

December 1984

#217

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



**The official monthly publication of
the British Columbia Pipers' Association**

B.C. PIPERS' ASSOCIATION

Published by the British Columbia Pipers' Association.

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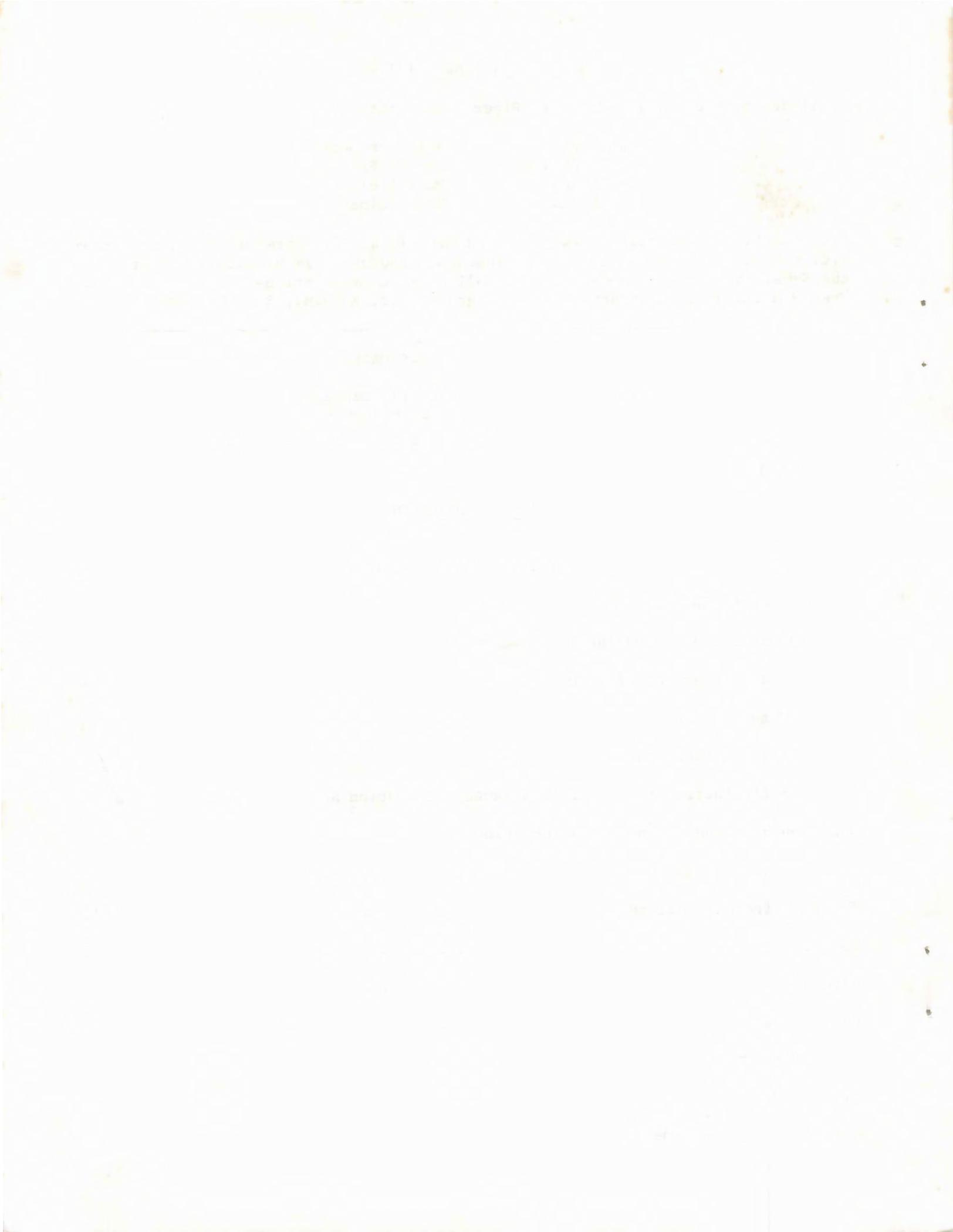
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DECEMBER 1984

No. 217

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EDITORIAL

With the coming of a new year it is perhaps fitting to reflect on some of the accomplishments of the passing one and sneak a preview at what's in store for the next one. As far as our own Association is concerned I think we can look back with some satisfaction on our past year's activities. The mini gatherings are becoming bigger and better every year thanks to the fine work of James and Janice McDonald. We appear to have found a permanent home in Burnaby North School, a site ideally suited to our needs and the increase in attendance of parents has certainly contributed to the atmosphere of the event. The mini gatherings are the lifeblood of piping in this area and it is indeed gratifying to see them progressing so well.

The knockouts appear to be settling in well at their new home also. The gamble of switching to a Saturday night seems to have paid off as good crowds have been in evidence for our first three nights. The marked increase of younger players in attendance is perhaps proof that the change was a good choice. The format of light selections for the first rounds has drawn favourable responses from the players and provides the audience with some lively tunes not normally heard in competition. The warm-up contest has also been greeted well and seems to have found a permanent place in the knockout events. Our "planned impromptu" events have been received quite well although it was "spontaneous impromptu" that stole the show at the December meeting.

Three of our professional players took time out to compete in other areas this year. Jack Lee was the busiest, starting with a trip to Ontario in the Spring to play in the Livingstone Invitational where he placed second. He also played in London, England picking up second in the March, Strathspey and Reel. (Jack's trip to Ontario was by way of his win at the knockout final last season and his visit to London courtesy of his Annual Gathering aggregate win this year. As Jack won the impromptu jig event and the raffle at the last knockout perhaps we should be thinking of changing our name to the Jack Lee Benevolent Association.) Peter Aumonier and Jimmy Hardie were also in Britain this year showing the Flag at Inverness.

Of course the health of our Association and our players is beside the point if there are no places to compete. Our indoor contests are in no immediate danger. Triumph Street, the Ladies' Festival and the Annual Gathering, while not financial successes, have been drawing good crowds and offering a very good selection of events. They have become a permanent part of our winter season and can be counted upon to be around in the immediate future. The outdoor games, however, are in a sad state of affairs. Lack of funding, advertising, volunteer help and organization have all contributed to the decline of what many consider our national heritage. We've already lost the Western Pipe Band Association contest in Port Coquitlam and last year New Westminster and Nanaimo were added to the list. The B.C. Highland's Vancouver games are increasingly considering dropping piping, drumming and pipe bands and only strenuous efforts from certain B.C. Highland members have prevented this from happening. Victoria and the Interior Highland Dancing Association (Penticton, Kelowna) are also in the same boat. Seattle and Bellingham, with all due respect to the organizers, need to regain their credibility from the piping community with regard to running their events. Even the reputations of Portland and Santa Rosa, considered to be the best games on the coast have paled and warrant second thoughts when considering the expense involved.

On the positive side, Nanaimo intend running games next year on the Saturday of the Victoria Day long weekend. With the Victoria Games scheduled for the Sunday, this arrangement sounds very appealing. Simon Fraser University, not the band but the recreation department of the University, are very close to announcing plans for a two day event for the end of July. Track and field, five-a-side soccer and a seven-a-side rugby are only some of the events planned. The figure of \$1,000.00 first prize for Grade I bands has also been mentioned. If given the go ahead this could be the premier event of the year.

The B.C. Pipers' calendar for '85 includes the continuation of our Mini Gathering and knockout programme, the Annual Dinner scheduled for March and the Annual Gathering to be held as usual on the Easter weekend. We have received confirmation that P/M Ian McLellan of the Strathclyde Police, will be attending as one of the chief adjudicators for the '85 Gathering. We had hoped to bring a Grade I band from Scotland for the Gathering but the Board of Directors felt that, due to a shortage of time, it would be more feasible to pursue this idea for 1986. Throughout the years there have been many complaints with regards scheduling the Indoor for the Easter weekend. Being the first long weekend in the new year many people like to pack up and head up to the cabin. However, with the number of events, and the belief that every class has the opportunity to play in front of at least one major judge, we are obliged to run a two day event. Couple that with the number of out-of-town competitors entering the Gathering I'm sure you will agree Easter is the best choice. Other items on the agenda include new judges sheets, a judges' list and the reprinting of our new rules and updated constitution. Some constitutional changes are presently being discussed and will be presented to the membership at a Spring meeting.

One important change effective in January will be an increase and restructuring of our dues. As mentioned in the last newsletter, the cost of this publication has risen dramatically over the past couple of years. The last four issues especially have shown a marked increase due to the printing costs not reflected in previous editions. As the Trust Account enables us to finance our various functions throughout the year, the annual subscription must cover the cost of the newsletter. For this reason the Board has reluctantly decided to raise the annual dues. We value your membership in the B.C. Pipers' Association and hope you will continue to support us in the coming years.

On behalf of the Association we take this opportunity to wish you all the very best in the new year.

Angus Macpherson

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Angus:

Congratulations on the B.C. Pipers' Newsletter's continued rise in quality and excellence. In the last few months your personable publication has become, well, more personable. Keep up the good (and no doubt, voluntary) work.

I obviously have no idea how long your Ontario membership list is but I would like to comment on your "Drivel Pursuits" (at least the quiz found in The Letter). Being a keen triviatist myself I especially enjoy this section of The Letter. But why, in the name of the current member of the NHL that played with the Highland Laddies Pipe Band, do you regionalize your questions? Although I would dearly love to know the score at the last S.F.U./Triumph Street hockey game, this elusive scoop usually requires a call to Peter Aumonier or Rob MacNeil -- prohibitive extravagances in these days of cheesey prize money and unfairly justifiable adjudicators. Fifteen bucks is fifteen bucks, eh? Even your native son, Bruce Gandy (my usual B.C. trivia connection), can't answer your babies.

In honour of developing East-West relations and preventing the emergence of a tartan curtain across the Rockies, I would like to offer the following completely answerable questions:

1. What are the last two digits in Neil Dickie's Instabank card's access number?
2. Two doors down from Bruce Gandy's house (on the side of the street facing the park) there lives a big woolly cat. What's his name?
3. The lithographer of John Wilson's third book of pipe music has three lovely daughters. Name them.

The first person to correctly answer these yawners will receive a one year subscription to the Canadian Piper & Drummer.

Til' then,
I remain,
Firmly yours,
Michael Grey
REXDALE, ONTARIO

Mr. I.O. MacKinnon,
6959 Haligan Street,
Burnaby, B.C. V5E 1R4

Dear Ian:

Please find enclosed the editorial I promised as President of the Nanaimo Caledonian Society which is a member of the P.I.H.G.A.

I enjoy the benefits of participating in the cultural events which are my background and heritage.

Nanaimo has been fortunate in past years to receive strong support from pipe bands, pipers and drummers. However, when we wrote in January, 1984 to 47 pipe bands, requesting their interest in competition or appearance at our July Games, we received 'nil' replies. Our deadline for information was February, 1984 but we delayed until late March to cancel the entire 1984 Highland Games.

After attending two P.I.H.G.A. and the executive meetings of our own Society, our decision was to change the date of our Games to the 3rd Saturday in May -- the Victoria or May Day Celebration Weekend. We, therefore, will be holding the Games on Saturday, May 18, 1985, one day prior to the Victoria Games. We have received excellent support from the P.I.H.G.A., Victoria, the Dance Association and our local community. We believe that by moving the date, we can ensure less expense for bands and individuals -- one return trip only to the Island and no conflict of points or competitions. Our prize money will be awarded according to the guidelines of P.I.H.G.A., at which both Ian MacKinnon and Albert Duncan were present.

I appeal for your support and endorsement by urging your pipe majors to participate in our Highland Games. The less games held reduces the opportunity to share skills and abilities and to carry on a very important part of our culture.

I am proud of my heritage and I do not wish it to die.

Yours truly,
Margaret Johnson (Lochhead)
President
Nanaimo Caledonian Society

Dear Sir:

I would like to respond to the latest editorial appearing in the November issue of the B.C. Pipers' Association Newsletter. While the article raises many good points it seems to lean in the wrong direction. The article speaks of revising our present system for amateur piobaireachd competitions. In my opinion the only revision necessary is to hold more piobaireachd competitions, both at the amateur and professional level! The editorial suggests that for various reasons piobaireachd players mature at a different rate than light music players. This type of thinking is precisely why we see the standard of piobaireachd playing lacking in some of our classes. It is obvious that some of the controlling influences in the B.C. Pipers' Association put a premium on light music while ignoring or belittling the need to promote piobaireachd playing. Young novice players should be introduced to piobaireachd immediately. We have, in the past, seen some attempts to do this by providing competition for novices to play, perhaps, a ground and variation. However, this is usually seen once a year! Hardly enough to spark interest, let alone further one's education. The same follows through for all classes. There is only one major piobaireachd competition in this area, that being the Indoor Meet. The Vancouver Ladies instituted the Olympia Cup Piobaireachd Competition but only time will tell if this much needed event becomes a permanent fixture. I realize that most outdoor games hold piobaireachd events but these are not on the same level as the indoor events, simply because of such factors as weather conditions, and the inability to assemble a large audience to view the entire event. Usually the outdoor contests require a player to submit one tune.

The article also speaks at eliminating a situation where a player is promoted too quickly through the ranks by virtue of piobaireachd placings only to find himself below the standard of light music expected for that class. Again, I find this statement a typical cop-out. It's been my experience to find just the opposite is true. The piobaireachd standard has been lower than the light music standard in every class. This just reinforces the argument that the thinking by the majority is piobaireachd is not important.

The other argument in the article which suggests piobaireachd should not be included in aggregate prizes is absolutely outrageous. The purpose of an aggregate is to determine the best overall player. If you have two categories, piobaireachd and light music, and you eliminate one category, how can you possibly have an aggregate? The argument also presumes that if piobaireachd were eliminated from the aggregate at the Indoor Meet then the winner of light music should get the trip to Scotland. Why not think in reverse? Eliminate piobaireachd from the aggregate but award the piobaireachd winner the trip. I would never suggest either of these alternatives to be a solution because either way someone is penalized. The present system is best because the only players who suffer are those who chose not to compete in an event. The article does state that good pipers should be accomplished at both facets of the music so why not stand behind this thinking.

Earlier in this letter I stated that the only revision necessary is to hold more piobaireachd competitions. Clearly, this is one basic need. Piobaireachd needs more exposure in this area. I find it rather disgusting to think I have attended B.C. Pipers' Knockouts for several years and not once do I recall hearing anyone play piobaireachd. Kind of makes the Association hypocritical since it's purpose is to promote pipe music. I guess the constitution was meant to have read "promote light music".

Sincerely,
Peter Aumonier

The following editorial appeared in the November edition of the Piping Times.

A recent editorial in that interesting and informative publication the British Columbia Newsletter complains about the practice of having a march, strathspey and reel competition with submitted tunes and the judges allowed to pick any march to go with any strathspey and any reel. The editor's (Angus Macpherson's) view is that when sets are put forward then one set should be chosen, so avoiding awkward breaks between tunes - and presumably making things easier for the competitors.

Angus also feels that tunes should only be played once over, since the audience becomes bored by what he calls "endurance events". He feels that his scheme would make the competitors more relaxed and the listeners better entertained.

Well, writing editorials is always a problem - the search for ideas wears out a lot of carpet. But Angus Macpherson is quite new to the task so presumably he really believes what he is saying. Even so we might have cast the suggestion aside without much thought - perhaps thinking only that the B.C. pipers have chickened out a bit since last we heard them - except for the fact that Fred Morrison, piping correspondent for the Oban Times, came up with a somewhat similar suggestion a few months back.

Forty years ago the Oban Times was the principal publication for Piping news and views. We have seen in the past year how pipers even in Montana looked on it as the central forum for discussion and argument. Nowadays of course it has been relegated very much to a back seat - the late Col. J.P. Grant of Rothiemurchus used to say that in a few short years the Times, the Oban Times and the Piping Times changed to the Times, the London Times and the Oban Times. But some pipers still read the Crofter's Tablecloth (O.T. has big pages) and some of them even read Fred's column, and the trouble is that if you say a thing often enough some people will begin to think maybe there is something in it.

And this year at the Argyllshire Gathering the judges of the big MSR (for former first prize winners) asked for the tunes once over only.

Probably for the first time in the history of the gathering. Okay it was raining, but the drones are not made of sugar and men are still supposed to act like men in the Highlands. So hang down your heads you high ranking judges.

We doubt if Judge John Burgess, or many of the other formidable competitors who played in this event in the past, would have allowed it. Rain is to be expected in Oban, and we have strong memories of playing in that particular event during a veritable cloud-burst, finding at the end of our performance that every person at the games had run for shelter - except Ronnie MacCullum who was on his way out to play next.

May we suggest that these other two scribes are working on two entirely wrong assumptions. The first is that the audience might be bored by an eight-minute selection of light music. Maybe these writers are, but certainly not the vast majority of piping enthusiasts. On the contrary, this is one of the most exciting events in the piping programme, as witness the crowds who crush to get close to the action at Oban, or cram the halls at Blair Castle and Inverness. Getting through a fifteen minute piobaireachd is child's play compared to the balancing act of negotiating the intricacies of the big MSR.

And secondly, the competitors love the big challenge. Only the cream of course are eligible - at least on this side of the Atlantic. All have been through

the fires of the competition and all have survived. To be one of "the big boys," as Willie MacDonald once put it, is one of the ambitions of every aspiring piper. To play in the big MSR generates a thrill and an excitement unequalled in any other form of piping competition. The boys have been left to their youthful games, now is the turn of the men.

Of course the task is formidable, the prospect is massive - but so also is climbing Everest, running the marathon, taking the penalties for Scotland. Perhaps only those who have taken part can appreciate how purifying is the challenge, how satisfying its successful conclusion.

No complaints about the difficulty or the duration have ever been voiced by the participants, and difficulties there certainly are. At the Argyllshire Gathering and at Grants' Championship, which are the supreme tests, six of each type of tune have to be offered. This gives a staggering two hundred and sixteen possible sets for the judges to pick for each piper. Even if a piper practises two hours a day solely for this event, it takes him three weeks to get through all his sets.

Maybe Angus Macpherson is correct in saying the task is too tough for the B.C. pipers. Maybe it is. It would be interesting to know if Angus himself qualifies to play in such events. But Fred Morrison is quite wrong to suggest that the system should be abandoned for the top pipers of Scotland, and judges are badly at fault if they are influenced by his pronouncements on this matter.

They fear for wounds who never felt the thrill of battle.

Seumas MacNeill

LAST MONTH IN AND AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

Extra Ordinary General Meeting

A general meeting of the Society was held on December 1st at the Willingdon Heights Community Centre at 8:00 P.M. Purpose of the meeting was to amend the By-Laws by deleting the last paragraph of Section 3, Subsection D regarding junior memberships. It was moved by James McDonald, seconded by Jimmy Wilson and subsequently passed that this paragraph be removed thereby eliminating this section of the By-Laws that stated junior membership dues be set at one half of those of active and associate.

DECEMBER KNOCKOUT

The knockout competition continues to provide great piping entertainment. This month we saw the continuation of round one, as we move towards the Annual Dinner and knockout final later this season.

The warm up event featured each competitor playing a 12/8 March. All players played well but no one could prove to be a match for the man they call "metal mitts", Steve Geddes. Steve, who, rumor has it, can play a birl while wearing a boxing glove, picked up the customary bottle of Bells for his victory.

The evening's first match-up featured Jimmy Hardie vs Bill Heaton. Unfortunately, Bill is recovering from an illness and was unable to attend. Jimmy, who is recovering from a nasty accident which left him with a badly bruised arm, gave the audience a nice performance and should prove to be a force in later rounds.

The next draw had Angus Macpherson playing against Donald MacMillan. Donald was up first. Donald's selection included several traditional tunes and he played them nicely. His pipe was not quite bang on though. The drones were good but his top hand at the chanter was slightly sharp. It was unfortunate that Donald lost his place in his jig as he certainly gave a good showing. Angus Macpherson was next up and played with his usual musical touch. His reels were a bit careful in spots and his jig was rushed in the last part but these were minor points. His pipe was nicely tuned and well balanced. Angus was given the nod by the judges to advance to round two.

The final match-up had the veteran Steve Geddes against Darlene Miharija, playing in her first knockout. Steve was up first. It should be noted that Steve's selection included two of Colin Magee's latest compositions. Two small 6/8 Marches, Two Pints of Heavy and The Last Fish Supper are Colin's latest additions to his seemingly endless stream of tunes. Steve played in his usual bold style. His performance was highlighted by his good instrument and his reel playing. He capped off his performance with Donald Cameron's Powder Horn. He seemed to cramp up a wee bit on the top hand in this tune but certainly not enough to distract the listeners. Darlene followed Steve up. Her pipe was quite light but nicely tuned. The drones were smooth sounding and very melodic. Darlene gave a very musical performance and did not show the nerves one would expect to have in their first knockout. Unfortunately, Darlene had 2 or 3 squeaks in her jig P/M Joe Wilson. This was due, no doubt, to a weak reed. Overall Darlene gave a commendable performance. The victory went to Steve Geddes and early in the season Steve, once again, looks to be a looming threat for the coming rounds.

The judges for the evening were Jack Lee, Hal Senyk and Jimmie Wilson.

After the formal part of the evening was finished the impromptu piping began. The feature impromptu event was a jig competition in which each competitor was required to play 2 jigs. There were several entries in this event. What was intended to be a normal jig contest turned into a "survival of the fittest" competition. The audience decided to do the judging in place of the man who was supposed to do so, Hal Senyk. When Angus Macpherson made a mistake in the first part of his tune and broke down the audience took it lightheartedly. Jimmy Hardie followed Angus. When Jimmy made a mistake the audience waved him off! A precedent was set. No one would get away with anything. In fact the Iron Man, Steve Geddes, who never breaks down did just that! Steve was practically booted off the floor before he even made a slip. Once the boeing began Steve broke into a laugh and couldn't get around his slip. Player after player went up and was waved off as no one seemed to produce a flawless performance. However, after it was all over Hal was allowed to produce a prize list. First place went to Jack Lee, despite the fact that attempts were made to throw him off. Darlene Miharija placed second and Peter Aumonier took third. All in all it was a well received event. Everyone took part and no one took it seriously. Players and listeners delighted in the lightness of the event. I would like to say that the fact that a player can be waved off during a performance can be very unnerving. It should not be allowed to happen in a serious event as is done in some areas. All it does is create apprehension on the part of players and they end up worrying about being waved off. This is not conducive to creating good musical performances. However, an

event such as the impromptu jig contest was designed for a change of pace and no one can say it wasn't worth it. After all it encouraged a lot of younger players as well as Ian McKinnon (you know, Mary's husband) to take part.

Peter Aumonier

P.S. An oversight prevented us from acknowledging the judges at our first two knockouts. The October event was judged by Ian McKinnon, Jimmy Watt and Terry Lee while the November knockout was handled by John A. McLeod, Ian McKinnon and Terry Lee.

At this time it should be pointed out that our judges at the knockouts and the mini gatherings are engaged on a voluntary basis for which we thank them very much.

TRIUMPH STREET

The 13th Annual Triumph Street Contest was held on Saturday, December 8th, at Guildford Park Community School, Surrey, B.C. Starting as a competition for bands, trios and solo drummers the event has grown to encompass a full slate of amateur solo piping. The individual events, held in the afternoon, were well organized with band members handling the judging chores. The pipe band contest started at 7:00 P.M. and featured twelve miniature bands, including the City of Victoria, City of Penticton and the Keith Highlanders from Seattle. All Grades from Juvenile to Grade I were very competitive and all performances most entertaining. Immediately following the band contest the "ceilidh" started with the remainder of the night devoted to the pursuit of the usual celebrating.

Full marks must be given to the members of Triumph Street and especially contest chairman Graham Davidson for the fine organization in evidence throughout the day.

RESULTS

Junior Trios

1. White Spot P.B. #1
2. White Spot P.B. #2
- 3) B.C. Junior P.B. #2

Jr. Amateur Drumming

1. Karen Hinchey
2. Joe Wadden

Junior Amateur - March

1. Michelle Langston
2. Richard Hamilton
3. Graeme Savage

Jr. Am. Piobaireachd

1. Bonnie McKain
2. Michelle Langston
3. Julie Main

Chanter Class

1. Kathryn Savage
2. Tanya Turner
3. Alan Bevan
4. Tim Hinchey

Novice Drumming

1. Jennifer Mair
2. Greg Gibson

Novice "A" - March

1. Alison Stewart
2. Robert Hartle
3. Bruce Gove
4. Allison Flack
5. Doug Bird

Novice "A" - S & H.R.

1. Alison Stewart
2. Neil MacDonald
3. Donald McInnes
4. Allison Flack

Novice "B" - March

1. Jennifer Ginter
2. Patrick Lindsay
3. Darran Forrest
4. Harlan Janson

Novice "B" - S & H.R.

1. Jennifer Ginter
2. Patrick Lindsay
3. Paul Nailen
4. Leigh Collins
5. Kevin Watsyk

Juvenile - Slow Air

1. Paul Laporte
2. Chris Hanberry
3. Leslie MacKay
4. Norma MacLeod
5. Jeff MacLeod

Juvenile - March

1. Leslie MacKay
2. Paul Laporte
3. Keith Culver
4. Jeff MacLeod
5. Heather MacDonald

Sr. Amateur - M.S.R.

1. Cheryl Taylor
2. Robert MacLeod

Sr. Amateur - Medley

1. Robert MacLeod
2. Malcolm Bokenfohr
3. Shaunna Stephen

Prof. Drumming - Medley

1. Scott Robertson
2. Bud Maxwell

Prof. Drumming - M.S.R.

1. Scott Robertson
2. Bud Maxwell

PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL HIGHLAND GAMES ASSOCIATION REPORT

The Annual General Meeting of the P.I.H.G.A. was held in Nanaimo on November 10, 1984.

Delegates were in attendance from Seattle Highland Games Association, Western Pipe Band Association, B.C. Pipers' Association and the Nanaimo Caledonian Society with a representative from Victoria.

The meeting was held at the Army Base, where we were royally treated by our Nanaimo friends.

A great break through has been accomplished through the efforts of the P.I.H.G.A. with the co-operation of the Victoria Highland Games Association and the Nanaimo Highland Games Association. We are going to have a "Games Weekend". The Victoria Day weekend will feature highland games in Nanaimo on Saturday and highland games in Victoria on Sunday, allowing you the holiday Monday to travel home, recover or whatever. Try to reserve this weekend and make a point of attending to ensure successful Games in both cities. Remember if the Games die; the competitors are the losers.

The draft of the new piping judges sheets were favourably accepted by the Association. Changes to pipe band judging along the lines discussed in the newsletter were also favourably received and the Western Pipe Band Association expects to be able to introduce changes to the present format before the season starts.

The Seattle Pipers Society expressed a desire to become affiliated and would be most welcome.

Victoria Highland Games Association is to be requested to consider re-joining the P.I.H.G.A.

The Canadian Legion Highland Games will be held in Courtenay this year on June 21, 1985.

To assist highland games associations in their budgeting there was a discussion on prize monies to be paid for each class (minimum guidelines possibly escalating with attendance) and appearance monies. Western Pipe Band Association will discuss these proposals with their membership and come to an agreement before the season opens. These proposals would be subject to yearly reviews.

Election of officers for 1985 were as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| President | - Dave Rickard, Seattle, Washington |
| First Vice President | - Albert Duncan, Western Pipe Band Association |
| Second Vice President | - Karen Shelton, Seattle, Washington |
| Secretary-Treasurer | - Mary Ann Clapp, Western Pipe Band Association |

Ian MacKinnon

NEXT MONTH

The January Mini Gathering will be held on Saturday January 12th at Burnaby North Secondary School. COMMENCING WITH THE JANUARY MINI-GATHERING ALL CONTESTANTS MUST BE A MEMBER IN THE B.C. PIPERS ASSOCIATION. Memberships will be available at the Secretary's desk the morning of the competition.

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Chanter | Choice of any March | 10:00 A.M. |
| Novice | Strathspey and Reel | 10:00 A.M. |
| Juvenile | Jig | 10:00 A.M. |
| Junior | Piobaireachd | Not before 10:45 A.M. |
| Sr. Amateur | M.S.R. (submit 2 sets) | Not before 11:00 A.M. |
| Open Adult | Slow Air | Not before 11:00 A.M. |
| Novice Drumming | 3/4 March | 10:00 A.M. |
| Junior Drumming | Medley (3-4 Minutes) | 10:00 A.M. |

The order of play will be posted the morning of the Mini Gathering. New competitors who enter the day of the competition will be first to play that day.

KNOCK-OUT

The remainder of round one and the beginning of the semi finals will be the fare for the January knockout. Neil Dickie will face Owen Reid in the last of the first round knockouts. While four players will seeking a spot in the finals as the second round gets underway. Jamie Troy, P/M of the City of Victoria, will play against the Vice President of the B.C. Pipers', Duncan Fraser, while the other match up will feature two members of the S.F.U Pipe Band, Robbie McNeil and Alison Palmer-Stewart. Competitors please note the warm up requirement for January will be a four part polka. The tunes competitors in the second round are required to play are a slow air, march, strathspey and reel, jig and hornpipe. All tunes, with the exception of the slow air, are to be four part minimum and can be played in any order.

The "planned impromptu" for January is to be a family night. The requirements call for a minimum of three people who must be related in some form or another. (The presentation of birth certificates will not be necessary) However, in order to proceed with this event we must have your entry as soon as possible. To enter please telephone Angus Macpherson at 939-9614. If enough entries aren't received I'm afraid the family night will be going a la Gaelic choir.

Whatever happens it's always a good night. Bar opens 8:00 P.M. See you there!

The Piobaireachd Society

1. The Piobaireachd Society recommend the following list of SET TUNES and CONDITIONS for competitions in 1985.

A. SILVER MEDAL COMPETITIONS

Competitors will select FOUR tunes from this list of ten.

| | | |
|---|--------------|--------|
| 1. The Carles wi' the Breeks | Bk 8. - P233 | K - 48 |
| 2. Lament for Donald of Laggan | Bk 8. - P219 | K - 19 |
| 3. Lady Anapool's Lament | Bk 9. - P277 | ----- |
| 4. Lament for the Old Sword | Bk 3. - P 77 | K - 69 |
| 5. Lament for Sir James MacDonald of the Isles | Bk 7. - P203 | K - 6 |
| 6. The MacKays' Short tune | Bk 8. - P237 | ----- |
| 7. Salute to Donald | Bk 8. - P229 | K - 8 |
| 8. The Marquis of Argyle's Salute | Bk 10 - P278 | ----- |
| 9. The Munros' Salute | Bk 11 - P342 | ----- |
| 10. The Little Spree | Bk 7. - P176 | K - 33 |

B. GOLD MEDAL COMPETITIONS

Competitors will submit EIGHT tunes of their own choosing, one of which they will be required to play.

(These conditions will also apply to the PIOBAIREACHD SOCIETY'S GOLD MEDAL COMPETITION IN CANADA)

C. SENIOR COMPETITIONS

Competitors will submit TWELVE tunes of their own choosing, one of which they will be required to play.

(These conditions will also apply to the PIOBAIREACHD SOCIETY'S GOLD MEDALLISTS' COMPETITION IN CANADA)

2. All the tunes listed above are published in the PIOBAIREACHD SOCIETY'S COLLECTION and as well, where indicated with the letter K in the KILBERRY BOOK OF CEOL MOR. Competitors are not restricted to these settings and any other setting may be played. The Judges may take into consideration the merits of such settings, its authenticity and authority for it.

Competitors are advised to give advance notification should they intend to include any setting not contained in either the Staff or Editorial notes in the Society's Collections.

This announcement is made by the PIOBAIREACHD SOCIETY to ensure earliest publication. It is without prejudice to any arrangements to be made by either the Argyllshire Gathering or the Northern Meeting.

Altogether different tunes known by the same or similar names will not be accepted as alternative settings.

For the Music Committee

J.A. MACLELLAN
Honorary Secretary

ROVING REPORTER

Dear Friends:

I recently had the pleasure of competing in the annual piping competition put on by the Scottish Piping Society of London. This is a very prestigious contest and many Scottish pipers travel down to London each November specifically to compete for the Bratach Gorm. The competition, like so many others in Britain, was sponsored by a distillery. This type of sponsorship certainly added organizational and promotional support (not to mention financial) and perhaps could have applicability in our area. The calibre of competitors was every bit as high as that of the judges which featured such names as Capt. John MacLellan, John D. Burgess, Andrew MacNeil, and Robert S. Brown (son of R.U. Brown).

The major event in London is, of course, the Bratach Gorm. The event is confined to previous winners of the gold medal at Oban or Inverness, the Dunvegan Medal or the London Gillies Cup. Each competitor must submit six piobaireachds of his own choice. Fourteen pipers competed and amongst them were some very famous names indeed. First prize went to L/Sgt. Brian Donaldson, who gave a bold presentation of "I got a Kiss of the King's Hand". Brian, a younger piper, is relatively new to competitive circles but plays with much confidence and excitement. Second prize went to the legendary Donald MacPherson who played his favourite tune "Lament for the Children". Donald, the most successful competitor in piping history, has seldom lost with this tune and was only narrowly edged by Brian Donaldson on this day. Third prize went to Iain MacFadyen who made an excellent job of a beautiful but seldom heard tune "Clanranald's Salute". Iain was in fine form for only a week prior he had captured the Grant's Championship with a tremendous rendition of "The Old Men of the Shells". Fourth prize went to Malcolm Macrae who played "Lament for the Viscount of Dundee". Malcolm is an Australian who has been residing in the Inverness area for several years now.

The other piobaireachd event in London is called the Gillies Cup and is open to any piper. About twenty-five pipers competed and each had to submit five tunes of his own choice. First prize went to Andrew Wright playing "The Red-Speckled Bull". This is a very repetitive tune which is best brought alive only by a piper of Andrew's high calibre. Second prize went to Donald MacPherson playing "Lament for Mary MacLeod". Donald's pipes were beautiful and he treated us to an interesting setting of the tune which included substituting a high A for high E in the third line of variation one doubling, taorluath doubling and crunluath doubling. Third prize went to Iain MacFadgen. Unfortunately, I didn't hear Iain play as I was getting ready to compete myself. Fourth prize went to Murray Henderson playing the very beautiful "Lament for Donald MacDonald of Moran". Murray, well known and well liked in this area, was playing every bit as well or better than he was in 1981 when he gave that sparkling Vancouver recital.

The March, Strathspey and Reel event was confined to previous winners at London, Oban or Inverness and featured about a dozen competitors. As this event overlapped with the Gillies Cup and as I was last to play, I, unfortunately, did not hear any other competitors. However, the prize list was as follows:

| | | |
|--------|---|------------------------|
| First | - | P/M Gavin Stoddart |
| Second | - | Jack Lee |
| Third | - | L/Sgt. Brian Donaldson |
| Fourth | - | Murray Henderson |

I thoroughly enjoyed competing in London and I wish to thank the B.C. Pipers' Association very much for sending me.

Yours truly,

Jack Lee

RECORD REVIEW

Chance was a Fine Thing; a recording of Robert Wallace, is an excellent sample of Rob's musical skills. Recorded live at the Scottish Piper Association Club, Dorchester Hotel, Glasgow on May 27th 1982, the album features several of the "classics" as well as modern compositions. Highlights of the album include a hornpipe and jig selection consisting of the Barlinnie Highlander, Paddy McGinty's Goat, Geese in the Bog and Stuart Chisholm's Walkabout. Side two includes 2 lovely renditions of 2 traditional marches, MacDonal of the Isles and Kitty Lie Over. The recording is concluded with the great piobaireachd composition "The Lament for Ronald MacDonal at Morar's". The recording picks up Rob's finely tuned instrument well and as a live recording it captures the spirit of the occasion. Rob Wallace began piping purely by chance, hence, Chance was a Fine Thing.

Submitted by: Peter Aumonier



THE VANCOUVER LADIES' PIPE BAND FESTIVAL

PRESENTS

THE SECOND ANNUAL OLYMPIA CUP

OPEN INVITATIONAL PIOBAIREACHD COMPETITION



This event is sponsored by the Olympia Brewing Company and will be held on Friday, February 22nd, 1985 at St. Stephen's Church Hall, 9887 Cameron Street, Burnaby, B.C. starting at 6:00 P.M. Competitors will be vying for \$250.00 first prize money and the Olympia Cup.

A commentator will be offering some background history on each competitor's tune for those who have a limited knowledge of Piobaireachd.

Refreshments will be available, so mark this date on your calendar and plan to attend.

Results and prize money will be presented at the Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band competition on Saturday, February 23, 1984 at New Westminster Sr. Secondary School.

DON'T FORGET -- PLAN TO ATTEND THE VANCOUVER LADIES' PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION
BURNS NIGHT - JANUARY 26, 1985 - ST. MARY'S HALL, BURNABY, B.C.
\$20.00 EA. CALL LEW ROSS 588-1354 or BRENDA LOWDEN 228-8560 - BAR SERVICE

VANCOUVER LADIES' PIPE BAND
ANNUAL PIPING FESTIVAL

FEBRUARY 23, 1985

New Westminster Secondary School
835 - 8th Street
New Westminster, B.C.



General Admission -- Free
Pipe Bands -- \$3.00
Ceilidh -- \$5.00

REMINDER: Please forward entries for above which appeared in the November issue to Shirley Mitchell, 7950 Goodlad Street, Burnaby, B.C. V5E 2H9

PUZZLE CORNER

Sincerest apologies from the newsletter staff to Robyn Fraser and those of you who tried the November crossword. There was a line missing! (Phew, saved ourselves another \$10.00!) Anyway the results of the last two Drivel Pursuit contests and the crossword will be found in the January edition.

This month's puzzle is entitled "Soap Opera's". Simply compose a wee story using the names of the ten tunes listed below.

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Irish Washerwoman | Leaving Lunga |
| Jack's Welcome Home | King George V's Army |
| Clumsy Lover | Devil in the Kitchen |
| Pretty Marion | Jimmy Findlater |
| Jock Wilson's Ball | Troy's Wedding |

Prize for the best entry will be two tickets to this year's Annual Dinner and Knockout final.

BAND CHATTER

Congratulations to Jack Lee and Christine Koberstein on the announcement of their engagement. Jack and Christine are planning the wedding for May 25.

Kathleen Graham, daughter of P/M Malcolm Nicholson, is Pipe Major of the newly formed Nicholson Pipes & Drums based in California.

In the "is it catching?" department, Christine Waddell, piper in Triumph Street has announced her engagement. Early July is being touted as the time for Warren and Chris to tie the knot.

Congratulations to the S.F.U. Pipe Band for their New Year's Eve Dinner-Dance. Organized at the last minute, a good crowd was in attendance to bring in the New Year. Once again Stewart Macpherson proved his skill at door prizes picking up dinner for two at Cloud Nine.

-
- Wanted to buy - Kilt, belt and plain leather sporran for teenage boy
(5' -3" - 26" waist)
Telephone: 263-8936
- Set of bagpipes, suitable for beginner.
Telephone: 420-7390

