

① Chairmans Report 2009.

Looking back over 2009 we have seen a few high spots and a few disappointments.

Our failure to secure a suitable P/M and L/D to conduct our P/M L/D weekend, and our failure to get the PDQB course of the ground in January as hoped was disappointing. ^{also} The loss of our second branch contest at ASHBOURNE

The fact that we only have 12 bands now in branch membership. leaves us on the minimum number to form a branch. We must not loose any bands if at all possible.

Looking on the positive side of 2009. some of the problems mentioned above have, or are being rectified. The PDQB course started on Sept 26 and is nearing completion, with the Exam now set for January.

An offer from P/M John Nevans to conduct a P/Ms and L/D weekend in the new year will be considered shortly. A Drummer of suitable qualification will be with him.

Contest

The success of the Birmingham ^{Contest} was probably the high spot of our year, Birmingham City councils department were superb in their planning and layout of the event.

However the fact a few bands scratched on the morning ~~the~~ meant there were a few gaps in the spectators entertainment. It would be very shortsighted and selfish if we were to expect Birmingham city

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Council to plan and fund ~~a~~ just a pipe band.
Contest for 200 pipers and drummers.

I cannot emphasize enough that if we are to keep
Birmingham Cit Council on board with the use
of their facilities and funding we must be
prepared to entertain, and ensure we fill the
day from start to finish.

If we get their financial support for 2010 there
will be restrictions on Centenary due to the
new Library being built on the adjacent car park
This will not affect the Contest but D/M and
tuning areas will have to be resited. We should
all do our best to ensure the continuation of the
contest in such a good location

Looking to the future, whilst our finance report
suggests we are reasonably healthy, a few PDQB
Courses and P/M L/D weekends will soon drain our
resources, and to that end we will be contacting
Birmingham City Council to help us raise funding.

(they have a department that helps local
organizations to raise grants, Arts Council,
Lottery or local funds that exist for education
purposes) The next task is to get our Branch
massed band formed, by talking to our P/M and
L/D at our next Seminar. The controversial
drum salute would have been a great attraction
at the Birmingham contest this year.
drummers I have spoken to this past year have been

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on favour, we have the best drumming tutors in the Country so why not?

Finally, we are putting together a good team here in the Midlands Branch and I would like to thank them for their dedication to their work. This past year, the addition of Nicola as education officer and Bill as publicity officer ~~and~~ can only strengthen the team, and if we keep competing, educating and entertaining the future for the Midland Branch is Rosy

One final point, ~~at~~ how many branches in the RSPBA can boast 66% of their registered Bands compete? and where would the Corby contest have been without us this year

DAVID FRITH
your Branch Chairman