



**Minutes of the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of**  
**The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association**  
**London & South of England Branch**  
**Held on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2021**  
**Via - ZOOM - Internet**

**Present**

Walter MacGregor	President & Treasurer, and Gatwick Caledonian
Jackie Allan	Chair, and Essex Caledonian Pipe Band
Iain Raymond	Vice Chair, and Gatwick Caledonian Pipe Band
Irene Samson	Secretary, and Essex Caledonian Pipe Band
Jonathan Rouse	Chief Steward, and Reading Scottish Pipe Band
Dr R Ian Graham	Minute Secretary, and Manchester Phoenix Pipe Band
Ron Paterson	Education Officer, & Pipe Major Reading Scottish Pipe Band
Andy Inns	Branch Webmaster
Elaine Gloss	Trophy Secretary & City of London Pipe Band
Tony Doherty	Pipe Major Macánta Pipe Band
Tom Curd	Pipe Major Gatwick Caledonian Pipe Band
S. Jones	Pipe Major Glenmoriston Pipe Band
Ian Soutter	Pipe Major Cambridge Caledonian Pipe Band
John Young	Pipe Major Essex Caledonian Pipe Band

**Apologies for absence**

Iona Scotson	Music Convenor & Pipe Major Gordons' School Pipe Band
Sandy Moriarty	RAF AC Pipe Band
Peter McNaughton	Scots Guards Association (South) Pipe Band
Chris Salmon	Welsh Piping Society

**Minutes**

nb: the numbers refer to the agenda.

**1) President welcome**

The President (Walter McGregor) welcomed everyone to the meeting. He commented that ZOOM had allowed more people to partake in the AGM.

He asked for a minute's silence in remembrance of members, friends, and family who had passed away in the last year.

This year the Branch has held on-line competitions, and an outdoor competition. This demonstrates a wonderful 'can-do' attitude.

**2) Apologies**

See 'apologies for absence' above.

**3) Minute of the previous Annual General Meeting dated 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

The minutes of the previous meeting dated 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020 were agreed and duly 'signed off' as a true record of that meeting. Proposer: J. Rouse, Seconder: E. Gloss. Unanimous.

#### **4) Matters arising**

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

#### **5) Chairman's report**

See Appendix 1 for the Chairman's report. This was proposed by Jonathan Rouse and seconded by Iain Raymond.

#### **6) RSPBA Director's Report**

See Appendix 3 for the Director's report. Walter added the following comments.

The RSPBA Head Quarters now has a new web site which should be fully functional by the spring of 2022. He said that it should be more 'user friendly'.

For those bands who paid their subs in 2021 there will be a 50% reduction in band fees for 2022 and (hopefully) 2023.

There are candidates for the position of Chief Executive Officer following the retirement of Ian Embleton. Walter would like the Branch to formally record its appreciation and thanks for being such an able administrator and a great asset to the RSPBA over the last 20 years. He was a good force for the 'public face' of the RSPBA. Proposed by Jackie Allan and seconded by Elaine Gloss.

#### **7) Secretary's Report**

See Appendix 2 for the Secretary's report. This was proposed by Jonathan Rouse and seconded by Iain Raymond.

Irene Samson also made the following comments.

To date she has received only 3 Band Registration Forms.

She informed the meeting that Arthur Farrell, the secretary of the Gatwick Caledonia Pipe band is very poorly.

#### **8 Treasurer's report**

See Appendix 4 for the accounts. These were accepted and Walter was thanked for continuing to produce such professional accounts. Proposed by Elaine Gloss, and seconded by Irene Samson.

Walter McGregor went on to say the following.

The Branch is in a good position financially. There will be no Branch subs for 2022 and competition entry fees will remain unchanged.

The William Allan Memorial Fund has £1000.00 in it.

#### **9) Music Board Representative's report**

The report was read out.

It was felt that the proposed indoor band contest this February in Glasgow was primarily of interest to Scottish based bands and there was unlikely to be of any take up from Southern England.

#### **10) Webmaster's report**

Andy Inns, the web master, stated that there were no changes needed but that he would like input for social media and the web-site; for example, local band news, officers' biographies.

**Action: all bands, and officers**

Facebook membership has grown to 460.

#### **11) Education Officer's report**

Nothing to report for 2021.

#### **12) Election of Branch Office Bearers**

The following office bearers who agreed to stand again were agreed unanimously.

Position	Holder	Proposed	Seconded
Chairman	J Allan	W McGregor	I Samson
Treasurer	W MacGregor	S Jones	I Soutter
Minute Secretary	Dr. R. Ian Graham	W MacGregor	I Samson
Trophy Convenor	<i>vacant</i>		
RSPBA Director	W MacGregor	R Paterson	J Allan
Education Officer	R Paterson	I Raymond	J Rouse

#### Trophy Convenor

Elaine Gloss has decided to retire from the position of Trophy Secretary. No applicants were received. She was thanked for the time and effort she has put in to the post. A volunteer is required.

**Action: all bands**

#### **13) Appointment of Honorary Auditor**

It was unanimously agreed that David Provan be reappointed for 2021 as Branch Financial Auditor. Proposed by W. MacGregor, seconded by J. Allan.

#### **14) Branch activities and calendar**

The Chair (Jackie Allan) outlined proposed activities for 2022.

🚩 February 2022	Training Day (tbc)
🚩 March 2022	Adult solo on-line
🚩 24 <sup>th</sup> April 2022	Indoor quartets, mini-bands
🚩 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2022	Jim McGinn memorial pipe band competition
🚩 12 <sup>th</sup> June 2022	Colchester
🚩 10 <sup>th</sup> July 2022	Corby
🚩 10 <sup>th</sup> July 2022	Harpenden
🚩 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	Chatsworth
🚩 October 2022	Training day (tbc)
🚩 November 2022	Juvenile on-line solos

#### **15 Any other competent business**

A discussion took place on whether the bands should learn Stuart Little's new tune to commemorate the Queen's platinum anniversary at massed bands. Many solo pipers are learning it, but there was little appetite for including it in a massed band.

Jonathan Rouse repaired the gazebo that was damaged in October. He was thanked for his efforts.

Ian Soutter asked if band members could now be registered on-line rather than by pen & paper.

**Action: Water McGregor to pursue this with RSPBA HQ.**

Iain Raymond put forward the idea of holding juvenile quartet competitions at the existing indoor competitions. The idea was welcomed, noting that a juvenile group was already welcome to enter any contest.

A discussion took place on the value of issuing trophies as prizes at competitions. John Young suggested a certificate. Tony Doherty (TD) said that trophies were interesting as historical documents to see who had won them in the past. Ron Paterson agreed with this. But on the negative side it was a constant problem getting trophies back from bands in a clean and undamaged state. TD said that at major competitions a fine of £50.00 was imposed on a band who did not return a trophy and they were not allowed to compete until it was paid. A change in the rules was proposed along the lines of that if a trophy wasn't returned by the date of the next competition, then a fine would be imposed on the band concerned thus, not returned - £50.00, returned unclean – £20.00. Walter McGregor said he would amend the existing rule and circulate the draft. **Action: Walter McGregor**

**Date of next meeting**

27<sup>th</sup> November 2022

The meeting finished at 16:00

Dr. R. Ian Graham, Minute Secretary

Signed -----  
W. MacGregor, President

Signed -----  
J. Allan, Chairman

**RSPBA London & South of England Branch**  
**Annual General Meeting – 24 November 2021**  
**President's Welcome**

I am very pleased to welcome you all to this, the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the London & South of England Branch. Whilst we are no longer in lockdown our meeting is being held on Zoom to encourage wider participation and avoid venue hire and personal travelling expense.

At the outset I thank you for your continued support of your Branch and its member bands. The loss of 'live' gatherings and events for two whole competition seasons has been devastating for the pipe band world. Without your efforts, I think, we would have lost many more pipers and drummers to other recreational activities.

On a positive note, the Branch online competitions in October 2020 and Spring this year were very well received. Once again, I thank the individual competitors for taking part and Jackie Allan (our Chair) and Irene Samson (our Secretary), Hugh Jamieson, Roddy Livingstone and Gordon Craig (our Adjudicators) for all their efforts in making these contests such a success.

This 'can do' attitude was again prominent when the Branch held a 'live' outdoor contest (at least until the rain came down) at the Gordon's School in early October. As well as the competitors and most of the officials mentioned previously, I thank Jonathan Rouse and Ian Samson (our Stewards), Roger Huth and Stewart Ogilvie (additional Adjudicators), Iona Scotson (our Music Board Representative) and Sarah Byne (from the Gordon's School) for their sterling efforts. The feedback received both at and after the contest was exceedingly positive and made all the efforts very worthwhile.

As is customary at the beginning of our Annual General Meetings, I ask you to join with me in a minute of silence in memory of those of our friends and colleagues within the pipe band and branch communities who sadly are no longer with us.

Thank you, I will now hand over to Jackie to lead us through today's agenda.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The main effort over the past twelve months has been to "Keep the Flame Alive" during lockdown. To this end, the Branch organised its first ever Online solo contests for adults and juveniles in November, March and April. Our local solo piping judges, Roddy Livingstone and Hugh Jamieson, plus drumming judge Gordon Craig gave freely of their experience and time, and these events were very successful, with 267 performances in total. Half the pipers were juveniles, and there were 16 drumming solo entries, mostly juveniles. I am keen that we continue to provide opportunities for young players in the region to become involved in the wider pipe band world as so many of our bands are in great need of a youthful shot in the arm.

Summer 2021 finally saw the easing of Lockdown. It is now a mixed picture across the Branch. Some bands kept going via Zoom and were quick to return to the real world when restrictions eased. Some bands took a year off and have been slower to restart. There are others who may not return to the scene. More than one band is suffering from a shortage of drummers, as some drum corps appear to have faded away during lockdown.

The Branch recently organised an "End of Lockdown" contest to encourage bands back to playing. This catered for all options from trios to full bands plus a busy schedule of solo piping and drumming and we are most grateful to Pipe Major Iona Scotson and the Gordon's School for hosting that event. It was a joyful day of reunions and performances, the first since 2019.

One benefit of lockdown was the realisation by RSPBA HQ that meetings could take place via Zoom, and I wish to pay tribute to our Director Walter MacGregor and our Music Board representative, Iona Scotson for firmly and diligently representing our interests on the Board of Directors, the Finance Committee and the Music Board and ensuring that southern England was not forgotten.

I would also like to thank all our other Branch officials, as although this has been a quieter year, they have still given their time, experience and advice to keep things going and plan for the future. In particular I wish to thank our secretary Irene Samson who has kept me on the straight and narrow, kept the admin flowing smoothly, and liaised with the Webmaster. She has also mastered the requirements of the DBS procedure to ensure that tutors or judges of juveniles have the requisite clearance in place. May I remind you that this service is available to all branch bands.

Our Chief Steward Jonathan Rouse has maintained the Branch tentage so it is ready for the next outdoor season, Elaine Gloss has stored boxes of trophies, and Ian Raymond, Iain Graham and Ron Paterson have contributed to Zoom committee meetings.

Looking forward to 2022, we hope to return to something approaching a normal schedule of live events, both contests and training days, boosted by at least one online solo event during the year. I am grateful to all those who helped to "Keep the Flame Alive" during the pandemic. We now need to fan that flame and the Branch is here to support bands as they recover and rebuild over the coming months and years.



**RSPBA London & South of England Branch**  
**Annual General Meeting – 24 November 2021**  
**Director's Report**

Minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors are published on the RSPBA Website and I commend these to you as useful bedtime reading. If there are any issues in the minutes upon which clarification is required, I will be happy to provide any explanations.

The Board of Directors has been meeting online almost monthly throughout the whole of the pandemic to ensure the Association functions as best as it can in the circumstances. However it has been exceedingly challenging especially when all staff were on furlough throughout the whole period the Government's furlough scheme was operating. Notwithstanding these challenges, your Association is still in existence, its headquarters are wind and weathertight and its bills paid up to date.

To assist its finances during the pandemic, during which the Association's income was decimated, a loan of £150k was obtained in July last under the Government's Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS). The interest of the loan is charged at 2.5% fixed. Monthly repayments of £2,500 will commence in July 2022 and finish in June 2027. The loan proceeds will assist your Association in funding its financial commitments through to May 2022 when, hopefully, sponsorship monies from the major championships will begin to flow through. Your Association's cashflow is being monitored very closely with cashflow forecasts being updated monthly. Notwithstanding your Association receiving annual subscriptions of £42.5k, grants and donations of £29.5k, and slashing its expenditure to £127k (net of furlough payments of £44.5k) it is anticipated that a deficit of circa £50k will be incurred this year. However, assuming that all the 2022 major championships take place as planned it is anticipated your Association will generate a surplus of at least circa 43k.

Some of you may have noticed that your Association's website has been updated recently. What you are now able access reflects completion of the first and part of the second of a three phase refresh costing some £10k In all. The refresh initiative commenced some 18 months ago and, owing to the ageing technology supporting the existing website and the impending withdrawal of the external maintenance support, it was decided by the Board of Directors that the work should proceed. The board also considered that, as the pandemic had greatly lessened (if not entirely removed) the need for regular access to the existing website, this year would be a favourable time to undertake, test and launch updates. The initial launch took place on 17 October and It is anticipated that the refresh will be completed by Spring 2022.

Notwithstanding the pandemic, your Association has been able to continue its educational endeavours and over 230 SQA / PDQB assessments were undertaken this year. It would be great to have students from the Branch undertaking assessments in the coming years. The Board of Directors agreed, as a gesture of goodwill, the Bands that had supported the Association by paying their annual subscriptions for 2021, would pay only 50% of the relative annual subscriptions for 2022 and 2023. Bands which did not pay their annual subscription for 2021 would be expected to pay their annual subscriptions at the full rate for 2022 and 2023.

As was announced many months ago Ian Embelton retired as Chief Executive Officer after some 20 years of sterling service to your Association. Owing to the pandemic Ian agreed to remain in post on a part-time basis to the end of the 2022 season. Recruitment consultants have been engaged to find a replacement who will initially be employed as Operations Manager and will step up to the CEO role after a satisfactory probationary period. Ian has a wide and wonderful range of skills that have served him well during his tenure as CEO and, there is no doubt, he will be a great loss to the Association.





RSPBA  
(London and the  
South of England  
Branch)

# REPORT

**Iain Raymond Vice Chair**

The Pandemic has certainly done emended damage to our Branch activities over the last 18 months or more. Even as I prepare this report numbers seem to be rising again, and we are not going to be rid of it in the short term.

The highlight of 2021 for me must be the Contest at the Gordon School. I was asked to Steward the Junior Solo Piping, and what I assumed would be a task, turned out to be an absolute please. The talent amongst those young players was very impressive. Most of the entrants came from the Gordon School, and the juvenile band at Reading Scottish Pipe Band. It was an absolute pleasure to see all those young Pipers playing so well, and its much credit to their respective tutors. The Venue at Gordon School was ideal, even the few showers failed to spoil a very enjoyable day. I'm hoping that we can use the School for the indoor contests in 2022 and maybe beyond.

Ive made brief contact with Ron our Education officer regards courses for 2022, and he has already been in tough with Iona to discuss possibilities. I'm still pursuing the possibility of an online course for Leading Drummers on the Same basis as I did for the Pipe Majors this year. It was well represented, and Pipe Majors did indicate how useful it was. I'm still in the process of tracking down the Contact details for Lead drummers, but have a way to go yet.

Just before the Pandemic I began to make contact with some bands in the south and west that are not members of the branch. The hope is to visit the bands with a view to encouraging them to affiliate. As you will appreciate, this will be an ongoing task.

**Iain Raymond**  
**Vice Chair**

RSPBA L & S of E Branch AGM – 28 November 2021  
Secretary's Report – Irene Samson

**1 Review of Branch Bands & Supporters - Nov 21**

<b>Band</b>	<b>Branch member</b>	<b>Attendee</b>	<b>Paid sub 20/21</b>
<i>Cambridgeshire Caledonian</i>		<i>Callum Campbell</i>	N
<i>City of Bristol</i>		<i>Chmn Julian Smart</i>	No - not renewing
<i>City of London</i>		<i>Stephen Cussen</i>	Y
<i>City of Exeter</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>Bob Hay</i>	no
<i>City of Norwich</i>	<i>no</i>		No - not renewing
<i>City of Plymouth</i>		<i>Gordon Macaoidh</i>	Y
<i>Colchester Pipes &amp; Drums</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>Paul Young</i>	No - not renewing
<i>East of England</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>Rob Hall</i>	disbanded
<i>Essex Caledonian</i>		<i>John Young</i>	Y
<i>Gatwick Caledonian</i>		<i>David Newman</i>	Y
<i>Glen Duart</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>James Campbell</i>	No
<i>Glenmoriston</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>Stephen Jones</i>	No
<i>Grampian Assoc Corby</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>Rob Muir</i>	Y
<i>Gordons School</i>		<i>Iona Scotson</i>	Y
<i>London Irish</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>Robert Williams</i>	No
<i>London Scottish</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>PJ McLucas</i>	No
<i>Macanta</i>		<i>Tony Doherty</i>	Y
<i>Milton Keynes</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>Ken Stewart</i>	No
<i>Notts Police</i>	<i>Midlands</i>	<i>Pat Larkin</i>	
<i>Pipes &amp; Drums Scots Guards Assoc South</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>Steve Duffy</i>	No
<i>Reading Scottish</i>		<i>Chmn David Finlayson</i>	Y
<i>Rugby School</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>Richard Jasper</i>	No
<i>Scunthorpe</i>	<i>Midlands</i>	<i>Joanne Slater</i>	
<i>The Stow Caledonian</i>		<i>Gareth Utting</i>	Y
<i>Welsh Piping society</i>		<i>Chris Sullivan</i>	Y
<i>Scots Guards Assn (Manchester)</i>	<i>Northern</i>		Y
<i>West Midlands Fire</i>	<i>Midlands</i>		

- London & South of England Mailing List - 28 Pipe Majors and 25 Band Secretaries/Treasurers (past + present); Midland Branch - 22 Contacts; Northyern Branch - 18 Contacts
- The East of England Pipe Band informed me that they are disbanding and many of the juvenile players have transferred to Cambridgeshire Caledonian

## **2 General Comment**

- The Branch has continued to be quiet with impact of COVID 19
- Main activity in 20/21 season was Gordon's School Outdoor Competition (3 Oct 21) With 90 emails sent
- Re DBS processing in 2021 as designated Accountable Officer for the Branch two Band personnel were processed through UKCRBS.

Report 21 Nov 2021

## Treasurer's Report

Regrettably, owing to the continuing Covid 19 pandemic, the Branch was unable to hold and of its normal indoor and outdoor 'live' competitions in the year to 30 September 2021. Consequently, my treasurer's report is again very brief.

On-line contests were held in October 2020 and in the Spring of 2021 but it was decided, at branch meeting, no entry fees would be charged.

Unrestricted income totalled £557 and apart from interest of £1 comprised non-specific donations.

Expenditure totalled £477 and comprised payments to adjudicators in respect of the online contests of £200, Zoom licence costs of £144, 2019 AGM costs of £70, DBS Check costs of £53 and secretarial expenses of £10.

As a result, there was an unrestricted surplus of £80  
Donations to the Lt Col Willie Allan Memorial Fund amounted to £225 and no payments were made out of the fund during the year.

As at the year-end, bank and cash balances totalled £17,276 made up as follows:

Business Reserve Account	£12,574
Bank Current Account	£ 4,694
Cash in Hand	£ 8

As at the year end Branch funds totalled £17,276 made up as follows:

General Fund	£15,228
Lt Col Willie Allan Memorial Fund	£ 1,298
South West & Wales Outreach Fund	£ 750

Owing to the effects of the pandemic it was agreed at the last AGM that no annual subscriptions would be charged to member bands for the year to 30 September 2021.

I propose that no annual subscriptions be charged to member bands for the year to 30 September 2022.

## 1. Summary

The new format of the website was published at the end of January 2015 and is now approaching its sixth year.

Site traffic continues at a reasonable rate, the results page proves popular following Branch Contests.

Branch bands are, as always, encouraged to share their news with the Branch to allow us to post this on the website.

Contest results are posted very soon after receipt, this process was much improved this year and results were received and posted within days of the contests, thank you Irene.

Photographs and media from Branch Bands are both welcome and if forwarded to me at [branch\\_webmaster@rspbalondon.org](mailto:branch_webmaster@rspbalondon.org) I will gladly post on the site.

***As always, I do welcome any comments and suggestions from Branch members on website content etc. Get in touch and let me know what you would like on the site.***

## 2. Development

- I would still like to have biographies of branch officers on the site.
- I would still like to have an education page on the site.
- I would like to post MAPS tunes and requirements on site.
- The history page of the site should be updated, input is required from the Branch here.

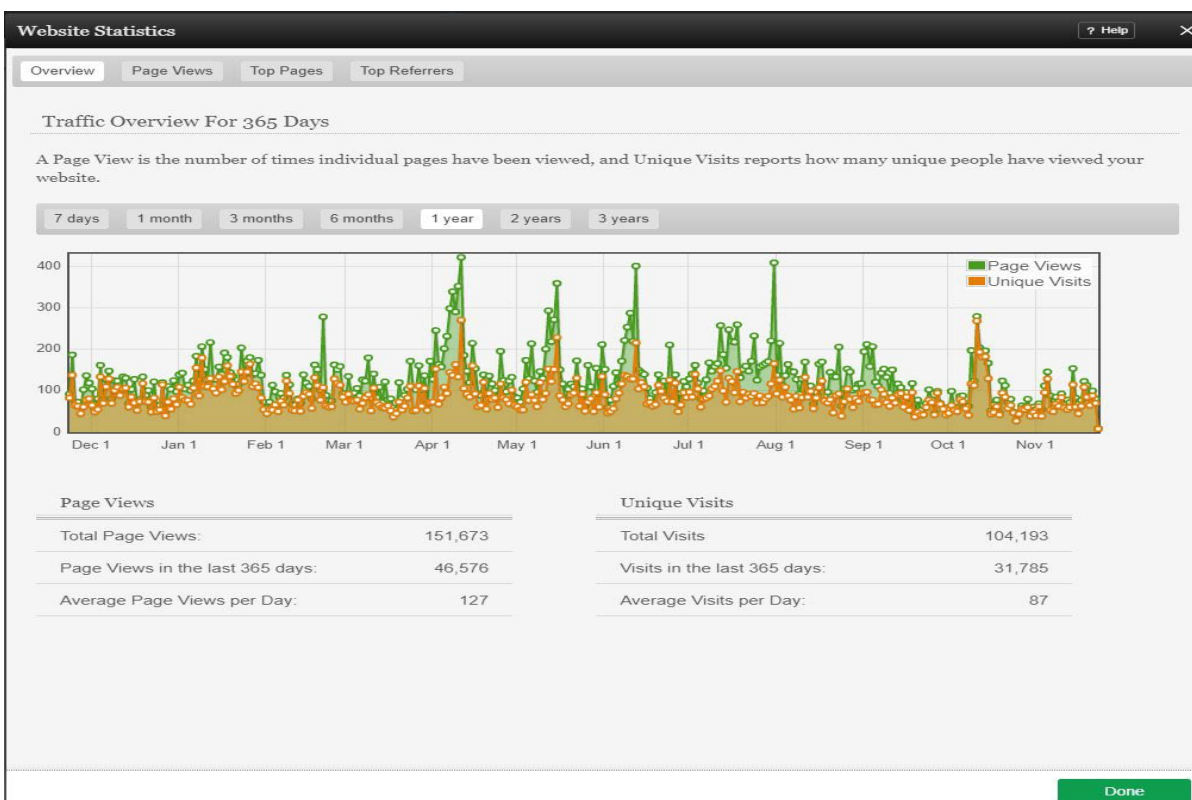
## 3. The Annual Reminder

Once again here's the annual reminder:

"As with any website, it is important to appear "live" and "vibrant", I can only make this happen if the branch and its members supply me with information, over to you!" I have had very little input from members.

However, as always, I am grateful to Jackie Allan for her regular input following contests and Branch events and of course to Irene for the speedy transfer of contest results.

#### 4. Website Statistics 2021

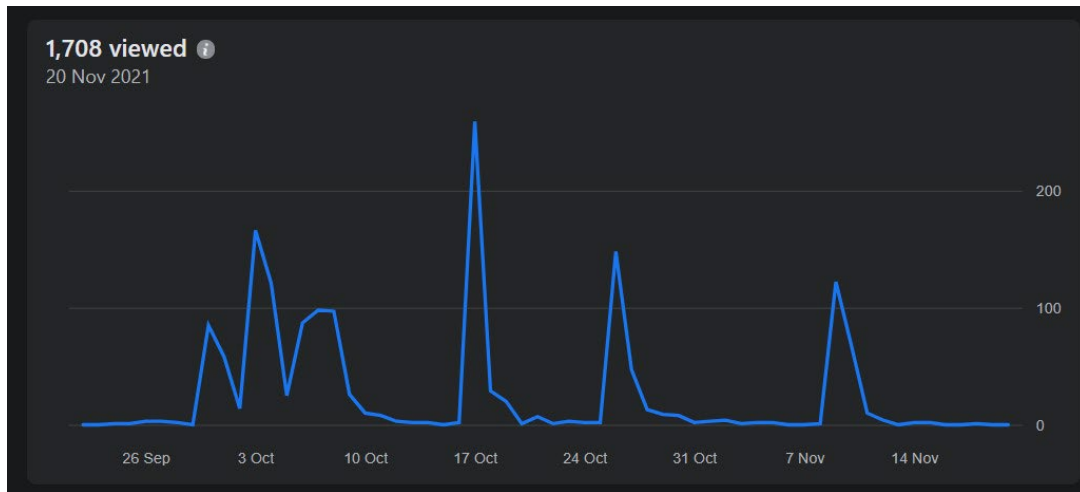


#### 5. Facebook Page

The Branch Facebook page continues to be well supported and now has 463 members, an increase of 38 from last year.

The page can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/RSPBA.London/> why not join and spread your news here?





Andy Inns

Branch Webmaster

22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Just to say that we are all looking forward to 2022 and hopefully a full year of competitions, which have been missed.

I look forward for the Trophies being returned as the season commences, shining and clean as they are returned.

I have chased up many Bands for the return of the trophies, but they have not been returned yet, although they are shown on Facebook, such a lovely display, but they do need to be returned and not sitting in a glass cabinet.

Competitions are a busy day with the trophies, and I would like to Thank Irene, Jackie and Walter for their support.

Thanks

Elaine Gloss

Trophy Convenor.



## EVENTS IN 2022

Feb	12-20	School Half term holiday	
tbc	tbc	Branch training	
March	11	<i>Callum Beaumont Recital - IPS</i>	<i>Ipswich</i>
March		<b>Adult solo online</b>	
April	4-18	School Easter Holidays	
April	15-19	EASTER	
April	24	<b>Quartets, minibands indoor</b>	tbc
Apr/May	30/1/2	May Bank holiday	
May	15	<b>Jim McGinn Indoor</b>	tbc
May	21	<i>British Championships</i>	<i>InverClyde</i>
June	2-5	Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday	
June	11	<i>UK Championships</i>	<i>Lurgan</i>
June	12	<b>Pipes in the Park</b>	Colchester
June	25	<i>European Championships</i>	<i>Inverness</i>
July	10	<b>Corby Highland Gathering</b>	Corby
July	10	<i>Harpenden Highland Gathering</i>	
Jul/Aug	22Jul-31 Aug	School Summer Holidays	
July	30	<i>Scottish Championships</i>	<i>Dumbarton</i>
Aug	12/13	<i>WORLD'S</i>	<i>Glasgow</i>
Aug	25/27	<i>Cowal Games</i>	
Sep	3	<b>Solos</b>	Chatsworth
Sep	4	<b>English Championships</b>	Chatsworth
Sep	10	<i>Schotts Weekend, Alden-Biesen</i>	<i>Belgium</i>
tbc	tbc	Training day	
Oct	24-28	School half term	
Nov	tbc	Juvenile solos online	