

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



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

FEBRUARY, 1976

NO. 148

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER

Published by the British Columbia Pipers' Association.

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VICE-PRESIDENT	Alex Young
SECRETARY/TREASURER	Richard Herring
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The B. C. Pipers' Newsletter is published monthly at 6286 Empress Avenue, Burnaby, B. C. V5E 2S5, by the British Columbia Pipers' Association and distributed to all members. Address all communications concerning the Newsletter to the above address. All other communications should be sent to Mr. R. Herring, #1402-750 Jervis, Vancouver, V6E 2A9.

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LAST MONTH IN AND AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the B. C. Pipers' Association was held on February 6, 1976 at the Scottish Auditorium.

Items on the agenda included reports from the President, Treasurer, and Trustees, as well as some "house-cleaning" amendments to the constitution.

Following the various reports of last year's activities, the floor was opened to nominations for officers and directors of the Society. Although there was a fairly large turnout of active members, the number of candidates running for office was disappointingly low.

However, prior to the nominations, President MacDonald pointed out that those who would be unable to attend board meetings regularly should decline from standing and this was perhaps a factor in the small slate of hopefuls. Nevertheless, we have another strong executive for 1976.

President: Jimmy MacDonald
Vice-President: Alex Young
Secretary-Treasurer: Dick Herring
Directors: John MacDonald, Duncan MacInnes, Angus Macpherson, Donald Matthewson, Alex Reid, Donald Ross, Bill Russell, Hal Senyk, Jimmy Wilson.

Having dispensed with the business, the pipes came out of the box. The first trio to compete in the knock-out competition was Triumph Street #1. Unfortunately, Triumph Street #2 chose not to attend; a problem we've been plagued with all year. As a result the three trios combined to form one contest with two proceeding to the next round.

The Triumph Street #1 composed of Hal Senyk, Ian Whitelaw and Angus Macpherson, turned in a creditable performance in beating a tough Victoria trio of Jamie Troy, Bill Mossie and Steve Geddes. The third trio to compete was the number one trio of Richmond Senior consisting of Robbie McNeil, Jim Stewart and Ruth Tremaine.

The judges, Catherine McLellan, Alex Reid and Alex Young, placed the trios in the order they played. As a result, Triumph Street #1 and the City of Victoria will advance to the next round and meet each other in the April knock-out.

The open competition was one of the better ones this season with a large entry. The requirement was Strathspey & Reel and the winner was Hal Senyk. However, many fine performances were turned in. Competitors included Doug Bell,

Steve Geddes, Ian Whitelaw, Donald McMillan, Donald Matthewson and Jamie Troy.

As usual, the remainder of the evening was devoted to impromptu, normally restricted to piping. We were treated, however, to a song from Hazel Ramsay, a "moothie" duet, and a fling from two young ladies.

All in all, I think it safe to say, "a guid time was had by all".

Mini-Gathering

The second and last Mini-Gathering of the season took place on February 7, 1976 in the Headquarters of the B. C. Pipers', the Scottish Auditorium.

I think when the phrase "mini-gathering" was coined, the author was making a prediction. It's quite obvious that these competitions are anything but a roaring success. Three players in Amateur, five in Junior, seven in Juvenile, and I doubt if there were even nine spectators. Why? Perhaps pipers resent giving up another Saturday. Perhaps parents are not too thrilled over returning to 12th & Fir after the Knock-out on the Friday night. Or, perhaps we just don't have the same number of young players emerging through the ranks. Whatever the reason our winter competitions, whether of the bi-monthly variety or the mini-gathering, are in trouble.

One of the disadvantages of having an Executive restricted to Active members is that they are often quite ignorant of the problems. The people we want to hear from are the younger players and the parents, the people who attend the competitions. If you have suggestions or criticisms, write to the Newsletter or talk to a Board member. Remember, you don't have to be an active member to take an active part in the Association.

The results were as follows:

Novice - 2-part Strathspey & Reel

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Brenda Barker | 3. Pauline Alakija |
| 2. Michelle MacInnes | 4. Moira Waddell |

Juvenile Jigs

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

Juvenile - 6/8 March

1. Jack Eckersley
2. Owen Reid
3. David Winter

Junior - Hornpipe

1. Grant Wilkie
2. Chris Waddell
3. Don McNeil

Junior - March, Strath. & Reel

1. Grant Wilkie
2. Chris Waddell
3. Don McNeil

Senior Amateur - Jigs

1. Graham Davidson
2. Jamie Wright

Senior Amateur - Piobaireachd

1. Jill Laurie
2. Graham Davidson

Judges: Alex Young and John MacDonald

A special hello to the contingent from the Interior.

PROMOTIONS FOR 1976

As most people are aware, our competition year runs from September to September. The promotions are, therefore, put into effect following the last Games in the summer and the November Mini-Gathering would, in effect, be the first competition of the year. Unfortunately last year was an exception because the results of the Summer Games were not received in time. Hopefully, this problem won't occur again.

The list will be in effect, therefore, until the last of the Summer Games, traditionally Seattle, and will commence with the Vancouver Ladies' Festival.

The other point that bears mentioning is the method by which the promotions are decided. Previously, pipers moved into the next class after winning a first or second. That was then changed to a system using aggregate points (e.g. 20 points moves up to next class). That, however, proved to be too inconsistent. Until further notice, promotions will be at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

Novice Pipers who move up to Juvenile (Also, anyone who won 1st, 2nd, or 3rd, in the Seattle Games, as we did not get the Seattle Games Novice results.)

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Jane Bergin | 4. Cliff Fournier |
| 2. Ken Dockstader | 5. David Hales |
| 3. Dean Ferguson | 6. Susan Howard |

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 7. Mary Kenny | 11. Paddy MacNeil |
| 8. Heather Lyle | 12. Robyn Nicol |
| 9. Michelle MacInnes | 13. Michael Slack |
| 10. Sharon McKinnon | 14. Moira Waddell |

Juvenile - anyone with 10 points moves up to Junior:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| 1. Sue Arbuthnot | 4. Jean Nicol |
| 2. Judy Carl | 5. Kit Taggart |
| 3. Mike Guillemine | 6. Ronald Tait |

Junior - anyone with 10 points moves up to Amateur:

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Rob Cross | 4. Gordon Paterson |
| 2. Duncan Fraser | 5. Ruth Tremaine |
| 3. Bruce Gandy | 6. Grant Wilkie |

NEXT MONTH

Knock-Out and General Meeting

The next in our series of winter competitions will be held on Friday, March 5 in the Scottish Auditorium. The proceedings will get underway at 8:00 p.m. when the business formalities will be dealt with.

As has been the case in recent meetings, the trio competition will start later in the evening, around 9:00 p.m., following the opening of the bar. This month's competing threesomes will be the Jacobites, Victoria #2, and Richmond Senior #3. As a result of only one winner being declared in the January Knock-Out, we will have just one competition.

The open impromptu will feature the ground of a piobaireachd. Hopefully, the players will choose the lighter and more melodious tunes, in vying for the \$10.00 prize.

In addition to the above events, the usual outburst of impromptu will again, I am sure, abound. Look's like another good night. See you there. 8:00.

Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band Festival

The Annual Festival of Piping, Drumming & Dancing, sponsored by the Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band, will be held on February 27 and 28 in the Scottish Auditorium. Saturday will be devoted to the piping, drumming and pipe band events, with the dancing occupying Friday.

Following the contest a ceillidh will be held in the ballroom of the Auditorium. For information regarding tickets, etc., please contact Mrs. Arnott - 526-6353.

Tartan Ball

The Sons of Scotland will again host the Tartan Ball to be held in the Gizeh Temple, March 6, 1976. This is the fund raiser for the New Westminster Highland Games so help support the Games and attend the Ball. Tickets are \$5.00 each. For more information and tickets, please contact Donald Ross at 526-7905.

Seattle Pipers' & Drummers' Stag & Dinner

The Seattle Stag will be held on March 27th at The Iron Shield, 6th & Blanchard, Seattle. Cocktail hour starts at 5:30 with dinner at 6:30 p.m. Dinner is \$7.00. Reservations may be made by writing to:

Roy R. Cotton
5041 Ivanhoe Place, N.E.
Seattle, Washington
98105

* * * * *

MOVING?

Don't forget to let the Newsletter know!!!

Max Bygraves Show

Max Bygraves, one of Britain's most well-known and liked singers, will be appearing in the Queen Elizabeth Theatre on Thursday, March 25, 1976 at 8:30 p.m. Accompanying Max will be trumpeter Johnny Lister, Annette Anderson from Glasgow and Ken Stanley direct from the Pig & Whistle with his six-man band. Tickets are \$7.00, \$6.00 and \$5.00 and can be obtained from the Vancouver Ticket Centre and all Eaton's stores.

There will also be performances in Victoria on Wednesday, March 24 and Friday, March 26.

Annual Dinner

The Annual Dinner of the B.C. Pipers' Association has been scheduled for May 15, 1976. St. Francis de Sales School will once again do the honours. Although some details have yet to be settled, advanced booking is good so reserve your tickets early through any board member and don't be left out.

Annual Gathering

The 44th Annual Gathering of the B.C. Pipers' Association will be held on April 16 & 17 in the North Vancouver Recreation Centre, 23rd & Lonsdale.

The chief adjudicator for this year will be Donald Morrison from Aberdeen. Former pipe-major of the Aberdeen Police, many will remember Donald from last year at Coeur d'Alene.

The highlight of this year's competition will be a trip to Scotland for the aggregate winner in the professional class. The winner will receive charter air fare to compete in one major competition. He or she will have really earned it, however, as competitors in the professional class are required to submit three piobaireachds, three sets of two jigs and one March, Strathspey & Reel.

Otherwise the format is much the same as in previous years with the ceilidh after the miniature band competition on Saturday evening. ENTRY FORM & PROGRAMME ON BACK PAGE.

Trophies

All trophies from last year's indoor meet must be returned to Mr. Bill Lamont, 2256 East 40th Avenue, Vancouver, phone 327-7569, no later than March 5 or may be handed in at the March Knock-Out.

Concession

Any band interested in running the concession, please write or phone Donald Ross, 834 Burnaby Street, New Westminster, phone 526-7905.

Athena Caledonian Games

The Athena Caledonian Games Committee is pleased to announce that Messrs. Donald Morrison of Aberdeen, Scotland, and Andrew Wright of Renfrew, Scotland, have confirmed that they will act as chief piping judges at the Athena Caledonian Games and Picnic scheduled for July 24, 1976.

The following competitive events will be offered:

- PIPING: Chanter Class: March of competitors choice.
4 part or 2 part played twice
Novice (Under 16): March, Strathspey & Reel
(Over 16): March, Strathspey & Reel
Amateur (Under 16): March, Strathspey & Reel
(Over 16): March, Strathspey & Reel
All ages: Piobaireachd
Professional: Piobaireachd
March, Strathspey & Reel
(\$100-\$50-\$25 each event)
Special: Piobaireachd for any competitor who has never won a medal in piobaireachd.
2/4 March Composition: Spokane Piobaireachd Society is offering a \$100 prize for the best original 2/4 march composition.
- BANDS: Competition at Tattoo. Competition number to be either March, Strathspey & Reel or a 5 minute medley of competitor's choice (\$300-\$100-\$75-\$50-\$25). One class only.
- FOR INFORMATION: Contact Donald R. Duncan, P.O. Box 245, Athena, Oregon, 97813 (503-566-3773).

Western Pipe Band Association

This seems as good a time as any to make mention of our old friend the Western Pipe Band Association. Contrary to popular belief the W.P.B.A. is alive and well under the direction of Albert Duncan. Many people, including the writer, have enquired what purpose a pipe band association would serve. One prime example is contained in the preceding report from Athena. One of the main purposes of the W.P.B.A. has been to provide a set of standard rules and playing procedures. This, for the most part, has been accomplished in the major games. Then along comes Athena.

Bands are grouped in one class and are permitted to play a March, Strathspey & Reel or a 5 minute medley. Granted, these are new games and the organizers may not be as well versed with regulations regarding piping and pipe band regulations. However, there's no excuse for it. Games such as Trail, Nelson and Coeur d'Alene fall into the same category. All they have to do is ask and that's one very good reason why we need somebody looking after pipe bands.

As it happens the W.P.B.A. seems to be the only one that cares. There's no question they've made a mess of it in the past, to be quite blunt. However, the W.P.B.A. has turned over a new leaf and there are people in the Association who are willing to make it work.

If you feel you have something to offer, please phone Hal Senyk at 253-1743. He's the nominating chairman for the W.P.B.A. Let's give the people from Athena, Trail, Coeur d'Alene and Nelson someone to look to.

City of Ottawa Highland Games

The 1976 City of Ottawa Highland Games will be held on June 26, 1976 in Lansdowne Park, Ottawa. Events will include piping, drumming and dancing, and the Piobaireachd Society Gold Medal. The set tunes will be as follows:

- a) The Lament for the Viscount of Dundee
- b) The King's Taxes
- c) MacNeill of Barra's March
- d) The Lament for MacSwan of Roaig
- e) Lady MacDonald's Lament
- f) The Parading of the MacDonalds

Band Chatter

On behalf of the Association, we extend our wishes for a speedy recovery to Malcolm Nicholson who was involved in a slight accident. Mr. Nicholson suffered a broken hip, but is making satisfactory progress. Get well soon.

Katie Forsyth, the leading side drummer of the Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band, leaves for Scotland in three weeks time for a prolonged visit. Katie intends to play with Muirhead & Sons Pipe Band during her stay. We wish Katie all the best and look forward to seeing her at Christmas.

Welcome back to a trio of Vancouver pipers. Tim Noot, of South Pacific fame, flew in from New Zealand last week. Tim is planning to play with Triumph Street in Scotland this summer and then return to Hawaii to sail "Amazing Grace" home.

Colin Abel, our piping Mountie, has just graduated from the R.C.M.P. College in Regina and has been posted to Chilliwack. We offer our congratulations to Colin and hope to see him and Barb at the Knock-outs.

Colin's sister, Heather Robertson, a former piper with the Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band, has come back for a visit from London, England, where she lives with her husband, Neil, and little boy, Aaron.

Congratulations and best wishes to Jean Laurie on her recent engagement. Jean, a prominent member of the local pipe band scene, is currently directing the Junior C.P. Air Junior Band. Jean and Trevor plan to wed in April.

Another member of one of our ladies' bands has duplicated the feat of Katie Forsyth. Sheila Roanne, leading tip of the Burnaby Ladies when she is in town, is currently playing with Alex Duthart in Shotts & Dykehead Caledonia.

Hello, goodbye almost to Garth Neele. Garth who hails from Manitoba came out West with Doug Bell to play with the City of Victoria. The pair have also been competing in the open class at the Knock-outs. Garth, winner of the Marches at Inverness, spent a lot of time with Donald MacLeod. Garth found the I.C.B.C. rates too high and has returned to Manitoba.

Ads

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		ivory sole	-	\$59.95
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Call Tom Brown at 261-8914

B. C. Provincial Pipe Band

The pipe band was formed in 1975 under P/M Hector MacCubbin and D/M Bob Milne. The Pipe Major learned his piping under P/M Donald MacDonald and was a piper in the Black Watch in Korea. The Drum Major served with the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders and prior to settling in B. C., served with the Winnipeg Police and was Drum Major of that band.

The Provincial Pipe Band practices every Tuesday night in the Oakalla Prison gym. They are proud to be the first band to wear the Centennial Tartan, which was woven in Vancouver. Kilts and plaids have now been completed by Campbell Tailors, Vancouver. Cap badges and collar badges are the B. C. crest surrounded by maple leaves.

Our drum section is full. Vacancies still exist for three pipers. Should any one wish to play with this Band, please contact the Pipe Major or Drum Major at 434-4231, Local 301.

White Heather

The Spring White Heather Concert will grace the stage of the Queen Elizabeth Theatre on Sunday, April 18.

The headliner in this year's show is Calum Kennedy, the "Scottish Working Man". No details are available regarding the remainder of the cast, etc. More info next month.

Wanted

One set of bagpipes. Please phone Duncan Fraser at 943-3086.

B. C. PIPERS' 44th ANNUAL GATHERING

All novice, juvenile and junior events will be played on Friday, April 16, 1976.

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 to play will be posted.

Event #

1. Junior Piobaireachd
2. Junior March
3. Junior Strathspey & Reel
4. Novice March
5. Juvenile March
6. Juvenile Strathspey & Reel
7. Junior Quartettes - 5-7 min. Medley
8. Junior Mini Bands - March, Strathspey & Reel
9. Amateur Piobaireachd
10. Amateur March
11. Amateur Strathspey & Reel
12. Professional Piobaireachd (Pipers to submit 3 Piobaireachds. Judge decided tune to be played.)
13. Professional March, Strathspey & Reel
14. Professional Jigs (Pipers to submit 3 sets of 2 Jigs. Judge decided set to be played.)
15. Pipers over 65 years of age (Tune of own choice.)
16. Pipers over 50 years of age (2/4 March - competitor restricted. May not enter in any other competition).
17. Senior Quartettes - March, Strathspey & Reel
18. Senior Mini Bands - 5-7 min. Medley

Aggregate winner of Professional Class to receive charter flight to Scotland to compete in one major competition in Scotland.

Aggregate winner of Amateur Class to receive practice chanter.

Aggregate winner of Junior Class to receive Angus MacKay music book.