

Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association - North of Scotland Branch  
Branch Meeting - Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2016, The Locker Room, Aberdeen

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all those in attendance & advised that there had been a Management Group meeting prior to the Branch meeting.

Present:

G Gauld  
J Gibb  
A Skinner  
R Cameron  
W Barclay  
R Niven  
L Niven  
H Mackay  
L Buchan - Fraserburgh RBL  
D Buchan - Fraserburgh RBL  
H Dallas - Granite City Pipes & Drums  
K Meehan - Stonehaven  
C Fraser - Oldmeldrum RBL  
D Fraser - Oldmeldrum RBL  
S Brown - Grampian Police Scotland  
J Brinklow - Portlethen  
C Lamont - Bucksburn & Dist

1 - Apologies:

Towie  
RAF Lossiemouth  
Northern Constabulary  
Strathisla  
Dufftown  
Ellon  
Ross & Cromarty  
Turriff & Dist  
Lathallan Schools  
Elgin  
Isle of Skye  
Badenoch & Strathspey  
Ardross

2 - Matters arising from previous minutes

Indoors:

- Feasibility for Full Indoor Band Contest.
- Possibility to host qualifying heat for Adult World Solo Drumming contest.
- Banchory Contest timings to be looked at.

3 - Correspondence

- Received from Bucksburn & Dist re adjudication at local branch contests. Would branch consider getting full panel of adjudicators at these contests? Discussion followed: Excellent idea which can only benefit the bands by giving them extra critique sheets - Portlethen & Fraserburgh, negative point being extra costs to promoters. Portlethen suggested bands could meet cost of extra judges. This could also attract more bands from outwith the Branch to compete at our contests. Entry fee for Branch run contests to be raised to £20 per entry. A Skinner to take this to Mintlaw contest committee for discussion.  
L Niven to contact HQ to see availability of adjudicators for 2016 contests.

4 - Website

Update of cost given to G Gauld from J Brinklow.

Proposed items for website: Calendar, News/Media/Galleries, Forms & Rules, Education, Contact Details.

J Brinklow to forward draft details to G Gauld for forwarding to Management Team. Process of building website to it becoming "live" approximately 6 weeks. At a cost of £715 (approx) 50% deposit required at start of project.

Site re-vamps approx £30 per page but this is depending on the technicality.

R Cameron suggested a Management Review of this in 6 weeks.

R Niven proposed we go ahead with the new website and get the ball rolling.

W Barclay seconded

#### 5 - Full Indoor / Outdoor Contests

No changes to dates or playing requirements.

Banchory - Slight changes required to layout of the day, with improvements needed to the beertent and food stall areas.

Timings between events to be looked at. This is not helped by bands entering and then withdrawing either close to or on the day of the contest.

Indoors - From Mgmt. Meeting it was decided to take indoor band contest forward replacing mini bands using available space etc. Chairman said brief discussion with Mgmt team after AGM to recap on this, it was accepted by the majority of bands that space for performance and tuning up was restricted and onus was accepted by pipe majors to manage this. There could be no cap size and that RSPBA criteria on numbers had to apply. This was a trial year and decision on quartets was ambiguous - he felt the majority were against (but see below).

23/04/16 - Full Band Indoor Contest to be held, as per outdoor contest rules. This to have full panel of adjudicators, band to stand in concert/open circle formation as space for full circle not possible and better for spectators. Will count towards COC award.

1 x classroom allocated per band, with responsibility of PM's & LD's to manage logistics. Bands playing earlier in the day may be asked to allow other bands to use their rooms. As per previous indoor contests all rooms to be left as they were found.

Portlethen asked why the change of date for the Full Band contest from the date given for the Mini Bands. This was due to Directors Meeting on the same day, both Directors would be needed for the contest.

Fraserburgh & Bucksburn feel that quartets could still go ahead as they do give players confidence to go out and compete.

Oldmeldrum: Majority of bands at AGM didn't want quartets. Granite City: Surely as this was agreed at the AGM, it cannot be reversed. Chairman said it had been referred to Mgmt Committee to consider.

Grampian Police Scotland: Could quartets be held at end of season? - This was decided against as bands usually have a break after the Worlds. Chairman took a straw poll and proposal to go back out to bands on this was taken given limited number of bands present.

G Gauld/L Niven to send out email to bands asking if they still wish quartets to go ahead.

L Niven to check availability with Gordon School, Huntly.

#### 6 - Music Board / Board of Directors

Music Board

R Cameron advised that adjudicator sheets would now be in triplicate, with adjudicators retaining the 3<sup>rd</sup> copy for reference.

Adjudicators conferring at a nominated Championship was to be proposed and possibly continued for another year.

Members registration process is still ongoing.

RSPBA Summer School will be held first week of August 2016

Dates have been set for PBM part 2

Education is now under direct remit of Board of Directors, not Music Board.

Education Officer to look into possible resurrection of the RSPBA Pipe Band College. G Gauld expressed reservations that education has been taken away from Music Board. Directors addressed this as all matter relating to education including terms of reference are being restructured by P Whelan & Directors.

#### Board of Directors

Child Protection / Disclosure Scotland moving forward.

Solo/Indoor Calendar to be a separate item on website.

Certificate of Pipe Band Musicianship almost complete. Training/Adjudication to be incorporated into Part 2, this would mean only 2 years required.

Tuning up issues at World Championships to be looked into and discussed with Glasgow City Council.

Grade restructuring - ongoing process as various other parts to be considered, not just standard of bands.

HQ - New premises are still being looked at, with current premises to be used for more educational purposes.

No sporrans will be purchased for Directors.

#### 7 - Education: Branch Update.

Only 7 bands responded to email sent out. No real preferences - anything PDQB related would be beneficial.

There is now an opportunity to get 10% of costs reimbursed from HQ.

R Cameron spoke to John Nevans to get "Preparing for Performance - Up to the Line" up and running. This would be a full weekend for aspiring PM's & LD's.

Possible dates being looked at for March/October. This weekend would also include Drum Majors - Alan McBride has been asked for his availability to come across from Northern Ireland. W Barclay: This would be basic to competition levels and open to all drum majors from street bands to competing Drum Majors. H Mackay to contact Alan McBride again re his availability.

#### 8 - AOCB

Bands reminded that if they have any articles for the Magazine to forward the information to Kerry Meehan.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1.45pm