



QUEENSLAND BRANCH

Qld Branch Special Meeting

Saturday 10 November 2018 – 2:00 pm

Easts Rugby Leagues Club, Coorparoo

Meeting Notes

Attendance: Representatives from eight (8) Pipe Bands along with an additional nine (9) individuals including the Executive Committee

Athol Chalmers – overview of the Structural Review Committee (SRC)

This review is the first one in 60 years that National have undertaken in regards to Governance, Structure of the Board, Rules and National vs State organisations.

The SRC panel is made up of five people, Jamie **Forthsty**, Richard Wilson, Chris Swan, Athol Chalmers and Chris Earl.

Survey monkey and submissions have been completed and now panel is completing forums in with the state organisations. A green paper will be issued once all the information has been collated in regards to the recommendations for review. Mid 2019 final recommendations will go up to the executive.

There are five parts to the Review

- a. Running of Competitions
- b. Grading
- c. Education
- d. Engagement/Promotion
- e. Governance

What are Queensland's problems/issues?

a. Running of Competitions and Championships

- Grading

Why do we not align to the Scottish and New Zealand grading and have a 4A and 4B as this is where the majority of our bands are graded. This is more relevant now that we have bands travelling to Scotland and New Zealand to compete in competitions.

RESOLUTION: *Resolved that the Australia Pipe Band Association should be aligned with the Rules and Grading of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association (RSPBA).*

- Judges – having to use panel

Barriers in place for people to judge, as there is a requirement for them to have completed exams vs the experience that a person may have.

For local competitions states should be able to use who they wish for judges and does not matter if they have a qualification if they have the experience.

For State Championships and Nationals – yes examinations and judges panel to be used.

RESOLUTION: *Recommended that states should be allowed to choose who judges the completions in their states and not restricted to judging panels and having to be appropriately qualified.*

- Qualifications/Education

A continued development/pathway should be introduced to assist and continue with the training and exams (example: Dancing exams and pathway).

Examinations should be aligned with the Scottish Qualification Board and adopted through a University for credits.

RESOLUTION: *All qualifications should be aligned with Scotland; and should be available online without any barriers.*

- Solo Piping and Drumming

Should Association be running Solo Competitions? NO, a separate body should run Solo's. The Pipe Band Association shouldn't rule over solos.

RESOLUTION: *Pipe Band Rules shouldn't rule over Solo competitions and dictate the solo competitions.*

b. Registrations

The current system that we have has too many barriers and is not a user friendly system. We need to remove transfer fees, and we shouldn't be penalising juvenile's from playing up in other bands grades to better themselves.

RESOLUTION: *Remove the transfer fee as this is a waste of time.*

RESOLUTION: *We need to introduce an electronic on line registration system so that individuals can register and maintain their own profile. Individuals select their preferences, such as Individual/Solo, Executive and if they are playing in a band, and then link themselves to a band.*

c. Grading Process for Bands

The current process is for the band to place a request with the Branch Association for review and then passed onto National from the Branch for recommendation. Currently National are putting up too many barriers to complete the process in a timely manner, without any consultation with bands and associations.

In regards to National grading bands, this is being completed without any consultation with the Branch Association or the Band itself to see where it sits for the coming year and the commitment and ability/development of players.

Example of this is Emmanuel College being graded up to Grade 2. Completed five months after the National Pipe Band Championships and then the band only given seven (7) days to place an objection, at the time that the senior members were traveling overseas for the Worlds and unable to respond.

RESOLUTION: *Before National completes a grading change there should be a consultation with the band to see where they sit for the next year in regards to players and their ability's along with consultation with the Branch Association for reference to their years performances.*

d. Education and Training

College currently exists of 35 people covering Piping, Drumming, Ensemble, Dress & Drill and Rules. Why do we need this many VP's etc?

The college has become a rule orientated process instead of concentrating on the actual education. Australia shouldn't have a different college than the RSPBA, we should be following the same core assessments/exams here in Australia being online based.

The college also has say in who can Judge at competitions and is powerful and dictative.

RESOLUTION: *College is Education and should stay as education only.*

RESOLUTION: *College is not required as a separate committee at state level and should be a representative on the Executive.*

e. Corporate Governance

Australian Pipe Band Association executive consist of five (5) people with the Council that is made up of 17 people (2 reps from each state and the college principals)

Council currently holds conference calls every six (6) months and then holds a conference every two (2) years.

Currently there are too many layers and direction is from top down rather than State Organisations up – guidance delivered by direction and not advice.

RESOLUTION: *Why do we not just have a Board with representatives from each state that make decisions that guide the day to day decisions for APBA?*

RESOLUTION: *Better representation at the National Conference and have the delegates at each state be represented by the number of registered players in that state, with a minimum of one (1) person per state and one other delegate for every full 100 registered people) that way day to day decisions goes back to the states.*

RESOLUTION: *National Council should be made up from five (5) people selected from the delegates and not an additional five (5) people.*

f. Engagement of Drive for Piping and Drumming

Currently as an organization we do a poor job of engaging young people (the future of piping and drumming). On the Branch committee we should have a Community Engagement Officer. In Queensland the Police Pipes and Drums completes a lot of Community events with schools and retirement villages etc. We should be working closer with the Highland Dancing Association, Clans, Manufactures etc. when holding events and have them engaging and us engaging with their events.

g. National Pipe Band Championship

Currently is held bi-annually at a different location each time, run and managed by a different host.

National should run the National Championship and have a host location. Recommendation is that the Nationals be held every year and should be held in the same location for four (4) years with the same committee, and rotating out members for ongoing knowledge. Should only be held in state capitals and be held in April.

Outcome

State Associations have jurisdiction for: Judging, College and Competitions

What value does National authority have?

We should have "Common Global Goals" in alignment with Scotland

If the process of the review not succeed what will the State Associations do on going?

Summary of Resolutions:

- 1. Resolved that the Australia Pipe Band Association should be aligned with the Rules and Grading of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association (RSPBA).*
- 2. Recommended that states should be allowed to choose who judges the completions in their states and not restricted to judging panels and having to be appropriately qualified.*
- 3. All qualifications should be aligned with Scotland; and should be available online without any barriers.*
- 4. Pipe Band Rules shouldn't rule over Solo competitions and dictate the solo competitions.*
- 5. Remove the transfer fee as this is a waste of time.*
- 6. We need to introduce an electronic on line registration system so that individuals can register and maintain their own profile. Individuals select their preferences, such as Individual/Solo, Executive and if they are playing in a band, and then link themselves to a band.*
- 7. Before National completes a grading change there should be a consultation with the band to see where they sit for the next year in regards to players and their ability's along with consultation with the Branch Association for reference to their years performances.*
- 8. College is Education and should stay as education only.*
- 9. College is not required as a separate committee at state level and should be a representative on the Executive.*
- 10. Why do we not just have a Board with representatives from each state that make decisions that guide the day to day decisions for APBA?*
- 11. Better representation at the National Conference and have the delegates at each state be represented by the number of registered players in that state, with a minimum of one (1) person per state and one other delegate for every full 100 registered people) that way day to day decisions goes back to the states.*
- 12. National Council should be made up from five (5) people selected from the delegates and not an additional five (5) people.*