



Piping Times

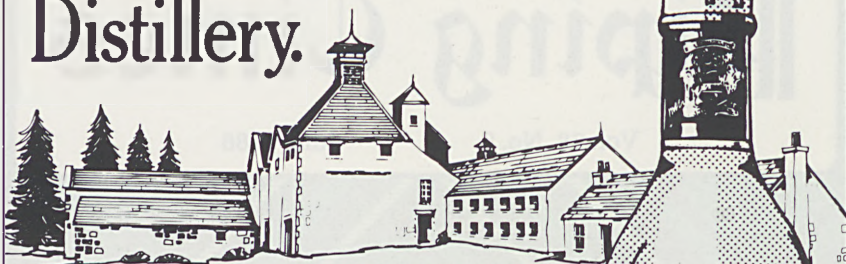
Vol. 38, No. 9

June 1986

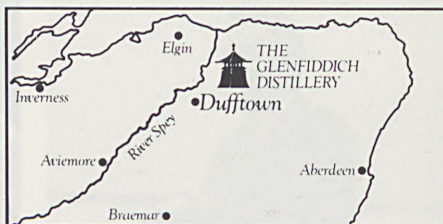


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at 2.00 p.m.

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	Under 18	£12	£8
	Under 13	£10	£5
Strathspey/Reel	Open	£15	£10
	Under 18	£12	£8
Jig	Open	£15	£10
	Under 18	£12	£8

Entry fee per event:— Open £1, Under 18 & Under 13 £0.50.

Free entry to the ground for competitors paying entry fees before Sunday 29th June 1986 to the Piping Secretary, Dr M.D. Hendry, Linley, East Road, CUPAR (Please make cheques etc payable to "Cupar Highland Games").

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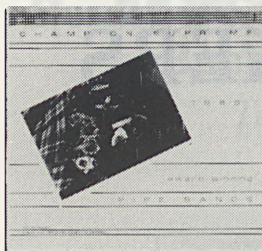
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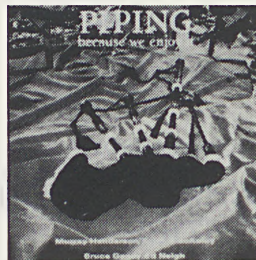


The above contest draws the finest competitors from across Canada and the United States. On this album, you will hear the complete piobaireachd by Bill Livingstone Jr., then Light Music medleys from Michael Cusak, Bruce Gandy, Scott MacAulay and Ed Neigh. The recording quality is exceptional due to the digital equipment used.

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2nd	Bruce Gandy	Scott MacAulay	Scott MacAulay
3rd	Scott MacAulay	Bruce Gandy	Bill Livingstone Jr.
4th			Ed Neigh

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JUDGES: Mr Ronald Morrison, Mr Andrew MacNeill, Mr Neill Mulvie.

2. **Marches** — *Starting main platform 12.00 p.m.*

Draw made at 11.30 a.m.

1st — £20.00: 2nd — £15.00: 3rd — £10.00: 4th — £8.00

JUDGES: Pipe Major Evan MacRae, Mr John Burgess, Sheriff Sandy MacPherson.

3. **Strathspey & Reel**

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JUDGES: Pipe Major Evan MacRae, Mr John Burgess, Sheriff Sandy MacPherson.

B. PIPING EVENTS — LOCAL — Starting 3.00 p.m. approx.

Marches: Strathspey & Reels

Prizes for each event:—

1st — £6.00: 2nd — £4.00: 3rd — £3.00: 4th — £2.00

C. PIPING EVENT — OPEN JUVENILE — Under 17 years. Starts 2.30 p.m.

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JUDGES: For events B & C:— Mr Alex MacIver, Mr William MacDonald

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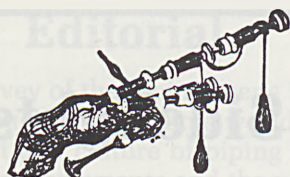
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Piping Times

Vol. 38, No. 9

June 1986

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Front Cover: Norman MacLean — you name it, he does it.

Tartan: MacLean

Sidelights on The Kilberry Book of Ceol Mor PART 2

The second instalment of notes by Archibald Campbell of Kilberry on the instruction he received from Alexander Cameron, John MacDougall Gillies and John MacDonald, including the full score of and comments on 30 of the greatest piobaireachds.

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Editorial

Anyone making a survey of the piping scene in this country — or in these islands, or throughout the whole world — would be forced to conclude that the art and culture of piping is in a very healthy state. In most places the instruments and the players have reached very high standards; all over there are active and vigorous piping clubs and societies, some attending to purely local interests, some cutting across barriers of race, age, colour and creed. Facilities for teaching are better than they have ever been; the number of local pipe bands producing their own young players is increasing all the time and the organisation of the bands themselves is highly effective and efficient.

There are patches in the picture of course. There are those who will say, with justification, that we do not have as many dedicated teachers in Scotland as half a century ago. Some observers may even ask why it is that adult, competent, piobaireachd players in Edinburgh find it necessary to come to the west for lessons, but these are details.

The glowing picture continues. Many Highland games, and other solo competitions, have active, go-ahead secretaries, each intent on making his competition the best in the land. The competing pipers are becoming well organised in the advancement of the competitive side of piping. The Scottish Arts Council, the Tourist Board, the various District and Regional Councils, and the Scottish Education Department all play their part by steadfastly refusing to give any grants to piping, so that our initiative and drive is not weakened by having anything made easy for us.

But there are snags, even among ourselves. If this were a university lecture room and one could ask for audience participation (not that that happens very often in university lecture rooms) almost certainly someone would suggest that conditions for competing pipers could be better, or some of the judges should be shot, or some other such valuable but unoriginal contribution.

The snag we have in mind however is not so obvious and yet is doing a great deal to hold back the full flowering of the national art. If we had to pinpoint one major flaw in the piping set-up it would be the fact that although all our clubs, societies and organisations have produced active workers (and as an inevitable result) political pipers, there is a great scarcity of statesmen in our piping world.

What happens abroad we can only vaguely tell, but the picture in this one respect at least seems no different from what it is in

Scotland. Certainly it is the function — and indeed the duty — of secretaries, treasurers and chairmen to work principally for the good of their own particular group. But there are not enough people taking the overall view so that even on occasion they may sacrifice the good of the group for the good of piping in general.

The more local the activity of course the less likely are you to find statesmen. The organisers of a juvenile competition in Twechar are unlikely to be concerning themselves with the effect of their activity on the future of piping. But higher up the scale — at one of the bigger games for examples — we should expect the wider view. Perhaps not on every occasion but at least some times during the deliberations a thought should be spared for the possible ramifications of decisions being taken.

For example when choosing judges, little or no thought is given as to who is likely to be judging similar contests elsewhere, or even which judges are on approved lists. Sadly there have been examples recently — again — of judges being chosen solely for their cheapness.

Where the bodies of greatest influence are concerned — the Piobaireachd Society, the Army School of Piping, the College of Piping and the John MacFadyen Trust — one would hope that there would be a high density of statesmen among those in positions of power. And there are. But the trouble is, that in our very small world of piping, everybody wears two or three hats, and it is difficult (even for the wearers) to know which is the most important one. Proposals debated for the general weal are often mentally and privately considered round the table as to how they will affect the well-being — or even only the self-esteem — of other pet societies of members of the committee.

We have statesmen certainly, but not enough of them. Perhaps it would help if we had less societies, or if some at least of the bigger ones could come together under one roof to form a wider-ranging institute of piping. When we are asked, Who speaks for the solo pipers? we have at present no answer.

TUITION by TAPE for players eager to improve lighter music and/or Piobaireachd given by former British Army Pipe Major. For details write to: W.A. Robertson, 58 Takutai Av., Bucklands Beach, Auckland, New Zealand.

Glasgow

S.P.A. Professional Contest

The Scottish Pipers Association in Glasgow has been going through a shaky time recently, having difficulty in finding a suitable place to hold its meetings. However the 60th Annual Professional competition held in the Palace of Art showed all the old power and prestige that we used to associate with this event. In spite of the loss of the sponsor of recent years, the entry was much bigger and the playing on the whole of a high standard.



*Judges (left to right): Ian Cameron, Ronald Lowrie,
John Weatherstone, Ronald Morrison, Peter Maynard.*

Perhaps one attraction, for the audience at least, was the presence of Norman MacLean as chairman. Norman's photograph has featured in this magazine in the past as a junior piping champion but it is as a singer, bard and entertainer that he is best known nowadays. Nevertheless his standard of playing is still remarkably high and always a surprise to those who are unaware of his early work in this art.

The Class 1 Piobaireachd attracted an entry of eighteen and only three of these did not actually play. The event was judged by Dr. Leslie Craig, Ronnie Lawrie and Ronald Morrison. The result was;

1. Alfred Morrison, 2. Inspector John Wilson, 3. Ronald MacShannon, 4. Robert Wallace.

The Class 2 Piobaireachd had twenty-three entries, nineteen of whom played. It was judged by Ian Cameron and Fred Morrison Snr. The result was; 1. Andrew Young, 2. Alan Minty, 3. Stuart Sheddon, 4. Annie Grant.

The results of the other events were as follows:—
March (former winners excluded) 1. Roderick MacLeod, 2. Gordon Laing, 3. Tom Johnstone, 4. Ronald MacShannon.



Presenting the prizes (left to right): Treasurer Neil MacGiven, President Angus MacLellan, Norman MacLean, Joe Wright.

Strathspey and Reel (former winners excluded) 1. Roderick MacLeod, 2. Brian Lamond, 3. Tom Johnstone, 4. Ronald MacShannon.

The adjudicators for both of these events were Pipe Major Iain MacLellan, Peter Maynard and John Weatherstone.

March, Strathspey and Reel for former winners.

Only six pipers played in this event and the result was 1. Alfred Morrison, 2. Robert Wallace, 3. Inspector John Wilson, 4. Roderick MacLeod. The adjudicators were Ian Cameron, Ronald Lawrie, Peter Maynard and John Weatherston.

The overall winners of the Duncan MacFadyen Memorial Trophy was Roderick MacLeod.

The Competing Pipers Association

The C.P.A. is at this time of the year entering its most fruitful months, if not actually its busiest season. Almost all solo competitors are now members of the Association, only a handful apparently still feeling that they prefer to go it alone.

The grading of pipers for a competition has been one of the most important aspects of the work and already considerable success has been achieved. The professional competitions run by the Lothian and Borders Police, the Scottish Pipers Association and the Uist and Barra Association all use the C.P.A. gradings for their piobaireachd events. In addition, the Uist and Barra uses the gradings throughout all the light music too.

A number of meetings have been held with representatives of the Piobaireachd Society, which is lending its weight to the arrangements in progress between the C.P.A. and Games organisers.

A representative attends meetings of the Judges Committee and this is very helpful to both competitors and judges. On reaching the end of his term as representative, Malcolm MacRae stated that the system was now firmly established and the organisation would remain a permanent one within the piping world. The new representative is the President of the C.P.A., Robert Wallace.

The other office bearers elected at the A.G.M. were Vice President James J. MacGregor, Secretary Barry Donaldson, Treasurer Patricia Henderson, with committee members Logan Tannock, Alastair Smith, James Hood, Ronald Clark, Hugh MacInnes and Fred Morrison.

The membership secretary, to whom all correspondence regarding membership should be directed, is Logan Tannock whose address is 63 Deerpark, Sauchie Alloa, Telephone 0259 723479. The subscription rates for the present year are United Kingdom £5.00, overseas £8.00.

Edinburgh

Royal British Legion

The annual competitions confined to members of the Royal British Legion were held on Saturday 3rd May in New Haig House, Edinburgh. The contest has taken a new lease of life since it became permissible for serving soldiers to join the Legion, and no doubt this very suggestion made many years ago in these pages eventually influenced the decision. The number of pipers eligible is of course still quite small, considering the natural ageing of war-time pipers and the considerable run-down in the number of Army pipe bands. Nevertheless ten entered for the Piobaireachd event and eight actually played.

The result was 1. Andrew Wright, 2. John MacDougall, 3. Duncan Watson, 4. Michael Elder.

The other events had ten to a dozen competitors except for the juvenile section where the entry ranged from one to eight. The veterans competition, which might have brought out a host of former winners, attracted an entry of only nine with just one past master.

The other results were:—

MARCH — 1. Alasdair Gillies, 2. Gordon Lang, 3. John MacDougall, 4. Michael Elder.

STRATHSPEY & REEL — 1. John MacDougall, 2. Alasdair Gillies, 3. Gordon Lang, 4. Duncan Watson.

MARCH, CONFINED — 1. Gordon Lang, 2. Michael Elder, 3. James Smith, 4. James Penman.

HORNPIPE & JIG — 1. John MacDougall, 2. Gordon Lang, 3. Michael Elder, 4. Alasdair Gillies.

VETERANS COMPETITION — 1. William Kinghorn, 2. Timothy Ainslie, 3. Alan Bain.

Juvenile Events:—

12 years and under, 1. Jim Cowan. 13-15 years, 1. Steven Watterson, 2. Karen MacDonald, 3. John Selkirk.

16-18 years, 1. Alan McGill, 2. Ian Renwick, 3. Andrew Watt.

Over 18, 1. James MacKay, 2. Stuart Robinson, 3. Roderick McIntyre.

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Edinburgh

Royal Scottish Pipers

The Annual Members' competition of the Royal Scottish Pipers Society was held in their rooms at 127 Rose Street Lane South on the 18th and 19th of April. As always there was a good entry for the many events and a large and appreciative audience who enjoyed the tunes and also the hospitality of the Society. There were 22 competitors playing in 9 events and the judges were Bert Barron of St. Andrews, Norman Meldrum of Braemar and Donald Morrison of Aberdeen. The competition organiser was Dr. James Campbell to whom great credit is due for the smooth running of the different events.

The results were as follows:—

Senior Members March

1. Rev. J. Brown (Blackmount Forest), 2. Dr Robert Frater (Bonnie Anne), 3. Angus MacPhee (The Maids of Kintail).

Slow March

1. Dr Finlay G. MacLaren (The Fair Maid of Barra), 2. James J. Burnet (MacRoberts' Lament), 3. Alan R. Forbes (Loch Etiveside).

March

1. David J. Balfour (Glenfinnan Highland Gathering), 2. Andrew Frater (MacLean of Pennycross), 3. James J. Burnet (The Clan MacColl).

Strathspey and Reel

1. Dr Finlay G. MacLaren (Struan Robertson and Bessie MacIntyre), 2. Andrew Frater (Captain Colin Campbell and Anne Murray), 3. Rev. J. Brown (Arniston Castle and the Rejected Suitor).

Confined March

1. Major Hon. E. Campbell (Donald MacLeod of Lewis), 2. John A. Manson (John Morrison of Assynt House), 3. Hamish I. MacRae (Captain Norman R. Ewing).

Piobaireachd

1. Alan Forbes (Park Piobaireachd No. 2), 2. Alasdair D.T. Ross (MacIntosh's Lament), 3. Andrew Frater (Struan Robertsons Salute).

6/8 March

1. Alasdair D.T. Ross (Mrs Pat MacLaren), 2. Alan R. Forbes (Braemar Highland Gathering), 3. Andrew Frater (MacNeils of Ugadale).

March, Strathspey and Reel

1. Alan R. Forbes (The Duchess of Edinburgh, Inveraray Castle, John Morrison of Assynt House). 2. Andrew Frater (MacLean of Pennycross, Arniston Castle, Colonel MacLeod). 3. David J. Balfour (John MacDonald's Welcome to South Uist, Lady Loudon, Alex C. MacGregor).

Jig

1. Alan R. Forbes (Mrs Angus MacDonald of Tiree), 2. David J. Balfour (The Kitchen Maid), 3. Alasdair D.T. Ross (Banjo Breakdown).

Young Champion



The piping fame of the MacFadyens has long been legendary throughout the world, with the four brothers John, Duncan, Hector and Iain, and sister Freena, all prizewinners in competition. John, Duncan and Iain all won double Gold Medals and the Silver Chanter.

Now the rising star is Iain's son, Iain N. MacFadyen whose performances over the last two years mark him out as the star of the future.

Piping in Ayrshire

Our photograph shows Sue MacIntyre, instructor of piping in Ayrshire schools, examining with Greig Sharp a set of Kintail bagpipes made from cocus wood with engraved brass mountings.



Sue has been the driving force behind the Dailly Piping Society which is doing so much to encourage pipers and piping in the Girvan area. Greig is the founder and proprietor of the popular Kintail bagpipe firm.

New Magazine

Arrived on the editorial desk the other day the number one issue, April 1986, of "The Australian Pipe Band World." This is edited by Bruce Campbell and is intended to be a monthly production on the lines of "The Piper and Dancer" of Canada and the "New Zealand Pipebandsman."

The difficulty of providing the magazine for a country where the piping is so widespread as Australia is obvious, but Bruce and Susan Campbell run a bagpipe shop in New South Wales and it would

seem that they have a finger on the pulse of the country. This first issue has the usual piping mix, lots of results of band contests, the history of a pipe band (Townsville Highland) sketch of a famous Australian piper (Alistair MacSween), odd facts and a new tune.

The annual subscription is fifteen Australian dollars including postage and the address is Box 193, Post Office, Moore Bank NSW.

The National Mod

The piping competitions of the National Mod in Edinburgh this year will be held on Saturday the 11th October. All competitors must be members of An Comunn Gaidhealach and there is an entry fee of £1.00 for each event.

The two events are Piobaireachd and March, Strathspey and Reel. Five piobaireachds have to be submitted and four of each of the other tunes. The judges for Ceol Mor are Donald Morrison and Ronald Morrison, and for Ceol Beag Captain John MacLellan and Tom Speirs.

Entries must reach An Comunn Gaidhealach, 109 Church Street, Inverness, IV1 1EY not later than the 1st September.

“Society put into Mothballs”

The following appeared in the “Dundee Courier” of May 3rd.

Last night in the Y.M.C.A., Broughty Ferry, an extraordinary meeting of the Tayside Pipers' Society decided to “mothball” the society.

As membership is down and volunteers are no longer available to carry out the work of the society, it was decided to appoint a group of four trustees to take charge of the remaining funds and the society's trophies which are to be banked.

The trustees, initially Mrs C.T. Leitch (ex-president), Mr R.D. Leitch (ex-treasurer), Mr William Dickson and Mrs Diane Thomson are to meet annually to consider possibilities of revival, and any group of pipers interesting in such a revival should contact them for support.

Until such time, the junior piping competition is to remain in abeyance.

Guide to the Games

We are indebted to the Competing Pipers Association for supplying the following information.

Where no closing date for entries is indicated, entries may be accepted on the field, but only up to one hour before the start of the competition. Intending competitors are strongly advised always to enter in advance.

SUNDAY 25th MAY — THE ATHOLL GATHERING (Blair Atholl) 1.00 p.m.

Piobaireachd and Light Music for seniors. Secretary: A. Spence, Ashburn, 25 West Moulin Road, Pitlochry, Perthshire.

SATURDAY 7th JUNE — STRATHMIGLO 12 noon.
Senior and junior events. Piobaireachd and Light Music. Closing date for Piobaireachd 6th June. Mr C. Dick, 93 High Street, Strathmiglo.

SUNDAY 8th JUNE — FORFAR 12.30 p.m.
Senior and junior events — Light music only. Entry fee 10p per event. Secretary: Miss M. Ross, 29 Kings Road, Forfar.

SUNDAY 8th JUNE — ARDROSSAN 11.00 a.m.
Senior and junior events. Piobaireachd and Light Music for seniors. Entry fee 40p per event. Secretary: A.J.T. Gray, 1 Seafield Drive, Ardrossan, Ayrshire, KA22 8NV. Telephone: 0294 63906.

SUNDAY 15th JUNE — ABERDEEN 10.00 a.m.
Hazelhead Park, Aberdeen. Piobaireachd and Light Music also junior events. Secretary: the Director of Leisure & Recreation, St. Nicholas House, Broad Street, Aberdeen. Telephone: Aberdeen 0224 642121 ext. 475.

SATURDAY 5th JULY — CAITHNESS 1.00 p.m.
Millbank Playing Field, Thurso. No entry fee but competitors pay admission to ground. Senior and junior events, Light Music only. Secretary: A.S. Dempster, 9 Campbell Street, Thurso, Caithness. Telephone: (0847) 64468.

SUNDAY 6th JULY — CUPAR 2.00 p.m.
Seniors — Light Music only. Secretary: Michael Henry, Linley, East Road, Cupar, Fife.

SUNDAY 6th JULY — DUNDEE

Caird Park Stadium, Dundee. Junior events only. Secretary: Mr R.D. Leitch, 242 Broughty Ferry Road, Dundee.

SATURDAY 12th JULY — DINGWALL

12 noon.

Jubilee Park, Dingwall. Piobaireachd and Light Music events also Junior events. Secretary: A.W. Miller, 15 Old Everton Road, Dingwall, Ross-shire. Telephone: 0349 62024.

SUNDAY 13th JULY — ARBROATH

11.30 p.m.

Victoria Park, Arbroath, Angus. Senior and Junior events. Piobaireachd and Light Music. Closing date for entries is 1st July. Entry fee 25p per event. Secretary: Mr G. Mitchelson, 3 Adderley Terrace, Monifeith, Angus, DD5 4DQ. Telephone: (0382) 532858.

SATURDAY 12th and SUNDAY 13th JULY — WELLINGTON COUNTRY FAIR, STRATFIELD SAYE, READING (ENGLAND).

11.00 a.m.

Entry fee of £2 covers Piobaireachd on Saturday and March, Strathspey and Reel on Sunday. Mr Andrew Cuthbert, The Ford House, Binnam, Fakenham, Norfolk, NR21 0DJ.

FRIDAY 18th JULY — DUNBEATH (CAITHNESS)

11.30 a.m.

Junior and senior events. Secretary: J.H. Sutherland, Inver Cottage, Dunbeath, Caithness. Telephone: Dunbeath (059 33) 238.

SATURDAY 19th JULY — TOMINTOUL AND STRATHAVON (BANFFSHIRE)

1.00 p.m.

Light Music events only, Senior and Junior. Secretary: P.E. Grant, Auchnachyle Cottage, Main Street, Tomintoul.

SATURDAY 19th JULY — BALLOCH (LOCH LOMOND)

1.00 p.m.

Light Music events only.

SUNDAY 20th JULY — BLAIRGOWRIE.

1.00 p.m.

High School Playing Fields, Blairgowrie. Secretary: R.T. Donaldson, Dromart, Victoria Street, Rattray, Blairgowrie. Telephone: (0250) 4356.

SUNDAY 20th JULY — STONEHAVEN

1.45 p.m.

Junior and senior piping — Light Music only. Secretary: Kincardine and Deeside District Council, Leisure and Recreation Department, Viewmount, Arouthie Road, Stonehaven AB3 2DQ. Telephone: (0569) 62001. Mr I. Robertson.

TUESDAY 22nd JULY — NORTH UIST 11.00 a.m.
Piobaireachd and Light Music also junior events. Secretary: Iain MacDonald, 9 Illeray, Balishare, Lochmaddy, North Uist.

TUESDAY 22nd JULY — INVERARAY 12.30 p.m.
Piobaireachd and Light Music, also junior events. Secretary: Dr L. Craig, Furnace, Inveraray, Argyll.

WEDNESDAY 23rd JULY — SOUTH UIST 10.00 a.m.
Piobaireachd and Light Music also junior events. Secretary: Dr D. Allen, Askernish House, South Uist.

WEDNESDAY 23rd JULY — LUSS (LOCH LOMOND) 11.00 a.m.
Light Music only, also junior events. Entry fee of one pound covers all events. closing date of entries 30th June. Secretary: E. Cairns, The Stables, Rossdall, Luss. Telephone: Luss 583.

WEDNESDAY 23rd JULY — ARISAIG 12 noon.
Piobaireachd and Light Music. Secretary: Donald MacKenzie, "Seaview", Arisaig, Inverness-shire. Telephone: 06875 686.

THURSDAY 24th JULY — TOBERMORY (MULL) 11.30 a.m.
Piobaireachd and Light Music. Secretary: Mr Bobby MacLeod, Mishnish Hotel, Tobermory, Mull.

FRIDAY 25th JULY — DURNES 12.30 p.m.
Shore Park, Durness. Piobaireachd and Light Music for seniors and junior events. Secretary: Mrs Janet Cordiner, 2 Bard Terrace, Durness.

SATURDAY 26th JULY — LOCHEARNHEAD 12 noon.
Senior events only: Piobaireachd and Light Music. Secretary: Ewan Cameron, Lochearnhead Hotel, Lochearnhead, Perthshire. Telephone: (05673) 231.

SATURDAY 26th JULY — HALKIRK 10.00 a.m.
Recreation Park, Halkirk, Caithness. Piobaireachd and Light Music for seniors and junior events. Secretary: A.S. Budge, Milton, Halkirk, Caithness. Telephone: (084 783) 666.

SATURDAY 26th JULY — AVIEMORE 11.00 a.m.
Rothiemurchus Estate, Aviemore. Senior events: Piobaireachd and Light Music. Secretary: The Rothiemurchus Estate Office, Rothiemurchus, Aviemore, Inverness-shire.

SATURDAY 2nd AUGUST — NEWTONMORE 1.00 p.m.
Piobaireachd and Light Music, also junior events. Entry fee 75p per event. SAE for competitors ticket. Secretary: Mrs C. Ralph, Caman Dubh, Newtonmore, Inverness-shire.

SATURDAY 2nd AUGUST — CAOL & LOCHABER 12.30 p.m.
Fort William Town Park, Fort William. Piobaireachd and Light Music for senior competitors. Local junior events. Secretary: D.J. Steele, 126 Glenkingie Street, Caol, Fort William, Inverness-shire. Telephone: (0397) 4421.

SATURDAY 2nd AUGUST — ABOYNE 9.30 a.m.
Piobaireachd and Light Music for seniors also junior events. Secretary: Major G. Morrison DSO, Morevay, Aboyne.

SUNDAY 3rd AUGUST — MONTROSE 12 noon.
Junior and senior events. Light Music only. Entry fee 80p per event. Secretary: Mr J. MacDonald, 3 Christies Lane, Montrose.

MONDAY 4th AUGUST — MALLAIG & MORAR 12.30 p.m.
Glencross Farm, Morar. Piobaireachd and Light Music, also junior events. Secretary: Mr J.P. MacKellaig, Trosaraidh, Mallaig, Inverness-shire. Telephone: (0687) 2110.

TUESDAY 5th and WEDNESDAY 6th AUGUST —
SKYE GATHERING, PORTREE

Tuesday 5th August — CEOL MOR (DUNVEGAN MEDAL) — MacCrimmon tunes to be submitted. CEOL MOR (CLASP) — 4 MacCrimmon tunes to be submitted. 6/8 MARCH (OWN CHOICE). JIG AND HORNPIPE (OWN CHOICE). Start time 11.00 a.m. Tuesday and 10.00 a.m. Wednesday.

Wednesday 6th August — MARCH (KEMBLE STAR) — 1 Nominated, 1 Own Choice. STRATHSPEY AND REEL (PETER MACFARQUHAR STAR) Fee £5 to accompany entry forms obtainable from: D.M. MacDonald, Piping Convenor, Skye Highland Games, Bank of Scotland House, Somerled Square, Portree. (Closing date for entries 22nd July 1986).

WEDNESDAY 6th AUGUST — THE SILVER CHANTER
MACCRIMMON MEMORIAL PIOBAIREACHD COMPETITION
In Dunvegan Castle, Isle of Skye. Entry by invitation only. Tickets from the College of Piping, £6 each including refreshments.

FRIDAY 8th AUGUST — DORNOCH 10.30 a.m.
Piobaireachd and Light Music also junior events. Secretary: Mr W. Grant, 5 Carnaig Street, Dornoch, Sutherland. Telephone: 086 281 729.

SATURDAY 9th AUGUST — ABERNETHY 11.00 a.m.
Nethybridge, Inverness-shire. Entry fee of £1 covers all events.
Piobaireachd and Light Music for seniors, also local and junior
events. Secretary: Mr M.F. George, 6 MacKenzie Crescent,
Nethybridge, Inverness-shire. Telephone: (047 982) 675.

SATURDAY 9th AUGUST — ATHOLL & BREADALBANE 1.00 p.m.
Victoria Park, Aberfeldy, Perthshire. Senior events only:
Piobaireachd and Light Music. Secretary: Manager, Bank of
Scotland, Bank Street, Aberfeldy, Perthshire.

SATURDAY 9th AUGUST — STRATHPEFFER 10.30 a.m.
Entries for piobaireachd no later than 9th August. Piobaireachd and
Light Music for seniors, also junior events. Secretary: K.A.
MacMaster, Park Terrace, Strathpeffer, Ross-shire. Telephone: (099
72) 306.

SUNDAY 10th AUGUST — PERTH 11.00 a.m.
South Inch, Perth. Entries must be in the hands of the secretary no
later than 26th July. Entry fee 50p per event. Senior: Piobaireachd,
March, Strathspey & Reel, Jig. Junior: March under 18 years. Mr J.J.
McGregor, Roselea Cottage, Perth Road, Blairgowrie. Telephone:
(0250) 4602.

THURSDAY 14th AUGUST — BALLATER 12 noon.
Monaltrie Park, Ballater. Piobaireachd and Light Music for seniors
also junior events. Secretary: Rupert MacNamee, Post House,
Ballater, Aberdeen-shire.

SATURDAY 16th AUGUST — GLENFINNAN 12 noon.
Junior and senior events. It is requested that pipers arrive prior to
11.30 a.m. so that they can help out by taking part in the traditional
March to the Games. Secretary: R. MacKellaig, Tourist Information
Centre, Glenfinnan, Inverness-shire.

SATURDAY 16th AUGUST — NAIRN 10.00 a.m.
Senior piping — Piobaireachd and Light Music. Hugh Alison, 21
Society Street, Nairn.

SATURDAY 16th AUGUST — LAIRG 11.00 a.m.
Piobaireachd and Light Music events, also junior events. Secretary:
G.F. Wilson, Manager, Bank of Scotland, Main Street, Lairg,
Sutherland. Telephone: (0549) 2177.



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SATURDAY 16th AUGUST — CRIEFF 1.00 p.m.
Market Park, Crieff. Entries must be on official form and reach the Secretary no later than Friday 1st August. One pound entry fee covers all events. Piobaireachd and Light Music for seniors also junior events. Secretary: Andrew Rettie, Craigview, 19 Abbot Street, Perth, PH2 0EE.

SATURDAY 16th AUGUST — HELMSDALE & DISTRICT 11.00 a.m.
Senior: Piobaireachd and Light Music events. Local and junior events. Secretary: Mrs E.G. Fraser, The Grove, Helmsdale, Sutherland. Telephone: 04312 66.

SATURDAY 23rd AUGUST — LONACH 9.30 a.m.
Bellabeg Park, Strathdon, Aberdeen-shire. Closing date of entries is 17th August. Piobaireachd and Light Music for seniors, also junior and local events.

SATURDAY 23rd AUGUST — INVERGORDON 12.30 p.m.
Invergordon Castle, Invergordon, Ross-shire. Piobaireachd and Light Music for senior, also local and open events. Secretary: A. MacDonald, Ardnacara, Seabank Road, Invergordon. Telephone: (0349) 852635.

TUESDAY 26th, WEDNESDAY 27th & THURSDAY 28th AUGUST — THE ARGYLLSHIRE GATHERING, OBAN
For details of qualification and entry forms contact: Angus Cheape, Middleton, Fossoway, Kinross. Closing date for entries 15th July.

FRIDAY 29th & SATURDAY 30th AUGUST — COWAL 10.00 a.m.
Sports Stadium, Dunoon. Senior and junior events. Closing date for entries is 7th August. Competitors should send a stamped envelope for competitor's ticket to be forwarded to them. Secretary: The Cowal Highland Gathering, 2 Hanover Street, Dunoon, Argyll. Telephone: (0369) 3206.

SATURDAY 30th AUGUST — BIRNAM 1.00 p.m.
Entry fee, Piobaireachd 50p, March, Strathspey, Reel & Jig one pound. Seniors: Piobaireachd, March, Strathspey & Reel, Jig. Juniors: Marches 16 years and under. 30p. Secretary: Mr R. McGregor, Inchewan, Birnam, Dunkeld, Perthshire.

SATURDAY 30th AUGUST — GLENURQUHART 9.30 a.m.
Drumnadrochit, (Loch Ness). Senior and junior events. Entry fee 1 pound covers all events. Secretary: Angus McPhee, 17 Fairfield Road, Inverness.

SATURDAY 30th AUGUST & SUNDAY 31st AUGUST —
CHATSWORTH COUNTRY FAIR 11.00 a.m.
Chatsworth, Bakewell, Derbyshire. (England). Entry fee of 2 pound
covers Piobaireachd and March. Strathspey and Reel. Closing date
for entries July 30th. Secretary: Mr Andrew Cuthbert, The Ford
House, Binham, Fakenham, Norfolk, NR21 0DJ.

SATURDAY 30th AUGUST — Q.O.H. HIGHLAND GAMES —
FORT GEORGE 10.30 a.m.
R. MacIntosh, Q.O.H. Regiment Information Team, Cameron
Barracks, Inverness. Piobaireachd, March, Strathspey & Reel & Jig.

WEDNESDAY 3rd and THURSDAY 4th SEPTEMBER —
NORTHERN MEETING
Eden Court Theatre, Inverness. Entry to all events is restricted —
forms from Secretary. Membership of and a grading from the
competing Pipers' Association is advisable. Secretary: Mr J.I.R.
Martin, Moray House, 16 Bank Street, Inverness.

SATURDAY 6th SEPTEMBER — BRAEMAR 9.30 a.m.
Closing date of entries is 17th August. 8 tunes required for
Piobaireachd. Senior Events: Piobaireachd and Light Music. Junior
March. Competitors should request a competitor's car parking
ticket to avoid a very long walk from public car parks and much
delay. Secretary: W. Meston, Balcriche, Ballater, Aberdeenshire.
Telephone: 0338 55377.

SATURDAY 13th SEPTEMBER — PITLOCHRY 11.00 a.m.
Secretary: Niall MacGregor, "Stobinian", Robertson Crescent,
Pitlochry, Perthshire. Telephone: 0796 2437.

SATURDAY 20th SEPTEMBER — INVERCARRON 1.00 p.m.
Near Bonar Bridge, Ardgay, Sutherland. Piobaireachd and Light
Music events, also junior events. Secretary: Mrs Morag Chalmers,
"Migdale Mill", Bonar Bridge, Sutherland., IV24 3AR. Telephone:
08632 521.

SATURDAY 11th OCTOBER — NATIONAL MOD, EDINBURGH 9.30 a.m.
Piobaireachd and Light Music for Seniors, also junior events. Entry
fee 1 pound per event for seniors. Closing date for entries 1st
September. An comunn Gaidhealach, Abertarff House, Church
Street, Inverness.

SATURDAY 25th OCTOBER — GRANTS CHAMPIONSHIP

11.00 a.m.

Blair Castle, Blair Atholl. Entry by invitation. Tickets available from The College of Piping, 16/24 Otago Street, Glasgow.

SATURDAY 1st NOVEMBER —

SCOTTISH PIPING SOCIETY OF LONDON

Mr A.E. Tate, Competition Secretary, 409 Bellegrove Road, Welling, Kent, DA16 3RN. Telephone: 01-856 4575.

SATURDAY 15th NOVEMBER —

LOTHIAN AND BORDERS POLICE

Police Headquarters, Fettes Avenue, Edinburgh. Entries close 1 month prior to event. Entry forms from: Superintendent P. Ferguson, Police Headquarters, Edinburgh.

SATURDAY 29th NOVEMBER — GLASGOW CITY CHAMBERS

10.00 a.m.

W. Baxter, 13 Balvie Road, Milngavie, Glasgow.

Holliday's First Law

It's morally wrong to allow suckers to keep their money.

**LOWLAND AND BORDER
PIPERS' SOCIETY**

Recital by Hamish Moore, playing Pastoral Pipes,
Lowland Pipes and Scottish Smallpipes.

At the National Army Museum,
Royal Hospital Road, London SW3.

Saturday 7th June 1986, at 7.30 p.m.

New Zealand

Communn Na Piobaireachd Inc 27th Annual Competitions

by Maeonides

The Society's annual competitions for its Gold Medal and Clasp were held as usual at the Hastings Highland Games over Easter weekend. This year's games were held for the first time at the Tomoana Showgrounds instead of the traditional venue, Windsor Park. Gone are the days of drawing first on at 8.30 a.m. on an icy morning on the piobaireachd board with the southerly coming off the stream, freezing the chances of Gold Medal aspirants. The new ground definitely lacked the atmosphere of its predecessor, although to be fair to organisers, the inclement weather did much to deter spectators who would have significantly contributed to that atmosphere. The new ground has vastly more space available for tuning and with improved weather, hopefully the atmosphere of the old games will be transferred to Tomoana.

The Gold Medal

The Society's music committee continued with its set tune requirement and this now appears to be firmly established.

Competitors were required to submit two tunes from the following list and two of their own choice.

1. Lament for Alistair Dearg MacDonnell of Glengarry
2. Macleod of Raasay's Salute
3. Corrienessan's Salute
4. Lament for the Departure of King James
5. Black Donald's March
6. MacCrimmon's Sweetheart

Those appointed to decide the outcome were the country's senior judge Angus Macaulay of Whangarei and Iain Hines of Wellington.

17 competitors entered for the event, and of these 15 actually played. Winner of the event was 19 year old Greg Wilson, currently an officer cadet at the Royal Military College Duntroon, Canberra, Australia, and formerly of Dunedin.

Greg showed he had been studying things other than how to defend New Zealand in the absence of the ANZUS alliance with an excellent performance of what was to prove a popular tune that weekend, The Park Piobaireachd No.2.

Second was Rosie Heaney of Christchurch with Black Donald's March, and third prize was awarded to Lindsay May of Wellington playing Tulloch Ard. Fourth was Dr Richard Loan of Napier with Corrienessan's Salute.

A notable feature of the competition was the number of excellent half tunes. Time and time again competitors started brilliantly only to rob themselves by note errors. Perhaps this lack of concentration may have been understandable had they occurred in the set tunes with competitors being less familiar with new tunes, however these errors were predominantly in tunes of the competitors own choice.

The Open & Clasp Event

Judged by the same panel, competitors were required to submit six tunes, three of their own choice and three from the following list:

1. Lament for MacSwan of Roaig
2. The Park Piobaireachd No.2
3. The Old Men of the Shells
4. Lament for Patrick Og MacCrimmon
5. Lament for Donald Duaghal Mackay
6. The Battle of the Pass of Crieff
7. Beloved Scotland
8. The Groat

Only one competitor entered from the Gold Medal field, which was the winner, and only four others. None of the more recent Gold Medal winners were to be seen.

This event traditionally has attracted an entry larger than the Gold Medal and in this instance the music committee's set tunes would appear to be the reason for the small entry. The number of top players in New Zealand does not appear to be sufficient to sustain a completely new list of tunes annually of the calibre being put forward.

It is this writer's opinion that the bulk of tunes need to remain for a period of up to three years with perhaps, two being changed annually. This would enable more inexperienced players to learn and hear how these tunes should be played.

With the reduced entry and bitterly cold weather conditions, the standard of this event was not up to previous years.

The result that the judges came up with, somewhat surprisingly, was:—

1. Ian MacKay, Wellington, The Park Piobaireachd No.2; 2. Greg Wilson, Australia, Lament for Patrick Og MacCrimmon, 3. John

Hanning, Wellington, McSwan of Roaig, 4. Roy Gunn, Wellington, The Earl of Antrim.

Other Results from the Weekend

Former Winners, March, Strathspey & Reel

1. Greg Wilson, Aust., 2. John Hanning, Wgtn., 3. Frank MacKinnon, Wgtn., 4. Roy Gunn, Wgtn.

Jig & Hornpipe

1. John Hanning, Wgtn., 2. Greg Wilson, Aust., 3. Frank MacKinnon, Wgtn., 4. Marion McVean, Wgtn.

Strathspey & Reel

1. Frank MacKinnon, Wgtn., 2. Greg Wilson, Aust., 3. John Hanning, Wgtn., 4. Aidre Stewart, Dunedin.

Tasmania

Reflections on the Ross Competition

by Robin Livingstone, Piping Judge

Saturday 8 March dawned beautifully, a forcast temperature of some 20 degrees for the midlands, no sight of rain and a semi-cloudy sky to keep the full strength of the sun off the pipers and drummers seemed an ideal start to what was another great day at Ross this year.

At about 7.45 a.m. my phone rang and it was Eric Johnstone my fellow judge of the drumming variety asking me was I going up on my own to Ross and if so why don't we travel together. What a great idea and so we did. On the way up we talked about happenings in the pipe band world, new innovations, new models of drums, computers and how they are helping Eric in his most successful business "Southern Music". We also chatted at length about our families and all in all had a delightful trip up to Ross. Come to think of it I am often quite jealous of our drumming friends — a new type of drum comes out like the obviously successful LEGATO with its somewhat revolutionary head arrangement and the fashion is to get a set of them. Poor old pipers (in a way) never get anything new, even a new set of pipes are basically the same as those of centuries ago — save that you can get blowpipe valves that work on the same principal as a snorkel, a set of reeds that have a screwdriver operated tuning string or a non-wooden chanter that given adequate care and attention to reeding can sound like the real thing.

Over simplified I admit but the drummers have it all over us in the 'obsolete' department — band rooms all over the country must have

store rooms full of last year's model drums — my pipes are over 40 years old now and are sounding better all the time. No disrespect to my drumming pals, but if one is going to write an article then one is allowed a bit of literary licence.

Still, to press on. The Quickstep was first and all four bands in the competition were due to do their marching piece then immediately afterwards their march, strathspey and reel. When that was completed the bands were due to return to the area to complete their medleys.

Unfortunately the TPBA was given limited time to push the bands through these elements and with having only one set of music judges to do the lot (Eric and me) the timetable proved to be impossible to keep to. Nevertheless we pressed on and tried to make as intelligent comments on the judging sheets as time would allow even if mine were somewhat unreadable due to having to have bionic fingers to try to keep to the timetable as close as we did — which we did not do very well at all. This meant that later in the day the piping trios and the separate drum corps contest had to deal with country dancers, the display of the hounds in the dog obedience display as well as the what seemed to be 1,000 decibel PA system shaking our bodies to the core with the ever present announcements.

At one stage I shifted the piping trios contest off the field behind the fence to the grass area only to find that when one trio got started we were standing in the only place that the cars could get through, causing a traffic jam. Still it's all good fun and we were able to return to the field when our canine friends left. But I am becoming diverted from the order of the days events as the trios etc. were held in the afternoon.

Back to the Quickstep/Selection.

In judging at Ross in previous years Eric and I always had difficulty in writing up our comments as the promoters never supplied a chair and table to lean on. As the TPBA secretary for umpteen years before 1985 I am solely to blame as I should have arranged this in the past. Still this year was no different and if you have ever tried to organise to write up a judging sheet, wrestle with the carbon paper and commit words to paper leaning on your knee or lying full stretch on the grass with the wind blowing everything around you will know what I mean. This morning I had a brilliant idea. Irene my sister who eventually drove Eric and I up to Ross had a couple of those flimsy TV trays on legs and two camp seats — so I gave her a call before I left the house and she kindly arranged to

pack them in her boot. What a great idea; my writing did not improve (Eric's writing is always so immaculate it makes me sick) but our comfort level certainly did.

But again I digress; back to the Quickstep/Selection. All bands will have now read their judging sheets. No doubt you will agree and/or disagree with some of the comments. I don't have a copy of the master score sheet with me as it is the evening of the contest — I am not sure for example how the overall results were made up. So let me give you a pen sketch of my impressions at least from a piping view point.

DERWENT SCOTTISH

A difficult situation here with so few pipers. A serious recruitment drive is needed to bolster up the corps. Naturally a recruitment drive means a commitment to teaching — a commitment which would need to stretch out some two years to build up the talent. On the day there were far too many chokes and mistakes — roary drones and under and overblowing which puts the whole pitch of the instruments out of tune. Not a good day for the corps at all.

TASMANIA POLICE

Potentially a good corps here but the music is lacking some spirit due to a lack of written embellishments (ie doubling, grips, tachums, etc.) I know the music has them included as some of the players are playing them and some not — for those that are they are playing them at a different speed to the others, which means that the 'played' beat of the tune is falling outside the metric beat of the time signature.

ST ANDREWS

The corps is playing some good quality tunes but is not really playing them together — perhaps some extra attention at band practices on the practice chanter is needed in the area of following each others fingers to ensure that the melody notes and embellishments are in fact played as one.

HOBART HIGHLAND

What a transformation since only say two years ago. 12 pipers playing, well pitched chanter, sweet drones (if not a bit too sweet with lack of a good bass sound) and doing it exceptionally well. This corps seems to have not many individual 'stars' of piping brilliance but together they sounded as sweet as I have heard from any band in my time in Tasmania. I'm sure we wish them well in Adelaide for the Australian Championships this year. It is hard to know how

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their ability will compare with the best of Grade 3 bands in Australia, but whatever happens this band can feel well pleased for their outstanding efforts to date.

The Medleys continued after the Quickstep/Selection and generally the same comments as above apply to that. The only problem now was that it was 1.45 p.m. and the piping Trios, and the separate drum corps contest were due to start immediately — no lunch, comfort break or R & R for us (it's OK for the Dress and Drill judges to laugh they only do a quarter of a day's work compared to Eric and I).

However the hardworking TPBA ladies committee came to the rescue — they had prepared us a beautiful salad lunch in the football pavilion and they were keen and so were we that it would not go to waste lest their good work would be to no avail — or worse still Eric's and my own bodily health would suffer through hunger or exhaustion. Executive decision making was needed — decision was to put back (or is it forward) the afternoon events 30 minutes. When we returned the Country Dancers were about to do their second 'stint' for the day which made us start at about 2.30 instead of 2.15 p.m. Still we got by in time for the massed band and prize giving at 4.00 p.m. Eric and I watched the presentation of prizes, jumped back in the car, had another delightful trip home and look forward to another year at the Ross Highland games.

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Australia

Haileybury College Band

by David Bail

In Victoria the pipe band contest season begins in December with the Daylesford Highland Gathering (country Victoria); other major contests are Geelong Highland Gathering (actually known as the "City of Newtown Gathering" — also considered to be 'country'), Ringwood Highland Gathering (a suburb of Melbourne) and, every two years, the Australian Pipe Band Championships held in each State on a rotating basis. The latter contest was held during Easter this year in Adelaide, South Australia.

Our band of twenty-five boys (aged between 12 and 16) competed in each of Grade 4 and Juvenile grades and took out first place on every occasion, i.e. four wins straight in each grade.

The greatest achievement, of course, was to become Juvenile and Grade 4 Australian Champions. At the risk of being accused of breast-beating, the piping judges were most impressed with the 12 pipers' tone and expression. Of more importance to us was the fact that the boys were judged by John McAllister, Nat Russell and Denver Cardwell (from R.U.C.). I feel like framing John McAllister's comments; he simply said:

"Intro. v. good, melodies strongly expressed with rhythmic drive and strong phrasing, ably executed. A first-class exciting, pleasant musical performance"

During this particular performance Nat Russell (who was not judging at the time) leaned across and said to me, "Dave, if the Grade One bands get a sound like those wee boys I'll be very pleased!"

This is the first major win for the school band although we have won at State contests on occasions. After seven years full-time teaching at the school it was a very proud moment to watch the boys march off playing in front of the fifty-odd massed bands during the final presentation ceremony in Adelaide.

However, the reality of the school band situation, as you'd be aware, is the steady loss of players after they leave school and the process begins all over again! The consolation is seeing at least some of them continue with other bands.

The school band started in 1957 as part of the school's Cadet Unit. Fortunately, when the Cadets were later disbanded, the school

encouraged the band to continue and we currently have around 80 boys learning pipes or drums. I should add that part of the success was due to an excellent team of drummers produced by our drum instructor, Bruce Neal, Bruce is very involved with pipe bands and has been for the past several years, (and still is) President of the Victorian Highland Pipe Band Association.



Seated in front row (left to right):

Pipe-Cpl. Alex Davey; Drum-Major Wayne Dennehy; Drumming Instructor Bruce Neal; The Principal; Mr A.M.H. Aikman; David Bail, Master in Charge and piping tutor; Pipe-Major Raoul McAlister; and Pipe-Sgt Andrew Bail.

The band wear the Gordon tartan whose links still remain with the Victorian Scottish Regiment (of which I am a former Pipe-Major) which became affiliated with the Gordon Highlanders in 1930.

Pipers' Choice

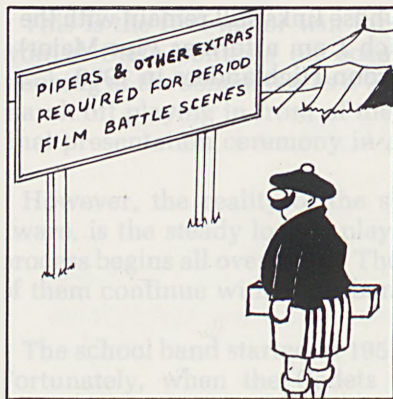
Continuing the analysis of the free choice of tunes by the competitors at the Glenfiddich competition last October.

MARCH: A total of thirty-four different tunes were put forward, a slight reduction on the thirty-seven of last year. Fourteen of them appeared only once and the others were distributed as follows:-

Three submissions, Arthur Bignold of Lochrosque
Millbank Cottage
Mrs John MacColl
The Edinburgh Police Pipe Band
Jeannie Carruthers
Abercairney Highlanders

Two submissions, Donald MacLean's Farewell to Oban
John MacFadyen of Melfort
Bonnie Ann
Leaving Glenurquhart
John MacDonald of Glencoe
Hugh Kennedy
Lonach Gathering
Pipe Major John Stewart
74th's Farewell to Edinburgh
Knightswood Ceilidh
The Clan McColl
South Hall
Ross-shire Volunteers
Edinburgh Volunteers

DONALD DRONE



STRATHSPEYS: Always the most restricted branch of our music only twenty different tunes were put forward this time, a reduction of two on last year. With the smaller numbers there does seem to be a popularity rating which turned out as follows:

Submitted seven times, Caber Feidh

Submitted five times, Tulloch Castle
Maggie Cameron

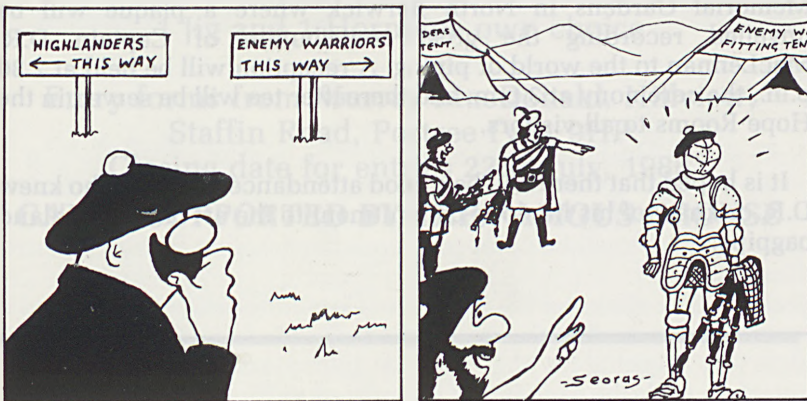
Submitted four times, The Ewe with the Crooked Horn
MacBeth's Strathspey
The Caledonian Society of London
Susan MacLeod
Athole Cummers

Submitted three times, Lady Loudon
John Roy Stewart
Arniston Castle

Submitted twice, The Piper's Bonnet
Delvin Side
Dora MacLeod
The Shepherd's Crook
Inveraray Castle

Submitted once only, The Caledonian Canal
Dornie Ferry
Blair Drummond
Lady MacKenzie of Gairloch

by SEORAS



REELS: Again the repertoire of reels is very similar to that for marches, a total of thirty-two different tunes being offered. Sharing top place in the popularity stakes were what is possibly the easiest and what is almost certainly the hardest of our competition reels. The list is as follows:

Submitted five times, Thomson's Dirk
John Morrison of Assynt House

Submitted four times, Alex C. MacGregor
Lexie MacAskill

Submitted three times, The Sheepwife
Lochcarron
Mrs Macpherson of Inveran
Bessie MacIntyre

Submitted twice, The Smith of Chilliechassie
Lochiel's away to France
The Grey Bob
Traditional
The Brown Haired Maid
Major Manson

The remaining eighteen tunes were submitted once each.

D.R. MacLennan Memorial

On Saturday, August 23rd, a ceremony will take place at the War Memorial Gardens in North Berwick where a plaque will be unveiled recording the great contribution of Captain D.R. MacLennan to the world of piping. A reception will be held at 2.30 p.m., the ceremony at 3 p.m. and thereafter tea will be served in the Hope Rooms to all visitors.

It is hoped that there will be a good attendance of those who knew D.R. or knew of his life-long commitment to the art of the Highland bagpipe.

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Judges: *P/M J.D. Burgess, Col. David Murray,
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Clasp for winners of Dunvegan Medal — Judges as above

Prizes: 1st — £100; 2nd — £60; 3rd — £50.

2/4 MARCH 2 Tunes — 1 own choice, 1 nominated from
Lochaber Gathering or Marchoiness of Tullibardine

Judges as above

Prizes: 1st — £35; 2nd — 25; 3rd — £20.

STRATHSPEY & REEL Judges as above

2 Strathspeys & 2 Reels own choice

Prizes: 1st — £35; 2nd — £25; 3rd — £20.

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The Other Other Club

Many readers are often anxious to find out the story behind the tune, and in this case we are particularly fortunate that the background to our tune of the month is interesting, entertaining and goes back a long way.

In 1911 Winston Churchill, Lord Birkenhead and some other kindred souls, having been refused membership of one of the most prominent clubs (the one known as "The Club") — apparently on account of their irrepressible, outspoken conduct and unconventional political initiatives, took it upon themselves to form "the Other Club."



Some of the rules of the Other Club are unique in the history of the formation of such organisations. For example,

Rule 2. The object of "the Other Club" is to dine.

Rule 8. The Executive Committee shall settle all outstanding questions with plenary powers.

Rule 9. There shall be no appeal from the decision of the Executive Committee.

Rule 10. The names of the Executive Committee shall be wrapped in impenetrable mystery.

Rule 12. Nothing in the rules or intercourse of the club shall interfere with the rancour or asperity of party politics.

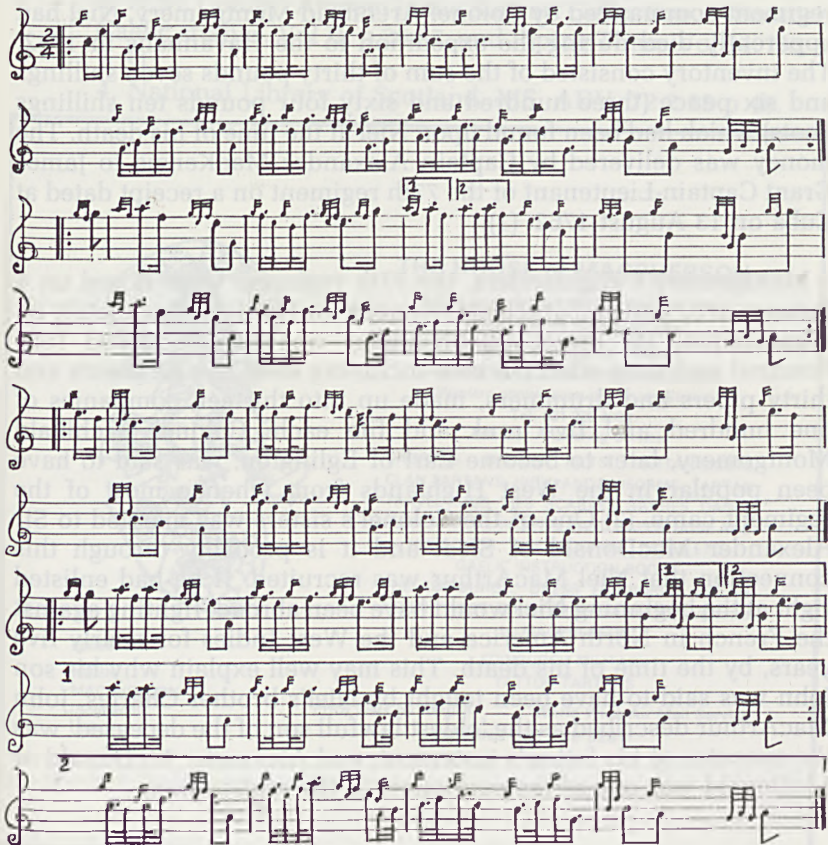
The Other Other Club was founded in 1973 by a group of gentlemen who share an abiding faith and devotion for the democratic institutions and traditions of western civilisation. Since they consider that this spirit was particularly exemplified in the life of Sir Winston Churchill, the Other Other Club sponsors an annual celebrity dinner around November 30th, the anniversary of Sir Winston's birth.

The piper in and to the club is Pipe Major John C. Cumming who plays every year at the annual dinner. The tunes which he plays include "Bonnie Dundee", the Regimental March of the Royal Scots Fusiliers of which Winston Churchill was Commanding Officer during World War I. In addition John has composed this new tune to be used on these important occasions. The name of it and of the club itself are being copyrighted throughout the world.

march-

The Other, Other Club

composed by
Pipe Major John C. Cumming - 1984



Niel MacArthur

by Keith Sanger

The MacArthurs, hereditary pipers to the Lords of the Isles, kept a college in Skye considered second only to that of the MacCrimmons. Of three brothers, Charles, Niel and John Ban, little is known of the second one Niel, although his son became the famous Professor John MacArthur.

Keith Sanger adds considerably to our knowledge in this contribution.

In Scotland, succession to moveable property was normally recorded in the register of testaments and inventories kept by the various commissary courts, with that for Edinburgh having a universal jurisdiction. It is in the Edinburgh register on 18 July 1767 that the Testament Dative and Inventory of the effects of Niel MacArthur were recorded. Described as a piper in the late 77th regiment commanded by Colonel Archibald Montgomery, Niel had apparently died during the expedition to the Havannahs in 1762. The inventory consisted of the sum of thirty pounds seven shillings and six pence (three hundred and sixty four pounds ten shillings Scots) which had been found upon Niel at the time of his death. The money was delivered by Captain Alexander MacKenzie to James Grant Captain-Lieutenant of the 77th regiment on a receipt dated at Cuba on 13 August 1762. (1)

Montgomery's Highlanders, the 77th regiment were raised on 4 January 1757 and embarked at Greenock for Halifax immediately on organisation. Its initial establishment was one thousand four hundred and sixty effective men including sixty-five sergeants and thirty pipers and drummers, made up into thirteen companies of one hundred and five rank and file each. Colonel Archibald Montgomery, later to become Earl of Eglinton, was said to have been popular in the West Highlands from whence most of the regiment came. (2) One of the Colonel's sisters was married to Sir Alexander MacDonald of Sleat and it is probably through this connection that Niel MacArthur was recruited. If he had enlisted right at the beginning Niel would have been abroad, fighting against the French in North America and the West Indies for nearly five years, by the time of his death. This may well explain why his son John was said to have been taught by Niel's brother Charles. John MacArthur described as the 'eldest lawfull son of the deceased' was the executor of his father's testament, and Alexander McDonald of McDonald was one of the cautioners to the registration.

The link between the MacArthurs and the Montgomerys through the family regiment may explain the appearance of another MacArthur piper, Charles serving the Earls of Eglington circa 1781-1839 (P.T. Vol 22 No. 5 p 27). It is also worth noting, albeit the evidence is circumstantial, that there may be a link between William MacMurphy the Kintyre musician and poet and the MacArthurs. The case has already been made that MacMurphy served in the army circa 1757-1763, either in the 100th regiment (Kilberry's) or the 77th, with a slightly greater case for the latter (3). If so, MacMurphy would certainly have known Niel MacArthur and it may explain the appearance of the name John MacArthur among a list of nine names written in one of MacMurphy's manuscripts. There is unfortunately no indication why the names were there, the only other entries on that page seem to be a pen trial (4). The possibilities are certainly interesting although at present remain no more than that.

Notes: 1. Scottish Record Office C.C.8.

2. J.P. MacLean, Highlanders in America. p 253-254.

3. W.M. Conley. A poem in the Stewart Collection. — Scottish Gaelic studies. Vol II. p 26-37. and Piping Times Vol 34. No. 1 p 31.

4. National Library of Scotland. MS. ADV. 72.2.15 p 46.



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Port of Ness,
Isle of Lewis.

Dear Seumas,

Mention of pipe chanter can always be depended upon to open a lively discussion. (Piping Times letter March 1986 Finlay MacRae). The pipe chanter I remember vividly (apart from my own) is one owned by the late John Morrison of Assynt House. John had kindly invited me up to his hospitable home on Garden Road Stornoway to be introduced to a well known piping personality. When I got there (way back in the thirties) at 3pm one afternoon, I was introduced to Lewis Beaton, very well known in those days in the world of piping.

The chanter he was fondly fingering (sitting on the couch) once belonged to John Morrison's grandfather who was a MacKay from Kintail I think. As I remember it now the chanter I would say was made from blackwood, and judging from the size of finger holes, it must have been played for years and years.

May I add that shortly before John Morrison retired from his farm, I heard him play on a beautifully balanced bagpipe, presumably still using the old chanter, who knows?

My writing is not so good Seumas, I'm over 80 now. All success to your good magazine.

Regards.
Lewis Murray.

Stronachullin,
Ardrishaig.

Dear Seumas,

In the course of your interesting summary of the Ardvassar Seminar, you imply that agreement was reached that there is no justification for playing an open Crunluath Fosgailte as an a mach

following on closed Fosgailte variations. I do not recollect our discussing the point, which perhaps arose when I was out of action. I would like to make it clear that personally I do not subscribe to such a view, and in particular to the strength with which it is stated.

There is justification — not, granted in the written records: but certainly so, according to the teaching of Sandy Cameron as recorded by A Campbell of Kilberry. Who are we to make a liar of Sandy Cameron? I wouldn't play this myself, but am happy to hear it as an "optional extra" if well performed.

Archie Kenneth.

Scales Mound,
Illinois.

Dear Mr. MacNeill,

The recent letters and articles concerning pipe bags have been interesting. The bag which I am currently using is, I think, some sort of freak. It is "tanned chrome elkhide" and was made by L&M. Over the course of a year, I average about 1-1½ hours playing time per day, three days a week and the hide is as air-tight now as it was when I tied it in during the autumn of 1981. There is little external wear showing and there is no problem, and has been no problem, with leakage while playing. Immediately after I tied it in I was able to play without having to season the bag and have only seasoned it two times since then. Again, I figure it is a freak of some kind.

I was also interested in the "Sound Compass of the Bagpipe" article which appeared in the March PT. From earlier issues and elsewhere I have heard that chanters made before the Great War or maybe World War II were of a flatter pitch than those made after 1945. Is there just a slight difference or are the pitches radically different?

Finally, a word about a piper who got his money's worth and then some. Back in 1981 or 1982, when I was living in central Illinois, I met a piper from Charleston, Il. who had a set of uilleann pipes and a set of Highland Pipes, the latter made by Robertson. The Irish pipes were in working order and he needed to reattach a ferrule and tie on a new pipe bag to get the Robertson's going also. Both sets were old, having been used in a vaudeville act. He had bought both at a

rummage sales for \$150.00! Some people were born with luck I guess.

Sincerely,
Paul Hinson.

Upminster,
Essex.

Dear Sir,

I note that your correspondent — G. Maclean, in the March 1986 issue — considers the London Competition to be a “minor contest”.

I am sure that the many competitors, past and present, who travel very long distances to take part in the competition would disagree with Mr Maclean's view. One has only to look at the list of prize winners in the Gillies Cup and Bratach Gorm, from 1934 and 1938 respectively, to realise that the foremost players in the country have thought it worthwhile to make the long journey to London and to participate in these events.

Yours faithfully,
Allan M. Beaton.

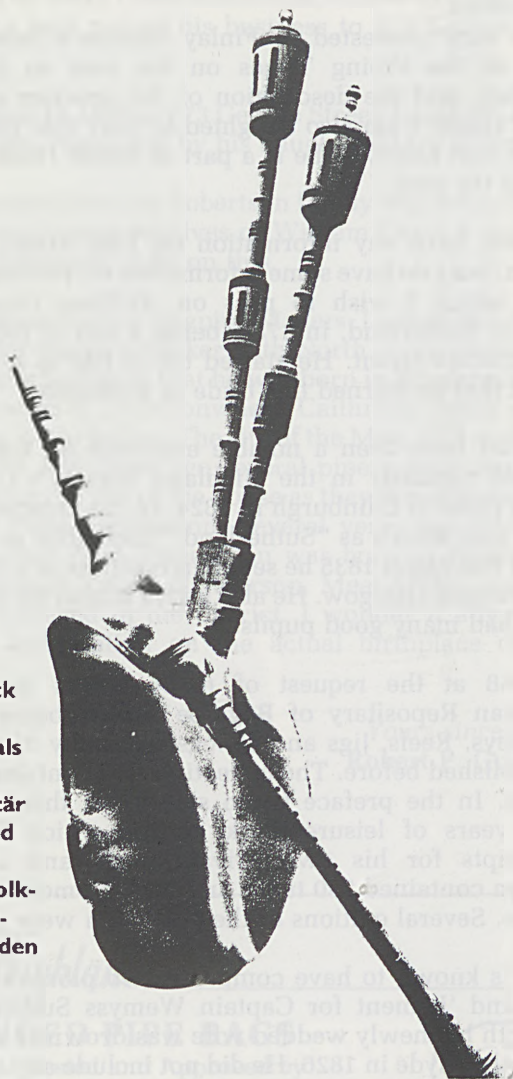
Bassersdorf,
Switzerland.

Dear Mr MacNeill,

Please find my subscription for the Piping Times and also a picture of a rather strange looking bagpipe (dudelsack) which I thought you may be interested to see. It was on display here in Zurich with other military instruments. For those whose German is not too good, the caption reads:—

“The bagpipe was the only military instrument in use in the 15th/16th century and has been rediscovered in recent times for folk music.”

**Der Dudelsack
war im 15./16.
Jahrhundert als
Eznelinstru-
ment im Militär
im Einsatz und
ist in jüngster
Zeit für die Folk-
musik wieder-
entdeckt worden**



I wrote to the maker of replicas of this instrument who said it is fingered in the same manner as the recorder. It is in fact tuned to the Alto (F). It sounds very soft and harmonious.

Yours sincerely,
Norris MacMillan.

Wick,
Caithness.

Dear Seumas,

I was very interested in Finlay Macrae's letter in the March edition of the Piping Times on his visit to Johnnie Mackay, Trantlebeg, and the description of the practice chanter made by William Gunn. I am also delighted to hear that Johnnie Mackay is still hale and hearty — he is a part of Strath Halladale and a great link with the past.

I do not have any information on Pipe Major Sandy Gunn of Culfearn, but I do have some information on William Gunn, Bagpipe Maker, which I wish to pass on. William Gunn was born in Kildonan, Sutherland, in 1789, being a son of John Gunn and his wife Christina Grant. He started off in life as a weaver and it is believed that he learned this trade in Kildonan.

He must have been a notable exponent on the bagpipes as he competed regularly in the Highland Society's Competitions and won 5th prize in Edinburgh in 1824. In the competition in 1822 his address was shown as "Sutherland," thereafter as "Glasgow." It is believed that about 1835 he set up in business as a Bagpipe Maker at 48 Gallowgate, Glasgow. He also kept a school for pipers and is said to have had many good pupils.

In 1848 at the request of many pipers he published 'The Caledonian Repository of Bagpipe Music' being a collection of Strathspeys, Reels, Jigs and Quicksteps many of which had never been published before. The collection also contained a tutor for the bagpipes. In the preface Gunn states that this was the result of several years of leisure work, during which he compiled the manuscripts for his own private study and amusement. The collection contained 250 tunes and was the most comprehensive at that time. Several editions of the collection were published.

Gunn is known to have composed two pibrochs — 'The Gunns' Salute' and 'Lament for Captain Wemyss Sutherland 93rd' who along with his newly wedded wife was drowned when the 'Comet' sunk on the Clyde in 1826. He did not include any of his pibrochs in his collection, but 'The Gunns' Salute' was published by Pipe Major William Ross, Piper to Queen Victoria, in his collection. Gunn is known to have composed at least two marches, 'The Glasgow Gaelic Club' and 'Campbelltown Loch'. For many years he was piper to The Glasgow Gaelic Club.

A set of bagpipes made by William Gunn is on show in the Bagpipe Museum in Newcastle.

Gunn married Elizabeth Wilson and had a family of at least one daughter who was living with him at the time of the 1861 census. Her name is given as Mary Gunn Robertson, widow of a cap maker. By this time Gunn had moved his business to 273 George Street, Glasgow.

William Gunn died in 1867 at 273 George Street, Glasgow, aged 78 years. His death was registered by his daughter Mary Robertson.

It has been suggested that the Robertson family who were Bagpipe Makers in Edinburgh were relatives of William Gunn. I wonder if any readers can throw any light on this.

When I am on the subject of Bagpipe Makers, I would like to draw attention to another Bagpipe Maker with North connections, Peter Henderson. My information is that he was born in Dunfermline, but his father was a native of Latheronwheel, Caithness, being a son of Robert Henderson, Meal Miller. The site of the Meal Mill and House is still visible and a few years ago several pipers were anxious to erect a monument on the site of the house as they thought that it was the birthplace of Peter Henderson. Several years ago one of his relatives told me that Peter Henderson was born in Dunfermline and was a grandson of Robert Henderson, Meal Miller, and not a son as generally believed in the district. I wonder if any of your readers has any information on the actual birthplace of Peter Henderson.

Yours sincerely,
Robert P. Gunn.

Burnside Highland

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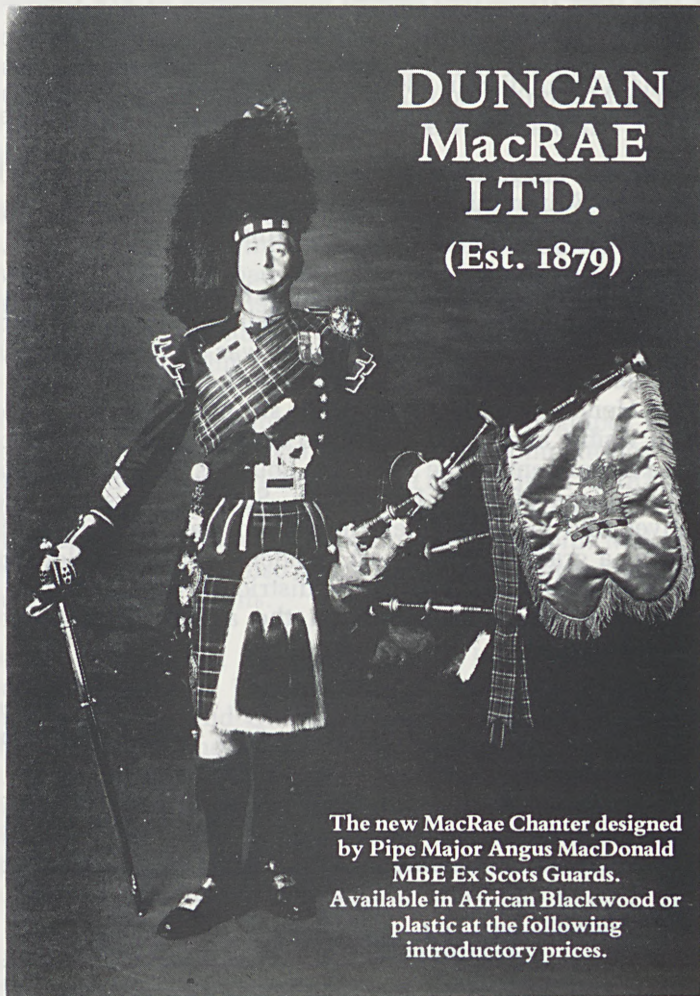
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