



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

Minutes from Branch Meeting Sunday 19th January 2014 in The Michelin Athletic Club, Dundee

1. Chairman's welcome:

Paul opened the meeting at 7.30 pm and welcomed everyone to this, the first meeting of the year.

2. Presence and Apologies:

Present:

Paul McAndrew, Gary Mair, Nigel Kellett, Ian Campbell, Gillie McNab, Jim Mills, Neil Myles, Gordon Barton, Stewart Findlay

Apologies:

Bruce Cargill, Irene Black

3. Matters arising from minutes of last meeting:

Actions from minutes in 2012

Mtg-Act	Action	Owner	Status *
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	Paul	CLOSED. No further progress made on this so decided to not pursue for the time being.
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	CLOSED. Matter currently with HQ.

Actions from minutes in 2013

Mtg-Act	Action	Owner	Status *
Mar-A3	Consider implementing a pilot player registration database	Paul	CLOSED. No further progress on this issue.
Aug-A1	Print out plenty of Perform in Perth entries and bring to the Vale contest in January. Also make a point of mentioning at the AGM.	Nigel	CLOSED. Nigel took forms along to the AGM
Aug-A2	Speak further with John Nevans to explore the idea of a week-long Easter/Summer/Autumn "Band Camp"	Paul	CLOSED. A meeting took place with John Nevans and Bob Niven, details below
Sep-A1	Send a letter of thanks to Gary Fullerton	Gary	CLOSED. Gary sent a letter before Christmas.
Sep-A2	All to review "The case for Grade 5" and respond with comments prior to next meeting	ALL	CLOSED. A discussion on this took place at the Music Board and the idea will not be put forward.
Sep-A3	Suggest at next Director's Meeting that Jason Lafferty be authorized to publish any Open event summaries along with the regular grades from minor contests. (Band's actual grades would be shown in the same way as they are when playing up)	Paul	OPEN. (Not mentioned at last meeting)
Sep-A4	Publish solo entry forms and issue with a letter / email advising of the significant changes in playing format, designed to encourage more entries from all bands in general, and to encourage more adult entries in particular.	Gary	CLOSED. All generally went well, see also feedback below.
Sep-A5	Investigate recent winners' names and dates of the Open Drumming trophy and arrange to have details added to it.	Gary / Paul	OPEN. (This was the NCR trophy) Trophy currently with BB's – dates to be given to Neil to publish question on the website?



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Neil asked what feedback (if any) was forthcoming from the RSPBA with regard to the comments from Perth & District at the previous meeting. These matters have been raised at HQ.

Child Protection is now in the remit of the Education Officer. A draft policy has been created for the office, but this is currently being revamped for applicability throughout the organization.

4. Approval of previous minutes

Approved: Jim Mills

Seconded: Ian Campbell

5. Correspondence:

- A Travel Company has been asking for their business to be put on the website, specifically for Belfast trips. Agreed that a block email can be sent to Band secretaries, but not to go on website
- Lathallan 'Summer' School.
- Feedback received from one band (Brechtin) regarding Branch solos. Generally positive, but felt more consultation would have been appropriate. Age groups dramatically changed in all events to over and under 18.
- This topic in general discussed under AOB.

6. Treasurer's Report:

No report presented, Treasurer absent.(Solo information)
(Separate report, data remains confidential)

7. Director's Report:

- Paul reported meeting on 14th December:
 - Looking at age discrimination issue (i.e. all officials from age 70 need to apply annually to stay in post - up to age 75 when they must retire)
 - New playing format for Worlds confirmed (Friday and Saturday)
 - Ian McLellan BEM has retired.
 - Bruce Cargill is now convener of the Gradings Committee. Board of Directors has asked for greater visibility / detail of how gradings are established.
 - Expenses for adjudicators. A study was undertaken to look at averaging the costs of adjudicators and setting an average fee for all branches. This was thrown out, however, so all branches will continue to pay their own respective costs.
 - HQ continues to look at viable options for a new HQ building, working with Glasgow chartered surveyors
 - Directors have all been issued with tablet computers
 - Drum Majors manual has some errors – this is being looked at
 - A few proposals going forward for discussion at the AGM:
 - Supreme award for Drum Majors – a wording change is required
 - 'Pipes down' rule at the Line. Looking at changing the rule to, "The pipe major has the option to keep pipes up or down and stand at ease."
 - Voting criteria for the AGM has been clarified. A "Special Resolution" i.e. changes to the constitution and other company matters, require a 70% majority. Changes to rules only need a 50% majority. Band Secretaries to organize any required proxy votes at least 48 hours before the AGM. (Sat 8th March at 10 am)

8. Music Board Report:

- Paul reported on behalf of Bruce:
 - MAP tune lists have been reviewed
 - 2015 World Pipe Band Championships format is going to be looked at by the Music Board



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9. Website Report:

- Neil reported
 - Committee update still to be done
 - Still quite a lot of missing data for trophies. All to provide trophies and names, etc. Gary will try and take a photo of each trophy as it comes in and forward to Neil.
 - Still very little info from Bands regarding any events etc
 - News page. Every year at beginning of year, Neil prints out entire web history for P&D, and will also forward on to Perth Library for archives if everyone agrees. All agreed so from now on, Perth Library will now hold the Dundee, Perth & Angus Branch archive.
 - Gary has the new software for the website
 - Kirk is looking at developing an update/revamp for the branch website
 - Still no data for Crieff High School band
 - Drop Box. Paul will invite Neil to his drop box account

10. AOCB:

- Entry Forms for Mini-Bands and Loch Leven contests
 - Mini-Bands. Sat 26th April confirmed, closing date Fri 11th April, draw to be posted on 2 websites.
 - Committee reserve the right to make the Grade 1 contest Open depending on entries received.
 - Late entries may be accepted at committee's discretion
 - Medley for Grades 1 and 3, MSR for 2
 - Keep fees the same
 - Loch Leven. Amend to All Grades. Draw will be displayed.
 - Entry fees to stay the same
- Number of arenas / judges for Loch Leven contest
 - Agreed to go ahead and request 2 arenas at this stage, at least for Grade 4
- Branch Education
 - Gary and Paul were up at Lathallan School, originally looking at 7th to 11th April, combination of residential and non-residential, mix of piping and drumming tuition and outward bound activities, possibly also evening visits to bigger band practices. Potential cost £385 per person, covers all fees, board and lodging. The idea was to combine Fife, DPA and NoS branches. It may be necessary to look at potential October dates instead. Potential tutors also appear to be looking at it positively.
 - Angus Council have approached the branch with a view to running a drumming workshop at Forfar on the day of the mini-bands.
 - Branch assessments. Agreed that the Branch will pay the money to have the assessment day.
- Feedback on Branch solos
 - Most around the table agreed that the location was excellent, only slight negative being the duration of the canteen opening hours. One possibility discussed was to allow the School PTA to put on the refreshments all day, with profit going to their funds. (No cost or profit for the Branch)
 - Lack of helpers for stewarding – especially in the afternoon
- Pipe Major's signature box required on enrollment documents
 - This is a HQ office procedure. Not needed to go through the Director's meetings.
- Suggestion. Local Branch You Tube channel for branch band recordings
 - Create a link to the Branch Facebook site
 - Possibly also create a You Tube channel
 - Facebook admin



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11. New Action Items

Mtg-Act	Action	Owner	Due By	Status *
Jan-A1	Request feedback from all branch bands regarding branch solos in Dundee (location, competition format, facilities) Also to ask all bands for new photos / up to date info on bands	Gary	Feb	NEW
Jan-A2	Try and locate possible options for additional archiving	Gary	Feb	NEW
Jan-A3	All to provide a couple of photos of bands for latest updates	Neil	Feb	NEW
Jan-A4	Gary to write to Jim Campbell to request potential assessment days (e.g. Sundays) between now and end April.	Gary	Feb	NEW

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

12. Next meeting:

Not set