



H A P P Y

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DECEMBER, 1974
JANUARY, 1975

NO. 142



B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER

Published by the British Columbia Pipers' Association.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

I would like to say a big "Thank You" to three members of the City of Victoria Pipe Band - Jamie Troy, Steve Geddes, and David McNicol - for coming all the way up to Penticton for a Piping and Drumming Seminar held by the local Pipe Band on November 16, 1974. They all did a great job at the Seminar and then gave us a wonderful recital in the evening.

The Seminar has had the desired effect here in Penticton. Enthusiasm is high and everyone here is working hard to improve their piping and drumming. We are all still talking about the expert playing we heard that night - a real treat to us up here in the Okanagan - and all our younger members are waiting for the next seminar. However, I think we will wait until weather conditions are a little more stable; say in the spring.

Thanks for a good job done boys!

Nigel Alakija.

LAST MONTH IN AND AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

Knock-Out and General Meeting

The General Meeting for December was held in the Scottish Auditorium on December 6, 1974. After the business of the previous month had been dealt with we proceeded with the Trio Competitions.

The first competition was between Triumph Street #2 and Port Moody #2. Both trios treated the audience to most creditable performances. However, Port Moody edged out the Triumph Street Trio on a majority vote from the judges - Jimmy McMillan, Ed Esson, and Bob Young.

The second competition produced a very high standard of playing from such young competitors. The Richmond Senior #2 ousted their younger counterparts, Richmond Juniors, on a unanimous decision from the judges.

An enjoyable evening was rounded off with impromptu piping and singing supplied by Nancy Darling, Ian Whitelaw, Allan MacLeod, Hal Senyk, Graham Davidson. The Vancouver City Police pipers were also among the evening's participants.

We were happy to see Nigel Alakija from Penticton. Nigel, as well as being very active in the Okanagan piping scene, was also an instructor at Glentrium School of Piping in Nelson.

Triumph Street Contest

The 3rd Annual Triumph Street Band Contest took place on December 7th at St. Francis de Sales School in Burnaby. As has been the case at the previous meetings, it was again a very enjoyable afternoon of piping and drumming.

In the Senior Band Competition, the Triumph Street Shield was awarded to its donators for the first time, with the City of Victoria coming second. In the Junior event, Richmond Senior carried off the honours out of a field of four.

The big surprise of the day was in the Senior Drumming events. Out of an entry of eight in the professional competition, seven competed. This feat must break all records in recent history. The Senior Amateur event also had an unusually high entry. Drumming judge, Doug McConnell from Nanaimo, had his hands full but managed to single out Jack Gallaher in the Professional and Laurie McKendrick in the Senior Amateur as the eventual winners.

The heavy contingent from Portland was noticeable in the stands and on the platform and was much appreciated by the organizers. As well as acquitting themselves very well in the individual drumming events, the Portland Greys carried off the Open Drum Corps and Open Tenor Drumming trophies.

As usual, the afternoon's proceedings were topped off with a lively ceilidh.

Our thanks go to the judges, Jimmy McMillan, Byron Barnard, Bruce Topp, and Doug McConnell, and to Donald Ross, Head Steward and Department Judge.

A special vote of thanks to scorer Gordon Taylor, secretary Janice Taylor, to Alan Skalazub for his stint at announcer, and to all those who contributed to the success of the 3rd Annual Triumph Street Band Contest.

RESULTS

<u>Senior Bands</u>	1. Triumph Street 2. City of Victoria 3. Port Moody	(3 entries)
<u>Junior Bands</u>	1. Richmond Senior 2. Portland Ladies 3. Portland Greys	(4 entries)
<u>Senior Trios</u>	1. Triumph Street 2. City of Victoria	(2 entries)
<u>Junior Trios</u>	1. Richmond Senior #2 2. Richmond Senior #1 3. Portland Ladies	(6 entries)
<u>Open Drum Section</u>	1. Portland Greys 2. City of Victoria	(2 entries)
<u>Novice Drumming</u>	1. K. Cranswick 2. M. Withycombe 3. B. Bergin	(3 entries)
<u>Junior Amateur Drumming</u>	1. A. Arbuthnot 2. T. Mitchell	(3 entries)
<u>Senior Amateur Drumming</u>	1. L. McKendrick 2. B. McKendrick 3. S. Robertson 4. D. McKillop	(6 entries)
<u>Professional Drumming</u>	1. Jack Gallaher 2. Willie McErlean 3. Katie Forsyth Dave McNicoll 4. Colin McGee Murray Munroe	(7 entries)
<u>Dress & Deportment</u>	Port Moody	
<u>Bass Drumming</u>	City of Victoria	
<u>Tenor Drumming</u>	Portland Greys	

NEXT MONTH

Trio Knock-Out

The next Knock-Out will take place on Friday, January 17th at 8:00 p.m. in the Scottish Auditorium.

The trios present should produce a very interesting evening of competition. If the two Richmond Pipe Band groups can supply the fine performances their fellow band members entertained us with last month, we may be in for a surprise decision.

The Grade I Pipe Bands will be represented by the City of Victoria #2. This month's "unknown commodity" are the Jacobites from Richmond which will include the Association Vice-President Jimmy MacDonald.

A great deal of practice and effort is required from all competing Trios so we hope all members will be present to enjoy the selections as well as supporting your Association.

Indoor Meet

The 43rd Annual Gathering of the B.C. Pipers' Association will be held in the North Vancouver Recreation Centre, 23rd and Lonsdale, on March 28th and 29th, 1975.

The Chief Adjudicator at this year's meet will be Angus MacLellan, Pipe-Sergeant, Glasgow City Police.

The only major change involves the "old fellas". There is a new event for pipers over 50, in addition to the over 65 event. The former requires the playing of a 2/4 March while the latter is a tune of the player's choice. (Competitors in the Over 50 event will be required to supply a birth certificate and have their mother's signature). Seriously though, a large turn-out is expected in both events.

As was the case last year, the aggregate winners in the Professional and Senior Amateur classes will gain the right to represent British Columbia at the Interprovincials in Ottawa this summer. Obviously, only B.C. residents are eligible.

Following last year's highly successful format, an impromptu ceilidh will "happen" after the conclusion of Saturday evening's events.

The closing date for entries is March 15 and trophy holders are reminded that trophies must be in the hands of the Association by February 15. The trophies may be returned at the Knock-Out, the Mini Gathering, or by contacting Donald Ross at 526-7905.

Entry form/Rules on back page.

Recital

There will be a recital given by Angus MacLellan on April 2, 1975 at the Scottish Auditorium, 12th & Fir. Angus, an Oban Gold Medallist and Pipe Sergeant of the Glasgow Police, was also an instructor at the Thousand Islands Piping School. He also enjoys the distinction of playing on his right shoulder. It promises to be an entertaining evening of piobaireachd and light music.

Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Bar service available.

Annual Dinner

The Annual Dinner of the Association is planned for May 31, 1975 at St. Francis de Sales, Sperling and Balmoral, Burnaby. Tickets are \$8.00.

For further information, please phone Donald Ross, 526-7905.

Mini-Gatherings

The second and final competition in our Mini-Gathering experiment is scheduled to take place Saturday, February 1st at 9:00 a.m. sharp! Entries are now closed for this event but competitors who are entered are reminded of the order of play rule - those not ready to play will be disqualified. The Novice class will play a two-part Strathspey and Reel; Juvenile - a Jig, 6/8 March; Junior - Hornpipe, March, Strathspey and Reel; and Amateur - Piobaireachd, Jig.

The spectator turnout was rather disappointing at the last competition, so mark February 1 on your calendar and support the backbone of your Association. As it is a relatively new concept, the Association would welcome your comments and ideas on the format of the Mini-Gathering. The Newsletter is a vehicle for such suggestions. Please use it.

Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band Festival

The Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band Festival is to be held on February 28 and March 1 at St. John's (Shaughnessy) Church, 1490 Nanton Avenue in Vancouver.

Dancing entry forms may be obtained from Mrs. Williams, 936-7189, and piping and drumming entry forms from Mrs. MacLean, 298-3417.

There will be a ceilidh on Saturday, March 1 at the Grandview Masonic Temple, 1795 East 1st (at Salisbury) from 9:00 to 1:00. Tickets may be obtained at the door or from any member of the Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the B.C. Pipers' will be held on February 7, 1975 at the Scottish Auditorium. Included in the agenda will be reports from the Trustees, Treasurer and President. The election of officers for 1975 will follow the summaries of 1974.

At the conclusion of the business, the second round of the 1974/75 Knock-Outs will commence with the Seaforths taking on the Vancouver Police, and Port Moody #1 tangling with City of Victoria #1.

Tartan Ball

The New Westminster Highland Games are holding their annual Tartan Ball on Saturday, March 1, 1975, at the Gizeh Temple. Tickets are \$4.50 and can be obtained from Donald Ross, 526-7905.

The Mod at Dundee

The winners of the Open March, Strathspey and Reel Contest were:

1. Iain MacLeod
2. Arthur Gillies
3. Hugh A. MacCallum
4. Iain MacFadyen
5. John D. Burgess

BANDSTAND

Bands in Eastern Canada

For those of you who haven't had the pleasure of attending the games in Ontario, here is a brief outline of the major bands and Games in Eastern Canada. In North America, Ontario is considered the Mecca of piping (by the Ontario caucus) because of the many successful ventures by the bands in Scotland, Canada and U.S.A.

This past season was very enjoyable and highly competitive in all grades of bands and solo contests. There are, on the average, eight first grade bands competing all year; the Clan MacFarlane from St. Catherines, Waterloo Police Pipe Band from Waterloo, the "fabulous" 48th Highlanders from Toronto, the Caber Feidh (or the City of Toronto), General Motors of Oshawa, the St. Thomas Police, the Guelph Pipe Band, and finally the Erskine Pipe Band from Hamilton, Ontario.

The latter is the latest addition to the class as they were the winners of the Grade 2 Championship Supreme Aggregate Trophy which is presented annually at Fergus, Ontario. They travelled to Scotland on a two week "road trip" and were very successful (much like the new edition of the Vancouver Canucks), collecting 3rd at Cowal, 3rd at Rothesay, 6th at the World Championship, and 1st in Meadowbank - an impressive record for a four-year old band.

Of course, the main attraction is the first grade contest but good, strong performances often occur in the second grade event. Erskine plays the newly formed Warnock chanters from Ireland and usually achieve an excellent sound. Their rivals are a band from Windsor called the Scottish Society of Windsor Pipe Band, who were very successful in the games in which they played. They won at Maxville, Brockville and Dutton - July 27th, 28th, and 29th for a clean sweep of the North American and Canadian Championships. They have a big band and always get an excellent, clear sound from the new Hardie chanters.

The "cream of the crop" presently is the Clan MacFarlane who lost but once all summer. They won the North American Championships at Maxville, which incidentally is the largest on the continent, often reaching 90,000 spectators.

Another fine band is the St. Thomas Police, headed by Pipe Major Gordon Tuck, who achieve a fine sound on very well set chanters. In 1971, they travelled in Scotland with the Edinburgh Police and placed first in Rothesay.

The band with a highly respected drum corps is the Waterloo Police Association. Dave Constant, a winning soloist, heads their most musical drum section. The band was previously called the Highland Fusiliers from Galt and they won the shield at the games in Cowal in Grade 2 under the direction of the band founder, Alex Robertson. He retired gracefully at the end of the band's best season (maybe Eagle Keyes will do the same)!

There are a great number of bands in the East, many of them non-competing, but those who do compete enjoy a high standard of playing and leadership (as well as the support of large crowds). There have been few opportunities in the past for Western bands to compete against their Eastern counterparts, but games such as Ottawa now show that Western bands are indeed capable of figuring well in the prize lists. Hopefully, more such competition will occur in the future for both the East and the West, when they do chance to meet, stand to learn much from each other.

Ian Whitelaw.

(I have recently moved from Toronto to Vancouver and am presently playing with the Triumph Street Band. Just so you know who I am.)

Band Chatter

Any bands wishing to run the kitchen at the Annual Gathering are asked to contact Donald Ross at 526-7905.

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The staff of the Newsletter offer their congratulations on behalf of the Association to Donald and Raffaella McMillan on their wedding of January 11. Don and Rae are escaping this weather by honeymooning in Mexico.

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Congratulations to P/M and Mrs. McAffer on the birth of their son, Archibald Ian, an 8 lb. 2 oz. future piper.

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Belated congratulations to Margaret Swanson and Sandy Reid on their recent weddings. We wish you all the best in the future.

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We wish to welcome David Furumoto, a new member of the Association. David resides in Honolulu, Hawaii.

We wish to offer our congratulations to Jamie Troy and Louise Watling on their recent engagement.

McHardy's Close-Out Sale

From now until the end of February, all stock at the premises of J.T. McHardy will be sold at cost. Unfortunately, Johnny has been unable to find a buyer to take over the business and after setting a retirement date, he must sell off existing stock. Although he has no pipes or chanters, there is still a fair supply of music.

ENTRY FORM

B.C. PIPERS' 43rd ANNUAL GATHERING

MARCH 28, 29, 1975

- | | |
|----------|--|
| Event #1 | Junior Piobaireachd |
| 2 | Junior Marches |
| 3 | Junior Strathspey & Reel |
| 4 | Novice Marches |
| 5 | Juvenile Marches |
| 6 | Juvenile Strathspey & Reel |
| 7 | Junior Quartettes - 5 to 7 min. medley |
| 8 | Junior Mini Bands - 5 to 7 min. medley |
| 9 | Amateur Piobaireachd |
| 10 | Amateur Marches |
| 11 | Amateur Strathspey & Reel |
| 12 | Professional Piobaireachd |
| 13 | Professional March, Strathspey & Reel |
| 14 | Professional Jigs |
| 15 | Pipers Over 65 - Tune of own choice |
| 16 | Pipers Over 50 - 2/4 March - Restricted - Not entered in any other competition |
| 17 | Senior Quartettes - 5 to 7 min. medley |
| 18 | Senior Mini Bands - March, Strathspey & Reel |

PRIZES

Event # 8 and #17	1st - \$50	2nd - \$30
" #12	1st - \$ 60	2nd - \$40
" #13	1st - \$ 45	2nd - \$30
" #14	1st - \$ 30	2nd - \$20
" #18	1st - \$100	2nd - \$75

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B. C. PIPERS' 43rd ANNUAL GATHERING

All novice, juvenile and junior events, also short leet for amateur piobaireachd, will be played on Friday, March 28/75.

Rules:

Individual and Quartette competitions:

Pipers not ready to play when called are LIABLE TO BE DISQUALIFIED.

A piper will be allowed to play in one quartette only.

Junior Bands will consist of Pipers & Drummers, 18 years of age and under on January 1st of the current competition year.

Miniature Bands - 6 pipers; 2 sides; 1 bass drummer; and 1 tenor drummer.

Bands will be penalized one twelfth (1/12) of total points for each player less than the required number.

Each member must be a bona-fide member of this band for at least 14 days prior to competition.

A piper or drummer will be allowed to play in one band only.

Any band not ready to play five (5) minutes after completion of previous band will be deducted five (5) points.

There will be no entry fee. Last to enter will be first to play. Order of play will be posted.

ENTRY FORM

Name.....

Address.....

Phone No.....

Event #'s.....

Tartan.....

Entries must be in the hands of the Secretary, Mrs. R. Swanson, 8363 Shaughnessy Street, Vancouver V6P 3Y1, by March 15, 1975.

