



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

Minutes from Branch Meeting Sunday 23rd October 2011 in Glencarse Village Hall

1. Chairman's welcome:

Paul opened the meeting at 7.05 pm and welcomed everyone, also offering congratulations to the members of Branch bands who made it into the prize list at the World Solo Drumming yesterday.

2. Presence and Apologies:

Present:

Paul McAndrew, Gary Mair, Irene Black, Gillie McNab, Neil Myles, Nigel Kellett, Bruce Cargill

Apologies:

Barbara Stronach, Jim Mills, Teresa Walker

3. Matters arising from minutes of last meeting:

Mtg-Act	Action	Owner	Status *
Jun-A1	Send a message to the 4 Branch contest organisers explaining the plans. i.e. Championship run as per RSPBA championship rules (6 points for 1 st place, 1 point for 6 th ; no points awarded when playing up and no points for any Grade 4 MSR contests)	Gary	OPEN. No word back yet from Pitlochry Highland Games. Gary to call and see if possible to attend their next meeting. Strathmore have replied, see below. No word back from Perth.
Jun-A2	Send a specific message to Strathmore asking if they could add a Grade 1 contest to make it possible for Grade 1 bands to take part	Gary	CLOSED. Strathmore games have indicated they will remain with grades 2, 3 and 4 and Drum Majors for 2012, but will review in 2013.
Jun-A3	Send a specific message to Pitlochry asking if they would consider adding a RSPBA adjudicated DM contest alongside their existing DM display contest. Again this would make it possible for Drum Majors to take part in the Branch Championship.	Gary	OPEN. As above, no reply
Jun-A4	Report to be sent to Angus Council to show how the grant money given has been spent.	Gary	OPEN. Draft report ready, should be sent some time next week
Jun-A5	Finalise and test the Excel compiling sheets prior to Crieff	Nigel	OPEN. This was done, but action left open until sheets are working for all branch contests including DM's
Jun-A9	Discuss with potential instructors possible dates and format for the suggested Workshop Day	Paul	OPEN. Still on hold, currently under discussion
Jun-A10	Write to all Mini-Bands trophy winners to remind them to return trophies one month prior to the event or bring to the RSPBA AGM	Gary	OPEN. Not due until Feb 2012
Sep-A1	Advise the Secretary of Strathmore Games about the current North of Scotland Branch Championship	Gary	CLOSED
Sep-A2	Write to Clan MacBeth Pipe Band in the Netherlands and confirm date for Perth Games	Gary	CLOSED
Sep-A3	Advise the branch member enquiring about long service awards that these are generally only made for RSPBA officials	Gary	CLOSED
Sep-A4	Check and confirm what the correct percentage levy is for RSPBA contests now – 10% or 7.5%	Paul	CLOSED. Levy confirmed as 10%
Sep-A5	Write to secretary of Crieff Games and ask if a reduced admission price may be possible for band supporters / non-playing members, if, for example applying in advance, or through the Branch	Gary	CLOSED. Advised that it is possible to purchase tickets online in advance – but this actually works out MORE expensive because of a PayPal booking fee.
Sep-A6	Establish whether possible to hold the proposed Kinross contest on a date in May not clashing with Dunbar, Gourrock or the Scottish.	Nigel	CLOSED. Paul has confirmed that the "no clash" rule is actually only within a 50 mile radius, therefore this event once again becomes a possibility



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Sep-A7	Send out AGM reminder to all branch bands, and include the Branch Solos Entry Form	Gary	CLOSED.
Sep-A9	Go ahead and re-plate the damaged Crieff trophy as long as existing engraving will still be clearly legible	Paul	OPEN. This is the Mill Hills cup. A new quote has come in, and is considerably more expensive than first thought, so the Committee decided to go with a new shield – with a plaque on the back with the record of previous winners.

4. Approval of previous minutes:

Approved: Bruce

Seconded: Irene

5. Correspondence:

- A letter of resignation received from Scott Phillips as he has moved away from the area. Gary has written back to him accepting and wishing him all the best for the future.
- A letter of sympathy sent to the family of David Murray, a long-time supporter of Branch bands, who sadly passed away recently.
- A letter received from Mains of Fintry Pipe Band to make the branch aware that they have some ongoing issues in relation to uniforms and equipment.
- An Australian Grade 4 Band, Goulburn Soldiers Club Pipes & Drums is interested in Crieff in 2013, so Gary is in the process of determining the date and will let them know.
- Forfar have confirmed they will hold the hire cost for Forfar Academy for the Mini-Bands in 2012. No problem to have extra band rooms.
- Gary to write to Dundee Council to express Branch enthusiasm for re-instituting the Dundee Highland Games, and that the Branch will be happy to support the running of a Pipe Band contest

6. Treasurers Report:

[figures confidential – available in a separate document]

Balance sheet also available in the same document.

7. National Council Report:

Paul reported as follows:

- HQ need the Branch to provide info for judge's expenses for all competitions in the Branch area before the end of the year. (Strathmore, Crieff and Pitlochry, as Perth did not go ahead this year)
- Discussions to give the RSPBA Historical Group, who set up a museum at HQ, some further publicity. There will be a proper marquee at the World's which will double as museum and President's tent. They are happy to receive any archive material from any bands.
- Send a message to HQ saying that the Branch is interested in archiving previous and current minutes and news. Are they interested in taking these?
- PDQB. There is to be a meeting between interested parties to clarify the RSPBA's position with regard to Pipe Band Studies.
- The post of Education Officer is being advertised with a view to someone being in place on a one-year trial basis by the end of this year. The post will be answerable to the National Council through the CEO.
- Provisional Dates for next year are out, but do not currently include Strathmore. Gary to mention this to Strathmore.

8. Music Board Report:

Bruce reported as follows:

- Gradings are out on the website, subject to NC approval
- The possible format for a future 2-day Worlds is being debated, and Branch view is sought on either
 - Grade 1 qualifiers on Saturday, final on Sunday, or
 - Grade 1 MSR on Saturday, Grade 1 Medley on Sunday (in which case the results from Saturday would not be disclosed until the end of playing on Sunday)



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- Branch bands to email their preference on this issue. Gary to request bands to express their views.
- Selections for 2012 Championships: Grade 1 & 3: Scottish: Medley, British: MSR, Europeans: MSR, Worlds: MSR, Cowal: Medley. Grade 2 will be MSR, Medley, Medley, Medley, MSR
- Seeding of bands for Majors. This is an idea whereby the RSPBA Bands would be seeded for any qualifiers based on their performance at the preceding championship(s), and then non-RSPBA numbers evenly split over the heats, the idea being to have each heat as similar as possible in terms of the standard of bands in it. Generally the branch is in agreement with this.
- Branch PDQB education courses. Write to HQ to say if this is going ahead, we would like to hold one here.

9. AOCB:

Minutes for the AGM

- Gary to obtain a copy of last year's AGM minutes.
- For this year's AGM, Nigel will be absent, so Gary and Neil between them will ensure minutes are taken.

Question regarding World Solo Drumming contest

- Would it be possible to compete solo (side) drumming according to Band grades for all non-adult players. i.e. something like the tenor contest where N/J and Grade 4 compete in one category, and all other grades in another? Paul and Bruce will both take this forward through NC and Music Board.

Question regarding Tenor contests at Branch Solos

- There are currently only 2 tenor contests, and Under 18 represents a big jump as the only possible contest after winning the Novice tenor contest, which could be at a very young age.
- It was decided to review the competitor numbers in January after the next Branch contest and decide whether or not to implement a new age group, e.g. Under 15, or indeed change to Branch contest to reflect the new World solo tenor contest, competing in two broad grading categories.

Branch Solos

- Piping adjudicators will be Douglas Murray and James Murray
- Side drumming will be Alisdair Aitken OBE
- Tenor Drumming will be Norman Macleod
- Reviewed the adjudication sheets and confirmed these will be acceptable.
- Agreed to present certificates for all placings instead of medals. (using the new, corporate logo) Paul to review with printers to add the date, the placing and a "(s)" after "Adjudicator" to allow for multiple signatures.
- Once the printed version is finalized, Nigel to establish a template for printing the certificates automatically.
- Solo tuning times. In the arena, maximum 2 minutes for all contests, except the (Open) jig which will be 1 minute.
- Catering at solos. Can we do catering ourselves? E.g. like Forfar, Brechin, etc. Nigel to contact Loch Leven Community Campus for an answer.

Internet Fund Raising Ideas

- Neil mentioned options for Bands to raise money.
- EasyFundRaising, if enrolled, also carries an option of EasySearch, whereby the bands who are enrolled (if registered charities) can then ask their members to use EasySearch, where every time this search engine is used, the charity of choice will receive 0.5 pence.
- Suggested Neil sends this info to Gary for distribution to Branch bands, and also puts this onto the website.



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10. Action Items

Mtg-Act	Action	Owner	Due By	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	Gary	January	New
Oct-A2	Write to Dundee Council to express Branch enthusiasm for re-instituting the Dundee Highland Games, and that the Branch will be happy to support the running of a Pipe Band contest. (Include provisional list of 2012 outdoor contests to indicate suitable dates)	Gary	November	New
Oct-A3	Request judges' fees from all Branch contests for 2011. (Strathmore, Crieff & Pitlochry)	Gary	December	New
Oct-A4	Send a message to HQ saying that the Branch is interested in archiving previous and current minutes and news and are they interested in taking these?	Gary	January	New
Oct-A5	Mention to Strathmore Games that their event is not currently included in the provisional list of outdoor contests for 2012 so it would be sensible to let HQ know unless the date gets taken.	Gary	November	New
Oct-A6	Email branch bands and ask if they have a preference for the 2-day trial Worlds format: Grade 1 Qualifiers Day 1, Final Day 2, or Grade 1 MSR Day 1, Medley Day 2, or No preference.	Gary	November	New
Oct-A7	Write to HQ to say if the PDQB education courses are going ahead, we would like to hold one here.	Gary	November	New
Oct-A8	Obtain or produce a record of last year's AGM minutes.	Gary	November	New
Oct-A9	Bring up the question of whether Juvenile Side Drumming in the World Solo Drumming can be competed by Grading category, in a similar fashion to the new World Tenor contest.	Paul & Bruce	January	New
Oct-A10	Review Tenor contests (and possibly even side drumming) for Branch solos for next year, possibly in line with World Solo intentions	ALL	March	New
Oct-A11	Arrange for certificates to be printed	Paul	November	New
Oct-A12	Produce a template for automatic printing of certificates	Nigel	November	New
Oct-A13	Advise Branch Bands that competitors for Drumming on Pad should not previously have competed with their bands, and that maximum tuning time for piping events is 1 minute for jig and 2 minutes for all other events.	Gary	October	New
Oct-A14	Review feasibility of running a new Pipe Band contest in Kinross now that we know the date of 12 th May (to combine the event with the Half Marathon and Feel Good Fair) is a theoretic possibility.	Nigel	November	New

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

1. Next meeting:

No need to set a date at this meeting, it can be set at the AGM on 6th November, probably for some time in January.