

THE ROYAL SCOTTISH PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION
Precis Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
held via Video Conference on Saturday 6th December 2025

Present Via Video Conference: J Allan (JA), M Brown-Scott (MBS), A Duthie (AD), J Gibb (JG), R Hall (RH), G Hamilton (GH), D Hunter (DH), A McCleery (AM), M McCrindle (MM), R Niven (Chairman), L Parsons (LP), P Starr (PS), D Todd (DT)

Apologies: M Kerr (MK), S Orr (Vice Chairman), S Smith (SS)

In Attendance: R Gillespie (RG), C Mulhern (CEO)

The meeting started just after 9:30am

The Chairman brought the meeting to order.

The Chairman welcomed David Hunter, a new Director for the Dundee Perth and Angus Branch.

The Board wish to pass on their condolences to the families of Pipe Major Ian McLellan BEM and Brian Harvey.

Item	Discussion/Information	Action	Action by Whom
Directors Meeting Minutes	Meeting minutes from 4 th October were proposed and 2 nd		
Music Board	The two-day proposal for Grade 2 World Pipe Band Championships was discussed, with an MSR competition on Friday and a Medley on Saturday. There were further discussions with regards to the number of entries, and this could go over the trigger point with the Grade 2 bands playing 3 times (qualifiers and final). Should the number of entries go over the trigger point then the bands would play the MSR Qualifier on Friday and both MSR and Medley on Saturday. The Music Board are to reach out to all Grade 2 bands with more information. The minutes of the Music Board were proposed and 2nd and agreed.		
APMB	The Adjudicator list has been submitted to the BoD. The Board requested APMB to supply a list of adjudicators that have either retired or resigned from their post. The training programs were successfully implemented of the Friday at the World Pipe Band Championships. The APMB would like to continue the training at the Friday of the World Championships in 2026.		

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APMB (cont'd)	It was agreed that the Board should have the final say on adjudicator/judge allocations, and there was a call for greater involvement from the Chairman and CEO in the selection process. The World Solo Drumming circuits were also addressed, with allocations for snare drummers completed and efforts ongoing for tenor drumming judges. The minutes of the APMB were proposed and 2nd and agreed.		
Pipe Band College	In December there is a large number of exams taking place over 4 locations. Northern Ireland Piping College does not have a principle for exams so training will be required. Examinations will take place in March/April 2026. There is a need for more drumming assessors, and the development of education resources. Piping education has made progress, whilst drumming still needs development. The Board was asked to encourage more branch involvement in teaching and assessing. The convenor of the PBC was discussed and this needs more discussions with PBC and SOSC. A discussion also followed if the role of the Education Officer is required or could this be absorbed within an existing position. Branches are still waiting to hear from the Principals with regards to when exams can be taken. The minutes of the Pipe Band College were proposed and 2nd and agreed.		
Standing Orders and Steering Committee	JG went through the proposed rule changes for the AGM in March. Dual instrument was mentioned and this is currently being investigated. Discussions took place regarding fining bands who do not turn up, at contests after entering without informing organisers, it was proposed that SOSC consider adding a rule to ensure all bands register at each championship and local competition. The minutes of the Standing Orders and Steering Committee were proposed and 2nd and agreed.		

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Marketing and Media	The Directors have reviewed the new RSPBA website developed by DH, which has been improved with more features and user-friendly navigation. The Directors expressed appreciation for the hard work involved and discussed the need to make the site more visually appealing to attract a wider audience and increase engagement. DH will walk through the website in January's meeting. The Board approved the new social media policy, which outlines guidelines for official RSPBA communications. The APMB have invited Vikki Singer to the training so she can put together a social media piece. The RSPBA are still in the process of appointing a new President and are seeking suitably qualified candidates. A draft job description for a President has been uploaded to the Director's Dropbox for comment prior to adoption. The minutes of the Marketing and Media were proposed and 2nd and agreed.		
Finance Insurance and Maintenance	Several key topics were discussed including PBC exams and a new database development. A meeting is scheduled with the APMB for 10th December. A meeting is scheduled with the PBC for 15th January 2026. MBS to refine codes on Xero. The BoD agreed to form a working group to carry out fundamental review of the membership structure and fees. It was agreed that group would be facilitated by David Todd. The first meeting of the group will take place on 17th December 2025. The new database is expected to be completed after Christmas and will replace the old access system with enhanced capabilities. The minutes of the Finance Insurance and Maintenance were proposed and 2nd and agreed.		

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AOCB	It was agreed that when the branches received their allocated adjudicators, the branch can organise the arrangements for travel and accommodation immediately, so that the most cost effective arrangements can be made. The 2 English branches shared a revised map delineating their regions and affirmed that both branches were viable. A formal non-disclosure Agreement is to be developed and issued to all Directors to sign. Vikki Singer to produce a social media post to encourage all bands to attend the AGM. PBC would like to note that there are no reps for the GWoS branch. The Board would like to congratulate MK on the birth of his new baby.		
	Meeting finished at 13.25		