

The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association – North of Scotland Branch
Minutes of Branch Management Team Meeting, Sunday 23rd September 2018

In attendance:

W Barclay
H Mackay
L Niven
R Niven
J Gibb
J Brinklow
J McHaffie
W Grant
R Cameron

Apologies: G Gauld

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and gave a brief view of the agenda.

Previous Minutes – no issues

The Chairman intimated that L Buchan was giving up as Minute Secretary due to personal reasons. H Mackay was asked to take the minutes of the meeting. It was agreed to split the honorarium between L Buchan and H Mackay.
The Secretary indicated that Lauren Gill has agreed to take on the role of Minute Secretary.

Music Board

The Pipe Band Magazine is no longer. Articles of interest are required for the RSPBA website. K Reilly is getting a team together to look at ways of presenting this to the readers. It was discussed to introduce a new RSPBA facebook page as well as revamp the RSPBA website.

Marketing & Media to be resurrected.

The new Headquarters premises will have a “historical” section where items of historical Association history can be viewed.

There has been no feedback from the AGM.

Role descriptions for the Pipe Band College are being reviewed & finalised with timeline being set for AGM.

Instructors list is being revised and instructors being asked to complete a questionnaire re Levels etc, highest level being 2. Trainee instructors will be mentored.

PVG Information is now available for parents/guardians to help them when looking at prospective bands for their children.

There is nothing new regarding current education projects.

Outreach Programme:-This can assist in covering some costs for helping students & PDQB classes. But the Branch will still have to contribute.

The question was asked should there be a dedicated RSPBA person to look into grants & funding. After various discussions at Director level it was agreed that this would not be put in place.

Grade 4 Survey: only 36 bands replied (approx 18%)

72% wanted playing requirements to remain as they are

72% though playing levels were fair to bands

14% were unhappy and wanted to play their own tunes, which must be of 2/4 idiom or 2pt Strathspey or 2 part reel. Bands are encouraged to submit tunes to the Music Board for consideration to be added to the list of prescribed tunes. The form stated that if you were happy, there was no need to reply – this perhaps was the reason for the low return.

Grade restructuring is an ongoing discussion within the Group.

Mick O'Neill will be submitting sample scores for the “approved tunes” as a guide to assist bands. This will include Bass/Tenor scores.

A Competition Structure Format Review Group consisting of 4 Music Board members is being set up.

September meeting: Only band in the Branch to be effected in the regarding was Buchan Peterson from Gd1 to Gd 2. Novice Juvenile A & Juvenile bands will not be down graded unless appealed by the bands. This will be monitored.

World Solo Drumming – trying to get as many Branches to run solos as per Worlds i.e.: Grades, not ages. Discussion followed as this may have a huge effect on our Branch Solos entries. Music Board Reps to look into this and get a proposal to take forward to the AGM / next meeting. This could also have an effect on the solo piping contest too.

Board of Directors:

Last Directors Meeting was 28th April.

The penalty fee for non-return of trophies is as per Branch.

There has been a request for the following "What are adjudicators looking for in a Band Performance?" It has been suggested that the paper previously submitted by A Aitken be revisited and refreshed.

World Championships - It has been suggested that Juvenile bands compete on the Friday. This will be included in the ongoing review of the World Championships.

Tenor Drumming: - The International Solo Championships, held in conjunction with the World Solo Drumming contest has no approved/certificated adjudicators only assessors. This is being discussed with a view to getting approved adjudicators.

It has been suggested that the Winter Storm contest be used as a qualifier for entry into the World Solo Drumming.

Finance – Band Registrations being looked at.

Accommodation for UK Championships in Lurgan. Bands advised to book accommodation in Belfast as not much options in Lurgan itself.

5 applications from Novice Juvenile bands were awarded £400 each from the **Association Juvenile Fund** to assist with travel.

The Association charity number can be used by Branches but must be approved by CEO first. W Grant asked if this would affect a personal donation to an individual band. He was advised it wouldn't.

Video conferencing being trialled to possibly reduce meeting costs.

The North of Scotland Branch can have 3 Directors. W Barclay suggested that this director comes from the Northern region of the Branch. Current directors to draft up "job application" to be put out for publication – Facebook, Website, sent to Bands.

Past Season 2018

Banchory / Aberdeen Games

Due to bad weather Banchory Contest lost everything. W Barclay and R Niven met with the contest committee and handed back a cheque for £500 as a donation. It was asked why the contest couldn't be held on a Saturday. The reason is that the contest is run by the Business Association which dictates that the contest is held on a Sunday.

The Branch has been advised that the contest will go ahead on the second Sunday in May 2019.

Aberdeen Games was held under difficult circumstances due to the number of bands attending. In order to keep the "contest" each band entered in the contest, which was seen as a musical performance by the Council, was given £150 as a performance fee. Due to the UK Championships again being held on the same weekend in 2019, this may result in this contest being called off. Discussions are ongoing with the Branch and Aberdeen City Council. It needs to be pushed out to the bands to enter so that we can keep the contest going for the future.

Branch Solos are to be held on Saturday 3rd November in Gordon Schools, Huntly. Entry forms are out and volunteers are requested to help on the day.

17th/18th November, Preparing for Performance Weekend, Inverness.

20 people have indicated their interest is this. W Barclay asked if this could be used as a PR exercise to invite Bands not currently in the Branch to attend. These bands/members to be asked for a non-refundable £50 per head. Information to be sent out to "non" Branch bands in the area. R Cameron to draft proposal.

J Nevans will be running the course, J Semple is on standby. S Niven will be doing the drumming. W Barclay to contact J Noble re Drum Majors.

J Brinklow to put out information on Facebook & website.

R Cameron requested that all cheques for this are made payable to the Branch.

Closing date for enrolment is 31st October.

Branch Trophies

18 out of 73 trophies have been returned for the Solos. All trophies to be returned by 5pm, Saturday 30th September. Any trophies returned after this date without prior arrangement with W Grant, will be fined.

Some trophies are nearing the end of their shelf life. Branch to look at replacing and standardising trophies.

AOCB

Meeting to be held end of October to discuss Workshop, Solos and AGM. H Mackay to check availability of Dyce Bowling Club for 29th October.

R Cameron to draft correction of voting for AGM for those positions which require a vote.

Bands playing for Drum Major Contests: It has been suggested that bands (non competing) are paid to play, Could bands be put on a rota system? If bands have a competing drum major, they may be asked to play for Drum Majors.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked all for their attendance and input, closing the meeting at 3pm.