

## **EAST KILBRIDE PIPE BAND COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September, Royal British Legion, East Kilbride**

### **ATTENDEES**

- Ian Milne, Chairperson
- Richard Kerr, Secretary
- Fraser Dallas, Band President
- Craig Herbert, Pipe Major
- Bill Fraser, Leading Drummer
- Barrie Herbert, Quartermaster
- Robert McDonald, Pipe Sergeant
- Neil Cameron, Treasurer
- Lyn Jones, Minute Taker
- Marie MacLeod
- Thomas Cumberland
- Jim Provan
- Grant Harden
- Graeme Morton
- Denise Reid
- Jenna Brown
- Leo Brown
- John Allan
- Kim Allan
- Karine Allan
- Craig Napier
- David White
- Bill Fraser

### Apologies

- Steven Spence
- Aoife MacLeod
- Brian Fraser
- Iona Miller

## **INTRODUCTIONS**

Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting held on Wednesday 25th September in person at 1930hrs at the Royal British Legion, East Kilbride.

## **PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

Thanks to the Chairman. Introduced the Committee and gave a plea that the band needs all of the members to participate. It is everyone's band and you all get out what you put in.

## **PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Previous AGM Minutes are available on the Band website. They are displayed on a member's only section. If you are unable to access the members area speak to Marie MacLeod. The password can be obtained from any of the Committee.

## **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

No formal report provided. Membership is on the rise compared to last year and there are new faces from last year as well as long standing members. This is a good sign and it is hoped that this can develop going forward. No competitions this year as the band weren't ready to compete but hoping that this can change next year and the band can progress. All members should be practicing daily.

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Well it's that time of year again we are having our annual general meeting.

What can I say we have had a turbulent closed season since losing members after the worlds in 2023. I think we are turning a corner and hopefully we will be back out at the trigger line next season. I would also like to say welcome to the new members we have had coming along and look forward to seeing you all out on parades and competitions. I hope we keep swelling our numbers and have a steady stream of young learners come through the ranks, helping the band going as they are the future of the band.

Tonight everyone will be given a questionnaire please take it away and have a think about the questions, give us your honest opinion and any ideas please. We are looking for new ideas from the members after all it is your band and all ideas will be looked at. Please be honest with your answers if there is something wrong then let us know so we can fix it in some way.

On a positive note 3rd of August we were at the Jackton distillery for their official opening all day we played to over 100 people throughout the day. We were very well received to the point that they want to use EKPB as part of their team for weddings and corporate events. This could lead to bigger and better things going forward, also in the coming weeks I will be coming around all members checking the contact details we currently hold are up to date and accurate. We also played at a wedding in Cameron house too which was well received by all there.

Thanks goes to Lyn Jones for minute taking that is a great help. I would like to personally thank everyone that has attended the events we have been playing at and getting the band name on the map once again and I look forward to next season.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

See Annex 1

## **PIPE MAJOR'S REPORT**

Thanks to everyone for your continued support. It's been a full on year, I believe we are now on a good footing once again with strong foundations being laid. The commitment the band made to teach beginners will (longer term) bless us with both new members, players and a renewed vigour in our organisation.

We have 2 clear camps in the Pipe Corps, one where members have the ability to compete immediately and one with members who are not quite at the standard yet to take that path. To keep all members happy and focused we will be making some changes to how we do things starting after the Remembrance Parade.

Monday night tuition for both beginners and Corps members remains unchanged. Tuition will be offered to all band members on this night only. What is taught is expected to be worked on regularly at home by individuals helping you to improve. Wednesday nights will be run as a full band rehearsal

rather than a place to learn the music. Wednesday band practice will be by invitation only to the members attaining the standard we need. Members invited along will be expected to attend each week to keep their place in the group.

So the standard required is to play the MAP Set at 73bpm minimum, off music completely with all phrases embellishments played well and correctly. I will be speaking to you individually in the coming weeks so you know where you stand giving you time to work on and get to the level we require. By focusing on the band rehearsal rather than tuition on a Wednesday allows us to fully harness the music and build the performance in readiness for the summer season. Members not invited to participate on a Wednesday band practice can still come along to share in the camaraderie of the group. However they will not play as part of the group that night until they attain the playing level required.

My expectations on all (both drummers and pipers) is for everyone to consistently strive to improve their playing standards. Bill will touch on what's expected from the Drum Corps shortly. Pipers listen in please, if we ask you to clean up a phrase, hold a note longer or fix an embellishment, then my expectations are within a two week cycle that this is done, fixed once and for all. If I ask the pipers to play 10 pipe band starts a day, then I expect that task to be done every day by everyone. Be under no illusion here if we ask you for 10, Fraser, Robert and myself will be doing exactly the same, remember we are all here to improve together.

To sum up, continually strive to play your best everyday, in both practice and performance. Slight changes to the way we run things are coming on line soon but rest assured you all will play your part in some way. By everyone doing the individual improvements we will all benefit as a collective allowing our music to reach its full potential.

## **LEADING DRUMMER'S REPORT**

### **Current Position**

This year has been difficult and frustrating due to lack of numbers. At present the Drum Corps is a work in progress. Having to start from the basics is not an easy task with many of the members issues being out of my control such as personal problems, erratic attendances etc, all of which makes progress slow and difficult.

### **Play Members**

3 snares, 1 tenor and 1 bass.

Playing ability – able to perform at most engagements and minor events. Competition wise the numbers would be reduced to 2 snares, 1 tenor and 1 bass.

### **Tuition Program**

5 snares and 3 tenors.

On a positive note the tuition program is starting to show results with 2 snares and 1 tenor soon ready to progress and join the Drum Corps.

At this time I would like to thank our bass section tutors, Fergus and Lorna for all your hard work and encouragement.

## **Competition Wise**

This is still a goal. It is not impossible, but it will take hard work and commitment from everyone. Attendance and individual standard would have to improve.

Thanks to all the members of the Corps and learners who continue to support the band which I hope will continue to do so as we plan for the future.

Remember without your input and support, there is no band.

## **QUARTERMASTER'S REPORT**

Socks will now be a one time issue. Members will purchase their socks from the Treasurer and these will be issued by the Quartermaster.

An inventory has been produced of surplus stock. Going forward each band member will be contacted to verify what items they are holding.

Thanks given to Richard Kerr for organising a cupboard to store equipment.

The QM will be stepping down and he would like to thank everyone for their co-operation over the years.

The Chairman thanked the QM for all of his efforts.

## **ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS**

Two vacant positions including Quartermaster and Fundraising Convener.

Thomas Cumberland volunteered for the Quartermaster role which was proposed by Craig Herbert and seconded by Fraser Dallas.

Jenna Brown volunteered for the Fundraising Convener role which was proposed by Richard Kerr and seconded by Fraser Dallas. Kim Allen and Marie MacLeod have also offered to help.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Proposal to increase the band fees which have not changed in 20 years. The proposal takes adult fees from £100 per year to £120 per year and a child from £50 to £60. Fees will increase for those that pay monthly from October. For those that pay upfront, fees will be due by the end of March which is the start of the Competition season.

### **Motion carried.**

A couple of changes need to be made to the Constitution. The makeup of the Committee will be updated to remove the midsection lead and the Safeguarding Officer. 2 playing members should also attend alongside the Fundraising Convenor.

### **Motion carried.**

All band members are encouraged to read the Constitution.

Most improved player was awarded to Thomas Cumberland.

Membership fees for the Legion are being increased to help fix a hole in the roof £26 per year. All members are encouraged to join but there is no pressure to join.

Free tickets for alcohol on Remembrance Day have been scrapped.

Questionnaires handed out and all members are encouraged to fill them in and hand them back in for the next band practice. This is to help encourage you all to air your views as part of the band.

Robert McDonald has now passed the management of the website to Marie MacLeod and was thanked for his contribution. If you have improvements or suggestions please let Marie know.

Learning Strategy will be getting published on the website and this will go in a Learning Sub menu which will be part of the Learning Covenant. This will help members expectations and also the expectations of the PM and Leading Drummer.

### **Upcoming Events**

10<sup>th</sup> November – Remembrance Day

30<sup>th</sup> November – Busking at Morrisons

31<sup>st</sup> December – Crossbaskets Castle