



B.C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER

Published by the British Columbia Pipers' Association.

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B.C. Pipers' Newsletter

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The B.C. Pipers' Newsletter is published monthly at 1073 Doran Road, North Vancouver, B.C. by the British Columbia Pipers' Association and is distributed to all members. Address all communications concerning the Newsletter to the above address. All other communications to the Secretary, B.C. Pipers' Association, 834 Burnaby Street, New Westminster, B.C.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

1738 Lee Avenue
Victoria, B.C.
November 29, 1970

B.C. Pipers' Association
1073 Doran Road
North Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Sir:

I was very disappointed to read in the November issue of the Newsletter, that the Professional Piobaireachd lists are to be discontinued for this year. In my opinion, the removal of the lists is a great leap backwards as far as professionalism is concerned.

I do not play in the professional contest yet and see no reason why I should if this policy continues. To remove the lists, removes the professionalism of the contest. In effect it is reduced to one of amateur standards; thus defeating its purpose as the highest order of competition.

If the Directors feel that the lists discourage the "professional" piper from competing because of the time it takes to learn several new piobaireachds each year, I respectfully submit that the piper should not be classified as a "professional".

If the Board has related last years discouraging number of professional players to the standards imposed and as a result has come up with the present policy, I suggest that they have misinterpreted. The divisions in piping are subject to cyclical fluctuations as is almost anything. Large surpluses of players exist in the amateur and under classes and recent evidence suggests that numbers of players in the professional classification has just started to increase, (before the Board's decision). This is largely due to amateurs moving up.

I'm sure that in the next few years we'll see the professional contest increase in numbers primarily because of amateurs moving up and NOT because the restrictions on Professional Piobaireachd have been relaxed.

If the Board is going to base their decision on this matter simply by comparing numbers, the lists will be lost and the opportunity cost will be great. The cost will be in terms of talented players forgone.

Sincerely,

Byron Barnard

NEW EVENTS IN THE V.L.P.B. FESTIVAL

The Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band annual Festival will be held February 26 and 27, 1971 at St. John's (Shaughnessy) Church. In the past this festival has primarily been a dancing oriented event with less emphasis placed on many aspects of piping and drumming. This year, as previously, we still wish to encourage dancing, but we are intending to include added events for pipers and drummers. These events are listed below and will appear on the program, however they will be deleted if there are insufficient competitors.

PIPING:

Quartets: Class "C" and "B" playing March, Strathspey and Reel. Class "D" playing March.

Professional Piping: Five minute time limit.

DRUMMING:

Novice: Playing a March, Amateur, Senior Amateur and Professional playing March, Strathspey and Reel.

Drum Corps: Class "C" and "B" playing March, Strathspey and Reel. Class "D" playing March.

For entry forms and further information contact:

Mrs. Burgess - 4467 West 16th Avenue
Telephone - 224-4921

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THE V.L.P.B. BURNS SUPPER

The Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band 20th Annual Burns Supper will be held January 16th at the Gizeh Shrine Temple, 3550 Wayburne, Burnaby. The Temple is located four blocks east of Willingdon, on Canada Way, then turn south at Wayburne. There will be a cocktail hour from 5:30 - 6:30 and dinner will be served at 6:30. There will be bar service available. Tickets - \$5.00 per person.

For tickets and further information contact Mrs. Taylor at 433-2074 or Mr. Purdy at 277-3897.

TARTAN BALL

The New Westminster Highland Games annual Tartan Ball will be held Friday, February 26th, 1971 at the Gizeh Temple in Burnaby.

Andy Arnots Band - Bar Opens 8 P.M. (5 for \$2.00)

Grand March 9 P.M. - Dancing until 1 A.M. - Dress Optional

Form a party and book a table.

Tickets from Donald Ross - 526-7905 or Bill Lyons - 526-8161

BANFF HIGHLAND GATHERING AND WORKSHOP

A major piping, drumming and dancing competition and gathering is being planned for the Easter holiday weekend. All indications are that it will be one of the largest events of its kind in Canada or the U. S. Medals, trophies and cash awards will be most attractive and a full range of classes is planned for the competition running from a chanter competition to Professional Piobaireachd, traditional drumming, mini bands and major dancing championships and regular classes.

One of the most attractive features is the adjudicators and instructors already named. Pipe Major Donald MacLeod will be coming from Scotland to direct the Piping. He really requires no introduction but noteworthy is the fact that he has won all premier piping awards including eight clasps (shares the record) to the Gold Medal for Piobaireachd at the Northern Meetings, Inverness - in 1970 he judged the event.

The drumming instructor and adjudicator will be Mr. George Pryde from Powell River and neither does he require introduction being one of the recognized outstanding drummers in Canada and the U. S., Scotland too! Dancing will be adjudicated by J. L. McKenzie, Elspeth Strathern, Christine Robertson to name only those coming directly from Scotland. There will be other guests in the dancing and probably more in piping and drumming yet to be named.

The Piping and Drumming Directors will perform at the Honour Performance as well as adjudicate and instruct both class and private lessons at the workshop.

There will be no age or experience level required - everyone is very welcome and we feel certain all will derive great benefit from their experience at Banff.

The social activities of a gathering have not been forgotten and lots of entertainment - from dances and parties to skiing and swimming - is being planned. Spectators are also welcome and we hope many of your members will join us in making Banff a memorable event.

Full details will be available very shortly. Accommodation will be somewhat limited so early registration is recommended. As further information is received I will keep you informed.

DATES: APRIL 10, 11, 12 & 13th
PLACE: BANFF SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS
BANFF, ALBERTA

For further information please contact: Mrs. Heather Jolley
936-8548

THE BRATACH NAM BEANN

(The Banner of the Mountains)

The following information regarding the competition for the Spokane Piobaireachd Society Banner may be of interest to a number of readers:

The set tunes for 1971 are:

- Scarce of Fishing
- The Vaunting
- The Lament for the Earl of Antrim

It has been suggested by some members of the Society's advisory board that a modification in procedure might attract more competitors. Therefore, the following program is announced:

If the competitor will notify us of his or her intention to compete at any time after June 1, 1971, we will, by return mail, designate the tune (from the above list) that he or she will be asked to play on the evening of the competition.

It is believed that this procedure will in no way lessen the individual's responsibility to have the set tunes thoroughly memorized. However, it will give all concerned a fair opportunity to polish his or her "tune of the evening".

May we remind the competitors that it is incumbent upon the banner winner to accept an economy air flight from his or her home to Prestwick and return to his or her home in the United States or Canada. The acceptance is for the purpose of representing the Spokane Piobaireachd Society in the Highland Society's Gold Medal Competition in Oban. The Banner Competition is open to any one living in any country who has not already won this most coveted Gold Medal at the Argyleshire Gathering.

Depending on the number of competitors for the banner, it is planned to hold a 6/8 March competition before or after the Piobaireachd competition.

It is the Spokane Piobaireachd Society policy that competitors will never be charged an entry fee of any kind. The costs inherent in holding such a competition will never fall on the shoulders of the competitors, but instead, will be borne by others. We must never forget that these dedicated competitors spend hour after hour of their own time in memorizing and polishing these immortal classics for our pleasure as well as their own. This delightful musical legacy, handed down to us by the MacCrimmons, MacArthurs, MacIntyres, Bruces, MacPhersons, and, may I submit, the Wilsons, does nothing but enrich all our lives. It is our privilege and responsibility to preserve this unique musical culture in every way.

It is pointed out that the Bratach Nam Beann competition is open to non-members as well as to members of the Spokane Piobaireachd Society. Mr. Seumas MacNeill has been invited to adjudicate the banner competition and Dr. John MacAskill, who has been invited, will adjudicate the 6/8 marches, time permitting.

John McEwing

WESTERN PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION

The Western Pipe Band Association held its annual general meeting last November 21st in the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 179 Annex. Slight amendments were made to the constitution and a new executive was elected. The new association officers are: President - P.M. Ian MacDougall, 1st Vice-President - Garnet Snow, 2nd Vice-President - P.M. Jimmy Lang, Secretary - Bob Milne, Assistant Secretary - Bruce McRae and Treasurer - P.M. Tom Binnie.

The meeting was followed that same night by a dinner and dance at the Lions Gate Legion Hall. The guest speaker was Mr. Lamont, President of the B.C. Pipers' Association who gave a well received talk on co-operation between the two organizations. The dance followed and although the crowd was quite small, enthusiasm and high spirits made it a most enjoyable evening.

Very shortly the Association will be issuing a small booklet laying out the rules and regulations we have adopted concerning pipe bands and individual drumming. We hope that this will clarify some areas that have been a bit ill-defined for some years.

Finally, the Western Pipe Band Association is planning another very full year and is hopeful that its efforts will encourage all aspects of pipe band work.

WILLIAMS LAKE HIGHLAND GAMES

The first annual Williams Lake Highland Games will be held August 14, 1971. Keen interest is developing in the Williams Lake Area and representation from the Lower Mainland is encouraged.

Remember the date: August 14, 1971

For more information write Mrs. Peggy Chambers
Box 1947
Williams Lake, B.C.

The Association was saddened to hear of the passing of James McGillivray Thomson on December 7, 1970, at the age of 79 years.

Mr. Thomson has been a member of the B.C. Pipers' Association for many years, as well as many other scottish associations.

The Association extends its deepest sympathy to the Thomson family.

THE PIPER OF THE MONTH

James Lang, Pipe Major of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, is our Piper of the Month. Pipe Major Lang was born in Glasgow, and was educated in Dunbartonshire, Scotland. Jimmy was always interested in piping and at the age of 12 he was an enthusiastic pupil of Pipe Major George Shearer. At 17 the Lang family emigrated to Canada and settled in Winnipeg. Shortly after his arrival he joined the Queens Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada (Cadet Battalion). In 1954 he joined the Senior Battalion (Militia) under Pipe Major A. H. Graham and served with the Cameron's until 1961. During this time Jim was competing professionally.

Jim was a member of the Manitoba Pipers Association for eight years and held most offices. He was one of the founders of the Tartan Ball in Winnipeg which is still a social highlight of the year. Jim was kept busy as the chief piper for the Manitoba Highland Dancing Association for five years as well as being the piper for the Winnipeg Gaelic Society.

1961 saw the Pipe Major move to the Pacific Coast and join the Royal Canadian Engineers Pipe Band as Sergeant Piper, and in 1962 playing under P.M. Ron Foreman the band won the "B" Class in the Pacific International competitions. In 1963 the band was disbanded and shortly thereafter he transferred to the Seaforth Highlanders. In 1965 James was elevated to Sergeant and in 1966 he was promoted to Staff Sergeant Piper. On the retirement of P.M. A.J. Duncan in 1968 James Lang was appointed Pipe Major and he became the fourth Pipe Major in the history of the Regiment.

In 1967 he was Pipe Major on tour of a mini-tattoo which toured such B.C. towns as Nelson, Kimberley and Trail. The band plays twice a year at the United States Marine Dinner in Seattle and San Francisco. One of the highlights of Pipe Major Lang's piping life was playing for the Colonel-in-Chief, Prince Phillip, when he visited Vancouver in November, 1969.

The formation of the Western Pipe Band Association in 1969 was of keen interest to Pipe Major Lang. Being the pipe major of Vancouver's most traditional band, it seemed only fitting that he take an active interest in the administration of the newly formed Association. His present position, after the recent elections, is 2nd vice president and a member of their advisory board. Jimmy is most enthusiastic and looks forward to an active future in the Association.

Pipe Major Lang feels that the band has embarked on a new program and hopes the Seaforths will be strong competition next year. We look forward to this and wish Pipe Major Lang much success in 1971.

KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION RESULTS

The second of our first round competitions in the Knock-out series for professional pipers was held on December 4, 1970. Once again more than 100 spectators managed to squeeze into the Steelhall on Broadway to enjoy the entertainment.

Unfortunately the first competition between Ruairidh Macdonald and Jamie Troy did not materialize. Jamie had been ill and was not able to compete. Ruairidh, however, showed some of the skill which won him the knock-out competition last year and gave an enjoyable performance.

The second competition for the evening was between Albert Duncan and Bruce Topp. Albert played first. Bruce followed with one of the most entertaining performances presented this year. The judges unanimously awarded Bruce the win. Bruce and Ruairidh will compete against each other on the 5th of March.

The next knock-out competition will see Harold Senyk compete with David Wilson and Bill Russell with Bill Elder. This will be the Annual General Meeting of the Association and we would like to encourage as many of our Active Members as possible to attend. Remember, every Active Member has a vote and it is in the best interest of the Association if everyone exercises his right to vote.

DATE: JANUARY 8th, 1971

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

PLACE: STEELWORKERS HALL
33 East Broadway

ANNUAL GATHERING JUDGE

Many of our active pipers will know P.M. Archie Cairns. Archie resided in Victoria for about two years before being transferred to Ottawa with the Air Force. Before leaving for Eastern Canada P.M. Cairns judged at many of our local games and has established himself as a highly respected piping authority.

The B.C. Pipers' Association has been fortunate to acquire the services of P.M. Cairns for this years Annual Gathering. During his week in Vancouver he plans to give two recitals as well as judge at our major event of the year. Archie's friends and acquaintances will be looking forward to his brief stay in Vancouver.

December 7, 1970

B.C. Pipers' Association
1073 Doran Road
North Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Sir:

Just a quick line to inform you that my Assistant and I have tendered our resignations as Directors of the University of Iowa Girls Band. After making a real honest attempt to turn the group into a respectable pipe band, it has become evident the University simply wants a "show" unit.

Playing tunes like "Yellow Submarine", "The Iowa Corn Song", and "Brahms Lullaby" is just a little more than my dedication to the Piob Mor could stand. The pressures of a college classroom make it impossible to run a voluntary band requiring the intense practice schedule these coeds need. The girls work extremely hard but receive no academic credit for their efforts.

I would be more than happy to correspond with any member of the piping society who might be considering occupying these positions.

My address is: F.J. Whyte
710 20th Avenue, # 5
Coralville, Iowa
52240

Yours Aye,

Fred Whyte.

ANNUAL DINNER

The month of the Annual Dinner is to be changed from the usual February. This year it has been decided to coincide the Dinner with the final Knock-Out Competition event. This will be in June and we will publish the exact date in a later issue.

GENERAL MEETING

Remember the date of the Annual General Meeting

January 8, 1971

Please note the time - 7:30 P.M.

SUBSCRIPTIONS A THING OF THE PAST

Earlier this year the policy was made to discontinue subscriptions to the Newsletter. Anyone wanting our publication must be a member of the B.C. Pipers' Association.

Since August we have been sending copies to many having expired subscriptions but this comes to an end as of this issue.

We are including a membership application for those of our subscribers who wish to continue receiving the Newsletter. Remember, you need not be a piper to be a member of our Association.

Please be sure to indicate whether you are applying for active or associate membership.

Active Member - must be a piper
- has voting powers

Associate Member - need not be a piper
- has no voting powers.

A proposer and a seconder, who are presently members of the B.C. Pipers' Association, must sign your application.

Please include \$5.00 for membership fees (\$2.00 for Old Age Pensioners) plus a \$1.00 initiation fee, total \$6.00 with your application.

No..... THE BRITISH COLUMBIA PIPERS' ASSOCIATION

Application for Membership.....
Active or Associate

Name of Applicant.....
Address of Applicant.....

Name of Proposer.....
Name of Seconder.....

I hereby make application for membership in the British Columbia Pipers' Association, and deposit the sum of \$....., and if I am elected to membership, agree to be bound by and abide by all the rules, by-laws and regulations of the Association.

Date.....

Signature of Applicant.....

Occupation.....

THE NORTHERN MEETING

Inverness, 1970

Gold Medal Piobaireachd - 1, Andrew Wright, Paisley; 2, James McIntosh, Dundee; 3, Finlay MacNeill, Inverness; 4, Cpl. J. Banks, Scots Guards; 5, John Matheson, Bathgate.

March - 1, Ian MacLellan, Bearsden; 2, Cpl. Iain M. Morrison, Edinburgh; 3, John Wilson, Campbeltown; 4, Arthur Gillies, Kilchrenan.

March, Strathspey and Reel - 1, Iain MacLeod, Edinburgh; 2, Cpl. Iain Morrison; 3, Lawrie Gillespie, Edinburgh.

Piobaireachd - Gold Clasp - 1, Donald Macpherson, Exmouth; 2, Hugh A. MacCallum, Bridge of Allan; 3, Iain MacFadyen; 4, John MacFadyen.

Strathspeys and Reels - 1, John N. MacAskill, Lairg; 2, A. Anderson, Edinburgh; 3, Duncan D. McDiarmid, Aberfeldy; 4, Ian MacLellan, Bearsden.

Jigs - 1, William Morrison, South Uist; 2, John MacAskill; 3, Ian MacLellan.

Junior March, Strathspey and Reel (Under 18) - 1, Alex. Mackenzie, Invergordon; 2, Gary Lumsden, Elgin; 3, Lewis Murdoch, Kingussie; 4, George MacKay, Huntly.

Junior March (Under 15) - 1, Kenneth MacLennan, Conon Bridge; 2, Roger Sharp, Laggan; 3, Graham Brown, Aberdeen; 4, Roderick S. Macdonald, Inverness.

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December, 1970

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

The two "wise men" of the Newsletter have just stumbled off their Camels after an exhausting literary year. Although most disappointed in not winning any literary awards the best we can do is wish the membership a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Bob and Linda
Bill and Sharyn

"One more year"

