

Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association - North of Scotland Branch

Management Meeting and Pre-AGM Branch Meeting Minutes

Sunday 18th February 2018 - 11am Dyce Bowling Club

Management Meeting

Present:

W Barclay

L Niven

R Niven

H Mackay

R Cameron

W Grant

J McHaffie

J Brinklow

G Gauld

Apologies:

J Gibb, L Buchan

Matters arising from Previous Minutes:

Amendment to Classes re - what did instructors do at” classes? “ Should have read “ on the day of the exams” answer is. “they tuned pipes and drums for students as no mentors or PM’s were there to help, hence the instructors assisting.

Trophies: Glass Box Presentation Trophy, previously presented at Mintlaw is damaged. W Grant to investigate repair/replacing.

Branch Facebook Page: Gordon Castle Highland Games have contacted the Branch re advertising their Solo Piping Event on 3rd Saturday in May 2018 (same day as British Championships)

J Brinklow to investigate various avenues for this and to check on authorisation via administrator.

Management members authorised to post on FB page to be amended.

Indoors: We are up to speed with the indoor events. Bands to be reminded about returning trophies in a state ready for presentation.

W Grant asked about possibility of fining bands who return trophies damaged and unfit for presentation. This is set at £50 per trophy, up to a maximum of £250.00

R Niven suggested that bands be given the option to retain or leave the trophy. Discussion followed with the conclusion that this could cause confusion with who has what and engraving of prize winners.

Closing date for Quartets is 24/02/18 with the draw 27/02/18

Outdoors:

Banchory - W Barclay had a meeting with the Banchory Contest Committee, extra advertising to be done by the committee to entice more audience through the gates. A½ page entry to be made available to the Branch in the contest programme as to how the adjudication process works. Possibly have an adjudicator give a short resume of what to listen for. They have suggested a fun, audience participation competition “who will win”

Suggested that we share our outdoor contest information via Facebook with other branches and their members as contest promoters.

W Barclay to go back to Banchory Committee with our discussions.

Aberdeen Highland Games - So far only 9 bands have indicated that they would be attending as it is the same weekend as the UK Championships in Belfast. Discussion followed with the outcome of holding Grade 4A, 4B, and Grade 3 contests.

W Grant asked if this could be advertised with other Branches via Facebook - Yes.

Further discussion to be held with Aberdeen City Council re financial backing for the contest.

H Mackay advised that Florence Allan has offered her services of assistance for the Games. Lauren Gill and Nicole Grant have also offered help.

At this point in proceedings, we stopped for a short lunch break.

W Grant left the meeting.

Pre-AGM Branch Meeting:

Present:

M Chapman - Towie

E Chapman - Towie

R Watson - Grampian Dist

G McKay - Grampian Dist

P Watt - Bucksburn & Dist

V Sutherland - Fraserburgh RBL

P Craigmile - Elgin & Dist

J Sumner - Robert Gordon's College

Apologies:

Isle of Skye, City of Inverness YPB, 2622 Hld Sqd, City of Inverness, Ross & Cromarty, Lathallan School, Grampian Police, Northern Constabulary, Dornoch, RAF Lossiemouth, Kirkwall City, Lochalsh Junior, Inverurie, Ellon RBL, Ballater, Forres, Oldmeldrum RBL, Granite City

Previous minutes: See Management Meeting Minutes

Facebook - See Management Meeting Minutes

M Chapman asked if it was possible when posting solo results on the Facebook page and website just to show prize winners as it can be demoralising to see names in low positions and we want to be encouraging youngsters. This was taken on board and agreed by the bands present.

Indoor Contests:

Concern raised by W Grant that trophies are not coming back in good condition ready to be presented. It stipulates in contest rules that trophies must be returned in good condition. Fines can be imposed for trophies not returned in good condition.

Banchory/Aberdeen

Banchory contest would like to see a good number of bands entering. Also a possibility of new trophies being looked into.

Prize money for outdoors remaining the same.

Both contests to be advertised on Facebook.

Meeting still to be held with Aberdeen City Council re funding.

Classes & Education

Very successful and a benefit to all taking part.

Letter to be sent to P Whelan re further classes, seeking if the RSPBA intend holding classes in the North of Scotland in 2018, possibly in the Northern region of the Branch.

A Preparing for Performance Weekend might be held again, with classes held the following year.

Music Board

J Brinklow spoke on the proposed changes from NI Branch being presented at the AGM.

1: Change in the higher to lower transfer time from current 42 days to 25 days.

P Craigmile felt that 42 is unreasonable as it may curtail players who leave a band for any reason during the season from playing for another during the same season.

Discussion followed with the consensus being that the 42 days should remain.

2; Proposal that a Leading Drummer can also dual register with a higher to Grade 4 band. No mention of NJ or Juvenile bands.

Discussion followed with the consensus being that this could be hugely manipulated and give many bands an unfair advantage and should not be allowed. It was also suggested that Dual Registration be done away with altogether.

3: Prescribed List of Tunes: Sentence to be added that this needs to be a level playing field.

Discussion followed, consensus being that the list is fine and gives bands a good diversity in tunes.

It is important that Branch Bands exercise their vote.

Proxy vote is allowed - this needs to be registered in HQ by a certain date.

J Brinklow to investigate and get template made up for Branch Bands, with information which will be made available on Facebook page.

Directors

It has been proposed by NI Branch that Branches above a certain number of bands be allowed to have 3 Directors.

Rules are being tidied up - nothing controversial.

The Piping College is being re-introduced, with the following points:

.22.1 This Pipe Band College will be responsible to the Board of Directors and the members for:

a) RSPBA input to the syllabus and examination of certificated Piping and Drumming qualifications.

b) The Curriculum (Theory and Practice) for RSPBA courses leading to certificated qualifications

c) The compilation of RSPBA textbooks and tutors for certificated qualifications

d) Managing the RSPBA Examination Centre for certificated qualifications

e) Maintaining a panel of qualified instructors (subject to the approval by the Board of Directors)

f) Facilitating the running of courses (for example the summer school)

g) Supporting the training and development of Adjudicators.

Note: As from March 2007 the Piping and Drumming Qualifications Board was representative of the RSPBA, College of Piping, National Piping Centre, Piobaireachd Society and Army School of Bagpipe Music and Highland Drumming.

2.23 The membership of the Pipe Band College is likely to consist of the following posts, however, the structure may be varied to meet the needs of the Association on the approval of the Board of Directors:-

- ‘Principal’ of The Pipe Band College, appointed by the Board of Directors.
- Education Officer, appointed by the Board of Directors.
- Examination Coordinator.
- Internal SQA/PDQB/RSPBA Coordinator
- Piping Principal.
- Drumming Principal.
- Summer School Principal
- Geographical Piping & Drumming Representatives.
- APMB/ADG representation.
- Music Board representation.

2.23.1 The Education Officer will be the convenor of the Pipe Band College, until such time a ‘Principal’ is appointed subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

2.23.2 Two full time members of the Music Board and two members of the Adjudicators’ Panel, appointed by the APMB, will be invited to join the Pipe Band College to provide input from these Standing Committees’.

2.23.3 Each role within the Pipe Band College will have a specification against which applications from members of The RSPBA will be invited, as each post comes up for election. The current post holder can submit an application for consideration against all applications received.

2.23.4 All selected members of the Pipe Band College, based on their application shall serve for a period from one to three years as agreed by the Board of Directors.

2.23.5 The Education Officer shall have the power to co-opt members as required to achieve specific objectives set, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. The duration of the co-option shall not exceed the duration of the objective or one year, whichever is the less.

The Pipe Band Magazine is on way out as there is no real need for it now with everything being readily available online.

It has been suggested that summaries of meetings from HQ be made available online - perhaps this is something that university students could do as part of their coursework.

Roddy McLeod has expressed an interest in holding a Grade 1 and possible Juvenile Band indoor contest at the National Mod.

Stirlingshire Branch have still not submitted their financial records to HQ. This is now in the hands of Association lawyers.

J Campbell has given up involvement with the PDQB. All information has been handed to R McLeod.

All information on "Battles O'er - A Nations Tribute" 11/11 is now available online.

Anne Crookston - Brass Ensemble expert, has been invited to give her views on bands ensemble. These views will be gained at the Grade 1 UK and World Championships.

Association Memberships still being looked at.

MB/APMB - Grade 4 questionnaires to be done at World Championships.

MB asked if 2 x drumming / 2 x ensemble adjudicators can be used. This to be looked at for 2019 season.

2 Day Qualifying World Championships - could this be localised? Manpower is one problem for a one day contest.

AOCB

Letter received advising that KIntore Pipe Band have come out of RSPBA

Request from Isle of Skye - could meetings be held around the Branch? Other North bands have asked this question too.

It was felt that the next Branch meeting should be held in the Inverness area before the start of the season. Date to be advised. One possible date being Sunday 6th May.

L Niven asked that ALL band secretaries reply to Branch emails which require a response.

There being no further business, The Chairman closed the meeting thanking all those for attending and expressing thanks to Dyce Bowling Club for the use of their clubhouse and to the Spiders Web for the catering.

