

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



#223

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

JULY - AUGUST 1985

B.C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER

Published by the British Columbia Pipers' Association

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The B.C. Pipers' Newsletter is published monthly at 351 Dartmoor Drive, Coquitlam, British Columbia, V3K 5R6 and distributed to all members. Address communications concerning the Newsletter to the above address. All other communications should be sent to Mrs. M. MacKinnon, Secretary, 6959 Halligan Street, Burnaby, B.C. V5E 1R4.

EDITOR	Angus Macpherson
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JULY 1985

NO. 223

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EDITORIAL

Arguably one of the biggest events of highland games is the pipe band contest. Yet at many of our games the bands appear to be an afterthought. Not in fact, of course, but examine some of the treatment the bands have received this season alone. We'll be fair to everyone and start with our own Annual Gathering. The prize money for first place Grade I at the Gathering is \$400.00, and that's for ten people (mini bands). An open solo player can win \$200.00 for first in piobaireachd, \$100.00 for first in M.S.R. and a further \$75.00 for the jigs. In addition he or she would also win the aggregate which is an airfare to Scotland. The next event on the calendar was Nanaimo, where the lower grade results were announced during the Grade I contest. Victoria had no announcement period. No announcement to introduce the bands and no announcement for the results. In Bellingham, of course, the contest was so late that nobody was left to watch. In Vancouver bandsmen were required to pay admission to the grounds. Kelowna had no announcement of the results and Portland wouldn't release the master point sheets to the individual bands. In addition to the above, some contests have adopted a policy of awarding prize money to one less band than entered. In other words our three Grade I bands play and only two get prize money. Ditto for Grades II and III. The Vancouver Ladies' had an experience in Portland about five years ago. They were the only Grade II band to attend and as such they were awarded second place prize money. They weren't even presented with the trophy! These are just a few observations I have noted. Everyone has their own list of horror stories. And to top it all off, the system for judging bands is so antiquated it invites errors and quite often does.

The purpose is not simply "games bashing" or to note the complete absence of the Western Pipe Band Association in any games matters over the past few years, but rather to use, promote and sell the bands at the various games.

For instance, Victoria on the long weekend is chock full of tourists. Tourists who want to see a corner of Britain. Have the bands parade in front of the Empress Hotel at Noon the day of the games and draw these people back to the park. July 1st weekend in Vancouver is the same story. Send the bands to Gastown, Granville Island, Stanley Park, etc., etc., etc., the night before and the day of the games. Use the bands to more advantage during the games. Let's have an M.S.R. and Medley event for Grade I at every contest. Let's face it, for a band player five to seven minutes is a very short time considering he's usually at the games for the better part of the day. Considering travel expenses, and practice time, playing two events makes a lot of sense. Allow the lower grade bands to play up a grade if they wish. In other words a Juvenile band would play in their own class and then come back and play Grade III. Apart from presenting more performances for the spectators it gives the lower grade bands a chance to gauge themselves against the next class. Use the bandsmen to judge some of the solo events. This way the games will be finished at a decent hour and the judging costs for the organizers a little less.

The standard statement from a games' organizer is that pipe bands are nothing but a drain on the coffers. That statement is probably true under the current state of affairs. It can be changed quite easily. We've got some of the best pipe bands in the world right at our doorstep. Let's use them!!

Angus Macpherson

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Friends:

First of all let me thank you all very much for your kindness on my first visit to Vancouver. Especially to Ian and Mary MacKinnon for sharing their home with me for the ten days I was there. It was a tremendous experience to visit such a lovely city and it's surrounding areas, most impressive indeed.

Dealing with the reason for my visit, judging the piping at the B.C. Pipers' Annual Gathering. I was really impressed with the very good standard of playing throughout the different age groups that I adjudicated. In the amateur grade, I was pleasantly surprised by the good standard of finger technique, and phrasing of the tunes. It says a great deal for the excellence of the teaching they have been receiving. Possibly my only criticism here would be in the standard of the instruments, which were a bit below par. (prize winners not included in this comment)

In so far as the Open Contest is concerned, I thoroughly enjoyed the three events, possibly the piobaireachd, most of all. Especially Jack Lee's rendering of "Scarce of Fishing", a most pleasing performance on an excellent bagpipe. The M.S.R. competition contained many fine performances also, but I think Jamie Troy should get a special mention for playing such a marathon selection, indeed a test of stamina.

On Saturday evening we had the miniature pipe band contest, another well organized competition. I must say the competitors came fast and furious, hardly giving you time to fill in the points sheet. The lower grade bands should take a leaf out of the Simon Fraser University Pipe Band's book. It was one of the finest miniature band performances I've heard in a long while. (Look out Scottish bands).

Going back to the subject of point sheets, I do not like the way the total number of points are subdivided into five subsections. This causes confusion for the adjudicator, and takes his mind off the real reason he is out there for. That is to compare one band against the other with a clear mind. Well nigh impossible with the present system of points allocation. One figure at the bottom of the sheet would be suffice.

Congratulations to the B.C. Pipers in running an excellent competition. It was most enjoyable having such a distinguished piper as John MacDougall as my co-judge.

Thank you all once again.

Yours sincerely,

Ian McLellan

Dear Sir:

One of the comments in games editorials referred to two of the same Judges as Nanaimo; another mistake by the organizers of Bellingham. On the whole I find the Editorials and comments in the Newsletters to be fair and constructive in criticism.

However, I would like to say a few words in support of that much maligned minority "The Judges".

Being one the the Judges that has appeared at two games I would like to make a couple of very salient points that get overlooked in generalities:

1. In Nanaimo, e.g. I judged Novice Strathspey & Reel and Juvenile Strathspey & Reel. Another Judge did the Marches for these classes.

It is amazing to note the similarity of names in the results - no collusion, no talking between Judges, no secret signals. These competitions were happening simultaneously.

2. I did not happen to judge either of these events in Victoria or Bellingham, yet one sees some of the same names appearing in the prize list.

I for one find it quite heartening to look at results from different Judges on different days and see a very strong element of consistency considering that drones stop, chanters choke, fingers forget and most of all the Judges are mere mortals.

Sincerely,

Ian O. MacKinnon

Caledonian Club of San Francisco

Organized November 24, 1866 Incorporated August 26, 1871

1750 Clay Street

San Francisco, California 94109

Dear Fellow Bandsmen:

I take this opportunity to inform you of two changes in management of the 120th Caledonian Games.

With a sense of loss, the Games Committee accepts and respects the decision of past-chief John Dickson not to continue his role as Games Co-ordinator. We thank "Mr. Games" for the incalculable hours of dedication required to produce one of the greatest Highland Gatherings in the world. The Caledonian Games as we know it today is a reflection of his commitment. He will be missed.

Chief James Hamilton will assume his responsibility of Games Co-ordinator for 1985. Any questions or other correspondence may be addressed to him at:

2701 Crestmoor Drive,
San Bruno, California 94066



"Jimmy" brings many years of Caledonian Club involvement and professional show-business experience to his new-found duties. We wish him good luck and the continued support of all those involved.

On a similar note, I regret to announce that Bill Merriman has decided not to continue as Piping and Drumming Chairman for the Caledonian Games this year. Anyone of us involved in pipebands for any length of time will know the contributions Bill has made to pipebands. His knowledge, experience, and contribution will be a hard act to follow.

Based on 25 years of competition-pipeband experience "in the ranks" and administrative positions held, the Caledonian Club of San Francisco has asked me to take over this ambitious task for the forthcoming 120th Annual Gathering. I ask for your patience and support during this year of transition. I also look forward to your comments and questions. Please address all inquiries regarding piping, drumming, and band contests to me at the following address:

John M. Biggar,
1128 Reinclaud Court,
Sunnyvale, California. 94087

Sincerely yours,

John M. Biggar



Office of the Cultural Heritage Advisor

Box 15
Suite 252 — 800 Hornby Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6Z 2C5

Phone: (604) 660-2395
ZENITH 2863

Office Hours:
Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Below are two matters which require your attention:

1. EXPO 86 AMATEUR PERFORMING GROUP APPLICATION

Expo 86 is looking for high quality groups, including band, choral, instrumental, orchestral and folkloric ensembles, to perform on site in Vancouver from May 2 to October 13, 1986. Locations include the covered Plaza of Nations, the theme plazas throughout the site, and the daily parade.

If your organization has a group which would like to be considered for performances at the 1986 World Exposition, forms should be obtained from the above address and returned, together with the relevant back-up material. A reply can be expected within 6-8 weeks after receipt, and if chosen, your group will receive a letter of confirmation and a detailed information kit.

2. OFFICE OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE ADVISOR

It would be appreciated if you could complete the questionnaire and return it to the office of the Cultural Heritage Advisor (above address) at your convenience. This will enable us to keep you informed about possible forthcoming festivals.

Enrico A. Diano

LAST MONTH IN AND AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

LADIES OF THE SIXTIES REUNION

The "Ladies of the Sixties" (members of the Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band during the 1960's) held a reunion on Saturday, June 29th, 1985. Coincidentally, sixty ex-members, including some of their mothers met at the Best Western Hotel in Burnaby, B.C. for a social hour followed by a smorgasbord dinner.

Members of the band who travelled to Scotland in 1964 plus all those who were members through to the Scotland trip in 1969 had a wonderful time getting reacquainted with old friends. Out-of-town guests travelled from Victoria, Courtenay, Vanderhoof, 100 Mile House and some came from as far as Alberta, Manitoba and Nova Scotia just for the evening.

The evening was filled with two film shows from 1964 and 1969, "speeches" by Katie Forsyth, Robyn Quakenbush and Laurie Robson, impromptu piping, drumming and dancing and the highlight of the evening was a slide show presented by Theresa McErlean which took those present from tears to laughter and a great deal of good times to be remembered.

Saturday night's function, which broke up about 1:00 a.m. for most was followed by a family picnic on Sunday at New Brighton Park in Vancouver. Against a backdrop of the North Shore Mountains, a good time was had by all. The committee for the reunion were especially pleased that the present Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band came to the picnic and delighted everyone with their excellent entertainment.

We were very pleased to see such a good response over the weekend's festivities and perhaps when the word is passed to those who were not able to attend, even more will be attracted to the next reunion.

Submitted by: Janice MacDonald

B.C. HIGHLAND DANCING ASSOCIATION HIGHLAND GAMES

JUNE 30, 1985

There's good luck, bad luck and no luck at all. Unfortunately, the members of the B.C. Highland Dancing Association, who organized the Vancouver Games, experienced the third category. At the time of writing all sorts of records have been set for this incredible hot and sunny weather we've been enjoying. In the past five weeks we've had only one day of rain. You guessed it, on the day of the Vancouver Games.

Despite this unfortunate setback, the piping and pipe band contests were run very smoothly with nine platforms for solo piping alone. The pipe band contest started shortly after 1:00 and the prizes distributed just after 3:00 P.M. at a massed parade of bands. A highlight of the day was the appearance of Andrew Wright behind the bench. Andrew was enroute to Coeur d'Alene as an instructor for the piping school and judged the open piobaireachd as well as the pipe band competition.

Unfortunately, the absence of the dancers and their attendant spectators put a bit of a damper on the Games as if the rain didn't do a good

enough job. One realizes the danger of dancing on slippery surfaces, but in the age of high technology surely something can be devised to allow dancers to compete outdoors under rainy skies. Apart from the added expense of securing covered facilities, moving the dancing indoors deprives the Games of an important part of the overall spectacle.

Congratulations to President Don Rankin and Piping Chairman Frank Stephen for an extremely well organized competition. Special thanks to Terry Lee and Robbie McNeil who, apart from offering to judge free of charge, donated the prize money for the Grade I M.S.R. Event.

RESULTS

NOVICE - 2/4 MARCH

1. Neil MacDonald
2. Campbell Stafford
3. Pat Hannigan
4. Jennifer Ginter
5. James Blakey
6. Allison Flack

NOVICE - SLOW AIR

1. Campbell Stafford
2. Jennifer Ginter
3. Chris Gilbertson
4. James Blakey
5. Shelly Anderson
6. Lyne Irving

JUNIOR - 2/4 MARCH

1. Bonnie McKain
2. Michelle Langston
3. Graeme Savage

JUVENILE - 2/4 MARCH

1. Lenna Clark
2. Tamara Stafford
3. Kathy MacLeod
4. Paul Nailen

JUVENILE - S. & REEL

1. Paul Nailen
2. Norma MacLeod
3. Heather MacDonald
4. Kathy MacLeod

JUNIOR - JIG

1. Graeme Savage
2. Julie Main
3. Steve Raymer

SR. AMATEUR - MARCH

1. Robert MacLeod
2. Bruce Woodley
3. Shauna Stephen

SR. AMATEUR - MEDLEY

1. Robert MacLeod
2. Shauna Stephen
3. Bruce Woodley

SR. AMATEUR - PIOBAIREACHD

1. Robert MacLeod
2. Bruce Woodley
3. Bill McDowall

PROFESSIONAL - MARCH

1. Andrew Bonar
2. James Troy
3. Peter Aumonier

PROFESSIONAL - JIGS

1. Andrew Bonar
2. Peter Aumonier
3. James Troy

PROFESSIONAL - PIOBAIREACHD

1. James Troy
2. Peter Aumonier
3. Darleen Miharija

OPEN ADULT - MARCH

1. Bill Patterson
2. Archie McAffer
3. Jim Ahara

OPEN ADULT - S. & REEL

1. Jim Ahara
2. Jim Wilson
3. John Greig

JR. DRUMMING - M.S.R.

1. Carol McDodnald
2. Glenn Wright

PROF. DRUMMING - M.S.R.

1. William McErlean

PROF. DRUMMING - MEDLEY

1. William McErlean

AMATEUR DRUMMING - MEDLEY

1. Rick Miharija

NOVICE DRUMMING - MARCH

1. Allen MacInnes
2. Gregory Gibson

	<u>PIPE BANDS</u>	<u>MEDLEY</u>	<u>M.S.R.</u>
Grade I -	1. Simon Fraser University Pipe Band 2. City of Victoria Pipe Band 3. Triumph Street Pipe Band		1. City of Victoria 2. Triumph Street
Grade II -	1. City of Seattle Pipe Band 2. Sir John A. MacDonald Society Pipe Band		
Grade III -	1. White Spot Pipe Band		
Grade IV -	B.C. Junior Pipe Band		

JUDGES FOR THE DAY

Piping
Andrew Wright - Bands
Ian MacKinnon
Angus MacLeod - Bands
Bruce Topp - Bands

Special thanks to members of Simon Fraser University Pipe Band for assisting with the judging as well.

Drumming
Gordon Anderson

INTERIOR HIGHLAND DANCING ASSOCIATION - KELOWNA, B.C.

JULY 13, 1985

Weather, of the inclement variety, is not something the organizers of the Kelowna Games have to worry about. Ideal conditions were the order of the day for the second year in a row. A constant breeze and a beer garden helped keep the proceedings pleasant for participants and spectators alike. Piping organizers Shelley Vanston and Lori Larsen, along with Donald and Ishabel Ross did an excellent job in running the solo and pipe band events. The dancing, however, ran into overtime and for this reason there was no massed bands at the end of the day. Instead, the results were circulated in the beer tent. This, along with the fact that only beer and wine were available at the ceilidh were the only two criticisms of an otherwise good day. A nice little crowd was on hand for most of the day and the facilities, despite a lack of shade, were excellent.

Apparently the I.H.D.A. will be moving the Games back to Penticton for the next year at least. Either way, they'll get the support from the Coast as this has certainly become the highlight of the "local" circuit.

RESULTS

CHANTER CLASS

1. Scott Larson
2. Duncan MacInnes
3. Kevin Ball
4. Angus Wilson

NOVICE - SLOW AIR

1. Jennifer Ginter
2. Campbell Stafford
3. Andrew McTaggart
4. Allison Flack
5. Lyne Irving

NOVICE - 2/4 MARCH

1. Campbell Stafford
2. Jennifer Ginter
3. Allison Flack
4. Doug Bird

JUVENILE - 2/4 MARCH

1. Kathy MacLeod
2. Heather MacDonald
3. Tamara Stafford
4. Paul LaPorte

JUNIOR 6/8/JIG

1. Richard Hamilton
2. Michelle Langston
3. Bonnie McKain
4. Julie Main

PROFESSIONAL - M.S.R.

1. Andrew Bonar
2. Steve Geddes
3. Darleen Micharija

JUNIOR - M.S.R.

1. Carol MacDonald
2. Diane Gordon
3. Glen Wright

JUVENILE S. & REEL

1. Kathy MacLeod
2. Heather MacDonald
3. John C. Ginn
4. Todd Sinclair

SENIOR AMATEUR - MS.R.

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

PROFESSIONAL - MEDLEY

1. Andrew Bonar
2. Jamie Troy
3. Steve Geddes

SENIOR AMATEUR - MEDLEY

1. Rick Miharija
2. Karen Hinchey

JUNIOR - 2/4 MARCH

1. Richard Hamilton
2. Julie Main
3. Michelle Langston
4. Bonnie McKain

SENIOR AMATEUR - JIG/H-PIPE

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

NOVICE DRUMMING - MARCH

1. Douglas Teather
2. Colleen MacPherson
3. Gregory Gibson

PROFESSIONAL - M.S.R.

1. Scott Robertson
2. Richard Nailen
3. Bill Saul

PIPE BANDS

Grade I -

1. Simon Fraser University Pipe Band
2. City of Victoria Pipe Band
3. Triumph Street Pipe Band

Grade II -

1. Sir John A. MacDonald Society Pipe Band
2. Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band

Grade III -

1. White Spot Pipe Band
2. Kamloops Legion Pipe Band

Grade IV -

1. B.C. Junior Pipe Band

JUDGES FOR THE DAY

Piping

Jimmie Hardie
Angus Macpherson - Bands
Ian MacDonald - Bands
Sandy Reid - Bands
Warren Fells

Drumming

Davie Bruce

THE BANNER OF THE MOUNTAINS

The Banner of the Mountains was held once again in conjunction with Coeur d'Alene piping school on July 7th. On hand to judge the event were both Evan McRae and Andrew Wright. There were a good dozen players on hand, to all endure the test of not only playing a solid piobaireachd, but to handle the effects of the extremely hot dry weather on the pipe, as the temperature stayed close to 100 degrees all afternoon. The eventual winner of the Banner was Ian Whitelaw, who had by far the best of both worlds on pipe and through music. The competition was keen as there were no break-downs, and as many of the competitors concentrate primarily on this classic form of music. As for myself, I enjoyed competing in the event, especially with such a splendid panel of judges and encourage other local professionals to attend next year.

Submitted by: Cheryl L. Taylor

PORTLAND HIGHLAND GAMES

JULY 20, 1985

Once again a cloudless sky prevailed for the Portland Games. The morning festivities included classes holding an excellent number of competitors. Like all highland gatherings, the band contests highlighted the afternoon. In the Junior band category, B.C. Junior put on a splendid performance, playing an impressive number of players with a great future. Grade III held the largest number of entries - 8. The winner of this grade was Clan MacLeay. Grade II was won by the City of Seattle, currently working towards the Chicago Games. The highlight event, the Grade I band contest, was a classic duo between City of Victoria and Triumph Street. The winner was Triumph Street, who also collected best drum section and bass drummer.

The evening festivities blended a great live band, some old fashion country dancing (featuring Duncan Fraser and Donald McMillan) and a refreshing show by the guest band, The Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band. The show brought back some of the most impressive qualities of the band, with an excellent display of precision marching, music and highland dancing. The evening wound down with the re-birth of the Triumph Street D.D. Lemar can-can line. With that, brought to an end a long day of memorable events.

Submitted by: Cheryl L. Taylor

RESULTS

NOVICE - 2/4 MARCH

1. Campbell Stafford
2. Patrick Lindsay
3. Donald McInnis
4. William Morton
5. Geoff Higgins

NOVICE - SLOW AIR

1. Campbell Stafford
2. Patrick Lindsay
3. Glen Jorgensen
4. Jennifer Ginter
5. Lyne Irving

JUVENILE - 2/4 MARCH

1. John Ginn
2. Leslie MacKay
3. Paul Nailen
4. Norma MacLeod
5. C. McLennan

JUVENILE - S. & REEL

1. A. MacDonald
2. John Ginn
3. Norma MacLeod
4. Frank Tomassetti

JUNIOR - S. & REEL

1. Bonnie McKain
2. Graeme Savage
3. Richard Hamilton

SR. AMATEUR - S. & REEL

1. Bruce Woodley
2. Shaunna Stephen
3. Charles Zittle
4. Patrick Connelly

PROFESSIONAL - MARCH

1. Dan Diessner
2. Warren Fells
3. Colin Gemmel
4. Cheryl Taylor

NOVICE DRUMMING

1. Julie Preger
2. David Webster
3. Allan MacInnis

PROFESSIONAL DRUMMING

1. Willie MacErlean
2. Rob McKendrick

JUVENILE - SLOW AIR

1. John Ginn
2. Norma MacLeod
3. Paul Nailen
4. Leslie MacKay
5. Dee Dee Ross

JUNIOR - SLOW AIR

1. D. Maxwell
2. Michelle Langston
3. Richard Hamilton

SR. AMATEUR - PIOBAIREACHD

1. Bruce Woodley
2. Charles Zittle
3. R. Bitcon

PROFESSIONAL - J/HORNPIPE

1. Ian Whitelaw
2. Steve Geddes
3. Duncan Fraser
4. Jimmie Hardie

JUNIOR DRUMMING

1. Carol MacDonald

JUNIOR - 2/4 MARCH

1. Bonnie McKain
2. Richard Hamilton
3. Heather MacDonald

SR. AMATEUR - 2/4 MARCH

1. Bruce Woodley
2. Charles Zittle
3. Shaunna Stephen
Patrick Connelly Tie

PROFESSIONAL - PIOBAIREACHD

1. Colin Gemmel
2. Alan Walters
3. Ian Whitelaw

PROFESSIONAL - S. & REEL

1. Steve Geddes
2. Ian Whitelaw
3. Warren Fells
4. James Troy

AMATEUR DRUMMING

1. Rick Miharija
2. Stephen Rooklidge
3. Karen Hinchey

PIPE BANDS

Grade I -

1. Triumph Street Pipe Band
2. City of Victoria Pipe Band

Grade II -

1. City of Seattle Pipe Band
2. Prince Charles Pipe Band
3. Sir John A. MacDonald Society Pipe Band

Grade III -

1. Clan MacLeay
2. Prince Charles Pipe Band
3. Oregon National Guard

Juvenile -

1. B.C. Junior Pipe Band

FOUND & WANTED ITEMS

FOUND: A practice chanter at Burnaby North School following one of last season's mini gatherings. Call Angus Macpherson at 939-9614.

WANTED: A good set of bagpipes reasonably priced is required for a beginner. Call Judy Wilson at 596-5562.

* * * * *

NEXT MONTH IN AND AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

39th PACIFIC NORTHWEST INTERNATIONAL SEATTLE SCOTTISH HIGHLAND GAMES

If the local circuit could attract as many Grade I and Grade II bands as the number of words in the above title we'd all be in great shape. Seriously though, the organizers of this year's event to be held in Everett seem to be doing just that. First place Grade I is \$500.00 U.S. and this year a new event, drum corps, offers \$150.00 minimum first place. Once again the open piobaireachd will be held on the Friday night at the V.F.W. Hall, and the usual slate of amateur piping and drumming is on tap.

Everett Memorial Stadium

-

Saturday, August 10th.

BANFF SPRINGS HOTEL HIGHLAND GATHERING
OCTOBER 4, 5, & 6th 1985

Sponsored by Highland Scottish Imports and the Calgary School of Piping and Drumming, this competition is offering a full programme of piping, drumming and pipe band events. Two events are listed for Grades I, II and III bands with \$500.00 offered for first place in both events for Grade I.

Special rates have been obtained from the hotel with weekend packages (includes meals, games admission, ceilidh admission) and average about \$100.00 per person.

For more information please contact Marie Gordon at 80 Brazeau Cres. Calgary, Alberta. T2W 0Z1

KNOCK-OUTS

You've had your holiday -- it's coming up to that time again. Once again the knock-outs will be held at the Willingdon Heights Community Centre in North Burnaby. The SECOND SATURDAY of each month is what we're aiming for, but there may be some changes. For instance the first competition will be held on OCTOBER 19TH!

This year the first round tune requirements will be:

- 3 - 2 part marches (any time signature)
- 3 - 2 part strathspeys and reels
- 1 - 4 part jig

Please mail your entries by SEPTEMBER 1ST to Mary MacKinnon, Secretary, B.C. Pipers' Association.

GAELIC CHOIR

The Gaelic Choir will be holding a dance on September 14th at St. Francis de Sales Hall, Sperling and Balmoral in Burnaby, B.C. Music will be supplied by Andy Arnott and Frank and Norma Anderson. The choir will also be performing. This will no doubt be the choir's last big bash before embarking for the Mod in Fort William. If the last couple of functions are any indication this should be another enjoyable night.

For ticket information please contact Mrs. Arnott at 430-1233 or Mrs. Ross at 526-7905.

JUDGES SEMINAR

Probably one of, if not the most popular topics around piping circles has been, is, and always will be, judging. Our own wee circle is certainly no different. Differences of opinion amongst judges on a panel, between judges and competitors and more popular between judges and parents will never be eliminated and, because of the nature of our art form, shouldn't be eliminated. What we, as the local governing body for pipers, are attempting to do is inject a measure of consistency of the methods of judging. Our avenue for achieving this will be through at least one seminar to be held later this year.

The purpose of this article, however, is not to advertise the seminar but to ask you, the pipers and pipe bands - to share your concerns and views on the aspects of judging you feel require scrutiny. It is also to ask judges to do likewise to enlighten us on what they feel to be inadequacies of the system.

This information (and no names please) will enable the committee to draw up an agenda that should satisfy most of our requirements for the seminar.

It is understood, of course, that no amount of discussions can guarantee a full-proof system but it's a step in the right direction.

Please address your comments to: Aileen Arnott,
4368 Rumble Street,
Burnaby, B.C. V5J 2A1



CALEDONIAN CLUB OF SAN FRANCISCO

PRESENTS ITS

120th ANNUAL GATHERING & GAMES

At The Fairgrounds, Santa Rosa, California
LARGEST SCOTTISH GATHERING AND
GAMES IN THE UNITED STATES

LABOR DAY WEEKEND

SATURDAY AUGUST 31, AND SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 1, 1985
STARTING 8:30 a.m. EACH DAY

FRIDAY AUGUST 30th - 5.30p.m. PROFESSIONAL PIOBAIREACHD COMPETITION WILL BE HELD IN
THE LUTHER BURBANK CENTER FOR THE ARTS. ADMISSION \$4.00. COMPLIMENTARY CHAMPAGNE SERVED.
30 PIPEBANDS FROM THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

INDIVIDUAL PIPING AND DRUMMING COMPETITIONS

WESTERN UNITED STATES HIGHLAND DANCING CHAMPIONSHIPS

UNITED STATES HEAVY EVENTS AND CABER TOSSING CHAMPIONSHIPS

WORLD HEAVY EVENTS TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

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ADMISSION TO FAIRGROUND EVENTS SATURDAY & SUNDAY

TICKETS: Adult 2-Day \$15.00 1-Day \$10.00

Senior Citizen (over 65) & Youth (11 to 16) \$5.00 each day

Children 10 and under FREE

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TICKETS TO ALL EVENTS AVAILABLE AT ALL BASS TICKET OUTLETS.

INFORMATION: (FOR COMPETITORS ONLY)

PIPING: John Biggar 1128 Reinclaud Ct. Sunnyvale, CA 94087 (408) 732-4967

DANCING: George McCombe 5883 Manichetti Ct. San Jose, CA 95123 (408) 281-4989

ATHLETICS: Malcolm Ramsay 3410 Brittan, San Carlos, CA 94070 (415) 591-7830

CHIEF: JAMES L. HAMILTON

SECRETARY: W.H. KIRKPATRICK

THE 1985-86 EXECUTIVE

Once a year the directors of the association have a chance to be recognized by the general membership. That chance comes at the Annual General Meeting when they allow their name to stand for office. As you know there wasn't a lot of the general membership at the last A.G.M. to recognize anybody!

It's time we learned a little about the people that run our Society and gave them some recognition for a job, up until now, carried out anonymously.

PETER AUMONIER - DIRECTOR

This is Peter's third year as a Director since 'immigrating' from Victoria. Although he was introduced to piping in Winnipeg and taught by Garth Neal for a short time in Victoria, his main influence has come from P/M James Troy. Peter has been one of the most consistent prize winners in the professional class, his biggest accomplishment to date being his second place prize in the Silver Medal at Inverness. In addition to his solo playing, Peter has been a regular player with the City of Victoria Pipe Band and was an instructor for the Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band.

Aside from being a prolific contributor to the newsletter, Peter is in charge of the B.C. Pipers' tape collection. It is hoped that this collection will be housed in the new auditorium and available to all members. He is also the champion of the piobaireachd cause on the Board and recently persuaded the knock-out committee to include a piobaireachd of the month next season.

AILEEN ARNOTT - DIRECTOR

This is Aileen's first year on the Board and judging by her enthusiasm will be the first of many to come. As is the case with many of our lady pipers, Aileen's introduction to bagpipes started with a distinguished career in highland dancing. Her first piping teacher was Rae Marie McAuley followed by Theresa McErlean and ending up, as many fine players do with Jimmy McMillan. After a successful tenure in the solo ranks, Aileen retired while in the senior amateur class. The bulk of her time was then given to the Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band and as Pipe Major Aileen led the Ladies' through the most successful decade in their history adding World Champions, North American Champions and Pacific International Champions to the band's trophy case. In addition to her piping duties Aileen organized many band functions including choreographing their famous Burns' Supper routines.

Retiring from the Band recently after fifteen years service Aileen, we hope, will apply some of her expertise to the various functions of the Association. Already she is a member of the knock-out committee and the judging committee.

DUNCAN FRASER - VICE PRESIDENT

Duncan has been active on the Board of Directors since 1977 and has served as V.P. for the past two years. He started his piping career in 1965 receiving instruction from Albert Duncan. The following year Duncan joined the White Spot Pipe Band and remained there until joining Triumph Street in 1973.

Duncan is one of those 'active' pipers referred to in a recent editorial. As well as being a regular competitor in the open class, he is known as the 'voice' of the B.C. Pipers' manning the microphone at our many functions. He's also involved with many committees including the Annual Gathering, knock-outs and mini gatherings. His most notable contribution, however, has been as the B.C. Pipers' representative on the United Scottish Building Committee. The sea of red tape attached to the sale of the old building and construction of the new was enough to try the patience of Job, but thankfully Duncan and his colleagues persevered and we should be in our new home in not too distant future.

Next month three other members of the Board of Directors will be profiled.

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PUZZLE CORNER

This month's trivia contest is aimed at some of our Scottish history buffs who are, no doubt, lurking in the ruins of the Scottish Auditorium. It may even satisfy Michael Gray's complaint that our 'drive' pursuit' was too parochial. If anyone out there can answer these I'll eat my on second thoughts you'll receive a brand spanking new B.C. Pipers' pen!

CLANS QUIZ

QUESTIONS

1. Colin Mor died at the Red Ford in Lorn in 1294. Who was he ?
2. MacKintosh, MacPherson, Davidson and MacGillivray were all part of the powerful clan of cats. What was its proper name ?
3. Where is Cameron of Lochiel always greeted by the ringing of bells, and why ?
4. What world famous clan traces its origin to two brothers, Tormod and Torquil ?
5. To which clan did a great *English* historian and one of the finest modern *English* novelists belong ?
6. What clan has a ruined stronghold on Cormorant's Rock ?
7. Whose was, and whose is now, the brooch of Lorn ?
8. "There is nothing older unless the hills,, and the devil." Which clan's name completes this old Scots proverb ?
9. Which very ancient border family claimed that they, the Pope and the King were the only people entitled to put "the" before their name ?
10. What two clans of Caithness and north-east Sutherland were bitter enemies, perpetually fighting through several centuries ?
11. Which tartan was designed by Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's husband ?
12. To which tartan does the oldest known written evidence refer ?
13. Which clan is known as the race of Diarmid and wears bog myrtle as its badge ?
14. Which is the commonest surname among Great Britain's 1½ million Macs ?
15. Which clan takes its name in Gaelic, Donnachaidh, from Stout Duncan, the friend of Robert the Bruce ?
16. What clan, with the motto, "My race is royal," claims Glenorchy as its home ?
17. Who, from the Gaelic meaning of his name, has a crooked mouth, and who a crooked nose ?
18. Which tartan is made from undyed wool ?
19. Whose ancient stronghold is Eilean Donan in Kintail, one of Scotland's finest castles ?
20. The MacNeills are an island clan; with which islands are they chiefly associated ?
21. What tartans are worn by the Royal Highland Fusiliers ?
22. Which clan is chiefly associated with Dunoon, Toward and the Cowal peninsula in Argyll ?
23. Which important Scottish relic, now at Melrose, did a Douglas take to Spain ?
24. A tartan designed for the Cameron Highlanders blends the tartans of the MacDonalds and Camerons. What is it called ?
25. The Isle of Mull is the home of two branches of a well-known clan; what are their names ?

BAND CHATTER

One highlight of the Vancouver Games was the appearance of the "duelling McErleans" - Willie and Therese. While the event was Willie's pro drumming performance, the highlight was Therese's piping. Who else, after a lay-off of well over ten years, could play Highland Wedding, Inverary Castle and Mrs. MacPherson of Inveran that well and still keep up to Willie? Hopefully we'll be seeing more of Therese, especially in piping competitions.

Word has it that Terry Leonard, ex bass drummer with Triumph Street is currently attending practices with the Vancouver City Police Pipe Band as a piper! Terry started his band career on the pipes playing with the Highland Laddies and Kiwanis Pipe Bands and received his piping instruction from Malcolm Nicholson.

Speaking of the police, Rob Smith, former side drummer with the Vancouver Cops, is now a member of the Triumph Street drum corps. Rob joins his piping sister Kim Chisholm making them only the second brother-sister combination to play in the band. Who was the first?

One more item on the police, Ian Sinclair has taken over as Pipe Major from Andy Perrie! Andy, who recently retired from the force, is still a playing member of the band.

A B.C. Pipers' Board Meeting in Inverness?? Unlikely, but it would be possible this summer with board members Mary and Ian McKinnon, Jim McDonald, Jimmy Wilson, Alison Stewart, Aileen Arnott and Duncan Fraser all planning trips to Scotland. That Trust Fund sure comes in handy at times!

With Lionel Gandy on the injury list, City of Victoria 'borrowed' Sir John A MacDonald's bass drummer, John Nichol, for the contest in Kelowna. Judging by recent performances of "Sir John A" it shouldn't be long before John is playing permanently in Grade I.

Well, he did it again! This time it was the kelowna ceilidh and the prize was a couple of bottles of wine. The man's record is incredible. No, it wasn't for best tenor section (which went to Triumph Street), it was the raffle and, you guessed it, it was STEWART MACPHERSON!!

We hear from the wee folk (well actually Peter Aumonier) that Jamie Troy has been seen riding a bike to work. But it's not the computer aided gadget you'd expect from Jamie, it's his son's BMX complete with streamers. Only in Victoria you say

Jack Gallaher, drummer with Triumph Street when he can make it, has just been transferred to Calgary. Jack, Colleen and Ryan have been in Cranbrook for the last couple of years.

Speaking of Gallahers, brother Bob will be leading the Kamloops Legion Band to Scotland this year. The band will be going on the "S.F.U. Tour" and will be competing in Grade IV. All the best boys!!

Best of luck to the City of Seattle Pipe Band on their upcoming trip to Chicago. Already a very strong Grade II competitor, the band will have its ranks bolstered by guest players Hal Senyk and Bill Hawes.

Rumor has it that Shotts & Dykehead have decided to call it quits for the rest of the season. The world famous band will decide whether to regroup in September.

A couple of ladies bite the dust! Patricia Miharija former piper with the Vancouver Ladies' and Alison Lawrence, ex Lady and currently drumming with Triumph Street, have announced their recent engagements (no, not to each other!) Congrats to the lucky guys.

Can anyone identify the mystery piper who plays outside at night in Port Coquitlam? He was last heard playing Road to the Isles. I'm sure one of his neighbours suggested he take it.

The 1st Annual Beer Tasting Competition was held at Jeff Crowther's penthouse on July 19th. Jeff, a tenor drummer with Triumph Street, had fifty different types of Lager, Stout, Ale, Pilsner & etc on hand for the event. Can you imagine the response from a policeman at a roadblock when told that "but honestly, I only had fifty"!

Scott Robertson, leading drummer with Triumph Street, has just published his second book on drumming. Entitled "Boat Construction", the book deals with the breakdown of beats in different time signatures with a selection of exercises to assist the drumming student. Please address enquiries to Scott Robertson at 253-1743.

While S.F.U. takes to the field in Scotland later this month it will mark the fourth time for piper Mike McInnes. Mike first travelled to Scotland with the Vancouver Kiwanis Boys Band in 1962 under director Malcolm Nicholson. He also made the trip with Triumph Street in 1976 and 1979.

Get well message to Isobel Macpherson. Isobel recently underwent a knee operation and has been sidelined for the past month. Hopefully she'll be back on her feet for the 'new season'.

Re Band Chatter - The only other brother/sister act to play in Triumph Street was Colin and Janet Abel.

Polkemet: The story so far . . .

FORMED by the people in the small mining village of East Whitburn in West Lothian shortly after the cessation of World War I, the first pipe major was Peter Murray from West Calder. Playing mainly at local functions, gala days, etc., throughout the area, it was only after World War II that the band, then known as Whiting Colliery, began to take a more positive part in the pipe band movement.

It was at this junction — when their competition status was that of Grade 3 in 1950-51 — that Johnnie Barnes took over as 'boss'. Under his guidance it wasn't long before fortunes began to change and elevation to Grade 2 soon followed. The Whiting band won the world championship and many other titles in both Grades 2 and 3 and were the first outfit to annex the Champion of Champions award in Grade 2 in successive years — 1964-65.

Upgraded to the 'First Division' in 1966 and due to pit closures (Whiting was no longer viable — where have we heard that statement before?) — the miners of Polkemet agreed to sponsor the ensemble and it became known as Polkemet Colliery Pipe Band in 1967.

Still continuing under Johnnie Barnes, the band figured in the prize lists at many major contests over the years until the 'wee man' retired in 1973 to become a member of the R.S.P.B.A. adjudication panel. Missing the involvement, Johnnie returned to Polkemet as pipe major in 1979, and this coincided with the return to the 'fold' of many of the pipers and drummers from other bands who had been originally trained at Polkemet.

This welcome 'invasion' resulted in two very good seasons. In 1980 our special visitors this evening were fourth in the British, third in the World's, second at Cowal, fifth at the European. In 1981 the list of successes included second in the British, fourth in the World's, a second placing at Cowal and a fifth spot in the European. Add to this wins at the Edinburgh Clan Gathering, West of Scotland, Markinch, Lothians and Borders, Cowdenbeath, Dundee and Montrose augmented the 'major' placings.

The 'back end', which had been taken over by Jim Kilpatrick, in 1980, carried off the British corps championship in 1981, the Cowal in 1982 and the Scottish in 1984. Jim's own personal achievements, which are detailed elsewhere in this programme, include four world solo titles — in 1977, 1980, 1983 and he is introduced this evening as the 1985 champion!

Robert Mathieson assumed the role of pipe major in 1982 and with Jim Kilpatrick's percussion expertise, set about reorganising with new and younger players — a plan which is now producing rich rewards.

Last year saw the Polkemet Colliery Pipe Band really emerge as serious contenders for Grade I honours when, for the first time, were placed in all major championships. . . . Cowal (second), Scottish (third), British (fourth) and sixth place at both the World's and European events. Other wins included the prestigious Pithochy final 1984 'curtain call', Dundee, Balloch and Edinburgh. The drum corps tally was eight wins from sixteen starts. Things certainly augur well for their extensive 1985 competition schedule.

Over the past decade the Polkemet combination has travelled extensively, with visits to the Canadian National Exhibition in 1972/3/4/5/7/8, the Brest Festival in Brittany in 1979, Celtic Festival at Lorient in 1980/82/84, and the band will be returning to Lorient this August — a rendezvous where they have built up firm friendships with the Ulster representatives over the years.

Although sponsored by Polkemet Colliery, not one of the band members is employed in the mining industry. In fact, the last miner in the band was wee Johnnie Barnes! The longest-serving member is bass drummer, Russell Hanna, who has been a 'resident' twenty-five years.

Two young ladies grace the ranks of tonight's visitors from West Lothian. . . . best known of which is Jennifer Hutcheon, one of the few lady pipers in a Grade I band. Jenny, who is a former Shotts member, is also pipe major of possibly the best juvenile combination in the world today, Graigmount High School. The other lady is Nicola Blake, who joined Polkemet from "C.H.S." a couple of years ago.

The affairs of the Polkemet Pipe Band are administered by a small but hard-working committee. Non-players Peter White and Alex Lyon put in a tremendous amount of graft and commitment, along with the most important member of the administration team — secretary Matt Morrow — the 'pen pusher' since 1969.



Robbie Mathieson

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

Following numerous enquiries regarding rates and policy for advertising, the following will apply for the coming year.

1. Members may advertise articles for sale (pipes, kilts, etc.) free of charge.
2. Non-members will be charged \$5.00 for a small advertisement.
3. Business submissions will be billed at \$100.00 per full page, \$50.00 per half page.
4. Other associations, pipe bands, piping schools, competitions (including entry form), etc. will be charged at \$40.00 per page.
5. Advertisements must include fee when submitted.
6. Upcoming events will continue to appear in the newsletter free of charge.

We wish to encourage all forms of advertising but obviously must recover our printing costs. These rates have been calculated on a break even basis as a service to the piping community.

The current circulation of the newsletter to members is 400 copies.

RICHMOND JR. PIPE BAND

A Richmond Jr. Pipe Band will be starting up the middle of September, 1985. Anyone interested please contact Jim Wilson at 277-0352, preferably players not already involved in a pipe band.

submitted by: Jim Wilson

B.C. PIPERS' PENS

The Association now has a small amount of Ballograph Pens. Imported from Sweden, the pens have the logo of the Association imprinted on the barrel. They are available now for \$3.00 each and can be obtained by calling Angus Macpherson at 939-9614.



"What a coincidence — Rob Roy's bagpipes turning up in exactly the same place as Prince Charlie's kilt — remember, the one Elmer Schulz bought last year!"

British Columbia Pipers' Association

AN ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF
BAGPIPE MUSIC AND THE ENCOURAGEMENT
:: OF PIPE PLAYING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA ::



WALTER DOUGLAS - PRESIDENT
KENNETH MACLEOD - VICE-PRESIDENT
JOHN PAUL - - - TREASURER

W. A. URQUHART, SECRETARY
2544 BALACLAVA STREET
VANCOUVER, B. C.

March 1st, 1939.

Dear Member:

The next Concert and Dance of the Association will be held on Saturday, March 25th, in the Elks Hall. Tickets will be available for distribution shortly. Bring your friends and spend an enjoyable evening amongst the pipers.

Your attention is called to the following motion passed unanimously by the Association on January 17th, in connection with the MacCrimmon Cairn competed for at our Annual Gathering.

"That the Piobaireachd winning the Cairn each year be eliminated from future Cairn competitions for a period of four years from that date; the Committee reserving the right to make special exception, if considered advisable, for outside pipers."

This eliminates for 1940 the following tunes: "The Wee Spree," "The Battle of Waternish" and "Donald Dugald MacKay."

A drive for funds by the sale of 4% Bonds by the United Scottish Auditorium Ltd. is now under way. As this Association is one of the original shareholders in this project we are expected to do our part. Any member contemplating purchasing Bonds, which range from \$5.00 upwards is requested to do so through this Association.

The next regular meeting of the Association will be held Tuesday, March 7th.

The Annual Dues of \$1.00 are now payable. You are requested to assist by remitting promptly.

Yours very truly,

Secretary.

