: Jim Mills
Seconded: Neil Myles

5. Correspondence:

Gary apologised to all Bands as he had “reminded” them to pay the Levy, but they had never actually been asked in the first place. Coupar Angus, Pitlochry and the Vale have still not paid. (Levy still £30 for adult bands, £25 for N/J or Juvenile)

Mini-Bands will clash with the National Bands (BB) contest, so the 6th/8th BB’s have indicated they will not be able to attend.

6. Treasurer’s Report:

Irene presented the latest figures in the Current and Special Accounts.
(Separate report, remains confidential)

7. Director’s (Previously known as National Council) Report:

Paul reported as follows:

- John Hepburn, Chief Steward passed away, his funeral was at Balloch on 19th January
- New Chief Steward appointed, Alex Dalziell from Lothian & Borders
- Stewards and compilers will come into the same category as other RSPBA officials – i.e. can work until 70, compulsory retirement at 75. So any volunteers to become Stewards would be appreciated
- A print out from SQA of completed qualifications under PDQB was reviewed. 7 were achieved from Perth & Kinross schools
- Pat Whelan is willing to come along to a Branch meeting to discuss PDQB, most Branches are subsidising their candidates; one branch in particular is meeting full costs
- PDQB has looked at continual use of assessors. There is a concern that some assessors have not been active for a number of years. Also PDQB exam procedure (draft) is in the process of being amended.
- RSPBA PDQB Training Material is almost fully transferred onto electronic format. No changes to it yet – this will take place once fully in new format.
- Contest Levy, effective immediately, will be zero, but Branches may continue to charge a levy to contest promoters at their discretion
- Playing to time. There is an official Championship clock at the office. Band Steward’s / Reps should set their watches by this clock. Published times will be adhered to by all bands, unless the contest is running late. If asked to come forward Bands do not have to, but can play to their times.
- Bands attending non-RSPBA contests will be liable to sanctions.
- List of adjudicators for majors has been published
- CCTV and lighting went in to HQ last year. Only one incident – a casual vandalism episode, where the perpetrator was arrested rapidly due to filming ongoing nearby and a heavy police presence.
- Feasibility study ongoing for new HQ building in centre of Glasgow.
- Crieff contest date on 25th August.. Asked to be amended to “Crieff Pipe Band Contest”
- Contest criteria clarified by Music Board. OK to hold minor Grade 4 MSR using the RSPBA 2, 2 & 2 MAP system. Any Grade 4 band can play into that class, and if a band wishes to ONLY play in that class, then they can. The wording of a normal Grade 4 contest should be “Selection of Marches in quick time lasting between 2 mins 15 and 4 mins 30.” Local rules can be set, but need to be ratified by HQ.
- Cowal Games will no longer be part of the Major Championships after this year, but it has been agreed that the date will be left protected for Cowal in future years.
- 4 Branch bands unpaid at HQ: 3 of these are defunct, but Crieff High School has paid the branch levy but not HQ, so this needs to be addressed.



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8. Music Board Report:

Bruce reported briefly as follows:

- About a dozen re-gradings have been accepted
- Bleary & District wished to be downgraded from 1 to 2: Rejected
- Quinn Memorial wished to go down from 3A to 3B. Also rejected
- Pipe Band Studies: Diploma in Pipe Band Musicianship proposal is on the table as a phase for adjudicators
- “The case for Grade 5” Proposal document to be circulated.

9. Website Report:

Neil reported as follows:

- We have paid to keep the name and hosting for the next couple of years. We also now officially have ownership of the name.
- Mission Fish is now called “PayPal Giving Fund”.
- Updates for Committee members for bios and photos is offered should they wish to update
- Still missing data for trophies
- Bands to supply photos and news items if possible

10. AOCB:

Branch Solos:

- Proposed to no longer charge for programs. This was agreed as long as we are now charging spectator fees and just including the program with the fee.
- Certificates. Suggestion was it was not necessary to have lots of people all in “4th place”. There was some debate but finally agreed to debate this point, and other playing requirements at a subsequent meeting. (e.g. including the question, Can youngsters choose to play up into another age group as an alternative to playing in their own age group)
- Willie Ferguson Trophy issue. Apparently our branch ran the contest in the way it was supposed to be run. i.e. two judges sitting together, produce one crit sheet and a list of placings.
- Thanks were expressed for the assistance from the Kinross band members at the Solos.
- Alternative venue for Branch solos. Nigel has not booked Kinross yet, as holding off to see if we are going to get another venue. Nigel will confirm provisional costs from Kinross, and will go ahead and book following the next committee meeting if there is no other venue proposed.
- Proposed date Saturday 23rd November.

Crieff Contest:

- Crieff Games committee will run and fund the Pipe Band contest as a community event.
- Spectator entry fee will be £3 (Still £9 for the Highland Games the week before)
- Gary ran through the draft entry form for Crieff.
- Article 11 of the entry form will be removed, no restriction on Grade 4 bands entering MSR
- Marquee with drink, food available for sponsors, games, RSPBA & Branch officials
- Playing requirements will be as per Cowal
- All bands are expected to take part in the Street March

Branch Mini-Bands:

- Playing requirements Grade 1 MSR, Grade 2 Medley 4 – 6 mins, Grade 3 MSR, Grade 4 Selection etc.
- Entry fees £10 per mini-band, £6 per Trio Piping (no change)

Loch Leven Contest

- Small tweaks required to the Entry Form .
- Nigel explained that all 3 events (the Half Marathon, the Feel Good Fair and the Pipe Band Contest) are now going to be moved to the large playing fields and the car park will therefore no longer be in the way.



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Also, Kinross are going to hold a massed bands send-off for the runners, followed by a short street march at lunch time.

- Paul advised that we should allow 1 hour band preparation time between returning from the Street March and starting the next competition.
- The prize fund money is still to be raised, and one suggestion is to approach local residents and ask if they would be prepared to be patrons of the contest, in exchange for a small regular donation, such as by way of a standing order. It was considered that this might work, but it would be sensible to create a separate bank account for this purpose, to allow the money to be easily identified.

Strathmore Contest:

- The Branch is now running Strathmore as of this year
- Grades 4, 3 & 2, and now also a Grade 4 MSR contest
- Agreed to make the entry fee £10 at Strathmore to assist with funds

New Carnoustie Contest:

- Carnoustie have proposed new Branch contest combined with the existing Carnoustie Gala day
- Ian presented a document outlining the details of the proposed contest
- No major issue with it going ahead on the same day as Thornton
- All agreed this was a good idea. Still to source trophies, prize money etc.

Magazine.

- No info coming in at present. All bands encouraged to submit articles to Barbara.
- Concern over management and delivery of magazine. Several editions not received.

General

- Possible location for Mini-Bands explored at Crieff, over £800, so not being explored further
- Possible PipeFest world record attempt, there may be another approach towards the end of the season.
- The former Branch book-keeper, Walter Paul, also passed away suddenly recently

11. New Action Items

Mtg-Act	Action	Owner	Due By	Status *
Feb-A1	Debate how to place chanter and drumming on pad, i.e. allocate all places right to last place, or just (e.g.) place lots of players "4 th " Also debate other ideas for the playing format in general (age categories, etc)	ALL	March	New
Feb-A2	Gary to clarify with Crieff High School that they must pay the RSPBA HQ levy (including any late payment penalty) in order to remain a RSPBA registered band	Gary	March	New
Feb-A3	Jim to make enquiries regarding possible use of a school in Dundee for the Branch Solos this year. (Required ideally: 3 contest rooms, 3 final tuning rooms, a canteen area we can use to do our own catering and around 12 band preparation rooms.	Jim	March	New
Feb-A4	Nigel to confirm costs and provisionally hold the Loch Leven Community Campus in Kinross in case we don't get a Dundee area option	Nigel	March	New

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

12. Next meeting:

Sunday 17th March 2013, 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm start