

Royal Scottish Pipeband Association – North of Scotland Branch

Minute of Annual General Meeting – Sunday 26th November 2018

Dyce Bowling Club 12 noon

Present :

Malcolm Sweet – Buchan Peterson
Helen Sweet – Buchan Peterson
A Skinner – Buchan Peterson
Graham Gauld – Buchan Peterson
Ranald Cameron – Towie
Heather Dallas – Granite City
Heather MacKay – Buchan Peterson
Bill Grant – Buchan Peterson
John Gibb – RGC – Director
D McAllister – Forres
J Channon - Forres
Barry Ashby – RAF Lossiemouth
Christine Fraser – Oldmeldrum RBL
David Fraser – Oldmeldrum RBL
Doug Ogston – Bucksburn and District
Jenny Robertson – Bucksburn and District
Euan Chapman – Towie
Marie Chapman - Towie
Denise Buchan – Fraserburgh RBL
Jeanette Lowe – Deeside Caledonia
Robert Grant – Deeside Caledonia
Jim Park – Deeside Caledonia
Susan Cumming – Portlethen and District
Jill McHaffie - RGC
Elaine Law – Portlethen and District
Linda Niven – Granite City – Secretary
Bill Barclay – Towie – Chairman
Bob Niven – Deeside Caledonia – Director
Lauren Gill – Assistant Secretary

1 – The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone in attendance. Good to see some faces at every AGM.

2 – Apologies :

Stromness
Ballater
Roger Taylor
Florence Allan
Bobby and Ella Forest
Turriff
Kirkwall
Dornoch
Huntly
Ruby Cruickshank
Elgin
Dingwall
Wick
Bill Skinner

3 – Obituaries

Ian Murphy – Bucksburn
George Beattie – Branch Steward – Bucksburn
Helen Simpson – Buchan Peterson
Bob Thompson – RAF Lossiemouth
Duncan Dunbar-Nasmith – RAF Lossiemouth
Dave Ramsay – RAF Kinloss
Michael Banbrick – D/PM Bucksburn (In Jamaica)
Jim Inglis – Bucksburn
Kathy Dempster – Deeside Ladies
Stand for minute
Appointed Tellers – John Gibb and Bill Grant

4 – Previous Minutes :

Proposed – Buchan Peterson
Seconded – Robert Grant - Deeside

5 – Chairman as per order paper :

Thanked everyone who attended the solo piping and drumming contest. Was a very good turnout. Gained and lost numbers. Less adult entries but numbers are staying up.

Preparing for Performance weekend – Very well attended. Opened to Non-competing bands and non-associated with the branch.

Gained another band to the Association. Very good response. Some negative comments but lots of positives too.

No tenor tutor at last minute so went with snare tutor and gained experience.

Also drum major tutor pulled out week before, BB stepped in.

Chairman thanked everyone who turned up and thanked the Tutors for the work they put in.

John Nevans

Jim Semple

Alan Craig

Colin Hall is looking to come back.

Propose acceptance – Graham Gauld

Seconded – Oldmeldrum

2nd Paragraph last sentence – Ally Skinner

Asked how much a few pounds was?

Taken off branch portion was £530 so on balance sheet said excess was £400 –

Finish line for Banchory. Actually approx. £900

6. Music Board report as stands on Paper

No questions

Proposed – Heather MacKay

Seconded – Buchan and Towie

7. Directors Report as per order paper :

GG asks about the format of the worlds championship.

Suggestion from Glasgow: Juvenile bands play Friday

Branches to be asked for feedback on who would accept or decline the proposed changed. To be proposed through Music board at meeting next week.

Pass on till next management meeting.

Email sent out to Juvenile bands for feedback

Proposed – RG Deeside Caledonia

Seconded – SC Portlethen and District

8. Treasurer Report as per order paper :

Positive outlook.

Glasgow made comment that we are one of the better branches. Many of the other branches have very little in the pot.

Good to have missing bank accounts it sorted out.

Proposer – MS Buchan Peterson

Seconded – JP Deeside Caledonia

9. Auditors Report

Signed off by Denise Buchan and Susan Cumming

Auditors had nothing to add.

10. Correspondance

Nothing to be said

11. Election of Office Bearers

There is no one from Glasgow to carry out in accordance to the constitution

Branch President - GG willing to take on post again.

Thanks to all for work done.

GG review constitution post for management committee – 3 year appointment

Proposed Unanimously

Lauren Gill – Assistant Secretary

Proposed BG and HM

Non-voting posts - Magazine Reporter – To come off. Not to be discussed today.

Web Liaison – JB name put against it and to be asked if willing to continue.

Auditors – Denise/ Susan – Stand again

Conclude Election finished.

BB Thanks to Heather for doing sandwiches. Compliments to Spiders web

12. Honoraria :

GG - opportunity for annual increase.
Secretary increase due to constant work that Linda does.
2x people seconded suggestion.
Proposal MC of £750 for secretary
Seconder GG
Proposed – Towie
Seconded – Buchan
Other amounts agreed.
BB – Louise Buchan to stand down from Minute Secr.
No further proposals
BB increase all by £100
Proposed – RAF Lossiemouth
Seconded – RG Deeside Caledonia
No objections.

13. Branch Levy

No reason to raise the money. Bank balance is steady.
Slight increase might be made on an annual basis.
Money to assist in running of branch. Branch is very well off.
Fees to remain as they stand at £75 (£25 to education pot)
Proposer – MS Buchan
Seconder – RAF Lossiemouth
Otherwise minded – No objections

14. Branch AGM dates 2019

24th November 12 noon
HM – Dyce bowling club proposed
No objections.
HM to arrange with Dyce bowling club

15. Branch/Management meetings 2019

Suggestion to have 1st management meeting in February after Directors and Board meeting.
2x Branch meetings
Management meeting to be finished prior to AGM
Management and Directors meeting before start of season
Branch meeting to be held after season "Greeting meeting"
JG agrees to branch meeting before AGM and to have both in February
GG wants commitment/promise to send out and publish Association Order Paper online. Needs to be published before branch meeting and to get minutes from Directors meeting.
GG also asks February meetings to be combined instead of 2
BB confirms this can be done.

16. Opportunity to appoint 3rd Director

Has been advertised on Facebook – Branch pages
Would be good to have someone from North end. As of yet there have been no applicants. No other proposals for post.
JG and BN discuss the role.
Role can be taken on for 12 months to enable person to see what's involved.
Person need to be non-playing. Local level association level. Happy to come along to competitions and meetings.
4x meetings in Glasgow per year and an AGM.
Middle man taking info for branch to Glasgow and back to branch
Ireland and Lothian have already filled these positions.
GG spoken at Branch meeting in Inverness – No success. Advertised again today.

RG asked who to get in touch with about role – Linda Secretary

Pipeband College Education

Branch asked to come forward with Piper and Drummer to help facilitate education within the branch.

Piping and drumming geographical rep. needed from each Branch.

Their work within branch to identify any needs met. Will be taken back to Glasgow for formal process. They will promote PDQB qualifications etc.

Role is to assist bands with any educational needs. Prove to the branch how to help facilitate education of branch and progress through association and Pipeband college. This is not a full-time post.

BG asked if applicant needs to be Piper/drummer. BB states yes ideally.

HM raised concern that people who are suitably qualified may not wish to put their name forward as other bands may think they are taking already playing members to another band.

BB insists it cannot be looked at like that. This is not a teaching role. It is a Liaison role. Job description to follow at later date.

JG questioned actual teaching. List of qualified instructors to be made available and Glasgow decide which tutor is selected.

BG asks for further clarification.

Outdoor contests

Possibility of resurrection of the Mintlaw competition. BN and BB attended meeting on this and asked the question at the AGM on 20th Nov. No clarification as yet. Looking to be 1st weekend in June. With a number of things on the same weekend there could be a possibility to tag the competition onto another event. Many factors needs to be discussed further. Cost to run contest, Adjudicators/compilers/stewards fees.

We as a branch could control the prize money. Each contest has same prize money across the different grades. Start at £250

Reducing the prize money by £50 and only giving to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each grade would allow the branch in securing contests.

GG in favour.

Most important thing to the bands was the contest not the prize money.

Promoter – Mintlaw Gala Team

BG – asks if there is anything we can do to help.

Question asked how did we lose Forres?

Forres withdrew from us. They didn't see a way of running and funding 2 contests.

BB suggests we give them this year to recover and speak with them again next year to see if they will resurrect.

Reducing the prize money is asked again of support by local bands

MS asked for financial support from the branch. BB confirms this isn't possible.

GG says happy with reduced prize money.

BB and BN said initial meeting was positive, keen to have contest. Asked for ball-part figure.

£5,000 suggested to run contest. Covers expenses and prize money. This was based on Aberdeen/Banchory contest. Explained if money is left over we would return it less a nominal fee for the branch and we would set prize money.

AS explained that the Aden Park Comp has a fee for insurance as they insist on cover on the day and the day after the contest. This will be covered by Mintlaw, not the branch.

BB asks would we be happy to reduce prize money by £50 saving over £1000.

This would mean reducing every level and setting the same for each grade.

Aberdeen Games

Last year was disappointing. Only 10 bands entered. Contest would have finished around 11.30/12 had the bands not done extra performances. Aberdeen City Council do not see Pipeband performances as a competition and more as crowd entertainment.

There is nothing that can be done about the Ireland championship being held on the same weekend. We really did have to work hard to keep the Aberdeen contest going. Letters were sent to every band taking part in the 15 minute performances in the afternoon and they were each paid £150 to play.

Aberdeen City Council did not want any money back. Branch kept back a nominal fee for running and organising.

This may not happen next year.

BB sent numerous emails to the council and is still awaiting replies. There was no VIP tent this year for the adjudicators. Cuts have been made across the board.

BB stresses to branch bands to think about expense to travel to Ireland and try and consider not to lose the Aberdeen Contest.

More attendance is needed to avoid contests being lost.

HD suggests non-registered bands could fill rest of the day.

Aberdeen Contest and Ireland championship will share the same weekend in 2019 but will change from 2020.

Queried as to why Banchory contest could not be a Saturday. BB explains it is shop keepers who run the contest and they work on Saturdays.

17. Matters arising

PVG – BB Urged all registered bands to register instructors, people who look after children and vulnerable youngsters. Each band needs a PVG person.

Information on how to do this is within the RSPBA website

The branch has been asked to have a policy on protection of vulnerable groups.

This will be carried out and put in place.

Question whether this should be written into the constitution. BB - no it's a policy and is up to the band to make sure things are done right.

Legal requirement – not answered.

Meeting closed at 2.05pm

BB thanked everyone for their attendance, much appreciated.

Thanks to Dyce Bowling Club.