



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

Minutes from Branch Meeting No 8 Sunday 6th November 2016 in the Glencarse Village Hall

A brief Committee meeting was held prior to the start of the AGM acting as an interim discussion before the next scheduled Committee meeting to be held on Sunday 4th December 2016. Attendees of this interim meeting and actions from last meeting held on 2nd October 2016 were updated as follows –

1. Chairman's welcome:

Paul welcomed all those present and opened the meeting at 6.35pm.

2. Presence and Apologies for interim meeting:

Present: Paul McAndrew, Gary Mair, Irene Black, Jim Mills, Gillie McNab, Ally Bryce, Andrew Downie, Greig Ogilvie, Owen Sweeney, Paul Winter, Ian Hughes, Willy Tait, Ian Finlay, Bruce Cargill, Nicola Liddell
(those present at original 2nd October 2016 meeting included: Irene Black, Jim Mills, Bruce Cargill, Gillie McNab, Ally Bryce, Gary Mair, Stewart Findlay, Greig Ogilvie, Andrew Downie, Iain Finlay, Paul McAndrew, Owen Sweeney, Ian Hughes, Willy Tait, Nicola Liddell)

Apologies: Stewart Findlay *(Apologies from 2nd October 2016 meeting included Paul Winter, Dawn Waddell, Nigel Kellett, Jayne 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	6.11.16 update - Gary to circulate set of rules. 2.10.16 update - Our 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 decide 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. Gary to circulate proposed new document.
Dec-A4	Irene Black to monitor bands who enter all 6 Branch Championships to offer complimentary branch levy where relevant	Irene	6.11.16 update – CLOSED. 2.10.16 update - Irene Black noted not all 6 contests ran highlighting that no one band entered all that did go ahead. On this basis offer nul and void. OPEN. Ongoing to end of season
Dec-A5	Paul McAndrew to review A/B breakdown for Grade 4 at Lochore, Markinch & Thornton contests	Paul	6.11.16 update – CLOSED. 2.10.16 update – to be covered in Director's report OPEN. Paul has made the suggestion and is awaiting feedback from the various contests. March: Latest is the entry forms don't seem to have the A/B split, so leave action open for the moment
Dec-A7	Nigel Kellett to simplify results sheets (unlock cells + as discussed with Gary Mair)	Nigel	6.11.16 update – OPEN. Irene confirms issues with 'solo' results sheet only outstanding. OPEN. Nigel still to simplify and send back to Irene.
Dec-A9	Outreach Programme / General tuition to be considered and discussed at next	Paul	CLOSED. Clarified that the previous Outreach money can be used to fund branch education. If we



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	meeting.		provide venue, then HQ will fund the tuition team. Consider possible dates in March next year, possibly in Dundee, for central location, ease of parking. Suggest all levels, rather than just P/M.s and L/D's Dealt with in Education section below. 2.10.16 update – to be discussed under Education.
Dec-A11	Potential Branch change of name – Paul McAndrew to raise again if no update received at next Board of Directors meeting	Paul	OPEN. Still no news on this 2.10.16 Update - CLOSED as Board rejected.

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	6.11.16 Update – OPEN. 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-A4	Purchase an overhead projector for the branch and claim back 10%	Gary	6.11.16 Update – CLOSED. Thanks was extended to Greig Ogilvie who has donated 2 projectors; 1 will be held with Paul McAndrew and the other with Gary Mair. OPEN Prices available, but not yet actioned
Feb-A5	Nigel, Ian, Paul and Gary to approach potential piping & drumming related sponsors (and campus officials) for potential sponsorship	Per action	OPEN Jim also to approach a potential sponsor 2.10.16 Update – CLOSED. Craig Munro (Wallace Bagpipes) and Craig Lawrie (Lawrie Bagpipes) are prepared to offer sponsorship.
Feb-A6	Circulate document on PVG proposal to committee	Paul	OPEN Still to be circulated Also CEO of disclosure Scotland keen to come along and talk to bands Gary to send email to Pat Whelan, copy Ian Embelton, inviting to October meeting, then to bands 2.10.16 Update - CLOSED. Gary Mair confirmed document now available on website.

Further matters arising:

- None

4. Approval of previous minutes

Approved: Irene Black

Seconded: Ian Hughes

5. Correspondence:

- Adjudicators - confirmation received for Branch Solos (2 x piping, 1 x side, 1 x tenor from Boghall). Additional adjudicators required for qualifiers for 2017 world solo drumming.
- Invoice received from Jason Lafferty, Scotia Web Designs, for ongoing annual charges (£70).
- Correspondence received from Northern training - to be covered under Education.
- Pipe Band Insurance - questionnaire issued by Walter McGregor, Director. Some Branch bands have completed but no further information received. Paul McAndrew advised the RSPBA were looking at blanket insurance but this was ongoing.



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- Ian Cox, Troon Blackrock, with request for possibility of juvenile drum majors medal competition (especially at Loch Leven contest).
- Charlie Murray @ Strathmore Highland Games - agreed they will sponsor adult drumming and piping events at the Branch Solos (putting up trophies/bottle). They have proposed the Branch consider an Outdoor Ensemble Quartet (2 pipers, side and tenor drummer) as a separate event at Strathmore games event. Initial concerns were flagged for judging however it was agreed the Branch would put forward a proposal to the full Board (FAO Ian Embelton) for comment before issuing a Branch reply. For review at the next Branch meeting.
- Data Protection – it was agreed a single line is required for the Branch website to state we comply (approval at AGM not required). Action Gary.

6. Treasurer's Report:

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

7. Music Board Report:

- Bruce reported as follows:
 - A request has been made from Registrations/Gradings to revert back to looking at the 42 day registration stipulation; and rationale explained of allowing time to review/flag any issues (issues particularly relating to those playing down). Straight transfers or going up a grade is not problematic, however for the remainder, Bruce emphasized current 14 days is insufficient considering the high volume of emails received. This is the first stepping-stone to try and eliminate some problems. It was noted Major entries close 42 days prior to the event. Paul McAndrew took the opportunity to highlight the importance of reviewing AGM papers.
 - Rulings would further stipulate that you cannot play against your own band (in your own grade).
 - Discussion on Grade 3B possibly only playing a MSR or a medley.
 - Discussion on length of time a band plays for, particularly for a Grade 3a looking to see if they can play for 5.5mins (3-5m currently) but general opinion didn't seem to be gaining anything from this.
 - Novice Juvenile fund applications - Bruce enquired as to who was awarded this and the criteria behind. Paul confirmed 4 bands were awarded £500 each (band names were unknown at meeting although they will be named in the report). It was noted that bands are unable to apply again for 2 years if they have been rejected. Further information provided in Paul McAndrew Director's Report below.
 - The Music Board discussed the length of time between competing bands (primarily in Grade 4 contest) as adjudicators felt rushed.
 - Bruce noted the Board were looking at putting a course together for Pipe Majors in the Grade 4 area.
 - A request had been received from bands for the Worlds event to be concluded by 5pm. It was stated Ian Embelton is looking at the inclusion of an 8th ring logistically.
 - It was noted 2017 playing requirements are now featured on the web.
 - Gradings - Bruce is investigating why a Facebook announcement was made at lunch, in advance of the official Gradings going live on the website at 7pm that evening.
 - Bruce encouraged anyone with any AGM proposals to be looked at by the Music Board to be submitted. Paul further stipulated that any rule change required could be made by a band in its own right however if a band were to submit a query in sufficient time, the Standards Group can review all the rules that may be affected and assist you. Bands are requested to email any queries prior to the next meeting or discuss directly with Bruce Cargill / Paul McAndrew.

8. Director's Report:

- Paul reported as follows:
 - Novice Grants applications - £500 awarded last year and no set criteria (Paul stated the award went to those who asked for travel and were selected on this basis).
 - World solo drumming qualifiers have been passed by the Board; up to 5 qualifiers with 2 from each going straight to semi-final. Will be run with exactly the same qualifying criteria (submit 2 x MSR's). Entry forms



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being prepared and will be available imminently for publication on Facebook. Paul noted Kingdom Thistle are sponsoring event once again and this should cover the cost of the adjudicators.

- The Board discussed at length the set-up of the tuning area for Grade 1 bands during the Worlds event. Despite action being taken following comments received last year to create a straight run into arena, it was obvious from television footage that all bands bizarrely ended up off to the right.
- Agreed in principal, from 2017, juvenile world solo drumming Grade 4 and Novice Juvenile will be allowed to play in MSR appropriate to their age (but not play in their own class).
- RSPBA Summer school confirmed for 31st July - 4th August 2017. Venue: Gaelic College, Glasgow.
- PVG – currently there are 30 instructors for all SQA work Board does; all required to be PVG checked. Correspondence issued in June 2016; 30 have responded, 9 complete, 8 in process, 13 no response. Reminder sent out to those outstanding with request to return by 31st October 2016 otherwise will be removed from list of assessors.
- Following an SQA inspection at RSPBA; 8 or 9 ambers were flagged and reduced to 3 on a traffic light system. Pat Whelan working on this.
- John McInnes awarded honorary life membership for services to RSPBA.
- Board of Directors have meeting on 12th November 2016 to discuss HQ location. Other sites previously considered however deemed current listing building is in perfect location but requires work. Architect to present proposals on what could potentially be done with existing site.
- RSPBA to advertise for a Funding Officer, 2-3 days per week, salary c.£15-20k dependent on experience. 1 year post initially.

9. Education

- Educational workshops – potential timings were discussed and it was noted all local authorities share the same Easter holidays in 2017. Other calendar commitments were flagged (Kingdom Thistle solo competition, L&B solos) so available weekends already reduced. Northern Branch training documents were previously circulated but members of the meeting were unclear on who the training was targeted at.
- Piping/Drumming & Tenor Drumming Workshop - establishing that there was an appetite for this; Paul McAndrew proposed that a 1 day event be run by the piping and drumming tutors of Vale of Atholl Pipe Band. Action Gillie McNab to approach Adrian in the first instance and provide indication of costs. Craigie High School suggested as a good central venue. Aim to host in February 2017 and Branch to look at possibility of it being a free event. Potential costs etc. to be reviewed at next meeting with intention of releasing information the following day to ensure plenty time to publicise.
- Reasonably good uptake of the Aberdeen drumming workshop (arranged by Scott Niven).
- 18 people attended the PD certificate of Piping Musicianship Level II on 1st & 2nd October 2016. Anyone who wishes to be an adjudicator needs this exam (distance learning over 3 weekends @ Gaelic College with the remainder of study completed online).
- Summer School 2016 – 2 spaces allocated by the Branch (3rd place member was unable to take up offer) and very positive feedback received. £180 per pupil. Agreement to offer to novice winners in each of the classes again for 2017.

10. Media Report:

- **Branch Website:** It was highlighted a couple of band details are missing from the web pages and noted that Jason uplifts band info from HQ data - until that's changed we can't replicate.
- **RSPBA Magazine:** no update
- **Branch Facebook page:** no update

11. AOCB:

- 2017 Events - provisional dates were summarised (attached). All dates to be entered onto website, entry forms to follow; dates are provisional until Board agree. Gary Mair summarized same 4 Drum Major contests would go ahead next year however Paul McAndrew flagged may also look to include in Crieff event.



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- Crieff – a discussion took place on reasons behind 2016 being pulled (only 4 bands entered) and the subsequent disappointment this caused for all concerned. July events are deemed difficult to run as generally falls in bands holiday time. Proposal discussed at length to opt for 5th August (also North Berwick date) - Owen Sweeney to follow-up with Diane Porter regarding proposed date. Owen queried if any compensation might be due to organisers. It was agreed £90 received (for bands that withdrew and not entitled to entry fee refunds) would be recompensed payable to 'Crieff High School Pipe Band'.
- Full band contest – Gary Mair reported feedback that all bands liked but some had preference over concert format, another suggestion was to opt for having adjudicators on the balcony. Paul McAndrew highlighted that if Branch opted for a different format, this would need to be agreed by the Board. Proposal to retain contest but try concert format for 2017 – Gary to ask the Board.
- Gary approached with queries on running separate Novice Juvenile A and B contests alongside Grade 4 and B events. Sufficient trophies exist to do so but do we want to? It was recognised that there are insufficient numbers (also believed spectators would rather see bigger numbers compete against each other) and therefore agreed to leave as is and if greater demand next year, a trial would be done the following year.
- Kinross date is to be moved; Nigel Kellett happy to do so. Noted it's harder to get sponsorship year on year. [Following this meeting, it was noted the Kinross/Loch Leven Contest will not run in 2017.]
- Annual competitions normally include minibands, Markinch, Lochore, Thornton, Crieff, Perth and Pitlochry. Highlighted that the format is expected to alter slightly and include a 'Dundee contest', potentially Sunday 14th May 2017 (previously the Kinross weekend and also same day as Banchory). Negotiations are underway with an intention to run this free event in the Caird Hall Square, funded by Dundee's Common Good Fund. Paul McAndrew and Gary Mair due to meet council Business Manager to start planning phase.
- Proposed Perth Contest - Owen Sweeney to approach Ally Bryce and council Event Officer to try again for next year (need to make Perth aware of Paisley increasing their bid as well as economic impact study reference).
- Irene Black queried if Pitlochry were charging a levy. Paul McAndrew to discuss with Aiki Papageorgiou at HQ to establish what has been stated in the contract.
- Craigie Solos (19th November 2016) – trophies to be returned by previous winners.

12. New Action Items

Mtg-Act	Action	Owner	Status *
Oct-A1	Additional adjudicators required for qualifiers for 2017 world solo drumming [due by Nov]	Gary	NEW. 6.11.16 update – confirmation of adjudicators as Paul Brown and Alec Dudgeon.
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	NEW. 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.
Oct-A3	Data Protection – it was agreed a single line is required for the Branch website to state we comply (approval at AGM not required). [Due by Nov]	Gary	NEW. 6.11.16 update – Gary to send Data Protection compliance to Nicola for web upload.
Oct-A4	Bands with any rule change proposals for the AGM are encouraged to approach the Standards Group for assistance, or discuss with Bruce Cargill / Paul McAndrew in the first instance. [Due by Nov]	ALL	NEW. 6.11.16 update – CLOSED.
Oct-A5	Piping & Drumming Workshop – Gillie	Gillie	NEW. 6.11.16 update – CLOSED. Gillie has passed



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	McNab to approach tutors and provide indication of costs for discussion at the next Branch meeting. [Due by Nov]		over to Fiona McKay.
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	NEW. 6.11.16 update – information will be known following the solo competition.
Oct-A7	Proposed Crieff event (20 th August 5 th August) - Owen Sweeney to follow-up with Diane Porter regarding proposed date. [Due by November]	Owen	NEW. 6.11.16 update – “Proposed Crieff event (20 th August)” action entry shows wrong date of 20 th August although calendar summary is correct. This should appear as 5 th August.
Oct-A8	Provisional 2017 calendar of events to be entered onto Branch [Due by October]	Nicola	NEW. 6.11.16 update – 14 th May has now been confirmed with Dundee council. Request to remove 22 nd July Burntisland as this is a L&B event.
Oct-A9	Crieff compensation – Irene Black to issue cheque compensation of entry monies received (£90) to ‘Crieff High School Pipe Band’. [Due by October]	Irene	NEW. 6.11.16 update – CLOSED. Irene confirmed a cheque had been issued for the amount of £113.
Oct-A10	Gary to ask Board to test out concert format for 2017 Full Band contest. [Due by November]	Gary	NEW. 6.11.16 update – ONGOING. Gary has written to the Board; a response is also anticipated following the Directors meeting on 5.12.16.
Oct-A11	Dundee Contest - Paul McAndrew and Gary Mair to meet with council Business Manager to start negotiations and planning [Due by November]	Paul Gary	NEW. 6.11.16 update – CLOSED. Paul has had an initial meeting; further meeting scheduled early January 2017 to look at specifics. Agreed in principal and booked. Paul advised the Council had confirmed there will be no cost for use of the site. A query was raised on the possible requirement of having water fountains switched off in the square for noise interference.
Oct-A12	Perth Contest – Owen Sweeney to follow up with Ally Bryce [Due by November]	Owen	NEW. 6.11.16 update – CLOSED. A bid may be put in for a future date.
Oct-A13	Craigie Solos (19 th November 2016) – trophies to be returned [Due by November]	ALL	NEW . 6.11.16 update – OPEN. Gary confirmed some trophies had been received but was still chasing around 15.

New Action Items – from interim meeting held on 6th November 2016 ...

Mtg-Act	Action	Owner	Status *
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	NEW. Nicola to request online payment options are opened on web with Jason.

* **Status** should be “New”, “Open”, “Closed” or “Cancelled”



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13. Next Branch Meeting Date(s):

Next meeting to take place on 6th November 2016 – a short Branch meeting will be held 6pm for 6.30pm with AGM to follow at 7pm prompt. The next meeting thereafter will be held on 4th December 2016. A request was made to flag any known items for the AGM in advance please by email to Paul McAndrew or Gary Mair.



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Proposed Calendar for 2017

The calendar of provisional events for next season was discussed as follows -

January 2017

21st Vale of Atholl Solos

April 2017

8th Kingdom Thistle Solos
22nd Craigie High School Indoor Trios, Minibands and Full Bands
29th Strathmore Solos, Kirriemuir

May 2017

14th New 'Dundee Contest' proposal event
20th **British Championships, Paisley**

June 2017

4th Markinch
10th **Belfast**
11th Strathmore
17th Lochore
24th **European Championships, Forres**

July 2017

1st Thornton
22nd ~~Burntisland~~ L&B event
29th **Scottish Championships, Dumbarton**

August 2017

5th Crieff – *it was noted that entries for this event are suspected to increase due to the change of Worlds date in 2018*
11th **World Championships, Glasgow**
12th **World Championships, Glasgow**
13th Perth Games

September 2017

9th Pitlochry Highland Games
16th Brechin Solos

October 2017

21st World Drumming

November 2017

18th Branch Solos