

THE ROYAL SCOTTISH PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION
Precis Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
held via Video Conference on Saturday 25th April 2026

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), M Kerr (MK), R Niven (Chairman), S Orr (Vice Chairman), L Parsons (LP), S Smith (SS), P Starr (PS), D Todd (DT)

Apologies: A McCleery (AM), M McCrindle (MM)

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

The meeting commenced at 0932:

The Chairman brought the meeting to order.

Agenda Item	Discussion/Information	Action	Action by Whom
1.0 Correspondence	BoD were informed of correspondence that HQ had received in relation to the late Joe Noble, who kindly loaned 4 drums to HQ. BoD were informed of correspondence that L&B Branch had received regarding PBC.		
2.0 Directors Meeting Minutes Post AGM	The BoD meeting minutes of 14 th March, as well as the post AGM meeting were proposed by PS, seconded by ^{JA} and agreed by BoD Wording for 4.23.1 regarding request to play first post draw passed to SOSC to consider.	1	SOSC
3.0 Membership Working Group	DT discussed the progression of the work of the membership working group. HQ to send out a survey to the bands at an appropriate time to gauge their views. Chairman thanked DT. DT left the meeting.	2	DT & HQ
4.0 AGM Matters Arising	Transfer Window: Some discussion took place around the vote at the AGM on the proposed new rule 3.5.1 which came via the GWOS branch. It was agreed that SOSC should consider further the procedure at AGM re the proposed rule. <i>(Post Meeting: SOSC discussed the validity of the vote and agreed that the original proposal was properly put to the meeting and passed and that this outcome should stand and be added to standing orders, the procedure for the amendment was not followed through correctly and should be disregarded)</i> It was mentioned that there was a need for HQ and Directors to encourage member bands as far as possible to attend the AGM either in person or virtually	3	SOSC

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5.0 Music Board	World Solo Drumming (WSD) Tenor timings were discussed due to last year's overrun, S McQuillan has asked to be contacted to discuss.		
	Rule 4.55 regarding introductory tempo requirements were discussed. The Music Board suggested removing it due to impracticality of enforcement. It was agreed that SOSC should consider further. Should changes be required this will go to the AGM next year.	4	SOSC/MB
	BoD congratulates Colin Smith for his long service to the Association; Colin has been part of the Association for 42 years. He will be missed when he retires from his role. HQ will present him with a long service award.	5	HQ
	Format Group on the Grade 2 survey, discussed the 4/4/4, and the playing time that would be saved at championships. This has been supported by the Grade 2 bands via Survey Monkey. The Music Board was advised this would be implemented for the 2027 season.		
	BoD discussed the need to be aware of Rule 2.1 which sets out that: <i>All Standing Committee and Sub-Committee decisions and recommendations must be referred to the Board of Directors for confirmation and, if unacceptable, may be returned to the respective Committee for further consideration.</i>		
	The report and minutes of the Music Board apart from number 9 were proposed by RH, seconded by LP and agreed by BoD.		
6.0 Pipe Band College	It was requested that the Board Minute formally record disquiet regarding the manner in which the CEO/Interim Education Officer and two Directors serving on the PBC Committee were being treated. It was noted that the PBC convened a meeting without their knowledge or inclusion, therefore not quorate, and that the tone and manner in which they have been addressed during meetings has been inappropriate and unacceptable.		
	Principal of the PBC contacted the CEO/Interim Education Officer to advise he was elected by PBC till 2027, and the Drumming Principal would stay on until they could find a suitable candidate to take his place, Piping Principal was agreed for another year November 2025, this also applies to the Summer School Principal		

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Pipe Band College (Continued)	Board were advised that at 10am 9th November 2024 PBC had their AGM and an election took place. However, on review of the December BoD minute, nothing was presented to Board of Directors to approve those who had been re-elected. The Principal of the PBC felt that the 2 Directors who sat on the PBC approved the appointments. CEO/Interim Education Officer advised that this is a decision for the full BoD, and not the remit of the 2 appointed Directors to approve the elections. The BoD agreed that the communication from the CEO/Interim Education Officer regarding the reset of the PBC still stands. Applications will now be sought for interim Principals in accordance with the rules 2.23.3, following an open and transparent process, the outgoing Principals are welcome and encouraged to reapply for these roles. BoD agreed that a Sub Committee be set up, this will include CEO VC, Chair, AD, GH to reset the PBC. BoD agreed that the appointment of an Education Officer needs to be considered by FIMC. BoD agreed that Review group findings are to be put out to member bands with a caveat that the process was not fully completed. The PBC report was proposed by PS and seconded by JA and agreed by BoD.	6 7 8	HQ FIMC HQ
7.0 SOSC	No meeting has taken place since the AGM.		
8.0 Marketing and Media	A meeting was held in March, and discussions took place regarding merchandising companies to work with the RSPBA. Two companies have expressed interest in acting as the Association's merchandise partner and supplying products on behalf of the RSPBA. Both companies operate on a print-on-demand basis and would make branded merchandise available for purchase before, during, and after each championship. It was noted that neither company would require a physical stall at the championships. The CEO has scheduled meetings with both companies in April to explore these proposals further.		

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Marketing and Media (Continued)	A meeting was held via Zoom, with the CEO attending in person at the Clydeside Distillery, to discuss the potential for a promotional stall selling RSPBA-branded whisky at the World Pipe Band Championships. Glasgow Life is currently considering whether this would be permissible under the event's alcohol licensing arrangements. It was noted by a director that any sale of alcohol onsite would fall under the event's existing license. Thanks were expressed to D Hunter and V Singer for significant improvements to social media outputs, the weekly updates are working really well. SS thanked HQ for access to Facebook, this allows the results to be posted straight after the competition has taken place. A discussion took place on entering the championships online as some bands are still having issues with the shopping basket and it is not 100% compatible. DH to address. The Marketing and Media report was proposed by MK and seconded by PS and agreed by BoD	9	DH
9.0 Finance Insurance and Maintenance	BoD were advised that the April meeting of FIMC reviewed routine financial performance and had recommended purchasing a Starlink (<i>satellite internet connection</i>) to bring high speed broadband internet connection to championships for use by compiling, trade stands, ticket entry etc. This would work out considerably cheaper than the current hire cost of broadband connections, which is approximately £2,000 per championship. Official expenses were agreed to be now capped at £750; this does not include fees. FIMC report proposed by DH, seconded by JG & agreed by BoD		
11.0 APMB	APMB have requested that all adjudicators' individual tents be positioned together in a single line within the arenas. BoD agreed this and will ensure that the Stewards are fully briefed on this requirement. BoD discussed the need for Rule 4.63 to be strictly adhered to: <i>Adjudicators have an option to confer with colleague adjudicators at the end of a band performance but not while the band is playing. However, adjudicators shall not discuss their placing decisions with colleague Adjudicators before all official result sheets have been collected by a designated RSPBA official. [2018 AGM].</i>		

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APMB(Continued)	There was a request from APMB that all APMB related correspondence come to them directly and not via HQ. It was agreed however that the appropriate channel was for correspondence to come first to HQ who can then ensure the relevant committee responds in good time. Chair to attend APMB meeting. The APMB report was proposed by PS, seconded by JH and agreed by BoD.		
12.0 Championships Update	British Championship- entries are now closed and a total of 125 bands and 32 Drum Majors attending. The Royal Highland Centre is delighted with the numbers. United Kingdom Championships -. BoD were advised that to date the numbers entering were disappointing. RH advised that the need to submit entries was to be promoted heavily at NI Band events which should encourage better entries. CEO advised that planning is ongoing with all the promoters. European Championships – negotiations ongoing for a multi-year deal. Scottish Championship- planning meetings are scheduled for 2026. Promoters can only commit at this stage to 2027. World Championship- planning meetings are scheduled. CEO advised that he is in talks with other interested promoters re championships. Proposed MK, Seconded SS		
13.0 AOCB	The BoD agreed to maintain strict adherence to the draw, with no early performances allowed unless exceptional circumstances are proven. The exact definition of exceptional circumstances needs to be clarified through standing orders.	10	SOSC
	Safeguarding training to be sourced and delivered to BoD.	11	CEO
Meeting closed at 13.25			

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Summary table of actions from the previous meeting

Number	Discussion/Information	Action	Action by Whom
4/10/2025 No 3	All members are encouraged to read the format guides, and the MB are to ensure the relevant documents are updated and available on the Web Site.	Ongoing	MB
4/10/2025 No 4	The BoD agreed to the MB progressing a review of the Drum Majors competition format guide.	Ongoing	MB
4/10/2025 No 5	The BoD agreed to the MB progressing a review of the WSD Circuit following the 2025 event.	Ongoing	MB
4/10/2025 D	Is it possible for a Branch become an Affiliate of the Association.	Ongoing	SOSC
14/03/2026 No 3	World Solo Tenor timings to be investigated	Ongoing	S McQuillan
14/03/2026 No 4	Contact loan company to see if this can be paid off without penalties	Ongoing	F.I.M / CEO
14/03/2026 No 6	Overseas band rosters to be chased by HQ and have them 6 weeks prior all championships	Ongoing	HQ
14/03/2026 No 8	Upload President job role onto website	Ongoing	CEO / DH

Summary table of actions from this meeting

Number	Discussion/Information	Action	Action by Whom
25/04/2026 No 1	Wording for 4.23.1 regarding request to play first to be reviewed.	Open	SOSC
25/04/2026 No 2	HQ to send out a survey to the bands to gauge their views on memberships working group findings.	Open	DT & HQ
25/04/2026 No 3	SOSC consider procedure at AGM re the proposed transfer rule.	Open	SOSC
25/04/2026 No 4	Rule 4.55 regarding introductory tempo to be reviewed.	Open	SOSC & MB
25/04/2026 No 5	HQ to present C Smith his long service award.	Open	HQ
25/04/2026 No 6	A Sub Committee of PBC be set up.	Open	CEO
25/04/2026 No 7	The appointment of an Education Officer to be considered.	Open	FIMC
25/04/2026 No 8	Review group findings to be put out to member bands with a caveat that the process not fully completed.	Open	CEO
25/04/2026 No 9	Improve issues for Bands entering contests who are still having issues with the shopping basket.	Open	DH
25/04/2026 No 10	The exact definition of exceptional circumstances needs to be clarified through standing orders.	Open	SOSC
25/04/2026 No 11	Safeguarding training to be sourced and delivered to BoD.	Open	CEO