



# MIDWEST PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOVEMBER 5, 2016, 1pm



## AGENDA

### Officers and Advisory Board, 2016:

President:	Jim Sim	Advisory Board (East):	Keith Murphy
Vice President:	Scott McCawley	Advisory Board (Central):	Andrew Lockwood
Secretary/Treasurer:	Stuart Barr	Advisory Board (Central):	Bill Smillie
Registrar – Bands:	Tad Myers	Advisory Board (West):	Cliff Davies
Registrar – Solos:	Tom Jewell	Chief Steward:	Keith McDonald
Music Board Chair:	Tom Weithers		

1. Call to order Jim Sim
2. Roll call of member bands Scott McCawley
3. Approval of Minutes of the 2015 AGM Scott McCawley
4. Secretary/Treasurer's Report Jim Sim (for Stuart Barr)
5. Registrar's Report – Band Tad Myers
6. Registrar's Report – Solos Tom Jewell
7. Chief Steward's Report Keith McDonald
8. Music Board Report Tom Weithers
9. Vice-President's Report Scott McCawley
10. President's Report Jim Sim
11. Business Items

a. Advisory Committee Proposals

i. Submitted by Cliff Davies:

*The top-3 competitors in the MHAF Winter Storm amateur piping Grade 1 through Grade 3 contest, plus a Grade 4 2/4 event, shall gain automatic qualification to the MWPBA Regional Solos Final. This shall serve as the local regional qualifier.*

ii. Submitted by Jim Sim:

*The top-3 competitors in each grade of the MWPBA Regional Solos qualifiers are invited to participate in the Final. Where the invitation is declined by a competitor, this invitation shall be offered to the next ranked competitor, and so forth until the number of competitors is exhausted, or three accept, thereby bolstering the number of competitors in the Final in each grade.*

- iii. Submitted by Jim Sim:

*The MWPBA Professional Solos and Amateur Regional Solos Finals shall be held on the same day.*

- iv. Submitted by Scott McCawley, in discussion with Steve Stuart:

*[We] have been talking about the way that CS-Points are tallied in any given solo event. The question is whether or not competitors who break down (or are disqualified) should be counted toward the number in the competition.*

*When I calculated the CS-Points two seasons ago, I considered a competitor who broke down as counting toward the total number of competitors in that event. It doesn't matter in events where more than 6 compete, but in smaller events, it does.*

*Attached is the section of the Rules that applies to CS-Points, with my take (in red) on the way that CS-Points should be calculated, written as an emendation to the Rules for the point of clarity.*

*[See attachments 11. a. iv. 1, and 11. a. iv. 2]*

- b. Membership Proposals

- i. Proposed by Hunter Gullickson:

*It's my recommendation that if the MWPBA has minimum player requirements for pipes, snare, tenor and bass then we shall count those all as individual instruments. Therefore, a member playing pipes in one band can play tenor in another, and a person playing snare in one band can play bass in another. This is not a new precedent and [there are examples from EUSPBA and BCPA].*

*[See full text in attachment 11. b. i, attachment 1]*

- c. Discussion items

- i. MWPBA Band Survey

Scott McCawley

- ii. Any other business

12. Election of Officers

Jim Sim

13. Presentation of Champions Supreme Awards

Jim Sim

14. Announcements

15. Adjournment

#### I. D. CHAMPION SUPREME POINTS

- Points awarded toward the title of “Champion Supreme” (CS-Points) will be accumulated at all sanctioned MWPBA contests.
- No band or solo CS-Points are awarded at Solo-Only Contests or Mini-Bands Contests unless so designated.
- No CS-Points points shall be awarded in the Beginning Solo Snare, Beginning Solo Tenor or Practice Chanter events.
- The MWPBA band and soloist accumulating the most CS-Points during the competition season will be awarded the title “Champion Supreme” of that band grade or solo grade.
- The number of points awarded for 1st Place at a sanctioned competition will be the number of bands or soloists in that grade/contest up to a maximum six (6) points; each place thereafter receives one less point per placing through zero (0).
- Points will be assigned consecutively to the top placings, but only MWPBA member bands and member soloists will actually receive these points.
- Points awarded at MWPBA Champion Supreme Contests will be exactly double those awarded at Sanctioned MWPBA Contests. Examples follow:

Chart One

Chart Two

- Only bands and soloists that perform to completion of the event are eligible for CS-Points.
- Bands and soloists that are disqualified for any Rules violation are not eligible for CS-Points **but are counted toward the number of competitors in that event for CS-Point calculations.**
- or-
- **Bands and soloists that are disqualified for any Rules violation are counted toward the number of competitors in that event for CS-Point calculations.**
- **Soloists who break down (BD) during a given competition event will receive no CS-Points but will be counted toward the number of competitors in that event for CS-Point calculations.**
- **Soloists who are registered for a given competition event but do not play (DNP) ARE NOT counted toward the number of competitors in that event for CS-Point calculations.**
- CS-Points will be tallied by the MWPBA music board and the title of “Champion Supreme” for the calendar year of competition shall be awarded at the annual general meeting of the MWPBA.

Ties - bands / soloists: In the event of ties for the Champion Supreme award, a review of the competitors' placings throughout the competition season will occur.

\_ The competitor found to have won most often against the other competitor(s) shall be awarded Champion Supreme.

\_ If a tie still exists, the competitor found to have won the greatest number of first places shall be awarded Champion Supreme.

\_ The review will continue to determine which competitor has won second place at the greatest number of competitions.

\_ This process will continue until only one competitor remains as Champion Supreme in each grade.

\_ If any competitors are eliminated along the way, they are not considered in the next level of tie-breaking.

## PREMIER SOLO PIPING EVENT SCORING

HIGH SCORE WINS for each separate event.

To calculate the overall scores for the Premier Professional Solo Piping Competition

1. List the placings in each event
2. Reverse the numbers (1<sup>st</sup> becomes 6, 2<sup>nd</sup> becomes 5, 3<sup>rd</sup> become 4, etc.)
3. Multiply the inverse of the Piobaireachd placing by 3
4. Multiply the inverse of the MSR placing by 2
5. Add each competitor's PIOB SCORE and MSR SCORE for TOTAL
6. Scores are ranked highest to lowest to identify OVERALL WINNER and subsequent placings

COMPETITOR	PIOB PLACING	PIOB SCORE (inverse X3)		MSR PLACING	MSR SCORE (inverse X2)		TOTAL PIOB SCORE + MSR SCORE	OVERALL PLACING
<b>A</b>	<b>2</b>	5	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>	3	<b>6</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>5</b>	2	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	2	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>3</b>	4	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	5	<b>10</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>1</b>	6	<b>18</b>	<b>6</b>	1	<b>2</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>6</b>	1	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	6	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>4</b>	3	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	0	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>G</b>	<b>0</b>	0	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	4	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>

In the event of a TIE or TIES with two or more competitors having the same number of TOTAL SCORE POINTS, the TIE is broken by the competitors' PIOBAIREACHD PLACING.

Any competitor who breaks down (BD), i.e., does not complete the entire PIOBAIREACHD or the entire MARCH, STRATHSPEY and REEL, is not considered for the overall prize. Example: Piper Z wins the Piobaireachd event, gaining 18 points, but breaks down in the MSR. Although 18 points would be high enough in the above event to gain 4<sup>th</sup> place, he would not be considered for the OVERALL because of the break down.

On Tuesday, September 27, 2016 2:41 PM, Hunter Gullickson wrote:

It's my recommendation that if the MWPBA has minimum player requirements for pipes, snare, tenor and bass then we shall count those all as individual instruments. Therefore, a member playing pipes in one band can play tenor in a another and a person playing snare in one band can play bass in another. This is not a new precedent and here are examples from two other ANAPBA associations:

**EUSPBA**

Dual Musician: A musician who plays more than one instrument (whether it be pipes, snare, tenor, or bass), may play one instrument with one band and a different instrument with one other band of a different grade, provided that he or she is registered with the Membership Coordinator on both band's rosters with the appropriate instrument.

**BCPA**

A band member registered as playing multiple instruments (i.e. piper, snare drummer, tenor drummer, bass drummer) shall be permitted to play these instruments in the band in competition. A band member shall be permitted to play one instrument in one band in a competition and another instrument in another band in another grade in a competition if the band member is registered with each band for the respective instrument.

**Midwest Pipe Band Association  
Financial Report 2016**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Beginning balance</b>	<b>\$ 11,161.24</b>	\$ 7,261.78
<b>Income</b>		
Membership Dues (Band)	9,450.00	9,350.00
Membership Dues (Individual)	6,345.00	7,435.32
Games Income	19,896.00	23,351.56
MWPBA Contests	770.00	n/a
Sponsorship	3,270.00	3,270.00
Miscellaneous	-	-
	<b>39,731.00</b>	<b>43,406.88</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Games	18,728.00	26,480.99
MWPBA Contests	8,848.34	n/a
Bank fees	1,339.68	1,539.61
Seminar	1,377.16	7,182.00
Sponsorship	7,693.62	n/a
Printing and postage	n/a	5.94
Annual Awards	81.00	137.20
Meetings	200.00	852.20
Supplies	864.76	1,189.48
Miscellaneous	1,920.47	-
	<b>41,053.03</b>	<b>37,387.42</b>
 Expected Cash balance at year end	 <b>\$ 9,839.21</b>	 <b>\$ 13,281.24</b>
 Ending balance per Bank	 \$ 10,259.17	 \$ 11,754.81
Liabilities (outstanding checks)	\$ (519.96)	n/a
Ending balance per PayPal	100.00	1,526.43
 <b>Total balance at year end</b>	 <b>\$ 9,839.21</b>	 Sep-15 <b>\$ 13,281.24</b>
		Oct-15 \$ 11,161.24 (See Note 1)

Submitted by Stuart J Barr, MWPBA Treasurer, Nov 1, 2016

**Note 1**

The MWPBA financial report is now stated to cover periods end of October to end of October, changed from end of September which was the practice until 2015. This is to allow time for processing of financial transactions occurring near the end of the season to be included in the relevant season accounting.

## **Midwest Pipe Band Association Financial Report 2016, additional notes**

### General

- Financial year reporting changed to end of October, versus end of September. This allows financial transactions for those games to complete within the financial season and not spill over to the next season (as happened this year).
- Some modifications made to the reported categories for clearer reporting. In particular, Games income and expenses are now broken down to differentiate MWPBA Contests (Regional and Pro Solos), versus Highland Games contests
- YOY finances are stable overall

### Income

- Total number of member bands unchanged.
- Individual membership dues are down 15% YOY. Number of solo members dropped from approx 300 to 247.
- Games Income is now split to differentiate MWPBA Contests (Regional and Pro Solos), versus Highland Games contests
- Games Income is reduced due to the cancellation of Springfield and Kentucky (bands), plus the reduced number of soloists entering contests.
- MWPBA Contests income is lower than forecast due to fewer Regional Solo Contest entrants

### Expenses

- Biggest outlier is the MWPBA Contests category which went over projected budget by almost 30%, primarily due to underestimation of associated expenses.
- Cost of hosting Pro Solos was approx \$5,500.
- Cost of hosting Regional Solos was approx \$3,300.
- Miscellaneous expenses included \$1100 for 2015 stewardship/scorekeeper expenses carried over from 2015.
- Meetings expenses is reduced since there was no ANAPBA meeting in 2016

### 2015 - 2016 Actual Expenses versus Budget YTD

Category	Actual	Budget	Remaining \$	Remaining %
<b>Sponsorship</b>	\$ 7,693.62	\$ 7,176.00	\$ (517.62)	-7.21%
<b>Bank Fees</b>	\$ 1,339.68	\$ 1,486.00	\$ 146.32	9.85%
<b>Annual Awards</b>	\$ 81.00	\$ 140.00	\$ 59.00	42.14%
<b>Supplies</b>	\$ 864.76	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 335.24	27.94%
<b>Meetings</b>	\$ 200.00	\$ 870.00	\$ 670.00	77.01%
<b>MWPBA Contests</b>	\$ 8,848.34	\$ 6,815.00	\$ (2,033.34)	-29.84%
<b>Games</b>	\$ 18,728.00	\$ 21,300.00	\$ 2,572.00	12.08%
<b>Seminars</b>	\$ 1,377.16	\$ 1,200.00	\$ (177.16)	-14.76%
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	\$ 1,920.47	\$ 520.00	\$ (1,400.47)	-269.32%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 41,053.03</b>	<b>\$ 40,707.00</b>	<b>\$ (346.03)</b>	<b>-0.85%</b>

### 2015 - 2016 Actual Income versus Projected YTD

Category	Actual	Projected	Shortfall \$	Actual %
<b>Membership Dues (Band)</b>	\$ 9,450.00	\$ 9,350.00	\$ (100.00)	101.07%
<b>Membership Dues (Individual)</b>	\$ 6,345.00	\$ 7,400.00	\$ 1,055.00	85.74%
<b>Games Entry Fees</b>	\$ 19,896.00	\$ 24,500.00	\$ 4,604.00	81.21%
<b>MWPBA Contests</b>	\$ 770.00	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 280.00	73.33%
<b>Sponsorship</b>	\$ 3,270.00	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 30.00	99.09%
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	\$ -	\$ -	n/a	n/a
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 39,731.00</b>	<b>\$ 45,600.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,869.00</b>	<b>87.13%</b>



**2015 - 2016 Monthly Expenses**

Category	Nov-15	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16	Oct-16	2015 - 2016
Sponsorship	\$ -	\$ 7,173.66	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 519.96	\$ 7,693.62
Bank Fees	\$ 3.00	\$ 58.46	\$ 216.25	\$ 110.97	\$ 142.68	\$ 206.46	\$ 343.54	\$ 79.67	\$ 40.54	\$ 109.10	\$ 29.01	\$ -	\$ 1,339.68
Annual Awards	\$ 81.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 81.00
Supplies	\$ 596.54	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 268.22	\$ 864.76
Meetings	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200.00
MWPA Contests	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 474.92	\$ 1,921.23	\$ 538.20	\$ 4,901.55	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 296.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 116.44	\$ 8,848.34
Games	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,055.00	\$ 5,678.00	\$ -	\$ 3,780.00	\$ 4,215.00	\$ 18,728.00
Seminars	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,277.16	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,377.16
Miscellaneous	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 59.88	\$ 293.95	\$ -	\$ 70.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 123.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ 23.64	\$ 1,920.47
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,780.54</b>	<b>\$ 7,492.00</b>	<b>\$ 510.20</b>	<b>\$ 1,863.05</b>	<b>\$ 2,233.91</b>	<b>\$ 744.66</b>	<b>\$ 5,245.09</b>	<b>\$ 5,357.67</b>	<b>\$ 5,718.54</b>	<b>\$ 405.10</b>	<b>\$ 4,559.01</b>	<b>\$ 5,143.26</b>	<b>\$ 41,053.03</b>

**2015 - 2016 Monthly Income**

Category	Nov-15	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16	Oct-16	2015 - 2016
Membership Dues (Band)	\$ -	\$ 800.00	\$ 5,400.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,450.00
Membership Dues (Individual)	\$ -	\$ 735.00	\$ 1,030.00	\$ 1,080.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 570.00	\$ 890.00	\$ 510.00	\$ 230.00	\$ 240.00	\$ 60.00	\$ -	\$ 6,345.00
Games Entry Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,780.00	\$ 4,185.00	\$ 8,333.00	\$ 1,677.00	\$ 410.00	\$ 2,829.00	\$ 682.00	\$ -	\$ 19,896.00
MWPA Contests	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 99.00	\$ 369.00	\$ 210.00	\$ (8.00)	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 770.00
Sponsorship	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,970.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,270.00
Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 2,035.00</b>	<b>\$ 6,529.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,949.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,990.00</b>	<b>\$ 7,217.00</b>	<b>\$ 9,873.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,687.00</b>	<b>\$ 640.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,069.00</b>	<b>\$ 742.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 39,731.00</b>

2016  
Band Registrar's Report  
Midwest Pipe Band Association

	Bands 2016	Change in 2016	Bands 2015	Change in 2015	Bands 2014	Change in 2014	Bands 2013
Grade 1	0	0	0	0	0	-1	1
Grade 2	2	1	1	0	1	1	0
Grade 3	6	1	5	0	5	0	5
Grade 4	14	-1	15	-1	16	-1	17
Grade 5	22	0	22	-2	24	2	22
Totals	44	1	43	-3	46	1	45

### 2106 MWPBA Band List

Band Name	Band ID#	Band Name	Band ID#
Twin Cities Metro	PB-100-IV	Cabar Feidh	PB-141-V
Celtic Nations	PB-103-IV	Grand Traverse	PB-142-V
Wichita Caledonian	PB-104-V	Macalester College	PB-143-III
Minnesota Police PB	PB-107-V	Flint Scottish	PB-146-IV
City of McPherson	PB-109-IV	Chicago Stockyard Kilty	PB-147-IV
White Pine P & D	PB-110-V	Blackhawk P&D	PB-152-V
Kansas City St. Andrews	PB-111-III	Milwaukee Scottish	PB-162-IV
Doonaree	PB-113-V	Macalester College	PB-163-V
Chicago Highlanders	PB-115-IV	Brian Boru	PB-165-IV
Tunes of Glory	PB-119-V	Dundee Scottish PB	PB-166-V
Clan Donald	PB-121-V	Chicago Scots	PB-168-III
Omaha P & D	PB-122-V	Firefighters Highland Gd.	PB-170-V
Saint Louis Caledonian	PB-124-IV	Fort Wayne Scottish	PB-171-V
Fountain Trust	PB-125-III	Alma College PB	PB-173-IV
St Andrews Society IL	PB-126-IV	North Coast	PB-175-IV
Celtic Cross	PB-127-V	Kansas City St. Andrews	PB-176-V
Chicago Celtic	PB-129-III	St. John's Northwestern	PB-177-V
Chicago Academy of P&D	PB-130-IV	Michigan Scottish	PB-178-V
City of Rockford	PB-133-V	Louisville Pipe Band	PB-179-V
Madison P & D	PB-135-V	Greater Midwest	PB-180-II
North Coast	PB-136-III	Shannon Rovers	PB-184-V
Midlothian Scottish	PB-137-II		
Billy Mitchell Scottish	PB-140-IV		

**2016  
Solo Registrar's Report  
Midwest Pipe Band Association**

2016	Piping Light Music	Piping Piobaireachd	Snare Drum
Open	9	10	5
Grade 1	17	12	4
Grade 2	14	16	0
Grade 3	31	32	6
Grade 4	88	52	12
Beginner			2
Junior Novice	10		
Senior Novice	17		
Practice Chanter	6		

2016	Tenor Drum	Bass Drum	Drum Major
Advanced	3	3	
Intermediate	2		
Novice	9	5	
Open			6

Year	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Total Membership	247	296	321	305	259	241	283
New**	61	71	89	86	76	44	82
Renewal**	186	225	232	219	183	197	201
Adjudicators**	21	21	21	20	17	16	16
Associate Members**	1	1	5				

Year	2009	2008	2007	2006*
Total Membership	277	281	343	387
New**	74	69	101	137
Renewal**	203	212	242	250
Adjudicators**	21	16	12	22

\* No records earlier than 2006  
\*\* Included in Total Membership

Prepared by:



Tom Jewell  
Solo Registrar

## Education Committee Report

First, I would like to thank the MWPBA for the opportunity to chair the Education Committee. I feel this is an important aspect of our organization as we are in the business of promoting piping and drumming in our region and education plays an important part of the equation.

This year we have introduced a new addition to the organization. The “educational resources” menu on the MWPBA home page serves as the new home for the education committee. The main content for this section will be articles written by various experts regarding various topics. We plan to expand and find new content as well as dig up older articles and republish them for public viewing. The idea is to have a resource for our members to go to regarding any and all subject matter for piping and drumming. I would also like to obtain suggestions from members of our organization regarding topics they would like to have more information on. This would help guide us when reaching out to experts and asking for articles.

I would like to take this opportunity to let everyone know that my door is open to ideas or suggestions regarding future programs or ideas for educational resources. You may reach me at [mikekotch@gmail.com](mailto:mikekotch@gmail.com) if you have any questions or comments.

Michael Kotch

# MWPBA MUSIC BOARD REPORT

## 2016 Annual General Meeting

### News

This spring, ANAPBA established a sub-committee to coordinate with the RSPBA and (1) create a Supplemental Roster to be used by bands competing in RSPBA events; (2) act as a point of contact for the RSPBA Grading Convener; and (3) discuss and clarify with the RSPBA any rules issues that might arise. The roster will be posted on the MWPBA website. Bands intending to compete in Scotland are encouraged to contact the Music Board with any rules or roster questions.

### Proposed Rule Changes

The Music Board recommends that the membership adopt the following rule changes at the 2016 AGM. Most are clarifications of situations that are not clearly addressed in the current rules.

**Proposal 1** (to amend the bullet point in Section I.D): Bands and soloists that are disqualified for any Rules violation are not eligible for CS-Points. *However, bands and soloists that start an event but fail to finish the event (i.e., a “break down”) and bands and soloists that are disqualified in an event are still counted toward the number of competitors in that event for CS-Point calculations, despite the fact that they are not awarded any CS-Points. Bands and soloists who are registered for a given event but do not perform in the event are not counted toward the number of competitors in that event for CS-Point calculations.*

**Rationale:** To clarify the calculation process for CS-Points.

**Proposal 2** (to amend the chart in Section III.C): The number of tunes required for submission for the Open solo piping events shall be *four (4) tunes* in each category for the MSR, H/J and 6/8 March events.

**Proposal 3** (to amend the chart in Section III.C): The number of tunes required for submission for the Grade 2 solo piping events shall be *two (2) tunes* in each category for the MSR, H/J and 6/8 March events.

**Rationale:** Proposals 2 and 3 will bring the MWPBA into alignment with the ANAPBA recommendations and the existing requirements in most other associations.

**Proposal 4** (to amend the bullet point in Section III.B): In bass drumming, the Grade shall be divided into *three Amateur grades, Advanced, Intermediate and Novice. ~~Bass drummers in Grade 4 or 5 bands may register in Novice Bass. Bass drummers in Grade 3, Grade 2, and Grade 1 bands may register in Advanced Bass.~~*

**Proposal 5** (to amend the chart in Section III.C): *The Bass Contest Requirements for Intermediate Bass shall be 1 MSR.*

**Rationale:** Proposals 4 and 5 remove the transitional language which is no longer necessary, bring the MWPBA into closer alignment with other pipe band associations, ANAPBA recommendations and the solo Tenor grades. This will provide the fairest possible contest conditions for solo Bass competitors.

**Proposal 6** (to amend the chart in Section III.C): The number of tunes required for submission for the Open Snare drumming events shall be *one (1) tune* in each category for the MSR and H/J events.

**Rationale:** This change will hopefully encourage more competitors in the event and is consistent with actual practice in solo drumming contests.

**Proposal 7** (to be added as a new footnote to the chart in Section III.C): *A Grade 3 competitor is not required to play an a mach variation on any piobaireachd and shall not be penalized for the omission of the variation unless the setting of the piobaireachd played has a taorluath a mach, in which case the taorluath a mach and crunluath a mach must be played. The adjudicator must be informed of the player's intent prior to the commencement of the tune. In all other solo grades, the decision to play an a mach variation is within the discretion of the performer, provided, however, that if an a mach variation is not played, an adjudicator may consider whether an a mach variation is traditionally played in that tune and consider the omission of the variation as a factor in the evaluation.*

**Rationale:** To clarify for competitors when an a mach variation is required and provide guidance for adjudicators in how to treat the omission of the variation.

**Proposal 8** (to amend the bullet point in Section III.B): In solo piping, the Novice Grade *and* Grade 4 *Light Music Events* shall be subdivided into 2 categories: Senior (30 years and over as of the 1st Games of the season), Junior (29 years and under). *The Practice Chanter event shall be open to all ages.*

**Rationale:** The Grade 4 events will be much easier to schedule and adjudicate if they are split into separate events in the same manner as the Novice events.

**Proposal 9** (to add a new bullet point in Section III.C): *Any aggregate award for best performance in more than one event in solo piping or drumming (e.g., Piper of the Day, Drummer of the Day, Overall Winner, etc.) shall be awarded to the player competing on the day in the highest grade eligible for the award who is awarded the highest total number of Champion Supreme Points in that grade. Unless the award is announced in advance as restricted to MWPBA members, for purposes of this award only, Champion Supreme points shall be calculated for all competitors in all events offered in the highest grade eligible and points will be assigned to all competitors (and not limited to a maximum of 6 points). A tie in points between players in the same grade shall be broken first by the Piobaireachd result in that grade, if applicable. If a tie still exists, the tie shall be broken by the MSR result (or 2/4 March result) in that grade, as applicable. Game Sponsors may adopt any other criteria for such aggregate awards, provided the criteria is announced in advance of the contest.*

**Rationale:** There were several awards this year for which a tie-breaker was necessary, but the current Rules do not clearly provide for a tie-breaker.

**Proposal 10** (to add a new bullet point to Section IV.G): *If a Games Sponsor offers one or more band awards based on best aggregate performance in more than one event, a band must compete in each and every one of those designated events to be considered for any aggregate award. The order of placing in such a contest shall be determined by totaling the rankings of all judges in all designated events which are part of the aggregate contest. First place shall be awarded to the band with the lowest ranking total, second place to the band with the next lowest ranking total, and so forth. In the case of a tie, the band with the higher finish in the MSR event (after applying all tie-breakers for the MSR event) shall be placed higher in the aggregate contest than the band with the lower finish in the MSR event.*

**Proposal 11** (to amend the bullet point in Section I.B): The Music Board will review bands and solo competitors after the last Games of the MWPBA outdoor season. Any band or soloist may be re-graded if appropriate. *The Music Board may regrade, either up or down, any band or soloist at any time during the year to correct what the Music Board determines is a serious grading disparity.*

**Rationale:** This clarifies the Music Board’s authority to correct grading issues at any time.

**Proposal 12** (to amend the existing bullet point in Section I.B): All pipe bands *and soloists* from other recognized Pipe Band Associations shall enter the grade assigned by their home association.

**Rationale:** This clarifies existing practice concerning soloists.

**Proposal 13** (to add a new bullet point in Section III.C): *A solo competitor need not march while competing in any solo event.*

**Rationale:** This is a commonly asked question that should be addressed in the rules.

**Proposal 14** (to add a new bullet point to Section IV.E): *Concert Formation: Subject to prior approval of the Executive Committee, a Games Sponsor may choose to have bands compete in Concert Formation for any event, provided this requirement is announced in advance. The Games Sponsor shall designate an adequate area for the Concert Formation event within which each band shall play in any formation of the band’s choosing. No marching is required as part of a Concert Formation performance. Adjudicators shall evaluate the bands from one or more predetermined locations outside the Concert Formation area.*

**Rationale:** To provide clarity for this type of event.

## **Grading Decisions**

### **PIPING**

#### **Light Music**

Any player in the Novice grades can  
“self-grade” into Grade 4 when they register

#### **Jr. Novice to Grade 4**

Thomas McCollum

Aidan McParland

Sean Lambe

#### **Sr. Novice to Grade 4**

Mark Kilgore

Mike Dickenson

Paula Leigeb

Damon McParland

#### **Grade 4 to Grade 3**

Brendan Fergus

Rhys O'Higgins

Duncan Pedersen-Jones

Tamara Miceli

Egan Dickerson

Grade 3 to Grade 2

Patrick Higgins  
Joseph Fischer  
Michael Kazmierski-Dunn

Grade 2 to Grade 1

Kolya Sier

Piobaireachd

Grade 4 to Grade 3

Rhys O'Higgins  
Sydney Howieson  
Duncan Pedersen-Jones  
Tamara Miceli

Grade 3 to Grade 2

Kolya Sier  
Meredith Richmond  
Joe Fischer  
Michael Kazmierski- Dunn  
Jacob Schrader

DRUMMING

All players in Beginning Snare and Tenor automatically go to Grade 4 after one season

Grade 4 Snare to Grade 3

Gregory Crabb

Novice Tenor to Intermediate

Kiera O'Higgins

Novice Bass to Intermediate (if event approved)

Grace Jirsa

BANDS

Dundee Scottish from Grade 5 to Grade 4

Reminder: any grading applications must be filed by March 31, 2017.

For the Music Board,

Tom Weithers  
Chairman



HIGHLAND GAMES BAND SURVEY RESULTS

1. What is your band's rationale for competing at a particular Highland Games? Please check all that apply. (30/30)

Answer Choices –	Responses –
–	80.00%
Distance <b>24</b>	
–	70.00%
Date (Time of the year of the particular competition) <b>21</b>	
–	50.00%
Cost (limiting number of games entered because of band's budget, personal outlay) <b>15</b>	
–	46.67%
Venue <b>14</b>	
–	40.00%
Number of other bands in attendance to compete against <b>12</b>	
–	33.33%
Travel money <b>10</b>	
–	30.00%
Lodging and accommodations <b>9</b>	
–	30.00%
My band picks and chooses a limited number of contests for travel. <b>9</b>	
–	26.67%
My band was unable to compete more due to lack of members. <b>8</b>	
–	23.33%
Prize money <b>7</b>	
–	20.00%
Accumulating points toward Champion Supreme in our grade. <b>6</b>	
–	16.67%
My band personnel are unable to negotiate back-to-back weekends. <b>5</b>	
–	16.67%
Playing requirement (Medley vs. MSR where applicable) <b>5</b>	
–	13.33%
Champion Supreme Game status (versus non-CS games) <b>4</b>	
–	10.00%
My band only competes in our local contest. <b>3</b>	
–	3.33%
My band does not compete. <b>1</b>	
Total Respondents: 30	

2. What would encourage your band to play more contests? (May through the end of September) (20/30)

More competition (# of bands); more opportunity to compete (2 for 1); proximity  
 "It's a matrix of cost/distance(time)/benefit/and the product we can put on the field."

3. Would a monetary prize for Champion Supreme make your band more likely to play at more contests? (29/30)

**No 20 69%**      Yes 9 31%

Two added "something to keep"—pin, trinket, etc.

4. What is your feeling about two-day contests? (29/30)

Love them! 0	0.00%--0
–	
Hate them! 11	37.93%--11
–	
Prefer them. 3 It gives us more opportunity to compete for the amount of travel involved.	10.34%--3
–	
Other (please specify) 15	51.72%--15

2 for 1—4; Out of state/if necessary—2; generally no—2; OK/neutral—5

5. Alma Highland Games will be celebrating 50 years in 2017. How does this affect your band's plans? (27/30)

My band is planning on going to Alma as usual.	25.93%--7
—	44.44%--12
My band has not yet decided but will consider attending this milestone year event.	29.63%--8
—	
My band does not plan to attend the Alma Highland Games in 2017.	
Total	27

6. Would you like it if both MSR and Medley were offered at a contest so your band could play twice? (28/30)  
(where possible in regards to time)

Yes, and it would increase the likelihood of my band attending such a contest. 15	53.57%
Yes, but playing two competition selections would neither increase nor decrease the likelihood of my band's attendance at such a contest. 10	35.71%
—	10.71%
No. My band prefers only one contest performance per competition day. 3	3
—	0.00%
No, and my band would not attend such a contest. 0	0
Total	28

7. My pipe band would be inclined to compete at more Highland Games if (21/30)

We plan on 4-6 games per year regardless. We choose based on distance, venue, how much fun we have and what bands will be there. We avoid games when members come home saying it was no fun, where games people are unfriendly or where the massed bands are too long. Some games are very band friendly. Others not so much. We do Springfield bc it's closest. Milwaukee is our favorite bc the people are nicest. We hate Chicago but we usually go bc it's the biggest. We skip Waukesha bc they search bags at the gate. Minnesota is a 12+ hour drive which is too far. Alma will be a periodic regular but we try to not take the 3 day weekend every year. St. Louis usually conflicts with local gigs but we're discussing it for next year. We'll always do Columbus and Eminence. We don't like games in the middle of the summer bc the heat.

We had some better players. They didn't have families. We were younger. Nothing much the Association is at fault here.

More drummers.

More bands to compete against.

8. Here is what I believe would increase participation by pipe bands at MWPBA sanctioned contests: (20/30)

Change to MSR hurt, QMM was a nice transition from G5 to G4 competition.

Alma, need the dancing back outside for more people attending the massed bands events etc. Perception of nobody there due to lots of people indoors. people remember stands empty and see games as going downhill when a big amount of people that used to be in the stands now indoors.

Waukesha - lots of people keep bringing up they do not want to go back due to security people harassing them and nothing changes every year. Happened again this year.

Possibly too many small games to choose from now and spreads out the field of bands.

Need to make it interesting for bands to play second half of the season.

Prize money

I'm not sure. Chicago has been really improving every year and I think the new venue, innovative format for medley with concert formation and prize money have a lot to do with that

Having the contests and awards over earlier.

More bands to compete against but I don't have an answer on how to do that.

The bands like ours that always have to drive will go regardless. The key is to get the Chicago bands to travel but I have no clue how. I think attendance also depends on the bands dedication to competition. Our primary purpose is competition so traveling to games takes precedence. I also think rivalries between bands can help attendance. Champion Supreme has only been a driving force for us when we were wanting to move up a grade. Otherwise we don't care.

It would be nice if more Chicago bands would leave the city and attend more games in other cities. These bands are more centrally located and it would be easier for them. This would increase the field in smaller games and make them more attractive. We travel 600+ miles to attend the Chicago Highland Games. General effort by all bands in the MWPBA to support needs to occur or we won't have games to go to. For us, increasing travel money would help greatly especially when we usually bring 2 bands to a games.

If you want to increase attendance at the smaller venues like Kentucky or Columbus, IN, you almost need to make at least one of them for Supreme points. Maybe switching out Waukesha for one of them would work (such as Columbus--decent location). Many games are in the north end which limits some of the southern bands--though that may simply be because there are fewer from the south. If a band is in the running for champion supreme it's a motivator.

Scheduling? Some events such as Alma sometime conflict with Canadian games I think

In my opinion, games should do everything they can to offer max playing - both for soloists and bands. As a P&D organizer, I offered every solo event in all grades but limited the # of entries so we could give the soloists that did compete the best quality experience. The connection with bands is that games should manage the solo schedule so it does not run into an expanded band schedule where bands can play twice - you do that either by hiring more judges (which is probably not fiscally sensible) or by limiting the # of soloists and getting the band contest started maybe by 1pm - start with Gr5 bands playing only once and give the first few bands a bye on opening ceremonies.

Free beer

Travel money. Counter-productive to provide \$100 in travel money and charge a \$75 entry fee.

The MWPBA has good offerings for bands centered in and around Chicago. Our band is Detroit centered, and we're on the edge of 3 pipe band associations and the closest sanctioned games is over 2 hours in any direction.

Perhaps development of intra-regional contests and consider not relying on just one overall championship (which doesn't automatically discount the overall CS award for the year) - solo CS awards could remain intact.

It is always a distance for us, financial incentives help especially when we travel with two bands.

I don't have any really good ideas here. Personally I think it'd be cool if the bands or soloists could get some face time with the judges or other high level pipers/drummers (maybe only for 2 day events) to either have workshops to improve techniques, or get direct verbal feedback on playing quality and ways to improve.

Good luck. I used to think I had ideas. I don't. My ideas now are all along the lines of trying to make attending more fun than they are. Make them "not miss". How do you do that? No clue, but I'm willing to work a few ideas. I hate to lay more at the feet of the games....and it's not the explicit responsibility of the MWPBA to make the band experience "better" beyond the contest itself. But, maybe it behooves us as bands to contribute more directly to the games committees' efforts. In other words, it's real easy for us to say "Hey, you know what would be great at Games A? If they did \_\_\_\_!" Well, maybe we should be doing more of that, only offering to be responsible for making \_\_\_\_ happen. Whatever it may be.

Excellent venues and organization.