

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



#164

**The official monthly publication of
the British Columbia Pipers' Association**

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER

Published by the British Columbia Pipers' Association

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Helen Young

AUGUST 1977

NO 164

Letters to the Newsletter
Results of Games
New Teaching Techniques
Don Varella's New Music Books
Electric Powered Bagpipes!
Promotions for Piping Season 77-78
Monthly General Meeting,
Format for Knockout & Invitational Trio Competitions
Local Bands Hit the Jackpot

B. C. PIPERS ASSOCIATION

Please accept my apologies for the delay with the following small comments concerning the association's annual competition held in April past.

I feel that the association itself has to be praised for the hard work that is being done to make such a competition a success. It certainly builds up confidence of young players in the competitive field, and above all, it tries to instil the beauty of the music whether it be a simple march or one of the great examples of the Ceol Mor.

Praise must go to the younger competitors for the high standard of playing, it certainly impressed me. My only comment on this, concerns the instrument they were playing. I felt that they were concentrating more on how to get from the beginning to the end of a performance without choking etc. rather than thinking of the music being played. The reason for this was some were blowing an instrument that was too strong for them, and in some case's throughout the competition it spoiled very good performance's.

The professional competition was of a high standard as was expected, it was a good competition to Judge. Again I would just like to add one comment which I know in the professional field is very important.

Some of the professional competitors tend to be very careless with the finger technique and this is when they ask themselves, and wonder why they didn't manage to make it into the prize list. Nevertheless I was very impressed with the high standard of Playing overall.

To conclude I would like to mention how efficient the stewarding was, and obviously this praise must go to the association.

May I finish by wishing each and everyone concerned with the piping fraternity the very best of luck in the future.

Yours Aye,

Iain Morrison

For anyone who was not aware of it, P/M Iain Morrison was the Judge at this years B. C. Pipers annual Gathering.

1092 Moyse Crescent
Nanaimo, B. C.

July 22, 1977

B. C. Pipers Newsletter

Dear Sir:

Our Highland Games in Nanaimo on July 9, 1977 was a very successful day in many ways. The weather was perfect with both spectators and participants enjoying the day as it moved along. It was gratifying to the committee who worked so hard for many weeks prior to the games.

However we were disillusioned and frustrated in one important aspect of a Highland Games - "Piping". We should make the "Guinness Book of Records" in being the first International Highland Gathering without a pipe band entry. If you think I'm angry about this, you are right on. Fortunately for us the approximately thirty odd pipers and drummer on hand for the individual events volunteered to a man to help us. They formed a massed band and piped the parade for the official opening. Besides this they performed in a massed band march to the delight of all in attendance. To each of them our grateful thanks.

I wonder just what Kimberley has done to promote Highland Games here in the Pacific Northwest and why our pipe bands by-passed Nanaimo to go to Kimberley. Nanaimo has spent 20 years in promoting Highland Games. Granted the bands were given, I understand, an all expense paid trip but if there was no other remuneration but expenses, - why? If it was just for beer and pretzels - Jeez what a thought.

If a tattoo can be set up in such a short period of time then why do not the bands get together and put one on in Vancouver and divide the profits among themselves to bolster there band funds. If my comment on the Kimberley trip is near the truth I feel they sell a top product very cheaply.

I believe the prize money has been too low and must be upgraded. Ian Whitelaw will confirm this as we discussed this during the Victoria Games. The problem is - where does the extra money come from? Upon looking at the prize money list of two of the Games coming up in July (whose committees must have a key to a bank) I wonder why the pro's would attend any other gathering. That is if money is the sole purpose of these gatherings. Sure the top competitors work like hell all year and I say that sincerely but what credit ever goes to the people and committees who also work like hell all year, every year, to keep the competitions going.

The lack of entries and support here in Nanaimo this year makes you wonder if its all worthwhile. I for one am ready to throw in the sponge. Anyone who takes on this voluntary task had better be prepared for a hard and sometimes thankless task.

Ian Wallace
Piping Chairman, Nanaimo Gathering

RESULTS OF THE NANAIMO HIGHLAND GAMES HELD JULY 9th 1977

Novice Under 14 March

1st Patricia Miharija Burnaby
2nd Darleen Miharija Burnaby
3rd David Hilder Courtenay

Novice Strath. & Reel

1st Darleen Miharija

Novice Over 14 March

1st Corey Tillyer Burnaby
2nd Glen Campbell Victoria
3rd Angus McAllister Nanaimo

Novice Over 14 Strath. & Reel

1st Hugh Graham-Marr Victoria
2nd Brenda Lowden Vancouver
3rd Glen Johnson Victoria

Juvenile March

1st Maureen Lee Surrey
2nd Kim Smith Vancouver
3rd Moira Waddell Vancouver
4th Gordon Pollock Port Coquitlam

Juvenile Strath. & Reel

1st Kim Smith Vancouver
2nd Maureen Lee Surrey
3rd Moira Waddell Vancouver
4th Celia Miller Vancouver

Junior March

1st Terrie Smith Victoria
2nd Callum MacLeod Vancouver

Junior Strath. & Reel

1st Terrie Smith Victoria

Amateur March

1st Gordon Lyle Vancouver
2nd Christine Waddell Vancouver

Amateur Strath. & Reel

1st Grant Wilkie Vancouver
2nd Gordon Lyle Vancouver
3rd Christine Waddell Vancouver

Amateur Piobaireachd

1st Grant Wilkie Vancouver
2nd Gordon Lyle Vancouver
3rd Christine Waddell Vancouver

ATHENA CALEDONIAN GAMES

Pipers entered - 52

Judges: Andrew Wright, Bishopston, Scotland
Ed Chilton, Jasper, Alta.
Laurie McKenzie, Edmonton, Alta.

CHANTER CLASS

1st. Liela Cooper
2nd. Michelle Miller

NOVICE MARCH

1st. Brenda Lowden
2nd. Kim Greeley
3rd. Liz Clark

NOVICE STRATH. & REEL

1st. Jack Moore
2nd. Kim Greeley
3rd. Autumn Oberg

NOVICE SLOW AIR

1st. Don Kinch
2nd. Kim Greeley
3rd. Blair Hawke

JUVENILE MARCH

1st. Pauline Alakija
2nd. Shelley Mutch
3rd. Geordie MacKay Young

JUVENILE STRATH & REEL

1st. Pauline Alakija
2nd. Pat Braniff
3rd. Geordie MacKay Young

JUVENILE SLOW AIR

1st. Shelley Mutch
2nd. Pat Braniff
3rd. Pauline Alakija

JUNIOR AMATEUR MARCH

1st. Alison Duncan
2nd. Andrew Burns
3rd. Sue Arbuthnott

JUNIOR AMATEUR STRATH & REEL

1st. Andrew Burns
2nd. Alison Duncan
3rd. Sue Arbuthnott

JUNIOR AMATEUR SLOW AIR

1st. Alison Duncan
2nd. Andrew Burns
3rd. Sue Arbuthnott

SENIOR AMATEUR MARCH

1st. Bruce Gandy
2nd. Candy Parker
3rd. Don MacNeil

SENIOR AMATEUR STRATH & REEL

1st. Candy Parker
2nd. Bruce Gandy
3rd. Roy Davidson

SENIOR AMATEUR JIG

1st. Bruce Gandy
2nd. Roy Davidson
3rd. Brad Wakefield

NOVICE AGGREGATE

Kim Greeley (15 Points)

JUVENILE AGGREGATE

Pauline Alakija (19 Points)

JUNIOR AMATEUR AGGREGATE

Alison Duncan (21 Points)

SENIOR AMATEUR AGGREGATE

Bruce Gandy (21 Points)

PROFESSIONAL MARCH

1st. James Hardie
2nd. Alan MacLeod
3rd. James Watt

PROFESSIONAL STRATH & REEL

1st. Colin Gemmell
2nd. Ian Whitelaw
3rd. Allan MacLeod

PROFESSIONAL PIOBAIREACHD

1st. Ian Whitelaw
2nd. Alan MacLeod
3rd. Alan Walters

AMATEUR PIOBAIREACHD (UNCLASSIFIED)

1st. Bill Talty
2nd. Brad Wakefield
3rd. Bruce Gandy

SPOKANE PIOBAIREACHD SOCIETY AWARD

P/M James Watt

*This is a special award of a medal plus \$100 for the best Four part 2/4 original march composed for the occasion and played by the composer. The tune becomes the property of the sponsor, The Spokane Piobaireachd Society.

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KILT FIGHT

FUSS OVER NOTHING?

LONDON (AP) - What does a Scotsman wear under his kilt?

Magistrates at London's Bow Street court heard on Tuesday how an Irishman with a need to know tried to find out.

Police witnesses said James O'Connor rushed up to Peter Keaney as the kilted Scotsman took a Sunday Stroll beside the river Thames in London and yelled: "I'm going to find what you've got under there"

But Keaney, 26, was not abiding. Police said a fight started and O'Connor received a cut arm from Keaney's skean Dhu, the traditional dagger worn in the top of the sock. Keaney, was given a suspended six-week jail sentence. Footnote: Tradition says Scots don't wear anything under their kilts.

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Both volumes are printed on 70lb paper, Volume 1 is Perfect Bound with sewn pages, while Volume 2 is saddle stitched. There is an attractive decor cover. 10 years in the making, this comprehensive work contains a total of 222 selections; 83 Marches of all types, 57 Slow Airs and Slow Marches, 15 Strathspeys, 23 Reels, 29 Jigs (including a large selection of 9/8 Jigs) and 15 Hornpipes, all beautifully printed, utilizing clear modern music typeface, designed for maximum legibility and ease in sight-reading. A whole year was devoted to proof-reading and final production.

Commenting on a draft copy of Volume One...World Piping Authority, John Wilson writes:... "First of all I was impressed by the large number of well-written tunes, and by the great variety...good old tunes are interspersed with new compositions, some of which were very pleasing to me...Some of the old tunes I haven't heard since I was a lad, I think that their melodies are hard to beat...A most interesting Collection...altogether I think that Donald Varella has done a fine job, and I have no hesitation in recommending his book to anyone.

Excerpts from a critique by P.M. John Wilson, Willowdale, Ontario

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PONTIAC, MICHIGAN, 48055

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Donald Varella very kindly donated Volumes No. 1 and 2 to the B.C. Pipers Society, they are very well written on good quality paper with many interesting tunes. I will bring the two books along to the B. C. Pipers 1st. Knock Out and anyone wishing can have a look at them.

A. Young
Edit.

Telephone: 068 75 600

Rosemount,
Arisaig,
Inverness-shire, PH39 4NN

8th. July, 1977
B.C. Pipers' Association

Dear Sirs:

Being the inventor of the Electric Bagpipe, I take the pleasure, in sending you the following information.

A piper wishing to change over for the time being, to play the electric bagpipe, takes out the pipebag of the traditional set, putting it away, ready to be used again at anytime. The piper then places the drones, chanter and blowstick into the stocks of the electric unit, which is similar in size and shape as the traditional pipebag. All is contained in this unit with only the cable extending from the rear. The switch is near to the chanter and convenient for the bottom fingers to press to start and then again to stop.

The blowstick is only used when giving one puff at the start, after the button is pressed, in order to set the reeds vibrating properly.

There is a hum off the motor but slight and cannot be heard within reason when the pipes are fully sounding. P/M Donald MacLeod, a top player in Scotland and record breaking champion, told me that he does not hear the hum. He also thought that it is a wonderful invention. P/M Angus MacDonald, Scots Guards and all the top players I have contacted have the same favourable opinion. P/M J. B. Robertson, M.B.E. (Ret.) Scots Guards, had to give up playing seven years ago, through health reasons. When he saw me on T.V. he immediately wrote and also telephoned from the South of England for me to send an Electric Unit. His comments now are, that after thinking that he would never play again, he is now finding it a great pleasure in doing so.

The unit cost is 140 pounds plus 10 pounds package and delivery. I think that delivery should take about three weeks.

I have appeared on several T.V. programmes in Scotland, also two Radio programmes and one tape, performed in Glasgow for New Zealand. It was broadcast throughout the whole of New Zealand on Radio New Zealand network. It was heard on both North and South islands. Gordon Irving (Worldwide Features) Glasgow, contributor to Variety, New York; C.B.C. Radio, Toronto etc. informed me that what he and I put on the tape, playing and talking, created great interest.

I would be very pleased, if readers could be informed in your article, if they send a cassette tape, C60 size recommended, along with postage and attention expenses, 76c, I will duplicate the talk and selections, as enclosed, lasting 18 minutes. The tape will be returned with further literature information.

Yours Sincerely
John MacKinnon

The Portland Highland Games Held on July 16, 1977

Novice March

- 1st. Wesley Eaton
- 2nd. Colleen Graham
- 3rd. Darleen Miharija
- 4th. Elizabeth McKinnon

Juvenile Amateur March

- 1st. Rod Weeks
- 2nd. Shelley Mutch
- 3rd. Diane Sherwood
- 4th. Tom Jones, George Young,
Kim Smith.

Juv. Amat. Strath. & Reel

- 1st. Sharon McKinnon
- 2nd. Geordie McKay Young
- 3rd. Rex Harris
- 4th. Kim Smith
- 5th. Shelley Mutch

Juv. Amat. Old Highland Airs

- 1st. Diane Sherwood
- 2nd. Shelley Mutch
- 3rd. Sharon McKinnon
- 4th. Tom Sutherland
- 5th. John Johnston

Jr. Amat. March

- 1st. David Hoodchild
- 2nd. Peter Aumonier
- 3rd. Terri Smith
- 4th. Andrew Burns
- 5th. Sue Arbuthnott

Jr. Amat. Strath. & Reel

- 1st. David Hoodchild
- 2nd. Andrew Burns
- 3rd. Terri Smith

Jr. Amat. Old Highland Airs

- 1st. Peter Aumonier
- 2nd. Susan Arbuthnott
- 3rd. Andrew Burns

Sr. Amat. S & R

- 1st. Bruce Gandy
- 2nd. Bradford Wakefield

Sr. Amat. March

- 1st. Bruce Gandy
- 2nd. Timothy Karr
- 3rd. Dave Martin

Sr. Am. Piob.

- 1st. Bruce Gandy
- 2nd. Tim Karr
- 3rd. Brad Wakefield

Prof. March

- 1st. Dan Diessner
- 2nd. James Troy
- 3rd. Reuben Santos
- 4th. Ian Whitelaw
- 5th. Hal Senyk, James Hardie

Prof. S & R

- 1st. Ian Whitelaw
- 2nd. James Troy
- 3rd. Alan McLeod
- 4th. Dan Diessner
- 5th. Hal Senyk

Prof. Piob.

- 1st. Hal Senyk
- 2nd. Alan McLeod
- 3rd. Dan Diessner
- 4th. James Troy
- 5th. Ian Whitelaw

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John MacLellan is offering a long-sought-after series of cassette tapes and some instructional books on the classical music of the Great Highland Bagpipe Piobaireachd. Presently Piping Tape No. 5 and Piping Tape No. 6 are immediately available from our stock.

Piping Tape No. 5 includes an instructional book along with the cassette. This Tape book is based on Cantaireachd, the ancient syllabic form of teaching Piobaireachd. Cantaireachd is the Gaelic name for the chanting of Bagpipe music. This is an exacting method of learning Piobaireachd. The Syllables and Sounds produced to chant the tune have been established after long research by great pipers of today and yesteryear. It allows the student of Piobaireachd to easier memorize and properly shade the music as it is being learned.

Price \$7.50.

FROM THE LIBRARY FILES OF THE SPOKANE PIOBAIREACHD SOCIETY,
HISTORIC, BIOGRAPHIC and LEGENDARY NOTES TO THE TUNES by "FIONN"

THE BATTLE OF AULDEARN
Latha Allt Eire

The martial music of the Grahams seems to be chiefly associated with the great Montrose and Claverhouse. The Gathering of the Clans is called "Latha Allt Eire," commemorative of the battle fought at Auldearn, near Nairn, between Montrose and the Covenanters under Sir John Hurry, when the latter was defeated. This occurred in 1645.

Next Issue will have a piece of interesting History.
Trial of Piper James Reid.

* * * * * C O M I N G A T T R A C T I O N * * * * *

Friday September 30, 1977

FALL WHITE HEATHER SHOW

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SO BE SURE AND GET YOUR TICKETS

E A R L Y

AND AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

PROMOTIONS FOR PIPING SEASON 1977 - 1978

Commencing with the B. C. Pipers' Mini Gatherings to the end of the competition season for 1978.

Points compiled from the following Games:

Vancouver Ladies Festival; B.C. Pipers Annual Gathering; Victoria Highland Games; Bellingham Highland Games; New Westminster Highland Games; B.C. Highland Dancing Assoc. Highland Games; Nanaimo Highland Games; Portland Highland Games; Seattle Highland Games.

Novice Pipers With 10 Points or over must move into Juvenile Class:

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Brenda Lowden | Wesley Eaton | Darlene Miharija |
| Andrew Bonar | Glenn Campbell | Colleen Graham |
| Daniel McIntyre | Glen Johnson | |

Juvenile Pipers with 20 Points or over must move into Junior Class:

| | | |
|---------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Kim Smith | Maureen Lee | Pauline Alakija |
| Moira Waddell | Sharon MacKinnon | |

Junior Pipers with 20 Points or over must move into Amateur Class:

| | | |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|
| Peter Aumonier | Terri Smith | Owen Reid |
| Jack Eckersley | David Winter | Jim Johnson |

It is to be hoped that we get a good support from pipers & teachers for the coming season. We are on the upswing with these competitors, and with the Association bringing in new young faces in the Judging, it should give the youngsters a chance to hear new Ideas and styles from these young Professional pipers who are Judging.

A. Young

Edit.

FORMAT FOR 1977 - 1978 SEASON

| | NOVICE | JUVENILE | JUNIOR | AMATEUR |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Oct. 8/77 | Slow Air | 2/4 March | Jig | M . S & Reel |
| Nov. 5/77 | 6/8 March | Strath & Reel | Piob. | O.H. Air & Hornpipe |
| Jan. 7/78 | Strath & Reel 2 Parts Each | Jigs | M.S. & Reel | Piob. |
| Feb. 4/78 Wind up & Prizes | 2/4 March | 6/8 March | Hornpipe | 6/8 March & Jig |

PLEASE ENTER ME IN MINI GATHERINGS

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ CLASS _____

The first monthly meeting of the season will be held Friday, October 7, 1977 in the Scottish Auditorium 12th & Fir, Vancouver, at 8:00 p.m.

For the knock-out competition this year we are returning to professional solo-competition which will be a 10-12 minute medley, and we would like to see all our professional pipers entered. The format will be as before, a knock-out competition with the finals to be held at the Annual Dinner. First prize \$200, 2nd prize \$100. Pipers wishing to compete either write or phone the secretary no later than September 12, 1977 so that the draw can be made. The monthly meeting will be held on the first Friday of every month and the usual social evening will follow the competition, with an invitational trio competition held each month. The prize for this invitational competition will be \$60.00 each month to the winner.

We extend a warm invitation to all members to attend our monthly meetings for an evening of good piping and a fine social evening.

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TRIUMPH ST. PIPE BAND

Triumph St. Pipe Band has just returned from the East Coast where they made a few of the well established bands from Scotland sit up and take notice, taking a fourth Place in the Intercontinental Championship, they also took 1st. in Canadian Bands. Triumph St. has been playing well all summer around the Local Games so it is gratifying to see them proving it out in the East.

Also on a winning note

Just a brief note to pass on some news about the Richmond Junior Pipe Band currently competing in Scotland.

| | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 4th in Grade 3 at Cowal | 4th in Grade 3 at Aberdeen |
| 2nd in Grade 3 at Edinbugh | . (World Championships) |
| 1st in Grade 3 at Rothesay, asked to move up to Grade 2 and took | |
| 1st in Grade 2 at Rothesay | |

I will have full details in next issue. We should all be justly Proud of the Richmond Band for this remarkable performance carrying so many young players. Also full credit must go to the Organizers and teachers of this fine young band.

"Angry Scenes at Seattle Games"

Maybe it is because we have been watching so much slapstick comedy on T.V. Anyway someone decided to join in with a shot of the old pie in the face bit. Just as Northwestern Pipe Band played off after finishing their medley a Boston Cream pie was seen hurtling out of the crowd striking a well known drummer on the head. A reliable witness stated that the miscreant was last seen fleeing the scene licking his fingers.

We can only hope that this is not the start of a new craze, "remember the streakers" oh well who said that the games were becoming dull.

Edit.

Mr. Jim Elder,
Baden. Senior School,
CFPO - 5056
Bellville,
Ontario K0K 3R0

