

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



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

SEPTEMBER, 1974

NO. 139

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER

Published by the British Columbia Pipers' Association.

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Table of Contents

Letters to the Editor	Page 1
Last Month In and Around the Association	
Silver Chanter	2
Northern Meeting	2
White Heather	4
Next Month	
Knock-Outs	5
Mini-Gatherings	7
McHardy Retires	8
Triumph Street Band Contest	8
San Diego Games	11
Roving Reporter	
Northern Meeting	11
Historical	
Traditional Notes on Pibroch	13
Promotions	14

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir:

One of my "beefs" for years has been the participation of local bands at the larger parades and functions. They march by in their various numbers (often people missing) and by the time five, ten or fifteen have passed you hear the audience make such remarks as "not another pipe band" or "not that tune again".

I have been watching the Canada Day parade and celebrations at Spokane's World Fair. Winnipeg sent their pipers and drummers and they were massed. What a sight and what a lovely sound!

May I suggest you consider the proposal that in future, where several bands take part in an event, they be massed. If it necessary to have several, that they be massed in such loose categories as: military, senior, junior or mixed.

(Mrs.) Heather Abel

(Editor's Note: Keep your eyes open for Triumph Street at the Grey Cup Parade.)

Dear Sir:

Monday, August 5th, twenty girls gathered to spend the afternoon at a Wine & Cheese Party, the occasion being a reunion of the Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band, celebrating their first trip to Scotland ten years ago, in August 1964.

Of the original twenty-five band members only five were unable to attend, two of which are now living in Sydney, Australia.

The afternoon was spent chatting, looking at scrap-books, slides, movies and even engaging in an informal chanter practise!

Peggy Askeu

LAST MONTH IN AND AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

Silver Chanter, Dunvegan Castle, August 22, 1974

1. Hugh McCallum
2. Donald Morrison
3. Duncan MacFadyen
4. James McIntosh

Northern Meeting, Inverness, September 12 & 13, 1974

Gold Medal

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. P/M James MacGregor | Perth |
| 2. Arthur G. Gillies | Taynuilt, Argyll |
| 3. Murray Henderson | New Zealand |
| 4. James McColl | Long Beach, Calif. |
| 5. D. R. Murdoch | Oxford |

Clasp, Previous winners of the Medal

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Hugh MacCallum | Bridge of Allan |
| 2. Donald Morrison | Aberdeen |
| 3. Andrew Wright | Paisley |
| 4. Duncan MacFadyen | Johnstone |

March, Strathspey & Reel, Previous winners

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 1. Donald MacPherson | Glasgow |
| 2. P/M Iain MacLeod | Edinburgh Police |
| 3. John MacDougall | Kincraig |

March

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. Bill Livingstone | Ontario |
| 2. Duncan MacFadyen | Johnstone |
| 3. Hugh MacInnes | Glasgow |
| 4. Arthur Gillies | Taynuilt, Argyll |

Strathspey & Reel

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Bill Livingstone | Ontario |
| 2. Alan Donald | Lochailort, Inverness-shire |
| 3. Colin Drummond | Bathgate |
| 4. Ian Bruce | Dundee |

Jig

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. Bill Livingstone | Ontario |
| 2. Ian MacFadyen | Kyle of Lochalsh |
| 3. Hugh MacCallum | Bridge of Allan |

TOP PIPERS SLAM 'TAPE SCANDAL'

The very foundations of world piping were racked by a "bugging scandal" at Inverness yesterday.

For on Day Two of the Northern Meeting the man who was announced as second in the gold medal pibroch competition was disqualified - after the judges had listened to a taped playback of the man's tune.

The "secret" playback was made, it is believed, after a complaint about a serious error in the tune of Mr. William Livingstone - all the way from Whitby, Ontario - and top pipers yesterday were scandalised especially since prominent notices outside the competition halls read: "No cameras or tape recorders."

Now all competitors will move up one place in the gold competition.

Said Mr. Livingstone: "I am very disappointed, but accept the judges' decision. I will be back next year."

But other competitors, although shy about giving their names, were not as merciful towards the judges, General F. M. Richardson, Capt. John MacLellan and Mr. Seumas MacNeill.

"It is an absolute scandal," said one prizewinner. "We had no idea there were tapes being used. It leaves a bitter taste and even tarnishes the Gold Medal. What would happen if the winner was found to have made a mistake on a taped playback? The judges' decision should be final, as stated on our entry form."

One competitor, Mr. Andrew Wright, from Paisley, went as far as trying to raise a petition to have the judges' decision quashed - but few would put their names on the list though heartily agreeing with him.

One of the judges, Gen. Richardson, said: "It came to the judges' notice that the player to whom we had given second price had made an error in the course of what all would agree was a well-played tune.

"We happened to have had a tape recorder under the judges' table so the tune was checked and we found we had indeed overlooked a substantial mistake - of an unusual nature.

"In the circumstances, we never even considered covering up our own error. There can be no Watergate at the Northern Meeting. Pipers do not lie to one another - whatever politicians may do.

"I am happy to say that the piper concerned, who had himself felt uneasy about his tune, accepted our decision most manfully and without bitterness.

"He can certainly return to Canada happy in the knowledge that his playing gave genuine pleasure to the judges and to the audience."

Gen. Richardson said he himself did not know a recorder was being used. "I am very sad we have had to do this - but think it is better to have faced up to the fact that we made a mistake and corrected it."

Gen. Richardson, who judged his first Northern Meeting 40 years ago, said the judges had heard a marathon of 39 entrants in the pibroch section although he was not putting that forward as an excuse for having missed what he described as a "serious error".

The piper who originally came third and is now officially second, Mr. Arthur Gillies, from Taynuilt, Argyll, said: "I would have been happier to see things left as they were. Third to second means nothing to me - I have been second in this competition three years. But, if it had been knocking me from first to second, that would have been different. I feel sorry for Mr. Livingstone."

Neil MacPhail

White Heather

This year's edition of the touring White Heather Show has been hailed as one of the best shows ever.

Starring the popular Alexander Brothers this year's supporting cast was probably the best that the promoters have sent out.

Featuring the beautiful singing of Kirsteen Grant and the exciting Juniper Green the programme was complemented by the comic antics of Neil Owen.

The spring show will feature Kenneth McKellar for one show only and it promises to be a good one so get your tickets early.

* * * * *

In episode #3 of the Tim Noot story, we thought our readers would be interested to hear that Tim has sailed safely to Monterey, California.

NEXT MONTH

B.C. PIPERS KNOCK-OUTS

Held 1st Friday every month, Scottish Auditorium

17 trios competing - medley

Bar Service

Impromptu singing, dancing, piping

Admission:

Adults - \$1.00

Members - free

Children - .50

General Meeting & Trio Knock-out

The first knock-out of the season will be held on October 4th at the Scottish Auditorium.

Because 17 trios entered, the first event will feature three trios.

The first event pits two Vancouver Ladies' trios and the Seaforths against each other.

In event B, Triumph Street and the "polis" go at it.

If this year's edition of the knock-outs is anything like those previous, we're in for a winter of top-notch entertainment and socializing.

Mark the first Friday of each month on your calendar and attend the knock-outs!

KNOCK-OUT DRAW

October 4/74

Event A Vancouver Ladies #1
Vancouver Ladies #3
Seaforths

Event B Triumph Street #1
Vancouver Police

November 1/74

Event A North Shore
Port Moody #1

Event B City of Victoria #1
Vancouver Ladies #2

December 6/74

Event A Triumph Street #2
Port Moody #2

Event B Richmond Jr.
Richmond Sr. #2

January 17/75

Event A Jacobites
Richmond Sr. #1

Event B Richmond Sr. #3
City of Victoria #1

February 7/75

Event A Winners of events A & B at October K.O.

Event B Winners of events A & B at November K.O.

March 7/75

Event A Winners of events A & B at December K.O.

Event B Winners of events A & B at January K.O.

April 4/75

Winners of events A & B at February K.O.

May 2/75

Winners of events A & B at March K.O.

Winners of April and May play in final to be held at the Annual Dinner. Date will be announced in a later edition.

Mini-Gatherings

A new concept to the traditional bi-monthly competitions will be unwrapped this winter. In place of the Friday evening meetings in the Seaforth Armouries, two "mini-gatherings" will be held.

The competitions will be conducted in the Scottish Auditorium on November 2/74 and February 1/75.

Novice pipers will be required to play Old Highland Airs, March (any time - 2/4, 6/8 etc.) and Strathspey and Reel. Pipers must play a two part strathspey and a two part reel.

All other classes will play in four events, two in November and two in February.

Pipers please note: Starting with the November mini-gathering and including the indoor meet and all summer games, no late entries will be accepted. The last to enter will be first to play with the order of play being posted at the door and other conspicuous places. Competitors not adhering to the order of play will be disqualified. Make sure your pipes are in perfect order before the day of the competition and this rule will not have to be put into effect.

November 2/74

Novice:

Old Highland Air March (of own choice)

Juvenile:

March Strathspey & Reel

Junior:

Jig Piobaireachd

Amateur:

March, Strathspey & Reel Hornpipe

February 1/75

Novice:

Strathspey & Reel (2 parts)

Juvenile:

Jig 6/8 March

Junior:

March, Strathspey & Reel Hornpipe

Amateur:

Piobaireachd Jig

Entry form on back page. Entries must be in by Oct. 20.

McHardy Retires

When they tore down the old Eaton's building he didn't like it - but he stayed. But when they moved the Birks' clock that was the last straw - Johnny McHardy decided to retire. Well maybe these weren't quite the reasons but the man who has serviced almost every piper in Vancouver over the years is calling it quits. When questioned about the decision, Mr. McHardy said that he would like to enjoy a little more time to himself.

Terry, Mr. McHardy's son, an obvious candidate to take over the business, is considering a career in the police force and is unable to step in.

The business is in effect up for sale and Mr. McHardy is open to offers from interested parties.

However, before deciding to retire Mr. McHardy brought in extra quantities of woolens, tartan, plaques, etc anticipating substantial price increases in Scotland. Before he can sell he has to reduce this extra inventory. McHardy's therefore is holding a STOCK REDUCING SALE!

Many items are on sale at substantial savings.

On behalf of the B.C. Pipers Association, we at the Newsletter would like to express our appreciation for the work that John McHardy has done over the years and wish him all the best in his retirement.

Triumph Street Band Contest

On December 7th the Triumph Street Pipe Band will hold their 3rd annual indoor band contest at St. Francis de Sales School. Starting at 1:00 p.m. a programme of trios, drum corps, individual drumming and miniature pipe bands will be presented.

The miniature band contest will be divided into two categories - junior and senior. Provision has been made, however, for two senior classes (Grades I & II) depending on the entries. Bands will be required to play a 5-7 minute medley of their own choice.

The only addition to last year's events is professional drumming. This event carries with it a \$25.00 first prize.

The bass and tenor drum competition will be judged during the band competition. No entry is necessary.

Following the contest a dance will be held in the evening in the same hall. Admission is \$2.50.

Will all trophy holders from last year please contact Hal Senyk 872-0839 or Angus Macpherson 526-9006.

3 R D A N N U A L

T R I U M P H S T R E E T

B A N D C O N T E S T

DECEMBER 7, 1974

One o'clock

AT

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES SCHOOL
SPERLING AND BALMORAL
BURNABY

Ceilidh following
the competitions.

General Admission: \$1.50

O.A.P. & children under

12: \$.50

For tickets to Ceilidh,
contact: Angus Macpherson
526-9006

EVENTS

- 1. Senior Miniature Bands
- 2. Junior Miniature Bands
- 3. Senior Trios
- 4. Junior Trios
- 5. Senior Drum Section
- 6. Junior Drum Section
- 7. Novice Drumming
- 8. Amateur Drumming
- 9. Senior Amateur Drumming
- 10. Professional Drumming

PRIZES

Senior Bands - \$75.00
 Junior Bands - \$50.00

TROPHIES TO BE AWARDED TO ALL CLASS WINNERS

ENTRY FEE

Bands: \$5.00
 Trios: \$2.00
 Drum Section (Salute): \$2.00
 Ind. Drumming: \$.50
 Prof. Drumming: \$1.50

RULES

- 1. All members of junior bands and trios must be 18 years of age or younger.
- 2. Miniature bands to consist of 6 pipers, 2 sides, 1 tenor, 1 bass.
- 3. Both junior and senior bands to play medley, 5-7 minutes.
- 4. Senior trios: polka, waltz, hornpipe
 Junior trios: 6/8, slow air, jig
- 5. Drum Section to consist of 2 sides, 1 bass and 1 tenor.
- 6. Drum Section to play DRUM SALUTE, without pipers.
- 7. Novice Drummers: March, with piper
 Amateur Drummers: March, Strathspey & Reel, with piper.
 Senior Amateur Drummers: Musical Selection, with piper.
 Professional Drummers: March, Strath. & Reel, with piper.
- 8. Rules used for individual drumming are those laid down by the W.P.B.A.

Order of play will be posted at main entrance the day of the competition.

PLEASE ENTER:

IN EVENTS for which is enclosed.

MAIL ALL ENTRIES TO: Hal Senyk
 #3 - 1222 E. 13th
 Vancouver, B.C.

CLOSING DATE: November 23, 1974.

San Diego Scottish Highland Games

The 1st annual San Diego Games will be held on Sunday, October 13th in Balboa Stadium, San Diego. The promoters give special emphasis to the fact that it will be the first official appearance of the Edinburgh Police Pipe Band in the U.S.A.

Anyone wishing additional information may contact Mrs. White, 2305 Penrose Street, San Diego, Calif. 92110

* * * * *

Editor's Note

It has been brought to our attention that our report on the Ottawa Games was interpreted the wrong way. The "cloak of secrecy" covering the selection process was not aimed at the selection committee but rather at the fact that the majority of pipers were not informed in the proper manner.

We apologize to the members of the B.C. Music Selection Committee for the misunderstanding.

ROVING REPORTER

Our report this month comes from Jim MacDonald, a member of the Newsletter staff. Jim and Janice Taylor are in Scotland on holiday and managed to attend the Northern Meeting.

P.S. Haste ye back! We miss your help.

The Northern Meeting

The Northern Meeting was held in Inverness, Scotland, on the 12th and 13th of September. These competitions are generally regarded as being the showpiece of the piping calendar and this year proved to be no exception.

We were treated to some fantastic expertise played on the most melodious instruments and entertained in the evenings at successful ceilidhs run by the Inverness Piping Society and Mr. Angus MacPherson.

In past years this most respected gentleman of the piping world has himself won the Gold Medal (1924) as well as being an outstanding highland dancer. Latterly, Mr. MacPherson's activities have been devoted to judging piping, and literary works which include the book, "A Highlander Looks Back". This was Mr. MacPherson's 80th year of unbroken attendance at the Northern Meeting.

Canada was more than well represented by Mr. William Livingstone of Whitby, Ontario who succeeded in capturing three out of four first prizes in the non-restricted events. Bill won the March and Strathspey & Reel competitions, and overcame challenges from the leading pipers to win the Open Jig competitions.

In addition to these achievements, Bill was placed second in the Gold Medal. He held this enviable position in the piping world for one evening as the judges altered their decision the following day. Despite notices requesting that no cameras or tape recorders be used in the competition halls, it appears that one of the judging panel was able to produce a tape recording of Bill's tune.

One understands from the local newspaper that another competitor raised an objection claiming Bill had made a mistake in the ground of his piobaireachd. No doubt with the Watergate scandal still fresh in the judges' minds, they decided to admit the presence of the taped evidence and moved the third, fourth, and fifth prize winners up one place. The judges conveniently produced a fifth prize winner.

James McColl, no stranger to Vancouver piping circles, was placed fourth in the Gold Medal event. By winning the Gold Medal in Oban, Jimmy had previously qualified to join the elite of piobaireachd players in the Clasp competition. He was required to learn ten piobaireachd to cover both the Gold Medal and Clasp events and, therefore, refrained from entering the light music competition. Although Jimmy was not on the Clasp prize list, he played extremely well and is expected back in two years time.

Another point of interest at the start of the Clasp competition was whether Donald MacPherson could emulate the record of eight clasps jointly held by P/M Donald MacLeod and P/M William Ross. Unfortunately, Mr. MacPherson broke down but had the consolation of winning the gruelling March, Strathspey and Reel contest - each tune being played twice over. This contest is only open to previous winners of Marches, Strathspey and Reels or Jigs.

In his closing remarks, the convenor of piping, General Richardson, complimented the competitors and everyone who took part in helping to make this year's Northern Meeting such an outstanding success.

A Short History of Competitions for Prizes
Given by the Highland Society of London

From 1781 to 1783 the Highland Society of London, at the Falkirk Tryst, gave Prizes for competition in Piobaireachd on the Highland Bagpipe. In 1783, after the competition at Falkirk, the competitors held another competition at Edinburgh and, like Falkirk, the Prize was a Set of Bagpipes. In 1784, and until 1826, this competition was held annually at Edinburgh, and from 1829 until 1844 it was held triennially. The Prize Bagpipe continued to be the major trophy, but in 1835 the Highland Society of London presented a Gold Medal to be competed for by previous 1st prize winners. This was the only Gold Medal to be presented at Edinburgh and it was won by John Ban MacKenzie.

Some time before 1844 the Northern Meeting had been in progress annually at Inverness and, when the competitions at Edinburgh ceased in that year, the Piping Competitions at the Northern Meeting took pride of place.

Until 1848 the Prize Pipe was the major prize, and in 1849 the Highland Society of London donated a Gold Medal as a special prize, to be competed for by previous winners; thus two Piobaireachd competitions were held. From 1850 until 1886, various societies and bodies, including the Highland Society, presented a Gold Medal for this special competition; the Prize Pipe continuing to be the prize for the ordinary Piobaireachd competition.

In the years 1867, 1873, 1876 and 1888, a further special competition was held, entry only being allowed to those who had previously won a Gold Medal. The successful pipers were Donald Cameron, Ronald MacKenzie, Duncan MacDougall, and John MacBean, respectively, and the prize being the Great Champion Gold Medal.

In 1887 the giving of the Prize Pipe was discontinued, and it was in that year that the Gold Medal presented by the Highland Society of London was given for the ordinary Piobaireachd competition. In 1896 a Clasp competition was instituted, the winner being called the Champion of Champions, and only former winners of the Gold Medal can enter for this prize. At present both these competitions continue at the Northern Meeting.

At the Argyllshire Gathering, Oban, in 1875, a Highland Society of London's Gold Medal was presented for competition, and has been done so annually from that date, and still continues to be an annual presentation to the present day.

Promotions

Novice to Juvenile:

Sue Arbuthnott
Brenda Barker
Eric Bremner
Ailsa Brown
Andrew Burns
Martin Curry
Brian Friend
Graham Friend
Ron Galloway
Red Harris

Ronald Johnson
Tom Jones
Cullum MacLeod
Scott MacPherson
Jean Nicol
Carolyn Paterson
Leigh Shelley
Kim Smith
Heather Thompson
David Winter

Juvenile to Junior:

Rob Cross
Gregory Flavall
Bruce Gandy
Fred Hansford
Christine McKendrick
Donny MacNeil

Val Pederson
Steve Ramsden
Alan Strachan
Christine Waddell
Linda Williams
Alan Wilson

Junior to Amateur:

Rob Barrick
Wade Calder
Graham Davidson
Philip Gordon
David Hennegan

Jill Laurie
Robbie MacNeil
Bruce McIntosh
Bill Wishart
James Wright