



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

**Minutes from Branch Meeting No 9  
Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2016 in the Glencarse Village Hall**

**1. Chairman's welcome:**

Paul welcomed all those present and opened the meeting at 7.10pm. The agenda shows an incorrect date of 6.11.16 however it was confirmed the correct content is shown.

**2. Presence and Apologies:**

**Present:** Paul McAndrew, Irene Black, Gillie McNab, Bruce Cargill, Paul Winter, Ian Hughes, Willie Tait, Ian Hughes, Andrew Downie, Nicola Liddell

**Apologies:** Gary Mair, Jim Mills, Dawn Waddell, Owen Sweeney

**3. Matters arising from minutes of last meeting:**

**Actions from minutes in December 2015**

Mtg-Act	Action	Owner	Status *
Dec-A1	Gary Mair to review wording of potential introduction of rules in line with comments received from Perth & District.	Gary	<b>4.12.16</b> – Draft rules circulated by GM 30.11.16. Discussion to be rolled forward to next committee meeting. 6.11.16 - Gary to circulate set of rules. 2.10.16 - Constitution states there will be a set of local rules for contests. Rules cannot be published until they are agreed by the Board of Directors (and permission only stands for 1 year). If the Branch decides to adopt a Grade A & B split, these must be presented before the Board. Gary Mair referred to L&B Branch example (circulated by email on 26.09.16). OPEN. Gary going through L&B rules to see what we can develop that fits with our constitution.
Dec-A7	Nigel Kellett to simplify results sheets (unlock cells + as discussed with Gary Mair)	Nigel	<b>4.12.16 CLOSED.</b> 6.11.16 - Irene confirms issues with 'solo' results sheet only outstanding. Nigel still to simplify and send back to Irene.

**Actions from minutes in February 2016**

Mtg-Act	Action	Owner	Status *
Feb-A1	Potential education events. All to take back to their own bands to discuss what they want to see. Suggested P/M and L/D event at end of season, followed by event for all levels early next year	ALL	<b>4.12.16</b> – Paul advised this had been delegated to Fiona McKay; expected to run on a Sunday in February. Dundee venue being considered / need to ensure availability of school (free venue). 6.11.16 Update – Paul in communication now with Fiona McKay about running a workshop. 2.10.16 Update - Gary Mair referred to information circulated for Northern Branch 2 day workshop. Discussion followed under Education. OPEN Still to be actioned, all to go back to their own bands and send any thoughts in to Gary
Feb-A5	Nigel, Ian, Paul and Gary to approach potential piping & drumming related sponsors (and campus officials) for potential sponsorship	Per action	<b>4.12.16 CLOSED</b> 6.11.16 - Jim also to approach a potential sponsor 2.10.16 - Craig Munro (Wallace Bagpipes) and Craig Lawrie (Lawrie Bagpipes) are prepared to offer sponsorship.



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**Actions from minutes in October 2016**

<b>Mtg-Act</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Status *</b>
Oct-A1	Additional adjudicators required for qualifiers for 2017 world solo drumming [due by Nov]	Gary Paul	<p><b>4.12.16</b> – Paul noted this event had been a huge success. Adjudicators: Paul Brown + Ciaran Mordaunt. Paul reported a miscommunication on contact details for an adjudicator which led to complications and attempts to source internationally including North America; Ciaran agreed to travel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Action: There was a deficit for contest; Paul to approach Chief Executive to reimburse travel costs.</li> <li>Action: Contact details for all adjudicators to be made available in drop box (adheres to Data Protection).</li> </ul> <p>6.11.16 update – confirmation of adjudicators as Paul Brown and Alec Dudgeon.</p>
Oct-A2	Gary Mair to write to Ian Embelton with proposal for full Board ref. a suggested Outdoor Ensemble Quartet event as part of Strathmore Highland Games following correspondence received from Charlie Murray. For review at the next Branch meeting pending the Board's response. [Due by November]	Gary	<p><b>4.12.16</b> – agreement to go ahead with Quartet event; made up of 2 drummers, 1 piper, 1 tenor and must be judged by RSPBA adjudicators. Action: Gary to update Charlie Murray.</p> <p>6.11.16 update – Gary has written to Ian Embelton; a response is anticipated following the Directors meeting to be held on 5.12.16.</p>
Oct-A6	2017 Novice winners in each of the classes (x 3) of the Branch to be offered places at 2017 RPSBA Summer School. [Due by end 2016]	Gary	<p><b>4.12.16</b> – <b>CLOSED</b> all notified by email (they pay and claim back).</p> <p>6.11.16 – information will be known following the solo competition.</p>
Oct-A7	Proposed Crieff event (20 <sup>th</sup> August) - Owen Sweeney to follow-up with Diane Porter regarding proposed date. [Due by November]	Owen	<p><b>4.12.16</b> – <b>CLOSED</b> Crieff accepted for <b>5 August 2017</b>.</p> <p>6.11.16 – entry shows wrong date of 20<sup>th</sup> August. This should appear as 5<sup>th</sup> August.</p>
Oct-A8	Provisional 2017 calendar of events to be entered onto Branch [Due by October]	Nicola	<p><b>4.12.16</b> – <b>CLOSED</b> Gary has resent events to HQ.</p> <p>6.11.16 – 14<sup>th</sup> May has now been confirmed with Dundee council. Request to remove 22<sup>nd</sup> July Burntisland as this is a L&amp;B event.</p>
Oct-A10	Gary to ask Board to test out concert format for 2017 Full Band contest. [Due by November]	Gary	<p>4.12.16 – Board of Directors relaxed as to which way the Branch wishes to adopt, noting all bands would have to play in whichever format was decided. 50/50 feedback previously received. Decision to opt for Concert formation (indoors) this year to offer a direct comparison for feedback when considering in Year 3. [Concert formation = semi-circle with drummers at back or side (not split), PM at front].</p> <p>A general Health &amp; Safety discussion took place regarding indoor contests; no action.</p> <p>6.11.16 – Ongoing. Gary has written to the Board; a response is also anticipated following the Directors meeting on 5.12.16.</p>
Oct-A13	Craigie Solos (19 <sup>th</sup> November 2016) – trophies to be returned [Due by November]	ALL	<p><b>4.12.16</b> – <b>CLOSED</b>. All trophies were returned.</p> <p>6.11.16 - Gary confirmed some trophies had been received but was still chasing around 15.</p>



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**Actions from Interim meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

<b>Mtg-Act</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Status *</b>
Nov-A1	Annual Branch levy – annual fees for bands are now due. Currently £45 for adult bands and £35 for under 18 juvenile bands. It was noted fees were raised last year to recoup Paypal costs. Paul McAndrew proposed fees remained the same for 2017, all in agreement.	Paul Gary Nicola	4.12.16 – Online payment facility now available. Nicola asked if column could be removed showing whether bands have paid levies or not; agreement for this data to be removed. The system will not permit bands to enter contests until levy is paid. Paul wished to establish which bands had not yet paid 2016 fees. Action - Nicola to query with Jason if outstanding levy arrears could be automatically added. Branch membership - currently if 3 years have lapsed, and the band does not intend to compete at RSPBA events it is their choice effectively to not pay the branch levy (the band may wish to rejoin at year 4 or 5, and the branch levy for that particular year will apply). If however, a band returns within the 3 years of non-payment; arrears will apply and be backdated accordingly. Approved by Ally Bryce, seconded by Bruce Cargill. 6.11.16 - Nicola to request online payment options are opened on web with Jason.

**Further matters arising:**

- None

**4. Approval of previous minutes**

**Approved:** Irene Black

**Seconded:** Ian Hughes

**5. Correspondence:**

- Paul McAndrew advised one response had been received to date in relation to Gary Mair's email of 23.11.16 regarding RSPBA Annual General Meeting voting and proposal for voting by proxy.

**6. Treasurer's Report:**

- Irene presented the accounts, contained in a separate (confidential) document

**7. Music Board Report:** Bruce reported as follows -

- Bands have been regraded on HQ website.
- Competition format structural review on hold but intention to revisit January 2017.
- A band had requested to move down a grade however Board have left them in their current grade - a rule that the Board is permitted to apply; no feedback as yet.
- Reported that forms now available for new bands trying to register (highest grade has to be registered which should help to see scenarios of Grade 3 band full of Grade 1 players). This information will be helpful to spot anything requiring further action.
- Paul McAndrew advised if a roster is submitted 42 days in advance of a contest, a change may be made up to 14 days prior and no requirement in place to resubmit, Bruce Cargill understood that changes to the roster up to 14 days would be required and noted he would look at this anomaly alongside potential forthcoming Board rule changes.
- Bruce reported an issue around Level 6 Assessors and above regarding acceptance of advanced certificate PDQB for assessors.
- RSPBA Summer School confirmed for 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017 – 4<sup>th</sup> August 2017.
- Bruce notified of a forthcoming AMPB (judges governing body) meeting.



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#### 8. Director's Report: Paul reported as follows -

- Paul advised that Jim Baxter was not aware our Branch solos date was on the same day as Glasgow and would not have held if he knew that was the case. Craigmount event (subsequently cancelled) was a further example of 2 events in 1 day. Paul highlighted all our events need to be listed on the HQ site.
- RSPBA rules currently state that you cannot be a member of another association (Royal Air Force used as an example scenario); a possible rework of rules had been considered by HQ however was ruled out and decision to do on a case-by-case basis opted for.
- Notification that 2 Branch bands have not paid fees and will receive fines from HQ.
- HQ building – the Board have requested a second more detailed plan by March of possible refurbishment (need to look at securing funding). Previous intention to recruit a Funding Officer was placed on hold.
- Registration – review ongoing but format possibly agreed to remain with current arrangement, whereby Band secretaries have responsibility. Proposal to issue log-in's to secretaries to manage online (bigger bands may consider adopting a Membership Secretary). Confirmation that current software supports this proposal; IT Specialist meeting scheduled. Once the decision has been approved, intend to roll-out initially with Grade 1 (less movement). Bands will be charged according to size of roster (current fee £260) - aware that there may be a number of individuals on rosters who are no longer members so time will be given for bands to carry out admin updates before new system set in place. A query was raised if a further membership clause may need to be introduced in addition to Associate (taking into consideration bands with a large honorary members list). Paul commented there are currently 12,500 members of the RSPBA however realistically this figure is more likely to be around 8,000 (name spellings, individuals on more than 1 roster etc). All members would need to know their registration number. Photo ID would be shown on database only (RSPBA secure site) and not on cards themselves. Registration numbers provided would be spot-checked at contests.

#### 9. Education

- CPBN Part II - Paul reported a number of people having to travel as training not offered outside this country. Decision at latest Board meeting to reimburse hotel and flight costs for Irish attendees who complete 3 weekends of training (those who complete course feedback entitled to reimbursement of course fees also).
- Paul invited members to have a general discussion on what aspects of Education they wanted to see in place:  
RSPBA slide packs / training materials / teaching methods – bands keen to source information already out there to develop and adopt and Branch training pack (beginners - Advanced Higher level). Aim to ensure the Branch don't contradict what they are doing in schools but rather enhance and support learning; also ensuring continuity of what is being rolled out by each branch member.  
Action: Paul McAndrew asked if Gillie McNab would be happy to share a Drumming book used for teaching by Graham Peters within Vale of Atholl Pipe Band. Action Gary Mair approach individuals on behalf of Branch to see if they would be willing to share appropriate materials; John Nevans (actual slides, including notes, from Northern Branch training weekend), Derek Potter (for SQA considerations), Pat Whelan (RSPBA Education Officer / Outreach paperwork if GM does not already have), Ian Duncan, Anne Spalding, Roddy Wier.

#### 10. Media Report:

- **Branch Website:** Nicola Liddell reported the following updates -  
2017 calendar of events are now loaded to the Branch web pages.  
Branch committee meeting and AGM dates to be added once identified.  
Annual fees due now and online payment facility now available. Entry for competitions will not be available until early 2017.  
Bands are reminded that data for Branch page is uplifted from HQ page therefore all band changes must be made officially at HQ (for new PM and Secretary details).  
Data Protection statement now available on the Branch homepage.



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- **RSPBA Magazine:** no update
- **Branch Facebook page:** no update

**11. AOCB:**

- Potential new band forming in Branch – “Dundee City Pipe Band” in the process of completing forms and soon to be RPSBA registered.
- Vale of Atholl Branch Solos, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2017 – Gillie McNab to email temporary entry form for web upload.
- It was noted that Irish schools and council were looking to upgrade all drums; anyone looking to upgrade going through Andante advised to do so quickly as a backlog on system is expected.
- Gillie McNab requested that playing requirements are reviewed prior to solos next year. Under 18, 8 part contests; it is suggested that 4 parts would be sufficient for this age group. In addition, a comment was made that competitors do not all play 4 map tunes and technically should have been disqualified. Further discussion needed as to whether review should be for pipers only or also for drummers.
- Paul McAndrew extended congratulations to branch member, Jordan Ednie, who competed at the *Graeme Johnston Memorial and Willie Ferguson Memorial competition* in Glasgow – representing the branch and winning 1<sup>st</sup> place in 15-18 year category as well as 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Willie Ferguson Memorial Competition.
- Perform in Perth syllabus (running from 4<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> March 2017) was distributed highlighting closing date for entries 20<sup>th</sup> January 2017. Further copies of syllabus available from [nicola.m.liddell@btinternet.com](mailto:nicola.m.liddell@btinternet.com)
- Nicola Liddell re-iterated news of Alex Dingwall’s death (former member of 82 years with Perth and District Pipe Band). Paul McAndrew noted this had also been announced at the RSPBA Board meeting and had been communicated on all UK branch websites.
- Associate membership - An in-depth discussion took place around any branch band/individual not currently registered with the RSPBA noting certain dispensations whereby permission has been granted by the Chief Executive. All in favour of no change to the current Constitution (see below) but revising draft Rule (below) to allow a band/individual to compete in an RSPBA event without challenge. Fee agreed of £5 individual / £45 band fee annually.

Point 22 / RSPBA Constitution & Standing Orders (May 2015) reads:

*“Associate Membership may be available within the Branch at the fee determined by the Management Committee. Associate Membership shall not entitle the holder to any voting powers, but shall permit him/her to take part in the business of the Branch at the discretion of the Chairman”.*

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*Draft Branch Rules (Gary Mair email of 30.11.16) states -*

1d. Branch Associate Membership is open to players and non-players at a fee determined by the Management Committee so long as the person is not a registered member of an RSPBA-registered band.

2017 Calendar of Branch Championships

Branch championships were defined as ‘full band competitions’ only and were agreed as follows -

| Date                        | Event               | Drum Major Competition         |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2017 | Craigie, Dundee     |                                |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> May 2017   | Dundee City Outdoor | ✓ [DM contest since cancelled] |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2017   | Markinch            | ✓                              |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> June 2017  | Strathmore          |                                |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> June 2017  | Lochore             | ✓                              |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> August 2017 | Crieff              | ✓                              |

*Thornton competition, 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017, was not listed as part of Branch championships as only 4 and 3 grades.*

*Paul McAndrew also noted Perth Games, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2017, may have guest bands but no contest as such but this is awaiting confirmation.*



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A query was raised as to why any of the Majors are not included in branch contests (one example given of bands attending UK Championships would be at a disadvantage as unable to attend Strathmore contest the next day) with many bands attending Major events but not receiving points for them. A review is needed to understand the impact of potentially including majors in the Branch championships (possibly giving a half point for each Major a band attended). Paul proposed that Nigel Kellett carries the result as normal but monitors majors and uses as a point of reference for next year (request to add in an extra column for person recording results on a spreadsheet). It is hoped this would provide sufficient data as a point of reference to compare for next year.

#### 12. New Action Items

| Mtg-Act        | Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Owner          | Status * |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------|
| Dec2016<br>AA1 | Development of Branch education pack<br>- Gary Mair to approach individuals to seek their assistance in sourcing training materials & teaching methods.<br>Education (continued) - Gillie McNab to approach Graham Peters to seek permission to utilise existing Vale of Atholl training books. | Gary<br>Gillie |          |
| Dec2016<br>AA2 | Gillie McNab to email temporary entry form (for web upload) ref. Vale of Atholl Branch solos on 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2017                                                                                                                                                                   | Gillie         |          |
| Dec2016<br>AA3 | Awaiting confirmation if Perth Games (13 <sup>th</sup> August 2017) will go ahead as a contest or with guest bands only.                                                                                                                                                                        | Gary<br>Paul   |          |
| Dec2016<br>AA4 | Inclusion of an additional column on branch contest spreadsheet to include Majors for 2018 comparison exercise.                                                                                                                                                                                 | Gary<br>Nigel  |          |
| Dec2016<br>AA5 | Agenda item carried forward to review playing requirements for pipers/drummers in solo contests.                                                                                                                                                                                                | Gary<br>Nicola |          |

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

#### 13. Next Branch Meeting Date(s):

Next meeting to take place on ~~5<sup>th</sup> February 2017~~ **12<sup>th</sup> February 2017** (date revised since last committee meeting was held). The next meetings thereafter for 2017 will be held on:

12<sup>th</sup> March 2017, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017, 8<sup>th</sup> October 2017, AGM 5<sup>th</sup> November 2017 and 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017. The meeting closed at 9.50pm.