

# Piping Times

A man in a dark kilt and sporrans is playing bagpipes on a boat. He is wearing a dark jacket and a white shirt with a tie. The background shows a body of water and trees.

PP.1948.bnd

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# Piping Times

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**Front:** Murray Henderson pictured shortly after winning this year's Gold Clasp at Inverness. Murray triumphed despite a considerable lay-off from competitive piping making his victory all the more impressive. See page 19.

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# Piping Times

est. 1948

**I**N the long annals of our history there are many men who through their efforts as players, composers, teachers or writers have fanned the flame of piping progress. We dutifully pay homage to their efforts and their names live on though they are long gone. Yet their patrons, without whom their endeavours may have come to nought, are seldom given due regard. It is to these people, the patrons of piping, and one man in particular, that we dedicate this editorial.

When P/M Willie Ross won the Clasp at the 1906 Northern Meeting he was paid £8 (\$13US) in prizemoney, roughly equivalent to four weeks wages for a skilled man at that time. The average weekly wage today is more than £400 (\$640US). Bold conclusion? Any major first prize falling below £1,600 (\$2,560US) represents a lessening in the status of the champion piper. Until the mid 1970s this sum was ten scotch miles from what the modern day piper could earn. Then in 1973 Mike Grieve, journalist and broadcaster and son of poet Hugh MacDiarmid, proposed a piping championship like no other. The top pipers would be invited. They would play the big music and the big little music. They would be treated royally and rewarded similarly. They would play in surroundings concomitant with the greatness of their art. Thirty years ago the first piping championship sponsored by William Grant and Sons was held at Blair Castle. Its effect was profound. It set new standards other promoters realised they had to match. From that day on the march towards restoring the

status of the professional piper began in earnest. There has been real progress. The overall winner at the National Mod last month went home with almost £1,000 (\$1,600US) in his sporran.

The patronage of piping by William Grant & Sons did not stop with what is now known as the Glenfiddich Championship. Such was the determination of this independent family of whisky distillers to do as much as they could for the national music that they became sponsors of the Senior Piobaireachd at Oban, oft times the Silver Chanter, the Donald MacDonald Quaich, the John MacFadyen Lecture, the Braemar piobaireachd and many B & C grade contests. They have helped finance books and albums and recitals and talks.

Their former chairman, the man behind all of this extraordinary largesse, was critical to the success of the fundraising for Glasgow's Piping Centre. And now to cap all of this he has come to the rescue of the London Championship and the famous Bratach Gorm, guaranteeing the future of what was a struggling event and raising the prizemoney beyond the promoter's and the competitors' wildest dreams. It is hard to quantify just how much piping owes him, but if you want to get some kind of handle on it then just imagine the plug was pulled on all of the above tomorrow.

He will not thank us for saying this. but as we reflect on London and Blair this autumn let pipers everywhere salute the foresight, the generosity and the name of Mr Sandy Grant Gordon.



## PIPE TUNE COMPETITION



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## A Moment in Piping History as New College is Declared Open



*Accompanied by loud cheers and much applause Mr Speaker pulls the cord which marks a new era in piping history*

BY OUR NEWS REPORTERS

THE Rt. Hon Michael Martin, Speaker of the House of Commons, has officially opened the new College of Piping building.

More than 80 guests and national media packed the new Piping Hall and entrance area to hear Mr Martin pay tribute to the College and its founders before declaring the building open.

There were loud cheers and much clapping of hands as the curtain was pulled aside to reveal a commemorative plaque.

An emotional and important day for piping started with pipers from the 52nd Lowland Regiment creating

a welcoming atmosphere by playing for guests as they arrived in Otago Street. Inside the building members of the Whistlebinkies traditional group provided the background music.

Formal proceedings began with a welcome from College Chairman Dugald MacNeill. He recalled 1944 and the early days of the College in its Pitt Street, Glasgow, premises when one of his first tasks was lighting fires to keep both instructors and pupils warm. Current Principal Robert Wallace gave a brief resume of the building campaign and outlined the present state of the Building Fund which is £60,000 short of its target. He then introduced College Manager



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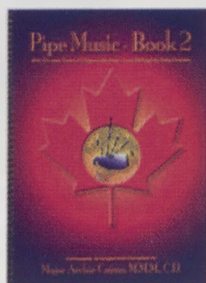
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Tom Campbell who played a new 6/8 *The College of Piping March* by Thomas Kerkoff of the Netherlands to much favourable comment. Copies of the tune were made available to guests.

Speaker Martin then took the floor and spoke of his first lessons at the College 13 years ago when he was made so welcome by the then Principal Seumas MacNeill and the Senior Instructor P/M Angus MacDonald. "What struck me was the friendly way I was given encouragement," said Mr Martin. "Whether I was a Gold Medallist or the most basic learner I felt I would have been treated the same way. That tradition continues today, as does the College's ethos of making lessons available for all irrespective of means. If a student cannot afford a lesson then that is something for the College to worry about and not the pupil."

In conclusion he said: "I am greatly honoured to have been asked to carry out this opening ceremony and in doing so we should thank all those who have made it possible in particular the founding Principals Thomas Pearston and Seumas MacNeill who did so much work over such a long period of time."

Following an exchange of gifts



*The wording on the plaque*



*Pipers of the 52nd Lowland Regt. welcome guests to the Official Opening*

reporters from the press, television and radio then conducted interviews and the cameras rolled. Speaker Martin obliged the photographers and cameramen by playing his pipes both inside and outside the building.

As a result of his efforts the College received widespread publicity with pictures appearing in the London Times, the Glasgow Herald, the Daily Record, and on BBC television news and Scottish Television. In addition Iain MacInnes of the 'Pipeline' programme on BBC radio recorded a series of interviews and musical excerpts which formed the bulk of his programme on October 12. Formal proceedings were brought to a close with the piobaireachd *Salute on the Birth* played by Robert Wallace, and a vote of thanks proposed by

College Board member David Kerr.

• For more pictures from the big day turn to pages 30 and 31

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### Book

THERE has been widespread response to the article in last month's PT in which author Lloyd McCaffery suggested ways of stabilising cane reeds. Many readers have asked for further information. Lloyd has responded: "A book I would recommend is 'Understanding Wood' by R. Bruce Hoadley, published by Taunton Press, 2000 (revised edition) ISBN 1561583588.

"This is an excellent guide on all aspects of wood. Since cane reeds are basically the same or similar (cellulose) much of what is in this book will apply to reeds. Chapter 6 titled 'Water and Wood' explains what happens to the cell structure of a cane reed as it gains and loses water. Chapter 7 titled 'Coping With Dimensional Change in Wood' will help pipers understand why reeds need to be kept hydrated, if not treated in some way. And Chapter 8 'How Wood Dries' will show what happens when reeds are left out in a dry climate. All told this is a book that will provide pipers with much knowledge on what may be the last 'natural' part of the modern Highland bagpipe."

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### Skye Games

SKYE Gathering has confirmed that they are to take steps to prevent their annual competition running over time. This year's event in Portree lasted until after midnight.

Piping Convenor Andy Anderson said: "We had a meeting of the Games Committee in late August to deal with the issues which were referred to in the Piping Times. Our approach is not to restrict entries, but to develop more facilities, and if required more competitions to deal with the increasing interest. When I was asked to take on the job of convenor it was made clear to me by the then Chairman Sir Roddy MacDonald that he wanted Skye to be a world class venue again.

"Since that time I have worked consistently for that objective, and I believe it has been achieved. As far as piping is concerned we are now at a crossroads. In 1997 we had 20 senior pipers register to compete at the Skye games, this year we had 45 register, a 125% increase in six years. If we continue to get the 20% per annum increase in numbers, there will be an extra five pipers next year.

"The committee's solution for next year is to invite three more judges, and find another suitable venue, so that the Dunvegan Medal and the Clasp competitions can be run at the same time.

"This would ensure that if we got the same level of interest next year, we would be able to finish the piobaireachd competitions by 9pm, and if we got our usual increase in competitors we should be able to finish around 10 pm.

"We should also install tuning lights, and take other organisational steps to improve the flow of the competitions.

"This leaves us with another problem – the time taken in the light music. We managed this year to com-

plete this on time, but we only did it by reducing the number of tunes played by each competitor. This was not popular with a number of the senior competitors, and constituted an alteration to our rules.

“Since we are now in the top range of competitions we should not be cutting corners like this but if we make these changes now we should be able to deal with the situation for the next two years even if we continue to attract more competitors at the same high rate of increase.”

---

## Piobaireachd Society

CONCERN was expressed at a recent Piobaireachd Society General Committee meeting that there was a perception in the wider piping public that membership of the Society was restricted. The Committee is anxious to point out that membership is open to anyone with an interest in piobaireachd and who supports the aims of the Society. Membership currently stands at 350. To join write to the Hon. Sec. Dugald MacNeill, 16-24 Otago Street, Glasgow G12 8JH, Scotland, UK or go to the society's website at [www.piobaireachd.co.uk](http://www.piobaireachd.co.uk) for more information.

The Committee also heard that Judging Seminars on next year's set tunes would be held this month and over the winter. To remind you here's the list of tunes again:

**Snr. Competitions** (four tunes)

1. *In Praise of Morag*, Bk. 1 & K; 2. *Lament for Donald Ban MacCrimmon*, Bk. 2 & K; 3. *MacLeod of Colbeck's*

*Lament*, Bk. 10; 4. *Lady MacDonald's Lament*, Bk 8 & K; 5. *Lament for the Children*, Bk 3 & K; 6. *Donald Gruamach's March*, Bk 2 & K

**Gold Medal** (four tunes)

1. *Earl of Seaforth's Sal.*, Bk 5 & K; 2. *Lament for Patrick Og MacCrimmon*, Bk 3 & K; 3. *Beloved Scotland*, Bk 6 & K; 4. *Mary's Praise*, Bk 5 & K; 5. *Battle of Bealach nam Brog*, Bk 9; 6. *His Father's Lament for Donald MacKenzie*, Bk 9

**Silver Medal** (four tunes)

1. *Catherine's Lament*, Bk 5 & K 2. *Lament for Donald of Laggan*, Bk 8 & K; 3. *MacLeod's Controversy*, Bk 10; 4. *Melbank's Salute*, Bk 14; 5. *Little Spree*, Bk 7 & K; 6. *The Massacre of Glencoe*, Bk 6 & K

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## Eric Moss

FURTHER to our story on the passing of Eric Moss, David Murray writes: “The mention of Eric brings to mind a wee story about him. He was a student on the Pipe Major's Course at Edinburgh Castle under Willie Ross in 1937. At the end of the course the six students played a twenty minute radio broadcast on the Scottish Home Service. They played without a break. Willie had the programme chalked up on a blackboard and crossed the tunes off as they were played. In between he walked round giving any errant drones a wee twist. The tune which stuck in my mind was John Maclellan's *Argyll and the Islands* published in the 'Cabair Feidh' collection with permission of the Cowal Society. This feat has never been attempted since, and shows the stamina expected of a piper in the marching days of old.”

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# NOTICEBOARD



## *Bellows*

The Lowland and Border Pipers' Society are holding their annual 'Collogue' (the beard and sandals name for a conference) in the Wynd Theatre, Melrose, on Saturday November 8. A fine line up of topics has been arranged including a paper by Stuart Eydmann on the Rook MS (1840), another by Iain MacInnes on the Skene MS (1727), plus talks from Paul Roberts, Jon Swayne and Julian Goodacre. A ceilidh will follow in a local hotel. Conference fee £12; ceilidh ticket £7. More info on 0141 946 8624.

## *Death*

Colonel Sir Allan Gilmour, Seaforth Highlanders, and president of the Ardgay and Bonar Bridge Pipe Band has died aged 87. Sir Alan was an enthusiastic piper throughout his life and piped his men whilst on the march in North Africa in World War 2. During this campaign he was awarded two Military Crosses. As well as holding many important public offices he was President of the Highland Territorial Army and Volunteer Reserves Association and Lord Lieutenant of Sutherland from 1972 to 1991.

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## *Higher National Certificate*

There are still one or two places left on the College's Higher National Certificate Music Performance-Professional Bagpiping course run in conjunction with Stow College, Glasgow. The course is one-year full time and qualifies for SAAS funding. Entrants should have Institute of Piping Level 4 certificates but can be accepted by audition. In addition applicants should have two Highers at 'C' grade or above. To apply contact Student Services on 0141 332 1786 for an application .

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## City to Benefit from International Festival During Worlds Week



**G**LASGOW looks set to hold a week long festival of piping in the days leading up to next year's World Pipe Band Championships. The idea has come from a city council anxious to cash in on the thousands of pipers, drummers and supporters who converge on west central Scotland that week. 'Worlds Week' already sees a number of concerts and recitals taking place in and around the city and the feeling is that it would make sense to harness this into one properly organised and co-ordinated festival. It is estimated that the Worlds alone bring in around £1m to local businesses.

The city council is forming a committee to oversee the event and major sponsorship is likely from a number of public bodies. Suggestions put forward so far include running a Highland games, a major Highland dancing competition, a pipe band parade, and concerts of celtic music, workshops and recitals. Whatever is decided it will not impinge on the Worlds, recognised by the council as the lynchpin and climax for the whole week.

• Brothers James and Calum Beaumont, young prizewinning solo pipers with Scottish Power and Lothian and Borders Police respectively, have joined the pipe corps of House of Edgar Shotts and Dykehead the 2003 World Champions.

- Suggestions regarding the extension of the Grade 1 World Pipe Championships Final to a two-day event are being considered by the RSPBA.
- Ian Duncan formerly of Vale of Atholl and Scottish Power has joined Grade 2 band Drambuie Kirkliston

### Apology

**C**HAIRMAN of the RSPBA Kevin Reilly has apologised to pipe bands for slight errors in results issued at the Worlds. In an editorial in 'Pipe Band' magazine Mr Reilly says: "I'd like to say how sorry I am for one or two hiccups over the results. I can say that we have moved to correct the administrative flaws that brought these about. I would ask for some forbearance however. Our officials have to deal with a mass of paperwork at the Worlds, something like 1,200 sheets of paper and 20,000 keyboard inputs. It is perhaps not surprising that occasionally we have the odd slip up."

The same magazine reports that the European Pipe Band Championships held in Alden Biesen, Belgium, in September were considered an outstanding success. Ian Embelton, RSPBA Chief Executive, said he was inundated with positive comments from continental bands. Alden Biesen was the first time a major RSPBA championship had been held on continental Europe.

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## *A New Memorial is Unveiled to A Forgotten Hero of WWI*



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*Piper Tom Campbell of the 52nd Lowland Regt. and members of the local British Legion  
at the planting of a memorial tree for Piper Carlile*

---

BY GILLIAN BREAR

---

I first learnt about Piper William Carlile from my mother, who told me the story of how he had saved her father's life during the First World War. They were both from the same small town (Johnstone, Renfrewshire) and both soldiers in the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, fighting in the trenches in the Battle of Festubert, France. On 16 June 1915, my grandfather, John Gillin, lay wounded in no man's land and William volunteered to go out and bring him in. He was carrying him

over his shoulder back to the safety of the trenches when a shell erupted nearby killing him instantly. He was just nineteen. My grandfather survived. I work as a tourist guide, taking visitors around Scotland, and on one occasion when I was in Edinburgh Castle, I found the entry of William's death in his regiment's remembrance book there. I then decided to research the incident further and, helped initially by the regiment's HQ at Stirling Castle, I was able to get various documents from the Public Records



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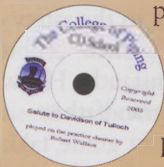
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Office and other places. I also found back issues of the local paper of the time where it was mentioned. One of the documents shows that William was 'Mentioned in Dispatches' and another that he was recommended for the Victoria Cross. Knowing what I did, I felt it wasn't right that William, who had died so bravely and in such terrible circumstances, should remain forgotten. I felt that the least I could do, having benefited from his act, was to tell his story and commemorate him in some way. I approached Councillor John Kenny to discuss the idea of a memorial to William in the town. When it seemed a possibility, I tried to trace any remaining family of William and, after phoning various 'Carliles', I eventually made contact



William Brear (right) and members of Piper Carlile's family

with William's first cousin, Mr Richard Carlile, who was born the year after William was killed. He and his son and daughter were at the service.

At the commemoration, I quoted a letter written at the time by a friend of William and my grandfather, to his mother, and published in the local paper on July 2, 1915. It is very moving, and part of it reads: "I told you of my little pal John Gillin, being wounded; well, when he was wounded, this brave chap went out almost to the German trenches and bandaged Gillin's wounds. Scarcely had he done this when a shell burst near him, killing him. The whole story shows a man of honour giving his life for his friend. 'Greater love hath no man than this.' You said recently, mother, that you were proud of old Johnstone K Company, well, surely here is one to be proud of. Piper William Carlile, a mere boy (publish his name, it is the least memorial we can give to this noble chap), one of our lately belittled Terriers, one of whom I shall always be glad I was a pal. I will finish my letter now, I am too full of my brave pal's deed and untimely death to write much more."

Now I feel that something has been done to remember a true hero of World War 1, Piper William Carlile of Johnstone

JOHNSTONE ADVERTISER, JULY 2, 1915.

THE WAR.

A GALLANT TERRITORIAL.

In our last issue we announced that Piper Carlile, of the local company of Territorials, had been killed in action. Since then we have read a letter from one of his comrades at the front, which shows how the gallant young fellow met his death. The following is an extract from said letter:—"I like immensely to honour a deed nobly done, and now let me tell you of one of our chaps who was killed. At the Machrihanish Camp, a member of our company (old E Coy.) rescued another from drowning. I have 'at the details, but he did it nobly, not thinking of his own life. He was mobilised with us and has now given his life with a grand and manly spirit. I told you of my little pal, John Gillin, being wounded; well, when he was wounded, this brave chap went out almost to the German trenches and bandaged Gillin's wounds. Scarcely had he done this when a shell burst near him, killing him. The whole story shows a man of honour giving his life for his friend. 'Greater love hath no man than this.' You said recently, mother, that you were proud of old Johnstone K Coy., well, surely here is one to be proud of. Piper Wm. Carlile, a mere boy (publish his name, it is the least memorial we can give to this noble chap), one of our lately belittled Terriers, one of whom I shall always be glad I was a pal. I will finish my letter now, I am too full of my brave pal's deed and untimely death to write much more. Shall write again very soon."

How the local paper broke the news of Piper Carlile's heroism



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# *Inverness: More Kiwi Magic, No White Socks and a Massive Entry*

BY JEANNIE CAMPBELL



THE glorious summer weather continued into September making some at Inverness's Eden Court regret that the competition was no longer held outside in the Northern Meeting Park.

The usual massive entry, with 97 seniors and 41 juniors listed in the programme, made for two very full days of piping. With large numbers playing it is necessary to limit tuning time so the light system was used once again. It was noticeable that several pipers are living on the edge by continuing to tune after the red light. Pipers will push the limit as far as they can until someone is actually sent off again. One piper did stop playing and was leaving the stage when he saw the red light come on, but he was called back and told he could play.

On the first day there were three events starting at 9am, the Clasp in the Auditorium, the Silver Medal in the Riverside Cinema and the A grade MSR in the stalls foyer.

A lot has been said already about the Clasp tunes. If a tune is hard to play that is acceptable, hard to listen to is not. The winner of the Clasp was Murray Henderson, the comeback king. He had already won the Clasp four times before his retirement from competition a few years ago. He has obviously got many years of good playing ahead of him and could be set for more wins. It has been said many



*Dr Brendan Eade,  
the 2003 Inverness Silver Medallist*

times that piobaireachd playing improves with maturity and many players retire far too soon. The down side of competing is the chore of having to learn set tunes every year when one might prefer to spend the time studying other tunes of one's own choice. Murray's daughter Faye, aged eleven, made this Northern Meeting a family occasion by winning the Under 15 March competition.

The winner of the Silver Medal was another New Zealander Brendan Eade for whom victory was a personal triumph.

"When I first came to Scotland my

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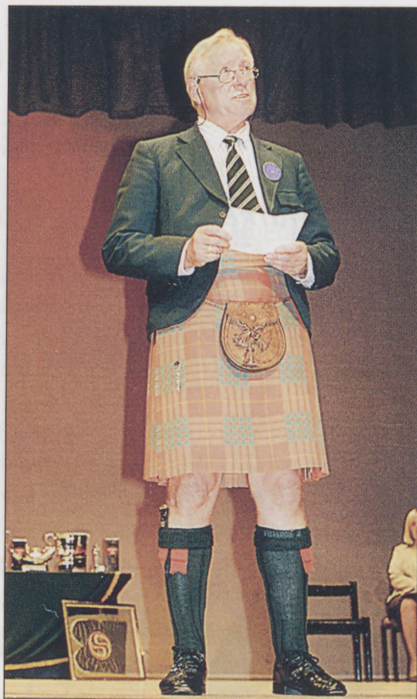
## Northern Meeting

aim was to get into the Gold Medal," he said. "Now I have done it and I am absolutely delighted." Brendan's winning tune was *You're Welcome Ewan Locheil*. He paid tribute to the support of his wife Meleana (Polynesian for Mary-Ann) who is also a piper. "I had a basic self belief that I could make it into the Gold but she has been wonderfully understanding. I couldn't have done it without her."

Another delighted piper was Douglas Murray from Fife. He continued his excellent 2003 form by taking the 'A' grade MSR title.

Following the daytime events came the big event of the evening, the Former Winners MSR in the Auditorium at 5pm. The audience for this event seemed to be considerably smaller than usual, which was puzzling, but I discovered later that the bar was crowded with pipers, watching some football game on the television. Sad that with the best pipers in the world live on stage there are some who prefer to watch football. With a magnificent performance of *John MacDonald of Glencoe, 74th's Farewell to Edinburgh, Caber Feidh, Susan MacLeod, Lt. Col. DJS Murray and The Grey Bob* Alasdair Gillies continued to make history; having already beaten the record several years ago he extended his run in this event to eleven wins.

The second day began early with the Gold Medal competition in the Auditorium at 8.30am. so it was an early breakfast or no breakfast for the judges and competitors. Most of the audience arrived a bit later. On the subject of accommodation one overseas visitor asked if we could point



Convenor Richard Cameron  
... acknowledged controversy

out to other visitors or intending visitors, particularly those from America and Canada, that it is not necessary to spend £70 (\$112US) or more on bed and breakfast in Scotland and that good guest houses can be had for under £25 (\$40US) per night.

Other events on the second day were the B Grade March and Strathspey and Reel in the Riverside Cinema and the Stalls Foyer, both starting at 9am, then the final event, the Hornpipe and Jig in the Stalls Foyer at 2.30pm.

Inverness has prizes for turnout and bearing for juniors, seniors and servicemen in uniform. The Army boys put on the full dress for a chance of the £100 (\$160US) prize. The



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non-service winner gets a £50 (\$80US) token and the junior winners get £10 gift tokens. Personally, I was pleased to see that white stockings are now almost a thing of the past, but why do so many pipers wear their kilts so long? At the prize giving Piping Convenor Richard Cameron acknowledged the controversy over his committee's decision to give out Clasp tunes early and said that it had been done with a view to giving the competitors the best possible chance of playing well.

## The Clasp

BY DAVID MURRAY

IT was a bold and challenging step on the part of the Music Committee to include three tunes from the MacArthur/MacGregor Manuscript in the set list for the senior events this year, one of which had to be submitted. Having spent some time 'getting them up' on the chanter, I for one was looking forward with keen anticipation to hearing them. It was high time that Andrew Wright's excellent and accurate transcriptions were heard by the piping public, echo beats and all. In the February edition of the 'Piping Times', however, it was announced that as a result of decisions taken at a Judges Seminar in Perth in November 2002, 'players could choose whether or not to present the tunes with all or some of the MacArthur timings of movements such as hiharin or echo beats'. The object of this concession was apparently to pre-empt the criticism that the Music Committee was attempting

to prescribe the MacArthur style of playing. The other three set tunes were all in the familiar Piobaireachd Society arrangements. No surprises there!

At Inverness, 'The Pride of Barra' was submitted ten times, and played thrice; 'Cluny's Lament' also ten times, but played twice; 'Abercairney's Salute' five, and played twice; 'Lady Margaret MacDonal'd's Salute', 'Salute to MacDonal'd of Staffa' and 'Sir James MacDonal'd of the Isles Salute' were each submitted by nine competitors. We heard 'Sir James' three times, 'Staffa' twice, and the good 'Lady Margaret' once. Three competitors included the three MacArthur tunes in their list; four offered two; and six offered one. None of the three who submitted three MacArthur tunes got one to play, a pity, one would have thought, given the amount of work and study necessary to get all three 'up'. After all, each had played only one tune from their list at Oban.

In the event, the first two places went to 'The Pride of Barra'. The winning tune itself was a beautifully crafted piece, played in the MacArthur style. It had no rivals. Hearing the way in which the tempo of the three Urlar was subtly increased at each repetition, one began to understand just why the ancients played the Urlar between the Taorluadh and Crunluadh variations, and played the whole Urlar at the end. Of course time was not then the dominating factor it is today. Two well-balanced and musical performances of 'Sir James of the Isles' took the third and fourth places. It is one of



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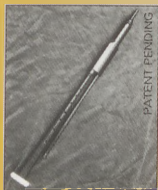
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*Clasp winner Murray Henderson with daughter Faye, winner of the Under 15 March*

the tunes written down for the piano by Eliza Jane Ross from the playing of John MacKay at Raasay House in 1812. Her style of writing hiharin with a long 'D' is unique, but most musical. Even though Eliza Jane's transcription is accurate in all other respects, perish the thought that her hiharin could possibly be as John played it! Eliza Jane and her sister were the orphaned daughters of a soldier who died in India. Brought up by their uncle, James MacLeod of Raasay, they returned to India in due course with their wedding dresses in their heavy baggage. The arrival of a ship bringing young women from home was an important event in Calcutta, most becoming engaged and married within days of landing. So it was with the Ross girls. Eliza Jane

married a Bengal civil servant and eventually became Lady Doyle. She had a set of pipes made for John MacKay, who composed 'Lady Doyle's Salute' for her.

It was good to hear 'The Pride of Barra' without the four hiharin that Angus MacKay tacks on to the last lines to even up the scansion. Played as written with eight even crotchets these do nothing for the tune. G.F.Ross, a leading 'maverick' between the two World Wars, solved the problem by playing Phrase 1 of Line 1 twice. The exciting thing about the MacArthur scores is that no one has ever heard them played, so our generation can have no preconceived ideas about them. I cannot speak too highly of the way in which the musical and technical challenges

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## Northern Meeting



All the Northern Meeting prizewinners

were tackled head on, thought through, and turned into music by every competitor who got one to play. Those long and subtly patterned Siubhal variations require concentration and co-ordination well above the average.

In an effort to detect a pattern in the fiendishly difficult Crunluadh variation in 'Abercairney' I had to write it out in canntaireachd but the two competitors who got the tune to play sailed through it, a feat of memory beyond me. However, the canntaireachd supported the interpretations we heard both in 'Abercairney' and 'Lady Margaret'. It was good too to hear the Crunluadh variation played in the tuneful and entertaining 'open' style as the term 'fosgailte' implies it should be, and as it's written in the older sources.

As for the other tunes, suffice it to say all the performances were well worthy of the occasion, although one

picked up the impression that one or two of the competitors might have preferred to play their MacArthur tune. Years ago, in the days when the flat high 'A' was fashionable everyone, players and listeners alike, was prepared to wince whenever a Thumb variation came up.

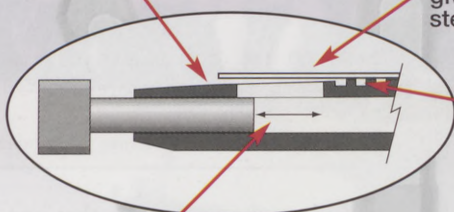
Now that the intonation of the chanters is so uniformly 'spot on', the 'Thumb' is a pleasure to hear, with the low and high 'A's making a perfect octave, something for which we have to thank the 'conventional' musicians with whom we play so often now, I suspect. However, the changes between variations are still on the abrupt side, especially between Taorluadh and Crunluadh. One can see why the Urrlar was repeated at this point. The execution of *darid and bandre* was everywhere strikingly good and there were some well enunciated and rippling Crunluadh a mach variations.

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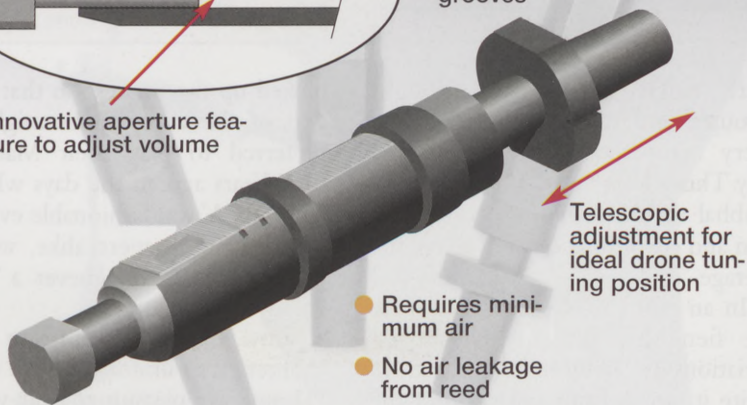
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The competitors in order of play were Colin MacLellan, Murray Henderson, who won the Clasp, Angus MacColl, Stuart Shedden, Iain Speirs, Robert Wallace, Mike Cusack, who came third, Jack Lee, runner up, Duncan MacGillivray, Niall Mathieson, Roderick MacLeod, placed fourth, Dr. Angus MacDonald, and Stuart Liddell.

On reflection one wonders whether it was a wise move on the part of the Music Committee to permit the competitors to choose how they wished to play the echoing beats. Although no one can ever be certain exactly how they were played in MacArthur's day, the object in publishing the Performing Text, in a volume that is otherwise not the easiest read in piping literature, is surely to get the MacArthur tunes played as he 'whistled' them.

Everyone whom I heard at Eden Court rose admirably to the occasion, including the judges, who awarded the Clasp to what was undoubtedly an outstanding interpretation of a MacArthur setting.

Should it be decided to repeat the experiment of including MacArthur tunes at this level, there are many others in the manuscript less demanding to play than the three that were set. They too equally deserve an airing and are not so formidable at first sight. I, for one, will be hoping to be spared until the next time, hearing aid and all!

## The Gold Medals 2003

BY DUGALD MACNEILL

THIS year there were ten set tunes from which each competitor had to submit six, one of which to be played. Twenty-six played at Oban out of 28 on the programme and 23 played at Inverness out of 29 listed to play. Seventeen pipers played in both competitions. The ten set tunes were all good tunes making it a pleasure to sit through each competition. Last year there

were more *taorluaths* and *crunluaths* to low G in the set tunes, and these, especially from D caused problems. This year there were quite a number of good tunes with minor but audible execution faults of this kind and one can imagine the judges with such a performance which would otherwise be in contention for



the prize list, marking it down. This will always be a debatable issue but it is a feature of the bagpipe that these minor execution faults are obvious and easy to detect. The player who plays really good *taorluaths* and *crunluaths* but has a blemish in one is judged less worthy than the one who plays them all without good effect but without technical blemish. Who would be a judge? Before leaving the subject of execution my simple plea to *piobaireachd* players is to make bigger high G gracenotes, especially in *dithis*, *taorluath* and *crunluath* vari-

(continued on page 33)



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## Gold Medals

ations; simple but very effective.

The two performances I enjoyed most and thought were above all the rest were Bruce Gandy's (Oban) and Brian Donaldson's (Inverness). Both, on very good instruments, played, with great effect, the same tune, *The Battle of the Pass of Crieff*. I was not surprised that Bruce won the Gold Medal at Oban and that Brian was second at Inverness (I would have had him first.) Chris Armstrong at Oban played *MacKenzie of Applecross's Salute* but it was too slow and not inspiring. At Inverness his pipe was better and he had *MacIntyres' Salute* to play – technically excellent although I did not agree with his interpretation of the Urlar. Thereafter it was very good and he was awarded the Medal.

At Oban Stuart Shedden, on a first class pipe, played a well thought out *I Got a Kiss of the King's Hand* and deserved second place. Andrew Hayes played *Lament for Ronald MacDonald of Morar* at Oban but it lost something in the middle. He also followed fashion by playing a crunluath a mach, but to me it does detract from this beautiful lament. At Inverness he played a bold *MacLeods' Salute* with the Donald Mor 'run down' and was a worthy third. Robert Watt was third in Oban with *MacIntyres' Salute* and made a good job of *Farewell to the Laird of Islay* at Inverness but I suspect his deliberate pause in the middle of the first variation did not find favour with the bench. Richard Hawke from New Zealand made a very good impression at both competitions and deserved his fourth place at Oban with *The Lament for Colin Roy* and fifth place at Inverness with *I Got a Kiss of the*

*King's Hand*. Jori Chisholm played *The Fingerlock* at Oban but kept a too constant rhythm through all the variations and had something not quite right in his crunluath a mach. At Inverness he played a very sound *Lament for Ronald MacDonald of Morar* to get fourth place. Alan Bevan was fifth at Oban with *Lament for Colin Roy* although he was a trifle slow in the taorluath and crunluath variations. He played better at Inverness with *MacKenzie of Applecross's Salute* but slight slips kept him out of the prize list. Those in neither prize list but 'highly commended' with good playing and good technique were:-

Jenny Hazzard good both at Oban *Battle of the Pass of Crieff* and at Inverness *Lament for Colin Roy*. Stuart Liddell played *Lament for Colin Roy* at Oban and although it was a bit constrained and careful it must have been in contention. Alasdair Gillies played *I Got a Kiss of the King's Hand* at Inverness without error but perhaps too mechanically; unusual for Alasdair. Donald MacPhee did a good job with *The Fingerlock* making up for his going off his tune at Oban. Michael Rogers played *The Battle of the Pass of Crieff* but unfortunately went astray at the very end of the crunluath a mach. Interestingly, and most effectively, in the crunluath variation he played the movement usually heard as



with a long C and very short B.

• Turn to Results pages for all the Northern Meeting winners.

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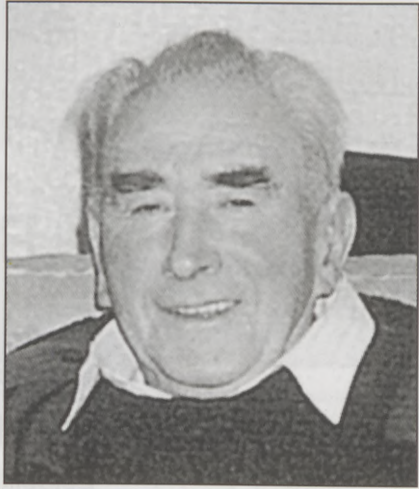


## Charlie O'Brien 1919-2003

CHARLIE O'Brien died this summer, at his home in Strathnaver, in the north of Sutherland. He was 83. He had for so long been a familiar figure at all the piping functions of the north that it is difficult to accept that he is no longer with us, bringing his pupils vast distances to the games, helping them to tune, sitting beside the platform to listen intently, and occasionally giving the judges his advice. Charlie was a MacKay on his mother's side, and was born in 1920 at Inchkinloch, an isolated house in the middle of Sutherland, where his father was a shepherd. As a youth he was working at Boroboll, in the Strath of Kildonan, under Bob MacKay, a brother of John MacKay, Halladale. It was Bob who launched him on his piping career, and kept him on chanter exercises for over a year before allowing him to play a few tunes.

In 1940, Charlie was called up, and had to make his way via Inverness to Fort George, a daunting prospect for a boy who had never been so far south before, nor seen a town bigger than Thurso.

At Fort George, he met RSM D.R. Maclellan, who on hearing him play promised to get him into the Seaforth pipe band, of which Donald Macleod was then Pipe Corporal. Charlie said he felt as green as grass, but was given a kindly welcome and was taught all he needed to know. When due to join the 5th Battalion, he was kept back by Donald Macleod, who was teaching him piobaireachd.



*The late Charlie O'Brien*

He later had two courses with P/M Willie Ross at the Castle. The 5th Seaforth were sent to Egypt via the Cape, a voyage of eight weeks. In the same troopship was a battalion of the Gordon Highlanders, which included Robert U. Brown and James MacGregor. Charlie remembered all the piping on board with great relish and delight, saying how much he learned and how he enjoyed it. After the North African campaign during which several pipers were lost, the 5th Seaforth took part in the D-Day landings, but after that, pipers were kept back from the front lines, as so many had been killed during the war years. Before their last appearance, at the Victory Parade in London, Charlie was promoted to Pipe Major. Back in civilian life, he was unsettled, and accepted a post in South Africa, training the pipe band in



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## Obituary

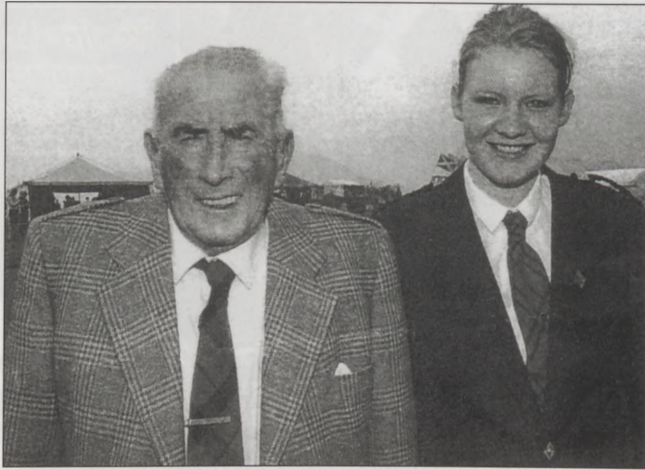
Pietermaritzberg; but homesickness soon drove him back, and he returned to the north of Scotland, 'back to civilisation', as he put it.

He and his friend Peter MacDonald from Thurso were competing at the Games, and then they helped to found the Thurso Pipe Band, which had many success-

es in the post-war years. Charlie was also a founder member of the Bettyhill band. Both bands are still going strong, and play at the Games throughout the summers.

In 1974, Charlie married his childhood friend, Janet MacKay, and they settled in Strathnaver. For many years he was the schools instructor in the north, and served as a judge at the games and the Mod. He continued teaching his pupils after his official retirement; typical of Charlie, whose enthusiasm recognised no retirement.

In 1992 he was awarded the B.E.M. for services to piping. He is commemorated in a number of compositions, a 6/8 March *Pipe Major C. O'Brien BEM*, by Norman Gillies, and *The Old Post Office*, Strathnaver (home of Charlie and Janet), a 9/8 March by P/M Andy Venters and shortly before he died John Don MacKenzie composed a jig in his honour called simply *Charlie O'Brien*. A feature at Charlie's funeral was the beautiful



*Charlie O'Brien pictured at Durness Games in 2001 with his outstanding young pupil Joanne Shaw*

playing of his pupils, paying tribute to the teacher they loved so well. He was a kindly, humorous, friendly, sociable man, and his pupils were as devoted to him as he was to them. But he was more than that.

He was vital to the continuation of the strong piping tradition of the north, which could so easily have lapsed into oblivion in the post-war years. Charlie not only kept it going by teaching the youngsters but also inspired them, gave his time, energy and attention to piping, and kept it alive in the north. There will not be another like him, but his pupils are doing him proud, winning prizes and playing in bands. One of them, Carol Anne MacKay, has become the piping instructor in Ullapool, after taking her degree in traditional Scottish music in Glasgow. Our sympathy is with his wife Janet and all his pupils in their loss.

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## *Radio Watch . . . our panel checks out the BBC's 'Pipeline' programme*

**Sept 28:** "Scottish Power win the Best Pipe Band of 2003 Folk Award sponsored by the Piping Centre . . . now there's a surprise!"

**Oct 12:** "An excellent programme on the new College building and the history of the College." . . . "Well done Iain MacInnes."

## *PT Archives*

### **From April 1962**

When Viscount Montgomery of Alamein said that the tribes of the North must be allowed to make a noise, then listened to, and finally ignored, he was doing no more than stating what has apparently been official policy for a long time.

## *PT Pic of the Month*

Our caption contest from August drew a wide range of entries: John MacLay, London: "The outpatients waiting room at Glasgow Royal Infirmary cardiac unit." . . . V. Matthews, Danbury, CT: "Great news for haemorrhoid sufferers!" . . . M McIntosh of Falkirk: "Don't be phased lads he's a lousy piper." . . . Another we liked was: "McCallum licks his lips in anticipation of the forthcoming pie-eating contest; Speirs not confident of his chances." . . . However this was anonymous so we cannot award the prize. The free PT subscription therefore goes to JT Patterson of New Orleans for: "When the hell do we get a chance to open the booze!"



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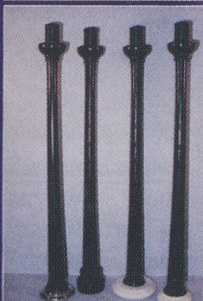
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## *Newspaper Watch . . . From the Glasgow-based Sunday Herald:*

"... there is a fierce amount of bag-piping involved. They were pibroching, reel-ing and strathspeying from dawn till dusk. One of the piping competitions was held in the 'Well Plaid' bar and diner of the Royal Hotel. Well Plaid. It's a Portree kind of thing. The whole Skye Games was well played."

## *PT Web Watch . . . keeping tabs on piping cyber spam*

Check out this entry attributed to Scots fiddler Alasdair Fraser at <http://www.footstompin.com/artists/aldasairfraser/interviews/obj1305>

'If you listen to pibroch (ancient music of the bagpipes, dating back to 1600) as it's played in the present day you'd find that it has become very standardized and shortened in comparison to days of old. In modern pibroch competition each pibroch lasts approximately 20 minutes, but we know that in older days each pibroch went on for an hour or more, and people just aren't used to doing that anymore. And it's the same with the fiddle tunes.'

Alisdair you are a brilliant fiddler; let's leave it at that.

## *PT Internet Radio Watch . . . our panel has a listen to 'College of Piping' on Radio Six International*

"Why did the BBC dump Wallace; he's brilliant; who needs 'Pipeline' now!" Make up your own mind by logging on to [www.radiosix.com](http://www.radiosix.com) and having a listen to the internet radio show for pipers and pipe bands; see Diary for broadcast details.

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*Do you have a point of view or some interesting information you would like to share with the rest of the piping world? Write, fax or e-mail the Piping Times. Full contact details on page one. Letters subject to editing.*

### Missing Miss

Sir,

I have been advised to contact you by a piper in New Zealand to see if you could possibly tell me anything about a pipe tune called *Miss Kirkwood*. It is usually played by the Gordon Highlanders. I know it is an old composition and I would like to know when it was composed and who *Miss Kirkwood* was if possible. I do hope you will be able to help and I look forward to your reply.

Amy Kirkwood,  
Cowell, via e mail

• *Miss Kirkwood is published in the Scots Guards Volume 2 but no composer is given and we have been unable to discover any other information. Perhaps a PT reader can help?*

---

### Glenfinnan Moanument

Sir,

I returned home from a month in Scotland to find two issues of the PT and subscription notices. I note in the letters column in the July issue mention of the Glenfinnan Visitor Centre and the two piobaireachd that you can hear there. One is *My King is Landed in Moidart* and one is a newer tune written and performed by Hugh MacCallum for the 250th anniversary of the raising of the standard at Glenfinnan. At the visitor centre they have the tunes written out in full, with listening headphones under each so the listener can follow the manu-

script. When our family stopped there this summer we discovered they had mis-matched the audio tapes and the written scores. When this was pointed out to the staff, they said it had been that way for three years since the display was mounted! The performances on tape are worth listening to, however, and no doubt the centre will make the appropriate corrections to the display!

Iain MacDonald,  
Avonlea, SK, Canada

---

### Phill-a-Woe

Sir,

I was privileged to attend Perth Games on 9th August and we could not have asked for better weather. Not only that, but the number of participating bands and standard of piping and associated events was second to none. However, I am compelled to write as I feel there is a great injustice being done to that wonderful, Scottish garment, the kilt.

I love to see a properly fitting, properly worn kilt, showing just the right amount of knee (hopefully a little tanned) above a tidy stocking. Sadly, very, very many of the kilt wearers need instruction in how to actually wear the garment. And to make matters worse, they pull up their stockings like a footballer, tight under the knee.

If the wearer has a difficulty wearing the kilt above the waist, then the tailor should be instructed to make

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the necessary adjustment. It seems that the kilts are worn as one would wear jeans or slacks, on or just below the waist, thus making the hemline ridiculously low. To compensate, the wearer lifts the front of the kilt slightly, leaving the hemline on a severe, downwards slope to the rear, covering stocking tops even more. And on the subject of tailoring, the cut of the kilt should ensure that the lower edge is uniform in pattern to all the others in the group of wearers. It is a sign of penny-pinching when, say, a yellow line is anything from 'on' the hemline to 3 and a half inches above it giving a sort of 'Mexican wave' to the colour co-ordination. Like matching wallpaper, the loss for matching would only be small in most cases, and the overall effect of correctly finished kilts a pleasure to the eye and a credit to tailor and garment. Judges are equally as guilty and, on my visit to the Worlds in Glasgow, I ensured I took photographic evidence to substantiate these observations. So those responsible for judging turn-out of the pipers, solo, bands, drum majors or whatever, get tougher. Look to your own appearance and then apply the accepted standard with strict criticisms to the other wearers and put the wearing of the kilt where its importance should be, up there with the pipers' fingering! I noted with some amusement that the Best Turned Out Band Award at Perth went to 1st Battalion Scots Guards. Thank goodness the Military can still dress correctly! But I noticed that the drum corps wore trousers. I rest my case.

Mrs H Wood,  
Bradhope, West Morton

Loos End

Sir,

Your recent articles on Gallipoli and The Battle of Loos I have found extremely informative. In fact, I look forward to these pieces in the PT the most because the history of piping is very important to me. I was wondering if you could steer me toward any books that deal with the involvement of pipers in WWI. Do you know of any published memoirs of pipers from the first Great War or interviews with them about their personal experiences from the trenches? I am working on some short stories, and contemplating a novel-length historically based tale of a piper in WWI. Subsequently I am looking for as much printed information on the subject as possible. The resources here in the southern United States are fairly limited regarding this topic. If you could afford me any bibliography of written resources pertaining to pipers, their trials and tribulations, during WWI it would be greatly appreciated.

Robert Podgurski  
Gastonia, North Carolina

• *David Murray replies: There are only two books which contain information about pipers in WW1. 'The Pipes of War' is helpful but not entirely reliable as an authority as it was compiled before the casualty lists were complete but is better than nothing. 'The Piper in Peace and War' has various anecdotes but is far from an authority being incomplete in many respects. The situation is complicated because in WW1 only Highland regiments and Scots Guards were allowed a pipe major and five pipers in excess of the authorised establishment. Extra pipers had*

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to be shown as privates as had all pipers in Lowland and Irish regiments. One has therefore to trawl through all the books one can locate searching for references to pipers which tend to be few and far between. You could also try the Imperial War Museum in London as well as the Library of Congress and the British Library which have to hold copies of every book published. My own knowledge derives from a misspent youth and a capacious but selective memory for things that interest me.

### Sausage Swallowing

Sir,

As reported in Web Watch of the Piping Times, September edition the BBC does drivel on about Clive Herbert's campaign to banish bagpipes and kilts, but they were honestly- if somewhat tongue in cheek-reporting a somewhat clever media campaign by the performers of the comedy sketch show 'Ubersausage'.

The performers wanted to raise their profile and make a point about the media and how they lap things up and connect to the 'Ubersausage' sense of humour! I quote "It was mischief and mischief is always good".

Anyway the BBC swallowed it all, hook, line and sinker, but listening to Clive Hibberts in an interview and recorded on the Campaign against Bagpipes (CABS) web site, I regret he may be serious. He is so misinformed on kilts and pipes that I come to the conclusion that he was unaware of being 'the fall guy' of the 'Ubersausage' act! I have a personal antipathy to West Indian steel bands, but I would not think of organising pickets to ban the music and their dress at the Notting Hill Festival!

Even far away in Spain I have heard of the busking pipers of the Royal Mile and the general impression is that they do piping a disservice and their commotion may drive people to distraction.

In the underground in London, busking at one stage was banned which to me, a regular underground user, I thought extreme and a manifestation of the worst side of officialdom. As the Spanish say "Quien canta, su mal espanta", when you sing you drive away your grief-except in the case of the Royal Mile pipers. However the commuters in London wanted the buskers back and officialdom bowed to their request, but making the point that only buskers with some degree of professionalism and talent would be allowed to play. Many others and myself were delighted at the decision.

To the pipers: should they be screened and only the talented allowed to play within sensible busking regulations. It sounds like an infringement of pipers' liberties and yet there are members of the public who appreciate the music and throw them coins. How much better if the busking was more musical and acceptable. I think Edinburgh Council should start interviewing with help from College of Piping experts. I am sure busking is an art form, entertainment and a way of making a living and the College could make a serious contribution here.

David Ian Weir,  
Almeria, Spain

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Search

Sir,

I am currently working on my family tree, and have come across a photograph of a person I believe to be my great-grandfather, Neil Galbraith. He is pictured below along with a child. The child is my grandfather born in April 1899, which I believe would date the photograph to about 1905-1910. There is little known of my great-grandfather by my living relatives, other than he died whilst my grandfather was a child, and he was a piper. The uniform worn does appear to be a Pipe Major's uniform.

I would appreciate any help you or



P/M Neil Galbraith

your readers can give in assisting by identifying the uniform worn by him, which in turn will allow me to find out more about the man.

Duncan MacLeod,  
Sandbank, Argyll.

---

Lip Seal

Sir,

Re the recent Bell's Palsy letter, I am a dental technician working within a maxillofacial unit in a hospital and as it happens a piper. I was saddened to read of the piper's situation and had an idea which may or may not improve the possibility of he/she once again playing their pipes. My suggestion consists of a silicone attachment to the blowpipe which would sit between the teeth and the cheek on the left side, which, made to the correct shape and flexibility may provide an improvement to the prospects of achieving an air-tight seal. I would be pleased to discuss my suggestion with the piper on 01522 573322 to give further details and suggest where this attachment could be manufactured. Perhaps you could forward my details to them.

B. Dowie,  
Lincolnshire, via e mail.

---

Mistake

Sir,

The Piping Times Vol. 55 No. 12 page 35 had an error as by now you probably know, it was G. S. McLennan not G. S. MacLellan who wrote the *Little Cascade* and there is not an F to D in the second bar of the fourth part.

Dr Richard A. Feely,  
Chicago, IL



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## Piping Times RESULTS SERVICE

### Northern Meeting, Inverness, September 10/11

**Gold Medal:** 1. Chris Armstrong, 2. Brian Donaldson, 3. Andrew Hayes, 4. Jori Chisholm, 5. Richard Hawke. Judges: John D Burgess, Iain MacFadyen, John Wilson.

**Silver Medal:** 1. Brendon Eade, 2. Niall Stewart, 3. Gregor Speirs, 4. Margaret Houlihan, 5. James MacPhee. Judges: John MacDougall, Iain Morrison, Ronald Lawrie.

**A Grade MSR:** 1. Douglas Murray, 2. Gavin Walker, 3. Andrew Mathieson, 4. Robert Watt. Judges: John D Burgess, Barry Donaldson, John Wilson.

**B Grade March:** 1. Simon McKerrell, 2. James MacPhee, 3. Gregor Speirs, 4. Roderick Weir. Judges: Ronald Lawrie, Alan Forbes, Walter Drysdale.

**B Grade S&R:** 1. Glenn Brown, 2. Neil Smith, 3. Ryan Lessels, 4. James MacPhee. Judges: Barry Donaldson, Jack Taylor, James Burnett.

**Clasp:** 1. Murray Henderson, 2. Jack Lee, 3. Mike Cusack, 4. Roddy MacLeod. Judges: Walter Drysdale, Jack Taylor, Andrew Wright.



*Chris Armstrong receives the Gold Medal*

**Former Winners MSR:** 1. Alasdair Gillies, 2. Mike Cusack, 3. Alan Bevan, 4. Jack Lee. Judges: Donald MacPherson, Gavin Stoddart, George Lumsden.

**Hornpipe and Jig:** 1. Alan Bevan, 2. Chris Armstrong, 3. Angus MacColl, 4. Niall Stewart. Judges: Donald MacPherson, Hugh MacCallum, Finlay MacNeill.

**Turnout and Bearing: Servicemen:** DJ. McIntyre, *Non service:* Darach Urquhart.

**Under 15 March:** 1. Faye Henderson, 2. James Mackenzie, 3. Eddie Townsley, 4. George Stewart. Judges: George Lumsden, James Burnett.

**Under 18 MSR:** 1. Gillian Chalmers, 2. John MacDonald, 3. Ruaridh MacLeod, 4. Ewen Henderson. Judges: John MacDougall, James Jackson.

**Junior Piobaireachd:** 1. James MacKenzie, 2. Ewen Henderson, 3. John MacDonald, 4. Karen MacLean. Judges: Gavin Stoddart, Tom Speirs.

**Dress and Bearing: Girls:** Gillian Chalmers, **Boys:** Ewen Henderson.



*Alasdair Gillies receives his 11th Silver Star*



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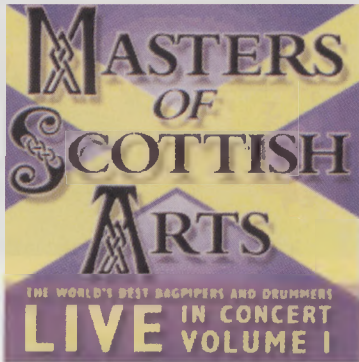
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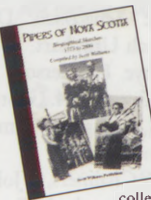
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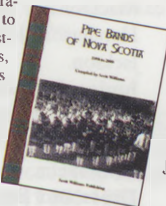
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## Results

### Channel Highland Games

*Iain Macleod writes:* The Channel Highland Games were held in brilliant sunshine on the 13th. Sept. in Jersey. Besides our own Jersey Caledonian, we had the Port-Louis and Vannes bands from Brittany and the Ramsay Caledonia from Hampshire. Solo piping was judged by Jakez Pincet and I.

**Piob:** 1. Robert Watt (Northern Ireland) 2. Matt Turnbull (USA) 3. Charles Noin (Brittany)

**MSR:** 1s. Matt Turnbull, 2. Robert Watt, 3. Joe Mooney (Eire)

**Hornpipe & Jig:** 1. Charles Noin 2. Loic Denis (Brittany) 3. Robert Watt.

The Royal Bank of Scotland International Shield and a gold bar for best solo piper went to Robert Watt.

The prize for solo drumming was won by Jim Vines (Jersey)

You will have gathered by now that this second year produced a truly international games. We even had a late entry in the M.S.R. and Hornpipe & Jig from a good player who had just landed from a cruise ship! The date by which you have to have your tunes brushed up for next year is 11th Sept. 2004, when the games will return to Guernsey. We look forward to seeing you there!

### Dunrobin Castle Solo Piping, September 13

**Junior Under 15 years – March** – 1. James Mackenzie, Sternway; 2. Christopher MacDonald, Inverness; 3. Christopher Ross, Kyle of Lochalsh; 4. Mairead MacLennan, Achiltibuie.

**Strathspey and Reel** – 1. James Mackenzie, Stornoway; 2. Christopher MacDonald, Inverness; 3. Michael Mackenzie, Nairn; 4. Andrew Smith, Kyle of Lochalsh.

**Piobaireachd** – 1. James Mackenzie, Stornoway; 2. Andrew Smith, Kyle of Lochalsh; 3. Michael Mackenzie, Nairn; 4. Christopher Ross, Kyle of Lochalsh.

**Overall Champion** – James Mackenzie.  
Judges: James Banks, Glasgow, and Sir Patrick Grant, Alness.

**Junior Under 18 years – March** – 1. Gillian

Chalmers, Plockton; 2. Alasdair Mackenzie, Garve; 3. Ruairidh Macleod, Portmahomack; 4. Catherine MacLennan, Achiltibuie.

**Strathspey and Reel** – 1. Alasdair Mackenzie, Garve; 2. Ruairidh Macleod, Portmahomack; 3. Gillian Chalmers, Plockton; 4. Martin Macbeath, Roy Bridge.

Judge: Ronald Maclean, Inverness.

**Piobaireachd** – 1. Alasdair Mackenzie, Garve; 2. Martin Macbeath, Roy Bridge; 3. Ruairidh Macleod, Portmahomack; 4. Gillian Chalmers, Plockton.

Judge – Finlay MacRae, Dingwall.

**Overall Champion** – Alasdair Mackenzie.

**Senior – March, Strathspey and Reel** – 1. Douglas Murray, Cupar, Fife; 2. Darach Urquhart, Kyle of Lochalsh; 3. P/M Michael Gray, Edinburgh; 4. Matt Pantaleoni, U.S.A.

**Hornpipe & Jig** – 1. Douglas Murray, Cupar; 2. Darach Urquhart, Kyle of Lochalsh; 3. P/M Michael Gray, Edinburgh; 4. Leslie Hutt, Inverness.

Judges: Ronald Lawrie, Oban; Ian MacLellan, Glasgow, and Capt. Bruce Hitchings, Edinburgh.

**Piobaireachd** – 1. Douglas Murray, Cupar; 2. John Angus Smith, Glasgow; 3. Matt Pantaleoni, U.S.A.; 4. P/M Michael Gray, Edinburgh.

Judges: Hugh A. MacCallum, Dunblane, Major Gavin Stoddart, Edinburgh, and Capt. Stuart Samson, Edinburgh.

**Overall Champion and winner of DUNROBIN GOLD MEDAL** – Douglas Murray, Cupar, Fife.

### Invercharron Gathering, September 20

**Piob:** 1. Niall Matheson, *Old Men of the Shells*; 2. Duncan MacGillivray, *Lament for Capt. MacDougall*; 3. David Bisset, *Lament for Mary MacLeod*; 4. Fiona MacKay, *MacFarlane's Gathering*.

**March:** 1. Niall Matheson, 2. Fiona MacKay, 3. Duncan MacGillivray, 4. David Bisset

**S&R:** 1. Niall Matheson, 2. Fiona MacKay, 3. David Bisset, 4. Duncan MacGillivray

**Jig:** 1. Duncan MacGillivray, 2. Niall Matheson, 3. Fiona MacKay, 4. Brian Mearns.

(continued on page 57)



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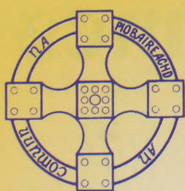


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## Results

### The 2003 G.S. McLennan Memorial

*Larry Samuels reports:* This Invitational Piping Competition took place on Oct. 3-5, 2003 in San Diego, CA at the luxurious US Grant Hotel. Amidst the splendour of the Crystal Room, Gold Medal competitors from all over the world presented their music. Richard Hawke of New Zealand captured the Overall prize, along with 1st place in the Piobaireachd event; Fred Morrison of Scotland won 1st place in the MSR event. The theme of this year's McLennan was "Gold Medal Competition in the United States". To this end, we invited the winners of Gold Medal events from The Northern Meeting, the Argyllshire Gathering, the Canadian Piobaireachd Society, the US Piping Foundation, the Comunn na Piobaireachd (New Zealand), L'orient Inter-Celtic Festival, along with discretionary invitations. The competitors were: Richard Hawke (New Zealand), Andrew Hayes (Canada), Scot Walker (USA), Fred Morrison (Scotland), Michael Gray (Scotland), Ann Gray (Canada), Ian Whitelaw (US). The judges were Jack Lee, Michael Cusack, and Malcolm MacRae. Final Rankings were:

**Overall Winner:** 1. Richard Hawke (New Zealand); 2. Ian Whitelaw (USA); 3. Fred Morrison (Scotland)

**Piobaireachd:** 1. Richard Hawke (New Zealand); 2. Ian Whitelaw (USA); 3. Ann Gray (Canada)

**March/Strathspey/Reel:** 1. Fred Morrison (Scotland); 2. Ian Whitelaw (USA); 3. Richard Hawke (New Zealand)

The same weekend saw the P/M Angus Macdonald Memorial Western Regional Championship held along with the MacLennan. This is a Grade 1/Open competition designed to encourage piping in the Western Region; winners are eligible to compete in the USPF championships. The judge this year was Jack Lee. Final results were:

**Grade One – Piobaireachd:** 1. Trudianne Melvin (Hinsdale, IL); 2. Doug Miles (San Diego); 3. Richard King (San Diego)

**MSR:** 1. Trudianne Melvin (Hinsdale, IL); 2.

Richard King (San Diego); 3. Jeremy Cull (Glendora, CA)

**Overall Winner:** Trudianne Melvin

**Professional – MSR:** 1. Adrian Melvin (Hinsdale, IL); 2. Seumas Coyne; 3. Kenneth Sutherland

**Piob:** 1. Ian Whitelaw (Redondo Beach); 2. Seumas Coyne (Claremont, CA); 3. Kenneth Sutherland (San Jose, CA (San Jose, CA))

**Overall Winner:** Seumas Coyne (Claremont, CA)

*From the same competition Owen Nash writes:* While Pauline, my wife and I, were on holiday in California, we attended The P.M. Angus Macdonald and The G. S. MacLennan piping competitions in the U.S. Grant hotel in downtown San Diego. The Angus MacDonald competition took place on Friday 3rd October and consisted of two competitions both of which had two events, first a Piobaireachd and secondly a March, Strathspey and Reel. The first event, started on time at 9am. Sadly at this time the audience consisted of Pauline and myself, it seems that the Western U.S.A. Pipe Band Association, had organised a Pipe Band Championship Contest in Las Vegas on the same weekend. There were six competitors, all classed as Grade I pipers, and all of them completed their tunes, and after a short break the Professional Piobaireachd competition began, again, on time at 11.-15am. Once more we had six competitors all excellent players with good balanced bagpipes. Again all the pipers finished their tunes. The afternoon programme followed the same pattern as the morning, Grade I first and then the Professionals. By this time the audience had grown to about 30 people. Once again we had no breakdowns. As outsiders attending this competition for the first time, we were very impressed by the way the events ran. There seemed to be no pressure on the pipers, (i.e. no stewards harassing them) and a very relaxed atmosphere prevailed throughout the day. An added bonus were the free drinks (non-alcohol) and refreshments available all day long. On the minus side we had a steward who seemed to wait until the pipers began playing before she began talking in a very loud voice. This was very annoying to both the audience and the pipers, and the adjudicator Jack Lee



## Results

had cause to speak to the organisers about the problem. The day ended with an informal gathering again with refreshments available and a table where various whiskies were available for tasting. The overall winners from the days contests opened the proceedings. First Trudianne Melvin played a selection of tunes, then Seumas Coyne played a similar selection (as overall champion Seumas now qualifies for the U. S. Piping Foundation Championship).

In the evening approximately 40 people sat down to a very nice meal and the pipers were

invited to play in alphabetical order, i.e. Ann Gray, P/M Michael Gray M.B.E. (The Highlanders), Richard Hawke, Andrew Hayes (Canada), Fred Morrison, Scott Walker (North East U.S.A.) and Ian Whitelaw. The two day events were very well organised and deserved to be supported better than it was, I take my hat off to Dr Richard Feely, and Ian Kelly, who are responsible for financing the events, (dipping into their back pockets). Long may it continue and maybe more spectators should support the event.

### 100th National Mod Piping, Oban, October 11

**Senior Events** – Piping convenor Jimmy Young reported a very high standard in all events in the Senior Piping. There was a total of seven call offs not all of whom contacted the organisers to say they could not attend. The day proved to be something of a rout for Willie McCallum who lifted all three firsts and a total of £900 in prizemoney.

**Piobaireachd:** 1. Willie McCallum, *My King Has Landed in Moidart* – £300; 2. Robert Wallace, *Lament for the Children* – £200; 3. Roddy MacLeod, *Lament for Donald Duaghal MacKay* – £100; 4. Angus MacColl, *Lament for Patrick Og MacCrimmon* – £50.

**MSR:** 1. Willie McCallum – £300; 2. Chris Armstrong – £200; 3. Gordon Walker £100; 4. Roddy MacLeod – £50.

**Hornpipe and Jig:** 1. Willie McCallum – £100; 2. Robert Watt; 3. Angus MacColl.

**Overall:** W. McCallum – £200

**Junior Events – March (16-18):** 1. Euan Dewar, 2. Catherine MacLennan, 3. Stephen Clark.

**S&R (16-18):** 1. Euan Dewar, 2. Catherine MacLennan, 3. Ewen Henderson.

**March (13-15):** 1. Alasdair Henderson, 2. Fraser Wylie, 3. Ben Duncan.

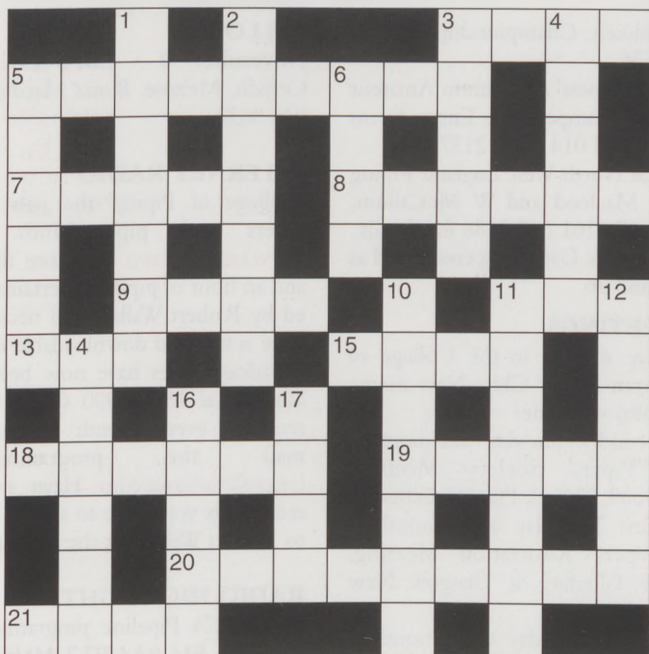
**March (under 13):** 1. Dean Cartwright, 2. Zoey MacIver, 3. Raymond Kennedy.

**Chanter (under 13):** 1. Seonaidh MacIntyre, 2. Mhairi MacDonald, 3. William MacAskill.



College pupil Dean Cartwright, Drunchapel, Glasgow, with the National Mod under 13 march trophy.

Test Your Knowledge



Across

- 3. Our land in Gaelic (4)
- 5. These were taken at Oban and Inverness according to the editorial last month (9)
- 7. Sounds like he the patron saint of High A perhaps (5)
- 8. They go to Mallaig and Hell (6)
- 9. Iain Morrison's monster pipers (4)
- 11. 1888 Gold Medallist with feather-like touch perhaps (3)
- 13. Time for these pipers in a Mathieson hornpipe (3)
- 15. Pipe bands might play at this festive event in a border town (4)
- 18. Got points for setting music (6)
- 19. A place to leave (5)
- 20. Editor's description of MacArthur style (9)

- 21. Editor offered alternative list to do this to competitors (4)

Down

- 1. This was bad according to a John Wilson tune but we wouldn't comment on the present situation (7)
- 2. Bruce's is in Tutor One (7)
- 3. Test 5 down (5)
- 4. Kalabakan is here (6)
- 5. The Dunvegan chanter (6)
- 6. Take this with grace (4)
- 10. James, our Gaelic columnist (7)
- 11. Musical House in Inverness (7)
- 14. Mr Kenneth pictured last month (6)
- 16. New Australian principal (5)
- 17. Northern Meeting paradise (4)

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION: *Across* – Pipe Major, Kiwi, Tommy, Scottish, Onich, George, Askaig, Lever, Diddling, Essie, Cane, Ladysmith. *Down* – Kitcheners, Pint, Police, Methods, Jim, Roy, Mackinnons, Girders, Ardlui, Loch Eil, Sid. Test your piping knowledge with the Piping Times Crossword. Send completed puzzles to Piping Times, 16-24 Otago Street, Glasgow G12 8JH, Scotland. The crossword is sponsored by Isle of Skye whisky. Each month the UK contestant who sends in the first correct puzzle drawn from those received will be sent a bottle of the finest whisky all the way from the home of piping, the misty isle of Skye (under-18s not eligible). The whisky is on sale at selected branches of Tesco, Co-op, Sainsbury, Oddbins and Victoria Wines. The overseas reader with the most correct puzzles over a six month period will receive a free PT subscription. Crossword compiled by Jeannie Campbell.

## Piping Times DIARY

### SOLOS

#### November

1 - Glenfiddich Championship. Tickets 01698 573536

22 - Scottish Pipers' Association Amateur and Juvenile Competition. Entry forms from J. Campbell 0141 946 2137

22 - Recital North West England Piping Society; R Macleod and W McCallum; tickets £8; call 0161 682 2588 for details.  
• 2004 Argyllshire Gathering confirmed as August 25 and 26.

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Every second Wednesday each month - Highland Pipers' Society Meeting, Osborne Hotel, 53 York Place, Edinburgh.

Every first Thursday each month - Scottish Pipers' Association Meeting, Polish Club, Glenfarg St, Glasgow. New members welcome.

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### PIPE BAND MAJORS FOR 2004

May 22 - Scottish Championships, Dumbarton

June 12 - British Championships, Turriff

July 31 - European Championships, Lisburn

August 14 - World Championships, Glasgow

August 28 - Cowal Championships, Dunoon

### OVERSEAS

#### November

8 - EUSPBA AGM

15 - George Sherriff Memorial Amateur Invitational [www.ppbsso.org](http://www.ppbsso.org)

### BELLOWS

November 8 - LBPS Collogue and Ceilidh, Melrose. Rona Macdonald 0141 946 8624

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Piping Times Diary is compiled by Jeannie Campbell. Let her know what is going on in your band. Tell us when you are holding a contest or fund raiser. All Diary insertions are free. Send your Diary info to Jeannie at the College. E mail: [college@college-of-piping.co.uk](mailto:college@college-of-piping.co.uk) or see page one for other contact details. **Please check before travelling to, or entering, any of the above events.**



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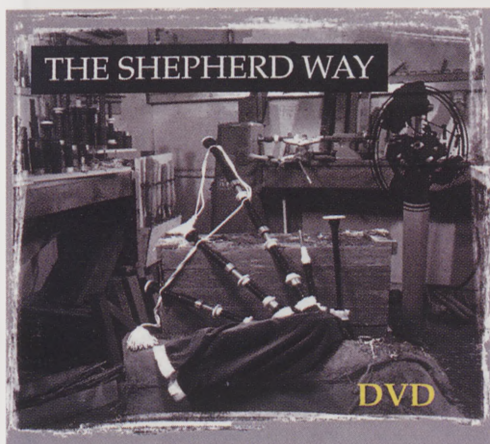
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