



Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC103199

MINUTES OF BRANCH MEETING

Saturday 27th January 2018

Trinity Hall, Lisburn

List of Attendees at Branch Meeting

President	Winston Pinkerton	Ballydonaghy
Chairman	Ray Hall	Moybrone
Director	Arlene Faulkner	Ballydonaghy
Director	Kenny Crothers	Upper Crossgare
Project Manager	Ian Burrows	Drumlough
Band Rep.	Edmond Montgomery	Harry Ferguson Memorial
M&D Adjudicator Secretary	Robert Young	
Chief Steward	Brian Harvey	Upper Crossgare
Band Rep.	Vikki Singer	McDonald Academy
Band Rep.	Gary McDonald	McDonald Memorial
Band Rep.	Alex Gordon	Altnaveigh
Band Rep.	David Spence	Bessbrook Crimson Arrow
Band Rep.	Wilby Hanna	Upper Crossgare
Band Rep.	Colin Cupples	Broughshane
Band Rep.	Winston Pollock	Kildoag
Band Rep.	Lowry Ferguson	Matt Boyd Memorial
Band Rep.	Alex Crooks	Matt Boyd Memorial
Chief Steward	Brian Harvey	Upper Crossgare
Steward	Drew Bingham	Upper Crossgare
Band Rep	Kenneth Kerr	William Kerr Memorial
Music Board Rep.	Alan Ferguson	Matt Boyd Memorial
School Convenor	Darren Frew	McNeillstown
Trophy Officer.	Roy McCullough	Tamlaght O'Crilly
Band Rep	Brian Rea	Ballycoan
Band Rep.	Lexie Burrows	Harry Ferguson Memorial
RSPBA President	George Ussher	Ballydonaghy
Band Rep.	John Wylie	Kildoag
Band Rep.	David Campbell	Kildoag
Band Rep.	Derek Mack	Upper Crossgare

OPENING

The Chairman, Mr Ray Hall welcomed everyone to the meeting.

APOLOGIES:

Mr Robert Somerville,	Mr. Jim Henderson	Mr. Pat Murphy
Mrs. Lorraine Ronaldson	Mr. Alan Ferguson	Mrs. Anne Mack
Ms Danielle McCartney	Mr. Brian Hasson	

BEREAVEMENTS:

The meeting was notified of the passing of Gerri Nolan, John Noble's Mother and Father, Vivian McCann, Jimmy Robertson's Wife, Joanne Graham's Grandmother.

The Chairman called all present to observe a moments silence as a mark of respect to all who were bereaved since the last meeting.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes of the previous meeting were passed on a proposal from McDonald memorial and seconded by Broughshane and District.

All in Agreement.

The Chairman apologised for the delay in sending out the minutes, this was due to a fault in our IT system which has now been rectified.

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

- **Solo Competitions – on agenda**

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was received by the Office from the British Heart Foundation thanking the Branch for the monies they have raised

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

- Little to report as the committee hasn't met recently.
- **Contest Dates-** A full events programme has been secured, details are on the events guide which are available today.
- **GU** expressed to Kenny Crothers for his work in securing the Ulster Championships in Newcastle in July.
- Committee will meet soon.

SOLO CONTESTS:

- **Solos Committee** had met and have advised changes to the grading system and grade names to bring our solos into line with Scotland. Tenor grades changed to reflect standards rather than reflecting the competitors band grade.
- **All Ireland Solos** - To be discussed at the upcoming JAC meeting in February.

The Chairman left the room at this point to deal with a phone call on a work-related matter. Vice Chair AG now chairing the meeting.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

- **IB** advised the meeting that the second term was up and running at all centres.
- School enrolment very healthy with 120 students across all centres.
- New After Schools Project to commence in February in Derry/South Derry funded through Peace IV by Mid Ulster Council.
- Examinations took place in December, further examinations to take place in March.

MUSIC BOARD REPORT

- AF advised the meeting of the Music Board meeting.
- **Notices of Motion from N.I. Branch** – These were discussed in the presence of the incoming Chairman and two directors and received criticism and would be seeking the removal of some notices. **Dual Leading Drummer Motion** to be removed as it didn't contain the words, 'Drum Sergeant'. **LF** asked the incoming Chair and two directors the right to suggest their removal? **WP** stated there is nothing in the rule book that allows them to take that action. The Chair and Vice Chair attended the Branch AGM, heard the notices of motion being present and never said there was anything wrong with them in the form that they were presented. **GU** stated that any motion that was properly worded should be presented at the AGM in Glasgow. **Independent Review Panel Motion**, **KC** had asked was there any process in place to address bands asking for a review of the adjudicators decision and was informed that there was a process, he would make further enquiries as to why it hasn't been used recently. **KK** suggested withdrawing the Motions and resubmit them next year, **WP** disagreed and said the notices should go forward as the rules state. **GU** advised that the motions must go forward as

the Branch Meeting can't overturn the decisions of the AGM. **IB** stated that the actions of the incoming Chair and two Directors was totally undemocratic, why bother having a Branch AGM that have Notices of Motion passed by vote for them to then be removed and not be presented at the AGM in Scotland?

- **Late Notice of Motion from 2016 AGM - Discussion** as to if this motion would be heard at the 2018 AGM. **AF** and **KC** to raise at BOD
- **WP Concerns.** **WP** stated that he had sent a list of concerns to the Executive and had not received a reply.
- **VS** asked that the bands be informed of the discussion of the BOD meeting on the Branch Motions, so the bands can prepare for the AGM.
- **LF** suggests that bands use their votes wisely at the AGM and back the bands whose motions were going forward.
- **AF** proposed a Branch meeting in February ahead of the AGM to discuss preparations for the AGM – **All Agreed**, meeting date set for the 24th of February.
- **WP** requested that the Branch Executive prepare a report after the BOD meeting to distribute to bands. He stated that we require every single NI Branch vote to maximise the vote at the AGM.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

- **KC** informed the meeting of the last Board of Director meeting.
 - **Finance** - nothing new to report.

Chairman returned to the room, thanked AF for chairing in his absence.
 - **Midlands Branch**- AGM postponed to 2018.
 - **APBM** - proposed increase in Drum Major Adjudicator's fee, referred to the Finance Committee.
 - **Conveyor Positions** – Positions can't be held if voted out by their Branch.
 - **Pipe Band College** – New structure proposed, two Directors to sit on the steering Group.
 - **Membership Registration** – Vice Chair John Hughes was working on the new registration system. AF informed the meeting the Music Board had been informed this was put on hold due to the money required for HQ rebuild.
 - **Premises update**- To commence in May.

- **North of Scotland Branch** – New rules and Constitution accepted.

AOCB

- **GMcD** requested that Championship Medals be provided to all band members and not just those that had competed. **RMcC** stated that was not a problem and to ask him for the number required.
- **GMcD** raised the subject of player poaching and could a solution to this not be found. **IB** mentioned the Football Transfer Window model and suggested maybe this a similar model could be applied for Pipe Band Player transfers. **DM** stated that player poaching stems from the solos. Talented players are heard at solos and that when they are poached. **LF** requests that this subject remains on the agenda for further discussion.
- **Presidents Charity 2018** – **WP** reminded the members of his Charity Concert on the 16th February in the Island Arts Centre, Lisburn.

As there was no other business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 3.20pm and invited all to remain for the Burn's Supper.