



**Minutes of the 56th Annual General Meeting of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
London & South of England Branch
Held on Sunday 29th November 2020
Via - ZOOM - Internet**

Present

Walter MacGregor	President & Treasurer, and Gatwick Caledonian
Jackie Allan	Chair, and Essex Caledonian
Irene Samson	Secretary, and Essex Caledonian
Jonathan Rouse	Chief Steward, and Reading Scottish
Dr R Ian Graham	Minute Secretary, and Manchester Phoenix Pipe Band
Elaine Gloss	Trophies Convenor
Iona Scotson	Gordon School, Senior Pipe Major
Steve Duffy	Scots Guards Association (South), Pipe Major
Iain Raymond	Vice Chair, and Gatwick Caledonian, Pipe Major
David Finlayson	Reading Scottish Pipe Band, Chairman
Gareth Utting	Stowe Caledonian Pipe Band, Pipe Major
Stephen Barr	Colchester Pipes & Drums, Secretary
Tony Doherty	Macánta Pipe Band, Pipe Major
Charles Mackie	Scots Guards Association (South) Pipe Band

Apologies for absence

Tom Curd	Gatwick Caledonian Pipe Band
Andy Innes	Webmaster

Minutes

nb: the numbers refer to the agenda.

1) President's welcome

The President (WM) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

He asked for a minute's silence in remembrance of members who had passed away since last year.

- ✚ Robert Gardner, West Midland Police Pipe Band
- ✚ Bert Anderson, Wolverhampton Pipe Band
- ✚ Tony Harris, Past President.

The President congratulated the Branch on its "can do" attitude during the COVID19 restrictions, especially with the on-line solo competition. David Finlayson from Reading Scottish Pipe Band stated that many junior pipers found the on-line competition very helpful, especially the judges' comments. Charles Mackie from the Scots Guards Association (South) Pipe Band said it might be a good idea to have a trio piping on-line competition.

2) Apologies

See 'apologies for absence' above.

3) Minute of the previous Annual General Meeting dated 24th November 2019

The minutes of the previous meeting dated 24th November 2019 were agreed and duly 'signed off' as a true record of that meeting.

Proposer: Jonathan Rouse, Chief Steward. Seconded by Elaine Gloss.

4) Matters arising

FACEBOOK London & South East Branch RSPBA Group is now open to the public, which has resulted in 120 new friends in a year.

There has been no progress by RSPBA HQ on Iona Scotson becoming a piping assessor. This is on-going. WM stated that this was due to HQ staff being on furlough.

5) Chairman's report

See Appendix 1 for the Chairman's report. This was adopted.

6) Secretary's report

See Appendix 2 for the Secretary's report.

Bands to note the Secretary's offer to apply for DBS checks for those teaching juveniles.

7) RSPBA Director's report

See Appendix 3 for the RSPBA Director's report.

8 Treasurer's report

See Appendix 4 for the Treasurer's report, and for the Branch accounts.

The accounts were adopted as a true record. Proposed: E Gloss; Seconded J Allan

WM proposed that Branch fees should be waived for 2021 and contest fees should remain unchanged. Proposed: Irene Samson ; Seconded by S Duffy, unanimously agreed.

9) Music Board Representative's report

See Appendix 5 for the Music Board Representative's report.

10) Webmaster's report

No report received.

11) Education Officer's report

No report received.

12) Election of Branch Office Bearers

See Appendix 6.

W MacGregor was reappointed as Director and J Rouse as Chief Steward.

Proposed E Gloss, Seconded I Raymond, unanimously agreed.

This will be WMcG's final term as Director and J Rouse is likely to retire at the end of this 3 year term of office, so Bands were asked to look out for future incumbents.

13) Appointment of Honorary Auditor

It was unanimously agreed that David Provan be reappointed for 2021 as Branch Financial Auditor.

Proposed S Barr, seconded G Utting

14) Branch activities and calendar

The Chair (JA) outlined to proposed activities for 2021 post COVID 19.

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|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 🚩 20 th February 2021 | online solo competition (tbc) |
| 🚩 April 2021 | online juvenile competition (tbc) |
| 🚩 May 2021 | online trio piping competition (tbc) |
| 🚩 13 th June 2021 | Colchester |
| 🚩 July 2021 | Corby (tbc) |
| 🚩 5 th September 2021 | Chatsworth |

A discussion took place on whether the May contest should be online, indoors or outdoors. No decision was reached, noting that it rather depended on the Covid rules pertaining at the time. ISc suggested that Gordon's school might be available.

15 Any other competent business

D Finlayson (Reading Scottish Pipe Band stated that he has had great difficulty in obtaining information and advice from RSPBA HQ during 2020, and was disappointed at the lack of leadership. Iona Scotson of Gordon School mirrored this. The President (WM) stated that the staff at HQ were all on furlough due to COVID19.

There was a general discussion on whether there should be different fees for non-branch members as opposed to Branch members for online solo contests. No decision was made on this.

J Rouse, the Chief Steward, asked if stewards need to be DBS checked. The Chair (JA) stated there was no need as they were not alone one to one with juveniles.

The Chair (JA) asked the meeting what bands were doing during the COVID19 lockdowns and restrictions. Bands seemed to be holding mainly ZOOM meetings to maintain contact with each other. Some had held limited practices when COVID19 rules allowed.

Date of next meeting

28th November 2021

The meeting finished at 16:00

Dr. R. Ian Graham, Minute Secretary

Signed -----
W. MacGregor, President

Signed -----
J. Allan, Chairman