



Piping Times

Vol. 18, No. 11. August, 1966.



1/6



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COVER PICTURE :

Duncan MacFadyen,
Oban Gold Medallist, 1966.

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John MacFadyen

- 1964 Kincaig Trophy,
Invergordon
- 1964 Dunvegan Medal,
Portree
- 1965 Scottish Pipers'
Association, March,
Strathspey and Reel,
most points
- 1965 Gillies Cup, London

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Editorial

Another summer season is drawing to a close. The stirring sound of the bagpipe in the open air has been well heard around the northern hemisphere, and now the pleasure of the games and the competitions are all but over. The pipers at the Edinburgh Festival will endure the transition period with a few wet nights, and for the rest of us the turning point of summer to winter will probably be the scaking we will get at Shotts.

Most people will agree that it has been a successful piping season. But after having had almost a surfeit of piping this summer we are tempted to ask, "What's new?" Is anybody going to play something other than the same old march, strathspey and reel stuff?

Admittedly we have ceol mor, and nobody can live long enough to exhaust its infinite variety, but most piping competitions (including band contests) are devoted entirely to the light music—and a very formal, restricted part of it at that.

Not only the same kind of music, but the same old tunes even. What about a competition for unpublished tunes—such as our singer friends have at the National Mod each year? What about barring the ten most hackneyed marches, strathspeys and reels for a year?

A change of music has often been suggested. Slow marches have been tried, but they are no use for competitions, for they test nothing—anybody can play a slow march. Jigs are degrading and hornpipes on the bagpipe are an abomination—giving the same impression as we get from watching an elephant trying to dance a Highland Fling.

What we need is a new approach entirely. Angus MacKay invented the competition march out of thin air, and it's time somebody else revived pipe music by producing something else equally good.

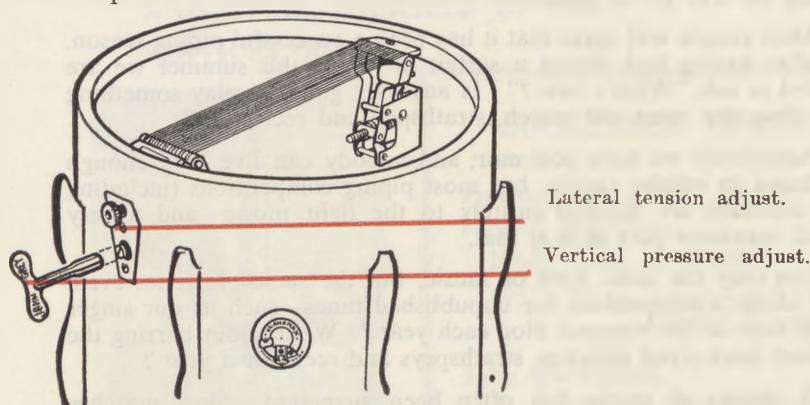
The "Knock-out" competition in Glasgow these last three winters was a glorious opportunity for one of our top players to let us see what else could be done with the bagpipe, but all the competitors churn out the same old selections every time.

The S.P.B.A. tried something the same last winter—giving the competitors a definite amount of time but specifying no tunes—and there were some indications that something good may yet develop if this type of contest is continued.

Perhaps we have to look to some other branch of music or some other type of musician for help in increasing the kinds of tunes that we can play. Angus MacKay borrowed freely from foreign parts. We have exhausted what the fiddle can give us, but there must be many other sources which could supply inspiration to those who would care to extend our stereotyped repertoire.

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Round the Games

Inveraray

JULY 19th

Good weather welcomed the start of the Games season—a happy portent of things to come. A good turn-out made this an enjoyable day for all concerned.

RESULTS :

Piobaireachd—1, Ronald Lawrie; 2, Kenneth MacDonald; 3, Archie MacPhail; 4, Hector MacFadyen.

March—1, Archie MacPhail; 2, James MacGregor; 3, Kenneth MacDonald; 4, Thomas Pearston.

Strathspey and Reel—1, Hector MacFadyen; 2, Willie MacDonald; 3, Ronald Lawrie; 4, Iain MacLellan.

Judges—Dr. Duncan Martin, Tom MacCallum, Iain Y. MacLaren, D. W. Crystal.

Local March, Strathspey and Reel—1, Archibald MacCallum; 2, Lillian Keith; 3, A. J. Wilson.

Under 20—1, Robert Stewart; 2, Lillian Keith.

North Uist

JULY 19th.

Excellent weather in the Outer Isles too, and a record crowd at Hosta Machair.

RESULTS :

Piobaireachd—1, Rona MacDonald; 2, Calum Campbell; 3, William Morrison; 4, Neil MacDonald.

March, Strathspey and Reel—1, W. Morrison; 2, Rona MacDonald; 3, Calum Campbell; 4, Norman Johnson.

Jigs—1, Norman Johnston; 2, Calum Campbell; 3, Neil MacDonald; 4, W. Morrison.

The judge was Robert U. Brown.

Luss

JULY 20th.

The fine weather continued, and 6,000 people enjoyed this popular meeting in almost ideal surroundings on the banks of Loch Lomond.

The only flaw in the arrangements was that Ballantine's presented a gallon of whisky to the leading heavy athlete (Bill Anderson) rather than to the leading piper (Hector MacFadyen) who could have done it more justice.

RESULTS :

Open March—1, Hector MacFadyen, Pennyghael; 2, Kenneth MacDonald, Glasgow; 3, Archibald MacPhail, Glasgow; 4, David Hutton, Grangemouth.

Open Strathspey and Reel—1, Hector MacFadyen; 2, Kenneth MacDonald; 3, David Hutton; 4, Ian MacLellan and Dougald Ferguson.

Local March—1, Matthew R. Stewart, Shandon; 2, J. Forbes, Dumbarton; 3, Colin Lawrie, Helensburgh.

Local Strathspey and Reel—1, Matthew R. Stewart, Shandon; 2, Fergus MacKinlay, Alexandria.

Judges were Hector MacLean, Mr. R. Stewart and Mr. D. Christie.

Mull

JULY 21st.

RESULTS :

Open:

Piobaireachd—1, Hector MacFadyen; 2, Ronald Lawrie; 3, Ronald Morrison; 4, Archie MacPhail.

March—1, Kenneth MacDonald; 2, Hector MacFadyen; 3, Ronald Lawrie; 4, Archie MacPhail.

Strathspey and Reel—1, Hector MacFadyen; 2, Kenneth MacDonald; 3, Dugald Ferguson; 4, Ronald Lawrie.

Local :

Piobaireachd—1, Hector MacFadyen; 2, Ronald Lawrie; 3, Archie MacPhail.

March—1, William MacLean; 2, Robert Beck; 3, Alastair Sinclair (all from Tiree).

Strathspey and Reel—1, William MacLean; 2, Brian Hughes; 3, Robert Beck.

Chanter Playing (Beginners)—1, Anne Sinclair; 2, Ronald Beck, junior; 3, Charles MacKinnon (all from Tiree).

Judges—Hugh A. Kennedy, Hector MacLean, Duncan Lamont.

South Uist

JULY 26th and 27th.

The competitors, with tunes, in order of play, were :

Ceol Mor—

1, Kenneth MacDonald, "Moladh Moraig"; 2, Ronald MacDonald, "The Big Spree"; 3, Calum Campbell, "Donald of Laggan"; 4, Donald Lindsay, U.S.A., "Lament for the Viscount of Dundee"; 5, Peter Forbes, "The Wee Spree".

Marches—

1, Ronald MacDonald, "Braes of Brecklet"; 2, Kenneth MacDonald, "Jeannie Carruthers"; 3, Peter Forbes, "Leaving Glenurquhart"; 4, Calum Campbell, "Charles Edward Hope De Vere"; 5, Donald Lindsay, "Mrs. John MacColl".

Strathspey and Reel—

1, Kenneth MacDonald, "Shepherd's Crook", "MacAllister's Dirk"; 2, Ronald MacDonald, "Monymusk", "Pretty Marion"; 3, John MacCormick, "Caledonian Canal", "Sheepwife"; 4, Calum Campbell, "Lady MacBeth", "The Smith of Chillie-chassie"; 5, Peter Forbes, "Cameronian Rant", "Mrs. MacPherson of Inveran".

Jigs—

1, Willie Morrison, "Goat-Herd"; 2, Kenneth MacDonald, "Caberfeidh"; 3, Norman Johnstone, "Roddy MacKay"; 4, Calum Campbell, "Hammer on the Anvil".

John Steele Memorial Cup (March, Strathspey and Reel)—

1, Kenneth MacDonald; 2, Ronald MacDonald; 3, Calum Campbell; 4, William Morrison.

RESULTS :

Piobaireachd—1, Kenneth MacDonald, Glasgow; 2, Rona MacDonald, Garrvhallie; 3, Calum Campbell, Benbecula; 4, Donald Lindsay, Washington; 5, Peter Forbes, Dundee.

March, Strathspey and Reel—1 and John Steele Memorial Cup, Kenneth MacDonald; 2, Rona MacDonald; 3, Calum Campbell; 4, William Morrison, Locheynort.

March—1, Rona MacDonald; 2, Kenneth MacDonald; 3, Peter Forbes; 4, Calum Campbell; 5, Donald Lindsay.

Strathspey and Reel—1, Kenneth MacDonald; 2, Rona MacDonald; 3, John MacCormick, Glasgow Police; 4, Calum Campbell; 5, Peter Forbes.

Jigs—1, William Morrison; 2, Kenneth MacDonald; 3, Norman Johnson, North Uist; 4, Calum Campbell.

Trophies—John MacDonald Cup (local winner of piobaireachd), Rona MacDonald. John Steele Memorial Cup, Kenneth MacDonald. John Campbell Cup (most points in open piping), Kenneth MacDonald. Fincastle Star (local winner of jigs), William Morrison. Finlay MacKenzie Quaich (local winner of march, strathspey and reel), Rona MacDonald.

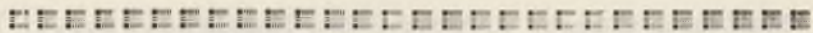
The **judges** were Dr. Iain MacLaren, Edinburgh; Dr. Kenneth MacKay, Laggan; Pine-Maier John MacLean, North Uist; and Roderick MacDonald, Daliburgh.

Taynuilt

Unfortunate for weather; what about a piobaireachd event to help clear those stormy clouds?

RESULTS :

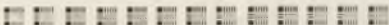
March—1, Hector MacFadyen, Pennyghael; 2, Kenneth



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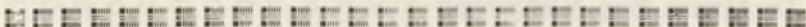
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MacDonald, Glasgow; 3, Arthur Gillies, Taynuilt.

Strathspey and Reel—1, Hector MacFadyen; 2, Kenneth MacDonald; 3, Dougald Ferguson, Glasgow.

Jigs—1, Kenneth MacDonald; 2, Dougald Ferguson; 3, Hector MacFadyen.

Mallaig

RESULTS :

Open :

March—1, John MacDougall, Bucksburn; 2, Wm. MacDonald, Inverness.

Strathspey and Reel—1, Wm. MacDonald, Inverness; 2, John MacDougall, Bucksburn.

Jigs—1, John MacDougall, Bucksburn; 2, Duncan MacFadyen, Glasgow.

Local :

March—1, John MacKinnon, Arisaig; 2, John MacDonald, Fort William.

Strathspey—1, John MacKinnon; 2, John MacDonald.

Caol

Lack of pipers was the worry here (and many other places). Only one local competitor appeared—John MacDonald of Fort William—so there was no local contest.

RESULTS :

Piobaireachd—1, J. MacKenzie, Dunblane; 2, D. Ferguson, Islay; 3, A. MacPhail, Islay.

Strathspey and Reel—1, J. MacKenzie; 2, D. Ferguson; 3, A. MacPhail.

.. **March**—1, D. Ferguson; 2, J. MacKenzie; 3, A. MacPhail.

Local—John MacDonald (only entrant).

The judge was Captain E. Moss, Glencoe.

Lochearnhead

RESULTS :

March—1, Ronnie Lawrie; 2, John MacKenzie, Doune; 3, A. MacLellan, Glasgow; 4, J. MacIntosh, Broughty Ferry.

Strathspey and Reel—1, Iain MacFadyen; 2, Ronald Lawrie; 3, J. MacIntosh; 4, A. MacLellan.

Piobaireachd—1, Iain MacFadyen; 2, A. MacLellan; 3, Ronald Lawrie; 4, Ronald Morrison.

Champion Piper—Iain MacFadyen.

Judges—Dr. Iain MacLaren, Dr. MacKay, Sir James Morrison-Low, Dr. Martin, Tom MacCallum.

Arisaig

RESULTS :

March—1, Dugald Ferguson; 2, John MacDougall; 3, John MacKinnon.

Strathspey and Reel—1, John MacDougall; 2, Dugald Ferguson; 3, John MacKinnon.

Jig—1, John MacDougall; 2, Dugald Ferguson; 3, John MacKinnon.

Judge—Pipe-Major Hector MacLean.

Assisted by Mr. A. MacDonald and Mr. N. Smart.

Cowal

AUGUST 26th and 27th.

A feature of the band contest was the success once again of Muirhead and Sons in the Grade 1 contest, although once again the decision was a very close one. Invergordon continued to show that the top prizes are theirs in the very, very near future—if they can scrape another quarter point for piping.

Only one point was needed to cover the top five bands, which shows what a close contest this was, or something.

RESULTS :

Grade 1—Cowal Championship—1 (89½ pts.) Muirhead & Sons (piping preference); 2 (89½) Invergordon Distillery; 3 (89¼) City of Glasgow Police; 4 (88¾) Shotts and Dykehead, Caledonia; 5 (88½) Whitrigg Colliery.

Drumming—1 (23¼ pts.) Invergordon (preference); 2 (23¼) Edinburgh City Police. **Bass Drumming**—1, Glasgow Police; 2, MacCrae and Edinburgh Police (equal).

Grade 2—1 (85 pts.) Paisley British Legion (piping preference); 2 (85) Edinburgh Transport; 3 (85) Woolmet; 4 (84) N.C.R.; 5 (82) Torphechan.

Drumming—1 (23 pts.) Woolmet; 2 (22¾) Ayr.

Grade 3 (No. 1 contest)—1 (78 pts.) Hoover; 2 (77¾) Kinning Park; 3 (77¼) B.H.C., Grangemouth; 4 (76) Kilbarchan; 5 (73¼) Coalburn; 6 (73) Johnstone; 7 (72½) Girvan British Legion; 8 (70¾) St. Lawrence Howth, Dublin.

Drumming—1 (23 pts.) Hoover; 2 (22½) Girvan B.L.

Grade 3 (No. 2 contest)—1 (75¾ pts.) Bilston; 2 (75½) Mount Carmel (England); 3 (71½) East Kilbride; 4 (70¾) Carluke Caledonia.

Juvenile contest—1 (77½ pts.) Knightswood; 2 (75) 214 B.B.; 3 (74¾) 1st Port Glasgow B.B.

Drumming—1 (21¾ pts.) Knightswood; 2 (21¼) 1st Port Glasgow B.B.



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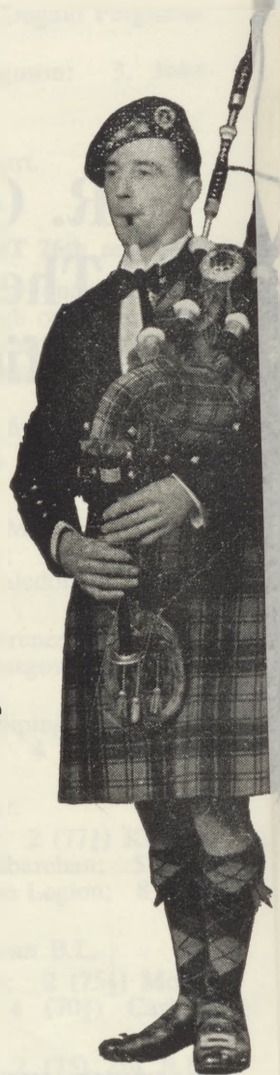
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Round the Games (Trans-Atlantic)

WITH JOHN WILSON

Renfrew

JUNE 18th, 1966.

The first thing I heard when I entered Renfrew Fair Ground was a rumour that the Pipes and Drums of the Canadian Guards had been disbanded. During the course of the day I heard several variations of this rumour. One was that the Guards pipers and drummers were all getting divorces so that they could get out of the army. Another was that they were so "browned off" making roads in Cyprus that they couldn't get out of the army quick enough. I haven't heard so many crazy rumours for a long time. Anyway, the Canadian Guards didn't compete at Renfrew Games and that's no rumour.

The town of Renfrew is booming, and accommodation almost impossible to obtain. I 'phoned every motel and hotel in the place but they were all full up and we were lucky to be able to stay with friends. The weather could hardly have been better and the countryside looked beautiful.

The confined piping got off to a good start and, while the entries were not heavy, the standard of playing was very good. I was gratified to observe that most of the young players tuned their own pipes and made a good job of it.

Only two "B" bands competed, but six turned out for the "A" contest and all played well. The pipe-major and pipers and drummers of the Rockcliffe Air Force Pipe Band must be congratulated on their big improvement. The massed bands played very well too, and a most enjoyable Highland Games finished shortly after 5 p.m.

"A" March, Strathspey and Reel

(Judges: J. Wilson and R. Mackay)—

1 (96½ pts.) R.C.A.F.(R); 2 (95¼) City of Toronto; 3 (91½) Goderich; 4 (90¾) C.G.E.

"B" March, Strathspey and Reel

(Judges: R. Mackay and A. MacNeill)—

1 (92 pts.) St. Andrews; 2 (91) Cameron Highlanders.

Open—Slow March

(Judges: J. Wilson and R. Mackay)—

1 (97 pts.) City of Toronto; 2 (96¼) R.C.A.F.; 3 (95¼) Goderich.

March (under 15) Judge: J. Wilson—

1 (90) G. Hall; 2 (87) M. Wilson; 3 (86) S. Wilson.

Strathspey and Reel (under 15) (Judge: A. MacNeill)—

1 (91) G. Hall; 2 (89½) D. Robertson; 3 (84) Betty Muckle.

March (18 and under) (Judge: A. MacNeill)—

1 (93) R. Worrall; 2 (92) J. Noble; 3 (91) R. Eller and S. Crawford.

Strathspey and Reel (18 and under) (Judge: J. Wilson)—

1 (94) Trudy Campbell; 2 (92) C. MacDonald; 3 (91) R. Worrall.

Open March (Judge: R. Mackay)—

1 (92) C. Anderson and A. Dewar; 3 (91½) Rudy Schael; 4 (91) John Goodenow.

Open Strathspey and Reel (Judge: R. Mackay)—

1 (94) C. Anderson; 2 (93) A. Dewar; 3 (92) Rudy Schaal; 4 (90) John Goodenow.

Los Angeles

JUNE 25th.

California, here I come! We are certainly living in a wonderful age. Fancy leaving Toronto on Friday night, judging at games in Los Angeles on Saturday, and home again on Sunday night. I had to turn down this engagement last year because I was booked to judge at Niagara Falls, but I made it this year and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The air flights were fast and comfortable and my hotel room in Santa Monica was only a few hundred yards from the Pacific rollers.



James MacColl

The games were held in a school stadium with very springy turf, and with every facility for comfort, including sun shades for the judges. The organization was very good and the competitions started at 8.55 a.m. I was given the open march to judge while Mr. Donald Murray of Vancouver judged the open strathspey and reel. Then I took the open jig, and we both judged the open piobaireachd.

The first competitor in the open march started playing at 8.55 a.m. Seven players took part, and the average points obtained was 89 5/7. James MacColl played "Mrs. John MacColl" with beautiful expression and clean, accurate execution on a beautifully balanced and perfectly tuned pipe. Michael Averell played "Charles Hope de Vere" with fine expression and on a splendid instrument. His "tachums" C to A could have been better. James Thomson played "Brig. Gen. Cheape of Tiroran" on another beautiful bagpipe, but the first two parts were rather open and lacked crispness.

In the open jig James MacColl was first with "The Shaggy Grey Buck"—10 parts. This tune is, in my opinion, rather monotonous, and parts can be composed almost ad nauseam. James Thomson was second with "The Loch Ness Monster" and played it well except for a few small misses. Michael Averell was third with an old jig which used to be played a lot for dancers.

Five played in the Open Piobaireachd. James MacColl was worth travelling all the way from Toronto to hear. He played "The

Old Men of the Shells" setting No. 1, and I could find no fault with it whatever. This tune is one of the most difficult to express and to memorise.

James Thomson was second with "Lament for the Only Son". He played it very well on an excellent pipe. In the Urlar the E's before the D strikes were held too long. In the middle line of the doubling of Var. 1 there was a slight squeak. In the Crunluath doubling he did not close the chanter on the B's at the end of each line. Michael Averell played "Mary's Praise" but had a lot of chokes and F and E were slightly flat.

I was pleased to meet quite a number of ex-Torontonians and Hamiltonians, and they all looked well and seemed to like sunny California. The weather was very pleasant; cool and misty until about noon when the sun broke through and made the afternoon perfect.

After supper that night I met Jimmie Yardley, the pipe-major of the San Francisco Pipe Band and we had quite a discussion or argument about the "A" Band contest decision. Jimmie stuck up for his band courageously and eloquently and almost convinced me that I had made a mistake. However, the points I put down on the score sheet immediately a band stops playing, represent my true opinion of its performance, and all the post mortems and arguments in the world cannot change it unless I inadvertently put down a wrong figure (which doesn't happen very often).

Jimmie Yardley knows his piping, and an argument with a piper of his calibre helps to keep me from becoming too complacent or too cock sure, which, of course, can happen to the best of us if we are not careful.



RESULTS OF SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA HIGHLAND
GAMES—LOS ANGELES

Donald Murray and John Wilson

Piping Judges: Mr. Tom Noonan, Mr. John Massie, and Mr. Angus Smith.

Novice, March, under 16 yrs.—1, George MacGillivray; 2, David S. Moyle; 3, Christine Woodward; 4, Ian Kelly.

Novice, March, over 16 yrs.—1, Christopher Hossack; 2, Allan Moffat; 3, Richard J. Foster; 4, William Mahn.

Amateur, March, under 16 yrs.—1, Charles J. Lumsden; 2, Charles Naismith; 3, Andrew Youd; 4, Joseph Green.

Amateur, March, over 16 yrs.—1, James MacLean; 2, Jim Miller;

3, Charles Rosenberger; 4, Dennis Harvey.

Strathspey and Reel, under 16 yrs.—1, Andrew Youd; 2, Charles J. Lumsden; 3, Charles Naismith; 4, Joseph Green.

Strathspey and Reel, over 16 yrs.—1, Dennis Harvey; 2, John Creager; 3, James MacLean; 4, D. A. Tyrk.

Jig, under 16 yrs.—1, Charles J. Lumsden; 2, Andrew Youd; 3, Charles Naismith.

Jig, over 16 yrs.—1, John Creager; 2, Gerry R. Wallace; 3, James Maclean.

Amateur Piobaireachd—1, Andrew Youd; 2, Charles Lumsden; 3, James MacLean.

OPEN PIPING:

March—1, James MacColl (95½ pts.); 2, Michael Averall (93½); 3, James Thomson (93).

Strathspey and Reel—1, James Thomson (87 pts.); 2, James MacColl (86); 3, Michael Averall (78½).

Jig—1, James MacColl (95 pts.); 2, James Thomson (94); 3, Michael Averall (92).

Piobaireachd—1, James MacColl (97 pts.); 2, James Thomson (90); 3, Michael Averall (80).

Band Competition—

1, Los Angeles Scottish Pipe Band (P/M James Thomson);

2, City of San Francisco Pipe Band (P/M James Yardley);

3, Highland Society Pipe Band (P/M James MacColl).

Piping Judges: John Wilson (Canada), Donald Murray (Canada).

Zorra Highland Gathering

EMBRO, JULY 1st.

I didn't judge at Embro this year because the president of the Pipers and Pipe Band Society and I agreed that I should be left off one or two games. I felt that if I judged at them all, people would say that Wilson was "hogging" everything. Now it seems that my non-appearance at Embro caused quite a few moans. This is very complimentary to me, of course, but, as I flitted the day before the games, I was too tired to go anywhere.

EMBRO RESULTS :

"B" March, Strathspey and Reel—1, St. Andrews (93½); 2, H'd House (88½); 3, Ing. (84½).

Judges: J. Wakefield and R. Dewar.

"A" March, Strathspey and Reel—1, St. Thomas (92½); 2, Goderich (88½), C.G.E. (88½).

Judges: J. Wakefield and R. MacKay.

Open Slow March—1, St. Thomas (88); 2, St. Andrews (87);

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3, C.G.E. (85½).

Judges: Messrs. Reay, Mackay and Dewar.

March, 14 and under—1, G. Hall (96); 2, L. Jones (95½); 3, D. Robertson (95); 4, R. Salts (94).

Judge: J. Wakefield.

Strathspey and Reel, 14 and under—1, G. Hall (94); 2, L. Sloan (93½); 3, Gale Brown (93); 4, D. Robertson (92½).

March, 18 and under—1, R. Hilbert and B. Young (91½); 3, J. Graham (89).

Judge: D. Gibson.

March, 16 and under—1, R. Worrall (91); 2, J. Sutherland (90); 3, Trudy Campbell (89½); 4, J. Noble (89).

Judge: R. Dewar.

Strathspey and Reel, 16 and under—1, J. Sutherland (92); 2, R. Worrall (91½); 3, D. Boyle (89); 4, J. Noble (88½).

Strathspey and Reel, 18 and under—1, C. MacDonald (95½); 2, R. Hilbert (93); 3, S. Girling (91).

Open March—1, Gordon Tuck (92); 2, Ed. Neigh (90); 3, J. Goodenough (86).

Judge: R. Mackay.

Open Strathspey and Reel—1, N. Frew (93); 2, Gordon Tuck (92); 3, Ed. Neigh (91).

Open Piobaireachd—1, J. Goodenough (97); 2, W. Grant (94);

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3, G. Neigh (90).

Judge: R. Mackay.

“C” **Group 1**—1, Teeswater Hdrs. (86½); 2, Bruce Jun. (85);
3, Gordon Pipers (79½).

Brantford Games

JULY 9th.

Mohawk Park in Brantford is a lovely spot for Highland Games. The hot sunshine can be escaped in the shade of the numerous trees and that is just where I took position at 9.20 a.m., to judge the piobaireachd competition. Only five contestants played, and not one good performance was given. The three prizes were won by three boys who are practically beginners, and the other two players broke down.

The open march produced some very good playing, with the winner, Ed. Neigh, giving a really excellent performance on a first class instrument. Gordon Tuck and Blair Kerr tied for second place. They both played excellently on fine instruments, but Gordon Tuck was a little lazy in his expression while Blair Kerr held the C near the end of each measure too long.

The “A” class band contest was very good. It was pleasing to see the 48th Highlanders on the field once again and playing well, although not quite good enough to appear in the prize list.



The training of 12 selected players for the 1967 Piobaireachd Society's Gold Medal competitions held at Oban and Inverness will be directed by

Robert U. Brown

Balmoral

during July, 1967, at Invermark College of Piping.

Candidates for admission are required to submit any 2 of the following 6 tunes recorded on monaural tape, postmarked not later than December 15, 1966. All tunes are published with editorial notes in the Piobaireachd Society's books entered against each.

1. “The Prince's Salute” (Book 1).
2. “Lament for MacSwan of Roaig” (Book 1).
3. “The Rout of Glenfruin” (Book 8).
4. “Clan Ranald's Salute” (Book 5).
5. “The Battle of the Pass of Grief” (Book 1).
6. “The Blue Ribbon” (Book 1).

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In the open slow march event the playing and the T&T. were very good and very close. After the closing ceremonies, I was having a welcome cold beer when two of the St. Andrews boys came over and asked what mistake they had made in the slow march. They showed me my score sheet on which I had marked Ex. (for excellent) against the playing, Ex. for chanters, and Ex. for drones. But I had marked 24 points out of a possible 35 for execution. I immediately said that it was my mistake: the 24 should be 34, and we all walked over to the Pipers' Society tent. The official result couldn't be altered, but the true result was changed and I had the unpleasant duty of informing the pipe-major of the 48th that his band was not third. Then Gordon Tuck came over, and I'm damned if I hadn't done the same thing on the St. Thomas sheet. It was marked Ex., Ex., Ex., just the same as the St. Andrews, and 24 points for execution instead of 34. Of course I apologised to the pipe-major of the 48th Highlanders, the R.C.A.F., Rockcliffe, the St. Thomas and the St. Andrew bands, and I must say they were very decent about it and the prize money was squared up. I mentally gave myself a good kick on the rear end. As glaring differences of 10 points are passed without question I'll just have to re-check and double re-check my own points in future. The proper result was—1st, C.G.E. Peterborough; 2nd, St. Thomas; 3rd, St. Andrews.

Brantford Open Strathspey and Reel—1, Gord. Tuck (94½); 2, Nel. Frew (92); 3, Ed. Neigh (91).

Judge: Sandy Keith.

March, 14 and under—1, M. Robertson (94); 2, D. Robertson (93½); 3, G. Hall (93), and Gale Brown (93).

Strathspey and Reel, 14 and under—1, G. Hall (92½); 2, Moray Robertson (92); 3, Gale Brown (92); 4, D. Robertson (92).

Judge: A. Dewar.

March, 16 and under—1, J. Noble (92); 2, J. Sutherland (91); 3, R. Worrall (90); 4, R. Hudson (89½).

Judge: S. Keith.

Strathspey and Reel, 16 and under—1, R. Hudson (92); 2, J. Noble (88), and T. Campbell (88); 4, J. Sutherland (87).

March, 18 and under—1, R. Hilbert (94½); 2, C. MacDonald (93½); 3, M. Emerson (92½).

Judge: A. Dewar.

Strathspey and Reel, 18 and under—1, C. MacDonald (94); 2, R. Hilbert (93½); 3, S. Girling (91).

Judge: A. Dewar.

Piobaireachd—1, R. Hudson (85); 2, Crawford (80); 3, G. Hall (74).

Open March—1, Ed. Neigh (97); 2, G. Tuck and Blair Kerr (95½).

Judge: J. Wilson.

"B" March, Strathspey and Reel—1, St. Andrews (91½); 2, 400 Sqdn.

87 $\frac{1}{4}$); 3, H.H. (87).

Judges—A. Dewar and A. Keith.

“A” March, Strathspey and Reel—1, St. Thomas (93 $\frac{3}{4}$, highest piping points); 2, R.C.A.F. (93 $\frac{3}{4}$); 3, C.G.E. (93 $\frac{3}{8}$).

Judges: J. Wilson and A. Keith.

Open Slow March—1, C.G.E. (94 $\frac{1}{4}$); 2, R.C.A.F. (94 $\frac{1}{4}$); 3, 48th (93 $\frac{1}{2}$).

Judges: J. Wilson and A. Dewar.

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Cawdor Fair

Cawdor village stands on the right bank of the river Nairn, which has cut a deep rift for itself through the ages here. On the left bank opposite the village is the ancient castle of Cawdor with its old world garden. The whole scenery round about is picturesque, the river running through its deep dell and well wooded banks making a pleasing scene.

In the great droving days of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, Cawdor was a place of some importance, for here was held a great fair to which the drovers congregated. With the coming of the railway, the fair languished and died, but as long as the tune "Cawdor Fair" is known, the fair will not be forgotten.

The Gaelic name of the tune is "Ruidhle Cailleach Eachain Mhor". Who this Big Hector was we have no idea. He was probably the hero of some rhyme which we do not have. We have another, however, and here it is.

Ruidhlidh Ceat leis a' ghun mhor,
 Agus seataidh Seonaid,
 Ruidhlidh Ceat leis ghun mhor,
 Agus seatadh Seonaidh ;
 Ars' a' chailleach bh' air an spar,
 Ris a' chailleach bh' air an lar,
 'S ro mhath dhannsinns' "Jacky Tar",
 Ann an laithean m' oige.

The drift and meaning of the verse is that two women are engaged in dancing a reel. Kate is distinguished by her dress. She wore a large gown. The description is evidently sarcastic. Kate appears to have been either before or after the prevailing fashion of the time, or perhaps she had a fashion of her own. In any case the gown was notable. No mention is made of the dress worn by Jeannie, but the grace and precision with which she danced is noted.

The pair are dancing to some purpose and exciting the envy of an old woman present, who remarks that she was an excellent dancer of "Jacky Tar" in her young days. She might well boast about that, for "Jacky Tar" is a hornpipe, and a solo dance, and a most unusual one for a woman to engage in.

"Jacky Tar" was a great favourite in the north-east in other days. "Jacky Tar" is, of course, the name of the tune to which it was tripped. The air is a very old one and its full title is "Come ashore, Jacky Tar, with your trousers on".

There is another verse equally suitable to the air "Cawdor Fair"—

Sud sibh 'illean, cuiribh ribh,
'S mise bean na bainnse;
'S fharr leam fhein na' mile crun
Gur h-i nochd an oidche.

Which means that a bride on her wedding night is encouraging her male guests to enjoy themselves without stint or ceremony, reminding them that she is the bride, and adding that she would rather than a thousand crowns that this is her wedding night.

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

St. Andrews.

How about a series of articles on your interpretation of a well-known piobaireachd? This would, no doubt, bring criticism from other pipers as well as assist others who cannot quite get the hang of them.

For myself, I cannot hear enough piobaireachd—well played—but when I try myself there is something missing. My fingering is all right, or reasonably so, but I cannot get into it, if you understand.

How about a tip or two?

R. B. Brown.

How can you buy Killarney? Or light a penny candle from a star? We don't think anyone could help very much just by writing, but if anyone likes to try we shall be happy to publish the attempt. —Editor.

Dear Sir,

I note in the May issue of the "Piping Times"—which incidentally has just come to hand—a letter from Mr. G. Herz of Sweden stating he has sent you a donation for Rhodesian subscriptions and feel sure I am expressing the sentiments of us all here when I say—Thank you, Mr. Herz, not only for your very kind donation, but the friendly spirit behind it. It is greatly appreciated in this antagonistic world of today. I am happy to say piping is still flourishing in Rhodesia.

With the very best wishes, Mr. Editor, and trusting Mr. Herz will be able to get this message. F. S. Sandeman.

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