



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

2014 Branch AGM Minutes Sunday 2nd November 2014 in Glencarse Village Hall

1. Welcome & Chairman's Remarks

Paul welcomed everyone reminded that votes are one vote per band

2. Presence and Apologies

Bands Represented: (To be confirmed) Kinross, Mackenzie Caledonian, Perth, City of Brechin, Mains of Fintry, Coupar Angus, Vale of Atholl, 6th/8th BB's, Carnoustie, Alyth?, Strathmore?

Apologies: None received

3. Adoption of minutes from 2013 AGM

Proposed: Mackenzie grade 2

Seconded: Carnoustie

4. Matters arising from 2013 AGM

MAP adjudication should not take place at any of the majors next year. (Despite the trial at the Worlds last year)
Precedent has been set that if a player also plays with a lower grade band, that band has the option to play earlier
Media coverage in general was a bit better last year
Perform in Perth mentioned again as a possible junior solo contest.
No issues re political affiliations

5. Reports

Chairman's Report

I would like to extend my thanks to the branch committee for all their work over the past 12 months, Especially Gary who does a massive amount of work, ensuring everything is in order including meetings, contests etc. Sadly, we are losing 2 members - our webmaster Neil Myles, Neil was instrumental in setting up and maintaining the Branch website over the past years, hopefully someone has the knowledge to help us maintain what Neil has started. We have also received the resignation of Ian Campbell due to personal circumstances, Ian has done a fantastic job as Magazine Rep for the past 12 months, as I'm sure anyone who reads the magazine has noticed, the Branch has been taking up a significant amount of the publication recently, if we have any budding journalist I know Ian has outstanding items to put some articles together.

I would like to congratulate the branch bands who have featured in the prize list over the past year whether at local or major contests and would like to thank branch bands who have made the effort to attend all the minor contests locally. Special mention to local bands who featured in the major prize lists this season:

1. 6/8 BB's - 1st European championships & 2nd at the Scottish
2. Arbroath RBLs - 5th at the British, UK and Europeans
3. Carnoustie & District - 5th at the Europeans
4. City of Brechin Grade 3 - 6th at the Europeans
5. Kinross & District - 6th at the Europeans,
6. Mackenzie Caledonian grade 2 - 6th at the British, 2nd at the Europeans, 5th at the Worlds.

I would like to invite any member of our branch bands to pop along to any of our regular meetings, whether just to see what's happening, escape the house or to share a thought on something relating to the branch or RSPBA.

Secretary's Report

Chairman, Committee members, Band Members, can I add my welcome to that of the Chairman and to thank you for taking the time this evening to make it along to our AGM.

As a Branch we currently have 17 registered bands: -

Grade 4B	Alyth & District, Carnoustie & District, City of Brechin, Coupar Angus Burgh, Mains of Fintry, Vale of Atholl; (6 bands)
Grade 4A	Arbroath Royal British Legion (Scotland), Kinross & District, Perth & District (3 bands)
Novice Juvenile	Mackenzie Caledonian NJ; (1 band)
Grade 3B	Strathmore (1 band)
Grade 3A	City of Brechin, Edradour Pitlochry and Blair Atholl; 6 th /8 th Dundee Boys Brigade, Vale Of Atholl (4 bands)
Grade 2	Mackenzie Caledonian; (1 band)
Grade 1	Vale of Atholl (1 band)

Congratulations to 6th/8th Dundee Boys Brigade – 2014 Grade 3B European Champions. The band has progressed from 4B to 3B to 3A over the last two seasons.

A review of our Branch Competitions saw both good and not so good entries – the not so good possibly influenced by the compact Championship calendar in 2014 as compared to recent years.

The year started with Branch Solo Competitions held at a new venue, Craigie High School in Dundee. Entry numbers were up on 2011 and 2012 – whether that was due to change of venue, changes to age categories, a combination of both or maybe we just got lucky – we hope to attract an increase in numbers again this year. The venue for 2014 will once again be Craigie High School on Saturday 15th November.

Please can I ask that all entries be returned to me no later than Friday, 7th November. (If anyone has trophies to return, I'll be happy to accept them at the end of this evening's meeting or see me before you leave and I can arrange to collect).

In April, we held our Trio Piping and Mini-Bands Event at Forfar Academy. On the day there were 30 mini band and 11 trio performances, which is fairly consistent with the previous two years. Once again it's hoped that Forfar Academy can provide the venue for 2015, last Saturday in April is a provisional date.



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May saw the 3rd year of the Loch Leven contest held within the grounds of Kinross Community Campus with 2014 providing the largest number of band performances of the competition to date. I'd like to thank Nigel Kellett for once again organizing both the competition and a street parade on the day. Next year, the competition will be held on Saturday 9th May.

The second Sunday in June saw Strathmore Games held at Glamis Castle. 20 performances on the day compared favorably with 24 in 2013. Concerns are already on the cards for 2015 however as Strathmore is scheduled to be held the day after the UK Championships in Belfast. To add to concerns, 2015 marks the 40th anniversary of the games and Committee members are hoping for a good turnout.

Carnoustie was scheduled to take place in July however due to lack of entries, the event had to be cancelled. At the moment, it's still undecided whether there will be an event in 2015 (not necessarily in July).

Whilst not officially a Branch event, simply by good fortune of the 2014 (and 2013) calendar, many Branch bands competed at Perth games on the Sunday prior to the World Championships. Some 74 performances plus adult and juvenile drum majors competed – just a pity that the weather was so appalling!

In contrast, Crieff Games was held the day after “the Worlds” and not surprisingly, entries were poor – only 4 bands and no competing drum majors. Credit however must go to those 4 in that each band competed in every event open to them. Unfortunately, due to the way the 2015 calendar falls, Crieff will once again be the day after the World Championships.

Despite concerns that enthusiasm might wane for post-World Championship / Champion of Champions events, Pitlochry Games were deemed to be a great success by the organizers with record numbers attending. The glorious weather certainly helped. As a Branch, we continue to bang on their door to be able to extend the competition to any band rather than entries by invitation only.

Over the competing season, several Branch bands had notable success at Championship level: -

British (Bathgate): Mackenzie Caledonian NJ finalists; Vale Of Atholl Gr4B finalists; Arbroath RBLs, 6th/8th Dundee Boys Brigade & McKenzie Caledonian (Gr2) - all in top 6 of their respective grades.

UK (Belfast): Mackenzie Caledonian (Gr2) and Arbroath RBLs – in top 6 of their respective grades.

Europeans (Forres): Carnoustie, Arbroath and Kinross - all in top 6 of their respective grades. 6th/8th Dundee Boys Brigade Gr3B European Champions.

City Of Brechin (Gr3A) - top 6 position; Mackenzie Caledonian runners-up in Grade 2;

Scottish (Dumbarton): 6th/8th Dundee Boys Brigade runners-up Gr3B

Worlds (Glasgow): 6th/8th Dundee Boys Brigade Gr3B finalists; Mackenzie Caledonian (Gr2) – top 6 position.

Congratulations to all of the bands.

At last year's AGM, Jim Campbell gave an RSPBA presentation on structured learning – the Outreach Program. The Branch ran a successful first day of that program in September with some 33 participants from piping, snare and tenor drumming.

A follow-up day is planned; we are just waiting on availability of RSPBA tutors. As soon as that availability is given, I will be in contact.

Lastly, whilst we are here to help you, the Branch would not exist without your support. Please take our thanks back to your bands and we wish you every success for the new season. Thank you.

Provisional diary dates for 2015 are as follows: -

Forfar Mini-Bands	25 th April (provisional)
Loch Leven	9 th May (provisional)
British Championships, Bathgate	30 th May
UK Championships, Belfast	13 th June
Strathmore Games	14 th June
European Championships, Forres	27 th June
Scottish Championships, Dumbarton	25 th July
Perth Games	9 th August (provisional)
World Championships, Glasgow	14 th & 15 th August
Crieff Games	16 th August
Pitlochry Games	12 th September

Gary Mair
Branch Secretary

Treasurer's Report

As per attached

Music Board Representative Reports:

Piping Report

The music board met on 4 occasions during the off-season, main points of business discussed were

1) Grading's

From the branch perspective the following bands were regraded on standards at the end of the 2014 competition season.

- 6/8 Dundee BB from Grade 3B to Grade 3A



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2) Education

The new Pipe Band Musicianship Course Part 1 has been rolled out and the first courses are ongoing now.

From a branch perspective we are in the process of working towards training the tutors to set up courses to allow our band members to participate on the SQA & PDQB qualifications that are now available.

RSPBA has provided the structured learning books to Association members free of charge on the internet.

3) Two day World's

The two day Worlds from a music board perspective was a success. This was not the feeling of some Grade 1 bands, as they felt they played twice on the Friday to eliminate 12 bands from the contest.

4) Proposed rule change

The music Board are proposing a change to the registration rules so that the registrations come in line with the dates for the championships in that 42 days to allow time to process the changes in the office.

Bruce Cargill

Drumming Report

(No report, no drumming rep yet on Committee)

6. Director's Report

I have had a busy year representing the branch on the board of directors, I have been on duty at all the major championships as well as all minor contests in our branch and fife as well as a stint in Lothian, and was proud to control the commonwealth games parade of champions on the Friday of the worlds which was led by branch band Mackenzie Caledonian over an epic route.

I am a member of the standing orders subgroup which looks at potential proposals for rule changes prior to the AGM, key change last year was the amendment to the starting commands at contests which gives the bands a variety of starting options.

I am also a member of the registration working group which is looking at RSPBA and band membership, as part of this I conducted a trial in relation to band membership of playing members at the Scottish at Dumbarton, the findings have been fed back to the board and we have been instructed to look at potential changes to the current system of registrations, however these are unlikely to come into effect till 2016 at the earliest due to the complex nature of the issues and the fact that they will require to be approved by AGM.

I am also on the working group looking at child protection and am awaiting the final draft of a new policy document.

If anyone has any issues they wish raised please get in touch via the branch meetings or directly either by phone or email

Paul McAndrew

7. Election of Office Bearers and Review of Branch Levy

Election of Office Bearers

Always annual re-election of President, currently Jim Mills

Proposed: Kinross

Seconded: 6th/8th Boys Brigade

Music Board piping rep: Bruce Cargill

Proposed: Kinross

Seconded: Mains of Fintry

Music Board Drumming Rep: Greg Ogilvie

Proposed: City of Brechin

Seconded: 6th / 8th Boys Brigade

Agreed, pending approval from RSPBA HQ

Magazine Rep: Involves submitting up to 4 articles per year

Potential candidate (Offer of post of magazine rep to be made to Craig Fyall, pending his decision to take it up or not)

Comment from Neil Myles that some articles of interest to P&D magazine could also be submitted to the Evening Telegraph

Proposed: Kinross

Seconded: 6th / 8th Boys Brigade

Webmaster

Neil will continue at least until the end of the year. Any potential webmaster to look after the branch website.



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Committee

Exiting committee standing down
Gillie McNab, Gordon Barton, Stewart Findlay, Ian Campbell

New committee
Gillie McNab, Stewart Findlay, Paul Winter

Branch Levy

Proposal to alter the levy, which hasn't changed for a number of years, previously £30 for senior bands and £25 for youth
Proposal to increase levy to £40 for all bands
Proposal from Perth: £40 adults and £30 for youth
Seconded: McKenzie Grade 2

8. AOCB

Branch suggestion to have Director's Meeting and Music Board Meeting dates published in advance on the RSPBA website so anyone who wishes can attend

All bands to be asked to nominate a second member to receive official correspondence.

Suggestion for Bands to be able to pay electronically

Mains of Fintry: Is there any provision for Drumming Tutors to be made available locally? A discussion ensued with various different points expressed. Alasdair Duthie from Perth has written a letter which is counter-signed by a number of prominent people, but the general idea is that individual parents are strongly encouraged to write in to the local council, as education councils tend to respond to parent demand.

BB's. Young lad going to Dundee University is looking for a band to join.

BB's. Around 20 tickets remain available for the BB concert.

Arbroath: Morag is offering to help out with PVG membership

McKenzie: If Strathmore or Carnoustie contests don't take place, could the previous Cowal date at end of August be a possibility? Generally agreed that this might be an option. Michelin Club in Dundee could be an option. Neil to look into this.

Parent council will provide soup, sandwiches, cake in school from 10 am until early afternoon, after which staffroom will be opened up for tea, coffee and honesty box

9. Chairman's Closing Remarks

Paul thanked all for their attendance and a constructive meeting.

10. Next meetings:

Next Committee Meeting: Sunday 7th December

Next year's AGM: Sunday 1st November 2015