



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

Minutes from Branch Meeting Sunday 29th September 2013 in Glencarse Village Hall

1. Chairman's welcome:

Paul opened the meeting at 7.05 pm and welcomed everyone to this, the fourth meeting of the year. He also welcomed guests, Derek Potter, Gerry Randalls and Pat Whelan.

2. Presence and Apologies:

Present:

Paul McAndrew, Gary Mair, Nigel Kellett, Irene Black, Barbara Stronach, Ian Campbell, Gillie McNab, Bruce Cargill, Jim Mills, Owen Sweeney, Neil Myles

Apologies:

Jayne Sweeney, (Gordon Barton)

Guests:

Derek Potter, Piping Tutor, Dundee Council,
Jerry Randalls, Music Support Officer, Angus Council,
Pat Whelan, Education Officer, RSPBA

Presentation by Pat Whelan and Q&A Discussion

Pat Whelan handed out copies of slides from a presentation on the current status regarding education issues. One or two points below captured, out of many:

- Creative Scotland offers "cash back for culture", so worth exploring for potential funding for education in Branch areas
- Looking at developing a school model similar to what exists very well in Northern Ireland
- Summer School dates and venue set for 2014 in Glasgow (Partick Borough Halls, 20th to 25th July)
- But RSPBA are encouraging branches to host their own, or club together to host them
 - o Paul mentioned that a joint approach between the DPA and Northern Branches is being looked at to host a summer school next year
 - o PDQB qualification should be available to sit on the last day of the summer school

Derek Potter, Dundee Schools Piping Tutor

- Derek explained that he wasn't too long in the job, but gave a run down on what he was doing currently, and explained that he was happy to attend the Branch meeting just to take in what was happening at band level within the area
- He also clarified that, although Dundee is clearly in advance of many other education authorities in the Branch area in having a piping tutor at all, there is still no provision for drumming instruction

Jerry Randalls, member of 'HITS' Heads of Instrumental Teaching, Scotland

- They have been working on a government paper regarding instrumental instruction, including piping and drumming
- School lets are (theoretically) free for educational purposes
- Target: Every child by P6 should have had an instrumental or vocal experience (minimum 12 hours)
- Gerry is available to get publicity out to 63 schools in the Angus area very easily

3. Matters arising from minutes of last meeting:

Actions from previous 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	OPEN. Paul and Ian Finlay (Fife Branch) to discuss with HQ with a view to instructing Pitlochry that they must abide with RSPBA rules
Dec-A3	Review PDQB course options with a view to holding one in the Branch	Bruce Gary	CLOSED. New action opened below
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	OPEN. No further feedback from HQ



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Actions from March minutes

Mtg-Act	Action	Owner	Status *
Mar-A3	Consider implementing a pilot player registration database	Paul	OPEN. Paul will bring up again at next board of directors
Mar-A6	Circulate proposed new playing format for Branch solos, first to Committee, then to all bands for comment / input	Gary	CLOSED. See proposals and decisions below

New Actions from August minutes

Mtg-Act	Action	Owner	Status *
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	OPEN. Gary mentioned the forms are already published on the PiP website, so we can bring entries to the AGM
Aug-A2	Speak further with John Nevans to explore the idea of a week-long Easter/Summer/Autumn "Band Camp"	Paul	OPEN. DPA and Aberdeen Branch to meet and to try and push something through asap.
Aug-A3	Forward on details of German 700 th Anniversary invite to Stirlingshire Branch and also Jason / HQ for "News"	Gary	CLOSED. Gary has sent to the general mailbox. No response.
Aug-A4	Draft a proposal for presentation to HQ regarding grade re-structuring, probably to 5 Adult Grades, with a possible "Premier" Grade for the top 12 Grade 1 Bands.	Gary / Ian	CLOSED. Bruce forwarded on a "Case for Grade 5" document for review. New action opened below
Aug-A5	Check Tulliallan is registered with the RSPBA and then publish Crieff draw to both websites	Gary	CLOSED. Confirmed that they are part of Stirling Branch.

4. Approval of previous minutes

Approved: Irene

Seconded: Ian

5. Correspondence:

- Survey about the Worlds has been completed. Most branch bands have now replied.
- McKenzie were presented with a "Junior Heavyweight" trophy at Pitlochry, Gary wrote to the games committee and they agreed, saying that the original trophy was unavailable so they just presented "any trophy"
- Nigel had some correspondence with Jason Lafferty (HQ webmaster) who is willing to publish Open results from appropriate contests if HQ advise they are OK with this. Paul to bring up at next Director's Meeting.
- Letter received from Crieff saying how disappointing the contest was, as they made a significant loss on the day. The committee discussed this briefly and concluded that there are many areas which could be modified to significantly reduce the cost in comparison to the way the event was run this year. It was also noted that the committee took exception to criticism in the letter that little support was given to running the event, as both Paul and Gary went out of their way on many occasions to discuss and meet with the organisers and offer advice.
- Barbara has submitted a letter tendering her resignation (after over 30 years' service) with effect from tonight. Paul replied on behalf of the branch that we are sorry to see Barbara go, and thanked her very much for all her support. These sentiments were echoed by all, followed by a spontaneous round of applause.

6. Treasurer's Report:

Irene presented the latest figures in the Current and Special Accounts.
(Separate report, data remains confidential)



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Irene mentioned that a very kind donation has been made to the Branch, the church collection held at the funeral of David Fullerton. Gary to write back to express the Branch's appreciation.

7. Director's Report:

- No specific Director's Report this time

8. Music Board Report:

Bruce reported briefly as follows:

- Branch grading changes:
 - The Vale 3B band goes to 3A
 - Dundee BB's went from 4B to 3B
- Bruce forwarded a document "The case for Grade 5" to Nigel. All committee members to have a read and make any comments back prior to next meeting.
- North of Scotland Branch is looking at holding a Pipe Band Musicianship course. 50 hours classwork and 70 hours personal study. (The coursework would probably be spread over several Sundays, for example) This course could be seen as a first step towards becoming an adjudicator.

9. Website Report:

- No report this time due to lack of remaining time in the meeting.
- Photos of trophies and winners names to go on website as and when Neil gets them

10. AOCB:

Branch solos playing format discussion

- Topic: Confined to Branch or not:
 - **Decision:** Confined to Branch again for this year, decision to be reviewed for future years
- Topic: Playing format Option 1 (little change) or Option 2 as per previously tabled:
 - **Decision:** Option 2 with amendments/clarifications below:
 - Events 3, 4, 11, 12 and 16 (MAP Marches) to be confined to players from Grade 4 or N/J bands
 - MAP March entrants must not have previously won the MAP March category (will only be applicable from next year onwards)
 - Grade 4 or N/J players, if they or their tutors feel appropriate, can choose to play in the MSR categories **instead** of the MAP Marches, but not as well as.
 - All 18 and under players may also enter Open events in the same category as their 18 and Under contest
- Topic: Piobaireachd or not:
 - **Decision:** Not for this year at least, decision to be reviewed for future years
- Topic: Fees:
- **Decisions:** Entry £3 per event, £3 per spectator, Programmes free, but donations accepted

New Branch Championship trophy (Owen)

The "Sounds of Strathearn" trophy has been donated for one of the Branch Championships, for as long as a competition remains in Crieff

Adult Open Drumming Trophy (solos)

This is probably one of the oldest in the Branch, but just some recent history of winner's names are missing. Would the Branch be able to locate the names and put them in? Gary to investigate.

Additional points from Perth & District. (Due to lack of time these were not discussed at the meeting, but it was agreed to add them to the minutes for consideration at the next meeting):

A. Points relating to Major contests in 2013:



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Bathgate:

- Bus park too small
- Tuning areas for grades 3 and 4 were also inadequate in size
- Planning for the movement of people over the narrow bridge had been woeful
- Toilets had been situated on the only through route from the public entrance to the rest of the park
- The chief steward had been most unhelpful about tuning up: he instructed A Duthie to take the band to the already overcrowded bus park!
- Poor signposting to the event until the centre of the town
- Glass bottles lying on the ground on the area when marching on to the massed bands
- Lack of action taken on blatant drinking by some bands in the arena
- Bands leaving immediately after the results before the 'salute'

Dumbarton:

- Issue of bands leaving the arena at the prize giving at majors in direct contradiction to the agreements signed by all Pipe Majors without action from the RSPBA.

WHY IS ACTION NOT BEING TAKEN ON BLATANT INFRINGEMENT OF THE RSPBA RULES?

B. Funding sources

Thanks from the P&D for the list of sources of funding from the last meeting.

C. Child Protection Officer.

- P&D (Neil) also wanted to raise the issue of an RSPBA national child protection officer. Neil attended training for child protection officers in Kinross a wee while back. The training was taken by the Scottish Judo national child protection officer. Lots of other organisations have a national CPO too. Why not us?

11. New Action Items

Mtg-Act	Action	Owner	Due By	Status *
Sep-A1	Send a letter of thanks to Gary Fullerton	Gary	November	NEW
Sep-A2	All to review "The case for Grade 5" and respond with comments prior to next meeting	ALL	End October	NEW
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	November	NEW
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	ASAP, mid October	NEW
Sep-A5	Investigate recent winners' names and dates of the Open Drumming trophy and arrange to have details added to it.	Gary / Paul	Before end November	NEW

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

12. Next meeting:

Branch AGM Sunday 3rd November. 6.30 pm for a short pre-meeting prior to 7.00 pm start