



The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association Northern Ireland Branch

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

Registered Charity: NIC103199

Principal Address:

Unit 34, Crescent Business Park
Ballinderry Road
Lisburn
BT28 2GN

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1. Reference and Administrative Details

Charity Name: The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association (Northern Ireland) Branch
Charity Number: NIC103199
Principal Address: Unit 34, Crescent Business Park, Ballinderry Road, Lisburn, BT28 2GN
Bankers: Danske Bank, 62–66 Bow Street, Lisburn, BT28 1YS

Accountants:

Stephen McKee, 75 Riverdale, Annahilt, Co Down BT26 6DH of Heanen, Stanfield and McKee, 30 Bachelors Walk, Lisburn, BT28 1XN

2. Structure, Governance and Management

The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association Northern Ireland Branch (RSPBANI) is a Branch of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association and is governed by its own Constitution. To service the whole of Northern Ireland, the Branch operates through four Sections: County Antrim, County Down, Mid Ulster and County Fermanagh. Each Section has a committee, and each appoints a representative to the Branch Executive.

Trustee Appointment and Induction

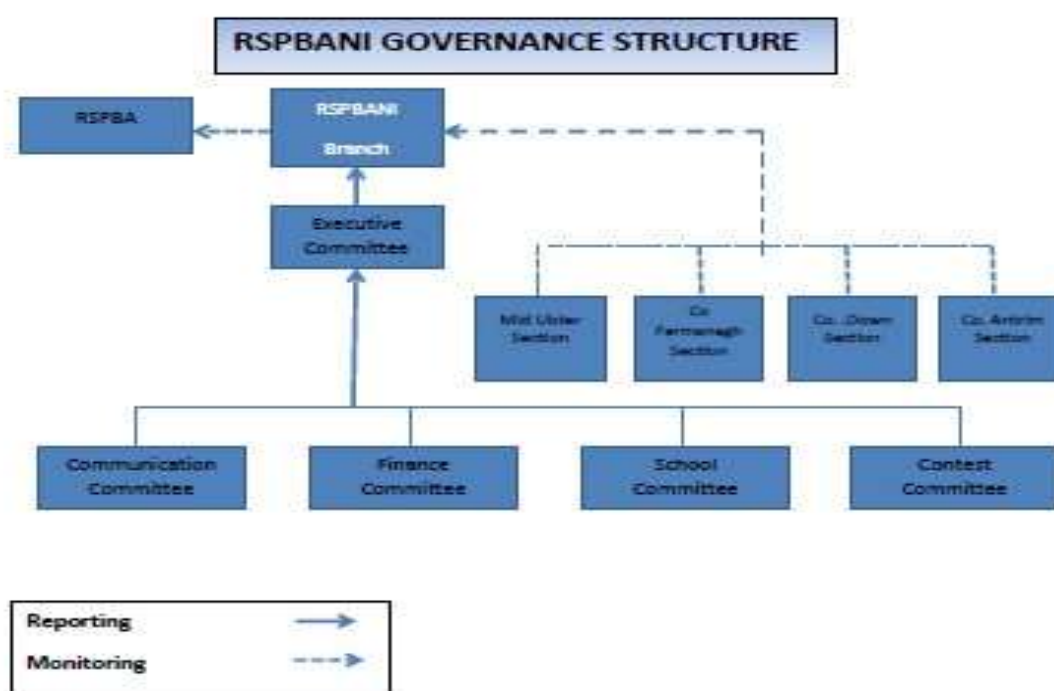
Trustees are elected at the AGM. New trustees receive induction covering constitutional duties, safeguarding, financial controls and governance procedures.

Management and Staffing

The Branch employs a Project Officer staff. Payroll is administered by a qualified independent person, and all staff changes are approved and minuted by the Executive Committee.

Volunteers

Volunteers support events, education, governance and administration. Their contribution is essential to delivering public benefit.



3. Charitable Purposes and Objectives

RSPBANI's purposes include promoting and encouraging the culture and advancement of pipe band music; facilitating teaching of piping, drumming and drum majoring; maintaining fellowship; devising contest rules; and organising pipe band championships.

Objectives for 2024

- Deliver a full programme of pipe band and drum major championships.
- Develop and expand the Pipe Band College NI education programme.
- Promote intergenerational and cross-community participation in all activities.
- Maintain strong governance, safeguarding and financial controls.

4. Activities and Achievements in 2024

Championships and Events

RSPBANI delivered a full season of pipe band and drum major competitions across Northern Ireland.

13:04:24	Ulster Solo Piping and Drumming Championships	Lisburn
20:04:24	County Down Indoor Full Band	Dromore
18:05:24	United Kingdom Championships	Bangor
25:05:24	County Fermanagh Championships	Enniskillen
01:06:24	Mid Ulster Championships	Cookstown
29:06:24	Antrim & Newtownabbey Championships	Antrim
06:07:24	All Ireland Championships	Donabate Ireland
03:08:24	Ulster Championships	Cookstown
10:08:24	Heart O' Down Championships	Newcastle
07:09:24	United Kingdom Solo Drumming	Antrim
21:09:24	All Ireland & JAC Solo Championships	Lisburn

Membership

The Branch maintained a strong membership base, with 43 pipe bands recorded during the reporting period.

Education – Pipe Band College NI

The Pipe Band College NI delivered accredited qualifications through structured Saturday programmes across five venues: Banbridge, Broughshane, Enniskillen, Derry/Londonderry and Cookstown.

Qualifications included:

- Foundation Certificate
- SCQF Levels 2–8 (Piping and Snare)
- PDQB Levels 2–6 (Tenor and Bass)

These qualifications are nationally recognised and mapped to Northern Ireland equivalents.

Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework	Northern Ireland Equivalent
Level 4	Low grade GCSE pass (G-D) or NVQ Level 1
Level 5	High grade GCSE pass (C-A*) or NVQ Level 2
Level 6	GCE AS and A Level or NVQ Level 3
Level 7	Higher National Certificate (HNC)
Level 8	Higher National Diplomas (HND)

International Touring

Bands were involved in performances in Scotland and Ireland.

President's Charity

Collections were facilitated for a number of local charities at our events.

Governance Meetings

Meetings held included: AGM, 10 Executive Meetings, 4 Branch Meetings, 2 Finance Committee Meetings, 2 Pipe Band College NI Meetings, 2 Contest Committee Meetings, and 2 Marketing & Communications Meetings.

5. Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm compliance with CCNI's public benefit guidance. RSPBANI delivers public benefit by advancing pipe band music, providing accessible teaching centres, offering accredited qualifications, delivering inclusive public events, and fostering community cohesion and good relations.

6. Risk Management

Key risks include safeguarding, health and safety, financial management and sustainability, reputational risk and volunteer capacity. Risks are reviewed regularly by the Executive and Finance Committees, with appropriate policies and procedures in place.

RSPBANI ensures that appropriate insurance policies with adequate levels of cover are in place in respect of Employers Liability, Public Liability, Contents and Vehicle insurance

7. Financial Review

Income is generated through funding for events largely through Local Authorities sponsorship, grants from Arts Council Northern Ireland and Ulster Scots Agency, income generation through charges to traders at events. and charges to students on education programmes. Expenditure relates to event delivery, education, staffing, administration and governance.

The Trustees confirm that financial procedures were followed, all bank accounts remain in the charity's name, two-signatory controls were maintained, and financial records were kept in accordance with legislation.

8. Reserves Policy

The charity maintains reserves to cover six months of operational costs and to support long-term ambitions for a centre of piping excellence. Reserves structure is as follows:

- Operational Costs (6 months): £15,000
- Office Rental & Insurance (6 months): £4,000
- Other Recurring Costs: £2,000
- Programming Costs: £10,000
- Education Programme Investment: £14,000
- Designated Capital Savings: £40,000

Total Reserves: £85,000

9. Plans for Future Periods

Plans for 2025 include continuing to deliver high-class events; expanding the education programme; strengthening partnerships; enhancing digital systems; and maintaining high governance standards.

10. Charity Trustees

The charity Trustees for 2024 are as follows

Chairman:	Mr Alastair Patterson
Secretary:	Ms Danielle McCartney
Treasurer:	Mr Kenny Crothers
County Fermanagh Section Rep	Mr Ray Hall MBE
Mid Ulster Section Rep:	Mr Trevor Wilson
County Down Section Rep:	Mr Wilby Hanna
County Antrim Section Rep:	Mr Alistair McCleery

11. Independent Examiner

Stephen McKee, 75 Riverdale, Annahilt, Co Down BT26 6DH of Heanen, Stanfield and McKee, 30 Bachelors Walk, Lisburn, BT28 1XN

12. Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.