



PRESIDENT: Ainsley Hart
SECRETARY: Phil Weber
TREASURER: Tim Bodey
COMMITTEE: Tony Bidgood *OAM RFD ED*
Rod Smith

9 June 2021

Dear Band Secretary,

The 2021-22 band and member registration renewal pack and invoice, due on 30 June, will be sent to you shortly for your band's consideration and attention. Pipe Bands Australia National Management Committee has opted to keep the player registration and transfer fees at the COVID discounted rate of \$25.00, as we are aware that the band's ability to fundraise and operate is still severely hampered. The band registration fee of \$200.00, of which 100% returns to the state branch, has been returned to the normal rate. This will allow state branches a more regular income stream, and as is standard practice, branches can independently access these funds to direct them where the local demand requires.

I am hopeful that in this calendar year, PBA will migrate from our old database to a new Member Services Platform. This process is unfortunately long overdue, and we have been working with yet another new solution over the last few months. We are committed to ensuring the new system is able to deliver on our full range of needs including a direct member portal, for members to update their own information, and a bands portal, allowing designated band officials access to manage the annual return process directly with the system. We are also confident that cloud-based access for branches and contest supervisors will be a feature of the new system.

As 2022 is an Australian Championship year, together with the added costs of the membership platform and other national administrative costs, the funding demands on the National accounts will be significant. The current financial situation of the PBA is not one where the association is sitting on a surplus of funds, thus I take this opportunity to foreshadow the need to return to pre-COVID membership fees in 2022-23. PBA National Management Committee will continue to explore other funding options in the meantime to attempt to offset this.

PBA is very hopeful that the coming registration period will see less interruption of bands' activities through lockdowns and other COVID related activity. The volatility of these interruptions is quite varied across the country with some areas severely impacted, yet others operating quite normally. I hope that the 2022 Championship will be an opportunity to come together and celebrate all things Piping and Drumming and enjoy some of the important camaraderie between members that has been missing from our lives for the last 18 months.

Yours Truly,

Ainsley Hart
PBA President