

THE ROYAL SCOTTISH PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION  
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting  
Via Video Conference Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2023

**Present Via Video Conference:** A McCleery, B Niven, J Gibb, J Hughes (Vice Chairman), L Parsons, L Ronaldson, M McCrindle, M Brown-Scott, P McAndrew, R Hall, S Smith, S Orr

**Apologies:** K Reilly (Chairman), J Allan, A McGeoch, A Papageorgiou

**Present:** G Usher, C Mulhern, P Whelan, R Gillespie

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The meeting started just after 9.30am.

Minutes, Correspondence and Reports were made available to the Board in advance of the meeting through the Meeting Pack Drop Box folder.

The Vice Chairman brought the meeting to order. K Reilly was out of the country but he would try to attend the meeting.

### **Correspondence**

CE notified the Board that he had received several email complaints regarding the Highland Dancing at the World championship. CE is working with Glasgow Life to find alternative venues.

An item received regarding Affiliated Associations has been passed to the Standing Orders and Steering Committee for consideration.

An item regarding the various IT tasks that are undertaken within the organisation is being reviewed by the CE and VC with a view to allocating ownership across the organisation.

A document from the correspondence folder referring to the Role of Trustees encouraging all Directors/Trustees to take an active part in running the Association.

### **Directors Meeting Minutes**

#### AGM Report

Has previously been approved.

#### Pre-AGM Report

Has previously been approved.

## The Post AGM Minutes

A discussion about the style of the minutes and how this differs from the previous minutes. It was agreed that meetings would not be recorded and moving forward HQ staff would take the minutes and all the key points to support the CE. The minutes will be re-written in the style requested and presented to the Board for approval.

Minutes was not approved.

## **Marketing and Media**

Allocated Directors: J Allan (Convenor), A McCleary, M Brown-Scott

The Marketing and Media report had a query concerning how The RSPBA can interact with the external press moving forward.

A report was submitted to the Board regarding social media including, Instagram and Twitter to be used on the day of the championship, asking if the Board would revert back to this.

The World Championship has previously used Twitter for reporting the qualifiers.

A member of the Board asked about the possibility of looking at an intern to cover the season for marketing and media. VC has previously spoken to Caledonia University in 2018/2019, a cost would possibly be involved and this would need to be looked into further.

## **Pipe Band College**

J Gibb (Convenor), J Allan

No report

## Education Officers Report

The EO provided a verbal report.

There were 55 SQA assessments and 1 PDQB assessment held since the start of 2023.

The majority of these assessments are from NI and are being processed as soon as The RSPBQ HQ received the paperwork. The candidates will see their certificates within the next few weeks.

EO would like to thank Mark Faloon, the NI schools, The RSPBA NI Branch staff and to all involved.

## **Music Board Minutes**

Allocated Directors: P McAndrew (Convenor), S Smith

The Music Board mentioned that the meeting dates are currently out of sync and they are trying to get these back in line.

A discussion was held with regards to the easement format, an emailed proposal was sent the Board for approval for the 2023 season.

The extension to the easement is in relation to player numbers only, and will continue for the 2023 competition season.

The question was asked how long is the easement going to run for. The Format Group would review this at the end of the season. VC asked for a show of hands so this could be reviewed at the end of the season ready for 2024 season. This was approved unanimously by the Board.

The playing criteria for all Grades and Major Championships has been prepared by the Music Board and was posted on the website prior to the entries for the Championships being opened up.

WSD group received a letter from New Zealand Association requesting to hold the qualify events in 2024, this was identified in the minutes of that group. New Zealand and Australia would share the event. A question was asked if this would increase the numbers in the semi-finals? This will be looked into further and reported back to the Board before the deadline, which is 4 weeks before the first post season meeting.

### **Finance Insurance and Maintenance**

Allocated Directors: M Brown-Scott (Convenor), R Hall, J Hughes

A meeting is to be arranged.

Previous Director has sent across a handover and this is still being looked into.

### **Standing Orders**

Allocated Directors: B Niven (Convenor), L Ronaldson, L Parsons, S Orr

It was confirmed that the static start remains a pilot scheme, therefore no requirement to change the rule at this point.

Glasgow Life has been informed about the supply of water for the public at the World Championship last year. It was suggested that we should provide the Centre Bands with water during the march past.

### **APMB Minutes**

Allocated Directors: A McGeoch (Convenor), M McCrindle

No meetings have taken place and nothing has been reported to HQ.

Local and Championship allocations are in the Drop Box folder, please ensure you check with HQ before you write to the adjudicators, in case of any changes that has been made.

A code of practice guide for volunteers was discussed for all championships.

### **Championship Update**

The CE spoke about the UK Championship, he and the VC have a meeting with Lurgan this month. They will discuss the arena space for the bands near the fountain and ask for these to be moved back to the flat ground as in previous championships.

We are currently reviewing the contract for The European Championship in Aberdeen. A number of amendments have been suggested by both sides, so looking to bring this to a conclusion this month. It was confirmed by the VC that Aberdeen would have 4 arenas for the European Championship.

Scottish Championship have a meeting booked for 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023. The promotor has agreed that it will be same as last year and The RSPBA will try to work out a better solution for the Drum Major arena as it was not ideal in arena 2 last year. It was confirmed by the VC that the Scottish Championship would have 4 arenas.

Worlds, CE is in discussing regarding the Highland Dancers.

Next year the contracts which are coming to an end are the UK, European and the Scottish.

The CE will contact all 15 promotors in order to secure Championships for 2024.

UK Championship, Lurgan are keen to have the championship next year and discussions are taking place with them.

Eire have expressed an interest in holding a championship there as well.

### **Stewards / Compiling Group**

Allocated Director: S Orr

VC would like to thank the stewards for all their hard work moving the storage across from Pentagon Centre to HQ.

The stewards would have liked to receive earlier notification of where they have been assigned to. CE has confirmed that next year the stewards will receive notification much sooner.

### **Use of Headquarters' Group**

#### **A McGeoch**

No report on this as yet.

CE has confirmed that The RSPBA HQ are ready for anyone to come along and make use of the hall facilities. Health and Safety checks and insurance are up to date. The bands would need to provide their own public liability insurance.

VC confirmed that one band has expressed an interest in using the hall for band practice and CE would invite the band after Easter.

## **A O C B**

Election of 2 Directors from 'Executive Group'

VC mentioned that several Directors have been asked if they would consider being a member of the Executive Group. R Hall and J Gibb would be happy to be part of group. The VC confirmed that The Executive Group requires the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Convenor from FIMC, M&M, SOSC and 2 Directors.

VC asked the Board for a show of hands, this was approved by the Board unanimously.

Delegate Power to the Executive Group to run the Association until the October meeting.

Music Board discussed the grading group convenor to be identified for the standards and grading, they challenged the Board to refer back to the recorded minutes from December 2019 stating the duty will be a director. It was indicated and approved by Board.

It was discussed by the Board that there is need for Director to be a full member of the any Committees they sit on.

The Chairman was the convenor for the Music Board and this is the reason why the question has been asked to clarify the position of a convenor.

In the rule, it mentions that an 'elected' member of the Music Board will be appointed as Convenor. This may require a change to the terms of reference and bring people in to discuss further. A discussion group will be set up.

S Smith confirmed that she is the admin for drop box. VC confirmed that everyone with Drop Box permissions would be reviewed.

The President thanked the VC for hosting the meeting and wanted to state that he had enjoyed the meeting.

S Smith wished everyone a successful season.

**Date of Next Meeting is 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

## ACTIONS CLOSED AT THIS MEETING

Action	Reference and Owner
Playing requirements for the Championships needs to be updated, now we have confirmed the four consecutive events.	Closed
Opening entries, the entry Fees are unchanged by updating the web page along with the closing dates.	Closed
Review the news items and letters for the upcoming AGM.	Closed
Include the agreed proposals in the AGM Order Paper.	Closed
Issue the Order Paper over the next few weeks to the Member (Band Secretary) along with the Proxy Form and Annual Accounts in advance of the AGM.	Closed
A copy of the entry forms is to be included in the information alongside the Order Paper, Accounts and Proxy Form in the AGM pack when it is distributed.	Closed
Update the membership around the 10th February once Board members have had chance to consider all proposals on the British Championships.	Closed

## NEW ACTIONS FROM THIS MEETING

Action	Reference and Owner
Affiliated associations and oversea bands confirm payment for 2023 subscriptions, list to be sent to B Niven	(15/04 No 1 – HQ)
Allocating ownership for IT tasks across the organisation	(15/04 No 2 – VC & CE)
Correspondence item on Directors/Trustees to be reviewed	(15/04 No 3 – SO)
Post AGM report to be re-written	(15/04 No 4 – CE)
Clarification of the scope of the easement to be communicated clearly to bands	(15/04 No 5 – Music Board)
Review of the Playing Numbers Easement to be reviewed at the end of the playing season.	(15/04 No 6 – PM)
The request for New Zealand and Australia on holding events leading to semi-final places in the WSD requires more information to be provided by the WSD Working Group.	(15/04 No 7 – PM)
Previous Director of F.I.M has sent across a handover; this is to be reviewed	(15/04 No 8 – MBS)
Information to be considered in relation to guidance for how to prepare for a range of weather events at Championships.	(15/04 No 9 – PM & M&M)
HQ to invite band who has expressed interest for using The RSPBA HQ for practice	(15/04 No 10 – CE)
Further discussions (group required) regarding convenors of groups	(15/04 No 11 – PM, Chairman, Music Board)

## OUTSTANDING ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Action	Reference and Owner
Review the currency of the website document that need to be reviewed periodically.	(08/10 No 15 – Director P McAndrew / Vice-Chairman) 2022
MB Convenor to reach out and progress a liaison group meeting early in 2023.	(03/12 No 6 – MB) 2022
WSD Group to progress a review of the World Solo Drumming Championships	(03/12 No 7 – MB) 2022
Progress the issue of Honorary Life Membership to K Crothers and I Embleton.	(03/12 No 10 – Chairman) 2022
The Chairman agreed to attend the next meeting of the Music Board to discuss this position of MB convenor and seek that a convenor is appointed	(28/01 N05 – Chairman).
The Directors are to discuss the need for a MB Convenor at their Branch meetings.	(28/01 N06 – Directors)
Headquarters are to ensure that the two overseas Associations holding Adult WSD championships are paid up members of the RSPBA.	(28/01 No 7 – HQ)
Notify the grading decisions as a News Item	(28/01 No 8 – MB Convenor)
Feedback on the Playing Requirements document that the Music Board reps have been asked to share and discuss with their branch Bands, will be discussed at a targeted meeting of the Music Board on the 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2023.	(28/01 No 9 – Directors).
A McGeoch is to contact the CE in the coming week(s) to progress the opening of the headquarters.	(28/01 No 10 – CE / A McGeoch)
It was agreed that the analysis of the assessment pricing structure would continue, and the FI&M Committee should make a recommendation to the Board of what the candidate Fee should be.	(28/01 No11 – FI&M / PBC)
Provide comment on the Allowances and Expenses guidance as requested at the December Board meeting.	(28/01 No 15 – Directors)
Review the updated Claim Form produced by W McGregor.	(28/01 No 16 – Directors)
The relevance of Affiliate Fees be considered by both the FI&M and SOSC committees, particularly considering the possibility of reciprocal agreements.	(28/01 No 17 – Directors)
A full review of the PBC and its Terms of reference was needed.	(12/03 No 10 – Chairman) 2022