

THE ROYAL SCOTTISH PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
Via HQ & Video Conference Saturday 14th March 2026

Present Via Video Conference: J Allan, R Hall, G Hamilton, M McCrindle, L Parsons

Present at HQ: M Brown-Scott (MB), A Duthie (AD), J Gibb (JG), D Hunter (DH), M Kerr (MK), R Niven (Chair) S Smith (SS), P Starr (PS)

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

Apologies: A McCleery (AM), S Orr (Vice Chairman)

The meeting started 2pm.

The Chairman brought the meeting to order.

Item	Discussion/Information	Action	Action by Whom
Correspondence	A discussion took place on the correspondence that had been received.		
Directors Meeting Minutes	Meeting minutes from 10 th January were proposed and 2 nd . HQ requested feedback on director's meeting minutes, emphasising the importance of accuracy.		
AGM	OR3: Amended Rule 3.17 on the order paper clarification was agreed by the board that Government approved identification will be proof of date of birth for juvenile bands.		HQ
Working Group for membership structure	DT thanked everyone on the working group. DT presented his findings with the board which opened a debate on how this can work for all bands and work out the structure. Chairman and Board thanked DT for all his hard work pulling this together.		
Music Board	The Format Group engaged with Grade 2 a survey was produced. World Championship Grade 2 was discussed Scenario 1 - If the trigger number is reached (24 bands or more), The Format will be a qualifying format on the Friday (details to follow) and a two-round final of 12 bands on the Saturday playing both MSR and Medley. Scenario 2 - If the trigger number is not reached (23 bands or less) -The Format will be two rounds for <i>all</i> bands – MSR Friday and Medley on the Saturday.		

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Item	Discussion/Information	Action	Action by Whom
Music Board (cont'd)	WSD timings for tenor need to be tighter due to over running from last year. Rule 4.55, 60 paces per minute impracticality of it, Format Group have asked for this to be removed. Music Board have asked the Chairman for permission to hold interviews with Big Rab show and Pipes Drums on the clarity of the Music Board role, and only on this subject, this was approved by the Chairman. Ross Bingham has completed Tenor Solo Judge training and is now added to the Approved List. Proposed and 2nd		S McQuillan
Pipe Band College	There has not been a meeting that met quorum since the last board meeting.		
Standing Orders and Steering Committee	All points have been addressed at the earlier AGM.		
APMB	A meeting was held in January, the APMB were unhappy about the Bass and Tenor prize as this had not been discussed with them. Spoke about attached Drum Majors, this should apply to all adjudicators. The APMB will discuss this at the next APMB meeting, which is on 16th April. Should a board meeting be required then this will be arranged.		
Marketing and Media	The new website was discussed and was delighted with the number of people who are advertising here. Reviewing merchandising companies to work with the RSPBA. All interviews, social media posts should go through HQ, so the CEO can authorise before they are released.		
Finance Insurance and Maintenance	All information for the Directors to look at is on the Directors Dropbox. The Board is looking at paying off the loan, this needs to be investigated to check and ensure there are no penalties, this was agreed by the Board.		F.I.M.C / CEO

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Finance Insurance and Maintenance (cont'd)	The auditors have informed the CEO that the RSPBA does not require a formal audit as the rules from the HMRC and the Scottish Charities to hold an audit has risen from £500,000 to £1,000,000. The Chartered Accountants will conduct an independent review of the accounts. The Board voted for the independent review 7 agreed for the independent review, 5 disagreed (RH, JA, MMc, GH, LP) and voted for a formal audit. An Independent Review of accounts was carried by the Board. Remove 90 days rule on the expenses form, this was agreed by the Board. All claims now must be submitted within 28 days of the event or purpose to which they relate. The new database, the plan, is to delay this until the end of this season, to do otherwise would be disruptive. Proposed and 2nd		
Championship Update	CEO and RG had a site visit to Belfast for the United Kingdom Championships, met with Park Manager, Council, Park Events and Ulster Scots Agency. The site was mapped out, and we are working in partnership with the Ulster Scots Agency.		
AOCB	The allocations for the 2026 season were carried out by the APMB; however, these were distributed to all adjudicators prior to receiving final approval from the Chairman and the CEO. Branch rules for London South of England are in the Directors Dropbox, and the Board have approved these. The Ayrshire Dumfries and Galloway Director spoke about Annan Games and how upset the promoter was as Luss Games have secured the same date. The Board said this was within the rules as the competition is over 100 miles from Annan (rule states minimum of 50 miles). Rules are in place for holding competitions on the same day, no rules have been broken. L&B Director queried the WSD allocations, they had been allocated 2 snare adjudicators when the branch required 6 in total. The L&B are to send an email to HQ advising the number they require so the APMB will be aware of this for next year. The APMB are currently sourcing additional snare adjudicators for this competition.		APMB

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AOCB (cont'd)	All overseas band rosters must be represented to HQ, 6 weeks prior to each championship. A discussion about the post draw 72-hour rule for any amendments by a band took place. There was an agreement that this needs to be more stringent to limit the potential disruption to the competition schedules. The job role for a President will be published on the RSPBA website. Update the website calendar to separate competition events from meetings for clarity.		HQ BoD CEO/DH DH
	Next meeting 25 th April 2026		
	Meeting finished at 17:00		