

# Dipping Times

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**BBC** in Focus

Vol. 57  
No. 12

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# Piping Times

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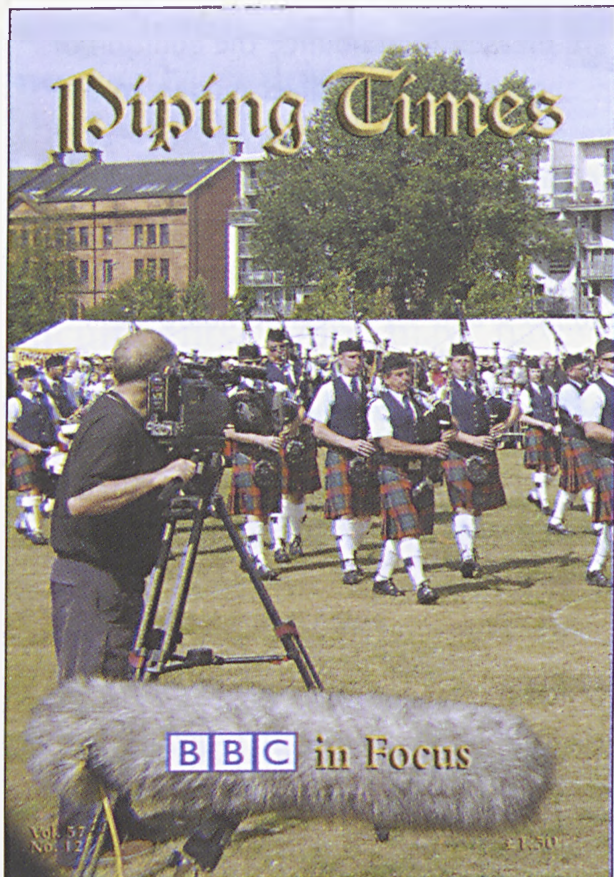
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**Front Cover:** BBC Scotland Television seem to be on the brink of authorising coverage of the 2006 World Pipe Band Championships, a satisfactory outcome for the Piping Times campaign launched last year.

The Piping Times is published monthly by The College of Piping

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# Piping Times

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THE General Committee of the Piobaireachd Society meets later this month and one of the items on the agenda will be the clarification of the role of the Society's music 'editor'. At the moment there is no clearly set down definition of what the 'editor's' role and responsibilities are. Indeed there is no post of 'editor' mentioned in the rule book at all. It is most unlikely that previous incumbents, who may have been described thus, ever used the appellation.

The Music Committee has always operated separate from the rest of the Society with its own arcane *modus operandi*. One hundred years ago there was a need for this. The Society was full of well meaning gentry with lots of money and no knowledge. Come the reformation, the Music Committee was set apart from the lairds, the aim being to avoid a repeat of the early schism wrought by their foolhardy intervention in something they thought they ought to know about but did not. It has to be said that from that time on the system seems to have worked well. Without any written rules that we know of, the Committee got on with the mammoth task of preparing for publication the Society's music books. These have always appeared in the past as 'For the Music Committee, JP Grant, Major, Hon Secretary' (Book 1, 1925) or 'For the Music Committee, A Campbell, Hon. Secretary' (Books 2-10), and 'For the Music Committee, AG Kenneth (Books 11-15), though the last book was, given the untimely

death of Archie Kenneth, 'tidied up' by James Campbell, Hugh MacCallum and Captain John MacLellan.

It would seem, *prima facie*, that there is in fact a clear definition of responsibility. One man (never described as editor) prepares the book for the committee who authorise and approve its content. It is then offered to the General Committee who confirm the financing of the publication. The system has worked well. As we have written many times, the books have been an overwhelming success. Probably the greatest achievement in piping in the 20th century. When Dr Roddy Ross was doing 'Binneas' where did he turn for his reference point? The Society's Collection. When the current gang of blinkered revisionists are looking for their latest cheap jibe where do they turn? The Society's collection. For sure there are easy targets within its pages. Errors have been made. Some tunes could have been written out more clearly to represent the tradition of playing that has come down to us through oral and audio sources. No question. (We often hear the view that this is a good thing, forcing students to seek out a teacher rather than proceed on the basis of their own assumptions). And more reference could have been made to alternative settings. Yes to all of the above, but in the final analysis the collection is a wonderful effort. It has done more than anything else to spur on the growing fascination there is for ceol mor around the world.

Archibald Campbell and JP Grant have taken the brunt of the criticism. Archie Kenneth has not been immune from the flak. They receive it on the basis that they were primarily responsible for what was published, and that may be so. Yet their work is clearly stated as 'For the Music Committee'. Archie Kenneth was not even its Honorary Secretary.

This is the approach we favour for the future: the Music Committee, if needs be, should appoint an individual to pursue a particular project and report back. The work can then be pored over and examined by the other committee members. Once finalised and agreed it is presented for publication to the General

Committee not as 'H MacSporran, For the Music Committee' but simply by 'The Music Committee', with the names of its Hon Secretary and constituents listed if thought necessary. Outstanding effort and diligence by any one individual can be recorded in the committee minutes.

If the Society does in fact need an editor, and we doubt it, then he must be selected and elected by the full membership. He must have clearly defined responsibilities, in the first instance to the Music Committee. It is surely in the interest of the current 'editor' that this be so. We wouldn't want him to suffer the criticism so unfairly levelled at his predecessors.

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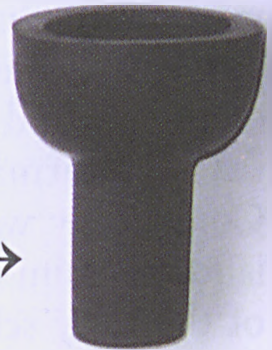
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# Petition Handed Over As BBC Responds to PT Campaign



BY OUR NEWS REPORTERS

THE campaign for an improved piping presence on BBC Scotland Television took a major leap forward last month when PT Editor Robert Wallace met top executives from the corporation. He handed over the 3,000-name Piping Times petition calling for coverage of the World Pipe Band Championships and other major piping events. Attending the meeting were Mr Ian Small, Secretary & Head of Public Policy, BBC Scotland, and Mr Ewan Angus, Commissioning Editor, BBC Scotland.

Afterwards Robert Wallace said: "We had a wide ranging and thought provoking discussion. I made various points about how I felt it was incumbent on the BBC to cover piping, our national music, on our national television station. I feel I got a very good hearing.

"A number of piping initiatives are at the discussion stage and these may include television coverage of the Worlds in 2006. We'll have to wait and see. If they do decide to do it the BBC will have a 'quality first' approach. Of that I was assured.

"They have also given the go-ahead for a television programme on the life and times of Donald MacLeod on Gaelic television. Things seem to be moving the right way and any success that we have has been brought about by the encouragement and



*The Editor hands over the petition to BBC Head of Public Policy, Mr Ian Small*

support of the readers of the Piping Times. We should keep up the pressure until we get a respectable amount of air time for piping on BBC Scotland Television."

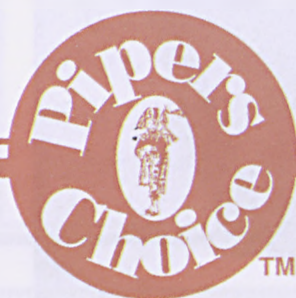
Following the Piping Times meeting, Mr Angus, the BBC Commissioning Editor, met with Mervyn Herron of the RSPBA's Media and Marketing Committee. Mervyn and his Northern Ireland colleagues have wide experience of working with the BBC through their televising of championship events there over many years. Mervyn said:

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“We had a very positive discussion and I think things are looking bright for the 2006 Worlds. Coverage could even involve the use of television personnel from Northern Ireland given that we have wide experience of this sort of work.” Following on from this meeting two officials of the BBC attended this year’s World Championships at Glasgow Green, another hopeful sign. They toured the competing arenas and tuning areas taking notes and making diagrams.

The PT’s BBC Campaign was launched last year after the showing of a controversial programme from the ‘Piping Hot’ festival.

Robert Wallace added: “I emphasised to Mr Small and Mr Angus that I was not against this sort of programming *per se* but to broadcast it in the absence of any mainstream piping coverage was where the error lay.”

The PT petition is now closed though the rolling campaign remains open and will do so until a satisfactory conclusion is reached.

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### *Lochaber Gathering*

THE famous gathering of the above name is to be revived later this year. It will feature a top grade competition for professionals and amateurs as well as a lecture and ceilidh. Funding has been provided by theatre impresario Sir Cameron Mackintosh. Organiser is Allan MacColl, Fort William. He writes: We welcome all with a piping interest to join us in romantic Lochaber to celebrate two great days of piping in November. We have

chosen late autumn when our magnificent glens and mountains are resplendent in purple and gold. In Lochaber, once a home to brave clansmen and loyal causes, you are sure to be truly inspired by the playing of the ‘noble instrument’ and its art. It was here during the second battle of Inverlochy in 1645 that warriors of both sides were roused and sustained by the martial strains of the piob mhor. Doubtless the ancient anthems of Gaelic Lochaber, such as *Piobaireachd Dhòmhaill Dhùibh*, would have been used to full effect on that eventful morning. Endowed with such a rich piping inheritance it is only proper that we strive to echo this with an annual gathering of pipers. The desire to restore the Lochaber Gathering to its former place as one of the world’s premier piping events is our inspiration. We intend the Gathering to be a fitting celebration of the music of the great pipers of the past who entertained previous generations with their compositions.

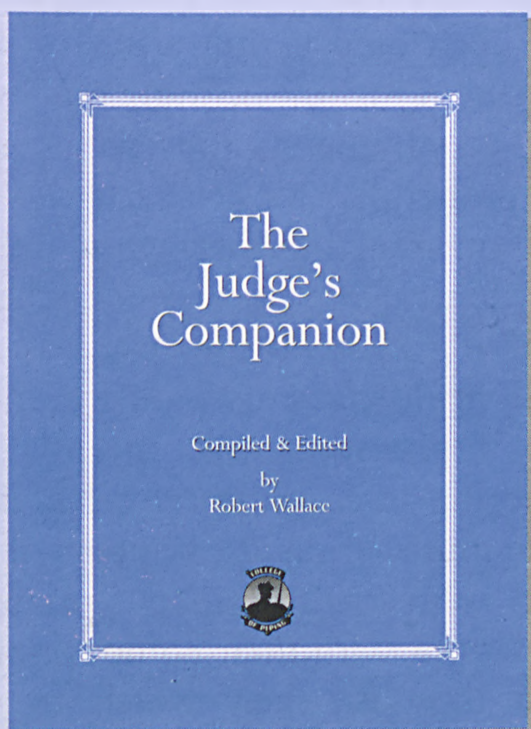
To illustrate their worth to our piping tradition it is well nigh inconceivable to imagine today’s competition repertoire without their stock of tunes. This year a feature of the event will be the award of a Gold Medal especially struck in recognition of legendary pipers and composers connected with Lochaber and North Argyll. The John MacColl Gold Medal for MSR, playing a march by John MacColl, is truly a prize to be coveted.

The enlarging of the event, considered by the late Arthur Gillies as the most enjoyable competition he ever played in, will have a festival feel

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to it. Rather than by invitation, the event will be graded and furthermore a junior competition programme will be introduced. Another feature of interest will be a talk on John MacColl. A Grand Pipers' Ceilidh/Dance after Friday's competitions aims to be an enjoyable time. To assist those who are coming to play or enjoy the two days, a special quality accommodation deal, on a first come first served basis, has been arranged.

The full programme will include the "Tuagh Oir Lochabair" (Lochaber Gold Axe), Piobaireachd for Premier and A Grade, while the "Tuagh Airgid Lochabair" (Lochaber Silver Axe) will be offered to the winner of the B Grade Piobaireachd. Junior Pipers will not be left out of matters, and a special "Tuagh Umha Lochabair" (Lochaber Bronze Axe) will be presented to the 18 and under Piobaireachd winner.

The event owes its re-emergence

to the generous support of the Mackintosh Foundation.

• See display advertisement this issue for more details

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## Band Room

**W**ELL-KNOWN pipe band supplies company The Band Room has gone into liquidation. They have ceased trading with debts estimated at more than £200,000. The liquidator has also ordered RG Hardie & Co. to cease trading, perhaps temporarily, given that the companies are linked through Mr Paul McComish, Managing Director of both.

Mr McComish, a piper, and his brother Brian, a drummer, took over the Band Room 21 months ago from Mr Joe Noble and his wife Irene the former owners. Mr & Mrs Noble issued a statement which read: "We wish it to be known that the current problems associated with the Band

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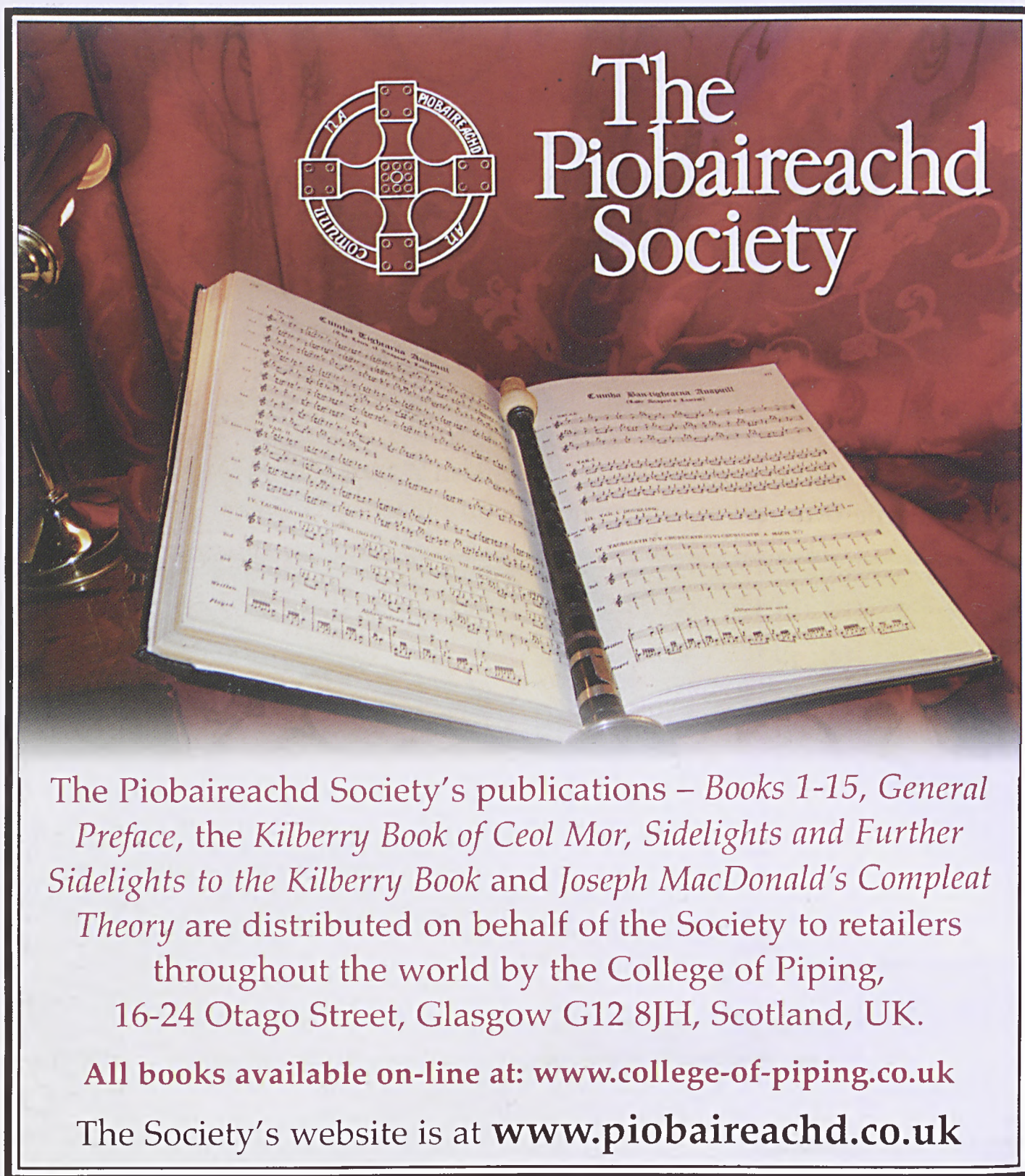
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Room have no connection whatsoever with the former firm." Mr Noble established the company 16 years ago. Its Glasgow city centre location grew to become very popular with visiting drummers and pipe band members. The company was noted for its service to customers and the propriety with which it conducted its business. Takeover in 2003 was followed quickly by the

brothers' acquisition of Bishopbriggs-based R.G. Hardie one of the most famous names in piping. Within a few months both firms had re-located to a factory unit space in a run down area of Glasgow.

The plight of both companies has been common knowledge for more than 12 months among those in the bagpipe business. Legal issues prevented the publication of any



The Piobaireachd Society

The Piobaireachd Society's publications – *Books 1-15, General Preface, the Kilberry Book of Ceol Mor, Sidelights and Further Sidelights to the Kilberry Book and Joseph MacDonald's Compleat Theory* are distributed on behalf of the Society to retailers throughout the world by the College of Piping, 16-24 Otago Street, Glasgow G12 8JH, Scotland, UK.

All books available on-line at: [www.college-of-piping.co.uk](http://www.college-of-piping.co.uk)

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details and both companies continued trading. It is not known how much is owed to customers and suppliers and other individuals but one estimate has put the figure at more the quarter of a million pounds (\$462,000US approx.). Pipers have been shocked at the brazenness of Mr Paul McComish. Only 12 hours before the liquidator moved in he stood on the stage at Glasgow's Piping Centre and announced that he looked forward to sponsoring his 'Band Room Masters Invitational Piping Competition' in 2006. In the end he could not pay the pipers their appearance fees, causing embarrassment to the Piping Live festival under whose aegis the competition was run. One competitor William McCallum failed to appear and this may have had some connection to the fact that he was



*Mr Paul McComish*

involved with a Band Room event earlier in 'World's Week'.

The future of RG Hardie looks increasingly uncertain and given that both firms were inextricably linked the assets of one may be used to pay the creditors of another.



*R. G. Hardie in its heyday and below its shuttered premises today*



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### *In Brief*

- Former Scots Guards Pipe Major Roger Huth has joined the College of Piping Teaching Network. If you are based in the deep south and want some lessons from an expert, then contact 0141 334 3587.
- Bagpipemakers D Naill & Co are to sponsor the 'Winter Storm' Gold Medal competition held each January in Kansas City, USA.
- Jimmy Young continues to make progress in Monklands Hospital near Glasgow where he is receiving daily physiotherapy. Jimmy is now able to walk again after suffering a serious stroke two months ago.

## Regimental Pipes and Drums on Parade Down Under



*The massed pipes and drums of British and Australian armed forces combined to put on a spectacular version of the Edinburgh Tattoo 'A Salute to Australia' at the Aussie Stadium, Sydney, earlier this year. Eight pipes and drums from the UK and eight from Australia combined to create this unique event in which over 1100 performers from all round the world took part. Here the bands form a thistle motif in front of a mock-up of Edinburgh Castle.*

**T**HE amalgamation of all of Scotland's army regiments seems to have been delayed pending more in depth discussions between the top brass.

The formation of the Royal Regiment of Scotland (RRS) was to have included all the separate regimental traditions such as tartans, pipes and drums, the so – called 'golden threads of history' connecting them to their past. Now there are growing doubts that these can be preserved. For instance it has been confirmed that every soldier will wear the same cap badge and it has been suggested that Lowland regiments

will wear the kilt instead of the traditional trews. The new RRS will have five battalions with the KOSB amalgamating with the Royal Scots. How this leaves the various regimental Pipes and Drums remains to be seen. This year Edinburgh Military Tattoo was probably the last that will feature 300-year-old regiments such as the Black Watch.

- The Army School of Bagpipe Music and Highland Drumming is staging the first of what is hoped will be annual solo and mini band competitions on October 8th and 9th at Inchdrewer House, Edinburgh.

PC

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Les Cowell's years of training and experience as an instrument maker went into the design and manufacture of the Naill bagpipe, and in the early years of the company David Naill set new standards of excellence and expectation in the way bagpipes are finished – from exquisite turning and

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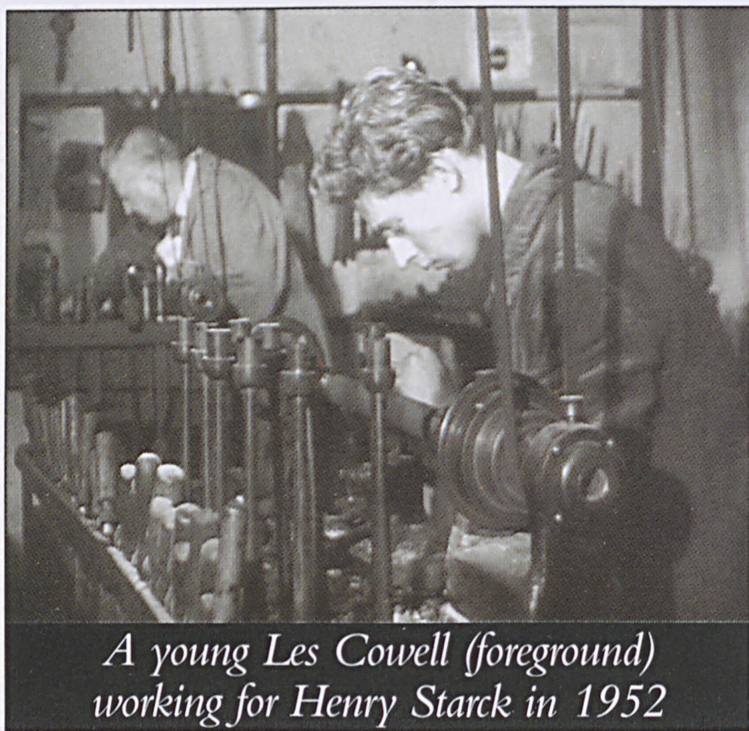
**W**hen Leslie Cowell started the company in 1976, David Naill & Co made its mark by producing instruments with precision tooling and unequalled craftsmanship. These instruments were enthusiastically embraced by high-level solo competitors.

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A number of master players have exchanged their 'lifetime' bagpipes for a set of Naills. After winning the Inverness Gold Medal and the Former Winners Silver Star for MSR on his



P/M Terry Lee, cl  
D. Naill pipes, leat  
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A young Les Cowell (foreground)  
working for Henry Starck in 1952

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and since that time SFU has won four World Pipe Band Championships (and been 2nd on three occasions) playing primarily David Naill drones.

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## *Shotts & Dykehead Bring World Championship Back to Scotland*

ROBERT WALLACE



*P/M Mathieson, clearly still in pain, was well enough to lead his band from the victory field at Glasgow Green*

**T**HE World Pipe Band Champions for 2005 are Shotts and Dykehead. They pipped the favourites, Northern Ireland's Field Marshal Montgomery, by one point when they locked horns at the World Pipe Band Championships at Glasgow Green on August 13. Only one point behind these two were Canada's Simon Fraser University pipe band.

The day started with heavy showers but the weather improved as it went on. By the time Grade 1 began at 1pm bands had to contend

with wildly varying conditions alternating between overcast and strong sunshine. This made it difficult for pipe majors trying to accommodate the weather in their tuning.

The victory for Shotts was a sweet one. For most of the season the pipe band world considered Field Marshal, the 2004 champions, a near certainty to lift their second title in a row. They were playing beautifully and indeed did so on the day. But Shotts gave notice of their intentions when they took the British Championships at Tain in July. From that moment it was

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## *World Pipe Band Championships*



*Shotts and Dykehead celebrate after their victory is announced*

'game on' and come the day, come the band. I have to be honest that after the March Strathspey and Reel section I would not have given Shotts much of a chance. From where I was sitting in the arena the high As of their chanters seemed shrill, though they did play cleanly and competently to safely complete the course in this discipline. Field Marshal and SFU were ahead in my book. However that all changed with the medley where all Shotts' vast experience – they celebrate their 95th Anniversary this year – came to bear. They were outstanding, with a combination of brilliance of tone, technique and ensemble innovation that held the attention throughout. This gave them an edge and when RSPBA Chief Executive Ian Embelton paused before making the announcement to a hushed Green there was only one name on the lips

of every bookmaker and indeed of his. To tumultuous cheers 'House of Edgar – Shotts and Dykehead' rang round the east end of the city and beyond. The band from Lanarkshire was back and Scotland had recovered the world pipe band crown. As fate would have it P/M Robert Mathieson was not there to receive the plaudits. He was in the first aid caravan prostrate with an agonising kidney complaint. He heard the announcement over the loudspeaker however, the adrenaline kicked in, the pain was forgotten and after some medication was able to lead his band from the field carrying the winner's trophy. A few moments later after playing a tune or two with the band he said:

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## *World Pipe Band Championships*

tribute to Field Marshal and to Simon Fraser our nearest rivals. Either of us could have won it but this was our day. I am delighted for all my pipers and for our magnificent drum corps under Jim Kilpatrick.”

So Northern Ireland's 2004 dominance of the World's did not continue into 2005. Grade Two went to Ian Duncan and his Drambuie Kirkliston band after a closely fought tussle with Torphican and Bathgate. The Juvenile grade was won by the Robert Malcolm Memorial band from Burnaby, British Columbia, and Novice Juvenile by Kintyre Schools. Ulster can be well satisfied nevertheless. Their bands took Grades 3a, 3b, 4a and 4b.

I sat through the whole of the Grade One final and before noting my specific thoughts would like to make the following points. The standard of march, strathspey and reel playing is not getting any better. Only a select few bands shone here and of those not in the prize list Manawatu from New Zealand were outstanding.

As a listening experience it is not only the standard of playing which disappoints in the MSR, it is the number of bands playing the same tune. The RSPBA, who as always ran a clockwork championships, should institute a new rule that bands cannot play the MSR they competed with the previous year. I lost count of the number of *John Morrisons of Assynt House* we heard. Bands are always keen to change their medleys. They need to be encouraged to change their MSRs too.

Is it time for a Premier Grade for the top eight to ten bands? The upper

half of Grade One is so far ahead of the rest that this is surely long overdue. The bottom half and those who failed to make it through the Qualifying Round are much more closely matched and would provide good competition for each other. Furthermore, it must be heart breaking for the likes of California's Prince Charles, Nunawading from Australia and City of Washington, USA, to travel all the way to Glasgow only to find out at around noon that, as non-qualifiers, their World Championship is over for another year. This new Premier Grade set up would keep them in the mix right up until the prize-giving. The Premier Grade bands should be asked to submit two medleys and two MSRs, so providing a clear difference in requirements between them and Grade 1. Let's get a debate going on this. E-mail any thoughts to [pt@college-of-piping.co.uk](mailto:pt@college-of-piping.co.uk).

Another point which RSPBA officials will have to take on board is this: with the serious prospect of the BBC filming the 2006 championship, bands will have to be asked to take up more camera friendly positions. Instead of the closed circle an open semi circle would be best. Pipers and drummers could still communicate easily and the cameras would have access to all the facial expressions and angles they need.

Pipe bands are the only music groups in the world that I know of that turn their backs to their listeners. Judges could sit at desks facing the semi circle giving them a constant position from which to judge every band. I am dead against this walking



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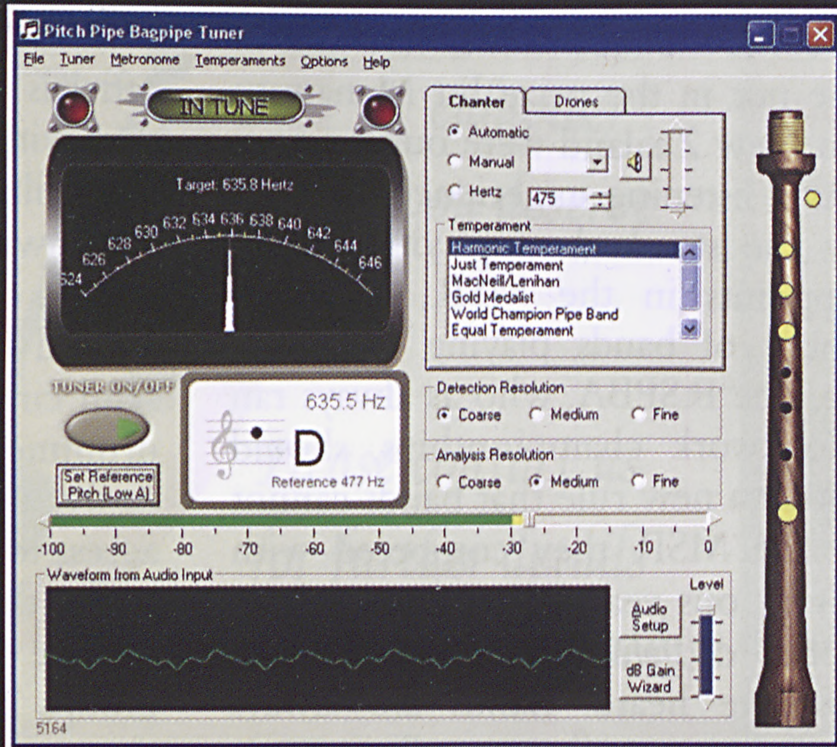
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## World Pipe Band Championships

round the band whilst it is playing. It is distracting for the bandsmen and women and a judge can easily miss an error perpetrated on the opposite side of the band to where he is standing.

Here are my comments on the Grade 1 Final noted at the time of performance from my ringside seat in the arena:

### MSR

**Ballycoan** – *Clan McRae Soc., Ewe Wi' the Crookit Horn, Mrs MacPherson High As thin*; good break to strath. but too round with this; doublings missing from last part of *Ewe*; error to reel; break not nice – too long a pause; struggling in reel; errors 4th and 5th parts; drones shading off; missing doublings.

**Strathclyde Police** – *The Links of Forth, Atholl Cummers, MacAllister's Dirk*

Nicely controlled playing in march; excellent piping – all fingerwork crisply executed; pipes well set; very relaxed through strath. and reel; tempi in strathspey and reel could come up a bit but good listening all the same; solid.

**Field Marshal** – *Royal Scottish Pipers' Soc., Blair Drummond, JM Assynt House*  
Beautiful tone; clean march; steady; no faults; strathspey: drums not helping pipes, especially with triplets at end of parts; straight in to reel; v good break; cracking playing; magnificent drone sound; faultless reel.

**St Laurence O'Toole** – *Highland Wedding, Dora Macleod, Smith of Chiliechassie*

Superb start; chanter sound as good as FMM; quality of fingering could be



*A delighted Ian Duncan,  
P/M of Drambuie Kirkliston,  
with the Grade Two trophy*

improved in places; strathspey needs a little more pointing; long break to reel not effective; overall needs more precision and focus; a very good band.

**78th Highlanders, Halifax** – *D MacColl's Farewell to F, Shepherd's Crook, Brown Haired Maid*

Opening rolls seemed insipid; high As suspect in places (blowing?); piper cutting out in strathspey?; sluggish here; toiling; too round; good break to reel; drones shading off; overall quite a good performance from a young band.

**78th Fraser Highlanders** – *Argyllshire Gathering, Bogan Lochan, JM Assynt House*

Doublings very light in march esp. in run down from D to low G at ends of parts; march pushed on too much; better fingerwork in strath., v well played; break to reel too long; good

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## World Pipe Band Championships

playing here; well played MSR for most part.

**Simon Fraser University** – Lord A Kennedy, Cal. Soc. of London, MacAllister's Dirk

Excellence in fingerwork; precision playing; very attractive; very good dynamics from side drummers – helping expression; lovely E and F doublings in strath.; this is a good band strathspey, runs at end easier for drummers; spot on tempo in reel; excellent performance; superb sound.

**Vale of Atholl** – P/M W Gray's Farewell to Glasgow Pol., Piper's Bonnet, P Marion

Well away; good tempo; nice snare sound from sides; strathspey rounded off; no lift, though pipes trying hard; good break to reel; double E not always coming through; tempo dragging towards end of this long tune?

**House of Edgar Shotts & Dykehead** – Donald Cameron, Susan Macleod, Sheepwife

High As?; bass too boomy?; spot on tempos throughout; solid and attractive drone tone; good lift in strathspey – drummers helping; good break to reel; well together; clean run; no major errors.

**Manawatu, New Zealand** – Hugh Kennedy, Blair Drummond, JM Assynt House

Excellent march, good fingering and tempo; piper with bronze hair not helping overall effect; lively expression in strathspey, first rate playing here; reel held together well; drones perhaps drifting towards end; class outfit just lacking power.

**Boghall & Bathgate** – J MacDonald of Glencoe, B Drummond, JM Assynt

House

Running over beat notes in march, especially at end; drones wavering in strath.; error last part; pipers not together in places; tone fading longer set goes on; reel quite well played but overall lacking cohesion.

**Scottish Power** – Donald Cameron, Dora Macleod, John MacKechnie

Well away; good sound; running over beat notes in places in march; one piper hitching up bag with elbow; good break to strath.; good to hear 3rd part played as written; some untidy phrasing in reel; good performance overall; v good tempi.

**Clan Gregor** – Lord Alexander Kennedy, Dora Macleod, JM Assynt House

Good sound to start with; high As becoming thinner – blowing?; impossible to play a good strathspey to this drum beating – pipers did their best; good break to reel; drones drifting; pipers' fingering tiring; band well worth place in final, however.

**MSR result:** 1. FMM, 2. Shotts, 3. SFU, 4. O'Toole, 5. Strath. Pol., 6. S Power

## Medley

### Ballycoan

Opening tune went on too long; low G not comfortable on ear; good break to jigs; drones beginning to go in strath.; a band more at ease with medley than MSR; final reels going along nicely; good tone from bass; trailing drones at end.

### Strathclyde Police

Don't think much of opening tune; clean tone from chanters and warm



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## World Pipe Band Championships

drone sound; jigs a little too round for this tempo; tempo in strathspeys needs to come up a little; reels too controlled?; more abandon needed from a band capable of going all the way.

### Field Marshall

Sparkling start; fingering superb; effortless break and playing into strathspeys; brilliant fingerwork in reels; drones organ like in slow air; over elaborate finishing jig – tempo and execution of the highest order; what can one say?

### St Laurence O'Toole

Very clean playing throughout; jigs travelling along nicely; musical slow air; P/M controlling things well but more 'snap' needed in strath.; tight playing in reels; band seems to be enjoying itself; v good run; hard to fault.

### 78th Halifax

Rolls weak?; nice progression from march to jigs; untidy in places here; strathspeys up with the best of the day; tone thinning out as medley progresses; three performances a big ask of a young band; worthy of place in final.

### 78th Frasers

Confident opening; drones nicely set; *Willie Murray* working well at this tempo in open style, but not any slower; straight into jigs with confidence; highly enjoyable playing; v good fingerwork to end; must be well pleased with this run.

### SFU

Exemplary playing; fine tone; hard to fault; some very innovative arrangements but my attention wanders on some less melodic tunes; effortless playing however; drummers

working well with pipes; will score well on ensemble.

### Vale of Atholl

Good start; High As wavering at times?; nicely organised tunes; some pipers seem to be struggling with pipes – arms moving too much on bag; reeds too strong?; drones moving towards end but overall an interesting and commendable medley.

### Shotts & Dykehead

Tone much stronger this time; clean start; strathspeys v well played; drones

solid; some captivating moments in this performance; medley v well played and thought out; breaks and transitions all played with precision; class performance.

### Manawatu

Opening hornpipe good and ditto the jigs which followed; tempos throughout excellent;

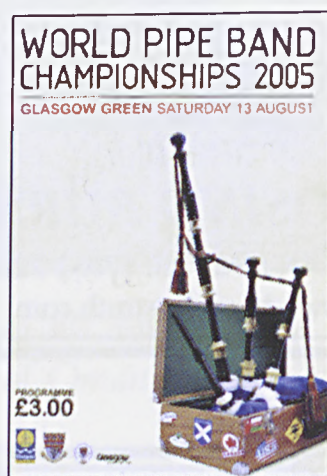
excellence of fingerwork allied to musical expression; lacking volume in overall sound but deserve to be much higher placed than in previous years.

### Boghall

Drone to chanter balance too much to the former; 6/8 march gives a light start to the medley; good 'go for it' jig tempo; pretty good playing throughout but this band needs a better sound to allow the pipers' fingerwork to shine; brave effort against the odds.

### Scottish Power

Well away; good tempo for opener; pipe corps lacking precision in unison playing in places; good solid sound; tempi lively and interesting; fine technique muddled by lack of cohesion at times; 'harmony' break in final reel too long for good musical effect.





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### Clan Gregor

Nice start; pleasing harmony in jig; very capable pipe band more comfortable in medley; problem again with strathspeys – need to work on this with drummers; *Keel Row* doesn't work at slower tempo; other reel went well.

**Medley result** – 1. SFU, 2. Shotts, 3. FMM, 4. 78th Frasers, 5. Strath. Pol., 6. O'Toole

**Overall and World Championship for 2005** – 1. Shotts, 2. FMM, 3. SFU, 4. Strath.Pol., 5. St Laurence, 6. 78th Frasers

**Drumming** – Shotts

**Best Bass Section** – Strathclyde Police

For all results and summary sheets go to the RSPBA website at [www.rspba.org](http://www.rspba.org). Next year's World Championship will again be at Glasgow Green and the date is August 12.

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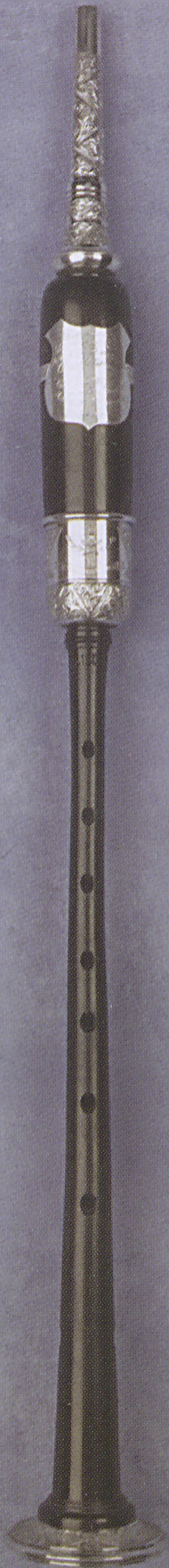
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## Moisture Problems Affect Overall Standard at 2005 Silver Chanter

DUGALD MACNEILL

THE 39th annual MacCrimmon Memorial Piobaireachd Recital was held in Dunvegan Castle, on August 3rd, hosted by John MacLeod of MacLeod. This year Dr John Adamson, as Fear-cathrach, introduced the judge John Wilson and the five pipers and their tunes. First to play was Gordon Walker with *The Lament for MacSwan of Roaig*. It was an excellent tune on an excellent bagpipe and must have been in contention for the prize. Roderick MacLeod then played *The Lament for the Earl of Antrim*. He began well on his usual good bagpipe although the low G and B were slightly discordant. His drones did not stay in tune and this distracted from an otherwise good performance of that majestic tune. Simon McKerral, who won the Dunvegan Medal last year, was given the *Lament for Donald Duaghal MacKay* and his drones held out well throughout a competent performance only marred by a flat high A.

After the interval for a welcome dram provided by the generous sponsor of this event, William Grant and Sons, Angus MacColl played *Mrs MacLeod of Tallisker's Salute*. After a

beautifully phrased urlar and variation his pipe, like Roddy's, also went seriously out of tune, and no matter how well the tune is played the effect of the discordant drones spoils it. Last to play was Iain Speirs with the *King's Taxes*, that wonderful composition. This tune is considerably shorter than the previous four and a decided advantage, especially on a cold, damp evening which obviously affected some of the competitors with long

tunes. That aside, Iain played this demanding tune extremely well and thoroughly deserved to win his third Silver Chanter in a row. Emily MacDonald, Secretary of the John MacFadyen Memorial Trust, presented Iain with the Silver Chanter and everyone re-convened in the Old School House

for an excellent buffet and the chance to speak to each other.

### Portree

THE Skye Gathering was, as usual, held on the two days prior to Dunvegan. It was another very successful event with a large entry and smooth organisation under the guiding hand of steward Cailean MacLean. The standard in all



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## Silver Chanter



*A rightly proud Niall Stewart holds his Dunvegan Medal aloft*

competitions was extremely high. The Dunvegan Medal was a success story for South West Ross school's piping teacher Niall Stewart. Niall also took first in the 6/8 March and second in the Jig. The only sad note was that his former instructor John D. Burgess was not there to enjoy another important milestone in his talented pupil's career. Dunvegan Medal judges were Malcolm McRae, Dugald MacNeill and Iain MacFadyen. Malcolm McRae said: "Niall played *Mrs MacLeod of Talisker's Salute* on a bagpipe that was true from start to finish. It was a beautiful pipe. He kept the tune flowing along. Towards the end some of his crunluath movements were slightly unbalanced but this did not affect the overall impression. This was a very strong tune for this level."

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**Dunvegan Medal** – 1. Niall Stewart, 2. Neil Smith, 3. Simon Marshall, 4. Ed McIlwaine, 5. Tracey Williams

**6/8 March** – 1. Niall Stewart, 2. Roddy MacLeod, 3. P/M Gordon Walker, 4. Neil Smith, 5. Alan Johnston

**Jigs** – 1. P/M Gordon Walker, 2. Niall Stewart, 3. Roddy MacLeod, 4. Simon McKerrell, 5. Euan MacCrimmon

**2/4 March** – 1. P/M Gordon Walker, 2. Roddy MacLeod, 3. John Angus Smith, 4. Neil Smith, 5. Fiona Mackay

**Strathspey & Reel** – 1. Roddy MacLeod, 2. Simon Marshall, 3. Michael Grey 4. Jenny Hazzard, 5. Gordon Walker

**Clasp** – 1. Simon McKerrell, 2. P/M Gordon Walker, 3. Iain Speirs

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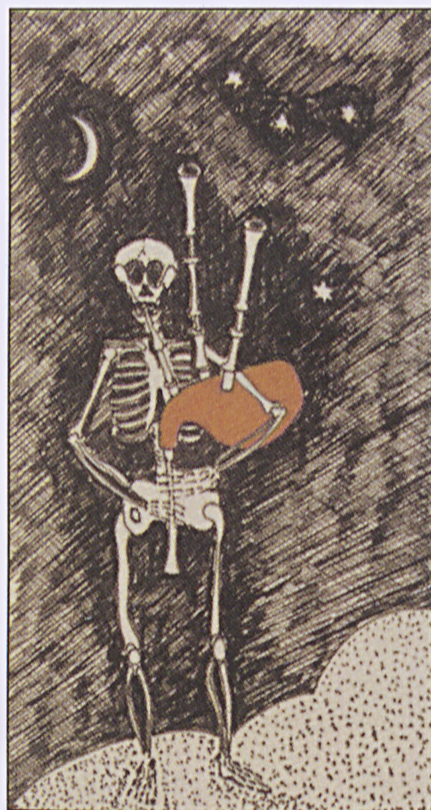
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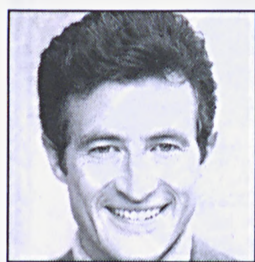
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## *Piping On Horseback – The Band of The Canadian Mounted Rifles*

BRUCE P. GLEASON, PH.D.

WHEN Medieval European mercenaries showed up to recover the Holy Land during the Crusades, they were met by Muslim warriors on at least one occasion (1291 at Acre) being led into battle by kettledrummers on the backs of camels. The ominous sight and massive sound so frightened and impressed the western forces that they brought the custom back to Europe, which, over the following six hundred years developed into a tradition of military musicians on horseback throughout much of the world – initially as solitary signallers and later in bands. By the nineteenth century mounted bands numbered in the hundreds, and varied in size and instrumentation from a few trumpeters accompanied by drummers, to full concert bands on horseback.

As a direct extension of France and the United Kingdom (both of which continue to maintain centuries-old mounted band traditions) Canada would seem to be a logical place for the tradition to continue. The custom however was fleeting with individual bands – including several within the North-West Mounted Police, and a beautifully attired mounted band of the early 1930s of the Governor General's Body Guard in Toronto – each of them lasting only a few years. Another even more unusual one of

these short-lived bands was the Pipe Band of the 1st Canadian Mounted Rifles during World War I, and, as the name implies, it consisted of bagpipers and drummers on horseback.

Standing alongside her allies in World War I, Canada offered what would finally total 619,636 soldiers (424,589 serving in Europe) in the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF), as the Canadian army raised during the First World War was designated. Serving mainly in France, Belgium, and England, the CEF was comprised of infantry units (including mounted rifles), artillery batteries, medical units, communication units, engineering companies, and railway and forestry troops, as well as a cavalry brigade and scores of military bands.

The mounted rifle battalions were probably a result of Canada's participation in the Boer War as part of the Empire, whereby there was a general concern about the Boer tactics causing havoc to conventional martial procedures of the day. Canadian military officials saw a need for dealing with this type of enemy by training more sharpshooters – and mounting them on horseback. This seemed like a natural for Western Canada with cowboys and the North-West Mounted Police, etc., so there was a concerted effort started in the early 1900s to develop mounted rifle contingents with a depot set up in

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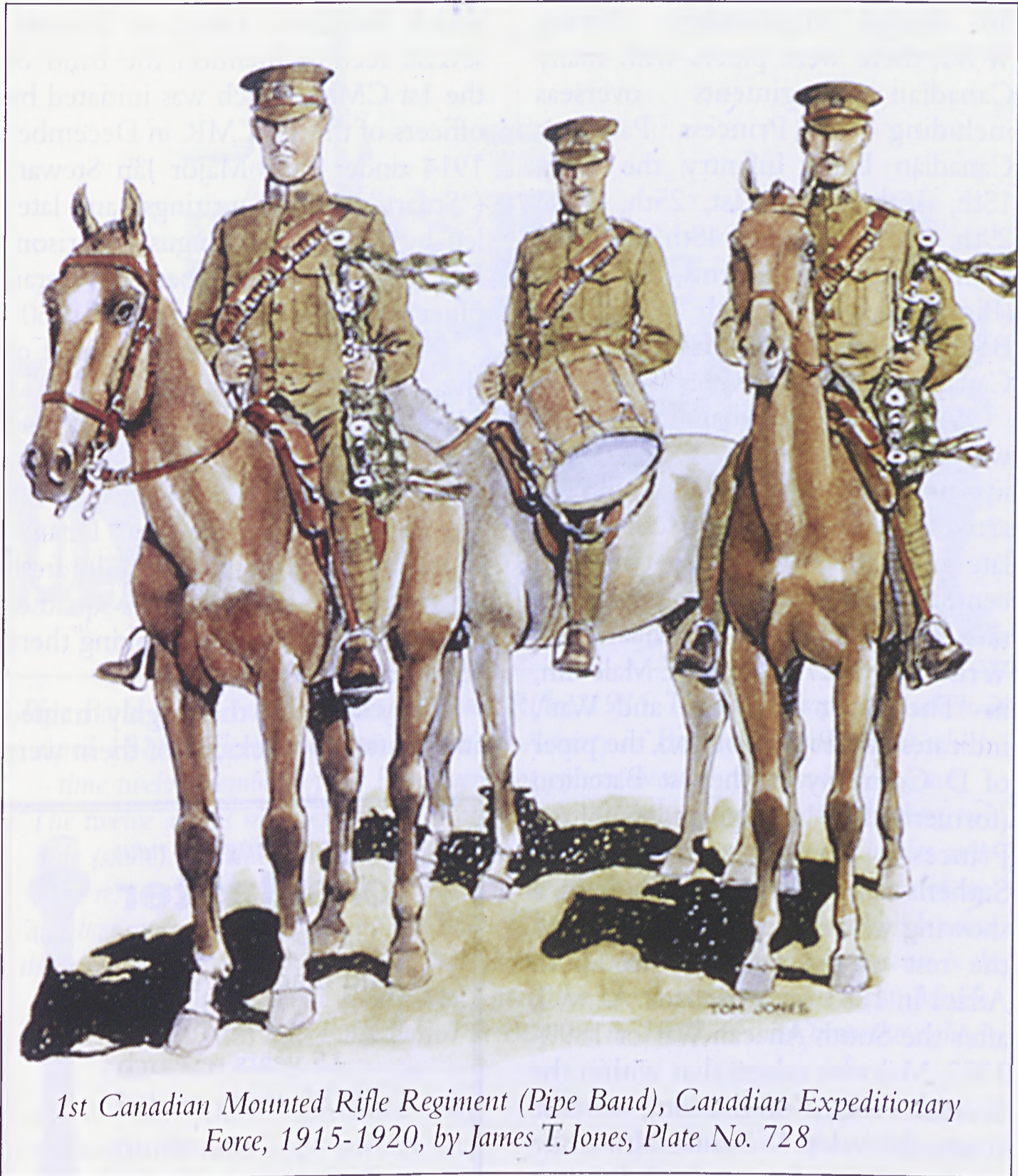
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*1st Canadian Mounted Rifle Regiment (Pipe Band), Canadian Expeditionary Force, 1915-1920, by James T. Jones, Plate No. 728*

COURTESY COMPANY OF MILITARY HISTORIANS, 1994

Winnipeg where recruits were sent for training, and then dispersed to a number of Western centres designated to form Mounted Rifles.

The military bands of the CEF were part of an age-old custom of musicians accompanying soldiers into battle, although by this point, bands were performing mainly in ceremonies and encampments rather than amidst combat. Bagpipes

however, which had been used in battle for centuries, were still being played in the thick of things in WWI, as well as during route marches, burials and rest periods, with more than 500 from Scottish Regiments being killed, and another 600 wounded. Canadian Militia regiments had maintained pipe bands (most of which were affiliated with Scottish regiments) at least since 1816 with the

## History

5th Royal Highlanders. During WWI, there were pipers with many Canadian Regiments overseas including the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, the 13th, 15th, 16th, 19th, 21st, 25th, 26th, 29th, 42nd, 43rd, 46th, 48th, 67th, and 85th Infantry Regiments, the 107th (Pioneers), the 35th (Forestry) Battalion, and the 1st and 4th Canadian Mounted Rifles (CMR).

While mounted bands of brass, woodwind and percussion instruments were common within the armies of several countries during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, mounted bagpipers were rare – although not unheard of. Writing in 1927, Charles A. Malcolm, in 'The Piper in Peace and War', indicates that Piper Loudon, the piper of D Company of the 1st Battalion (formerly the 91st Highlanders) of the Princess Louise's Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, made quite a showing when he debuted along with the rest of the company in South Africa in 1883 on horseback. As well, after the South African War of 1899-1902, Malcolm relates that within the Scottish Horse, "on the long marches across the veldt of South Africa, the pipers, mounted on trained Russian ponies, played cheerful airs for the men." Further east, the 17th Bengal Cavalry hosted a mounted pipe band in India of pipers and a kettledrummer at the turn of the twentieth century – and at the date of this writing, the Royal Stables of Oman continue to host a camel-mounted pipe band.

While little information is available about the pipe band of the 4th CMR,

which had been raised in Toronto, several records mention the band of the 1st CMR, which was initiated by officers of the 1st CMR in December 1914 under Pipe Major Ian Stewart ("Stuart" in some writings), and later led by Pipe Major Angus Morrison. Recalling the training period, veteran piper Rod J. MacKay wrote in 1960:

"We were approached by some of the Officers to have a try at a Mounted Band. So try we did, and were surprised at the manner in which our Horses responded to all the noise of the Pipes and Drums. Many of our Mounts were quite fresh off the Range, and we had a squad of Bronco Busters Saddle breaking them for a start.

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## History



GLEASON COLLECTION

*Pipe Band of the 1st Canadian Mounted Rifles, 1915. This photograph was taken in April 1915 of eleven members outside the Armory in Brandon, Manitoba, at which time twelve members of the band were not present because of embarkation leave. The twelve absent members consisted of one bass drummer, three tenor drummers, two side (snare) drummers and six pipers. Two of the tenor drummers carried bugles and were responsible for bugle calls. At some point the Royal Stewart tartan pipe ribbons and bag covers were replaced by the Shaw Clan tartan (House of Tordarroch), because the commanding officer was part of that name and clan. Pipe Major Ian Stewart is the central figure in the photo. Rod J. MacKay is the fourth piper from the right. Murdo Macleod, who was killed and buried in Belgium in 1915, is third from the right.*

trained to knee guidance for direction, and they kept perfect step while the Band was playing.”

When I asked Lt. Col. Roy Wearne, past supervising bandmaster of the Omani 3rd Band Squadron (who has more than forty years of equestrian and mounted band experience) what he thought of this statement, his reply was: “...it would be absolutely impossible to train horses to march in step!” Further, since the North-West Mounted Police (NWMP) had given up the

idea of mounted bands a decade earlier because of the difficulty in training the horses, the additional task of training horses to march in step is unlikely. An unusual aspect of the 1st CMR mounted pipe band was that it apparently only served mounted during the initial and concluding stages of its existence. A rare newspaper mention of the pipe band appeared in the Thursday, 20 May 1915 edition of the ‘Brandon Weekly Sun’, which recorded the battalion’s twenty-two mile journey to Camp


## History

Sewall for final training before heading for Europe:

"...the men left the city, mounted on their horses and accompanied by all the paraphernalia of the military transport. Col. Stevenson was in command and there was a total of 550 troopers and 600 horses.... The route was McTavish Avenue via Twelfth Street north to Rosser, and thence east to First Street and on to the main trail for Sewell. At the head was Regimental Sgt.-Major [Charles] Casey, an old Brandon man, whose life ambition seemed to have been realized. The bagpipe band was mounted, and the horses behaved well... Col. Stevenson and Major Andross were at the head of the first squadron and the signalling section, then followed the mounted troopers.

Following came the machine gun section.... The heavy horses, the transport and guard wagon brought up the rear."

MacKay recalls that the band was nineteen strong when they left Brandon, but was dismounted upon arrival in France with members being converted to infantry, where their jobs included stretcher bearing and working with ration parties. This conversion was not unusual, and in fact was based on a centuries-old precedent for military musicians. Although several pipers were killed in battle, the band was reorganized towards the end of the war, and appeared on Dominion Day, 1 July 1918, in the Corps Sports and Ceremonial Parade at Tinques, France. Historian, Victor W. Wheeler



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*The Camels Are Coming . . . Pipers of the Omani Army show how it is done.*

describes this performance in 'The 50th Battalion in No Man's Land' (1980):

"The most unusual and thrilling sight of the colourful occasion was the spectacular March Past of the 1st Canadian Mounted Rifles, 8th Infantry Brigade, 3rd Division. The Regiment was led by a mounted Pipe Band of twelve pipers and eight drummers, and their beautiful chargers visibly enjoyed their splendid role to the tune of their Regimental March Past, *Highland Laddie*."

It is difficult to say what the impetus was in initiating the short-lived mounted pipe band of the 1st Canadian Mounted Rifles. The originators would have been aware of the Canadian connections to Scottish regiments and piping traditions, but were also probably looking to form some kind of unique unit. Whatever

the case, this band holds an interesting place in military music history.

Dr. Bruce Gleason, associate professor of graduate music education at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota, USA, holds degrees in music (B.A., Crown College) and music education (B.S. and M.A., University of Minnesota, and Ph.D., University of Iowa). A veteran army musician (euphonium player with the 298th U.S. Army Band of the Berlin Brigade, 1989-1991), he is the head of the Institute for Military Music Research and is tracing the tradition of horse-mounted bands from the time of the Crusades to the present. His work has appeared in the *Journal of Band Research*, *Renaissance Magazine*, *St. Thomas Magazine*, the *Irish American Post*, *National Guard Magazine*, *MHQ: the Quarterly Journal of Military History*, and the *Journal of the International Military Music Society*.

RC



# NOTICEBOARD



## Brisbane Piob.

*Iain Bruce writes:*

Glad to report that Roy Gunn and I conducted a second meeting of the Piobaireachd Club which Malcolm McRae started in May, and it went off well, with about 20 present and five people playing.

Maurie De Hayr played *All the Old Men Paid Rent but Rory*, Max Yeo *Catherine's Lament*, Matthew Supranowicz *Lady Doyle's Salute*, myself *The Glen is Mine*, and Roy the *Lament for Donald Duaghal MacKay*. The meetings go for three hours, and featured a tutorial segment.

At the last meeting, it was based on *The Glen is Mine*, and after I had played it, Roy gave a talk on the tune and got the whole group singing.

At the next meeting the featured tune will be *Glengarry's Lament*.

## Room Quest

My name is Martin and I'm 24 years old and studying business administration. I am coming to Scotland for a six-month internship at the College of Piping. I'm looking for a room or a flat share in Glasgow from October 2005 until end of March 2006. If you can help please contact me: Martin Stahl, Am Spreubach 27, 96181 Geusfeld, Germany. E – mail: [senecastahl@web.de](mailto:senecastahl@web.de); Tel.: 00 49 95 541408

## Correction

The tune *Salute to John D Burgess* on page 17 last issue should have been in 8/4 time and not 8/8. The error was not the composer's.

## For Sale

- Set of 12 War-Mac polypenco pipe chanters circa. 1990s; good condition; £270 + PP for whole set; Contact Philipp Muheim [phmu@bman.ch](mailto:phmu@bman.ch).

- Pipe chanter Hardie with large ivory sole (3 1/8th in diameter); also Duncan MacDougall with ivory sole 2 1/2" in diameter; offers over £40 each to 01924 494854

## Classes

College of Piping evening classes resume this month Mon-Thurs. Times are 7pm-9pm. Saturday morning times are 10am-12noon. There will be a two-week break October 10-22. The cost for the 10-week course is only £50 for adults and £40 for juveniles. All lessons are subsidised. Full details for these classes and the Autumn School and Pipe Majors' Course on the College website.

## *Radio Watch . . . the PT panel casts a critical ear over the airwaves*

BBC's 'Pipeline' July 23rd: "I've said it before and I'll say it again; Irish elbow piping is for the folk music programmes. We get little enough time for Scottish piping on the BBC without having to share it."

'Pipeline' Aug 13: "Congratulations on a quick and professional job on the Worlds and on air with very little preparation time."

College of Piping Radio for August: "Another worthwhile show and a good piobaireachd from Michael Gray of the Highlanders despite the background noise."

## *PT Magazine Watch*

In the Eastern United States PB Association's magazine 'The Voice' piobaireachd pundit Barnaby Brown writes: "...a distressing majority of Piobaireachd Society settings reflect a lower musical intelligence than that enjoyed by pipers and their audiences around 1800." We always suspected that occasionally he was a few notes short of an octave, now we know for sure. Get back into your time machine Barnaby, they need you back then!

## *PT Pic of the Month*

September's caption contest features this pic taken on Bondi Beach, Sydney, at the start of the year when the 'Edinburgh' Tattoo was taken to Australia. Star



## Miscellany

prize to the best and remember, this is a family magazine. E mail answers to the usual address. Printable entries for the July contest (pic below) came from Gordon Forrest, St.Helens, Lancashire, one being: 'Fancy Seumas not being keen on Rab's piping'. The free subscription however goes to Martha Shideler, Flagstaff, Arizona, with: 'Please bear with this silliness a while longer – it's still the best piping magazine around.'



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## Remembering My Number One Teacher Of Forty Years, James MacMillan 1911-2005

BY JACK LEE

I have often wondered how piping would have turned out in Vancouver if Jimmy McMillan hadn't taught here. Would Terry and I have stuck with piping? Would the SFU Pipe Band even exist? Jimmy was THE defining and pivotal person in the development of piping in this area and I had the opportunity to know 'Jimmy' in a special way. Our friendship lasted 40 years.

When Terry and I were young boys we were in need of a good piping teacher. Jimmy McMillan was already the renowned teacher in British Columbia that the top pipers went to, but young kids were a rarity for him at that time. Our uncle, Jack Ironside, was a friend of Jimmy's and talked him into taking us on. Jimmy agreed somewhat reluctantly and said something like 'I will give them a try but if they are no good they will have to go somewhere else'. As I grew up and got to know him well, I would realise that this was just part of the persona. He liked to keep his students working hard by pretending to be intimidating. We laughed about this many times.

Jimmy tried hard to undo our bad habits from the beginning. From the first lesson I remember thinking 'this is really, really fun'. Jimmy was truly the master at making learning the pipes a lot of fun. Endless stories, jokes



*Jimmy MacMillan and a young Jack Lee pictured in 1981 at a homecoming party to celebrate Jack winning the Inverness Gold Medal.*

and plenty of different teaching tricks made lessons something to look forward to. I remember one approaching lesson and how nervous I was that I hadn't practiced much the past week. Jimmy would not be happy and would notice right away. I convinced my parents that I was sick one day so I wouldn't have to go to school. I spent most of the day practicing and cramming for the



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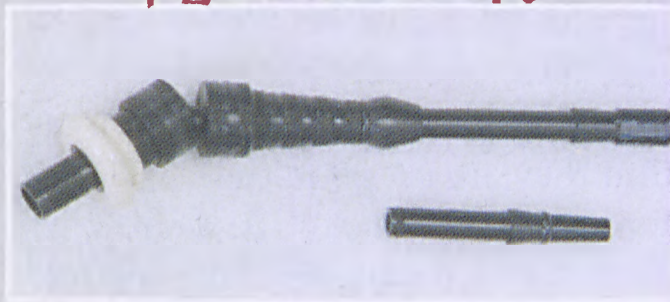
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## Obituaries

lesson – such were the motivational effects of Jimmy MacMillan.

Although born in Campbeltown, Scotland, he emigrated to Victoria BC as a boy where he learned his piping. He loved the pipes from the beginning and was a natural at it. As a solo competitor Jimmy was very successful in British Columbia and won all the top prizes out here. He never had the financial resources to venture abroad to piping competitions in the 1950s and transportation was much more challenging then. I remember the first time I actually heard him play. Although I was only 10 years old I couldn't believe the tone and had never heard anything so sweet. I really wanted to play bagpipes like that. Jimmy was a real stickler for tone and technique. They had to be perfect – no compromises.

Jimmy had the rare honour of being selected for not one, but two, Pipe Major's courses at Edinburgh Castle with the great P/M William Ross. Jimmy loved those days – they were very exciting to him. He came across Archibald MacNeill during those years and would always refer to 'The Blind Piper' as the primary teacher in his life. Jimmy and Archie developed a bond that would last a lifetime. Archie gave his precious pipes to Jimmy later in his life, bypassing his well-known nephew – Seumas MacNeill. Jimmy traveled back to Scotland after the war with his wife (Lena) and son (Malcolm). When he arrived in Glasgow he dropped in to see Seumas MacNeill. Seumas told Jimmy that blind Archie, as he was in palliative care, and did not

know anyone who visited but when Jimmy arrived at the hospital and Archie heard him, he said "my God, Jimmy, your voice hasn't changed a bit". Jimmy was always proud of that.

In many ways, Jimmy had the perfect life. He loved three main things and did them very, very well: Family, Piping, and Fishing. Of course, my involvement with him was usually piping but I have met his family many times and fished with him quite a few times.

Jimmy's love for the pipes never faded. He loved everything about them: the tone, the musical expression, the technique, the competition scene, but above all – piobaireachd. He never had a lot of time for pipe bands and tried to talk me into quitting SFU and focusing on solo playing several times. His tape library was impressive and included all the great players – many of whom had been in his basement on one or more occasions. As a boy, I certainly heard a lot of Donald MacLeod, Bob Brown and Captain John MacLellan. Later in his life, Jimmy developed a real fondness for the Cameron style of piobaireachd. He admired the playing of Robert Reid and William Barrie a great deal. He thought it was good to understand all there was about different styles as it could only help us as players.

After his wife Lena passed away, Jimmy was lonely and not as healthy as he had been. Our routine for a couple of years was for me to pick up fish suppers and take them to his house on Tuesday nights. Very little actual piping – just a visit and some study of the Canntaireachd. (Jimmy

## Obituaries

was really up on the Nether Lorn Canntaireachd from his many years of teaching at summer schools with Captain John). He moved from his well-known home in Burnaby to a seniors' home in White Rock four years ago. Since then our weekly routine was to pick him up on Wednesday mornings and take him to Malcolm's house for breakfast. He loved to make a big bowl of mush for us and then enjoy a few tunes from me after breakfast. His mind for piping remained very sharp until the end. Never would a day go by that he didn't listen to some piobaireachd tapes (very few of us can say that). If I didn't play well he would say something like 'I heard a tape this week of you playing that tune 20 years ago and it sounded a lot better back then'. Ouch.

My favourite memory, though, goes back to the late 1970s. It was a time when I was becoming very serious about my playing. I would go over to his house once or twice per week. Jimmy loved to mix and match my six MSR's in every possible combination to get me ready for the Former Winners MSR at Inverness. It would take a couple of hours to go through all the MSR's plus two or three piobaireachd with Jimmy's tape recorder rolling the entire time. I would pick up a case of non-alcoholic beer and we would unwind after the piping for an hour or so. During the hour we would play back and critique the recording of my playing. We had great times.

Jimmy McMillan was a piper who left an amazing legacy. He really cared about his students and would do just

about anything to help them. As long as they were serious he was there for them. The amount of time that he set aside for me over the years was incredible. You could say that he was the 'father' of the SFU Pipe Band. Without his inspirational teaching style perhaps it would all have been different here. I will always cherish my time and relationship with him. Those of us who knew Jimmy MacMillan will never forget him.

---

### *Mary MacKinnon*

IT is with sadness that we record the passing of Mary MacKinnon at her home in White Rock, British Columbia. Mary was aged 79 and had been ill for some time. She was a Life Member, and for over 22 years Secretary, of the British Columbia Pipers' Association. She and her husband Iain, who pre-deceased her, were known to generations of visiting pipers from Scotland and elsewhere.

They were famous for their hospitality and for their enthusiasm for the music of the pipe. Through their efforts and that of others the BCPA grew to become the major force and influence in world piping that it is today. A memorial service will be held in the Gordon Presbyterian Church in Burnaby, BC, on September 10. Our condolences to daughters Maryanne and Joanne.

**Robert Wallace**

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• As we went to press we heard of the sad passing of judge Joe Henderson and of Arthur Lawrie of pipemakers RG Lawrie. Tributes to follow.

*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 as appropriate.*

### Internet Radio

Sir,

I installed the College's radio broadcast to my internet favourites list yesterday and I played the entire programme from start to finish. I was so happy to hear the friendly voices from the College. I was there for six months in 1974 and loved it so much. It was when Duncan Johnstone was there. He was a fantastic teacher and friend. I have so many fond memories of the cheerfulness of the College and its expert teachers. I will look forward to listening to the programme in the future. Thanks for the excellent piping and the stories. They make the programme all the more worthwhile.

Paula Casteen, Bakersfield, CA.

### Parliament

Sir,

Every month I read about the lack of pipers present at the opening of the Scottish parliament. I would just like to confirm that I did see the Scottish Power band and the Lathallan School band march past me as I was standing on parade, for three hours in a very cold spot of the Royal Mile as a member of the Royal Air Force Pipes and Drums. [See pic below.]

Finlay McGhee, via e mail

### South Africa

Sir,

I read with interest the article on your recent trip to South Africa in particular the news cutting about Catherine MacInnes.



*The RAF Pipes and Drums at the opening of the Scottish Parliament*

## Letters

As you know, I grew up in South Africa and learnt the pipes at King Edward VII School, Johannesburg from P/M Chris Mulinder.

At the time of the news cutting I was 22 and what I would consider your average band player with no real ambition to take piping any further than that. Somehow, the late John Farmer – who had been trying to stimulate an interest in piobaireachd in me – talked me into taking a

week's leave and attending a piping school under P/M Angus MacDonald who was then in SA.

I can probably say that this week's tutoring was the changing point in my piping attitude and not really because of Angus's input. Rather I was so impressed by this girl piper, my age, who was so far superior to where I was at the time. As the article points out, it wasn't easy for women to get involved in piping in any serious way

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### David Scotland

Sir,

This is a short note to report the death of David H. Scotland OAM, BEM. David was long time secretary of the New South Wales Pipe Band Association and a tireless worker promoting Scottish culture in this country. He was secretary when I started piping in 1962 and stepped down in 1988, becoming patron of the NSWPBA after that. I named my latest tune in his honour and enclose a copy.

Ian Brothers, Grenfell, NSW, Australia.

DAVID H. SCOTLAND OAM, BEM HORNPIPE Ian Geo. Brothers 14.2.05

*In memory of David, a tireless worker for his community.*

## Letters

but it was a pleasure for me to see and hear a female piper playing to what I then thought was a standard above what any of us South Africans (apart from Chris Terry) were able to reproduce. Well, over 20 years have past since then. Much has changed, many fine players have passed on to that great Highland Gathering in the sky and although there is still sometimes a bias against female pipers, there are some fine women players out there and I guess they have much to owe people like Catherine for their dedication.

Dave Mason, Sunningdale, Berkshire.

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### Back Issues

Sir,

I first came across the PT in Hugh MacPherson's shop in the Haymarket, Edinburgh, in 1950 and bought several issues, and after time the available back numbers from the College. I have every issue except the first, though Seumas kindly supplied me with a photocopy. I would be very pleased indeed to receive an original from anyone willing to sell Volume 1, No.1.

Kenneth Wigston, Glencoe, Argyll

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### Cutting Edge

Sir,

I am sending a parcel to you containing an H. Stark chanter (above right), which is so marked on the chanter. I had this chanter restored, but feel some parts appear to be missing. Henry put a lot of work into this chanter and as you will see he had added two extra notes below 'B', and he has three notes above high A'. I can play a tune on the low notes, but my

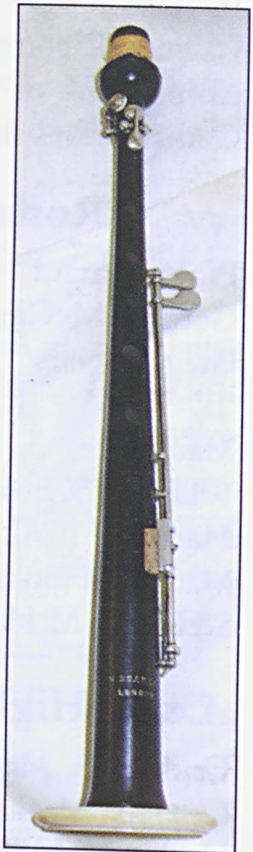
chanter reeds could not handle the high notes above high 'A'. I had intended to present this to the College in person but unfortunately age precludes me from travelling far anymore. I would ask you to put it on display in the College Museum.

Jock Stewart,

Applethorpe,

Queensland, Australia

• *Chanter received with grateful thanks. Very interesting specimen now on show in the Museum.*



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John D. Chanter

Sir,

I have just listened to the show and tribute to JD Burgess, very interesting we shall miss him. I have in my possession a silver practice chanter made by D Naill. The sole, ferrule and mouthpiece are all engraved JDB. The shield fixed to the chanter reads 'Presented to Pipe Major John D Burgess Piper to the Northern Meeting' I also have a photograph of John with the chanter I did not like to trouble him and never got the full story about the chanter. Can you tell me if the Northern Meeting make such honorary gestures every year to a competitor, or is the title given periodically on achievement or merit? I have not heard of this title before? How would i find out when John or anyone else was awarded the title and chanter?

Trevor Rice, Bromsgrove, by e mail

• *Can anyone at Inverness help?*

## Piping Times RESULTS SERVICE

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Calling all competition secretaries. Please e mail your results and pictures to [pt@college-of-piping.co.uk](mailto:pt@college-of-piping.co.uk) or mail them to the usual address. All contributions, home and abroad, welcome. Contributions should be in unformatted text and not caps only.

### Roseneath – July 17

Piobaireachd – 1. Donald MacPhee, 2. Gordon McCready, 3. Calum Beaumont, 4. Gregor Speirs

'B' Piob – 1. Alan Johnstone, 2. William MacIntyre, 3. Andrew Carlisle, 4. Tracie Williams, 5. Euan Grierson

March – 1. Alan Russell, 2. D MacPhee, 3. Margaret Houlihan, 4. Alan Johnstone

S&R – 1. M Houlihan, 2. D MacPhee

### Lewis Highland Games – July 9

Under 15 March – 1. Anna Mackenzie, 2. Catriona Mackay, 3. Christopher Morrison

Under 18 MSR and Hornpipe and Jig – 1. James Mackenzie, 2. John Angus Graham, 3. Andrew Macdonald, 4. Daniel Maciver

Open MSR and Hornpipe and Jig – 1. James Mackenzie, 2. John A Graham, 3. Andrew Macdonald

### South Uist Highland Gathering, held at Askernish – July 20

Weather: Overcast, dry, fresh north-westerly wind, cold.

Novice U-15 March – 1. Eilidh Carruthers, 2. Joe MacNeil, 3. Josie Burgess

U-15 S&R – 1. Seonaidh MacIntyre, 2. Alasdair MacDonald, 3. Stewart Binnie

U-15 March – 1. Seonaidh MacIntyre, 2. Alasdair MacDonald, 3. Stewart Binnie

2/4 March (U-18) – 1. Ashley MacDonald, 2. Steven Morrison, 3. Calum MacColl

U-18 S&R – 1. Ashley MacDonald, 2. Calum MacColl, 3. Steven Morrison

U-18 Jigs – 1. Steven Morrison, 2. Simon MacMillan, 3. Ashley MacDonald

Nov. Chanter – 1. Christina MacDonald, 2. Seumas Campbell, 3. Paul Burgess

Open Chanter – 1. Duncan MacDonald, 2. Fiona Morrison, 3. Scott Duncan

Beginners Chanter – 1. Alasdair Steele, 2.



## Results

**Open Piob.** – 1. Decker Forrest, 2. John Angus Smith, 3. Ryan MacFarlane, 4. Andrew Hall, 5. Brian MacKenzie

**March** – 1. Peter MacGregor, 2. Robert Watt, 3. John Angus Smith, 4. Decker Forrest, 5. Duncan Grant

**S&R** – 1. Robert Watt, 2. Decker Forrest, 3. John Angus Smith, 4. Andrew Hall, 5. Duncan Grant

**Jigs** – 1. Decker Forrest, 2. Robert Watt, 3. John Angus Smith, 4. Rory Grossart, 5. Peter MacGregor

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### Lochearnhead Games

**Piob** – 1. Robert Wallace, *Lament for the Union*; 2. Michael Gray, *I Gave a Kiss to the King's Hand*; 3. Neil Smith, *Massacre of Glencoe*; 4. Alan Russell, *Gathering of the MacNabs*

**March** – 1. A Russell, 2. R Wallace, 3. N Smith, 4. M Gray

**S&R** – 1. M Gray 2. W McIntyre, 3. A Russell 4. M Smith

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### Strathpeffer Games – August 13

**Piobaireachd** – 1. Steve Watterston, 2. Euan MacCrimmon, 3. Kyle Morton, 4. Martin Kessler

**March** – 1. Steve Watterson, 2. Fiona MacKay, 3. Matt Panteleoni, 4. Martin Kessler

**Strathspey & Reel** – 1. Niall Stewart, 2. Euan MacCrimmon, 3. Fiona MacKay, 4. Martin Kessler

**Jig** – 1. Euan MacCrimmon, 2. Niall Stewart, 3. Duncan Grant, 4. Matt Panteleoni

**Overall** – Euan MacCrimmon

**Judges** – Iain MacFadyen & Finlay MacRae

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### Inverkeithing Games – August 6

**Open MSR** – 1. Robert Barnes, 2. Cameron Barnes, 3. Greig Wilson

**Under 18 MSR** – 1. Cameron Barnes, 2. Greig Wilson, 3. Ben Duncan

**U-15 March** – 1. Aaron Hancock, 2. Mhairi Barnes, 3. Patrick Baxter

**Judges:** Dave Watson and Bryan Douglas

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### Strachur and District Piping Association Competition

**Chanter 11 and under march** – 1. Alexander MacKechnie, 2. Jamie Colville, 3. Frank

Rochford, 4. Thomas Jordon, 5. Michelle Jodi Speirs, 6. Iain Wilson.

**Novice Bagpipe 13 and over** – 1. William John Cowan, 2. Donald E. Morrison, 3. Charles MacFadyen.

**Chanter 12 and over march** – 1. Grant Gibson, 2. Daniel Kent, 3. Clare Russell, 4. Grant Roberts.

**Chanter 11 and under S&R** – 1. Angus Sinclair, 2. Iain Wilson, 3. Lewis Anderson, 4. Dawn MacKenzie.

**S&R 12 and over** – 1. Grant Gibson.

**Novice Bagpipe 12 and over** – 1. Stephanie Andrew, 2. Angus J. MacColl, 3. Ian Hamish Paton, 4. Alan McCormick.

**March 12 and under** – 1. Ross Ferguson, 2. Christie Addis Turner, 3. Alice Inglis, 4. Darren Wilson.

**Piobaireachd Ground 17 and under** – 1. Raymond Kennedy, 2. Craig Wilson, 3. Ross Ferguson, 4. Euan Campbell, 5. Jennifer MacVicar, 6. George Allan-Cowan.

**Slow March 14 and under** – 1. Raymond Kennedy, 2. Fiona Mitchell, 3. Mark McCormick, 4. Keith Cowie, 5. Sarah Muir, 6. Craig Wilson.

**March 14 and under** – 1. Fiona Mitchell, 2. Mark McCormick, 3. Sarah Muir, 4. Euan McNab, 5. Raymond Kennedy, 6. Keith Cowie.

**S&R 14 and under** – 1. Fiona Mitchell, 2. Sarah Muir, 3. Mark McCormick, 4. Laura McMillan, 5. Raymond Kennedy, 6. Scott McLean.

**March 15-17** – 1. Alasdair Henderson, 2. Struan Thorpe, 3. Daniel Johnstone, 4. Fraser Wylie, 5. Stuart Hunter, 6. David Muir.

**S&R 15-17** – 1. Alasdair Henderson, 2. Daniel Johnstone, 3. Fraser Wylie, 4. David Muir, 5. Struan Thorpe, 6. Stuart Hunter.

**Piobaireachd 17 and under** – 1. Daniel Johnstone, 2. Alasdair Henderson, 3. Gavin Ferguson, 4. Stuart Hunter, 5. Craig Killen.

**Hornpipe 17 and under** – 1. Alasdair Henderson, 2. Fraser Wylie, 3. Daniel Johnstone, 4. Struan Thorpe, 5. Craig Killen, 6. Euan Campbell.

**Jig 17 and under** – 1. Alasdair Henderson, 2. Craig Killen, 3. Stuart Hunter, 4. Fraser Wylie, 5. David Muir, 6. Gavin Ferguson.

**6/8 march 17 and under** – 1. Alasdair

## Results

Henderson, 2. Fiona Mitchell, 3. Daniel Johnstone, 4. David Muir, 5. Struan Thorpe, 6. Raymond Kennedy.

**Selection 17 and under** – 1. Alasdair Henderson, 2. Fraser Wylie, 3. Gavin Ferguson, 4. Fiona Mitchell, 5. Euan Campbell, 6. Struan Thorpe.

**Best local 14 and under** – Craig Killen.

**Best local 15-17** – Craig Killen.

**Best Open 15-17** – Alasdair Henderson.

**Best Open 14 and under** – Fiona Mitchell.

The judges were Clive Douglas, Annie Grant, Iain Hurst, Gordon Lawrie, Eddie Swindell and James Beaton.

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### Virginia Scottish Games, Alexandria – July 22-23

**Open Pipe Band Medley Challenge** – 1. City of Washington (DC), 2. Oran Mor (New York), 3. Atlanta Pipe Band (Georgia), 4. Grandfather Mountain Highlanders (North Carolina)

**Grade 3 Pipe Bands – Medley contest** – 1. Atlanta Pipe Band, 2. Grandfather Mt., 3. Ulster Scottish (Pennsylvania), 4. MacMillan Pipe Band (Maryland)

**Professional Piobaireachd** – 1. Michael Rogers, *Battle of the Pass of Crieff*, 2. Duncan Bell, 3. Justin Gonzalez, 4. Andrew Lewis. Judge: Ed Krintz

**Professional 6/8 Marches** – 1. Eric Ouellette, 2. Andrew Lewis, 3. Michael Rogers, 4. Chris Hamilton. Judge: Ed Krintz.

**Professional MSR** – 1. Eric Ouellette, 2. Ian Ferrick, 3. Andrew Lewis, 4. Bill Caudill. Judge: Nancy Tunnicliffe

**Professional Hornpipe/Jig** – 1. Michael Rogers, 2. Victor Frank, 3. Justin Gonzalez, 4. Eric Ouellette. Judge: June Hanley

**Amateur Grade 1 Piobaireachd** – 1. Amber Blair, 2. Joe McGonigal, 3. Ben McClamrock, 4. Kegan Sheehan. Judge: David Bailiff

**Amateur Grade 1 MSR** – 1. Marc DuBois, 2. Ben McClamrock, 3. Dan Cole 4. Dan Lyden.

Judge: Chuck Murdoch

### Taynuilt

**Piobaireachd** – 1. Stuart Liddell, 2. Finlay Johnston, 3. Donald MacPhee, 4. Euan Dewar.

**March** – 1. Stuart Liddell, 2. Finlay Johnston, 3. Alex Gandy.

**S&R** – 1. Stuart Liddell, 2. Finlay Johnston, 3. Jenny Hazzard.

**Jig** – 1. Colin MacLellan, 2. Stuart Liddell, 3. Dougie Campbell.

**Local March** – 1. Stuart Liddell, 2. Dougie Campbell, 3. Euan Dewar.

**Local S&R** – 1. Stuart Liddell, 2. Euan Dewar, 3. Dougie Campbell.

**Junior March** – 1. Craig Killen, 2. Daniel Johnstone, 3. Mhairi Ward.

**Junior S&R** – 1. Daniel Johnstone, 2. Craig Killen, 3. Struan Thorpe.

**Junior Local March** – 1. Craig Killen, 2. Daniel Johnstone, 3. Struan Thorpe.

**Junior Local S&R** – 1. Daniel Johnstone, 2. Craig Killen, 3. Struan Thorpe.

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### Inveraray

**Under 18 March** – 1. Alasdair Henderson, 2. Greig Wilson, 3. Nathan Drysdale, 4. Daniel Johnstone, 5. Fraser Wylie.

**Under 18 S&R** – 1. Alasdair Henderson, 2. Greig Wilson, 3. Fraser Wylie, 4. Gavin Ferguson, 5. Daniel Johnstone.

**Under 18 Piob** – 1. Alasdair Henderson, 2. Scott McKillop, 3. Nathan Drysdale, 4. Keith Bowes.

**Local Piping – March 15-18** – 1. Alasdair Henderson, 2. Daniel Johnstone, 3. Craig Killen, 4. Gavin Ferguson.

**S&R 15-18** – 1. Alasdair Henderson, 2. Fraser Wylie, 3. Gavin Ferguson, 4. Daniel Johnstone.

**March under 15** – 1. Fiona Mitchell, 2. Craig Wilson, 3. Raymond Kennedy, 4. Laura MacMillan.

**S&R under 15** – 1. Fiona Mitchell, 2. Craig Wilson, Daniel Johnstone, 4. Raymond Kennedy.

**Chanter** – Iain Wilson, 2. Angus Sinclair, 3. Daniel Kennedy, Lisa McKirdy.

**Novice Piping** – 1. Scott McLean, 2. Angus MacColl junior, 3. Nick McLean, 4. Darren Wilson.

## Results

### Callander – P/M Angus MacDonald Memorial Competition

**March** – 1. Jordan Drysdale, 2. Jamie McCann, 3. Robert Bryder, 4. Stewart Paterson.

**S&R** – 1. Jordan Drysdale, 2. Adam More, 3. Jeannie Campbell, 4. Jamie McCann.

**Selection** – Jordan Drysdale, 2. Adam More, 3. Graham Bell, 4. Robert Bryder.

P/M Angus MacDonald Memorial Trophy for best local aged 21 or under – Adam More.

### Competing Soloists Organisation, Ulster

This recently formed organisation promoted its first outdoor solo piping competition in a true Highland Games atmosphere. The competitions were organised as part of the 'Clash of the Giants' event on the estate of the Earl of Antrim at Glenarm Castle.

Adjudicators Norman Dodds, Winston Pollock and Gary Watterson were unanimous in their praise of the playing standard of the young participants. In his closing remarks Winston Pollock reminded the players to take heed of the critique sheets as the remarks were meant to help and improve the standard of playing. Robert Watt was also on hand with encouraging advice for the young soloists.

In a break between events the spectators were enthralled by a performance from the former four times world solo drumming champion Lee Lawson, one piping adjudicator saying it was the first time he had ever applauded a drummer.

The Chieftain of the Games, the Earl of Antrim was very complimentary in his comments on the day's activities before he presented the young players with their trophies.

**Under 12** – 1. Bradley Parker, 2. Samuel Moore, 3. Robert Green.

**12-14** – 1. Jemma Redmond, 2. Jamie Walker, 3. Jonathan Lamberton.

**15-18** – 1. Kris Coyle, 2. Conor McCallion, 3. Laura Jane Lawson.

**Open Jig** – 1. Kris Coyle, 2. Conor McCallion, 3. Bradley Parker.

### Arisaig

**Piob** – 1. Ed MacIlwaine, 2. Willie MacIntyre, 3. Ainsley Hart, 4. Fiona MacKay, 5. Ewen Henderson.

**March** – 1. Willie MacIntyre, 2. Fiona MacKay, 3. James MacPhee, 4. Ed MacIlwaine.

**S&R** – 1. Fiona MacKay, 2. Willie MacIntyre, 3. James MacPhee, 4. Ewen Henderson.

**Jig** – 1. Ed MacIlwaine, 2. Fiona MacKay, 3. James MacPhee, 4. Ainsley Hart.

**Junior Local March** – 1. Calum MacColl, 2. William MacAskill, 3. Calum Adamson, 4. Carolyn McKee.

**Junior Local S&R** – 1. Calum MacColl, 2. William MacAskill, 3. Carolyn McKee, 4. Calum Adamson.

### Lochaber

**Junior Piping Open 18 and under Piob** – 1. Karen MacLean, 2. Martin MacBeath, 3. Calum MacColl.

**MSR** – 1. Karen MacLean, 2. Calum MacColl, 3. Christopher MacKenzie, 4. Martin MacBeath.

**Jig** – 1. Karen MacLean, 2. Calum MacColl, 3. Christopher MacKenzie, 4. Martin MacBeath.

**Junior Piping Local 18 and under Piob** – 1. Martin MacBeath, 2. Calum MacColl.

**MSR** – 1. Calum MacColl, 2. Martin MacBeath.

**Jig** – 1. Calum MacColl, 2. Martin MacBeath.

**Junior Piping Open 15 and under Piob** – 1. Andrew Smith, 2. William MacAskill, 3. Carolyn McKee.

**MSR** – 1. Andrew Smith, 2. William MacAskill, 3. Carolyn McKee, 4. Lachlann Micati.

**Jig** – 1. Andrew Smith, 2. William MacAskill, 3. Carolyn McKee, 4. Lachlann Micati.

**Junior Piping Local 15 and under Piob** – 1. Carolyn McKee.

**MSR** – 1. Andrew Smith, 2. William MacAskill, 3. Carolyn McKee, 4. Lachlann Micati.

### Morvern Games

**Piobaireachd** – Euan Dewar.

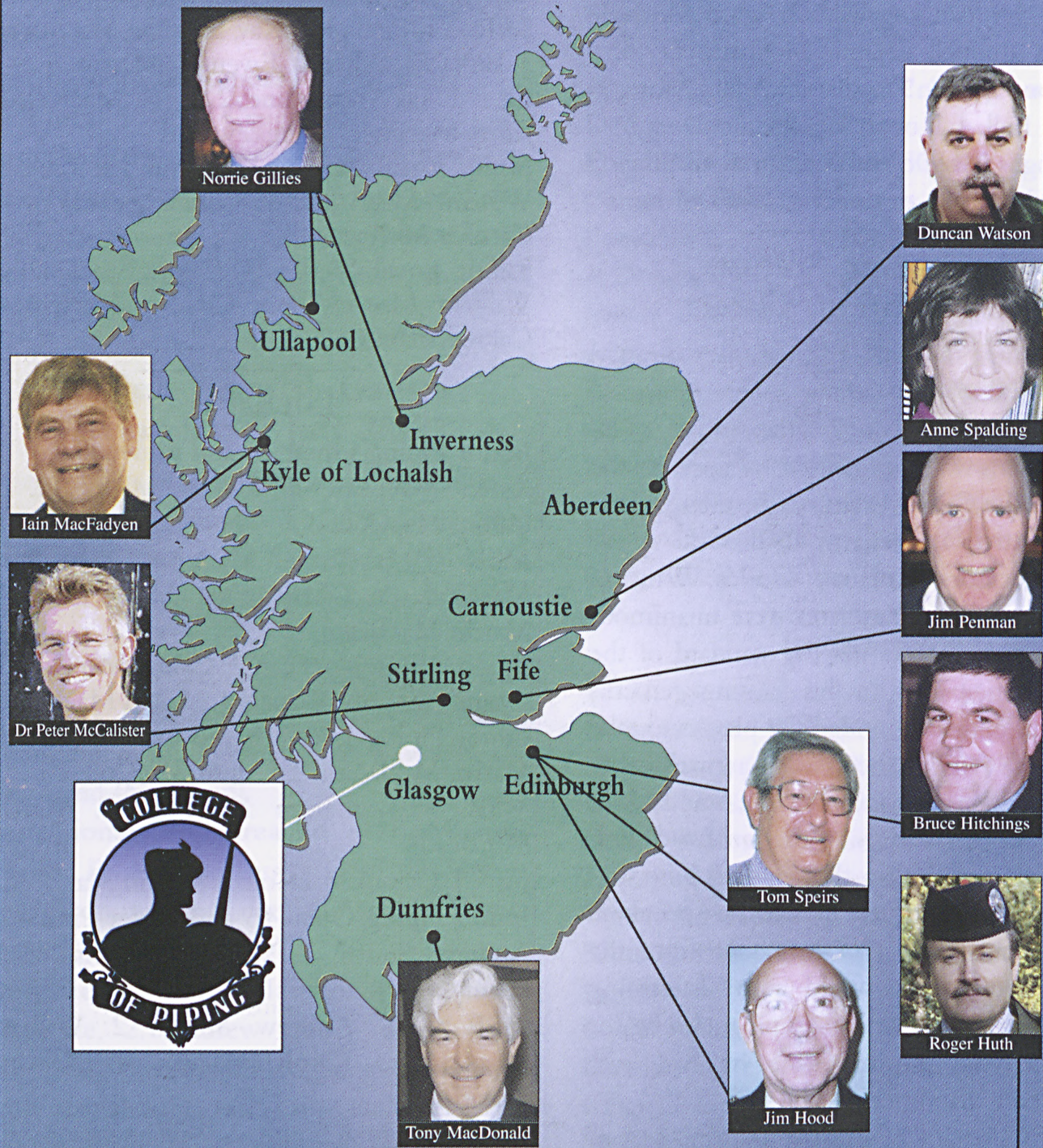
**MSR** – Euan Dewar.

**Jigs** – Euan Dewar.

**Junior Piping** – Daniel Johnstone.

**Judges** – Ronald Lawrie and Neill Mulvie.

# The College of Piping TEACHING NETWORK



Struggling with your strathspeys, tortured by your tachums? Don't worry, help is only a phone call away. The College of Piping's network of experts is now more extensive than ever. Call now for immediate assistance.

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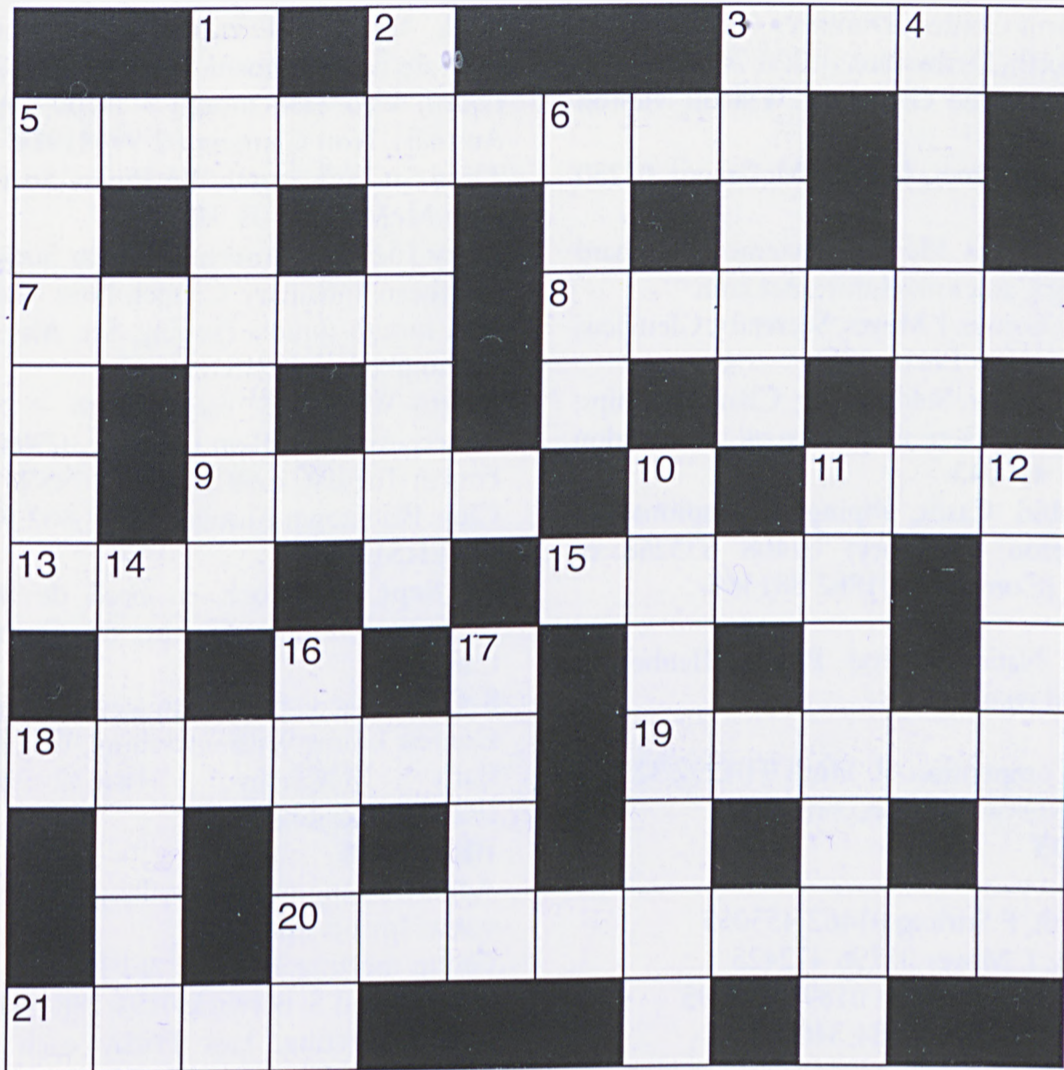
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Test Your Knowledge



**Across**

3. Spice for the Drum Major (4)
5. Get this from the CoP shop (9)
7. Home island of the subject of a TV documentary (5)
8. Old march sounds like an outfit for SFU P/M (3,3)
9. Location of Tam Bain's Lum perhaps (4)
11. Mr Speirs who will judge at Oban (3)
13. Piping was this last year but the name had to be changed (3)
15. A crunluath can be this (4)
18. Two judges from here will be at Oban (6)
19. John D was this prodigy (5)
20. March in this park in 7 across (4,5)
21. CD pictured last month (4)

**Down**

1. Niall who won the Dunvegan Medal this year (7)
2. Green where the Worlds is held (7)
3. See 6 down
4. Rip this in the Moidart Collection (6)
5. March for a castle in this glen (6)
6. and 3 down. 11 across will probably judge this event (4, 5)
10. Mr McRae our new tutor (7)
11. Douglas castle near Kirkcudbright (7)
12. Boer war river remembered in a march (6)
14. This goes with Blue (6)
16. Wind for bellows pipes (5)
17. Nicol had his own style for the red one (4)

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 overseas reader with the most correct puzzles over a six-month period will receive a free PT subscription. *Crossword compiled by Jeannie Campbell.*

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION: **Across** – Army, Lathallan, Cowan, Fringe, Rand, Sea, Dot, Oral, Doctor, Cowal, Catherine, Peck. **Down** – Stewart, Dawning, Anvil, Maggie, Locked, Bracken, Slow Air, Airlie, O'Toole, Stick, Crit. The winner of the July crossword is Gordon Forrest who sent the only correct solution.

## Piping Times DIARY

### SOLOS

#### September

3 – Robert Burns Contest, Dumfries. 01387 253650

3/4 – Chatsworth, Derbyshire. 01328 701133

3 – Braemar Highland Gathering, William Meston 01339 755377

4 – Blairgowrie Games. Jimmie McGregor 01250 874602

7/8 – The Northern Meeting. Aviemore. Richard Cameron [Rwg.Cameron@btinternet.com](mailto:Rwg.Cameron@btinternet.com)

10 – Pitlochry Games. I Moyes, Secretary, Glenview, Bonnethill, Pitlochry PH16 5ED

17 – Scottish Junior Solo Piping Championships. Carnoustie. [www.practicalpipers.co.uk](http://www.practicalpipers.co.uk) or Gordon Rogers 01241 410043

24 – Dunrobin Castle Piping Championships. Evelyn Cameron (Secretary) 01408 633268 or Fraser Wilson (Convenor) 01862 881364

#### October

15 – Royal National Mod Piping. Benbecula. [info@the-mod.co.uk](mailto:info@the-mod.co.uk)

#### November

5 – London Competition. R. Huth 9 01252 325241 [www.pipingsocietyoflondon.com](http://www.pipingsocietyoflondon.com)

### PIPE BANDS

#### September

4 – Chatsworth, F. Stirling 01462 455055

10 – Pitlochry, I. Moyes 01796 472425

11 – Peebles, W. McMorran 01899 308395

18 – Shifnal, D. Parker 01384 346488

#### October

8 – Houghton-le-Spring, K. Reilly 0191 512 0650

### SCHOOLS

College of Piping Pipe Major's Course 19-23 Sep.

College of Piping Autumn Schools – Piping or Drumming. 10-14 and 17-21 October.

### CLUB MEETINGS

Every Friday at 1pm in the College of Piping. Veteran Pipers' Club. New members (over 60s or early retired) welcome.

Fortnightly from 8th Jan – Highland Pipers' Society Meeting, Press Club, 19 Rutland St, Edinburgh. Bob Lawson 0131 332 1961

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

Every last Wednesday each month – Scots Guards Pipers' Association. Scots Guards Club, Haymarket, Edinburgh. Open to serving and former members of the regiment. 0131 337 1084

Every Wednesday from 5pm. Abertay Piping Club,

University of Abertay, Bell St Dundee. 01382 308291

SPSL Bagpipe Evenings every Friday Tilford Institute near Farnham, R. Huth 01252 325241

Fourth Wed each month – NSW Pipers' Society, Australia, Ron Clement 02 99481914

Third Sat each month WA Pipers' Society, Australia, John McMurchie 08 9401 9587

Every Tuesday – Inverness Piping Society. 715-9pm Northern Infirmary Chapel, Ness Walk. First Tues each month juniors evening. Sec. Alastair Campbell [adfcampbell@talk21.com](mailto:adfcampbell@talk21.com)

Fourth Wednesday each month – NSW Pipers' Society, Australia. Ron Clement 02994 81914

Fourth Tuesday each month – NSW Solo Pipers' Club. Blacktown Australia. 0412 602 983

### OVERSEAS

18 Sept – Pibroch en bord de mer. Cancale, Brittany. J. Pincet 17 rue de Cormoran 35260 Cancale.

8 Oct – Nicol-Brown Amateur Invitational Piping Contest Emma Willard School, Troy, NY

Barb McCarthy: 518-632-5982 email: [IRISHIZ9@aol.com](mailto:IRISHIZ9@aol.com)

### BELLOWS

Adult learning project smallpipe classes, Edinburgh. [www.alpscotsmusic.org](http://www.alpscotsmusic.org)

Group meeting, first and 3rd Thursday each month NE England S. Barwick 0191 286 3545

Group meeting, Last Friday each month NW England. R. Evans 016974 73799

Group meeting 3rd Thursday each month except July and August, London. J. Agnew 01621 855447

Smallpipers Group. First Tuesday each month QPBA Rooms Brisbane Australia. Malcolm McLaren [mrmclaren@bigpond.com](mailto:mrmclaren@bigpond.com)

2-4 Sept – Residential Weekend, Holsworthy, Devon for beginner and intermediate smallpipers. 01288 341308

5 November – LBPS Collogue. Venue not yet fixed.

### INTERNET RADIO

College of Piping Radio is now available on demand at [www.college-of-piping.co.uk](http://www.college-of-piping.co.uk) One click and you're there!

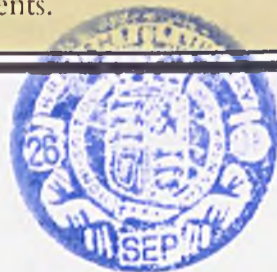
### RADIO HIGHLIGHTS

The BBC's Pipeline programme can be heard on FM 92.4/97.7 MHz; MW 810 (Dumfries 585) and on Radio nan Gaidheal FM 103.5-105 at 9.05pm on Saturdays. Also on Radio nan Gaidheal Crunluath with Cailean MacLean at 11.25am on Wednesdays with repeats at 5.33pm on Thursdays.

**Piping Times** Diary is compiled by Jeannie Campbell. Let her know what is going on in your society or pipe band. Tell us when you are holding a contest or fundraiser. All Diary insertions are free. Send your Diary info to Jeannie at the College.

E-mail: [collegemuseum@ntlbusiness.com](mailto:collegemuseum@ntlbusiness.com). or see page one for other contact details.

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