

B . C . P I P E R S '

N E W S L E T T E R

The official monthly publication of
the British Columbia Pipers' Association

February, 1975

No. 143

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER

Published by the British Columbia Pipers' Association.

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VICE-PRESIDENT	Alex Young
SECRETARY	Richard Herring
TREASURER	William Lockie
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LAST MONTH IN AND AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

Knock-Out Competition

The first Knock-out of the New Year was held on January 17 at the Scottish Auditorium.

The Jacobites, described in the last issue as the "unknown quantity", supplied the big surprise of the evening. Led by Jimmy Lang, ex-Pipe Major of the Seaforths, the Jacobites defeated Richmond Senior #1.

Unfortunately, Victoria had no competition in the second event as illness decimated the ranks of Richmond #3. However, the playing of the Victoria threesome compensated for earlier disappointment.

The winners of the evening's contests earned the right to advance to the second round and will play against each other in the March meeting.

As usual, impromptu piping and even piano playing was the order of the evening.

Mini-Gathering

The second and final Mini-Gathering of the season was held on February 1, 1975 at the Scottish Auditorium. Unfortunately, the day's proceedings were patterned after the first contest. The turn-out of both competitors and spectators was, to put it mildly, very disappointing. For example, only four novices qualified for perfect attendance pins.

The days when 40 pipers entered the novice class at the bi-monthly competitions aren't too far behind us. What is the problem? Maybe there has been a decline in the emergence of new players. Perhaps so, but from 40 to 4?

The Directors of the Association recognize that the Mini-Gathering represents a major change in the traditional bi-monthly format and realize that problems have and will, undoubtedly, arise. However, without feedback from the membership, the Directors can only experiment and hope that their efforts will be successful.

If you have any ideas that you think will improve the Mini-Gatherings or any other project that the Association sponsors, write a letter to the Newsletter or corner a Director at the next Knock-out.

Mini-Gathering - Results

Novice - Strathspey & Reel
(2 part)

1. Moira Waddell
2. Gordon Redmond
3. Glen McEachran
& Marcia Campbell

Juvenile - 6/8 March

1. Owen Reid
2. Jack Eckersley
3. Maureen Lee

Juvenile - Jigs

1. Mike Guillemin
2. Ailsa Brown
3. Jack Eckersley

Junior - March, Strath. & Reel

1. Grant Wilkie
2. Ruth Tremaine
3. Asheley Stewart

Junior - Hornpipe

1. Grant Wilkie
2. Asheley Stewart
3. Alan Wilson

Amateur - Jigs

1. Allan MacDougall
2. James Wright
3. Alison Palmer

Amateur - Piobaireachd

1. Allan MacDougall
2. Graham Davidson
3. James Wright

Perfect Attendance & Prize Winners of the Mini-Gatherings

1974/75

The Kids' Ceilidh will be held on April 11, 1975 in conjunction with the Knock-out competition. Those eligible must be present that evening to receive their perfect attendance pins.

PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Novice

Marcia Campbell
Glen McEachran
Pat MacNeil
Gordon Redmond

Juvenile

Ailsa Brown
Bruce Gibson
Mike Guillemin
Maureen Lee
Owen Reid

WINNERS

Novice

1. Gordon Redmond
2. Marcia Campbell
3. Glen McEachran

Juvenile

1. Maureen Lee
1. Owen Reid
2. Mike Guillemin

PERFECT ATTENDANCE

WINNERS

Junior

Junior

Donald MacNeil
Asheley Stewart
Ruth Tremaine
Valerie Pederson
Christine Waddell
Grant Wilkie
Alan Wilson

1. Grant Wilkie
2. Ruth Tremaine
3. Donald MacNeil
3. Asheley Stewart

Amateur

Amateur

Graham Davidson
Blake Keen
Jill Laurie
Allan MacDougall
Gordon J. MacDonald
Alison Palmer
Stuart Reid
James Wright

1. Allan MacDougall
2. James Wright
3. Alison Palmer

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the B.C. Pipers' Association took place on February 7th at the Scottish Auditorium.

The number of active members present to vote for the positions of office was rather disappointing. Perhaps this was due to the bad weather conditions.

After the reading of the minutes of the previous A.G.M. by Secretary Dick Herring, the retiring President Dave Wilson gave his report. Dave informed the members that he had enjoyed his term of office and thanked the Association for the support he had received during the year.

The high finances involved in Treasurer Bill Lockie's report is a bit beyond me but it appears the Association is in a fairly healthy state.

Bill Lamont completed the reports by reading the Trustees Report.

The election of Officers and Board of Directors, together with Board Appointments, were as follows:

Officers

President	James MacDonald
Vice-President	Alex Young
Treasurer	William Lockie
Secretary	Richard Herring

Board of Directors

William Elder	Alex Reid
William Lamont	Donald Ross
John MacDonald	Harold Senyk
Duncan MacInnes	David Wilson
Angus Macpherson	

Board Appointments

John A. MacLeod	Hector Turnbull
Rose Swanson	James Wilson

Knock-Out

In the last knock-out competition, we had the opportunity of listening to some of this year's Trios for the second time in the Quarter Finals.

The Vancouver Police and the Seaforths took the floor first and the Police advanced to the Semi Finals on a majority vote from the judges - Alex Young, Bill Lamont, and John MacDonald.

Last year's winners, Victoria #1, were "knocked out" by a flu bug, but their rivals for the evening, Port Moody #1, treated the audience to their selection.

An enjoyable social evening was rounded off by the usual impromptu piping.

NEXT MONTH

Annual Gathering

The Association will hold its 43rd Annual Indoor Meet on March 28th and 29th in the North Vancouver Recreation Centre, 23rd & Lonsdale.

Highlights of this year's Gathering include the adjudicating of Angus MacLellan, Oban Gold Medallist, and the chance to earn a trip to represent British Columbia in the Interprovincial Championships at Ottawa.

The other highlight will be a repeat of last year's highly successful ceilidh.

The aggregate winners of the Professional and Senior Amateur events will receive an all-expense paid trip to Ottawa to compete in the Interprovincial and Canadian Championships on June 27th and 28th.

As has been the case at the Mini-Gatherings, the order of play will be strictly enforced and there will be no field entries.

PROGRAMME

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 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 |

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES - MARCH 15, 1975

A.P.D.A. Championship Competition

The second Annual Championship Competition sponsored by the Alberta Pipers & Drummers Association will be held on March 8, 1975 at Louis St. Laurent High School in Edmonton. The day's events include pipe bands, quartettes, side and tenor drumming, piping, and chanter class competitions.

For more information, please contact Mr. Iain MacCrimmon, 11302 - 57th Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5W 3V2.

Portland Ladies' Indoor Competition

The third Annual Indoor Competition of the Portland Ladies' Pipe Band will be held on Saturday, March 15th, at St. Stephen's School, 4235 S.E. Salmon, Portland, Oregon.

If the fine afternoon of piping doesn't whet your appetite, perhaps the prospect of free beer at the ceillidh might help you decide to attend.

Programme of Events

Piping

- 1 Chanter Class: Four-part 2/4 March
- 2 Novice: Four-part 2/4 March
- 3 Juvenile: March
- 4 Juvenile: Slow Air
- 5 Junior: March
- 6 Junior: Strathspey and Reel
- 7 Senior: Hornpipe
- 8 Senior: Jig
- 9 Piobaireachd: For anyone, novice through senior, wishing to compete.
- 10 Trios: 3 to 4 minute musical selection.

Drumming

- 11 Novice: Four-part March
- 12 Junior: March, Strathspey, and Reel
- 13 Senior: Musical Selection
- 14 Tenor: Judged during band competition
- 15 Bass: Judged during band competition
- 16 Grade II Drum Corps: Judged during band competition
- 17 Grade I Drum Corps: Judged during band competition

Portland Ladies' Indoor Competition (Cont'd)

Miniature Bands

- 18 Grade II: 5 to 7 minute medley
19 Grade I: 5 to 7 minute medley

Dancing

- 20 Strathspey and Half Reel Team Competition:
open to any team wishing to dance.

Prize Money

Grade I Bands:	1st	\$125.00
	2nd	\$100.00
	3rd	\$ 75.00
Grade II Bands:	1st	\$ 50.00
	2nd	\$ 40.00
	3rd	\$ 30.00

Contest Rules

1. Piping rules as adopted by B.C. Pipers' Association.
2. A novice drummer is one who in the previous calendar year has not placed first or second in at least two competitions where there were six or more competitors. A junior drummer is one who in the previous calendar year has not placed first or second in at least two junior competitions where there were six or more competitors.
3. Bands and drum corps currently classified Grade I shall play as such. All others shall play Grade II unless they choose to play up.
4. With four or more bands entered, 3 places will be awarded. Three or less, one less place than bands entered.

Admission: Competitors - \$1.00
Spectators - \$2.00
Children under 12 - Free

Pipe Band Entry Fee: Grade I - \$10.00
Grade II - \$5.00

Ceilidh at 9:00 p.m. at the Filipino-American Club,
S.E. 89th and Stark. Admission \$3.00 at the door.

Mail entries to Ms. Christie McKendrick, 8310 S.E. 17th,
Portland, Oregon, 97202, by MARCH 1, 1975.

Empress Scottish Gathering

The Empress Scottish Gathering (not to be confused with Victoria Highland Games) is scheduled for April 3, 4, 5 and 6, 1975. The organizers have secured the services of Mr. Angus MacLellan and are in the process of obtaining Mr. Archie Cairns and Mr. John Kerr, both of Ottawa, for adjudicating and teaching duties. A piping and drumming seminar will be held on Friday, April 4 with the above hopefully in attendance.

The Gathering will also serve the purpose of selecting pipe bands, drummers and dancers to represent the Province in their respective classes at the City of Ottawa Highland Games.

Accommodation is available at the Empress Hotel at attractive rates and a Tartan Ball is planned for the Saturday evening. For more information and entry forms, please contact Mrs. Heather Jolley.

Knock-Out & General Meeting

The next Knock-out and General Meeting of the Association is planned for March 7, 1975. The competitors scheduled for the evening include Port Moody #2 vs. Richmond Sr. #2 and the Jacobites vs. City of Victoria #2.

Glentruim Piping School

British Columbia's own! That is how I like to look at the Glentruim Piping School. Most readers will know Nelson, B.C. and will agree that, surrounded as it is by hills and lakes, it has a natural beauty of its own.

Notre Dame College campus amply provides all the facilities required to run a Piping School and we are grateful for the sincere welcome and aid we receive from the Principal of the University and his staff.

How did it all begin? Why Glentruim? What are the objects of this two weeks hard practice? How much can instructors - however able and dedicated - teach in two weeks?

One has to go back to the pre-war years, when three youngsters served in the Seaforth Highlanders. Life was severe, but good, at Fort George, the Regimental Depot. Little did they think that in the far future they should be combining their efforts to further the cause of the Great

Highland Bagpipe. Certainly, one of the youngsters never dreamed that he would ever cross the wide expanse of the Atlantic with his pipes. But that's another story.

One of these young men, Bill Sutherland, born in Scotland - but a proud Canadian - was the main factor in the operation. Ably backed by his committee, he and they did a fantastic amount of spade work. And, in fact, still do an enormous amount of work, ensuring that things run smoothly.

Another, Angus MacLeod, now resident on Saltspring Island, is not only a great instructor but also a top-class organizer. Needless to say, the bulk of organization normally falls on his very wide shoulders. Angus and I were born and reared only a few streets apart in Stornaway - just another link in a chain which provides for good team work. We like nothing better than a tape of Gaelic songs during our few quiet hours - a ploy which has achieved for us not a little notoriety - and acid comment from his Good Lady, who must have heard a certain tape hundreds of times over the past few years.

I round out this trio, operating under the title of School Principal. No one has ever masqueraded under such a title as I do. This is a team, built on mutual respect and hard work and no one person is of greater importance than his colleagues. I think that my main contribution is the fact that the buck has to stop somewhere.

So far - three ex-Seaforth Highlanders. Is this sheer coincidence? If so, let me introduce another one - Pipe Major E. Esson MBE. I don't really have to introduce Ed Esson, once described to me as a "Prince of a man." Several decades, and a war, in the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, plus Royal recognition for his efforts, should be enough to demonstrate his abilities. A great instructor, a first-class P.R.O. and a wonderful turn of phrase allied to a fine sense of humour, that's Ed.

Now, someone has to have the most difficult job in any organization and we have just the man for this chore. Bill Thomson, a Scot with lots of experience, who settled in B.C. deals with our learner and novice students. This demands endless patience, tact and an in-built ability to handle the very young. Bill has these qualities with lots to spare and if any one of us deserves the title of link-pin - That's Bill.

From Penticton we have Nigel Alakija! Nigel and his family moved from Dauphin, Manitoba a few years ago, where he had built up a nice band. I feel sure, given support, he can do the same for Penticton. Nigel practically lives and breathes piping. Another fine instructor whom we hope will be with us for a long, long time.

There was, in the beginning, some danger of naming the school the Donald MacLeod School of Piping. I thought it was a better idea to call it the Glentruim School simply because my teacher, the great Pipe Major John MacDonald was born there. I try to teach appreciation and interpretation of piobaireachd as he taught me not so long ago. Because the School teaches more of the practical than theoretical aspect of piping, I find this fairly easy to do.

The aim of the school is to produce not only good performers, but also instructors who themselves understand that which they will pass on. It was realized at the beginning that only moderate success could be achieved in two short weeks. The school, therefore, encourages students to bring along their tape or cassette recorders to ensure that each pupil can leave with the following winter's work on tape.

Harry Mumford, from Victoria, pays his dues as a pupil and puts in endless hours as studio manager on this project.

I also attend the piping school at Fort San, Saskatchewan. This flourishing project differs in only two aspects from Glentruim. One, the names of the instructors are different, although the ability and enthusiasm is similar. The other is that we teach a little more of the theoretical aspect. Maybe Jim McWilliams, the co-ordinating principal will tell you about Fort San, he is certainly better equipped than I to do so.

Glentruim is a happy school. Certainly there are rules to be obeyed, but we try to make them not too irksome.

Nelson and its people have accepted us and I feel that we are now firmly entrenched as part of the summer activities in the city.

In short, it's darned hard work - but we love every minute of it.

Donald MacLeod

Incidentally, Glentruim is pronounced as if it were spelled Glentryme.

Coeur d'Alene

This year's version of the Spokane Piobaireachd Society's Summer School will be held in two sessions - June 29 - July 11 and July 13 - July 25.

The set tunes for the Bratach Nam Beann, nominated by James Campbell of Kilberry, are;

The Blue Ribbon
The Lament for Captain McDougal
Lord Lovat's Lament
Mary's Praise
Nameless Hiharili Dro O Dro
Route of Glenfruin
The Groat

Please address any enquiries to:

John McEwing, President
Spokane Piobaireachd Society
W. 3309 Dalke Avenue
Spokane, Wash. 99208

Set Tunes for Open and Clasp Competitions, 1975

The following are the set tunes for the Open competition at the Argyllshire Gathering and the Clasp at the Northern Meetings as selected by the Music Committee of the Piobaireachd Society. They are:

The Sister's Lament
The Battle of Glenshiel
The Old Woman's Lullaby
The Park Piobaireachd No. 1
Salute on the Birth of Rory McLeod
Hi Hio Tro Tro

Port Moody Spring Dance

On May 3rd, 1975, starting at 8:30 p.m. and finishing at 1:00 a.m., Port Moody Pipe Band will stage a dance. Among the attractions for the evening are live music and bar service.

The tickets at \$3.00 each are available from Archie Walker, 438-2155.

This is an event well worthy of your support and a large turnout is expected.

'The Pipes "O" John MacKay'

Aye there's none could eer forget
Those days in Sitka by the sea
When the pipes they were 'a' skirlin
With a Scottish melody.

Oh the tunes they were so lovely
Like angels singing from the blue
They lit your heart with happiness
That music so pure and true.

And when on a special day
You heard those pipes 'a' skirlin
Sure everyone in Sitka town
Would fling with hearts 'a' twirlin'.

From whence came such lovely music?
The townfolk oft would say
Why I'll tell to all the world
From the pipes 'o' John MacKay!

Don Stromme,
Sitka, Alaska (Dec., 1974)

This verse, by a Swedish carpenter in Sitka, Alaska, recalls the legacy one of our members, John W. MacKay, now living in Elma, Washington, left behind in what might be considered a most unlikely corner of the piping world.

Actually, it is a place not at all strange to piping, or members of our Association. Your Secretary played with John MacKay many an evening on Castle Hill, the promontory next to the harbour, that was the site of the Governor's residence of Russian Alaska. On an elevation above the town, surrounded on two sides by water, it was a superb arena for pipe practice, and became something of a town tradition on summer evenings - not unlike Stanley Park's nine o'clock gun - if not as punctual. Older Coast Guardsmen love to recount the complete disbelief of a new C.O. bringing the local cutter back to berth in pea-soup fog, hearing pipes coming out of the fog as they groped with radar for the harbor entrance right below the hill. They knew they were home, even if the new skipper didn't!

Sitka's acquaintance with the sound of pipes was probably started by the personal piper to Governor Simpson of the Hudson's Bay Company, Colin Fraser, when he accompanied the Governor to negotiations with the Russian American Fur Company Governor at Sitka in the 1840's.

In latter years, the town came to consider a pipe band an integral part of their Annual Alaska Day celebrations (the October 17 anniversary of the transfer of Alaska from Russia to the U.S.A. in 1867). For a number of years this need was met by John MacKay and your Secretary, reinforced by whomever could be lined up from Whitehorse, Yukon, to Terrace and Prince Rupert, B.C. During the Centennial years of 1966 and 1967, generous benefactors enabled contingents from the Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band to give Sitka a treat of piping and dancing on Alaska Day.

John MacKay and your Secretary were eventually called to the new state's capital in Juneau to serve as pipers to Governor Hickel at his inauguration and birthday ball. This tradition, which may be unique in the inaugurations of U.S. state governors, has been carried on, by a new generation of Alaskan pipers, as recently as Governor Hammond's installation in 1975. After both John MacKay and your Secretary had departed from Alaska, Governor Hickel's successor, Governor Miller, invited B.C.P.A. members Rae Marie Macaulay and Sherea Barwell to pipe for his birthday ball.

Dick Herring.

Seattle Indoor Meet

The Seattle Pipe Band will hold their "Stag Night" on Saturday, March 22, 1975, at the Iron Shield Restaurant, 2200 - 7th Avenue, Seattle.

The evening proceedings will begin with cocktails at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. The competitions will commence after dinner.

For details, please contact:

S. L. Kent, Secretary,
Seattle Pipe Band,
4160 - 95th Place, S.E.,
Mercer Island, Wash. 98040.

* * * * *

Picture the little town of Kilsyth on a warm summer evening. The busy traffic of the day has gone. The streets are quiet. Suddenly, there is the skirl of distant pipes. A bobby pauses on his beat. A gardener rests for a moment

on his spade. A little boy, eyes alight, stops playing with his football. A housewife, taking in the washing, waits with a pause to listen to the piper of the glen.

His name was Willie Orr. A miner, he lived all his days in Kilsyth and when, as a laddie, he took up the pipes, he wanted somewhere he could practice in peace, away from the noise of the town. He found the place he sought in Garrel Glen and every evening, in his bonnet and kilt, he marched off up the winding road until Kilsyth was far below him.

Even when he became a fully-fledged piper, pipe-major of the local band, and later still as an old man in his 70's, Willie kept going back to the glen. Somehow, he felt his pipes never sounded better than when he played there. It was as if the hills and heather breathed magic into his music. And it seems the glen is so shaped that when Willie played at his favourite spot, every note could be heard in Kilsyth.

Alas, Willie's pipes will skirl no more down the glen, for last week he died at 81. But I know that few in Kilsyth will ever walk up Garrel Glen without remembering him, or his music which thrilled their town for over 60 years.

- Reprinted from Sunday Post.

Band Chatter

On behalf of the Association, we wish to congratulate Mary Margaret and Keith Manifold on the birth of their son, Michael Blair. Better watch out, Heather! Something fishy about that Port Moody drum section!

The latest report on our seafaring piper, Tim Noot, is that he's enroute for the Marquesas, approximately 3500 miles from their last watering hole in Mexico. Needless to say, we won't be hearing from Tim for a while.

What many people didn't notice at last month's knock-out was the "impromptu competition" conducted before "judges" Alans Skalazub and McLeod. When Ian Whitelaw, our resident Easterner, was wooing the crowd with his poor facsimile of bagpipe playing, the two "judges" produced chalk boards proclaiming Robert Menzies as the "winner".

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.



