

Piping Times

Volume 4, No. 1.

OCTOBER, 1951.

CONTENTS.

Editorial	page 3
Bagpipe Cane	page 4
Nethy Bridge Games	page 5
Tempo of Pipe Bands	page 6
New Zealand Notes	page 7
A Piper's Diary	page 8
Champion Pipers	pages 9 and 10
The Games Circuit	pages 11 and 12
Scottish Pipers' Association Notes..	page 13
Radio Highlights	page 13
Cowal Highland Gathering	page 14
Edinburgh Newsletter	pages 15 to 17
Letters to the Editor	page 18
Competition Results	pages 18 and 19

9d.

HENDERSON

A Name famous the world over



The true Piper in common with other musicians has a wholehearted admiration for fine instruments. Thus you find that Bagpipes by Henderson of Glasgow are held in the highest esteem in piping circles all over the world. The name of Henderson represents to the Piper a standard of comparison—the possession of Henderson Bagpipes an ambition to be realised as soon as possible.

PRICES ON APPLICATION

PETER HENDERSON, Ltd.

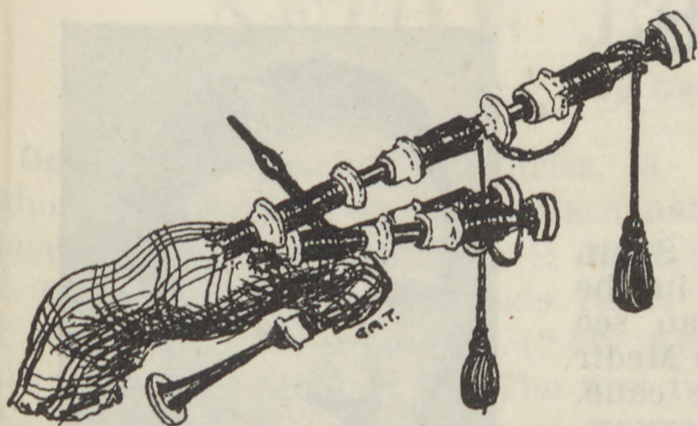
BAGPIPE MAKERS

20 & 24 Renfrew Street

Also at 20, 21 ARGYLL ARCADE

GLASGOW, C.2

Established 1868



Piping Times

Official Organ of
THE COLLEGE OF PIPING.

Vol. 4, No. 1.

OCTOBER, 1951.

EDITORIAL

The policy of a magazine is stated implicitly by the material which appears in its pages. For this reason we have never considered it necessary to waste either space or the time of readers by a mixture of pious hopes and wishful thoughts. The start of the fourth volume of the "Piping Times," however, is an opportune time to consider our way ahead, secure in the knowledge that we shall not state aims which have not already been implied in our issues to date. By placing our cards on the table we wish to give readers an opportunity of contributing to, of modifying or altering our intentions, by indicating their displeasure or otherwise at our proposed policy.

The "Piping Times" exists as a platform for the exchange of news and views of a piping nature. It seeks to co-ordinate the work and interest of pipers all over the world, and to join them in one happy band for their own enjoyment and for the furtherance of the national instrument. It is part of its duty, where possible, to record for posterity knowledge concerning all aspects of our art.

We have always held the view that piping is a subject on its own, just as the instrument itself is a complete entity. For this reason we intend to continue to avoid the temptation of devoting space to any of the many activities which seek to attach themselves to our particular culture. Although this necessarily re-

stricts our circulation, we have the satisfaction of being able to plan ahead on the confident assumption that everyone who buys the "Piping Times" finds pleasure in every page of it.

All work in connection with the magazine (except the actual printing) is entirely voluntary. Any surplus produced is put back into the magazine in the form of increased size, illustrations, etc.

N. & A. MACPHEE,
PIPE BAND SPECIALISTS,
43 Tory Street, Wellington, C.3,
New Zealand.

**Sole Distributors of "Piping Times"
in New Zealand.**

COLLEGE OF PIPING.

Hon. President:

Flora MacLeod of MacLeod.

Hon. Vice-Presidents:

**Major D. Manson, V.D.R.O.,
Major D. MacNeill.**

Dr. Calum MacCrimmon.

President: A. MacNeill.

Hon. Treasurer: **Iain Dewar, C.A.**

Joint Principals:

T. Pearston.

S. MacNeill.

This Magazine is published by the College of Piping. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the College or of the Editor. Articles or letters must not be reproduced either in whole or in part without the permission of the Editor.

BAGPIPE CANE

Continued—PART IV.

A VISIT TO A CANE FACTORY.

The position of the village of Palamos in Spain has been described in previous articles and in the August issue of the "Piping Times" one can see a photograph of the cane factory of Francisco Medir which supplies us with most of our bagpipe cane. Palamos is a small fishing village and a cork exporting centre.

The cane factory, which is in the middle of the town, consists of a square building with a yard in the centre. The exact lay-out of the place is well illustrated in the "Piping Times" referred to. In the centre of the photograph and on the right the sheds are constructed of brick and have ventilating slots near the roof. These buildings have been specially prepared to suit the storage and seasoning of cane. On the left one can see a shed constructed of cane poles and this is another storage space for the stalks which arrive from the plantation. The cane stalks are of great height—from 15 to 20 feet—and the top third has leaves which are dry. This part of the stalk is unsuitable for reeds. The base of the stalk is of wide diameter—around 40 m.m.—and this part is suitable for saxophone or clarionet reeds.

In the main ventilating room the canes are stalked in bundles and rested perpendicularly against the wall. The period of time which the cane is left in this maturing chamber is about 2 years. In a later article a description in detail will be inserted to illustrate the growth and seasoning times.

In another room, workmen were busy manufacturing fishing rods from rejected bagpipe cane. Twisted stalks of cane were heated over a fire to singe and then straightened out. Real bamboo stalks were also used for this. The rods were finished off with cork handles and stacked in bundles.

BAGPIPE SORTER.

In the adjoining room there were bags of cut tubes of cane for pipe chanter reeds and a sorter was sitting with two large cane baskets, busy testing each individual stalk by the appearance and strength of wall. These stalks were all around twelve inches in length. The green-coloured immature cane or unsuitable cane is placed in one basket and will be used later for other purposes. The strongest type only goes on its long journey to Scotland. This cane-sorter has been working at this job for 15 years.



CONSTRUCTIONAL AND BUILDING CANE.

A little further along in the same room is a special machine to make use of all the unseasoned or rejected bagpipe cane. As one can realise, the amount of strong cane obtained from the complete stalk is exceptionally small. It is only about 20 to 30 per cent. of the total obtained, and when one considers that of that amount a portion has to be rejected by the reedmakers in this country, it must be concluded that only the strongest type of cane actually reaches the piper.

As the amount of cane yield from the plantations is very considerable, the Spanish building trade requests a quantity for new houses, to reinforce cement walls and ceilings, and Medir has a special machine which binds strips of cane about 3 feet long together with wire. This eventually appears as a long mat wired in rows.

DIAMETER SELECTION.

Above the chamber previously described there is a bench for sorting, and attached to the bench are various metal units with half-circles, and each half-circle represents a diameter of a bagpipe reed, either tenor, barr, practice chanter, pipe chanter or miniature.

There is a large circular saw which chops up all the cane in small lengths of about 12 inches.

Across the yard, the cane-walled shed is used for storing purposes. In other parts of the town of Palamos there are other storage sheds for keeping cane. The one great danger in this business is fire, as the dry cane stalks are magnificent tinder for burning. The workmen are prohibited from smoking.



NETHY BRIDGE GAMES

By Col. J. P. Grant.

Open Piobaireachd.—9 entries, 5 of whom broke down.—1, Wm. Macdonald, Inverness ("The Vaunting"); 2, P.-M. R. B. Nicol, Balmoral ("King's Taxes"); 3, P.-M. D. Maclean, Lewis ("My King has landed in Moidart"). The first two gave accurate and musical performances and there was little to choose between them. P.-M. Nicol's ground was perhaps on the quick side, while Macdonald's doubling and trebling of the 1st variation were a bit dragged out. What told in favour of Macdonald was that his pipe was beautifully reeded and Nicol's was not above criticism. P.-M. Maclean also played the 1st variation and doubling too slow, and his taorluath doubling no quicker than his singling. In addition, he seemed to have difficulty in fingering "hadarid" and "habardic," and the execution of his C mach was decidedly sketchy. The only other competitor to finish his tune was A. Robertson of the Lochee Band, Dundee ("Mary MacLeod"). He spoiled the lovely 1st variation by dragging it out at a wearisome pace, and the same applied to his taorluath singling. When he came to the taorluath doubling he showed the all-too-common fault of cutting the melody notes far too short. This player will have to learn to sound the two low G's in "'darid." At present he is too light with his little finger. The same applies to his crunluath—not enough little finger and cutting melody notes in the doubling. There was an unaccountable hesitation in passing from the taorluath doubling to the crunluath singling, and in the first line of the crunluath doubling he played an F for an E. Another Dundee player was A. Macleod of the Macleod Band. He played "MacCrimmon's Sweetheart." All through the ground, thumb and doubling, he consistently played a D gracenote in place of a G on the 2nd C in bar 1, line 1, and similar places, for which there is no authority known to the writer. Then again the vexed question of grips on the C's in the thumb doubling. There are several known ways of placing these, but this player peppered them about impartially. Surely the appropriate points include the beginnings of the second

phrase and not, as is commonly done, half-way through that phrase—the result of which is to make the first two lines the same. Macleod broke down in the doubling of the dithis. A third Dundee player, D. Macleod, also of the Macleod Band, played the "Desperate Battle." He made a better attempt at this tune, but the same faults in the fingering of the taorluath and crunluath were apparent—little finger much too light, and faulty timing of the "'darid" movement—hanging too long on to the final A before the following melody note. Yet another Dundee player, Stewart Salmond, played "Macleod of Raasay's Salute." His playing of ceol mor has improved greatly in the last two years, but he is still too light with his "'darid" and "bardie," but he has cured himself of the faulty timing of "'darid" mentioned above. One seldom hears the GE cadence on low A in the ground, noted by Angus Mackay. His taorluath doubling was played too slow and he let off a few squeaks, but he survived until a point in the crunluath mach, when he too broke down. John Chisholm, Inverness, started on "Mary Macleod," very slow in the ground but pretty good. He went wrong in the doubling of the 1st variation and stopped. John Stewart, Aviemore, the youngest competitor, aged 17, made a good start with "The Old Sword," but made several chokes and broke down in the taorluath.

Altogether it was a disappointing competition. The weather was dull and cold and in the afternoon wet, and the Glenurquhart Games no doubt drew away some players. The winners of the piobaireachd between them won all the other prizes—marches, strathspeys, reels and jigs. Pipe-Major Maclean won the marches, and Pipe-Major Nicol the other two. In the local events, John Stewart won the marches and the boys under 18 march, and A. Smith, Tulloch, won the strathspey and reel. There were only two entries for the under 18 march. By contrast, in South Uist on 7th August there were 8 entries for the under 20 piobaireachd competition and twelve entries for march, strathspey and reel, ranging from 12 years to 19 years—largely thanks to the instruction given there by Pipe-Major Nicol for the last two Januaries—and quality was combined with quantity.

TEMPO OF PIPE BANDS

.....
By Archibald MacNeill.
.....

A piper friend and I attended four pipe band contests recently, namely, Glasgow Highland Gathering, Luss, Helensburgh and Renfrew. We came to the conclusion that the tempo of the marches was much slower than 112 beats to the minute, which was required in recent pipe band contests at Cowal Games. We also attended the World's Championship held at Murrayfield Park, Edinburgh, with a stop watch in which to time the first-grade bands. The time of the winning band, the Glasgow Police, took 1 minute 15 seconds to play three measures repeated and one single measure of the fourth part of a two-four march. "Donald Cameron" was played at least six times. Through the kindness of one of the S.P.B.A. officials, we managed to get a seat on the track 15 feet away from the actual contestants. On three occasions when an exhibition of tossing the caber

was on, the applause by the spectators completely drowned out the sound of the pipe band competing. It must have been difficult for the judges to hear what the band was playing when the applause took place.

Here are some figures of some of the bands which competed:—The Glasgow Police, 75 seconds; Edinburgh Police, 74 sec.; Shotts and Dykehead, 74 sec.; Renfrew, 73 sec.; Rutherglen, 73 sec.; Red Hackle, 78 sec.; Macrae, 76 sec.; Michael Colliery, 71 sec. This works out roughly at 90 beats to the minute. The use of a metronome might have been a better test, but getting a level surface to set it up is pretty difficult to find around the games. We also timed some of the strathspeys and reels, and found that it took an average of between 49 and 51 seconds to play a four-part strathspey, and for the reel the average time taken was 40 secs.

PIPERS and DRUMMERS *are required*

For the Band of the 15th (Scottish) Battalion, the Parachute Regiment (Territorial Army).

Bandsmen need not Parachute, but courses will be arranged for any who are fit and wish to do so.

Apply to—

The ADJUTANT, 15th (Scottish) Battalion,
The Parachute Regiment,
172 Yorkhill Street,
Glasgow, C.3.

or 'Phone—Western 5152.

Drill Hall Open 9 a.m. until 10 p.m. daily, except Saturday.

NEW ZEALAND NOTES.

We are indebted to Mr. John Seton, late Drum Major of the Glasgow Police Pipe Band and now of Hastings, New Zealand, for the following report of a Pipers' Ceilidh held in St. Anne's Hall, Green Street, Newtown. Jack Seton's many friends in the drumming and piping worlds will be pleased to hear that he is getting on very well in the land of his adoption, and that his activities on behalf of Piping, Drumming, Highland and Country Dancing are as many and as enthusiastic as they were in Scotland. We hope to be able to publish soon some of his impressions of New Zealand.

The Wellington Pipers' Club held an enjoyable evening on Saturday, 12th May last, in St. Anne's Hall, Newtown, Wellington. This was the third function held since the formation of the Club about a year ago. The purpose of the Club is to give pipers an opportunity of getting together and enjoying a good night's piping, at the same time fostering piping. There is now a membership of about sixty and steadily increasing.

Mr. John M'Callum, the president, was chairman for the evening. A long programme of piping was arranged (programme is attached with the names of the playing pipers and the tunes played by each of them.

When the programme was completed, selections were played by other pipers who were at the function. There was an attendance of about sixty pipers. The committee handed round an enjoyable supper.

Programme.

Donald Scott—"After the Battle," "Janice Christina Scott" (own composition), "The Atholl Highlanders' March to Loch Katrine."

Ian M'Kay—"Craig-n-darroch," "Bogan Lochan," "The Flagon."

Ian M'Glashen—"The Caledonian Society of Winnipeg," "Dornie Ferry," "Dun-troon Castle."

Brian Jackson—"Blackmount Forest," "Climbing Duniquaich," "John Mac-Kechnie."

George H. Robinson—"John MacDonald of Glencoe," "Lady Louden," "Jock Wilson's Ball."

Thomas R. Ness—"Arniston Castle," "Hullachan," "Their Majesties' Welcome to Wellington."

Donald Scott—Piobaireachd: "Corri-nessan's Salute."

Angus MacDonald—"Mrs. H. L. MacDonald of Dunach," "Stirling Castle," "Loch Carron," "MacDonald Pipes."

Alf. Wardlaw—"The Pap of Glencoe," "John Roy Stewart," "Ca' the Ewes."

Norman Tarrant—"Cha Til MacCrimmon," "MacLean of Pennycross," "Blair Drummond," "The Man from Glengarry."

Selections were also given by Neil Banks and other pipers present.

The Patron of the Wellington Pipers' Club is William G. Brown, and the Vice-Presidents last year were John Taylor and Angus Graham.

:: :: :: ::

Jack Seton (his address is Box 49, Hastings, New Zealand) will be glad to hear from any of his many friends in the pipe band world. He is happily settled beside his brother-in-law, Angus (lately a piper with the Red Hackle Band) and is now helping to carry a torch for piping.

:: :: :: ::

A letter received from John Allan Macgee promises another "New Zealand Letter" from his facile pen soon. Johnnie's address is now 109 Jenkin Street, Invercargill, New Zealand.

A PIPER'S DIARY

by "THE CHIEL."

OVERSEAS VISITORS.

For the Gathering of the Clans in Edinburgh we have had the pleasure of seeing many of the Colonial Scots and Pipe Bands. The Australian Highland Pipe Band was welcomed in Glasgow by the College of Piping and there was a pleasant social evening with the proper atmosphere of a Pipers' Ceilidh. The Australian Highland, under veteran Pipe-Major Hugh Fraser, have been touring Britain and they are giving high praise for the reception they got from all places even south of the border. Pipe-Major Fraser is one of the old school who has, for a colonian, a knowledge of all the greatest players. He has some useful information concerning the Bruce family, who are supposed to have been left the secret of Canntaireachd from the Mac-Crimmons.

The evening at the College was very sociable and the pipes were sounding most of the time as the performers gave of their best. Pupils of the college had some tunes, then a duet by pipers from the Australian band and, later, selections from T. Pearston and Seumas MacNeill. We hope the Australian pipe band will go back to Australia with happy memories of the home country.

Australia has again been in the news, as there is a rumour that several well-known Pipe Majors and Drum Majors are going out to Australia to start a pipe band—a job inclusive of course.

ABERDEEN COLLEGE.

Another college or school for instruction will be starting in Aberdeen, and the instructors are to be two of the King's pipers from Balmoral. It is very encouraging to see that the art of piping is growing and it looks as if the number of pipers is on the increase. The big problem facing pipers of to-day is that there still is no properly organised system of certification for pipers. Although the present limited system of certification of the College in Glasgow is a start, it is obvious that this subject should have a national system whereby there would be examination centres in all the large cities and proper co-ordination between all examining boards and the issue of certifi-

cates from a centrally controlled organisation.

S.M.T. MAGAZINE.

In the August issue of the "S.M.T. Magazine" there are several articles which are of interest to pipers. Archibald Campbell of Kilberry has contributed a very instructive article on the evolution of the bagpipe, and in particular the fact that the Scottish bagpipe has its own distinctive type of compositions.

There is also an article about the manufacture of bagpipes at Peter Henderson's, Renfrew Street with several fine pictures of the pipemakers at work. There is also an illustrated article about Highland Dancing instruction at Edinburgh under Pipe-Major Stoddart. The magazine is issued in the Reading Rooms of the Public Libraries of Glasgow.

COWAL.

It seems rather extraordinary when a professional bagpipe competition is organised so that a march competition has twice as many prizes as the strathspey and reel competition. In fact, Cowal seems to do the piper in a light-hearted manner. Ceol Mor on the platform and Ceol Beag on the grass. March played twice through and strathspey and reel once through. As with many other Games, the piper gets little consideration.

The Saturday band competitions were carried on in drenching rain and apparently it was so wet that the drummers found it impossible to perform, and left the pipers to compete by themselves. Surely this is pipe band history. It only proves that the piper is a unit by himself and that pipe bands do not need drums, and have independent function.

DEMONSTRATION.

At St. James's Square, London, from August 7th to 30th, there was an exhibition of British Musical Instruments. This demonstration was organised by the Galpin Society. There were over 350 exhibits of all types of musical instruments, including the bagpipe. The collection of bagpipes comprised Northumbrian, Border Pipe, Irish Union Pipe, a hybrid Scotch-Irish Lowland Pipe, regular pattern Scottish Highland Pipe, and the Scottish Small Pipe.

CHAMPION PIPERS.

It is impossible to say who was the best piper at any date in the past, just as it is impossible to say who is the best piper at the present day, but it must be interesting to many to know who were the winners of the pibroch competitions at the big gatherings, and here is the list from 1781, when the judges were screened off. 1781 at Falkirk—1, Pat. Macgregor, piper to Balnaves of Adradour, Mullin, Perthshire; 2, Charles Macarthur, piper to the Earl of Eglinton; 3, John Macgregor (senior), piper to Col. Campbell of Glenlyon. 1782 at Falkirk—1, John Macalister, piper to the West Fencible Regiment; 2, John Macgregor (senior); 3, John Macgregor (junior). 1783 at Falkirk—1, Neil Maclean, piper to Major Campbell of Airds; 2, Archd. Macgregor, son of said John Macgregor; 3, John Macgregor, piper to the City Guard of Edinburgh. In Angus Mackay's account, reference is also made to three competitions, and the winners are mentioned as Macgregor, Macalister, piper to Macalister of Loup, and Maclean. At a competition in Edinburgh, on their way home, the winners were—1, Don. Macintyre, piper to Sir R. Menzies; 2, Colin Macnab, piper to the Laird of Macnab; 3, Donald Fisher, piper to Breadalbane; and Paul Macinnes, Fasnacloch. A set of pipes was presented to Professor John Macarthur as a testimony of the pipers' appreciation, and Duncan Ban Macintyre, of the City Guard, the Gaelic poet, was duly rewarded for reciting his poem in praise of the Gaelic language.

1784 and onwards in Edinburgh—1, John Macgregor (senior), Fortingall; 2, Donald Fisher; 3, Dugald Macdugald, piper to Macdougall of Gallanach. 1785—1, Donald Macintyre (senior), Rannoch; 2, Colin Macnab; 3, Paul Macinnes, piper to Cameron of Gallart. 1786—1, Rod Mackay, piper to Sir Hugh Dalrymple of North Berwick; 2, Dugald Macdougald; 3, Archd. Macdonald, Invera, of the 78th Regiment. 1787—1, Archd. Macgregor, piper to Glenlyon; 2, Archd. Macdiarmot; 3, Rob. Macintyre, piper to Clanranald. 1788—1, John Macgregor, Strathtay; 2, Rob. Macintyre; 3, Alex. Lamont. 1789—1, Duncan Macnab, Lorne; 2, John Macdonald, Findynate, Strathtay; 3, John Macgregor (junior), son of John, piper to Breadalbane. 1790—1, Rob. Macintyre; 2, Alex. Macgregor, son of John; 3, Don. Maclean, Kintyre. 1791—1, Donald Macrae, Applecross; 2, John Macgregor, Breadal-

bane; 3, Duncan Stuart, piper to Lord Mountstuart. 1792—1, John Mackay, piper to Macleod of Raasay; 2, Allan Macdonald, piper to Robertson of Strowan; 3, John Macgregor, a boy, son of Pat. Macgregor, piper to Edradour. 1793—1, John Macgregor, piper to the Breadalbane Fencibles; 2, Angus Cameron, piper to Lochiel; 3, Donald Macearchar, piper to the Royal Scots. 1794—1, Angus Cameron; 2, Dugald Macintyre, Lorne; 3, Peter Macgregor, son of Breadalbane's piper. 1795—1, Peter Macgregor; 2, Donald Maclean, Kintyre; 3, Peter Macneil, piper to Sir James Grant of Grant. 1796—1, Donald Fisher, piper to the Earl of Breadalbane; 2, Donald Macearchar; 3, Don. Mackenzie, Pipe Major to the Southern Fencibles. 1797—1, Alex. Macgregor, piper to Glenlyon; 2, Don. Mackenzie; 3, Donald Macnab, piper to the 4th or Breadalbane Fencibles. 1798—1, Donald Macearchar; 2, John Macgregor, son of Pat. Macgregor, piper to Edradour; 3, Don. Maclean, a boy, son of Don. Maclean, piper to the Highland Society of Scotland. 1799—1, Dugald Macintyre; 2, George Graham, Pipe Major to the Perthshire Militia; 3, Hugh Macgregor, piper to the Scots Royals. Madam Frederick, of the Theatre Royal, gave an exhibition of strathspeys, jigs and other dances. 1800—1, George Graham; 2, Wm. Forbes, piper to the 42nd Regiment; 3, Adam Ross, piper to the Ross and Cromarty Rangers. 1801—1, Wm. Forbes; 2, Donald Robertson, piper to the Royal Perthshire Militia; 3, Don. Macdonald, piper to the Caithness Highlanders. Special prize to John Macdonald, 80 years of age, piper to Glangarry. 1802—1, John Buchanan, piper to the 42nd; 2, Murdoch Mackenzie, the 92nd; 3, Malcolm Macgregor, from Glasgow. 1803—1, Donald Robertson, piper to the Edinburgh Volunteers; 2, Malcolm Macgregor; 3, John Macgregor, piper to Sir R. Menzies of Weem. 1804—1, Malcolm Macgregor; 2, Finlay Macleod, 79th Regiment; 3, John Macarthur, piper to Macdonald of Staffa. This meeting was noteworthy because it is recorded in Mackay's book that the pipers were given copies of a treatise "On the Theory, Principle, and Practice of the Great Highland Bagpipe Music," said to be published by the Rev. Patrick Macdonald, minister of Kilmore and Kilbride, Argyllshire, and to have been composed upwards of seventy years earlier by the minister's brother, John, then an officer in the East India Company, and dis-

covered in Bengal by Sir J. Macgregor Murray and sent by him to the publisher. 1805—1, Duncan Macmaster, piper to the Laird of Coll; 2, Don. Macnab, piper to the Laird of Macnab; 3, Peter Forbes, from Foss. Besides the dancing, the broad-sword exercise was done for the first time. 1806—1, John Macgregor, piper to the Highland Society of London; 2, John Macarthur, who declined it, and it was given to Allan Maclean, piper to Maclean of Ardgour; 3, John Macdonald, son of Donald, now pipemaker in Edinburgh. A special prize was given to Donald Macdonald for producing his famous book of pibrochs—the first pipe tunes ever written in staff notation. 1807—1, Donald Macnab; 2, Alex. Bruce, piper to Macleod of Gesto; 3, John Macgregor, piper to Farquharson of Monaltry. A performance was also given on the Union Pipes. 1808—1, John Macgregor, piper of the 73rd; 2, Peter Forbes; 3, Alex. Macdonald, from Skye. John, the son of Donald Macdonald, received a premium for his father's work of writing pibrochs. 1809—1, Peter Forbes; 2, Norman Macpherson, Inverness-shire Militia; 3, Duncan Macgregor, Pipe Major Perthshire Militia; 4, Donald Macgregor, son of Breadalbane's piper; 5, James Macnie, Balquhidder. 1810—1, Allan Maclean, Mull; 2, John Macgregor, piper to Monaltry; 3, Donald Macgregor; 4, John Mackay, from Sutherland; 5, James Munro, from Sutherland. 1811—1, John Macgregor; 2, Donald Macdonald, Pipe Major Argyllshire Militia; 3, Adam Graham, Pipe Major Ross-shire Militia; 4, Wm. Mackay, Inverness-shire Militia; 5, Alex. Sutherland, a boy piper, 25th Regiment. 1812—1, Donald Macgregor; 2, Adam Graham; 3, John Mackay; 4, Alex. Mackay, 9th Royal Veteran Battalion; 5, Don. Scrumgeour, from Strath-tay. A special prize was given to Malcolm Macgregor, piper to the Highland Society of London, for improvements on the pipes, and also on the Union and Northumberland Pipes. 1813—1, Finlay Macleod; 2, Robert Mackay, from Lord Reay's country; 3, Kenneth Logan, Pipe Major 71st Regiment; 4, Alex. Macgregor, Fortingall; 5, Francis Macgregor, Scots Royals. There were fewer competitions, as the Highland Regiments were on foreign service. 1814—1, Rob. Mackay, from Lord Reay's country; 2, Ken. Logan; 3, Don. Scrumgeour, piper to Col. Kinloch of Kilrie; 4, Murdoch Maclean, pipemaker, Glasgow; 5, Farquhar Macrae, piper to Hugh Innes of Lochalsh, M.P. 1815—1, John Mackay, from Lord Reay's country; 2, Murdoch Maclean; 3, Donald Gunn,

piper to the Perthshire Militia; 4, John Campbell, Nether Lorn, formerly piper to W. F. Campbell of Islay, M.P.; 5, Donald Campbell, a boy from Breadalbane. George Clark, Pipe Major of the 71st, who had previously received a set of pipes from the Highland Society of Scotland for having, at the battle of Vimiera, continued playing after he had been wounded, and it was resolved not to consider him as a competitor but to give him a special gold medal. 1816—1, Donald Mackay, piper to the Highland Society of Glasgow; 2, Wm. Mackay; 3, John Campbell; 4, John Gordon, from Fin-castle; 5, James Kennedy, from Strath-tay. Sir John Macgregor Murray addressed the gathering in Gaelic. 1817—1, Don. Macdonald, Argyllshire Militia; 2, Don. Gunn, Perthshire Militia; 3, Duncan Mactavish, Pipe Major 42nd Regiment; 4, Peter Mackenzie, Breadalbane; 5, John Macpherson, piper to Macpherson of Cluny. 1818—1, Allan Macdonald; 2, John Campbell; 3, John Gordon; 4, John Forbes, from Killichassie; 5, Alex. Sutherland, Pipe Major 79th. Sir J. Macgregor Murray, in addressing the gathering, pointed out that the piper's post was in front of his comrades in the day of danger. 1819—1, John Campbell; 2, Duncan Mactavish; 3, John Forbes; 4, Duncan Smith, 92nd Regiment; 5, Alex. Dewar, from the estate of Sir John Macgregor Murray; 6, Kenneth Logan. 1820—1, Wm. Mackay, piper to the Celtic Society; 2, Donald Scrumgeour; 3, Don. Mackay, piper to James Macleod of Raasay; 4, John Mackenzie, piper to Mackenzie of Allangrange; 5, James Macdonald, son of Don. Macdonald, Edinburgh; 6, Adam Graham. 1821—1, Adam Graham; 2, Don. Mackay, piper to Clanranald and afterwards to the Duke of Sussex, Earl of Inverness; 3, John Mackenzie, piper to Davidson of Tulloch, afterwards to Breadalbane; 4, John Cameron, 5th Lanarkshire Militia; 5, Donald Macdonald, son of Donald Macdonald, Edinburgh; 6, Duncan Mactavish. 1822—1, Donald Mackay; 2, John Mackenzie; 3, Kenneth Macrae, piper to the Hon. James Sinclair, afterwards to the Earl of Caithness; 4, Alex. Dewar; 5, John Smith, piper to Col. Grant of Grant; 6, Donald Scrimgeour. 1823—1, John Mackenzie; 2, Kenneth Macrae; 3, John Cameron; 4, Donald Macdonald; 5, Wm. Fraser, from Breadalbane. 1824—1, Donald Scrimgeour; 2, Donald Stewart, 79th; 3, Donald Macdonald; 4, John Smith; 5, Wm. Gunn, from Glasgow; 6, Kenneth Macrae, who declined it, holding that he had won first. It was then awarded to Alex. Dewar.

THE GAMES CIRCUIT

* Criticisms inside inverted commas are those of the adjudicators.

.....
By J. MacFadyen.

The circuit started at Nairn on 18th August, with Col. Grant the principal adjudicator. The day was reasonably good for playing, although towards the end it became very cold. The first prize in the Ceol Mor competition went to P.-M. Donald MacLeod of Fort George, who played "The Lament for the Children" in a really polished manner. No criticism.* Second prize went to William MacDonald, Inverness, with "Donald Dugal MacKay." This tune was played "very musically, with good clean fingering and excellent phrasing." Neil Angus MacDonald, Castlebay, was third, with "The Big Spree," and while his performance as a whole was a very musical one, his first variation was "possibly a little jerky and was inclined to cut E cadences throughout the tune. Fourth prize went to Neville MacKay, whose tune, "MacKay's Banner," was marred by a badly tuned pipe. The other results were:—

Strathspey and Reel.—1, P.-M. Donald MacLeod; 2, Wm. MacDonald; 3, P.-M. M. MacKay; 4, N. MacKay.

Marches.—1, P.-M. Donald MacLean; 2, P.-M. Donald MacLeod; 3, P.-M. M. MacKay; 4, Wm. MacDonald.

:: :: ::

The next games were held at Arisaig on Monday, 20th, and here the adjudicators were Angus MacPherson, Invershin; Dr. Caird, Edinburgh; and Mr. MacDonald, Arisaig. The weather was very unkind and the competitions were conducted in very heavy rain. Donald MacLeod again won the Ceol Mor competition with the "Children's Lament" and P.-M. Donald MacLean was second with "My King has landed in Moidart," while Angus MacAulay was third with "The Blind Piper's Obstinacy" and John D. Burgess fourth with "Marion's Wailing." In this competition I heard something which I have never heard before—I heard John Burgess make a choke in his tune.

The piping steward was an old Glasgow friend—Johnnie MacKinnon—and he certainly spared no effort in his attempt to make the pipers comfortable in such a dreadful day. Other results were—

Marches.—1, P.-M. Donald MacLeod ("74th's Farewell to Edinburgh"); 2, P.-M. Angus MacAulay ("Charles Edward Hope de Vere"); 3, John D. Burgess

("Stirlingshire Militia"); 4, John MacFadyen ("74th's Farewell to Edinburgh").

March, Strathspey and Reel.—1, P.-M. D. MacLeod ("Castle Grant," "Delvin Side," "Mrs. MacPherson"); 2, P.-M. A. MacAulay ("Charles Edward Hope de Vere," "Moneymusk," "Blackbird"); 3, P.-M. D. MacLean ("John MacFadyen," "Shepherd's Crook," "John MacKechnie").

Jigs.—1, John Burgess ("Irish Washerwoman"); 2, P.-M. D. MacLeod ("Tenpenny Bit"); 3, P.-M. D. MacLean ("Connaughtman's Rambles").

:: :: ::

From Arisaig all the pipers travelled to Fort William and attended the Lochaber Gathering, where they were joined by Bob Hardie, Donald MacPherson and Jas. MacColl, Shotts. The rain at Lochaber was, if anything, heavier than that at Arisaig, and the thing that amazed me was the fact that everyone's pipes were going so well. The adjudicator was Angus MacPherson, whose unenviable task it was to adjudicate, without assistance, such a galaxy of talent.

In the Ceol Mor competition, P.-M. Donald MacLeod and Donald MacPherson tied for first place, having played the "Children's Lament" and "The Vaunting" respectively. In the replay, P.-M. Donald MacLeod gained first place, with a beautiful rendering of "The Old men of the Shells," which was played in torrential rain, and Donald MacPherson was second with "MacIntosh's Lament." P.-M. Donald MacLean was third with "Donald Dugald MacKay," and Robert Hardie was fourth with "MacGregor's Gathering."

After this the rain became a constant downpour and the remaining competitions took place in a tent. This affected both the pipe and the player, and there was little pleasure for the remaining enthusiasts.

Results.

Marches.—1, P.-M. Donald MacLean ("John MacFadyen"); 2, P.-M. Angus MacAulay ("Charles Edward Hope de Vere"); 3, James MacColl, Shotts ("Lochaber Gathering").

Strathspey and Reel.—1, Donald MacLeod ("Piper's Bonnet" and "Smith of Gilliechassie"); 2, John D. Burgess

("Arniston Castle" and "Pretty Marion"); 3, P.-M. Angus MacAulay ("Moneymusk" and "Blackbird"); and James MacColl ("Cameronian Rant" and "Pretty Marion")—equal.

At this point a small splinter group, comprising P.-M. Angus MacAulay, John D. Burgess and Duncan Johnstone left the main body of pipers and went to Morar Games, while the rest journeyed on to Kyleakin Games, both being held on the same day. During this third day of piping the rain decided to show us what it could really do. It poured ceaselessly from 11 a.m. till 5.30 p.m. However, the pipers, reinforced by members of the Glasgow Police Pipe Band, decided to carry on, and this time P.-M. Donald MacLean was first in piobaireachd, playing "Donald Dugal MacKay," while P.-M. Donald MacLeod was second with "The Old men of the Shells"; John MacFadyen was third with "Mary MacLeod"; D. P. MacGillivray fourth with "Mary's Praise," and fifth went to John Garroway, who played "I got a Kiss of the King's Hand."

During the three remaining competitions, the gale, if anything, increased and even the Police pipers, who have a reasonable grip of Scotland, were hard pressed to maintain equilibrium.

Results.

Marches.—1, John Garroway ("Pipe-Major John Stewart"); 2, P.-M. Donald MacLean ("John MacFadyen"); 3, Wm. MacDonald, Inverness ("Craggs of Stirling"); 4, John MacFadyen ("John MacFadyen").

Strathspey and Reel.—1, P.-M. Donald MacLeod ("Piper's Bonnet" and "Smith of Gilliechassie"); 2, John Garroway ("Caberfeidh" and "Mrs. Macpherson"); 3, Chas. D. Scott ("Bob of Fettercairn" and "Mrs. Macpherson").

Jigs.—1, P.-M. Donald MacLean ("Connaughtman's Rambles"); 2, P.-M. Donald MacLeod ("Tenpenny Bit"); 3, John Garroway ("Center's Bonnet"); 4, John MacFadyen ("Finlay MacKenzie") and C. D. Scott ("MacDonald's Exercise")—equal.

The adjudicators were Angus MacPherson, Seton Gordon and D. R. MacLennan.

At Morar the adjudicator was Wm. Taylor and the results were as follows:—

Marches—1, John Burgess; 2, P.-M. A. MacAulay; 3, P.-M. Chas. Smith; 4, Duncan Johnstone.

Strathspey and Reel.—1, John Burgess; 2, Duncan Johnstone; 3, P.-M. Angus MacAulay; 4, P.-M. Chas. Smith.

Jigs.—1, John Burgess; 2, Duncan Johnstone; 3, P.-M. Angus MacAulay; 4, P.-M. Charles Smith.

At Portree the following day, the weather decided to give the pipers a break and they seemed to rise to the occasion, as the playing was the best heard in Skye for many years. The Ceol Mor competition was adjudicated by Col. J. P. Grant, Rothiemurchus, and Mr. J. Graham Campbell, Shirvan, while Mr. Angus MacPherson, D. R. MacLennan and Col. MacDonald assisted in the Ceol Beag competition.

Results of Ceol Mor—

1, P.-M. Donald MacLeod ("Donald Dugal MacKay"). "A masterly rendering." 2, Wm. MacDonald, Inverness ("Children's Lament"). "A very musical performance: much more will be heard of this player." 3, John MacFadyen ("Battle of Auldearn"). "Excellent tune on good-going pipe: unfortunately marred by slip." 4, P.-M. Donald MacLean ("Kiss of King's Hand"). "Singling of taorluath on slow side: pipes off towards end of tune." 5, D. P. MacGillivray, Ligg ("Children's Lament"). "Much too fast in ground: miss on E probably due to cold fingers."

Marches.—1, P.-M. D. MacLean ("John MacFadyen"); 2, C. D. Scott ("Blackmount Forest"); 3, P.-M. Donald MacLeod ("John MacFadyen"); 4, John Garroway ("John Stewart").

Strathspey and Reel.—1, P.-M. Angus MacAulay ("Moneymusk" and "Blackbird"); 2, P.-M. Donald MacLean ("Shepherd's Crook" and "John MacKechnie"); 3, P.-M. Donald MacLeod ("Arniston Castle" and "Smith of Gilliechassie"); 4, Wm. MacDonald ("Maggie Cameron" and "Flagon.")

Jigs.—1, P.-M. D. MacLeod ("Connaughtman's Rambles"); 2, P.-M. D. MacLean ("Connaughtman's Rambles"); 3, P.-M. A. MacAulay ("Bride's Jig"); 4, John MacFadyen ("Finlay MacKenzie").

The circuit ended here, and every piper was loud in his praise of P.-M. Donald MacLeod who, in five days, won four Ceol Mor competitions, three Strathspey and Reel competitions, one March, one March, Strathspey and Reel, and one Jig competition—a great feat by a very great player.

SCOTTISH PIPERS' ASSOCIATION

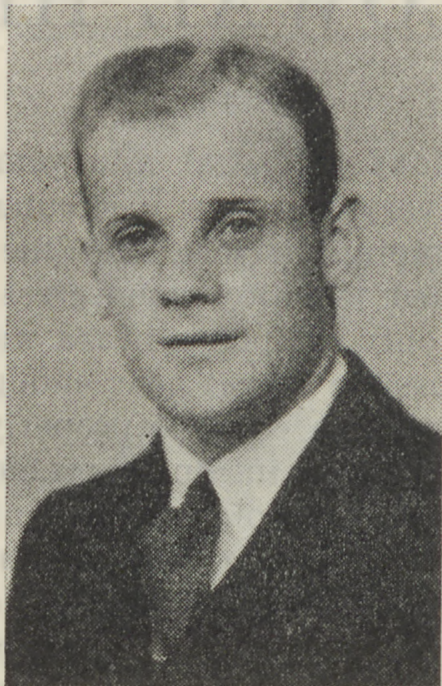
NOTES.

By William Reid.



Well, my friends, here we are again, and without realising that the July vacation had passed we find ourselves back to the usual Saturday night's routine. By this I mean back to the "Club" and shaking hands with the old friends and making acquaintance with the new. August is usually a quiet month for us, what with pipe band contests and solo competitions on at the various gatherings it can scarcely be expected to have the "House Full" sign up. However, if our meetings have not been largely attended they have had the distinction of being interesting from a playing point of view. For instance, we had from four separate members on one evening the piobaireachds "The Vaunting" "Corri-nessan Salute," "Old Men of the Shells" and "Lament for the Only Son." The respective players were Mr. Norman MacDonald, Willie Connell, Iain MacFadyen and Capt. Charles Smith, and I reckon each of the performers felt pretty much at home with their selections. Playing in general has been up to a high standard with no lack of performers. Our first monthly meeting (Committee) was held on 4th August and we were pleased to have the President, Pipe-Major Robert Reid, back in his usual place as chairman. If permissible in this contribution to your journal, he specially asks me to thank the various piping friends and others who wrote him during his illness, and to those who got no reply—his apologies. In his own words, "each and every one was a factor in getting him back on his feet; it was quite impossible to answer them all personally." We hope his intended holiday in Ireland will return him fit and well for the winter session and "rarrin to go."

The committee got through quite a bit of work in the short time at their disposal, and as usual the keynote was the future entertainment of the members. Full justice was done here in one swoop. We fixed up a ceilidh for 1st September, Veterans' Competition for 8th September and the Amateur Competition for 21st October. Quite a nice bit of work for one meeting and no doubt the members will appreciate the energy shown on their behalf. Appreciation has already been shown, as I am writing this immediately after our "Ceilidh" has passed. What heart-warming nights these are—grand



artists, grand company, full house and a cup of tea midway to get us talking. Special mention should be made of the organising ability of our Entertainments Committee, and especially to Mr. Duncan MacFadyen and Mr. Gillies, who made themselves responsible for bringing along such fine artists. Capt. Charles Smith acted as piper for this function and carried out the duties in a manner which was a joy to the large audience. Yes, Charles, you have everything it takes and your technique was superb.

As a reminder, let me mention that the Club meets every Saturday evening at 7.30, in the Highlanders' Institute, Elmbank Street, where all lovers of the bagpipe are made welcome.

RADIO HIGHLIGHTS.

Scottish Home Service. M.W. 371 metres.



- Sep. 18—7.5-7.20 p.m., Piping, by Andrew Bain, London.
- .. 24—10.45-11 p.m., Talk on Piping Contests, by Seumas MacNeill.
- .. 26—7.30-7.45 p.m., Pipes and Drums of Glasgow Police Pipe Band.
- Oct. 3—7.30-7.40 p.m., Piping, by Pipe-Major A. MacLellan.
- .. 10—7.35-7.50 p.m., Pipes and Drums—Stevenston Pipe Band.
- .. 17—7.45-8 p.m., Piping, by Pipe-Major Angus MacAulay.

COWAL HIGHLAND GATHERING

Friday at Cowal this year was sunny and very warm—a particularly good day for piping in fact, and the 5,000 crowd seemed to enjoy themselves to the full. The only complaint heard was that it was impossible to get near enough the pipers to hear the contests properly, but this is probably an insoluble problem at games.

An innovation was the introduction of judges from the Piobaireachd Society for the Ceol Mor event. This made it possible for the March and Strathspey and Reel contests to be held at the same time as the principal event, with consequently an earlier finish than usual. The only drawback was that the March was held on the grass instead of the boards, and while the good turf may be springy enough to the feet, it does not produce such crisp march playing as do the traditional boards.

Principal prize-winners were John Burgess and James MacColl, who tied for most points and the Brymay Trophy. Robert Hardie, in winning the Glen Caladh Shield, added one more piobaireachd success to his long list this year.

Results.

Ceol Mor.—1, Robert G. Hardie ("The Battle of Auldearn"); 2, James MacColl ("Lament for Donald of Laggan"); 3, John Burgess ("Bealag nam Bròg"); 4, Ronald Lawrie ("MacNab's Salute"); 5, William Connell ("Corrienessan Salute"); 6, Seumas MacNeill ("Massacre of Glencoe").

March.—1, James MacColl; 2, John Burgess; 3, Ronald MacCallum; 4, Seumas MacNeill; 5, John M. MacKenzie; 6, Robert G. Hardie.

Strathspey and Reel.—1, John Burgess; 2, Peter MacFarquhar; 3, James MacColl. Best-dressed piper—John M. MacKenzie.

Boys under 16 (Local).—1, Iain MacFadyen; 2, Angus Campbell; 3, Ian Harkness.

Boys under 16 (Open).—1, John W. Sword; 2, John L. Graham; 3, Walter J. Cowan.

The judges were:—Piobaireachd, Archie Kenneth, Esq., and Dr. Kenneth A. MacKay. Other professional contests—Pipe-Majors William Gray and George MacDonald. Juveniles—Pipe-Major Ronald Meldrum.

In complete contrast of weather, Saturday at Cowal was the worst day possible for piping. The juvenile piobaireachd had to be played on the grass lest the competitors be blown away in the high wind which, with lashing rain and very low temperature, combined to make any attempt at piping a real ordeal. Honour to the courageous players who walked out to certain soaking and possible glory. Still higher honour to the three judges—William Gray, George MacDonald and Ronald Meldrum—who, without any kind of shelter (not counting Ronald's umbrella) contrived to look interested in each performance for three hours! May they all pull through.

Piobaireachd (boys 18 years and under)—1, Iain MacFadyen; 2, John L. Graham; 3, Thomas Hutton; 4, Ian Harkness.

Local March, Strathspey and Reel.—1,

The band contests were almost a fiasco. At least two senior bands went home without competing. The most fortunate band was the Glasgow Police, which was stranded at Kyle and did not appear.

Congratulations are nevertheless due to the Cowal Committee and the S.P.B.A. officials, who retained a hold on affairs which might easily have degenerated into chaos. They were rewarded by a clear-up in the weather about 4 p.m., and the traditional march past of the 1,000 pipers was able to take place in all its famous glory. The organisers of the Edinburgh debacle (half a million clamouring to see 400) should have attended Dunoon for a course of instruction.

"Piping Times" and Music Sheets

can be had from

S. MACKINNON,

Box 401,

**POSTAL STATION B,
MONTREAL, QUEBEC,**

Our Agent in Canada.

EDINBURGH NEWSLETTER

By Major A. A. Bourne.

Sunday, 5th.—In spite of the terrific downpour and the promise of more, quite a fine attendance appeared in the Princes Street Gardens, ignoring the uncertainty of the weather and bent on hearing and listening to a splendid evening's entertainment.

The Newtongrange Lothian Pipe Band, out in full force and well supported by their energetic committee and friends, had an excellent and varied programme. Much credit must go to Pipe-Major Bill Peacock and his lads for their contribution of well-balanced selections.

Possibly you will be interested to hear this fine young pipe band is the youngest Grade I band in the S.P.B.A. and has been playing as such for the past three years. The average age is 21. Several times they have appeared in the prize list, giving the more adult bands something to worry about. With a few more pipers of the same calibre—look out! They have a cracking good drum corps.

Wearing the Ancient Hunting Sinclair kilts and Harris tweed jackets, their smart appearance adds to the quality of their performance.

Their share of the programme was in three parts. "Australian Ladies" was their opening march, followed by a set—"Balmoral Highlanders," "Cameronian Rant" and "Pretty Marion." Then "The Green Hills of Tyrol," with harmony. A real knock-out this!

The second part opened with the popular march "Redford Cottage," composed by Wm. Sinclair, sr., of Leith; then two slow marches, "The Mist-covered Mountains" and "The Highland Cradle Song," lovely old tunes. This section closed with "The Highland Brigade at Tel-el-Kebir," a lively march.

The third section was introduced by the old favourite, "Dovecote Park," and this was followed by another set—"The Abercairney Highlanders," "Bob o' Fettercairn," and the reel, "Mrs. Macpherson of Inveran." The pipes were really humming.

Lovely old "Rowan Tree," with the harmony, brought the piping part of the programme to a close.

Several members of other pipe bands were among the appreciative audience in the beautiful setting in the Princes Street Gardens, and a most pleasant entertainment it was.



Carlisle.—On Saturday, 11th, Carlisle was a busy spot and particularly at Loch Park, where a Sports Meeting and the Scottish Pipe Band Championship were held.

The latter was divided into four parts, and being a championship, extra judges were on hand. Piping—Pipe-Majors W. Jack, J. M'Lean and S. Halliday, with the drumming under Drum-Majors C. Davis, D. Lyle and D. R. Smith.

The weather was quite favourable and a really good attendance was on hand.

Donald M'Intosh and D. M'Lean were present on behalf of the S.P.B.A. to keep an eye on the 30 odd bands entered, so there were no idle moments. Five bands entered the Juvenile Contest, and this was won by the 214th Glasgow B.B., who just scraped through ahead of the Newtongrange Juveniles.

In Grade III, 11 bands lined up and here again fractions of points entered into the decision. In fact, the scoring in all grades was consistently close, which is a good indication of what might transpire at the World's Championship.

Arniston just nosed out Allandale, with the Newtongrange Juveniles right on their tail—so you lays down your money and you takes your choice.

The heaviest entry was in Grade II, with an even dozen in the field. Kenmure Park and Kingshill Colliery No. 2 staged a mighty duel, with the former getting the nod by only a mere shaving. What a tough one to lose. Oh, well, many a good race is won by a nose too. Edinburgh Specials were just a point behind at that. Nice grouping for shooting.

There was considerable speculation as to the likely winner in the Open, and this may be an indication for the World's Championship. However, anything can happen—tread lightly. Just look at the marks. What a high standard, and one wonders. Well, I don't know. Just a week to go and already excitement is creeping into my bones. Possibly so with the bands too. Here we are, off the path again. 1st, Shotts (95 and 16/24ths); 2nd, Edinburgh City Police (95 and 13/24ths). Judas Priest! Quick, Henry, the flit while I knock off some decimals. 3rd, Renfrew with 93. Excellent points in any man's competition, but hard on the nervous system, methinks. However, Shotts took the drumming honours with 23½, so—your guess is as good as mine.

The march past was one of the best, and in the massed bands performance let us drape someone's brow with the laurel wreath for thinking out something effective with the drums of the three bands in the centre only doing the beatings. This does eliminate the ragged edges and many perplexities.

Nice going, Carluke. Next year attendance in both pipe bands and audience should be greatly in excess and your grounds will be bulging, we hope.

Results.

Juveniles—1, 214th Glasgow B.B. (84 and 13/24ths); 2, Newtongrange Juveniles (84 and 4/10ths); 3, Uddingston B.B. (77 and 9/10ths).

Grade III.—1, Arniston (88.08); 2, Allandale (87.56); 3, Newtongrange Juveniles (86.6).

Grade II.—1, Kenmure Park (89.91); 2, Kingshill Colliery No. 2 (88.83); 3, Edinburgh Specials (87.5).

The Open.—(Look above). 12 bands entered in this class and 11 had 90 points or over, with the odd one .2 of a point below. This should be an indication of the high standard and the keenness of the competition. He who gets the "breaks" at Murrayfield should emerge champion. What a merry race. Look out for the "dark horse."

Sad indeed it was to read of the passing away of Pipe-Major J. O. Duff, and the day after he had been presented with the M.S.M. at the Castle, Edinburgh. Jay O. was an institution in both piping and Highland dancing circles, well supported by a career of many accomplishments of a high calibre, having won honours in piping, hogh; and dancing and athletics.

The pipe major was a familiar figure at the games and competitions. His keen ear and astute knowledge of inside things was held in high regard. Vice-President and one of the stalwarts of the Highland Pipers' Society of Edinburgh over a span of years, faithful and constant, it will be difficult to realise that J.O. will be absent—in person only. Generations will retain memories of him and his many accomplishments. Some 30 years as a soldier formed part of a colourful background. Just 60 years ago he joined the Gordons; thence to the Argylls as a piper, and on to the 2nd Battn. The Royal Scots (R.R.) as their Pipe Major. He retired in 1919 after an outstanding service to his country. This service was extended to the piping and Highland dancing right to the end.

Honours were many. Champion Piper of India in 1905. In 1907 he won the Royal Scottish Pipers' Society Gold Star at Calcutta, beating 6 pipe majors in the heavy entry. J.O. also won most of the premier awards in Scotland against all and sundry. A book would be more appropriate to record his honours and experiences. His memoirs were vast and entertaining. Many a happy hour of illuminating conversation with this grand old man of piping and Highland dancing will be retained in memory by the writer.

May he glide silently and majestically through the valley and be carried in ecstasy to the Land of the Mists.

Our deepest sympathy goes to his constant companion at the Highland Pipers' Society, and may Mrs. Duff find consolation in their many happy years together and the high esteem of the pipe major which adorns our memories.

:: :: ::

August 18th.

Let us leave chaos and try to proceed to Murrayfield. You will be late, but still on time. Had you arrived at 10 a.m., when traffic was light, you would have seen the wheels of the organisation starting to tick over. Stay, Gentle stranger—'tis the calm before the storm! The rehearsal of the Gathering of the Clans—Chieftains and their Colour Parties (the writer being honoured by inclusion in one), under the direction of Colonel Malcolm of Poltalloch; Stewards and Judges for the Pipe Band Contests; crowds trickling in; pipe bands arrive; clansmen gather. What country could stage such traditional attractive pageantry, so colourful and characteristic? The big show is now on. The whole affair, which includes just about every-

thing—Juvenile, Ladies, one of the Overseas Pipe Bands, Grades III, II, and of course the Championship of the World. The bands will play on a low platform directly in front of the main stand. It is recommended this be moved farther away, as the public in their moments of enthusiasm are apt to acclaim their favourite band with great gusto and the judges can't help but hear their vocal efforts. 75 pipe bands are entered. What a feast! Class and colour! Included among the entries is the Ballycoan Pipe Band, Champions of All-Ireland. A veritable Festival of Piping and the cream of the crop. Don't forget there is also the Regimental Band of the Seaforths in their scarlet and trimmings. Highland dancing and Scottish country dancing, some 150 dancers from all points. The dances selected are "Moneymusk" and the Circassian Circle and the a/m band will supply the music.

Clan Chieftains, Clan Banners and Colour Parties, and of course Clansmen! Colour, colour everywhere! This is Scotland's day. Millions round the world listening-in. Let your imagination run riot—your emotions will surely do just that.

So let's away to the closing ceremonies and imagine you are one of the 50,000 gazing down on the green sward. You will see the Countess of Errol, hereditary Lord High Constable of Scotland, Chieftain of the Gathering, in the centre of a semi-circle of Chiefs of the Clans and their deputies, presenting the prizes.

Three pipe bands conducted the playing on of the various bands, in the centre of the field, Shotts and Dykehead, Dalziel Highland and the Edinburgh City Police, with the Seaforth Regimental Band standing by. Pipe band after pipe band marched in and filled in their places in the three sides of the hollow square, which was then closed in—what a sight!

Following the presentation of the prizes, the 18 colour parties spaced around the perimeter of the field, with their picturesque clan banners, marched through the bands and took up their positions in front of the dias, on the command from Lord Macpherson of Drumochter. The colour parties were under the command of Colonel Malcolm of Poltalloch, the organiser of the Gathering, who acted as spokesman. A salute was played, the banners were dipped and heads bared by the colour parties. On behalf of the clans, Colonel Malcolm addressed the Countess of Erroll, indicating this was the fulfilment of a dream,

and representatives of the clans came from all over the world to pay tribute and homage to Scotland. The National Anthem closed the ceremonies and the clan parties marched proudly off the field.

Well, there are some surprising results, and upsets too, as well as some being exceedingly close, particularly in the Open. Now it would appear the Glasgow Police do their best efforts in Edinburgh. They are the new World Champions, so doff the Balmoral in their honour. 1st with 96½; and that consistently good band, Muirhead and Sons, 2nd with 95.2; last year's champions, Edinburgh City Police, 3rd with 94.8. In 4th place came Shotts and Dykehead, 94.5, and yet they hold three championships this year—the British, Scottish and European. Just a fraction behind for 5th came Clan Macrae, 94.4. Muirhead also picked off the Drumming (22.8). Keep your eye on this band—they will be the Champions of the World yet! Clan Macrae won the bass drumming, with Bowhill second.

Just Published!

"GLEN DARUEL"

The finest collection of Reels, Strathspeys, Marches. Compiled and arranged by Pipe-Major W. Norris.

3/-

This is the collection the Pipers have been waiting for.

GLEN'S BAGPIPE TUTOR—

containing illustration of the correct fingering of the Chanter, & selection of Marches, Reels, etc.

2/6

IRISH TUNES for the Scottish and Irish Pipes—

Compiled by William Walsh. Arranged by David Glen. Containing a grand collection of Reels, Marches and Strathspeys

2/6

To be had from all Bagpipe Dealers and Music Sellers, or direct from—

MOZART ALLAN,

84 CARLTON PLACE, GLASGOW, C.5.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,—Some time ago we were favoured with several solo piping broadcasts by P.-M. MacGee of Invercargill, from Station 4YZ. I was so impressed with the player's ability that I wrote my compliments to him. In return he sent me a copy of your wonderful magazine (a book every piper should have), and I am so pleased with it that after reading it twice over I passed same copy on to a piping friend. I haven't lost track of it, though it is now in the hands of the sixth reader. I trust they will make the most of this chance to further their piping knowledge, and make a point of obtaining a monthly copy. Accept my good wishes for the future success of your publication, the "Piping Times."

New Zealand. John T. Griffiths.

:: :: ::

Dear Sir,—Many thanks for your reminder of subscription. Enclosed is a Postal Order for 10/-. , one year's subscription. Please make it from the beginning of June, 1951. In the May issue of the Magazine I read your apology for the increased price of the "Piping Times" but I think you forgot to mention the increased size of the Magazine! Anyway, congratulations on an excellent production, and may it continue to flourish.

South Africa. J. J. Hulme.

Dear Sir,—I was sorry to see from the "Piping Times" that my good friend Robert Reid has been taken ill and is unable, for the present only, I hope, to play his beloved pipe.

Wishing you continued success.
Elgin, Morayshire. D. Mathieson.

:: :: ::

Dear Sir,—The "Piping Times" has been spreading the gospel amongst the "few" in the Navy, with most encouraging results, of which I hope you will be hearing more.

Emsworth, Herts. Ian S. Mackay.

:: :: ::

Dear Sir,—Please find enclosed P.O. for 10/6, which is for renewal of the "Piping Times."

Your magazine has been of immense value to me and I'm quite sure that the organisation behind it—the College of Piping—will indeed rank as high in years to come as the MacCrimmons, MacKays, MacArthurs and many more of our illustrious piping ancestors. And may we see the day when it becomes a daily issue!

Wishing all the best to the College and to the "Piping Times."

Risco, Man. Kenneth E. Wigston.

COMPETITION RESULTS

DORNOCH HIGHLAND GATHERING.

Results.

Piobaireachd.—1, P.-M. MacLean, Lewis; 2, K. Macrae, Dornoch; 3, J. Chisholm, Inverness.

Marches.—1, P.-M. MacLean, Lewis; 2, W. MacDonald, Inverness; 3, J. Chisholm, Inverness.

Strathspeys and Reels.—1, P.-M. MacLean, Lewis; 2, John Chisholm, Inverness; 3, W. MacDanold, Inverness.

:: :: ::

Alva Gymnastic Games.

Strathspey and Reel.—1, Pipe-Major Yardley, Kirkcaldy; 2, Pipe-Major C. Smith, Glasgow; 3, Wm. Drysdale, Methil; 4, Pipe-Major Sutherland, Bowhill.

Marches.—1, P.-M. Yardley; 2, Wm. Drysdale; 3, P.-M. C. Smith; 4, P.-M. Phillibin, Stirling.

:: :: ::

Strathallan Meeting.

Pibroch.—1, P.-M. C. Smith, Glasgow; 2, P.-M. J. Sutherland, Perth; 3, Wm. Drysdale, Methil; 4, W. Connell, Glasgow.

Marches.—1, W. Drysdale; 2, W. Connell; 3, J. Slatterly, Edinburgh; 4, C. Smith.

Strathspeys and Reels.—1, W. Drysdale; 2, W. Connell; 3, C. Smith; 4, J. Slatterly.

:: :: ::

Strathpeffer Highland Gathering.

March, Strathspey and Reel (Local).—1, George Innes, Alness; 2, R. S. M. Tait,



Dingwall; 3, A. Stewart, Aultbea. **Open**—1, P.-M. D. MacLean, Lewis; 2, David Ross, Rosshall, Sutherland; 3, Neil A. MacDonald, Barra.

:: :: ::

Badenoch and Rothiemurchus Games.

Pibroch.—1, P.-M. D. Macleod, Fort George; 2, D. MacGillivray, Culrossie; 3, D. MacPherson; 4, P.-M. R. M'Kay.

March, Strathspey and Reel.—1, P.-M. D. M'Leod; 2, P.-M. Donald Maclean; 3, P.-M. R. M'Kay; 4, Donald Macpherson.

Jigs.—1, P.-M. D. Macleod; 2, D. Macpherson; 3, P.-M. D. Maclean; 4, J. Chisholm.

:: :: ::

Thornton Highland Gathering.

March.—1, Piper Yardley, Kirkcaldy; 2, Piper Connell, Glasgow; 3, Piper Drysdale, Methil.

Strathspeys and Reels.—1, Piper Yardley; 2, Piper Drysdale; 3, Piper Sutherland, Perth.

Pibroch.—1, Piper Drysdale; 2, Piper Kerr, Stirling; 3, P.-M. Smith, Glasgow.

Prizes—1, £4; 2, £2; 3, £1; 4, 10/-.

:: :: :: ::

Glenfinnan Games.

Open.—Piobaireachd.—1, John MacFadyen, Glasgow; 2 (equal), Donald Macpherson, Glasgow, and John Burgess, Edinburgh.

March.—1, John Burgess; 2, Donald Macpherson; 3, Ronald Lawrie, Oban.

Strathspey and Reel.—1, Donald Macpherson; 2, James MacColl, Glasgow; 3, Neville MacKay, Inverness.

John MacFadyen also won the Silver Medal for Piobaireachd, presented by Mr. Seton Gordon.

Local.—March.—John MacCallum, Fort William; 2, Allan Currie, Fort William; 3, John Kinghorn, Corpach; 4, Alex. M'Leod, Speir Bridge.

Strathspey and Reel.—1, John MacCallum; 2, John Kinghorn; 3, Allan Currie; 4, Neil Smart, Glenfinnan.

:: :: :: ::

Mull Highland Gathering.

Open Events.—Piobaireachd.—1, R. Hardie; 2, J. Burgess; 3, J. Garroway; 4, R. MacDonald.

March.—1, J. Burgess; 2, P. MacFarquhar; 3, J. Garroway; 4, J. MacFadyen.

Strathspey and Reel.—1, J. Burgess; 2, J. Garroway; 3, C. Scott; 4, J. MacFadyen.

Local Events.—Piobaireachd.—1, A. Campbell; 2, A. Gillies; 3, Iain MacFadyen.

March.—1, P. MacFarquhar; 2, J. MacFadyen; 3, A. Campbell.

:: :: ::

Tullamore Pipe Band Competitions.

There were 19 pipe bands from all over Ireland entered in the Tullamore Pipe Band competitions at O'Connor Park. Results:—

St. Columcille's Challenge Cup.—1, St. Laurence O'Tooles, Castledermot (Pipe-Major P. O'Neill); 2, The O'Bryne, Baltinaglass (Pipe-Major P. Glynn); 3, Boys' Club, Clonmel (Pipe-Major W. M'Kenna).

Tullamore Old I.R.A. Perpetual Challenge Cup.—1, Black Raven, Lusk (D. Sherry, Pipe-Major); 2, St. Brigids, Dundalk (J. Dullaghan, Pipe-Major); 3, Dick M'Kee, Finglass (J. O'Connor, Pipe-Major).

D. E. Williams Perpetual Challenge Cup.—1, Fintan Lalor, Dublin (Pipe-Major P. Solan); 2, Hibernia, Donnybrook (Pipe-Major G. Purcell); 3, Black Raven, Lusk (Pipe-Major D. Sherry).

Tullamore G.A.A. Perpetual Challenge Cup.—St. Laurence O'Toole's, Dublin (Pipe-Major R. Kavanagh).

P. and H. Egan Perpetual Challenge Cup.—Black Raven, Lusk (Pipe-Major D. Sherry).

COLLEGE APPEAL FOR FUNDS 1951-1952.

The Honorary Treasurer wishes to acknowledge the following sums received and to express thanks to those who have responded so generously to our appeal.

Previously acknowledged up to 31st July, 1951	£17	5	0
Dr. K. A. MacKay, Glasgow	1	1	0
Anonymous	3	0	0
Alick MacGregor, Australia	1	0	0
Andrew Kennedy, Glasgow	2	2	0
Miss J. Lauchland, New Zealand	1	0	0

Total at 31st August, 1951 £25 8 0



LAWRIE
FOR
BAGPIPES
AND
KILTS

R. G. LAWRIE, Ltd.,
38 RENFIELD ST., GLASGOW.
Works, N. Wallace St.