

# B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



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

JANUARY, 1966

No. 69

THE  
MUSEUM



The British Columbia  
Museum Association

B. C. P I P E R S' N E W S L E T T E R

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BI-MONTHLY COMPETITION - DECEMBER 17th, 1965.

Mr. Ian Inkster chose the following winners at the Bi-Monthly competitions held December 17th, 1965:

Novice 6/8 Marches: (23 Competitors)

- |                  |                     |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Brian Beck    | 2. Dwayne Roadhouse | 3. Margaret Swanson |
| 4. Terry Leonard | 5. Dany Stater      | 6. Glen Greamer     |

Junior Jigs: (7 Competitors)

- |                 |                     |                  |
|-----------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. Kelley Hagen | 2. Donald MacMillan | 3. Robert Heggie |
|-----------------|---------------------|------------------|

Department and Dress:

- Novice - Marjorie Forsythe  
Junior - Dal Jessiman

- 0 -

BI-MONTHLY COMPETITION - JANUARY 28th, 1966.

The first Bi-Monthly Competition of 1966 was held on January 28th, being judged by Mr. Ed Peden.

The winners were:

Juvenile Marches: (40 Competitors)

- |                    |                 |                |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. Janice Taylor   | 2. Doug Bernon  | 3. John Wright |
| 4. John A. MacLeod | 5. Wm. Macaulay | 6. Colin Abel  |

Amateur Strathspeys & Reels (1 Competitor)

1. Doug Graham

Winners of Department and Dress: Juvenile

- |               |                    |
|---------------|--------------------|
| 1. Denis Best | 2. Denis Collister |
|---------------|--------------------|

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PIOBATAREACHD TIME AGAIN, IN MARCH.

The busiest Pipers and Drummers in Canada through 1943, '44, and '45 are still busy, married and scattered afar, and so far as I know Lillian, Torna and I are the only ones with pipes today.

For me, now there is time to enjoy Piobaireachd at the Gatherings, and I do. And with our Annual Gathering in March to look forward to now I like to recall the story I wrote in 1964, and maybe he will play again ....

IMPRESSION AT THE ANNUAL GATHERING .... MARCH 21, 1964.

It was during the stately Piobaireachd session it came to me, an impression of quiet appreciation, rapt attention, and awe. The art of the Piper was carrying my mind back to the rich days of Piobaireachd's beginning, to the inspired scottish souls so deep in their creating, so wise in their purpose.

I thought of the need of these gifted forefathers. A yearning need to express and communicate great music beyond the Clarsach, as I pictured their discovery of an instrument of new promise, and the pure delight of this challenging find, with its scope for improvement, from which soon developed a truly Highland bagpipe. And out of the hills came music from the heart of the Highlander.

As the Piper played on, I knew Ceol Mor will always speak of these fathers of music who left us classics of beauty and majesty so exclusively our own, and never equalled since .... so sincerely he played the impressive tune.

While carried away in deep reflection my attention was drawn to a veteran Piper of years past, as very slowly and quietly he walked by on two canes. In perfect step with the player as he respectfully listened, somehow he became harmoniously a part of the music, the scene, and the message. Then he was gone, but the magic remained to the end of the tune.

The message? The veteran Piper and former Judge was Pipe Major John Robertson. To me, it seemed he has stepped out of Time's pages of Piping glory at that moment, to remind us of our Heritage.

Roderick MacVicar was the Piper, playing "Corrienessan's Salute". Such was my impression, through the Art of the Piper.

Cathrine Paterson.

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VANCOUVER LADIES PIPE BAND FESTIVAL:

The Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band will be holding their annual Festival of Piping, Dancing and Drumming on February 25th and 26th. Piping and Drumming events will commence on Saturday, February 26th.

Entries can be obtained by phoning Mrs. S. Nairn, CY 8 - 4886

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WHAT IS A BAGPIPE:

(From "Pipes and Drums", Official Magazine of the New South Wales Pipe Band Association - Nov., 1965.)

Somewhere between the purity of tone of Jubal's lyre, and the blatancy of a vintage car horn, is a magical instrument called ---- a bagpipe.

Bagpipes come in assorted noises, sounds and tartans. They like droning, skirling, "getting the Irish up" of all Scotsmen, drums, reels, and waking the Queen every morning. Highlanders love them; their neighbours hate them; other musicians tolerate them; and the tartaned kilt protects them.

A bigpipe is a composite. It has the drone of a heavy bomber and the wind-bag of a crack high pressure salesman; the lilt of a minuet, and the following of a premiership football team.

Might as well give up. Bagpipes are here to stay. You can get them off your property but you can't get them off the air. You can lock them out of your workshop but you can't leave them out of a New Year's Eve celebration.

And when you come home at night, tired and frustrated after a heavy day, Bagpipes can ... well, that all depends on who you are.

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COWAL HIGHLAND GATHERING:

We recently obtained a copy of a little pamphlet entitled "A History Of Cowal Highland Gathering", published 1960.

This publication contained much interesting information about these famous Games and we are reprinting from it a list of the winners of The Argyll Shield from 1906 to 1959. This Trophy is awarded to the winner of the Open Band Contest, and was designed by H.R.H. Princess Louise, wife of the Duke of Argyll, First Chieftain of the Gathering.

1906	1st H.L.I.	P/M I.Macdougall Gillies
1907	3rd L.R.V.	P/M Edwin I. Macpherson
1908	5th H.L.I.	P/M I.Macdougall Gillies
1909	Stonehouse Pipe Band	P/M Hector M'Innes
1910 to 1912	5th H.L.I.	P/M I.Macdougall Gillies
1913	7th H.L.I.	P/M Farquhar Macrae
1919	Edinburgh City Police	P/M Supt. Hugh Calder
1920	Glasgow City Police	P/M W. Gray
1921 to 1923	City of Glasgow	P/M William Fergusson
1924	Millhall	P/M George D. Macdonald
1925	Clan MacRae	P/M William Fergusson
1926	Millhall	P/M George D. Macdonald
1927 and 1928	Maclean Pipe Band	P/M William Sloan
1929	Glasgow Corp. Tramways P.B.	P/M Gavin L. Robertson
1930	Millhall	P/M George D. Macdonald
1931	Glasgow Corp. Transport	P/M Peter Fleming
1932 to 1934	Clan MacRae	P/M John F. Nicoll
1935	Maclean Pipe Band	P/M William Sloan
1936 to 1939	City of Glasgow Police	P/M John MacDonald
1946 and 1947	City of Glasgow Police	P/M John MacDonald
1948	Shotts & Dykehead Caledonia	P/M Thomas MacAllister, B.E.M.
1949	City of Glasgow Police	P/M John MacDonald
1950	Clan Macrae Society	P/M Alex. Macleod
1951	Shotts & Dykehead Caledonia	P/M Thomas MacAllister
1952	Bonhill Parish	P/M James R. Jackson
1953	Clan MacRae Society	P/M Alex. Macleod
1954	Shotts & Dykehead Caledonia	P/M Thomas MacAllister
1955	Shotts & Dykehead Caledonia	P/M John K. MacAllister
1956	Muirhead & Sons, Ltd.	P/M John Smith
1957	Muirhead & Sons	P/M John Smith
1958	Edinburgh City Police	P/M John D. Burgess
1959	Shotts & Dykehead Caledonia	P/M John K. MacAllister

- 0 -

BI-MONTHLY COMPETITION - FEBRUARY 18th, 1966

The next Bi-Monthly Competitions are scheduled for February 18th, 1966 and will feature Novice Old Highland Airs and Junior Piobaireachd. The events will start at 8:00 p.m., and will be held in the gymnasium of the Seaforth Armoury.

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Mrs. Bob Stoker and family would like to express their sincere gratitude and appreciation for the kindness and service given for our beloved husband and father. I know this is what he would have wanted and there are no words that could possibly express our sincere thanks.

Piping has been his life ever since he was a young boy and he was always ready and willing to Pipe for dancers, competitions or on any other occasion whenever needed.

Thanking you all so much for everything.

Edith Stoker

- 0 -

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- Sword Dance ... 3 Slow and 2 Quick
- Sword Dance ... 4 Slow and 1 Quick
- Seann Triubhas.... 4 Slow and 2 Quick, 6 Slow and 2 Quick
- Reel O' Tulloch .. 6 Slow and 2 Quick
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PIPE MAJOR HAS HIS SGIAN DUBH IN T.V. PRODUCERS. (from Oban Times, Dec. 16, 1965.)

A piper with his sgian dubh in T.V. producers is Pipe Major George MacRae, for 15 years pipe major to the Royal Scots, and now an instructor with the Greater London Council.

Pipe Major MacRae has complained to both T.V. and B.B.C. about the standard of piping on T.V. programmes, and he says of the playing in a recent B.B.C. play: "It sounded like a donkey being sick."

Of one performer in a T.V. play he assets: "Can you believe it? A trombone player who has never worn a kilt in his life."

He continued: "It's not good enough to foist three-finger playing on the public when there are pipers who have spent a lifetime, 12 hours a day, mastering the art."

I have a tape of pipe music for all occasions to make you laugh or cry. It is worth 50,000 pounds but I would give it to the B.B.C. for the sake of Scotland and to stop this piping that sounds like a donkey being sick in the backyards."

Born in Edinburgh, George MacRae joined the Royal Scots in 1917, at the age of 16, where he came under the wing of the famous Pipe Major George Allan. From star pupil, he eventually became Pipe Major Allan's successor in 1930. After returning from India in 1934, Pipe Major George MacRae was one of the best known competitors on the Highland Games circuit in piping and Highland dancing, and for the past 18 years has been piping instructor to the Great London Council, taking three classes a week as well as teaching R.A.M.C. cadets who wish to join the Regular Army as pipers.

He has his own floor show in London consisting of Scottish singers, pipers and dancers, which has appeared in many West End hotels.

WORLD PIPING CHAMPIONSHIPS INTRODUCE NEW ADJUDICATION:  
(from The Oban Times, Dec. 23, 1965)

In future the Scottish Pipe Band World Championships and their miniature pipe band competition will have an ensemble adjudicator in addition to a piping and drumming judge. This was agreed at the annual general meeting of the Scottish Pipe Bands' Association held in Glasgow last Saturday.

Pipes and drums as musical items were hitherto judged separately but now the ensemble adjudicator will give an appreciation of the overall performance with particular reference to rhythmic flow and melody.

This is considered a vital step forward and the association now hope to hold their place in the musical field and keep Scotland in the forefront of pipe music.

Mr. William Sloan, secretary of the association, reported they had a successful year in every respect and that they now look forward to next year's championships which will be held in Inverness.

The presentations of the Champion of Champions trophy to Muirhead and Sons Pipe Band (Pipe Major Robert Hardie) was a pleasant feature of the meeting. Second Grade overall champions were Whiterigg Colliery Band, while the third grade championship went to Kinning Park Pipe Band. In the Juvenile Class, Knightswood Pipe Band came out on top.

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LETTER FROM NELSON:

Reference is made to the very fine article on Pipe Major Ed Essen written by Drum Sergeant Ian MacLeod in your December 1965 issue.

I do not in any way wish to deny Pipe Major Essen all the honors deservedly earned by, and granted to him during his long and excellent association both with the Seaforth Highlanders and with Canadian piping circles, however I would like to point out an apparent error in this article.

Pipe Major Essen's promotion to the rank of W.O.I. in 1957 did not represent the first time such a rank was conferred on any pipe major. Pipe Major James W. Watt of Vancouver received such an appointment in 1945. At that time "Jimmy" Watt was Pipe Major of the Irish Fusiliers (Vancouver Regiment) Pipe Band which was attached to Army Headquarters, Appeldoorn, Holland.

I don't know if Jimmy was the first P/M to obtain this distinction but, regardless of that particular 'honor', I know of no other Canadian P/M who was a W.O.I. It is interesting to note that both men were Seaforths, Jimmy prior to his joining the Irish, and that both came from Vancouver. I don't know Jim's whereabouts at the present time and would appreciate his address should any reader have it.

J. F. Munro

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GENERAL MEETING FEBRUARY 25th, 1966.

A general meeting of the Association will be held on Friday, February 25th, at 8:00 p.m., in the Band Room of the Seaforth Armoury. Final arrangements regarding the Annual Gathering will be made, and your attendance is requested.

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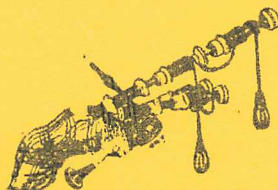
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CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE CHART.

We thought it might be of interest to our readers to see the achievements of the competing British Bands during the 1965 season in open competition. We are reprinting, therefore, from "The Pipe Band" the Champion of Champions League Chart, showing the results in the top five events; the British, Scottish, Worlds, Cowal and European championships. While there are many other games whose points are used to arrive at the final results for the awards by the Scottish Pipe Band Association, the points awarded in these five games appear to be highly significant.

The points are allocated as follows: 6 points for 1st place, 5 points for 2nd place, and down to 1 point for 6th place.

<u>Grade 1</u>	<u>British</u>	<u>Scottish</u>	<u>Worlds</u>	<u>Cowal</u>	<u>European</u>	<u>Total</u>
Muirhead & Sons .....	6	5	6	5	3	25
Invergordon Distillery .....	4	4	4	3	6	21
Edinburgh City Police .....	3	6	5	4	2	20
Glasgow City Police .....	5	1	3	6	4	19
Renfrew .....	-	3	2	2	5	12
Lochore and Dist. ....	2	2	-	-	-	4
Red Hackle .....	1	-	-	-	1	2
277 Regt. A. & S.H.T.A. ....	-	-	1	1	-	2
 <u>Grade 2</u>						
Whitrigg Colliery .....	6	5	5	6	6	28
51st (H.) R.A.S.C.T.A. ....	5	6	6	5	4	26
Killoch Colliery .....	4	4	3	-	-	11
Woolmet and Monktonhall .....	2	3	4	-	-	9
Paisley B.L. ....	-	-	-	4	5	9
Edin. Corpn. Transport .....	3	2	-	2	1	8
Lady Victoria Colliery .....	-	-	1	-	2	3
Rutherglen .....	-	-	-	3	-	3
Robt. Armstrong Mem. ....	-	-	-	-	3	3
Kelty and Blairadam .....	-	-	2	-	-	2
National Cash Register .....	1	-	-	-	-	1
Ayr Society .....	-	1	-	-	-	1
57th Middx. R.A.M.C. ....	-	-	-	1	-	1
 <u>Grade 3</u>						
Kinning Park .....	-	3	6	4	6	19
Kilbarchan .....	5	4	2	5	1	17
Johnstone Burgh .....	6	-	4	-	5	15
Grangemouth B.H.C. ....	-	5	5	3	2	15
Mount Carmel .....	-	6	3	-	3	12
St. George's Ch.Lad's Brigade ..	2	1	-	6	-	9
Girvan B.L. ....	4	-	-	-	-	4
69th E. Lowland R.C.T. ....	-	-	-	-	4	4
Glasgow Cleansing Dept. ....	3	-	-	-	-	3
H.Q.N.I.C.R.C.T. ....	-	2	-	-	-	2
Hoover .....	-	-	-	2	-	2
Arniston and Bilston Glen .....	1	-	-	-	-	1
Scot. Motor Omnibuses .....	-	-	1	-	-	1
Glasgow Fire Service .....	-	-	-	1	-	1

<u>Grade 4</u>	<u>British</u>	<u>Scottish</u>	<u>Worlds</u>	<u>Cowal</u>	<u>European</u>	<u>Total</u>
East Kilbride .....	5	5	5	-	4	19
Coalburn I.O.R. ....	6	6	-	-	6	18
Greenock Boy Scouts .....	3	2	4	-	5	14
Burgh of Ardrossan .....	4	3	6	-	-	13
Greenock City Police .....	1	-	3	-	2	6
Galashiels Ex-Service Club	-	4	-	-	-	4
Linlithgow .....	-	-	-	-	3	3
Kirkconnell .....	2	-	-	-	-	2
Alloa Collieries .....	-	-	2	-	-	2
St. Sebastian's .....	-	1	-	-	-	1
MacLean Ladies .....	-	-	1	-	-	1
118th Glasgow Coy. B.B. ..	-	-	-	-	1	1
<u>Juveniles</u>						
Knightswood Juveniles ....	5	6	6	6	5	28
214th Glasgow Coy. B.B. ..	6	4	4	4	6	24
1st Port Glasgow B.B. ....	4	5	5	5	-	19
Little Hulton .....	-	-	-	3	-	3
1st Barrhead B.B. ....	-	-	-	2	-	2

Just to complete the picture, we are listing herewith the top six bands in each class whose order has been determined from all open and confined events.

Grade one Contests -- Open and Confined:

- |                     |                           |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Muirheads        | 4. Invergordon Distillers |
| 2. Edinburgh Police | 5. Renfrew.               |
| 3. Glasgow Police   | 6. 277th A. & A.H.        |

Grade Two Contests -- Open and Confined:

- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Whitrigg Colliery | 4. Armstrong Mem.   |
| 2. 51st R.A.S.C.     | 5. Killoch Colliery |
| 3. Woolmet Colliery  | 6. Paisley B.L.     |

Grade Three Contests -- Open and Confined:

- |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Kilbarchan         | 4. Mount Carmel        |
| 2. Kinning Park       | 5. St. George's C.L.B. |
| 3. B.H.C. Grangemouth | 6. R.A.S.C. (N.I.)     |

Grade Four Contests -- Open and Confined:

- |                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Sgt. Walker Memorial | 4. F/M Montgomery  |
| 2. Coalburn             | 5. Rockmacraney    |
| 3. Kildoag              | 6. Ardrossan Burgh |

Grade Juvenile Contests -- Open and Confined:

1. Knightswood Juveniles

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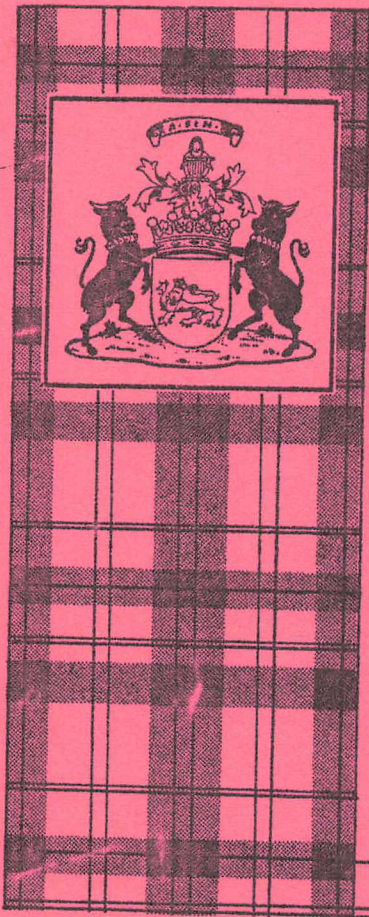
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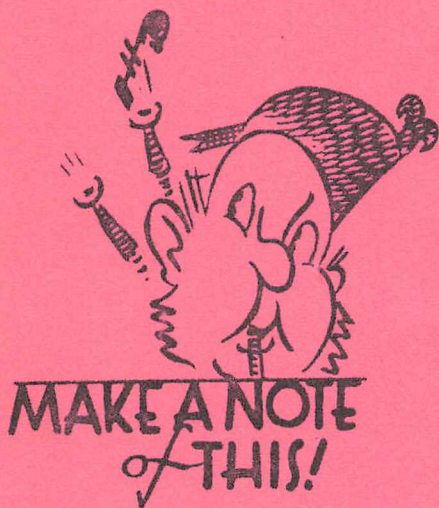


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GENERAL MEETING - FEBRUARY 25th.

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