



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

### Minutes from Branch Meeting No 12 Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017 in the Glencarse Village Hall

**1. Chairman's welcome:**

Paul welcomed all those present and opened the meeting at 7pm. Welcome to Paul Brown from Kingdom Thistle.

**2. Presence and Apologies:**

**Present:** Jim Mills, Paul McAndrew, Gary Mair, Irene Black, Andrew Downie, Paul Brown, Ally Bryce, Gillie McNab, Ian Hughes, Nicola Liddell

**Apologies:** Dawn Waddell, Stewart Findlay, Suzanne King, Bruce Cargill, Paul Winter

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

**Actions from minutes in December 2015**

Mtg-Act	Action	Owner	Status *
Dec-A1	GM to review wording of potential intro of rules in line with comments received from Perth & District. Draft rules circulated by GM 30.11.16. 12.3.17 – insufficient time to discuss at previous meeting. PMcA summarised Constitution states rules to be avail on website; once adopted this will be made available online.	Gary	Proposed by Bruce Cargill, seconded by Gillie McNab. CLOSED.  Keep on until we upload – GM to send to Jason.

**Actions from minutes in December 2016**

Mtg-Act	Action	Owner	Status *
Dec-AA1	Development of Branch education pack. Vale of Atholl books being used in schools – GM to approach Gillie McNab to gain access to these. 12.3.17 – GM has emailed F McKay; awaiting response. 30.4.17 – GM got message back from Fiona McKay – use College of Piping Bagpipe (green) tutor book for initial teaching in schools – have a collection which youngsters move on to thereafter (standard tunes); welcome to use if wish. No set prog for drumming to date but new tutor plans to use RSPBA PDQ format. RSPBA books available digitally online.	Gary Gillie	CLOSED
Dec-AA3	Perth Games 13.8. 17 – awaiting conf if event will go ahead as a contest or with guest bands only. GM to approach new Games Secretary to seek clarification; everyone keen to see this contest remain. 12.2.17 – PMcA noted the 2018 event due to fall on the day before the Worlds. 12.3.17 – GM submitted online enquiry to Games website; awaiting response. Ali Bryce advised of recent meeting outlining proposal to run similar event to last year (no comp).	Gary	GM no response to date. A Bryce confirms secretary in place; AB to pass on contact details to GM (as far as aware no band competition but rather few bands invited).
Dec-AA4	Inclusion of additional column on branch contest spreadsheet to include Major results for comparison exercise. Action Gary Mair to progress spreadsheet update and do a measurement for this year's results.	Gary	OPEN

**Actions from minutes in February 2017**

Mtg-Act	Action	Owner	Status *
Feb-A1 (cont'd)	12.3.17 – Paul McAndrew to follow-up payment from Paul Brown.		PAID CLOSED



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Feb-A4	Gary Mair to send follow-up email to Jerry Randalls to advise specific Angus bands with members in schools. 12.3.17 – Gary Mair confirmed links to Branch bands were provided; Jerry Randalls has further requested names of children attending Angus-based bands. Due to confidentiality and privacy issues, it was agreed names of bands could be offered but not names of individuals. Gary Mair to confirm Angus Branch bands of McKenzie Caledonian, Carnoustie, Brechin, Arbroath, 6/8 Dundee Boys Brigade, City of Discovery and include Coupar Angus PB, to request if they have children in the band attending Angus schools.	Gary	GM sending emails to G Randalls as and when received; details passed on. CLOSED.
Feb-A9 (cont'd)	12.3.17 – Gary Mair has emailed HQ; still to add 2 extra adjudicators for Crieff and Dundee. GM to follow-up in due course. - have 4 adjudicators. PMcA noted list of all adjudicators allocated for next year should be available in dropbox by next week. Dundee contest – Paul Turner & Paul Brown.		CLOSED
Feb-A13	Gary Mair to approach Peter Hazzard ( <a href="mailto:phazzard56@gmail.com">phazzard56@gmail.com</a> ) to request possibility of reviewing images photographed during last season and uplift relevant Branch shots. 12.3.17 – Gary Mair emailed and has spoken with Peter Hazzard; confirmation received this can be done. Images are split by Majors on website and appear to be numbered – Branch representative can select images required / P Hazzard can liaise with Jason Lafferty. 2-3 hours work for a volunteer to review images.	Gary	GM spoken to P Hazzard; can get any photo we want from HQ onto own website just need to advise which ones. Great photo of City of St Andrew's on final hole of golf course. CLOSED.
Feb-A14	Strathmore Quartets – Gary Mair to follow up with Charlie Murray regarding trophies and agree format. 12.3.17 – Charlie Murray has requested if Branch are prepared to assist in provision of trophy/trophies for Quartet competition. Confirmation that trophies are available and decision to source 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> place awards; action Gary Mair. Paul McAndrew confirmed crit sheets are not required nor breakdown of results – ask adjudicators for placings only. Action Gary Mair to issue additional rules. Agreement for Quartet competition to take place in same area as main band competition.	Gary	Details are on branch website; agreement with Charlie Murray. Director on day will be William McCafferty. CLOSED

#### **Actions from minutes in March 2017**

<b>Mtg-Act</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Status *</b>
Mar-A1	Dundee Miniband trophy – Gary Mair to obtain from Andrew Downie with a view to sourcing unused shield and have prizewinner names transposed on reverse side / or attempt to straighten.	GM	Got back and awarded again. Request back from Davidsons Mains, GM to contact; bring to Paisley. PBrown agreed to sponsor trophy for replacement.
Mar-A2	Dundee Contest (14 <sup>th</sup> May 2017) summary of actions – High School of Dundee approached re. parking; awaiting response	GM	CLOSED
Mar-A3	Email approach made to electrical company; awaiting response.	GM	CLOSED
Mar-A4	Sourcing of weights (for tents) from Council; approach to be made.	PMcA	CLOSED
Mar-A5	Source of a TA contact from Alistair Duthie (Perth & District PB).	NL	CLOSED
Mar-A6	Glenfarg fencing company to be approached re. sponsorship. Ali Bryce to provide contact information.	GM	CLOSED
Mar-A7	Stewarding to be arranged.	GM	CLOSED



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Mar-A8	DD1 sponsorship update and Café to be approached.	PMcA	CLOSED
Mar-A9	Gary Mair to approach Common Good Fund and ascertain status.	GM	OPEN
Mar-A10	Irene Black to manually refund Carnoustie Trio overpayment.	IB	CLOSED
Mar-A11	Provide contact details for judges specific to discipline. 30.4.17 PMcA now in possession of complete worldwide contact list for adjudicators.	PMcA	CLOSED
Mar-A12	Consideration to circulate MAP guidance document to Branch. 30.4.17 GM searched under 'Learning' but unable to locate. GM to submit request to HQ (or Paul Brown). PMcA to scan as one document and Jason Lafferty to upload thereafter.	GM	OPEN
Mar-A13	Paul McAndrew and Gary Mair to finalise SQA qualifications programme. 30.4.17 – GM confirmed email circulated 13.3.17 with dates and initial outline. Awaiting further information from Tam Brown (with a view to possibly compressing to single days rather than whole weekends). GM confirmed numbers required ASAP from each band (with RSPBA band number and instrument stipulated).	PMcA GM	OPEN
Mar-A14	Gary Mair to update competition formation visual layout.	GM	CLOSED
Mar-A15	Nicola Liddell to alter competition entry fee for children to go free as per Gillie McNab instruction.	NL	CLOSED
Mar-A16	Pitlochry MOD (June 2017); Gillie McNab to forward details. 30.4.17 – should be Aberfeldy MOD and updated.	GMcN	CLOSED
Mar-A17	Strathmore competition – Gary Mair to forward entry forms for web.	GM	CLOSED.

#### Further matters arising:

- None.

#### 4. Approval of previous minutes

Approved Ally Bryce, seconded Gary Mair.

#### 5. Correspondence:

- Dundee Contest - GM received correspondence but will summarise separately
- Piping books – information received from Fiona Mackay
- SQA training – correspondence received
- Summer School – winning attendees; Matthew Hunter (6/8 Dundee), Fraser Robson, Tommy McAndrew
- Correspondence on contracts re. Strathmore, Lochore, Mark inch, Dundee. PMcA reported the levy was removed from Strathmore contract.
- GM flagged bands may receive an approach from Alan Tomkinson who is seeking a piper to record music he had written in Longforgan studio.

#### 6. Treasurer's Report:

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

#### 7. Music Board Report: Paul McAndrew provided a summary in absence of Bruce Cargill as follows -

- A discussion took place on prescribed tune lists and whether positive for Grade 4 / NJ bands. Background to why these were introduced (to improve lower grades playing ability in 2/4 marches then natural progression to MSR). Strong consensus from committee that MAP tunes work however query was raised following feedback from individuals that lower grade bands are worse since prescribed tunes were introduced. Guidance due to go online on selecting tunes.
- One Branch band put in a grading request which was turned down.



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

- World solo drumming qualifier (discussed in AOB).
- At previous day's Board meeting, duty of care discussion concerning members > 75 years old. It was noted adjudicators are required to step down on year of 75<sup>th</sup> birthday (departing the following year); same for Directors and Stewards. Branch unable to put anyone forward over age of 75 but can still utilise within Branch if happy with our duty of care.
- 42 day high/low transfer – aware of 21 individuals submitting entries out with rule for first competition. Registrations kicking in again and may target those bands who were in 42 days stipulation. New rosters for overseas bands – pipers & drummers required to state what bands they were with previously so RSPBA is working on a worldwide basis. Looking at going online but worldwide and not just UK however would need to be sourced through an external company; costings to be looked at. Electronic membership system outlined, with suggestion bands may wish to adopt a membership secretary; each band will have a delegated name and password. Security investigations to look at potential hacking concerns etc.

#### 9. Education

- Ongoing education to be looked at getting down to single days. PMcA advised PDQB and British Army are not partner organisations; proposal on table to look at Army Cadet Force as a partner. RSPBA, Piobaireachd Society, National Piping Centre, Army School of Piping are partner organisations currently – need approval from 4 partners to sign off.

#### 10. Media Report:

- **Branch Website:** Nicola Liddell reported as follows - Short delay on draw for Strathmore due to Jason travelling but was distributed by Facebook in the interim.
- **RSPBA Magazine:** No update.
- **Branch Facebook page:** In Stewart Findlay's absence, an email update was submitted as follows - 973 likes on page – risen by 75 this week alone (mainly due to Branch mini bands, trios and full band comp). Our post of the MacKenzie video reached 16,000 people, the picture of the crowd reached 6,000 and the results reached 4,500 people. If anyone has any band photos from contests, please email them to [stewartfindlay@live.co.uk](mailto:stewartfindlay@live.co.uk). If we have a photographer at our local contests, again could these please be emailed to Stewart for the Facebook page.

#### 11. AOCB:

- World Solo Drumming Qualifier – Proposal  
An invitation was extended to the meeting to Paul Brown (Kingdom Thistle) by Paul McAndrew and a proposal made to host a World solo drumming qualifier at the well supported and now well-established annual Kingdom Thistle Solo event. Existing world pre-qualifiers were held this year in Glasgow, Northern Ireland and England. By hosting at the Kingdom Solos and utilizing Branch stewards; there would be no cost implications to the Branch (no adjudicator fees etc. as this would be taken care of by Kingdom Thistle). Paul McAndrew asked if committee members were happy to discuss with Paul Brown present in the room and a discussion followed. Previous costs incurred were discussed. There was unanimous support to take this proposal forward; no concerns were raised. A one year trial was suggested (on both sides). Paul Brown to look at dates in line with DPA/Fife school holidays and L&B calendar to avoid potential clashes; "Dundee Perth & Angus Qualifier hosted by Kingdom Thistle" to ensure RSPBA attachment (possibly 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> week in March 2018). Open contest currently, beneficial for us to have a totally separate contest (offer opportunity for players to play up). Paul Brown suggests MSR for qualifier, as a stand-alone event in big drama studio at Lochgelly HS venue. The event would produce 2 players to qualify for the world event. Paul Brown generously offered to continue to make the same donation to the Branch each year.
- Child Protection – Paul McAndrew and Morag McKenzie (Secretary, Arbroath Pipe Band) attended presentation by Policy Officer for Disclosure Scotland; useful and vocal meeting. Initial document issued last week for RSPBA; good starting point but things flagged e.g. no bullying and harassment policy in place. RSPBA covers 5 different countries all of which has different laws (discussions around whether or not to make all bands have PVG but different laws make this difficult). If something happens within your band, you are



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legally responsible for that incident; but policies in place will avoid you leaving yourself liable. You are legally obliged to report any incident or criminal offence. RSPBA to consider what guidance should be and Disclosure Scotland can assist. RSPBA to put all relevant policies in place prior to first Major (British @ Paisley), signing off week prior, will then go to Executive Committee for approval. MSPCC provide good advice by country, gives sample paperwork to ensure compliance so avoids having to re-invent the wheel. Suggestion to have bi-annual meeting of Directors and Secretaries. RSPBA to look at guidance only; unable to enforce policies.

- Competition numbers - GM reported good entry of 28 performances scheduled for Dundee Contest / Strathmore x 4 bands + 1 quartet / Markinch x 11 bands / Lochore 9 bands / Crieff x 5 bands. GM to contact Paul Brown to extend Crieff band comp invite to foreign band secretaries – suggestion to review Worlds website for band entries.
- Dundee Contest – draw due this week (28 performances). Updates followed on coach parking and parking regulations; awaiting confirmation on what will be permitted by Dundee City Council (DCC). Food stuff yet to be arranged. Ally Bryce to pass contact re. fencing to GM. Territorial Army to put up tents, fencing (and remove again). Meeting House to provide catering; another couple of venues in the pipeline. Generator required. Approval from Council on layouts; bands final tuning to take place lower end of Reform Street, form up in City Square and march in. DCC confirm garage below city square available £15/hour: cost of £150, discussions around feasibility of charging but issues around manning of entrance; decision to book car park and investigate if we are permitted to charge. Parking available in High School car park (cost £200). 4-5 coaches expected. 7 Scots Guards providing 12 x 12 to erect in school. 3 tents sited in City Square (adjudicators +). PMcA to look at split hire radio costs. Draw to be issued imminently with all instructions on car/coach parking and logistics around tuning areas etc. (not permitted to tune between High School and City Square). 10 minutes allocated to each band performance for each grade; starting Grade B, A, break for lunch, Grade 3 @ 1400hrs, massed bands circa 1630/1645hrs. Distance calculated and pedestrian barriers (@ 3m length) x 50-60 proposed to section off competing arena (circle to be 14 + 6 = 20 by 25 metres). Charity collecting buckets suggested but a license is required. Seats to be put out for VIP's. Non-marking paint for concrete to be sourced by PMcA; chalk spray suggested via Duncan McNab (McNab Sports, Kinross). Feedback from contest to be discussed at next meeting.
- PMcA to look at introduction of a DPA Branch Pipe Band fund-raising concert; proposed venue Perth Concert Hall (charity rate offered / capacity 1,400) in conjunction with Fife Police (1,000 tickets allocated to Police). March 2018 proposed (provisionally 17.3.18). Initial proposal to look at putting together a Branch juvenile band for all under 18's to open both halves (1 day practice to agree tunes) – deemed possibly to many to accommodate but suggestion to have present in aisles also; suggestion to stipulate a maximum number of spaces per band. Liaison needed with PM's to avoid complete beginners, need to review targeted level. Costings were summarised: venue £2,080 + vat, 50/50 profit split with Fife band. Potentially looking at £4/5k with everything split equally – shared costs and whatever is left is split. Idea of a Branch under 18's concert in its entirety to be considered at a future date. All committee members were happy in principal to take forward; working group to be established and appeal for volunteers. PMcA to confirm dates and email out to Branch.
- Jim Mills extended his gratitude for Get Well soon card following his recent accident.
- Reminder of forthcoming AGM on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2017 - intimation of Nicola Liddell's resignation as Branch Minute Secretary and Committee member due to other commitments
- Feedback from recent Miniband format was summarised by GM – overall positive feedback received and concert formation appeared to be successful. PMcA noted one comment around preference over base being positioned between side and tenor (but aware of issues around base bouncing off back wall). The following suggestions were also received –
  - To create published time for band (not for trios) to avoid conflicts.
  - Adopt runners for each band to check on timings throughout the day (if bands drop out and original timings alter). Noted Major events have timings as very rare for bands to drop out.



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- Place step for drummers.
- Benefit in marking stage with masking tape to correctly position all bands in best spot for acoustics (advice could be requested from 2 schools who currently use this venue for practice nights).

GM to collate feedback and summarise at October meeting.

#### 12. New Action Items

Mtg-Act	Action	Owner	Status *
Apr-A1	Guidance expected to go online for prescribed tunes.	BC	OPEN
Apr-A2	World solo drumming qualifier – PMcA to follow-up with Paul Brown re. dates and proposals for 2018.	PMcA	OPEN
Apr-A3	Child Protection – RSPBA guidance to bands update	PMcA	OPEN
Apr-A4	Dundee Contest – arrangements to be finalized as per minute	ALL	CLOSED
Apr-A5	DPA Branch fund-raising concert – confirmation of date, establishment of working group and general update on progress	PMcA	OPEN
Apr-A6	AGM (5.11.17) arrangements	GM/P McA	OPEN
Apr-A7	Summary of Mini -band contest feedback on formation etc.	GM	OPEN

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

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

Next meeting to take place on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2017. The next meetings thereafter for 2017 will be held on:

AGM 5<sup>th</sup> November 2017 and 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017. The meeting closed at 21:55pm. Paul wished all Branch bands good luck for the coming season.