

PP.1948.bnd

Piping Times

Incorporating Piper Press

January 2000



Duncan Johnstone
1925-1999

£1.40

ISSN 1468-9634



● DISCOUNT HIGHLAND SUPPLIES GROUP ●

The Millennium Ross Zipper Bag now available!

New Release – World's CD volume 1 and 2

🎺 Bagpipes by:

K. Pettigrew
R.T. Shepherd & Son
McCallum

🥁 Drums by:

Andante
Premier

🎺 Full range

of piping and
drumming
accessories.

Please call in for a tea or coffee in any of our outlets

EDINBURGH

Edinburgh Bagpipe & Highland Supplies

50 Candlemaker Row,
Edinburgh EH1 2QE

Tel: 0131 225 5551

Fax: 07070 712 880

edinburgh.bagpipes@lineone.net

GLASGOW

Glasgow Bagpipe & Highland Supplies

18 Glebe Street,
Glasgow G4 0EU

Tel: 0141 552 1252

Fax: 0141 552 3896

sales@bagpipe.co.uk

ABERDEEN

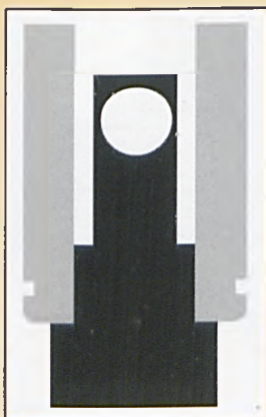
N. Selbie & Co

163 North Deeside Road,
Peterculter, Aberdeen
AB14 0RR

Tel: 01224 735155

Fax: 01224 735155

FREE FLOW VALVE[®]



At last, a valve that actually helps to get air IN to your bag and not just stop it getting out. The no maintenance FREE FLOW VALVE[®] has a huge 17mm internal bore, helping to maximize the flow of air to your bag. Available from your local retailer

K. PETTIGREW BAGPIPES

Experience the unmistakable
sound of quality

www.bagpipes.co.uk

gaelic
of eoinburgh

Quality products at[®]
affordable prices

Piping Times

Contents

Vol. 52 No. 4
ISSN 1468-9634

January 2000
VAT Reg. No. 316 2007 06

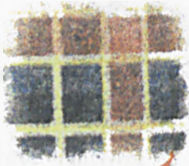
Editorial	3, 4
Duncan Johnstone	5
Life and Times	7
London Championship	13
My Month	21
News	25
Noticeboard	27, 29
Bad Music	30
College Notes	33, 35
Letters	37
Subscriptions	38
History	43
Results	51
Review	57
Diary	60



Front Cover:
Duncan Johnstone, the passing
of another master piper

The Piping Times is published monthly by the College of Piping
Editor: Robert Wallace. All correspondence to:
Piping Times, 16-24 Otago Street, Glasgow G12 8JH, Scotland, UK
For editorial and advertising phone and voice mail call:
0044 (0) 141 334 8803 or e-mail: pt@college-of-piping.co.uk
For subscriptions and distribution phone and voice mail call:
0044 (0) 141 334 3587 or e-mail: college@college-of-piping.co.uk
Fax no. for all departments: 0044 (0) 141 337 3024

Compliments of the season to all our readers and advertisers



A. T. MACLACHLAN HIGHLAND SUPPLIES

Tel & Fax: +44 (0) 1582 727066

E-Mail: bagpipes@a-t-maclachlan.co.uk

Practice Pipes



Practice Pipes are a complete set of pipes that retail for a fraction of the price of conventional bagpipes, however, maintaining a high quality of sound.

The set includes the bag, blow-stick, chanter, bag cover, reeds, and drones (one tenor, one bass).

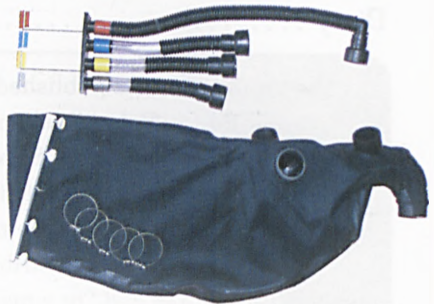
This amazing product has been achieved by using brass drones which reduce the cost by more than five times that of conventional drones.

The reduction in cost has no reduction in sound quality, as the drones are steady and well balanced with the practice chanter.

Ross Canister Pipe-Bags



1999 World's CD
NOW IN STOCK



Piping Times

est. 1948

IT IS CUSTOMARY at this time of year to look back over the past months and reflect. Customary, but not compulsory. We will instead look forward to how we should be directing some of our efforts in the future.

We pose this question: the closing of another century and how much further must piping travel on the road to real respect?

After 500 years of effort we are the musical identity of the nation yet we remain, for the majority, a music-hall figment. The people cannot speak the name without a laugh, a guffaw at the altar of ignorance.

To tabloid newspaper we are a terracing row, a Tartan Army trumpet. The so-called quality national press is not much better. We count ourselves lucky if we get some space in the obituary columns of the Herald or Scotsman.

Radio barely achieves respectability, BBC Scotland's 40 minutes a week *Pipeline* being the sole concession to the bagpipe.

To television we non-exist. The main broadcasters call themselves Scottish, but forget their duty, yes duty, to report and promote the national music. BBC 'Scotland', 'Scottish' Television? They are not worthy of the name.

And if you want a gauge on the attitude that is abroad in parts of our music establishment consider this: Aly Bain, the brilliant Shetland fiddler, has been awarded a Doctorate of Music from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in Glasgow.

No right thinking person will grudge Aly this or any of the other awards showered upon a man who has done so much to popularise the fiddle.

But we say this: when a player, a teacher, a composer, a writer on the great Highland bagpipe, the national instrument?

Will the music establishment mind set allow it to happen? Is it even possible to moot it without raising a titter in the corridors of power at Renfrew Street?

One Scottish Music degree course which includes the bagpipe is progress, but is not sufficient to give the necessary lead to the people and the politicians.

Nor should the Balvenie Medal and a packed hall at Blair – welcome though they are – be enough for us. Recognition and success midst our own small, cozy band of converts somehow only serves to underline the gulf that exists between ourselves and the world outside, and their failure



to give us our rightful place.

We have a lesson to learn from Ireland, from Brittany, from Galicia and elsewhere over the Celtic fringe. It would not happen there. It would not happen there that the television airtime given to their own music was nil, that the serious coverage by their newspapers was nil, the accumulative effect of which was to consign a national treasure to the nether regions of esoteric non-existence, rendering their greatest experts in their national instruments unknown in the streets of their cities.

Why should it be so in Scotland? We have our own ideas but have neither the time nor space to espouse them here.

We do know that we have a problem and it is the next great frontier we must pass, the next great leap forward we must make.

If we are to set piping on the pedestal it belongs, not in our eyes, but theirs, we have to convince music establishment, government and people of our worth.

Convince them that piping is a rich, rewarding source of pleasure for those with the ears to hear it, that it should be respected by those who can't, and fostered by those with power and influence. We hope there is hope at Holyrood.

At the closing of the century how far need we still travel? As far as we must.



RODDY MacLEOD
GOLD MEDALLIST

Providing a full range
of tuition options

SPRING SCHOOL
17th-21st April

SUMMER SCHOOLS
3rd-7th July
24th-28th July
31st July-4th August



DOUGIE PINCOCK
EX-BATTLEFIELD BAND



Instruction and advice from World Class Staff



GREG WILSON
GOLD MEDALLIST



WILLIE MORRISON
GLENFIDDICH MSR WINNER

Forthcoming Events

- 11th February - Recital-Richard Parkes & Brian Lamond
- 12th February - Junior Piping Championship
- 19th February - Duncan Johnstone Memorial Competition
Open to B&C Grade Pipers

THE PIPING CENTRE, 30-34 McPHATER STREET, GLASGOW, SCOTLAND G3 0HW
TEL: +44 (0)141 353 0220 FAX: +44(0)141 353 1570
WEBSITE: www.thepipingcentre.co.uk



COLIN MacLELLAN
GOLD MEDALLIST

Shop & Museum

Mail order service

Subscribe to 'Notes'
our quarterly magazine



JIM MacLEAN
EX-STRATHCLYDE POLICE

Duncan Johnstone – The Piper's Piper

WITH THE death last month of Duncan Johnstone, piping lost yet another great character and contributor to our music. Duncan, who was 74, made his name in every branch of piping. As a player he established a huge reputation without hardly ever stepping on to a competition board. As a teacher he strictly applied the laws of the game, but always with a smile on his face. His pupils loved him. As a composer few will equal his achievement of producing a piobaireachd which can rightly be called a modern classic. *His Lament for Alan, My Son* will live on – despite some heartless comments made about it at the time of publication.

It was because he excelled at every branch of the art that Duncan achieved his Piper's Piper tag and so deserved his Balvenie Medal for piping service in 1996. Everyone knew his ability as a top class piper, his rock steady, though round style, the crispest of fingerwork and an expressive form so west coast that you could almost hear the Atlantic swell crashing onto the machair strand with every off beat.

His tunes, too, were deeply rooted in that culture and are all the better for it.

Yet Duncan held his ability lightly. He never seemed burdened by it. It was as natural to him as sleep. As a consequence he was



Duncan after winning the 'Knockout'.

utterly without pretention and able to do everything with endearing humour. At the memorial service for P/M Angus MacDonald in October, Duncan, obviously ill, braved draughty Glasgow Cathedral. He had just come out of hospital and someone remarked: "Were you in again for the usual trouble Duncan?"

"Aye, that's right," he said, "trying to sort out my crunluath."

Our thoughts are with Isa and family.

Robert Wallace



You are invited to the home of traditional whisky. The Glenfiddich Distillery.

We would like to invite you to be our guest at The Glenfiddich Distillery. It was here on Christmas Day in 1887, under the watchful eye of William Grant, our founder, that Glenfiddich first ran from the stills. The Grant family have owned and managed the distillery ever since.

Glenfiddich is the only distillery in the Highlands where malt whisky is bottled on the premises – so you can see the whole original process for yourself, from the barley to the bottle. Then try a dram and discover the unique taste of the world's most celebrated malt whisky.

In our theatre we will introduce you to the history of Scotch Whisky and the heritage of the Highlands (and you can listen to it in English, French, German, Italian, Spanish or Japanese).

HOW TO FIND US:

The Glenfiddich Distillery lies on the A941, half a mile north of Dufftown, next to Balvenie Castle.

OUR OPENING HOURS ARE:

All year: (excl. Christmas and New Year holidays)

Weekdays: 9.30am to 4.30pm

In addition: Easter to mid October.

Saturdays: 9.30am to 4.30pm

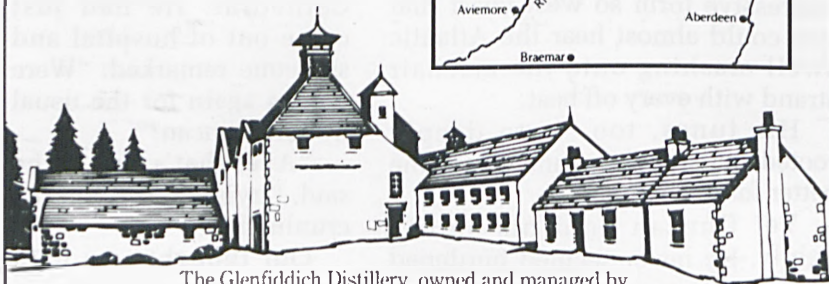
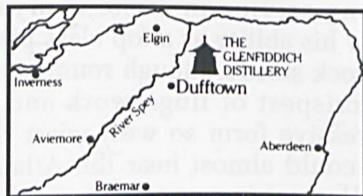
Sundays: 12 noon to 4.30pm

LARGER PARTIES:

Parties of more than 12 people are welcome but please make advance arrangements by contacting:

The Visitors Centre
William Grant & Sons Ltd
The Glenfiddich Distillery
Dufftown, Keith
Banffshire AB5 4DH
on Dufftown (01340) 820373.

We look forward to welcoming you.



The Glenfiddich Distillery, owned and managed by
the Grant family for five generations

The Glenfiddich Championship is held on the last Saturday in October

Life and Times: Father John, and the Island Influence

DUNCAN Johnstone was born in Glasgow 1925 of island parents. His mother was from Benbecula and his father from Barra. He was nine years of age when he was encouraged by his father – also a piper – to go with a friend for lessons from Glasgow policeman Angus Campbell. Campbell was from Ballachulish and had been taught by John MacColl and Willie Lawrie. Campbell was very strict on technique and Duncan won his first chanter competition in 1938. First prize was a whisky flask. Duncan remarked later that this must have been an investment for when he was older.

He joined the St Francis Boys Guild Band and on leaving school he began an apprenticeship as a cabinetmaker. When he was old enough he joined the Royal Navy spending a large part of the last year of the war minesweeping in the eastern Mediterranean.

At the end of hostilities Duncan returned to Glasgow where he completed his apprenticeship and resumed lessons with Angus Campbell.

He was later passed on to 'wee' Donald MacLean and Roddy MacDonald, both of whom were living in Glasgow.

Through these teachers and regular visits to his father's



Duncan as a boy piper in the St Francis band in 1940

home island, Duncan began to absorb the west coast musical influences he was to become famous for. He visited many old pipers on the island in the company of his uncle, Father John MacMillan of Barra, and picked up and memorised hundreds of old tunes and old styles of tunes. Later, many of these would form the backbone of his three collections of light music.

Back in Glasgow Duncan would work these tunes into medleys for Highland and

DUNFION BAGPIPES FROM THE ISLE OF ARRAN

Everyone is always looking for that little bit extra or something special when buying important items.

Well, here's your chance to do just that if you are thinking of buying the Great Highland Bagpipe.

Craftsman Henry Murdo, working in the traditional way on the Island of Arran, has produced a bagpipe of superb tonal quality, giving that excellent balanced sound everyone is looking for.

A number of years of testing, combined with the knowledge and experience of Angus J. MacLellan (double Gold Medallist, ex Strathclyde Police), has gone into the production of this instrument.

The pipe can be made with traditional style combing on the drones or with a number of unique Celtic or Scottish designs, or even with your own initials carved on the drones in an eye-catching fashion.

Electronic Practice Chanter for the Great Highland Bagpipe

This full-size electronic bagpipe is ideal as a complement to the ordinary practice chanter

Fits in your pocket: 16mm x 225mm (5/8" x 9")

Bring it to the pub, it's a great conversation piece.

Uses earphones: Ideal for the commuter

Natural C & F. Disgustingly good at indicating crossing noise.

Contains all the electronics as well as the batteries:
no extra box to plug in.

Designed using state-of-the-art technology:

- Surface mounting technology throughout
- Perfectly tuned by means of crystal oscillator and microprocessor control
- Touch control for volume
- More than 50 hours of playing without charge of batteries.



Agent for the Sterling Silver Company
All products are of .925 sterling silver
and are so stamped. All engraving is done
by hand. Trade enquiries welcome. Have
your old ferrules replaced with silver?
Also, USA agent for Dunfion, Aberdeen
Bagpipes, P.O. Box 841918, Houston,
Texas, 77284-1918
Tel: 281 859 8546
Fax: 281 463 2169
e.mail: aberdeen@wt.net

Write to Henro Murdo at "Dunfion", Corriegills, Brodick, Isle of Arran KA27 8BL, Scotland
for further information or Telephone: (home) 01770 302393 (work) 01770 302587
website: dunfion@arran-online.co.uk e.mail: dunfionbagpipes@btinternet.com

country dances, then very popular in post war Glasgow ballrooms. The job of the piper was an onerous one. The eightsome reel alone often required a two part reel played 29 times to complete the dance. Duncan used to test his memory by playing 29 different reels with only a dance band drummer to accompany him. It was at these dances that he honed the sense of rhythm that was to characterise so much of his playing.

Despite his growing reputation he ventured out to compete occasionally and never to Oban or Inverness, though he learned the tunes each year as they were set.

"I was never interested in whether I could beat this man or the next," he once said. "I always wanted to play well but not with the idea of beating anyone."

In 1964 John MacFadyen, then president of the Scottish Pipers' Association, organised the first Knockout Competition, the format being that two pipers would each play for a set time and the audience would vote for the winner. Duncan hadn't entered but under pressure from John, stood in for John MacKenzie, Dunblane, who'd had to pull out.

Duncan defeated Hector MacFadyen, Pennyghael, and, after further success, made it through to the final against none other than P/M Donald MacLeod.

Duncan related how he met wee Donald the day before the final:

"I asked if he was all set for the big night. He just turned to me and said slowly, and with a straight face, completely deadpan: 'No, no, no, Tuncan, I haven't looked at my pipes all week'.

I said to myself 'aye, that'll be right' and had a quiet laugh."

On the night Duncan played first, and although Donald followed with some outstanding playing, Duncan was given the audience's verdict.

Duncan's said later that his 'knockout' secret was to keep the audience on his side by limiting his tuning and giving them a 'bit of everything'. He'd start with some good strong strathspeys and reels and then take the tempo down with 6/8s and other marches and then lift it again with jigs and hornpipes.

He won the Knockout two years later and that more or less completed Duncan's foray into the world of competitive piping.

He began teaching in earnest in 1970 mainly from his home on the south side of Glasgow. From 1974-1978 he was an instructor at the College of Piping and opened his own school, also in Glasgow, in 1978. He was the first piping instructor at the inaugural Feis on Barra in 1980.

He also taught extensively abroad, conducting summer

MURRAY HENDERSON

FOUR TIMES GLENFIDDICH CHAMPION

**HENDERSON REEDMAKER
P.O. BOX 3 • KIRRIEMUIR
ANGUS DD8 4YF • SCOTLAND**

CANE DRONE REEDS: Winning at the highest level – solo and band

PIPE CHANTER REEDS: Volume and durability

NAILL POLYPENCO PIPE CHANTER: Solo and band

NAILL PIPES & CHANTERS IN STOCK

HENDERSON HARMONIC DRONE REEDS

STEADINESS GUARANTEED

PLASTIC WITH MELLOW TONE

PRE-SET BY MYSELF

QUICK DELIVERY – £25.50 PLUS VAT

21 YEARS FULL TIME REED MAKING EXPERIENCE

18 YEARS CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH D. NAILL & CO.

CALL ME FOR EXPERT ADVICE ON NAILL PIPES & REEDS

Telephone/Fax

01575 540430

RETAIL & TRADE ENQUIRIES WELCOME

E-mail: henderson.reedmakers@dial.pipex.com

schools and giving recitals. It was whilst he was on one of these recital tours that he received word that his son Allan was dangerously ill from leukaemia. Duncan returned home immediately but, tragically, his son passed away a few days later. Distraught, Duncan gave vent to his feelings in the piobaireachd *Lament for Allan My Son*. It now forms the centrepiece of a composing oeuvre which includes many excellent pieces (*Farewell to Nigg*, *James MacLellan's Favourite*, *Isle of Barra March*). These and dozens of others, plus his own arrangements of traditional tunes, are included in his

collections of pipe music and many of his recordings.

Like all good composers, Duncan improved the tunes he re-arranged: the reel *Willie Cumming's Rant*, and the jigs *Cabar Feidh* and *Cutting Bracken* to name but three.

Of the light music, *Farewell to Nigg* may be the most enduring, however. It was this tune that captivated the large congregation at Duncan's funeral in St Helen's Church, Glasgow. It was played by his son Neil on the cello. Seldom will it have been played so well or with such feeling. A pupil of Duncan's Donald John MacInnes, Strathclyde Police, played at the graveside.

A Personal Tribute From Angus John MacLellan

IT WAS with great sadness that I heard of the passing of another of our master pipers, Duncan Johnstone. Though born in Glasgow, Duncan was brought up with the music of the Gael instilled in him from an early age. Duncan was an excellent composer and even better at arranging old tunes, especially strathspeys and reels. Despite this talent he will be just as much remembered as a teacher and many of today's top competitors have benefited

from his dedicated teaching.

Duncan was a very humorous man with a sharp wit, always ready for a laugh and a joke. It was a great joy to be in his company. I doubt if there was a man with greater knowledge of pipers and piping during the golden post war years in Glasgow.

In the last year of the 20th century the piping world has suffered some severe blows – none more so than the death of Duncan Johnstone.

● It is with regret that we record the passing of two great supporters of piping, Dr Alasdair MacLean, brother of the poet Sorley MacLean, and Iain Crichton the well known,

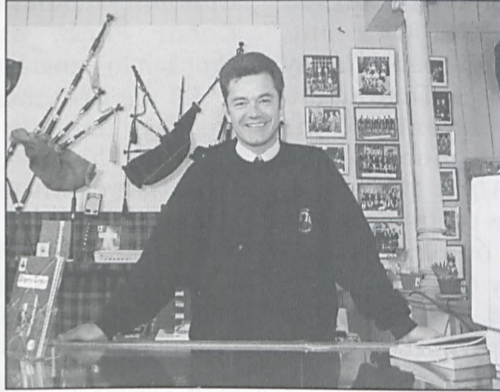
accordionist and pipe music composer from the Isle of Lewis. Full obituaries on both gentlemen will appear in our February issue.





College of Piping ...

... serving pipers for fifty years



A problem with your pipes? Contact Tommy at the College Shop on 0044 (0) 141 334 3587 or by e-mail at: college@college-of-piping.co.uk



House of Bagpipes

Bagpipe Sales, Supplies & Repairs

639 Mangels Avenue • San Francisco, California 94127
TEL/FAX (415) 452-4220

Agent for David Naill, Wm. Sinclair & Son, Gillanders & McLeod, J. Dunbar, C.E. Kron
THE FINEST THE INDUSTRY HAS TO OFFER! PROMPT SERVICE

FEATURING

- Blackwood chanters by Naill and Sinclair, polypenco chanters by Naill and Dunbar
- C.E. Kron products
- Practice chanters in blackwood and polypenco
- "Bagpipe Music Writer" by Robert MacNeill - DOS-based software for writing and composing, specifically programmed for bagpipes
- "Fast Trap" - Revolutionary new, user friendly, tube-type water trap, currently being used by the Scots Guards
- "Bywell" Scottish Small Pipes by Ray Sloan
- Reeds by H. McNulty, J.K. McAllister, G. MacLellan, G. Lumsden and Mark Wygent
- Full line of bagpipe accessories, cases and electronic chanters
- Books and Music

Applications available for *The College of Piping*

California Summer School for Pipers and Drummers, and the *Piping Times*

Ask about the College of Piping, Prince Edward Island, Canada. Call or write for repair information and for prices and availability of other makes of pipes.

We accept MasterCard, Visa, American Express, Discover!

By Appointment Only Lynne and Gail Miller



Classic Tunes Heard In A Classic Setting

by
John Shone

THE BRATACH Gorm, held during the London Championship at the Glaziers Hall in November, is one of the world's great piping events.

The main hall is a fine setting in which to hear the senior piobaireachd contest for the coveted Bratach.

Thirteen of our finest piobaireachd players competed for the honour with one contestant, **Ed Neigh**, flying in specially for the event from Canada; such is the draw of the London venue.

The hall was filled to overflowing most of the day, and the audience were not disappointed. We were treated to performances of some of the big classic tunes in the repertoire, not often heard these days on the boards:

The Lament for Donald Ban MacCrimmon

The Lament for the Harp Tree

The Red Speckled Bull

Scarce of Fishing

The Earl of Ross's March

Indeed the winning performance of *The Lament for Donald Ban MacCrimmon* was greeted by the audience with hushed anticipation as the tune

was announced. And what a treat it was to hear. **William McCallum** (right), from the very start of the tune, was in complete command of both his instrument and the music, he



paced this long tune well, setting just the right tempo from the outset, and his pipe was nigh perfect for the occasion.

This piece of 20 minutes length (it is one of our longest) provides a great test for the player and instrument alike. This year Willie passed the test with flying colours.

However before commenting further on the performances I'd like to say something about the setting for those who may not yet have attended the London contest.

The main hall in the Glaziers is large in area, some 30 yards long and 25 yards wide but, more importantly, it has a very high ceiling from which three very large crystal chandeliers hang.

This arrangement lends to the hall an aspect of opulence, but luckily does not interfere with the excellent acoustic. It is difficult to imagine a finer

Highest Award



Edinburgh 1886



By Appointment
to Her Majesty the Queen
Bagpipe Makers

Highest Award



Glasgow, 1903-4

R.G. HARDIE & CO.

Makers of the World's Finest Bagpipes

INCORPORATING

PETER HENDERSON LTD.

Established 1868



Sole Manufacturers of the
famous Airtight Seasoning



Quality makers of:

Bagpipes, Sporrans & Highland Dress
for over 125 years

24 RENFREW STREET, GLASGOW, G2 3BN.

Telephone: 0141-332 3021 Telex: 777967 Fax: 0141-332 8381

Contractors to H.M. Government Telegrams: "Bagpipes Glasgow"



setting in which to hear the great music.

This year the judges for the Bratach were **Donald MacPherson, Andrew Wright** and **Neil Mulvie**. Donald had only recently returned from the USA where he had been judging.

Well, now to the performances.

The unenviable task of having to set the ball rolling was **Brian Donaldson's** and he was given *My King has landed in Moidart*. After a rather slow start to the tune he soon got into the music and gave us a very musical performance, the one slight distraction was the

way Brian held on just too long to the end of each line in the taorluath singling. His pipe was quite excellent and stayed the course well through this long piece. Next came **Gordon Walker** with *Scarce of Fishing*. I never felt Gordon was entirely comfortable with the tune, his pipe however, was as good as ever and his taorluath movement was an object lesson in technical correctness. The audience thought so to, giving him warm applause at the end.

It was good to see **Stuart Sheddon** playing in London in, I think, his first Bratach. He played *The Old Men of the Shells*. The first impression when Stuart started to tune the pipe was how high pitched it was compared to the previous contestants. It did not take long for the ear to become accustomed, and by the time he got into the urlar all was well. It does not do to drag this tune and right from the outset he produced an excellent tempo and kept the tune 'moving'.

Unfortunately some of Stuart's hiharins were suspect and he 'caught' on one of the taorluaths. At this level it was enough to put him out of the picture.

Kenneth MacDonald was also asked to play *The Old Men of the Shells* but right from the outset the audience could sense all was not well. So it was proved, since Kenneth soon



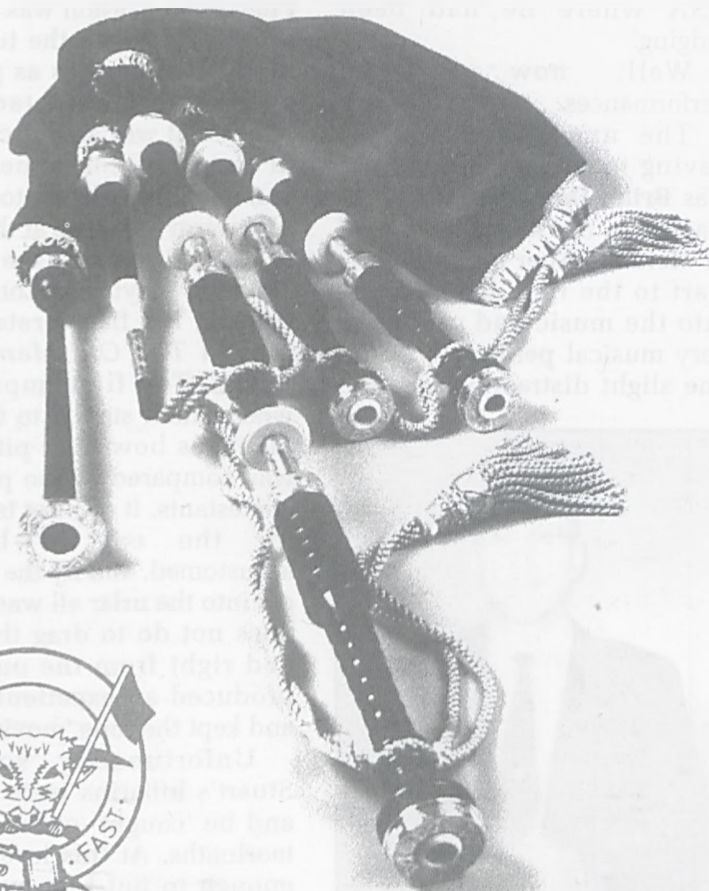
Brian Donaldson, winner of the jigs and fifth in the Bratach

MACLEOD HIGHLAND SUPPLIES

136 BRIDGEGATE, GLASGOW, SCOTLAND, G1 5HZ.

TEL: 0141 553 1513, 0700 BAGPIPE, 0700 2247473.

FAX: 0141 552 0795, E-MAIL: mhs@globalnet.co.uk



**QUALITY BAGPIPES AT COMPETITIVE PRICES. PROMPT DELIVERY SERVICE
ON ALL BAGPIPES AND ACCESSORIES. AVAILABLE FROM ALL GOOD
BAGPIPE SUPPLIERS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD OR DIRECT FROM THE
ABOVE ADDRESS. PLEASE CONTACT US FOR FURTHER DETAILS.
TRADE AND RETAIL ENQUIRIES WELCOME.**

<http://www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~mhs>



gave up the unequal struggle.

John Angus Smith, next with *Lady MacDonal'd's Lament*, stamped his mark immediately on the proceedings with an excellent pipe and a very musical interpretation of the urlar, albeit slightly on the slow side. This did not really detract too much from the overall presentation of this fine piece and his crunluath was again an object lesson on just how it should be played. A nice performance all round.

It was with hushed anticipation that **Roderick Macleod** was welcomed to the hall and when we learned that he was to play *The Earl of Ross's March*, a tune not heard in the Bratach for many a long year, and by last year's winner of this event, the anticipation was palpable.

On a superbly toned instrument he got to work on this great tune. Roddy showed his usual command of the pipe and was well into the tune when a lapse of concentration (yes, even the masters have it) was enough to cause a fatal hesitation, and he gave up what



Gordon Walker, winner of the Gillies Cup

was developing into a performance in contention.

Robert Wallace was asked to play the *Lament for Donald Duaghal McKay*. His pipe was not quite in tune at the start, but shortly into the urlar it came in nicely. He then proceeded to bring out the full emotion enshrined in this great lament. Would it be carping to comment on the hint of an uneven crunluath? This was a tune to be beaten.

James Murray gave us *Macleod of Raasay* on a good pipe, crisply articulated.

Ed Neigh was asked to throw down the challenge with *The Red Speckled Bull* and this he proceeded to do. With pipe going well, he opened the urlar with a good attack and kept this long and repetitious piece going well. Ed's tripling movement was just first class, an object lesson to any learners in the audience. His crunluath, on the other hand, came over rather light; however this was an excellent tune on a well tuned instrument.

The Lament for Donald Ban MacCrimmon was a great favourite of the late P/M

THE QUALITY BAGPIPE SHOP

..and the World of Piping in ONE shop

James C Begg

Pipe Bag
Maker

The best sheepskin and cowhide pipe bags – exclusively supplied to:
Simon Fraser University 1999 World Champions
Shotts and Dykehead. 2nd in the 1999 World Championships
City of Washington. Grade 2 1999 World Champions
Roddy MacLeod and the Strathclyde Police Pipe Band for 20 years
For THAT standard – please telephone, fax or visit . . .

273 Sauchiehall St., Glasgow G2 3HH. Tel: and Fax: 0141 333 0639

BAGPIPES: top quality always in stock.
REEDS: Warnock, Shepherd, Ezeedrone etc.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Practice bagpipes | <input type="checkbox"/> Bagpipe CD roms | <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic bagpipes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-slip bag gripper | <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-waxed yellow hemp | <input type="checkbox"/> 12mm Black tape |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bagpipe music writer | <input type="checkbox"/> Learning – Chanter kits | <input type="checkbox"/> Soft wool brushes (3) |

Visa and Mastercard accepted

THE HEPBURN DRONE REEDS

**£5.25
PER SET**

*Played tried and tested by the world's
leading pipers and pipe bands*

- Suppliers of Pipe Chanter and Practice Reeds •
- Bagpipes by today's leading manufacturers •
- Practice Chanters, Music Books, Tapes and CDs •
- Sheepskin and Hide Bagpipes made on the premises •
- Pipe Band and Highland Dress supplied •
- Full range of accessories in stock • Premier agent •



ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

SCOTCH CORNER

PROPRIETORS: W. & J. HEPBURN
• 20 Main Street • Turriff AB53 4AD •
Telephone & Fax: (01888) 563079



J.B. Robertson whose ghost haunts this London competition, and **William MacCallum** was asked to show us what he could do with one of the very greatest tunes in the repertoire.

This was I think the first time it had been played in the Bratach since JB won a prize with it in the late 50s. From the very outset Willie just took command and proceeded to thrill the audience (and as it turned out the judges also) with what will go down in London folklore as “the day Willie played Donald Ban”. Was it the listeners imagination or did William nearly forget to play the last line of the taorluath?; there was just the slightest hint of a hesitation at one point. What a performance, it was clear to all those listening (and how fortunate we were) that this tune would be the winning tune. Needless to say the pipe was superb.

I felt sorry for the piper who had to follow: poor **Kenneth Maclean**. Nevertheless, always a very tuneful player, Kenneth gave us a good account of the *Viscount of Dundee* but both the high A and G were suspect and Kenneth decided to call it a day early on.

Colin MacLellan, now back from Canada, was asked to play *The Lament for the Harp Tree* a tune very rarely heard ‘in anger’ these days. He set about the

task with relish and soon stamped his authority on the tune and the contest. Colin’s pipes were not quite in tune at the start of the urlar but very soon came in though the low G was suspect. You cannot hang about in this tune if you are to retain the attention of the listener and judge alike, and Colin did not. Again it was obvious from the outset that this was a tune in contention.

The last to play was **Greg Wilson** with *The Pride of Barra*. This tune comes over to the listener as more of a finger exercise than a tune and one has to be at the peak of performance to get any music from it – if then. However Greg buckled down to his task well on a pleasing pipe. He did however slip into the taorluath without marking the line and slightly rushed into the crunluath. The a mach was first class.

The judges did not take long in deciding the result as follows:

Bratach Gorm

- 1 William McCallum, *Lament for Donald Ban MacCrimmon*
- 2 Robert Wallace, *Lament for Donald Duaghal MacKay*
- 3 Colin MacLellan, *Lament for the Heart Tree*
- 4 John Angus Smith, *Lady MacDonald’s Lament*
- 5 Brian Donaldson, *My King Has Landed In Moidart*

(continued on page 58)

KILBERRY

BAGPIPES EDINBURGH



- Refurbishments Undertaken
- Highland Pipes
- Long Plastic Practice Chanters
- Scottish Small & Chamber Pipes
- Premier Drumming Supplies



For free colour brochure and price list contact:

KILBERRY BAGPIPES

38 Lochrin Buildings, Gilmore Place,
Edinburgh EH3 9ND, Scotland.
Tel: (0131) 550 3717 or (0131) 221 9925
Fax: (0131) 550 3701
Email: kilberry@compuserve.com

NEW
Kilberry plastic drone reeds for highland pipes
£23 per set

NEW Kilberry plastic mouthpiece with built in valve
£14.95

NEW Kilberry wide bore plastic blowstick (with mount)
£34.95

NEW Kilberry plastic drone reeds for small or chamber pipes
£23 per set

NEW Kilberry wide bore plastic blowstick (no mount)
£29.95

SFU at the 1999 Worlds . . . Bagpipe Music Writer Gold . . .

"Champions of their class"

For Windows 95/98/NT 3.51 & higher
\$145 CDN \$99 US £65

Available from Piping suppliers or direct from
Robert MacNeil Musicworks, 2913 Keets Drive,
Coquitlam, BC, Canada, V3C 6J2 Tel: 604-552-5674
Email: rmm@istar.ca Web: <http://home.istar.ca/~rmm>
(*add \$4 / £4 p&p, and GST & PST where applicable)

The only bagpipe music engraving and
playing program you'll ever need.

Skeleton From My Judges Cupboard And Progress In The New World



by
David Murray

IN THE opening month of the Third Millennium, its perhaps time to look back to what the closing year of the Second has meant to us pipers in Scotland, as well as forward to what the future may hold for us and for the art of the Highland Bagpipe. The closing decade of the 20th century saw the increasing importance of what may be called the New World school of piping. Its last year saw both Gold Medals disappear across the Atlantic along with many of the small music prizes. At the RSPBA World Championships the top honours in Grades 1 and 2 went to bands from the United States and Canada, and those in Grade 3 across the water to the Emerald Isle. It will be interesting to see whether this trend continues in the first decade of the 21st century and whether it leads to the eventual domination of what we in Scotland might

call this new breed of piper and pipe band from the New World.

Already we can distinguish the characteristics of this new breed. The most striking is a total and clear-eyed dedication to the cause, and an eagerness to surmount every obstacle in the quest for excellence. Time, distance, and expense deter them not in the least. They equip themselves with, and teach themselves to maintain, instruments of quality and tone. They are innovative and experimental, and gender is no bar. We of the fraternity at home here have long looked fondly and with affection on our own lady pipers, but we have yet to see one who poses a real threat to the male domination of the senior prize lists. That time will surely come, and it may well come from over the water at that.

In the field of the small music the transatlantic pipers, male and female, have little to learn from us in the Old Country. As far as the Great Music goes, their further education and progress as piobaireachd players as distinct



*Resisting the overseas challenge
Robert Mathieson, of Shotts &
Dykehead, with the Worlds trophy
in 1997*

from piobaireachd competitors is hampered by their lack of access to the older sources. Very few will have seen a copy of Angus Mackay or Donald MacDonald, far less David Glen, long overdue for a reprint. These books are virtually unknown in the United States and could sell in commercial quantities over there. Of course, the old counter argument 'would the judges know these styles?' would be bound to be raised, but any judge worthy of the name knows them already.

What is required are pipers who are prepared to play them and it could well be that from over the water will come the first successful protagonists playing these beautiful old settings and styles.

As with the soloists, so with the bands, who seem able to call upon an inexhaustible source of similarly dedicated players, pipers and percussionists alike. Grade 1 apart, the roll call of prize-winners at the RSPBA Worlds Championships reads like the United Nations, with four out of the top six in Grade 2 coming from the United States and one from Canada, and Eire, as well as Ulster featuring prominently in the lower grades. Fine for the cause, but where stands Scotland? Are we in the home of the art doomed to become the nearly men in piping as in other fields of endeavour? And

at this rate is the time not bound to come when we will see the centre of gravity in the piping and pipe band world moving from its ancient heartland across to the New World? Why should pipers and pipe bands continue to make an ever more expensive annual pilgrimage to Scotland when contests on their own home ground could be just as significant? Will we in time become a forlorn outpost where once we reigned supreme? Is that the future of piping in the 21st century?

What concerns me, and, yes, it worries me too, is the lack of any detectable surprise on the part of the home crowd at these results and, equally, the apparent equanimity with which they are accepted. Post imperial guilt perhaps, like so much else. What is crystal clear is that the prizes were fairly and squarely won. They are better players than we are. Perhaps the time is overdue for a long, hard look at ourselves.

Haunted

Having long since qualified for my free television licence, I'm reminded of how someone of my own vintage once said that while memories of the distant past constantly come to mind, they're not always those of which we're proudest. One such comes back to haunt me fairly often.

It was 1957, and from being

a trainee judge I had graduated to the bench for the minor competitions at the Northern Meeting, the majors being the piobaireachd events and the 'big' MSR. In the March competition, the judges, appointed by the Sheriff himself, J.P. Grant of Rothiemurchus, were the late J. Hector Ross and myself.

I was new to the game of judging and when we broke for lunch Hector suggested a dram, to which I readily assented. The night before had been hard going at Angus Macpherson's ceilidh in Cumming's Hotel. One dram soon became two, which led to another, and to cut a long story short when we returned to the bench our mood was expansive. The first competitor was my shout as we adjudicators say, and I selected a tune which I didn't play myself but with which I thought myself thoroughly familiar. It was *Parker's Farewell to Perthshire*.

The competitor, who shall be nameless, tuned and stepped off. He played the first part; then he played the fourth part; then the third part; and finally the second part, all too easily done in *Parker's Welcome*. Only two people in the room didn't notice; Hector was one and I, who had chosen the tune, was the other.

We placed him first!!!

The repercussions can be imagined. Not from the Sheriff,

whose expression said it all. He left it to others to rub the salt well and truly in. It was the era of the granite faced front row audience, aged veterans of the past who sat with hands folded on their ashplants, only moving to shake their heads slowly from side to side with a whispered 'that's not the way of it!'

The 'Piping Times' let us down lightly, but suffice to say it was many long years before the incident was overtaken by another judging debacle, not this time, of my making, praise be!

I don't know what it did to Hector but it pulled me up short. I realised that this competitive piping was not a game, but was in deadly earnest and that reputations could stand or fall by results which judges were expected to get right. So it was no drams at lunchtime from then on. Instead it was head down, concentrate on the music, get all the set tunes off well beforehand.

From that day I have never asked a competitor to play a tune which I didn't play myself. Fine in the old days when Willie Ross's Book 1 was the Bible, but not so easy when Wee Donald was rearranging the old stalwarts and adding goodness knows how many extra parts! And making the same mistake second time round!

R
C

R T Shepherd & Son (Scotland) Ltd

Manufacturers:

- ◆ The Shepherd Bagpipe Range
- ◆ Shepherd Scottish Smallpipes
- ◆ The Shepherd Pipe Chanter
- ◆ The Shepherd Pipe Chanter Reed
(established 1960)
- ◆ SM/90 Synthetic Drone Reed



Stockists:

- ◆ Complete Highland Dress
(including full Robert Douglas Range)
- ◆ Kilts/Jackets
- ◆ Ghillie Brogues/Kilt Hose
- ◆ Music Books and CD's

full world wide mail order catalogue available

Website: www.shepherd-bagpipes.com

e-mail: salesinfo@shepherd-bagpipes.com

Tel: 01592 720130 fax: 01592 721857

10,000 Pipers Set For Edinburgh

ORGANISERS of the BT Millennium Piping Festival are well on target for the 10,000 pipers and drummers they hope will take part in the grand parade in Edinburgh next August.

Three thousand pipe bandsmen and women have already signed up for the event, which will raise money for the Marie Curie Cancer Care Fund. Pipers and drummers from 13 different countries have so far volunteered.

Should the organisers Magnus Orr and Thomas Grotrian reach their target then £500,000 will be raised for the fund.

They also predict the following statistics:

- 2,000 snare drums on parade
- 45 miles of kilt material on show
- uniforms will total £12m in value

Chairman of the event, Lt General Sir David Young, said: "On the 5th of August next year pipers and drummers from around the world will make a major contribution towards the fight against cancer. Please help if you can."

If you'd like to take part call 0044 (0) 131 220 1715 or fax 0044 (0) 131 220 3550 for details.

Pipe Bags Noticed By The Money Men

THE CURRENT popularity of synthetic pipe bags has caught the eye of the financial world it seems. The Wall Street Journal has carried a full-length feature on the rivalry between aficionados of sheepskin, goretex and kitty litter.

The august journal comments in a recent issue:

"A nylon and cat litter option has virtues and adherents but Scots prefer smelly sheepskins.

"To many a Scotsman, replacing a sheepskin bag with one made of synthetics is as sacrilegious as substituting hot dogs for haggis."

The article says the current debate reached new heights after

Australia's Victoria Police won the 1998 World Pipe Band Championship using bags with a 'cat litter desiccant to control moisture'.

It quotes Alasdair Gillies as preferring the reliability of goretex, and Iain Donaldson of the British Shop, Kenmore NY, saying that sales of sheepskin are down 50%.

The report goes on: "Bagpiping is experiencing a renaissance, thanks in part to movies like Braveheart. The Western US Pipe Band Association, for example, reports membership up 40% to a total of 60 bands and 600 solo pipers in the last ten years."

D. NAILL & Co . . .

Bagpipe makers of distinction

After 23 years at the top, D. Naill pipes and chanters are still producing that special sound.

After another great year on the solo platform, D. Naill & Co. notched up the following success in the final big two events in the calendar:

Glenfiddich:

1st, 2nd Piob, 1st, 2nd MSR,
1st, 2nd Overall

London:

1st, 2nd Bratach, 1st, 2nd Gillies,
1st MSR, 1st Overall

Yet again our chanters proved that when it comes to quality sound the choice has to be D. Naill and Co.

Congratulations to the champion pipers who play our instruments.

**CONTACT:
DAVID NAILL & CO. OR ANY DEALERS IN
OUR WORLDWIDE NETWORK**

NOTICEBOARD

THE PT Noticeboard is open to any piping society, pipe band or individual. Publicise your competition or other event free of charge by writing, faxing or e mailing us at the usual address. Selling pipes? Small ads. are carried free of charge for the first insertion and £5 per issue thereafter.

MacLeod Tassie



Well known and well respected piping judge Joe Henderson is this year's recipient of the Donald MacLeod Tassie presented each year for services to piping by the Scottish Pipers' Association.

Since retiring from his business a few years ago, Joe has become much in demand on the professional circuit judging frequently at Oban, Inverness and at London. He has been an unsung supporter of both the SPA and Uist and Barra competitions in Glasgow for many years. On receiving his trophy from fellow Glasgow Highland Club member John Davidson-Kelly, Joe (right) said: "What a pleasant surprise this is. I am touched and honoured."

The Tassie was presented to the SPA by P/M Macleod in 1977.

CPA Survey

The Competing Pipers Association is contacting its membership throughout the world asking for their comments on individual professional judges.

The CPA, under new president Colin Maclellan, say they want as much feedback as possible on the men who preside over solo piping competitions. The association say the survey is a first in the history of piping.

Members are being asked for comments on over fifty judges of both piobaireachd and light music. There are four options on

the questionnaire ranging from 'total faith' to 'complete misgivings'.

North American judges are also being included in a bid to emphasise the CPA's worldwide approach.

The CPA stresses that all responses to the survey will be confidential and are unlikely to be made public.

The CPA forms part of the Joint Committee on Judging (the other participants are the Piobaireachd Society and the competition promoters). The Committee meets each year to grade judges and handle any complaints.

Introducing **The Practice Chanter with the Small Pipe Sound by MacMurchie Bagpipes**



“The MacMurchie Drone Chanter provides pipers with a new dimension in practising.

It’s fun for the experienced player and an aid for the beginner in drone tuning and steady blowing.

It provides the smallpipe sound without the disadvantage of the small pipe price”

PIPE SERGEANT GORDON WALKER

“Quality of craftsmanship is second to none with a tonal quality to match”

COLIN R. MACLELLAN



- No more monotonous conventional practising.
- This Long Practice Chanter features its own fully tunable drone and has pipe chanter finger spacing.
- Aid to the practicing of drone tuning and steady blowing for the beginner and fun for the experienced player.
- Made with Synthetic Blackwood substitute and fitted with all plastic reeds.

Available directly from:

MacMurchie Bagpipe Makers

for further information contact us at

Unit 47E, West End, West Calder, West Lothian EH55 8EJ

Phone: (01506) 872333 • Fax: (01506) 885220

Phone After Hours: (01506) 883939 • Mobile: 03704 38175

www.macmurchiebagpipes.co.uk • e.mail: blue@macmurchiebagpipes.co.uk

OR OUR APPOINTED AGENTS





NOTICEBOARD



RNLI

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution are looking for pipers to help them celebrate their 175 anniversary. A Gala Concert will be held in Glasgow Royal Concert Hall on March 3 with the main programme sustained by the Royal Scottish National Orchestra and

the band of the Royal Marines. The organisers would like to include a Schools Pipe Band in the programme and are looking for volunteers. It will be a one off opportunity for young pipers to play with the orchestra in front of 2,000 people. Contact Paul Warren on 01436 675905 or by fax on 0131 557 6943.

FOR SALE: Black feather bonnets, very good condition; offers to 01868 753181

Correction

Bill Livingstone of the 78th Fraser Highlanders band has asked us to point out that he did not compose the piece *Starburst* attributed to

him in Chris MacKenzie's review of the 78th's Glasgow Concert in our November issue. "I'd love to be able to say it was mine but the composer is in fact Bruce Gandy," said Bill.

University lectures

The University of Strathclyde Centre for Scottish Cultural Studies is putting on a series of lectures starting this month.

The purpose of the talks is to promote the music of the highland bagpipe as a major art form.

On January 25 Hamish Moore and his son and daughter Fin and Fiona will demonstrate the link between step dancing and piping; on February 8 the BBC's Iain MacInnes will discuss the corporation's piping sound archive; on February 25 Angus John MacLellan will lecture on

the difficulties of combining band and solo piping; on March 7 author Bridget MacKenzie talks about the McCallum piping tradition with illustrations from Willie McCallum and the series finishes on March 28 with a talk from Greg Wilson on the National Schools Piping Project. Admission to all talks is free.

The venue is the Ramshorn Theatre, Ingram Street, Glasgow. The time is 1pm-2pm.

For further information call Willie McCallum on 0141 548 4806 or e mail him on: W.McCallum@mis.strath.ac.uk

FOR SALE: Gillanders and MacLeod nickel and imitation ivory with wooden chanter £600; call John Dow on 01506 859133

From Bands To Ceol Mor: Bad Music Is The Same Turn-Off

by
Duncan Watson

ON BROWSING through my back numbers of the Piper Press I came across an article by P/M Robert Mathieson of Shotts and Dykehead fame in which he stated that 'piobaireachd is not entertainment' and is played by the performer for his own indulgence.

It provoked reaction and I feel that such a sweeping statement requires some sort of response. It is common to hear ceol mor on well set up instruments. In a lot of cases the sound of the instrument and the finger technique are the best aspects of what we hear – this includes pipers in the top flight. Incidentally I don't think this is new, so the old fogies among us needn't say 'it was better 30+ years ago', it wasn't!

Robert Mathieson would probably argue that a lot of ceol mor playing is musically dead, and in that it must be admitted he is correct. The reaction that this should provoke is not one of righteous indignation, but, instead, those interested enough should be spurred to do something about it.

We often hear tunes played with variations, where, apart from cadences, there is nothing resembling phrasing. In the doublings there is no effort to

phrase the tunes or even show the ends of the lines. Hence we hear a stream of well-executed notes, which although deadly accurate are often accurately dead.

With the competition system, ceol mor has become more and more stereotyped. With this lack of variety both the listeners and the music itself are the losers.

In a previous article in the Piper Press I took a gentle swipe at judging and, at the expense of being boring, I suggest that our piping 'justiciary' have to answer for some of this dead playing. Our judges frequently reward accurate but dull playing instead of positively punishing it. They will punish dropped gracenotes and minor mistakes as they are easier to detect.

Returning to the top bands for a moment, I should have something better to do than sit and listen to their radio broadcasts. I am, however, an ardent listener. Some pieces played by the bands are very unmusical and a complete turn-off in terms of entertainment. Seldom do I hear new 'inventions' which make me stretch for the practice chanter. Using P/M Mathieson's parlance: are these bands playing for themselves?

The cliché about stonies and

glasshouses has some relevance at this point. At a mini-band contest in Aberdeen last year I saw pipe majors conducting their troops through pieces that were incomprehensible to me. There were pundits around me who obviously knew what was going on as they spoke knowledgeably about things such as 'ensemble' and the lack of it, apparently referring to the rattle of drums. I was offered a piece of chewing gum and inquired if it was for my ears.


The results were announced. I disagreed with the prizelist, amply demonstrating my knowledge on such matters. The basis of my disagreement was that one of the pipers in the winning band (a Grade One outfit) had 'goosed' through part of the performance, something he

graciously admitted later in the pub. There were other aspects which I would have thought, from a judging standpoint, wrong or very difficult to overlook. One of the pipers sitting near me commented 'that doesn't matter in a pipe band'.


Pipe bands to my mind, from both a musical and spectacle perspective, should be entertaining. This does not equate with second rate playing. Good pipe band music undoubtedly requires real expertise, and we do hear good stuff – just as we occasionally hear musical, entertaining, ceol mor.


Some pipe band music is becoming about as introverted as poorly phrased ceol mor and to that extent I agree with Robert Mathieson.





GEOFFREY (TAILOR) KILTMAKERS & WEAVERS






*Renowned throughout the Pipe Band World for Top Quality
Kiltmaking, Tailoring & Service . . .*

- Heavily discounted Quantity Pipe Band Prices
- Special offers on Kilts & Complete Outfits
- Experts in made to measure Ladies & Gents Outfitting
- Specialists in Weaving to order & Tartan Design
- Weavers of our own 16/17oz cloth

“The ultimate quality for gents kilts.”



Winners of the
competition to design
The New RSPBA Tartan

**MAIL ORDER & PIPEBAND
BROCHURE PLEASE
CONTACT OUR
EDINBURGH HEAD OFFICE**

www.geoffreykilts.com

GEOFFREY (TAILOR)

Head Office, Main Branch and Mail Order Enquiries to Edinburgh:
57-59 High Street, Royal Mile, EDINBURGH EH1 1SR
Tel: (0131) 557 0256 Fax: (0131) 556 0615
309 Sauchiehall Street, GLASGOW G2 3JW Tel: (0141) 331 2388
18 Island Street, GALASHIELS TD1 1NU Tel: (01896) 758822
MacGregor Court, Argyll Square, OBAN PA34 4AS Tel: (01631) 570557

E-Mail: geoffrey_kilts@compuserve.com U.S.A. & Canada Toll Free Hotline: 1 800 566 1467

The Kintail 2000 Pipe Chanter

*for the first
time ever*

The
Perfect
Sound

*two
of
a
kind*

Don't
take
our
word
for it!

Polypenco

*African
Blackwood*

Kintail®

*Try
it!*

113 BARRACK STREET, GLASGOW, G4 0UE, SCOTLAND.
TEL: +44 (0)141 553 0902 FAX/VOICEMAIL: +44 (0)141 553 0903
E-MAIL: greig@kintail.co.uk WEB SITE: www.kintail.co.uk

The First Dr Kenneth A. Mackay Award

THIS AWARD is presented to the person who is considered to have given the best performance on the pipes in the practical section of the Scottish Education Department's Higher Music examination. This year's award, a cheque and a special certificate, went to Graeme Lawrie from Dunbartonshire.

Prior to the presentation former College Principal Dugald MacNeill gave a brief outline of Dr MacKay's career:

"Who was Kenneth Mackay? He was born almost 100 years ago at Alness in Ross-shire.

Later his family moved to Glasgow. After service with the Seaforth's and the Fife and Forfarshire Yeomanry he graduated in medicine at Glasgow University. He served some time as a medical missionary in Peru. He returned to Glasgow in 1938 and finally moved to Laggan in Inverness-

shire in 1952 where he was the local doctor for many years. He retired to Newtonmore and died in 1988. He was a competent piper and he thought Seumas MacNeill and Tommy Pearston were doing a wonderful job with the College of Piping. It was a real tonic for



Dr Kenneth Mackay



Graeme Lawrie with his family after receiving the prestigious award

THE GREAT HIGHLAND BAGPIPE COMPANY



*The UK's Leading Independent
Bagpipe Retailers*

- A Comprehensive Range of Top Quality Bagpipes always in stock
- Large stock of Standard & Long Practice Chanters
- Full range of Piping Accessories
- Second Hand Bagpipes taken in Part Exchange
- Ask about our Splendid Range of Carrying Cases
- A Complete Kilt & Highland Outfitting Service – Band Discounts available

Our Service is Second to None

For sound professional advice call in and see us or –

Telephone: 01324 638575 Day
01324 563792 Evening

Fax: 01324 611149

56 Cow Wynd, Falkirk FK1 1PU

Mail Order & Telephone Sales

All Major Credit Cards Accepted

The Biggest Name in Bagpipes Today



them to have Dr Mackay's strong and continuous support. Dr Mackay encouraged the setting up of the Institute of Piping and he himself was among the early candidates for examination. He was also responsible for some of the best tapes we have of Bob Brown's teaching. He got Bob to tape many of the great tunes 'for the boys at Laggan'.

About a year ago Dr Mackay's son, Eric Mackay of Harrogate, thought that he and others in the family would like to do something for piping to commemorate Dr Mackay. They have set up a fund to establish a substantial money prize each year, and the College of Piping

is pleased to administer this fund.

The first winner is Graeme Lawrie of Keil School and it is with a definite sense of occasion that we ask Eric Mackay to present the first Dr Kenneth A. Mackay award."

Saturday Lessons

Piping classes are to resume at the College on a Saturday morning between 10.30am and 12.30pm. Prices are £20 per 10 week term (adults) and £15 (juveniles). Call 0141 334 3587 to book. All grades catered for.

**THE ARGYLLSHIRE GATHERING
NORTHERN MEETING
PIPING COMPETITIONS 2000**

The Argyllshire Gathering Piping Competitions will be held in Oban on 23 and 24 August 2000 and

The Northern Meeting Piping Competitions will be held in Inverness on 6 and 7 September 2000.

Vetting forms for the above competitions are now available from:

The Secretary
Argyllshire Gathering
Lyndon, Lonan Drive, Oban,
Argyll PA34 4NN
TELEPHONE: 01631 562671

Completed forms should be returned to the above address by 29 January 2000



Ben Wyvis KILTS

7-9 Church St Inverness

Tel: 01463 715448

SEWN WITH PRIDE AND WORN WITH PRIDE

When you're
buying a kilt you need to be
sure the quality will last for the many
special occasions you will attend over the years

**PIPE BAND SPECIAL: We supply kilts
for Pipe Bands at the special discount price of £180**

*Our kilts are painstakingly hand-sewn to ensure you receive a
perfect and lasting outfit.*

THE PIOBAIREACHD SOCIETY

The eighth annual amateur piobaireachd competition for the Archie Kenneth Quaich will take place on Saturday 4th March 2000 in the rooms of The Royal Scottish Pipers' Society, Edinburgh.

Competitors will be obliged to submit two tunes with their entries, one of which they will be asked to play.

Conditions for eligibility are as follows:

1. Competitors must be aged twenty or over.
2. Holders of the Army School of Piping Pipe Major's Certificate or the Institute of Piping's Graduate Certificate barred.
3. Anyone who has ever won a prize in open competition or who has taken part in open competition within the last five years barred.
4. Anyone who has taken part in public recitals together with professional players barred.

There will be a maximum of twenty five competitors selected solely on a first come first served basis.

Entries should be sent before 19th February 2000 to:-

J.J. Burnet,
30, Park Road, Edinburgh EH6 4LD

Letters

Do you have a point of view or some interesting information you would like to share with the rest of the piping world? Write to the Piping Times, 16-24 Otago Street, Glasgow G12 8JH, Scotland UK or e-mail: pt@college-of-piping.co.uk. Letters subject to editing.

Chanter tape

Sir,

I write about several matters. A recent issue of The Piper Press contained a letter to the editor concerning my appearance in an advert for the British Shop. The ad has a photo of me holding a bagpipe. When I was in Inverness for the Northern Meeting, I was enjoying a moment of congeniality with some friends in the Ness Bar, when a gentleman, of obvious highland breeding, accosted me, demanding to know what I could possibly have meant by appearing on the back cover of the Piper and Drummer magazine in such a state. Puzzled, I inquired what the man could possibly be talking about – was he affronted that I had leant my support to a commercial shop? Did he object to my casual dress in the photo?

Indeed not. It seems that his objection related to the photograph so clearly depicting a pipe chanter with clear, irrefutable evidence of tape on the chanter." How could you allow yourself to be shown in such a light?" demanded my interrogator.

"Because that's how I play,

and that's how it is" was my answer. He was not mollified – indeed he marched off in a state of relatively high dudgeon. I was, however, able to point out to his retreating back, that he reminded me of similar critics who have upbraided me, and others, about the use of tape. If you use it, you're likely to have the intervals in your chanter correct – if not, you usually won't. Many's the time I have had someone say to me – Oh dear, I would never use tape on a chanter the way you do. My answer has often been: 'I believe you – I've heard your chanter (the thing sounds like rubbish) properly applied tape would improve it greatly.'

The truth in all of this is that the perfect chanter doesn't exist, because the perfect consistent reed doesn't exist. Thank God we're closer than ever with high tech methods being applied to the making of these products, but the skill, and accuracy of the performer's ear will still be needed to render perfect intervals on the pipe chanter, and short of rebuilding the thing, only tape will make it right.

Some other thoughts – my Inverness critic has no

Letters *continued*

comprehension of the bizarre demands on a 4 reeded instrument imposed by performing in the 85°(F) heat of Ontario on Tuesday followed by the demands of Inverness at 60°(F) on Wednesday. Nor does he understand the "modifications" that the continental climate of North America requires to make these things sound well.

The chanter in the maligned photo is actually one of the famous set of Sinclairs played by the Glasgow Cops (they'll always be that to me) in their fabulous run of consecutive World's victories in the 80s and 90s. The holes are huge – tape is needed – but hey – did those guys sound good or what?

An interesting sidelight on all of this a major chanter manufacturer in Scotland complained to one of his dealers in North America that I had used his chanter for the photo, and applied excessive tape to it and thus disparaged his product. Paranoia runs rampant it was an old Sinclair it had lots of tape for the band, I wouldn't trade it.

On another subject: it's been clear for years that that the CPA (of which I'm a member) and the others who grade pipers from Canada don't give a fiddler's damn for our contests over here – they accord them no respect

whatever. I've written numerous letters over the years recommending this or that player as a suitable entrant in the Silver or Gold Medal contests. So far as I can tell, these have been met with a profound lack of interest. Sadly, no letters should ever have been needed. A simple perusal of the results of contests in Ontario at least would have demonstrated the merit of the applicants. I don't think it was ever done. If it was no one in Scotland gave any of the results any credence.

John Cairns and Jennie Hazzard are two recent examples of the unfairness, if not ineptitude of those responsible for the grading. Jennie, turned down for the Silver Medal last year, and only placed on the reserve list for this year, wins the Silver on her first (I'm sure) attempt.

John, turned down three years in a row for the Silver, finally gets to compete for the Gold Medal. Does the change of heart have something to do with John's fine performance at the Dan Reid Memorial in San Francisco which happened to be judged by two prominent and respected pipers from Scotland? You tell me – but after the DRM John is suddenly allowed to play in the Gold Medal, and knocks them both off in the same year.

Now the point of this diatribe is that if the CPA or whoever is in charge of the

Letters *continued*

mysteries of grading had any regard for Canadian contests they would have seen long ago that these people had great merit, and should have been included earlier. Clearly there's a problem here and someone had best address it soon.

There's more on this subject too – it goes all the way to rarified air of the Glenfiddich. Some years ago, bowing to the repeated bleatings of Scottish pipers about the use of the two North American contests as automatic qualifiers, the organisers of the Glenfiddich set out a list of contests, in apparent order of priority,

which would serve as the determinants of the competitors at Blair Atholl. The two North American qualifiers were there all right, but only as adjuncts, and I believe “for consideration” only. Recent Glenfiddich competitors lists cause one to wonder whether the qualifying contests are being honoured more in the breach than the observance.

Bill Livingstone,
Whitby, Ontario

Glenfiddich

Sir,

Can I through the Piping Times thank Liz Maxwell and all the other people involved in organising this year's Glenfiddich? As a regular

“THE” BAGPIPE MAKER

**47 Years Experience Fashions The Hand
Crafting of the Dunbar Bagpipes**

J. Dunbar
Bagpipe Maker Ltd.
14 Keefer Road
Port Weller
St. Catharines, Ont.,
Canada L2M 7N9

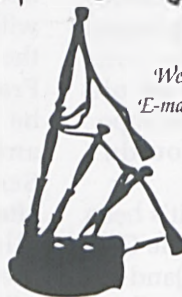
(905) 646-2388

Fax: (905) 646-2396

Bagpipes by Dunbar

Web – www.dunbarbagpipes.on.ca
E-mail – rwp@dunbarbagpipes.on.ca

*'Bagpipes made in the
Henderson Tradition.
Repairs to all makes
of 'Bagpipes.*



*Refurbishing a
Speciality.
Suppliers of all
accessories for the
'Bagpipes.*

"A Bune Them A"

visitor to the Blair Castle competition (this was my 17th consecutive visit) it was on of the best contests I have attended. The after-contest 'Pipers' Ceilidh' was also a great event and it was sad to note many of the regulars missing. This really is a great evening of piping and dancing. Five pipers played for us after we had enjoyed an excellent meal and Grant's hospitality at the bar. Next October cannot come soon enough.

Owen Nash,
Moston, Manchester

Lady's Dress

Sir

Re Bill Blacklaw's interesting views on judging lady competitors in the dress section of the Northern Meeting, it is surely a direct contradiction to limit the ladies to male type dress and then justify the stance on the grounds of equality.

Bruce Hastings,
Nottingham

White Hose

Sir,

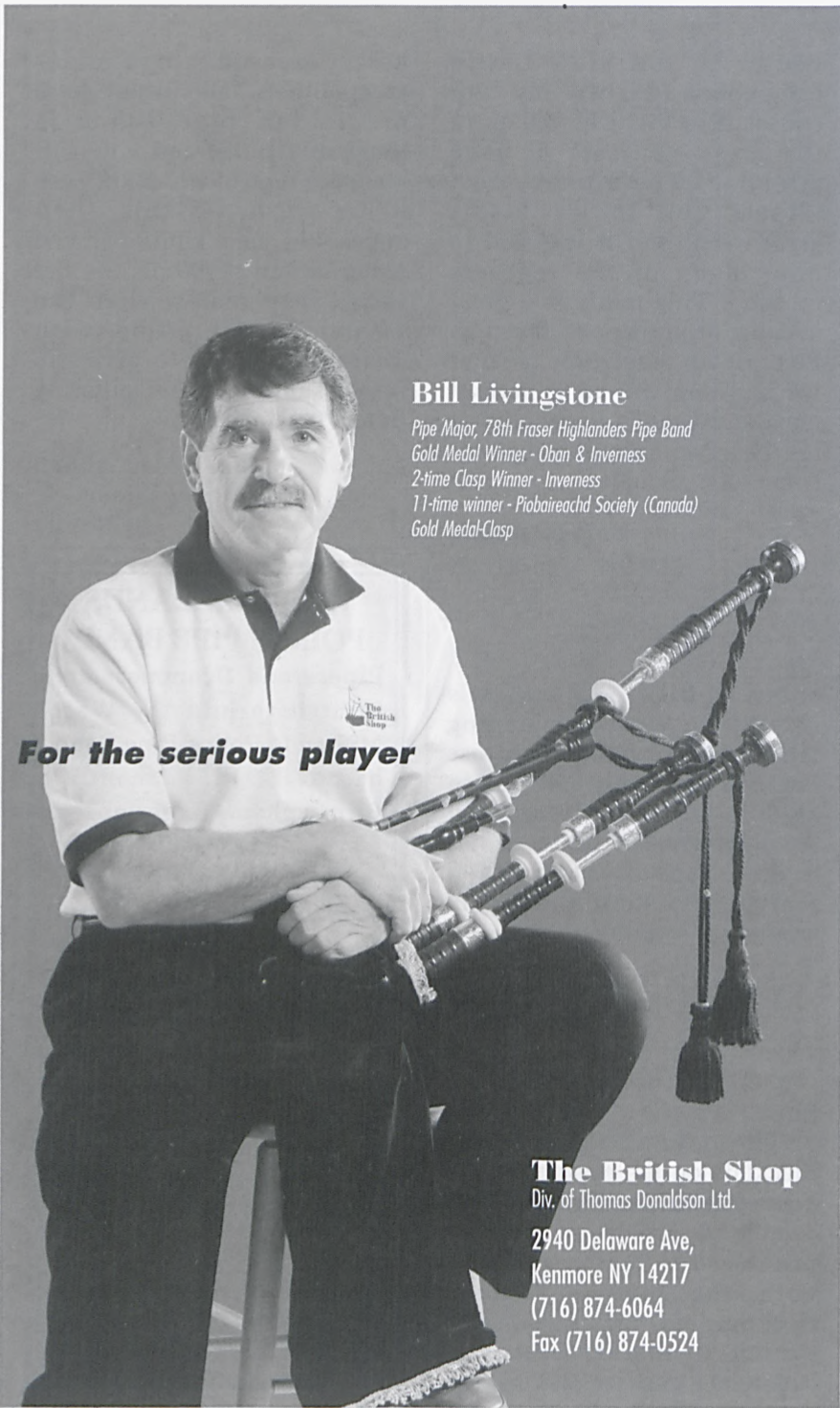
The comments by Bill Blacklaw on the dreaded white hose strike a chord indeed. I am one who is honoured and privileged to march annually with the famous Lonach Highlanders, Strathdon. The turnout of the LH is usually exemplary and we also have a

best dressed highlander competition. The current dress of civilian pipe bands is inevitably jacket and kilt with an ersatz type of white kilt hose being worn. As this often appears in some kind of acrylic material and overlong, the net result, especially when the wearer is not gifted with passable legs, is to give the impression of people suffering from a type of goitre.

Iain D MacCallum,
Braes of Kilmorack,
By Beauly

WEST MIDLANDS POLICE PIPE BAND

Pipers and Drummers are invited to join the West Midlands Police Pipe Band based in central Birmingham. Experienced players and those wishing to move up from a lower grade are sought. The band has been in existence for forty years, and plays to a good standard in grade three. We enjoy full sponsorship including travel and have excellent practise facilities. Civilian members are most welcome and currently form the majority membership. Please contact Trevor Rice on 0370 694695 or 01527 575579 after 7pm for further details.



Bill Livingstone

*Pipe Major, 78th Fraser Highlanders Pipe Band
Gold Medal Winner - Oban & Inverness
2-time Clasp Winner - Inverness
11-time winner - Piobaireachd Society (Canada)
Gold Medal-Clasp*

For the serious player

The British Shop

Div. of Thomas Donaldson Ltd.

2940 Delaware Ave,
Kenmore NY 14217
(716) 874-6064
Fax (716) 874-0524

Professor MacArthur And Other Influences

JUST WHO WAS Donald MacDonald? The name sprung to the minds of many when his setting of the piobaireachd *Too Long In This Condition* won both Silver Medals last year. MacDonald was, of course, one of the first men to produce piobaireachd music on the stave. He was also a noted bagpipemaker. Writer **Keith Sanger** (below)



has carried out extensive research into MacDonald's life and career. Here, in a paper first delivered to the Lowland and Borders Pipers Society in November, he gives some interesting new background information on a man who did much to preserve our piping tradition.

IN ANY attempt to speculate on the early piping career of Donald MacDonald, it is necessary to first establish who his prime sources of influence may have been. Given that he would appear to have been born circa. 1767, and commenced playing around 1777, of the two major Skye piping families, the MacArthurs would seem to be the most obvious choice.

Indeed it seems to be accepted that he had received some tuition from that direction though not at a traditional school, but from contact made with John MacArthur while living in Edinburgh.

This suggestion would seem to fit with the available evidence.

John MacArthur was the son of Charles MacArthur's brother Neil. Tradition says that John had been taught by his uncle Charles and this would seem quite probable given that his father Neil had died abroad in 1762 while serving in the Army. John was old enough in 1767 to have been executor of his father's testament and is next heard of when he is recorded in the Edinburgh Marriage Register as 'John MacArthur, gentleman's servant, parish of St Giles, married Katherine same parish, daughter of the deceased Archibald M'Queen, Farmer, Isle of Skye, on the 16 February 1779.'

John appears to have remained in Edinburgh, and on the 4 April 1782 he entered the Burgess Roll as a grocer. On the 9 March that year his first son was born. Between 1782 and 1784 he is on record as a grocer at St David's Street and that



presents a



Recital of Pipe Music

by

Pipe Major Richard Parkes

Field Marshall Montgomery Pipe Band

&

Pipe Major Brian Lamond

Dysart & Dundonald Pipe Band

Friday 11th February 2000

at 7.30pm

sponsored by

**DISCOUNT HIGHLAND
SUPPLIES GROUP**

Tickets £5 Adult / £4 Concession

THE PIPING CENTRE

30-34 McPHATER ST, GLASGOW

Tel: 0141-353 0220

HISTORY

year on the 11 February came a second son to be followed by a daughter, Jean, born on the 26 January 1789.

John's death was recorded in the Edinburgh Courant on the 25 October 1790:- "Died a few days ago at his house here John MacArthur Professor of the Ancient martial Music of Scotland and Piper to the Highland Society". The Caledonian Mercury has the same entry but with the additional sentence "a gentleman as less eminent as a performer than distinguished by his elegant musical composition for the bagpipe".

Clearly if Donald MacDonald received any tuition from John MacArthur it would appear that Donald must also have been in Edinburgh at this period and it is possible that he can be identified.

It is necessary to first jump to 1795 for in that year we know exactly where Donald was because he tells us himself.

In the unpublished Donald MacDonald MS in his notes on *Cumhadh Chleibhar (Lament for the death of Earl Cleaver [Viscount of Dundee])* he mentions the story regarding the bodies of Lord Kilsyth's lady and infant which were disinterred in 1795, when the writer of the account was at the

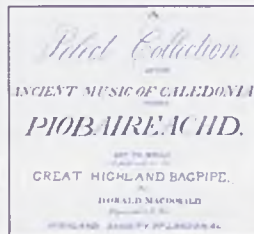
village of Kilsyth in Stirlingshire.

This is a reference to the well-documented event on the 15 May that year when some Glasgow students accidentally opened a vault and found the bodies of Jean Cochrane and her infant son in a state of excellent preservation. Jean Cochrane was the widow of James Graham of Claverhouse, who after his death at the Battle of Killiecrankie, had gone on to marry Viscount Kilsyth.

This could confirm that Donald was with the 2nd Battalion of the Rothesay and Caithness Fencibles on route from Forfar via Glasgow and Ayr to Ireland.

The battalion was first raised in January 1795 with its headquarters based in Forfar. All officers and recruiting parties were recalled on the 20th of April to be ready for inspection on the 8th May, when 630 rank and file were reviewed. The regiment was initially stationed in the north, but some 14 months later they were ordered to move south. They left Armagh on the 7th of January 1797 under the command of Lt Col Fraser and arrived at Cork on the 22 June where they were to remain for the duration of their service.

In 1799 the 1st Battalion which had remained on service



Frontispiece to Donald MacDonald's MS

THE PIPE BOX



ABERDEEN SHOP - 27 Hollybank Place, Aberdeen, ABI 2 XR

TEL : 01224 581815/Fax : 01224 581810

BOTHWELL SHOP : 47a MAIN Street, Bothwell, G71 8ER

Tel : 01698 852528/Fax : 01698 852458

Professional Sales & Product Support

*Always in stock : HTS 200 Snare Drums
TENDURA™ Heads, Sticks, Beaters etc.*



DRUM CENTRE

*Bagpipes, Pipe Chanters, Highland
Dress, Reeds & Accessories,
Cassettes and C.D.s, Music Books*

Credit Cards Accepted

PIPE CHANTER REEDS

DRONE REEDS

Tested for pitch and vibration

by Pipe Major **ROBERT MATHIESON**

HISTORY

in Scotland was disbanded in Edinburgh and a large number of the soldiers volunteered to join the 2nd Battalion in Ireland.

This time, under the command of Sir John Sinclair himself, 565 former members of the 1st Battalion reached Liverpool on the 14 November where they embarked for Ireland bringing the total strength of the regiment there up to 1200 men.

Donald made at least one return visit to Scotland before his regiment came home from Cork, when in July 1801 he competed and won third prize in the Highland Society's annual piping competition at Edinburgh. Sir John Sinclair presented the prizes and as the winner of the first prize, William Forbes piper to the 42 Regiment was a native of Caithness, it would appear to have been Sir John's day.

It would seem likely that after the competition Donald would have returned to the regiment.

It is at this stage, after the disbandment of the Rothesay and Caithness Fencibles, that a possible reference to Donald appears in Edinburgh. Although the troubles in Ireland had quietened down, the Napoleonic Wars were still in progress and the Government of the day was still raising local militia to release regular troops for overseas duty. In many

cases it almost seemed to be deliberate policy to keep some of these militia outwith their own areas, although it is evident that the geographical recruitment for any given regiment was usually fairly wide and desertion or failure to attend frequent.

The newspaper advertisements for these missing soldiers often provided detailed descriptions and in one of these on the 26 May 1803, for "persons sworn in and enrolled for the East Lothian Militia who had failed to appear at Duns for the purpose of being trained" was No 19 John MacDonald, labourer, age 20. Black hair, grey eyes, swarthy complexion born St Cuthbert's parish (Edinburgh) lived in Donald MacDonald his father's in Parliament Square. Correlation with the parish register of births gives John's actual date of birth as the 15 April 1784, son of Donald MacDonald chairbearer at Cross Causewayside and Isobel MacDonald his spouse. Witnessed by the Rev Mr MacGregor and Donald Forbes Porter in Edinburgh.

The sedan chairmen of Edinburgh were, like the city guard, a form of Highland mafia and a likely employer of a young Gael fresh from Skye, a suggestion enhanced by the presence as a witness of the Rev. Mr MacGregor. The only possible minister by this name,

McCallum Bagpipes

MODERN PIPES WITH A CLASSICAL SOUND

Moorfield Industrial Estate, Troon Road, Kilmarnock, KA2 0DP SCOTLAND

Tel : 01563-527-002 Fax : 01563-530-260



"Over the course of my Piping Career I have been lucky enough to have had the opportunity to play a variety of great Vintage Sets. My experience playing the McCallum Pipes brings to mind the best of the great drones. For stability and overall rich Harmonics the McCallums' are the best I have played. The Bass is particularly full and the fact that they are easy to Reed is a great bonus".

Michael Grey



"Throughout my teaching and piping career I have always been looking for pipes which not only sound good but are easy to play and tune. I have found this with McCallum bagpipes. The balance between bass and tenors is perfect and the steadiness is ideal for young learners as well as top professional pipers".

Erwan Ropars



Having sold a lot of McCallum bagpipes through my business in Los Angeles, I know how popular they are. When I tried them for the first time I knew I would have to play them, they really are that good. Now Stuart McCallum and I have joined forces in business to produce McCallum Bagpipes

Kenny MacLeod

For all your Highland Dress and Pipe Band requirements contact Kenny Macleod at McCallum Bagpipes

Kenneth J. MacLeod, Scotland



HISTORY

time and place was the Rev Joseph Robertson, (d 1801) who assumed the name MacGregor in 1784 and was Minister of the Gaelic Chapel of Ease in Edinburgh, again a natural connection for a young stranger from the north.

If this is the young Donald MacDonald then his period of contact with "Professor John MacArthur" would have occurred circa 1784-1790, and he would have been a young man of about 17 years of age when his eldest son John was born. Certainly John would seem to have to been the eldest of Donald's sons. He first appears in the piping competition of 1806 as the son of Donald MacDonald

pipemaker. He won 3rd prize. It is not until 1820/21 that Donald's other two sons enter the competition scene which suggests there was a large gap between the birth of John and his brothers James and Donald Jr. The birth records for the Edinburgh Parishes do not seem to contain any further births to the Donald and Isobel of the earlier entry and it is possible that James and Donald may have been born during Donald senior's time in the Caithness Fencibles. Given the conditions of Fencibles service it is quite conceivable that Donald's wife would have accompanied him to Ireland and that his two youngest sons were born there.



Typical Donald MacDonald set of pipes. This set was taken to the USA in 1848

DURING THE regiment's time in Cork one of the soldiers, a Duncan Campbell from Stronachullin, in Argyllshire, published a small collection of Gaelic poetry. At the end of the volume is included a list of subscribers and a Donald MacDonald is listed among the private soldiers, it does also provide the identity of the Pipe-Major, Duncan MacNabb.

When he received the First Prize at the piping competition in 1789 MacNabb was simply described as being from Lorne in Argyll. The next reference to

Duncan MacNabb is in the report of the piping competition in 1804 where he is described as former piper to the Laird of MacNabb but now piper to the Inverness Militia. Judging from the early competition records there were several MacNabb pipers and during his six years service in Ireland, Donald MacDonald must have absorbed some of this Argyll piping influence through the regimental pipe-major who could not but have had an effect on the younger player.

(to be continued)



The Piping Centre is delighted to be able to present a series of three day, intensive Piping Courses for promising young pipers throughout Scotland. Course contents include music writing software, reed manipulation, setting up a bagpipe, Internet Piping resources, visits to the College of Piping and the Army School of Bagpipe Music.

National Schools Piping Project

We are particularly interested in hearing from young persons between the ages of 10 and 18 who may be members of a local pipe band and may not be receiving tuition in school.

For more information and a brochure please contact Greg or Morven at:
The Piping Centre, 30-34 McPhater Street,
Glasgow G4 0HW

Tel: 0141 353 0220 Fax: 0141 353 1570

Email us on gwilson@thepipingcentre.co.uk



THE SCOTTISH ARTS COUNCIL
NATIONAL LOTTERY FUND

This project is supported by
The Scottish Arts Council National Lottery Fund



PIOB MHOR

39 HIGH STREET, BLAIRGOWRIE
PERTSHIRE, SCOTLAND, PH10 6DA.

for QUALITY & CRAFTSMANSHIP

We take pride in our work, made on the premises at Piob Mhor in all aspects of Highland wear and pipe band equipment. We are highly specialised, making the following items:-

Hand-Sewn Quality Worsted KILTS.

Hand-made FEATHER BONNETS & HACKLES.

Tailored Jackets and Vests.

Hand-crafted SPORRANS in all designs.

Hand-turned African Blackwood BAGPIPES.

In conjunction with the above, we make all the accessories relevant to each craft and stock quality jewellery, tartans, gifts etc.



Please write, 'phone or call.

Overseas orders welcome.



Tel: (01250) 872131 Fax: (01250) 874741

Results

The Piping Society of Caithness and North Sutherland

Junior Piping Competition, 6th November

Piobaireachd Under 21

Open

1 David Falconer 2 Joanne Shaw 3eq
Miranda MacKay Anne Swanson

Confined

1 Joanne Shaw 2eq Miranda MacKay
Anne Swanson 3 Bryan More

Dr Angus Mackay Memorial Shield (under 21 years)

David Falconer

C & N.S. Piping Society Cup (under 16 years)

David Falconer

March – practice chanter under 11 years

Open

1 Jack Cowan 2 Catriona Quirie 3
Alexander Elder

Confined

1 Jack Cowan 2 Catriona Quirie 3
Alexander Elder

P/M Charles O'Brien Challenge Cup

Jack Cowan

March-practice Chanter 11 and over

Open

1 Stewart Crowe 2 Calvin Wilson 3
David Milligan

Confined

1 Stewart Crowe 2 Calvin Wilson 3
David Milligan

The Mingulay Shield

Stewart Crowe

March (4 part) under 15

Open

1 Freya MacMillan 2 Donna Harrold
Confined

1 Freya MacMillan 2 Donna Harrold

Kildonan Cup

Freya MacMillan

M, S & R Under 15

March

Open

1 Anne Swanson 2 Joanne Shaw 3
Michael Boyce

Confined

1 Anne Swanson 2 Joanne Shaw 3
Michael Boyce

S & R Under 15

Open

1 Joanne Shaw 2 Anne Swanson

Confined

1 Joanne Shaw 2 Anne Swanson

A Murray Cup

1 Joanne Shaw 2 Anne Swanson

M, S&R, Jig Under 21

March

Open

1 Joanne Shaw 2 David Falconer 3
Graham Fryer

Confined

1 Joanne Shaw 2 Graham Fryer 3
Miranda Mackay

S&R

Open

1 Anne Swanson 2 Joanne Shaw 3
David Falconer

Confined

1 Anne Swanson 2 Joanne Shaw 3
Graham Fryer

Jig

Open

1 Anne Swanson 2 Joanne Shaw 3
Miranda Mackay

Confined

1 Anne Swanson 2 Joanne Shaw 3
Miranda Mackay

The Mackay Quaich

Joanne Shaw

Slow March & Jig under 15

Open

1 Joanne Shaw 2 Michael Boyce 3 Anne
Swanson

Confined

1 Joanne Shaw 2 Michael Boyce 3 Anne
Swanson

James Elder Memorial Trophy

Joanne Shaw

Slow March & Hornpipe under 21

Open

1 David Falconer 2 Joanne Shaw 3
Miranda Mackay

Confined

1 Joanne Shaw 2 Miranda Mackay 3
Anne Swanson

The An-Comunn Rosebowl

David Falconer

C. & N.S. Piping Society Shield – Dress & Department

David Falconer

Dod Allan Memorial Trophy –

Overall Winner (Open)

Joanne Shaw

... PIPERS ...

AIRSTREAM BLOWPIPE

A new blowpipe that actually makes your pipes easier to blow!

This new blowpipes has an oval mouthpiece design with tips to hold the blowpipe in your mouth which prevents slipping and fits the mouth more naturally. It has a 3/8" bore making it easier to blow your pipes. The built-in Little Mac is larger to prevent any restriction. It's attractive, light and durable and is compatible with all existing bagpipe designs. Available in 9", 10", 11" and 12" sizes

MOUTHPIECE AVAILABLE SEPARATELY IF DESIRED

Introducing . . . the Piper's 3rd Hand



The hand, when placed on the chanter, covers the holes normally covered by the B, C and D fingers. It makes tuning drones easier and more accurate. Improve your drone sound with the Piper's 3rd Hand!

IN BAGPIPE & SCOTTISH SHOPS NOW
BLOWPIPE – £37.50 IN UK OR \$75.00 IN CANADA OR U.S.
3RD HAND – £6.00 IN UK OR \$9.98 IN CANADA OR U.S.

IF UNABLE TO LOCATE, CONTACT

Scott's Highland Services Ltd.

1464 BECKWORTH AVENUE, LONDON, ONTARIO N5V 2K7

Phone: (519) 453-0892 Fax: (519) 453-6303

Internet Address: E-mail: scotts@scottshighland.com

WWW: <http://www.scottshighland.com>

MACPHERSON'S OF EDINBURGH SINCE 1946



- PIPERS' AND PIPE BAND UNIFORMS AND MUSICAL SUPPLIES, FINEST QUALITY HAND-SEWN KILTS
- PROBABLY THE BEST BAGPIPE AND PIPE BAND MUSIC BOOK LIST IN THE WORLD
- HUNDREDS OF TARTANS ALWAYS AVAILABLE
- BAGPIPES, CHANTERS, REEDS Etc. PREMIER DRUMS & ACCESSORIES

Electronic Pipes – Battery or Mains

Available in B^b and D.

Made in U.K. – Price £230 including V.A.T.

For details of all this and MORE – Contact:
HUGH MACPHERSON (Scotland) Ltd.
17 West Maitland Street, Haymarket, Edinburgh,
Scotland EH12 5EA.

Tel: 0131-225 4008 Fax: 0131-225 9823
ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED



Results *continued*

C. & N.S. Piping Society Shield – Overall Winner (Confined)

Joanne Shaw

Youngest Competitor

Jack Cowan

Judges

Andy Venters & Sandy Forbes

GS MacLennan Memorial Competition, San Diego, CA

Piobaireachd

1 Willie McCallum 2 Bill Livingstone 3
Roddy MacLeod

MSR

1 Alasdair Gillies 2 Roddy MacLeod 3
Willie McCallum

Overall

1 Willie McCallum 2 Roddy MacLeod 3
Alasdair Gillies

Denny High School Juvenile Piping – 20/11/99

Under 12: 1 Jonathon Simpson 2
Andrew Low 3 Allan Nimmo 4 Greg
McKail 5 Ross Morris 6 Fergus Bell

Under 14: 1 Gary Nimmo 2 M MacLeod
3 James Barrowman 4 Alan Buchan 5
equal Scott Johnstone and C Henderson

Under 16: 1 Robbie Kenny 2 Luke
Bayne 3 Adam More 4 Stuart Cullen 5
Kevin Scotland
6 Robert

Moultrie

Under 19: John
Little 2 Blair
McKnight 3
R i c h a r d
Findlay 4
H e a t h e r
MacFarlane 5
Alister Tripney

Judge: Leslie
Watson



*Robbie Kenny
and John Little*

SPA Amateur Competition – 27th November

Robert Wallace writes: Judging the piobaireachd events, it was noticeable the number of pipers having difficulty with their pipes. Only two or three good instruments were heard during the day. This may have had something to do with the differing temperatures between final tuning room and competition room, or an over reliance on plastic drone reeds. No matter what reeds are used you still need an ear to tune them, and perhaps young pipers should pay more attention to learning this basic skill.



The standard of performance was hampered by the poor pipes but the prizewinners all played well, notably young Andrew Carlisle from Ulster (above). His tune had expression and poise not often heard from one so young.

1 John Mulhearn *Lament for Donald Duaghal MacKay* 2 Finlay Johnston *King's Taxes* 3 Gavin Stewart *Sir James MacDonald of the Isles Lament* 4 Alister Brown *Clan Chattan's Gathering A March*

1 Finlay Johnston 2 John Mulhearn 3 Darach Urquhart 4 Conon Urquhart

A S & R

1 John Mulhearn 2 Finlay Johnston 3 Darach Urquhart 4 Angus Morrison

THE COLLEGE OF PIPING

The College of Piping gives a service to pipers everywhere

BAGPIPES & ACCESSORIES

Selected by experts, tested and speedily despatched to any part of the world

PIPE MUSIC AND RECORDINGS

THE COLLEGE TUTORS

The world renowned tutors for the Highland bagpipe parts 1, 2 and 3. Tapes to accompany parts 1 and 3.

NOW AVAILABLE

College of Piping Starter Kit . . .

all that's needed to begin your piping career. Each kit contains quality D. Naill practice chanter, College Tutor One and Tutor One tape . . . all neatly packaged and very competitively priced at: £39 + £2 p&p (\$58US + \$10 p&p)

TRADE ENQUIRIES WELCOME



Individual tuition by our resident experts:-

Robert Wallace (Principal), Angus J. MacLellan (ex Strathclyde Police), James Young and Dugald MacNeill

Tuition by Tape for all levels – novice to master class

TUTOR FOR PÌOBAIREACHD

Enjoy the benefits of a College education

Write for a catalogue to:

16-24 Otago Street, Glasgow G12 8JH, Scotland, UK

Tel: 0044 (0)141 334 3587 or Fax: 0044 (0) 141 337 3024

Web site: <http://www.piping.scot.net>

E-mail: college@college-of-piping.co.uk

Saturday Lessons

From January 8, the College will be open for lessons on a Saturday morning from 10.30 to 12.30. All grades of tuition will be catered for. Prices are £20 per 10 week term (adults); £15 (juveniles). Contact the numbers above for more details.

Results *continued*

A Jig

1 Finlay Johnston 2 John Mulhearn 3
Strath Urquhart 4 Gavin Stewart

Overall A Grade

John Mulhearn

Overall 15 & Under A Grade

Finlay Johnston

B Piobaireachd

1 Andrew Carlisle *The Boat Tune 2*
Callum Beaumont *The Groat 3* Scott
McKillop *MacLeod's Short tune 4*
Wesley Brown *Flame of Wrath*

B March

1 Andrew Carlisle 2 Scott McKillop 3
Callum Beaumont 4 Calum Beaton

B S & R

1 Andrew Carlisle 2 Callum Beaumont
3 Calum Beaton 4 Scott McKillop

Overall B Grade

Andrew Carlisle

Judges

Stuart Sheddon, Robert Wallace, James
MacPhee, Rory Grossart

London Competition

OPEN PIOBAIREACHD

1 Gordon Walker *MacSwan of Roaig*
2 William McCallum
3 Brian Donaldson
4 Jenny Hazzard
5 Robert Wallace

Highland Club Piob

1 Robert Watt
2 Craig Skedd

3 Alexis Meunier

MSR 'Bronze Star'

1 William McCallum
2 Andrew Mathieson
3 Gordon Walker
4 Brian Donaldson

Strachan MSR

1 Michael Grey 2 Jenny Hazzard 3 Craig
Skedd 4 Bruce Erskine

Targe MSR

1 Daniel Moign 2 Andrew Douglas 3
Stephen Cussen

Jig

1 Brian Donaldson 2 Gordon Walker 3
Roderick Macleod

Gaelic Air and Jig

1 Andrew Douglas 2 Alexis Meunier 3
Bruce Erskine

Northern Ireland Piping Society, Piper of the Year

Ken Stewart writes: This annual competition, which has been in existence for 20 years, took place in the Adair Arms Hotel, Ballymena. It is organised by the Northern Ireland Piping Society and incorporated within the Ballymena Arts and Music Festival. The competition comprised three events: piobaireachd, which took place in the afternoon, and an MSR and hornpipe and jig which took place the same evening. Fourteen pipers took part in the piobaireachd and fifteen in the light music. At the end of proceedings judge Willie McCallum gave a short recital to a very appreciative capacity audience.

Piob: 1 Robert Watt, *Corrienessan's Salute* 2 J Greenlees, *Old Men of the Shells*, 3 Margaret Houlihan, *Too Long In This Condition*

H&J: 1 Richard Parkes 2 Robert Watt

MSR: 1 Richard Parkes 2 David Russell
3 Gary Watterson 4 J Greenlees

Best junior: David Russell

Former Member of the Strathclyde Police Pipe Band

ANGUS M. LAWRIE

69 STAKEHILL, LARGS

Tel./Fax: 01475.689344

Pipe Bags

ALL BAGS HANDSTITCHED

No Extra Charge for Swan Necks
Tied and Seasoned £8.00 - P&P Extra

COWHIDE -- Airtight	SHEEPSKIN
NO SEASONING REQUIRED	28"x10" £70
28"x9" £44	29"x10½" £76
28"x9½" £45	29"x11" £78
28"x10" £46	29"x11½" £79
29"x10½" £47	30"x12" £80
29"x11" £48	31"x12" £85
29"x11½" £49	32"x11½" £85
30"x12" £50	
31"x12" £55	
32"x11½" £55	



P/M Mark Bennett

Pipe Bags & Drone Reeds

HIDE & SHEEPSKIN
HAND STITCHED
MADE IN SCOTLAND

Quality Pipe Bags! Quality Prices! Quality Service!
For more information call/write to 'Malbrec', 21 Sheephoushill,
Fauldhouse, West Lothian, Scotland, EH47 9ED.

TEL/FAX: 01501 771664

E-Mail: pmmarkbennet@sol.co.uk

Web Site: <http://www/sol.co.uk/b/bennett/>



We Carry a
Complete Line
of Highland
Dress

Pipeline

Gerry Rooney

973-839-4761

28 Storms Place • Haskell, NJ 07420 USA • 1 Mile Off Rt. 287 Exit 55

always in stock

Kintail

The Backbone Of Bands Throughout The World

Dunfion Bagpipes

A beautiful hand crafted instrument

R.T. Shepherd

Winner of All The Major Piping Titles

Ray Sloan Small Pipes

Key of A, B or D

Electronic Practice Chanter

- Fits In Your Pocket: Only (5/8" x 9")
- Uses Earphones: Therefore Perfect To Play on Buses, Trains Etc. Ideal For the Commuter
- Touch Control For Volume & Pitch
- Unforgiving At Detecting Crossing Noise
- Price Excl. Earphones: US \$245.00

Review

Sound of the Sun

MONARCH CDL DL 1284

Fred Morrison

IN THIS CD Fred Morrison is in ceildh mood using Border pipes and whistles to display his musicianship. The content of the CD is based mainly on traditional material for the great Highland bagpipe but given an unusual twist. He invariably repeats each tune with the repeat differing from the original rendition. Indeed, I suspect that Fred is enjoying this 'playing off the cuff' and this feeling is conveyed to the listener throughout the CD. Although my purist sensibilities were shaken on first hearing his treatment of *John MacColl's March To Kilbowie Cottage*, and *Donald MacLean's Farewell to Oban*, I soon began to appreciate what Fred was doing with the music. He slows things down and rounds out the tunes, even inventing his own embellishments and, in my book, scores a musical success. Fred, however, does point out that this is not the only way he would play the tunes – it was just how he was feeling on the day. On a critical note I have to say that his performance on the low whistle did not arrest my attention in the same way his

pipings did, although the track from which the CD title is taken allows Fred to demonstrate his undoubted composing skill and his amazing breath control. The *Sound of the Sun* is a beautiful piece of music by any standard.

Another highlight for me was the treatment of the traditional strathspeys and reels, in particular an unusual setting of *Cabar Feidh* (S&R), all taken at a fair pace and transmitting a genuine sense of fun and enjoyment.

The piping is complimented by the very skillful use of fiddle, bouzouki and guitar.

The final track, *Drumbuie*, is an extended Highland air dedicated to Fred's late father Fred Morrison Snr. This is beautifully presented in a highly unusual manner. Its effect is both poignant and majestic.

Fred Morrison's latest offering will find favour in both traditionalist and kitchen piping camps.

Willie Gilmour



K. PETTIGREW
BAGPIPES

Experience the unmistakable
sound of quality

www.bagpipes.co.uk



USA Success For Andrew

Andrew Douglas (right), a multi-talented teenager from New York State, impressed the locals coming away as virtually the top amateur of the day. Andrew, who turned 15 in September, fared well against much older competition, winning the Gaelic Air and Jig event and placing second in March, Strathspey and Reel. Andrew journeyed to London courtesy of a round-trip ticket provided by the committee of the Nicol-Brown Competition, a major amateur event held in Hartford, Connecticut each year. Andrew captured the overall title in that competition last year.



(London results on page 55)

ecossais

EDINBURGH

- highland dress
- made to measure
- pipe band outfitting
- quantity discount
- band member discount
- sales & hire
- discount offers
- open 7 days

Scotland's most dynamic highland & pipeband outlet... lots of style, loads of experience.

Proprietor:
NEIL MANDERSON

ecossais

3-6 Canonmills Bridge Edinburgh EH3 5LF (formerly Budget Tiles shop)
Tel: 0131 556 9357 Fax: 0131 556 9980 (customer parking at rear of shop)
Web: www.classickilts.com





TENNENT CALEDONIAN BREWERIES

Supporting Scottish culture and piping

Tennents P / M Donald Macleod



Memorial Competition

“THE WORLD MASTERS OF PIPING”

Seaforth Hotel, Stornoway

April 7, 2000

For ticket and information call 01851 704945

Diary

6 January

SPA Meeting, Polish Club, Glenfarg St, Glasgow

14 January

Callander Pipe Band, Ten after the Millenium Concert, Tom Dingwall, 01877 382 668

14 January

Celtic Connections, Fred Morrison Meets Paddy Keenan, 8.00pm Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, 0141 287 5511

15 January

Celtic Connections, Annual Piping Concert, 12.30pm, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, 0141 287 5511

15 January

Celtic Connections, Xose Manuel Budino, 1.00pm, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, 0141 287 5511

15 January

Celtic Connections, Chris Armstrong with Anna Murray, 8.00pm, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, 0141 287 5511

29 January

Kintyre Piping Society Burns Night, W McCallum, 01586 552508

3 February

SPA Meeting, Polish Club, Glenfarg Street, Glasgow

12 February

Kintyre Piping Society, Gordon Walker, Details from W McCallum, 01586 552508

24 March

John MacFadyen Memorial Lecture/Recital

25-26th March

Piobaireachd Society Conference

OVERSEAS

8 January

BC Pipers Association Mini-Gathering

12 February

BC Pipers Association Mini-Gathering

RADIO

The BBC's Pipeline programme can be heard on FM 92.4/97.7 MHz; MW 810 (Dumfries 585) and on Radio nan Gaidheal FM 103.5-105 at 5 pm on Sundays. Contact Iain MacInnes, Senior Producer, Pipeline, Room 220, BBC Radio Scotland, Queen Margaret Drive, Glasgow, G12 8DG.

Major Pipe Band Championships for 2000

May 20 European, Ayr

Nov. juv. and Grade 4a and 4b: selection in quick march rhythm

Juv and Grade 2: selection

Grade 3a and 3b and Grade 1: MSR

June 24 British, Ashbourne, Derbyshire

Nov. juv. and Grade 4a and 4b: selection in quick march rhythm

Juv and Grade 2: MSR

Grade 3a and 3b and Grade 1: selection

Aug 12 Worlds, Glasgow

Nov. juv. and Grade 4a and 4b: selection in quick march rhythm

Juv and Grade 2: selection

Grade 3a and 3b: MSR

Grade 1: selection and MSR

Aug 26 Cowal, Dunoon

Nov. juv. and Grade 4a and 4b: selection in quick march rhythm

Juv and Grade 2: selection

Grade 3a and 3b and Grade 1: MSR

Sept 2 Scottish, Arbroath

Nov. juv. and Grade 4a and 4b: selection in quick march rhythm

Juv and Grade 2: MSR

Grade 3a and 3b and Grade 1: selection

Piping Times Diary is compiled by Kathryn McEwan. Let her know what is going on in your society or pipe band. Tell us when you are holding a contest or fund raiser. All diary insertions are free. Send your Diary info to Kathryn at the College. E mail: college@college-of-piping.co.uk or see page one for other contact details.

T H E Canmore pipe bag

- ePTFE membrane/textile laminate from the same company that developed GORE-TEX® fabric
- Maintenance free - no seasoning necessary, naturally supple
- Pick up and play anytime
- Automatic moisture control - even pitch and tone
- Ease of assembly - no tying in necessary
- Longer, more hygienic bag life

From the heart of Scotland

For a list of stockists, please contact:

W L Gore & Associates (UK) Ltd,
Kirkton South Road,
LIVINGSTON, West Lothian
EH54 7BT.

Tel: 01506 460607

Fax: 01506 462270



*Creative Technologies
Worldwide*



T H E Canmore pipe bag

CANMORE is a trademark of W L Gore & Associates. GORE-TEX is a registered trademark of W L Gore & Associates Copyright © 1999, W L Gore & Associates (UK) Ltd

SM90 The All New Plastic Drone Reed

© Designed & Manufactured by R.T. Shepherd & Son

- ◆ New Design Concept
- ◆ A Specifically Fabricated Blade, with pre-set memory
- ◆ Telescopic Tuneable Slide
- ◆ Integral Bridal Mechanism
(designed exclusively for R.T. Shepherd & Son)
- ◆ Common Components for Bass & Tenor
- ◆ Lower Maintenance – Better Stability
- ◆ Pitch is Independent to the Blowing Pressures



R.T. Shepherd & Son [Scotland] Ltd

164 Jamphlars Road, Cardenden, Fife,
Scotland KY5 0ND

Tel. 01592 720130 Fax. 01592 721857

Email: salesinfo@shepherd-bagpipes.com

Website: www.shepherd-bagpipes.co

