

The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association – North of Scotland Branch
Minutes of Branch Management Team Meeting, Sunday 10th December 2017

In attendance:

W Barclay – Chairman
H Mackay – Vice- chairperson
J Gibb – Director
R Cameron – Treasurer
L Niven – Secretary
R Niven – Director
J McHaffie – Music Board, Drumming Rep

Apologies: L Buchan – Min Sec, J Brinklow – Music Board, Piping Rep

1 – Welcome

The Chairman called meeting to discuss the following and welcomed all in attendance:

2 – Education

51 students from 64 sat PDQB exams on Saturday 9th December, weather conditions stopping 13 from attending. Because of this, a future date to be set in order for these students to sit the exam. Results are due out at the end of January 2018. Constructive discussion took place on the classes with the following points:

- Get feedback from students which will help put together a programme for future classes. Feedback form questions need to be re-vamped as they were confusing for students. W Barclay to contact some students for their views on the classes.
- Early February, Branch to be pro-active in giving every encouragement to North Bands to enrol in the education programme.
- Branch Education Group: Email sent out from J Campbell highlighting date for further education, but this has been done without discussion with the Group.
- Possible Preparing for Performance weekend to be held in Inverness/Elgin area. Interest for this to be requested from bands. Action: W Barclay/L Niven

Question was asked about what the “tutors” were doing at the classes – have they all gone through the appropriate courses. Action Directors

Learners were asked to bring along someone from their band but none had – none seemed to have mentors. More time needs to be given to the theory part of the classes as it was suggested that only 5% of the time was spent on theory and also needs to be modernised.

3 & 4 – Entry Forms & Rules for Indoors/Outdoors

W Barclay has gone through all entry for Branch outdoor contests. Minor amendments required to include Novice Juvenile A & B and Juvenile bands. Also dates to be changed. Indoor forms to be amended as above.

Question asked by J Campbell via R Cameron as to why no late entries are allowed at Branch contests. Answer: Branch has adopted this rule for 11 plus years and is accepted by all Branch bands.

Playing requirements to be confirmed by Music Board/Directors.

Full Band Indoor contest to mirror British.

Aberdeen Games to mirror European

It was suggested that it be made mandatory for the Branch Solos that each band who have members entering, must have a nominated person named on the entry form. This person will be put onto a rota for assisting with stewarding and compiling.

R Niven & L Niven to look into using RSPBA Charitable status to get a reduction in fees for hiring of schools for indoor contests.

Currently for the solos we use the main hall and 17 classrooms.

J Gibb to look at possible future venues for Branch indoor contests.

All indoors to remain at Gordon Schools, Huntly meantime.

5 & 6 – Help for Aberdeen Games & Stewards

H Mackay & W Barclay agreed to take on steward’s role for Banchory & Aberdeen and also indoor contests.

Due to the UK Championships clashing with Aberdeen Games weekend. Financial discussions require to be held with Aberdeen City Council. The number of grades will have to be discussed after number of entries found out.

L Niven to arrange compilers.

7 – Directors Report

Work is ongoing to resurrect the RSPBA College of Piping. This is near completion and there should be an update from next meeting.

PVG information is almost finalised and ready to go “live” on the RSPBA website. A PVG co-ordinator will be in-place to assist all Branch/Association members with any queries they may have on completing the required forms.

W Barclay asked if Association AGM papers could be put out earlier to enable Branches/Bands to discuss. If the papers are emailed to Directors – can this be forwarded to Branch Management Team? Ideally, the whole paper, not just rule changes.

RSPBA AGM – date set for 10th March 2018

It was proposed by D,P. & A Branch that all bands must register 1 hour prior to contest starting. If not, then a fine will be imposed.

AOCB

H Mackay to check availability of Dyce Bowling Club for next Branch meeting on Sunday 18th February 2018 and catering with Spiders Web.

Discussion re Terms of Office for newly elected members of Branch. This to be clarified at Branch AGM 2018

R Niven asked where all Branch Documentation he had received from R Cruickshank was, as he had passed it all to G Gauld for safe keeping. To be checked that G Gauld still has this and retrieved.

Being no further business, meeting closed at 2.15pm.