



THE ROYAL SCOTTISH PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION

Precis Report of the 91st Annual General Meeting

Zoom Video Conference on Saturday 12th March 2022 @ 11:00am Final 1.0

The RSPBA Annual General Meeting (AGM) as notified to the Members in pursuant of Article 42 was held on **Saturday 12th March 2022** at 11:00am as an online ZOOM meeting.

This year the online format was chosen to allow the meeting to be interactive.

Attendance was open to the Band Secretary (Member) or their Proxy of a Band where the Membership Fees have been fully paid.

The Zoom session was opened at 10:30am. Attendees were asked to join the meeting with their video enabled, but audio off, and prefix their name with the Band Number and Band Name, e.g. "2345 HQ P's & D's Paul Brown". Those representing multiple Bands needed only specify one Band. The Chat function was enabled for all.

Background

The meeting followed the Agenda below to consider the relevant Detail and Reports contained in the Order Paper circulated to the Members.

1. President's welcome to Representatives
2. Chairman's Remarks
3. Apologies
4. Standing Orders and Appointment of Tellers
5. Minute of previous Annual General Meeting
6. Chief Executive's Report
7. Treasurer's Report, Balance Sheet and Financial Statement.
8. Finance Insurance and Maintenance Committee Report
9. Standing Orders and Steering Committee Report
10. Auditors' Report
11. Marketing and Media Committee Report.
12. Music Board
13. Education Officer's Report
14. Adjudicators Panel Management Board Report
15. Proposed Changes to Standing Orders and Rules and Articles of Association
16. Election of Office Bearers
17. Any Other Competent Business

Attendance

The conference was attended by the President G Usher, the Chief Executive Officer (retiring) I Embelton, Office Manager A Papageorgiou and the members of the Board of Directors:

A McGeoch, A Faulkner, B Niven, J Gibb, K Crothers, K Reilly(Chairman), L Ronaldson, M Brown-Scott, M McCrindle, N Greeves, P Brown (Vice Chairman), S Smith, S Orr.

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In attendance to support their standing committee reports were J Wilson convenor of the APMB and P Whelan Education Officer and convenor of the Pipe Band College.

Progress of the Meeting

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked if everyone could check that their band name and number was on their information, and to please put mics on mute. He asked that cameras be left switched on and stated the meeting should not be recorded.

President's welcome to Representatives

The association President George Ussher welcomed every Member to the meeting at the end of a difficult year for everyone. He thanked all office holders (Band, Branch and Association) who have prepared for this meeting. He hoped for a good meeting and success to all for the year ahead.

There was then a short period of reflection where Members were asked to be silent and spend a moment to remember those who have passed since our last AGM.

Chairman's Report for The RSPBA AGM 2021/22

Can I start my report by thanking you all for attending your Annual General Meeting here today. Once again, we are holding this meeting over the Zoom platform. The Board of Directors agreed this was the best way to hold the meeting due to the uncertainty of the Covid Situation when the decision was made.

The Association has been moving along over the last year, our volunteers have been meeting and helping to steer the Association through these difficult times. I am pleased to say that the Association is back up and running. The staff who have all came off furlough and phased back into work with a complete return to work from early January. I would like to thank the staff for their allegiance to the Association and for sticking by us through these difficult times.

The AGM again this year is being held digitally I am pleased to say that we have approaching 200 bands who have re-registered with the Association, this number is approximately fifty percent of pre-covid days but I'm sure these numbers will increase when the Competition season kicks in. As you have read the order paper you will see that we are making a change, on guidance provided by OSCR to the way in which we can meet.

Financially we are stable, we have to be very careful and look at all monies that are being spent and also how we can conserve money. We have Increased our CBIL loan to £150.000 and as long as we have a full competition season, we should get through without touching this money. Thank you to all the Bands who have supported the Association over the last two years.

Our sub-groups have been active over the year, meeting regularly to look at ways of improving the experience for Pipers, Drummers and Drum Majors. The Music Board have 'Standing Start' trial this year. Our Adjudicators start their next Adjudicator Training in the next few weeks. Marketing and Media continue to work on and to make the 'New Web Site' more informative and accessible for our public.

Our Standing Orders and Steering Group continue to anatomise the Articles of Association and the Constitution and Rules and to interpret any changes that may be needed from internal or external groups.

Again, our Finance Insurance and Maintenance meet regularly to make sure we are keeping within our budgets and not spending too much money.

Our Pipe Band College who are the 'Educators' within the Association are working to produce a stable system of education. Our very successful Summer School which is going ahead again this year. I do

appreciate that we have had some issues over 'certification' with the SQA but only yesterday I was informed by the SQA that they hope to have a report with us in the next few days.

Looking forward, we have a full calendar of five Major Championships booked in and I am pleased to say that we also have twenty-eight proposed minor competitions. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage as many bands as possible to support these competitions. I feel that we will all be taking a step into the unknown, but I hope that we can all make that step together and support each other.

For future reference we have Major Championships in place for the following.

- British Championships (Inverclyde) 2022 and a review for an extended contract.
- UK Championships (Lurgan) 2022 and 2023
- European Championships (Inverness) 2022 and 2023
- Scottish Championships (Dumbarton) 2022 and 2023
- World PBC (Glasgow) 2022 2023 and 2024

Please take time to read my report on behalf of the Board of Directors, contained in the 'Report and Financial Statements' pages 1-6 this will give you a look at what we are aiming to achieve in the future.

Ladies and Gents once again, thank you for your attendance here today. This shows the Directors and myself that we have a lot of members out there who want to see our Association thrive. It has been a terrible last two years and I hope that we can now look forward and get back out there on the grass doing what we love to do.

Kevin Reilly
Chairman of the Board of Directors
The RSPBA

Apologies

The following apologies were noted by the Chairman.

- W MacGregor Director London & SE England
- Band 1216 Kilmarnock Schools Pipe Band.

Standing Orders and Tellers

The Chairman confirmed that, invitations to attend the AGM had been sent to the Secretaries of 193 Bands. There is 1 Member who could cast the vote for 8 Bands, 1 Member who could cast the vote for 4 Band, there are 5 Members that could cast the vote for 3 Bands and 14 Members who could vote for 2 Bands. This would be 21 voting Members with 55 votes if they all attend the meeting. The association had received 25 completed Proxy Forms.

Voting during the AGM was taken as notified to the Members in their invitation, **"one band one vote"**.

- Those Members representing a single Band, will be asked to cast their vote using the Zoom Poll functionality. A screen will be displayed requesting you cast your vote "For" or "Against" the motion, those wishing to abstain need do nothing.
- Members in attendance who need to cast multiple votes will be asked to cast their votes by using the Chat function to send a vote message to the designated TELLER. Those wishing to abstain need do nothing. The chat message would be of the form "2 for, 1 against" or "0 for, 2 against". The Teller will have details of those entitled to cast a multiple vote and the number involved to ensure the votes presented are valid.

The results will be determined by the combined total of the voted “For” or “Against” on the zoom poll and chat.

The co-host (Paul Brown) would initiate the zoom Poll for those Members who could cast a single vote. A Teller (John Gibb) was set up within the Chat to capture the details of Members who needed to cast multiple votes.

The results of the zoom Poll will be shown to the Members by Paul Brown, and John Gibb will report the summary of the Multiple votes cast over audio to the Members. The reported numbers will be combined before the result of the Poll are announced by Paul Brown.

A test was undertaken to obtain the number of Members in attendance at the meeting and the Number of votes that could be cast.

The adoption of Standing Orders for the AGM and the appointment of tellers was accepted on the Proposal of Band 222 Moybrone and seconded by Band 893 McDonald Memorial and had the unanimous support of the Membership.

After some discussion Paul Brown instigated a trial run of the AGM Poll. A total of 55 votes were cast.

Poll	Chat	Total
22	33	55

It was requested that one person should speak at a time when invited by the Chairman. Those wishing to speak should use the zoom ‘Raise Hand’ function or Chat with the Host to indicate they wish to be heard.

Report of previous Annual General Meeting

The precis report of the 90th Annual General Meeting was published on the The RSPBA Website as a News Item dated 5th April 2021. Key details of this meeting were available on page 3 of the Order Paper.

There were no questions on the report from the Membership.

The Report of the previous AGM was accepted on the proposal of Band 270 Buchan Peterson and seconded by Band 893 McDonald Memorial.

To accept the report from the Report of previous AGM.

For	Against	Majority	Pass/Fail
51	1	54	Pass

Chief Executive’s Report

The report from the Chief Executive is as presented on page 4 of the Order Paper.

There were no questions from the Membership for the Chief Executive.

The report was accepted on the proposal of Band 190 Colmcille and seconded by Band 33 Kinross and District.

To accept the report from the Chief Executive.

For	Against	Majority	Pass/Fail
55	0	55	Pass

2021 Treasurer’s Report, Balance Sheet and Financial Statement.

The Chief Executive as honorary Treasurer presented the Balance Sheet and Financial statement, we ask you to formally accept the Annual report and accounts 2021, including the reports of the Directors and of the Auditors on the accounts.

The detail is provided in the Appendix to the Order Paper as detailed on Page 10

I Embelton asked if he could go through a few areas on the financial statements.

He stated the financial performance was obviously not fantastic and although there was a loss, he said given the circumstances he was very pleased with the overall outcome as were The RSPBA accountants. He said the accountants were comfortable with the current financial position of The RSPBA.

The accountants concluded they could not find any wrongdoing by the Board of Directors either individually or collectively.

The debtors are higher than expected, he said in the main this was due to outstanding payments for advertising as many of the companies were not operating due to lockdown. He said The RSPBA were in receipt of payments since the beginning of 2022 to the value of £1,394.

Referring to the going concern one of the main areas was that we increased our Covid-19 business interruption loan (CLIB) to £150k. It is the trustees’ intention to repay this as soon as possible. He went on to explain that the government pay the interest for the first year and if we do have to draw down on it the rate of interest is 3%.

There is a reference that The RSPBA received grant funding of £29,500 in relation to the Pivotal Event Business Fund. When comparing the income to the previous year, it should be noted that most of the grant sources had dried up.

Item 10 in the accounts “governance support costs”, he said historically the cost of the PBC examinations has been for some reason reflected as catering costs. He said for the 2022 financial statements this will be amended and reflected in the Pipe Band College costs.

The Pipe Band College (Appendix 4) is showing an income of £10k with associated costs of £4,853 however if the catering (*examination*) costs of £7,052 are considered the Pipe Band College had made a loss. He went on to explain we do not run the college to make a profit.

The accountancy costs are slightly up this will be monitored very closely going forward. The increase in this costs is because of the business transactions that we have had in relation to grant applications and the staff going on furlough.

There were no questions for I Embelton.

The report was accepted on the proposal of Band 1189 Strathallan School and seconded by Band 270 Buchan Peterson.

To accept the report from the Treasurer.

For	Against	Majority	Pass/Fail
52	1	51	Pass

Finance Insurance and Maintenance Committee Report

The Finance, Insurance, and Maintenance Committee report can be found on page 5 of the Order Paper.

There were no questions for K Crothers.

The report accepted on the proposal of Band 877 Glenrothes and District 2010 and seconded by Band 751 Kilbarchan.

To accept the Finance, Insurance, and Maintenance Committee report.

For	Against	Majority	Pass/Fail
54	1	53	Pass

Standing Orders and Steering Committee Report

The Standing Orders and Steering Committee report can be found on page 8 of the Order Paper.

There were no questions for B Niven.

The report was accepted on the proposal of Band 255 Culter and District and seconded by Band 270 Buchan Peterson.

To accept the Standing Orders and Steering Committee report.

For	Against	Majority	Pass/Fail
55	0	55	Pass

Auditors' Report

The Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of the Board of Directors can be found on page 7 of the Appendix to the Order Paper.

There were no questions for I Embelton

The Auditor's Report was accepted on the proposal of Band 289 Fraserburgh RBL and seconded by Band 175 Ballydonaghy.

At this point Galaxy S10 joined the meeting the identity of the attendee was unknown.

To accept the Auditors' Report.

For	Against	Majority	Pass/Fail
55	0	55	Pass

Marketing and Media Committee Report.

The Marketing and Media Report can be found on page 9 of the Order Paper.

There were no questions on the Marketing & Media report.

The report was accepted on the proposal of Band 751 Kilbarchan and seconded by Band 893 McDonald Memorial.

To accept the Marketing and Media Report.

For	Against	Majority	Pass/Fail
53	1	52	Pass

Music Board

The Music Board Report can be found on page 6 of the Order Paper.

There were no questions on the report for M Brown-Scott.

The report was accepted on the proposal of Band 157 Morpeth and seconded by Band 93 Scottish Power.

The unknown attendee Galaxy S10 was identified as Iain Finlay Glenrothes & District.

As Glenrothes had an attendee at the meeting with the votes for the 2 bands I Finlay left the meeting.

To accept the Music Board Report.

For	Against	Majority	Pass/Fail
54	2	52	Pass

Education Officer's Report

The Education Officer's Report can be found on page 7 of the Order Paper.

There were no questions for P Whelan.

The report was accepted on the proposal of Band 751 Kilbarchan and seconded by Band 255 Culter and District.

To accept the Education Officer's Report.

For	Against	Majority	Pass/Fail
52	2	50	Pass

Adjudicators Panel Management Board Report

The Adjudicators Panel Management Board Report can be found on page 4 of the Order Paper.

There were no questions for J Wilson.

The report was accepted on the proposal of Band 93 Scottish Power and seconded by Band 345 George Watsons College.

To accept the Adjudicators Panel Management Board Report.

For	Against	Majority	Pass/Fail
56	0	56	Pass

A query was raised on the votes cast.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE STANDING ORDERS AND RULES / ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

P Brown explained to the Membership the difference between an ordinary and special resolution and the required votes cast for each.

The first three motions were Ordinary Resolutions / Motions. They are successful where it is passed by a majority of over 50% of the votes cast, by those present taking no account of abstentions.

The following motion was a Special Resolutions. A resolution is successful where it is passed by a majority of 75% and over of the votes cast, by those present taking no account of abstentions.

NOTIFICATION OF COMPETITION FORMAT CHANGES.

Adult Drum Majors

The Chairman explained to the meeting that the proposal for the Adult Drum Majors had been withdrawn by the Board at their pre AGM meeting.

Band 761 Closkelt asked why this item had been withdrawn.

The Chairman explained that there were some concerns over ambiguity around the intent of the proposal and it was agreed that it should be removed, reviewed by the SOSC and represented if needed in the future.

The change of format placed in the Worlds Programme 2019, documented the proposal approved by the APMB, MB and BoD. This changed the format from heats followed by a Final of two sets (2 *5) from which the finalists were placed, to a format in which the heats are followed by a Semi Final of two sets (2 *5) which would be followed-by a single Final (1*6) from which the finalists would be placed.

The SOSC recommend that the changes to The Worlds Drum Major's semi-final and final as documented in the Worlds Programme 2019 should be progressed as follows:

The Vice Chairman, in consultation with the SOSC, agreed that as we have not held any Major Championships for two years the events in 2022 should follow the same format as 2019.

It is proposed that approval be given for the running of a pilot in 2023, and if successful, it will become a permanent change for the format in 2024. The pilot in 2023 will take place if:

- a) A trial run by six Drum Majors (from those who do not qualify for the final) at the 2022 event indicates there is space for six Drum Majors to compete in the arena at the same time. and;
- b) The Adult Drum Majors who have competed in the 2022 season, following consultation, support the change in format being run as the proposed Pilot event.

To accept the motion to investigate a semi-final.

For	Against	Majority	Pass/Fail
			Withdrawn

Static Start Pilot

B Niven presented the Static Start Pilot, and then invited the Members to make comments or ask questions on the proposal.

The Music Board report to the membership at the 2020 AGM outlined the proposal that all Grade Four B and Novice Juvenile B Bands will have the opportunity to participate in a *pilot* which will have a "Static Start" for the performance introductory phase. This format change was approved by the Board of Directors.

The Music Board have decided that the Major pilot event will be the European Championships in Inverness. There will also be pilots of the "Static Start" at some minor competitions in the proceeding weeks to the Major Championship.

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The Contest Performance Rules (4.47 to 4.53) will apply, with the following clarifications.

Rule 4.51 variation moving from the start line:

After halting at the start line, no band players shall be allowed to withdraw. [2014 AGM] The Pipe Major of a Grade 4B or Novice Juvenile B Band taking part in a pilot event will advance the Band into the "Static Start" position from the start line.

Rule 4.52 The performance shall commence on a signal from the Ensemble Adjudicator in Championship contests or the Piping Adjudicator in all other contests, the band will commence its performance on the command by the Pipe Major [2014 AGM.] The Pipe Major of a Grade 4B or Novice Juvenile B Band taking part in a pilot event will give the command from the "Static Start" position.

Band 751 Kilbarchan stated that the band had not received the survey that was circulated. He said he had spoken to other bands, and they had not received the survey either. On this basis the Member asked for the proposal to be withdrawn.

Band 761 Closkelt stated the NI Branch had recently profiled the Grade 4B bands and they would be in favour of the pilot. He would suggest the bands support that this goes ahead. He asked would it be prudent to hold this back until 2023 though as bands are returning after 2 years to the competition arena.

Band 345 George Watson's college - agrees with the comments from Band 761Closkelt, however the proposal does not change the musical performance.

Band 1149 McDonald Academy stated they would support this going forward as they have a young band. The Member went on to explain at a Festival in 2021 they were participating in a similar circumstance and found this was an advantage for the young members of their band.

As there were no other comments/questions the proposal was accepted on the proposal of Band 175 Ballydonagy and seconded by Band 893 McDonald Memorial.

To accept the motion.

For	Against	Majority	Pass/Fail
38	16	22	Pass

OR1 - 2021 Pipe Band College

The purpose of the proposal was explained, and the Members were invited to make comment or ask questions.

Rationale for Change – The Board of Directors minute of the 5th December 2020 clarified that the Pipe Band College Principals are selected from applications invited from members of The RSPBA as each post comes up for election. (Rule 2.23.3).

The first PBC AGM would be postponed until November 2021 to allow the principal positions to operate appropriately. 1/3rd of the appointments are to stand down at the Pipe Band College AGM but may be eligible for selection for a further term. The rotation of posts up for selection would commence in 2021 with the Summer School Principal and Piping Principal, in 2022 the Drumming Principal and in 2023 the Pipe Band Musicianship Principal.

A selection procedure was not followed prior to the November 2021 Pipe Band College Annual General Meeting, but an election by those college members who attended the meeting. The positions within the Association are in the main supported by the Branches and the Members through the Articles of Association, this change is to clarify the process and bring the application process into alignment with the Articles.

Band 969 Preston Lodge High School (Lee Moore) I am appealing to you to vote **against** proposed rule change 14.3 on the order paper concerning rule 1.23.3.

In November 2021 the elected members of the Pipe Band College voted unanimously that going forward we wished to **elect** our Principals and that the electorate would consist of the Education Reps for each Branch who are elected by their branch and are all fully qualified instructors.

Proceeding by election rather than selection is more in line with the spirit of the Rules and Articles of the Association and would bring the College into line with all other bodies within the Association all of whom elect their representatives and office bearers.

It is also important that as Branch reps we get to have a say in who we work with.

The Pipe Band College had been promised consultation in this matter, however no such consultation took place and I don't believe the strong feelings of the Pipe Band College Members have been adequately represented at the Board of Directors meeting when the decision to proceed with selection was made, In fact I am concerned that the matter has had little in the way significant discussion at BOD meetings as neither of our branch board members could tell me one argument on either side of the debate.

I would strongly urge all members present to vote against this rule change.

At the very least this would ensure that there is opportunity for the Board of directors to fully consult with the Pipe Band College to properly debate the matter in an open and transparent manner, and come up with a solution that works for everyone.

The Pipe Band College Principals and Branch Reps commit a huge number of hours, unpaid to the benefit of the Association and I fear that this good will would be drastically eroded by forcing through a rule change which is against our wishes. this could lead to the Pipe Band College being drastically short of qualified manpower as I, and I know others would be considering their position in the Pipe Band College as untenable.

Band 751 Kilbarchan recommend all members vote against this proposal.

Band 345 George Watsons College urge all members to vote against this proposal.

The Vice Chairman (P Brown) said he would respond to one or 2 of the comments.

The Board of Directors are nominated and elected on to the Board by each Branch in accordance with the rule at their Branch AGM Meeting. In 2021 the Members agreed that the positions of Chairman and Vice Chairman would require any nomination (with suitable skills) to be supported by two Branches, and that the election into post would be at The RSPBA AGM.

The RSPBA is represented by its Members (Band Secretaries) or their Proxy who are entitled vote at The RSPBA AGM in March each year, or the Members who vote at their Branch AGM.

When it comes to the standing committees the Music Board has its membership made up of representatives elected from each Branch. Only the geographical representative on the PBC is elected from a Branch (and not all Branches have a representative). Instructors, Assessors and Verifiers are appointed to the college on application subject holding the relevant qualifications and the needs of The RSPBA.

The Board and the standing committees, fill the positions of convenor, administrator, and sub-groups from the elected members to the Board or standing committee.

When the Pipe Band College was established the Pipe Band College Principals were invited to apply for a role and following a selection process (through an interview panel) were appointed into Position for a duration determined by the Board of Directors. It was envisaged that a similar process would be followed for the appointment of subsequent Principals as each role came up renewal.

It is not consistent with the other bodies within the association that a small number of individuals (who may not be Members (Band Secretaries) are able to elect an individual to be a Principals of the Pipe Band College. The only people eligible to vote on the PBC are the Geographical Representatives which is only a small quorum.

In considering the rules (and the action of the PBC) it has not been agreed that an election should take place within the PBC.

761 Closkelt point of clarity is the PBC an independently constituted body, and why does it have its own AGM?

P Brown there was no clearly documented reason other than to discuss PBC business by those involved.

N Greeves (Director) If you take the length of time the PBC Principals spend talking about this topic it is multiple hours when there are so many other important educational areas to address.

Band 157 Morpeth Colin Smith said his objection was that an unknown body will select the principals which is unacceptable to the College. He reported it was not known that it was coming to the AGM for approval.

The rule change was accepted on the proposal of Band 761 Closkelt and seconded Band 751 Kilbarchan.
OR1.

For	Against	Majority	Pass/Fail
7	42	-35	Fail

SR01 – Association Meeting

Rationale for Change – To ensure the Articles of Association provide the governance for the use of virtual meetings. The changes are based on guidance provided by OSCR in their newsletter to support organisations through the challenges of Covid-19.

B Niven said since the restrictions imposed on us by Covid 19 it was necessary for us to hold virtual meetings. This proposed update to the Articles of Association to incorporate virtual/hybrid meetings was recommended by OSCR.

761 Closkelt stated that it was understood why this change was necessary and that having virtual meetings saves money but can The RSPBA get back to meeting in person.

The amendment to the articles was accepted

.To accept SR01.

For	Against	Majority	75%	Pass/Fail
53	0	53	39	Pass

Nominations

There were no nominations for the Membership to consider.

DIRECTORS FOR ELECTION

The Chairman asked if we could take the vote on block on the directors up for election

Band 761 Closkelt said that it was brought up at last year's AGM and asked what the current position is in relation to the number of bands registered with each branch.

P Brown explained that as many bands had not registered due to Covid-19 the decision was taken by the Board to go with the 2019 band registration numbers for the current year. This would be addressed at the Branch AGM's in November 2022.

Band 761 Closkelt why with the change of rules being fluid and as we are not in a covid situation now. The static start is going ahead. Why are the Directors not falling in line with the rest of the organisation?

The Chairman said that this November 2022 everything will flatten out at the next round of Branch AGMs.

The Poll was taken on block to elect as director.

- J Gibb - North of Scotland.
- M McCrindle - Ayr Dumfries and Galloway.
- L Ronaldson - Northern Ireland.

- A McGeoch - Glasgow and West of Scotland.
- M Brown-Scott - Lothian and Borders.

For	Against	Majority	Pass/Fail
42	2	40	Pass

DIRECTORS AS APPOINTED 2019/20

2020		2021	
Vacancy (was K Reilly)	North of England	P McAndrew	Dundee Perth & Angus
R Niven	North of Scotland	S Smith	Glasgow & West of Scotland
Vacancy (was K Robertson)	North of Scotland	W MacGregor	London & South of England
N Greeves	Glasgow & West of Scotland	Vacancy	Lothian & Borders
A Faulkner	Northern Ireland	Vacancy	Midlands
W K Crothers	Northern Ireland	K Reilly	Chairman
S Orr RVM	Lothian & Borders		
P Brown	Vice-Chairman		

2022 AGM AOCB

Band 761 Closkelt. Asked the Board to consider the parking for the Drum Majors at the Major competitions. Unfortunately, DM's are marked on their dress and are forced to get dressed at the back of a field. Would you please allow special parking permits for Drum Majors?

The Chairman said this was down to the Promotors, but the question would certainly be asked.

Band 270 Buchan Peterson Queried why Inverness was not covered in the Chairman's earlier report.

The Chairman stated that Inverness was the European Championships, and the Championships would be held there in 2022 and 2023 to fulfil the 3-year contract.

The Chairman of the Ayr Dumfries and Galloway Branch (Campbell Waddell) asked has The RSPBA got any influence over Inverness Council as the cost of the Hotels are so high for the Championship. He went on to quote a room at Premier Inn for 2 nights is costing £515 another hotel is charging £630 for 2 nights, why do the hotels put their prices up so high?

The Chairman replied we don't have any influence over the Councils, and he went on to explain that it is an independent promotor who sponsors the European Championships.

Campbell Waddell responded further by stating due to the high costs some of the bands are having to travel there and back in a day.

The Chairman of London and South of England Branch (Jackie Allen) asked if the Board would look at the price of membership fees. She felt it unfair that the smaller bands especially from her Branch had to pay the same level of membership fees as the larger bands, is there a way to charge the bands per head. i.e. per band member. RSPBA Chairman said that he would ask the Finance Group to have a look at this.

Band 761 Closkelt A band is paying for membership of The RSPBA irrespective of size. He went on to say 4 of the Majors are in Scotland the NI bands are always suffering from the fact that they must travel. As one of the Majors is in the North of Scotland only 2 Grade 1 bands from NI travel to it. All bands should pay the same fees as they have the same opportunities. If possible, would the Board please look at holding future Majors around the Stranraer area.

Meeting Close

The chairman thanked all for attending the meeting closed at 13:00 pm

P Brown advised the Directors the Board meeting would commence at 13.30 pm.