

# B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



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

JANUARY, 1971      NO. 109



B.C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER

Published by the British Columbia Pipers' Association.

PRESIDENT  
VICE PRESIDENT  
SECRETARY  
TREASURER

WILLIAM ELDER  
BRUCE TOPP  
ISHABEL ROSS  
ROBERT GUNN

B.C. Pipers' Newsletter

EDITORS:

Robert Gunn  
William Elder

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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JANUARY, 1971	Contents	NO. 109
Annual General Meeting.....		Page 1
President's Report.....		Page 1
Bi-monthly Competitions.....		Page 2
Annual Gathering - April 30, May 1 .....		Page 4
Charles MacKenzie.....		Page 4
The New Westminster Tartan Ball.....		Page 4
Western Pipe Band Association.....		Page 5
The Cocur d'Alene Scottish Festival and Tattoo.....		Page 7
Probably A Dancer.....		Page 8
Editorial from the Piping Times.....		Page 9

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Information is being furnished to you for your information only.

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the B.C. Pipers' Association was held January 8, 1971 at the Steelworkers Hall on East Broadway.

Approximately 60 members attended, 26 of which were active, voting members who elected the following people to office for 1971:

PRESIDENT - William Elder  
VICE PRESIDENT - Bruce Topp

DIRECTORS - Bob Gunn  
Bill Lamont  
John MacDonald  
Ruairidh Macdonald  
John McHardy  
Rod MacVicar  
Seb Nellies  
David Wilson  
Alex Young

The new Board of Directors appointed Mrs. Ishabel Ross as interim secretary, Mr. & Mrs. R. Swanson as bi-monthly competition secretaries and Bob Gunn as treasurer.

The following report was presented by retiring President, Bill Lamont:

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

At this time it is my duty as President to give a report of our activities during the past year to the membership.

First, I am happy to report that we have managed to reduce our operating loss for the year to the lowest it has been for quite some time. However, there are still one or two areas that could be improved on and I will deal with them a little later.

Our Annual Dinner this year was very well attended and for the first time a small profit was shown. The Directors have recommended that this years dinner be held in conjunction with the finals of the Knock-out Competition and tentative arrangements have been made as to the time and place. When this is finalized all the members will be notified through the Newsletter.

The General Meetings have proven to be very successful during the past year with the attendance increasing at each one, and here again we have been able to show a small profit. I would like to thank all those who have made these meetings a success, the competitors in the knock-out competition, all the judges who gave their services, the many people who supplies us with entertainment, and of course all the members and friends of the Association whose attendance makes the whole thing possible.

Once again, the entries in the Bi-monthly competitions were very encouraging. The novice class being so large that at the start of the fall season we had to divide it into two groups. Unfortunately, even with the large number of entrants, only seven or eight of the forty some odd who were cligible for perfect attendance pins appeared at the

ceilidh in June to receive them. With the changes in the bi-monthly rules this year we are hopeful that this will not happen again and also that the loss on the ceilidh will be somewhat reduced.

I am sorry to have to report to you that once again our revenue from the White Heather shows was down. We have had two bad years, 1969 and 1970. Our share of the proceeds for both years was just over \$1000.00 as compared to \$4800.00 for the single year of 1968. However, the concert committee will start meeting this month and steps have already been taken in an effort to improve the shows.

I would like to say a word about the Newsletter. I believe, that if the Association did nothing else, the Newsletter alone would be worth joining for and I know that when I express my thanks to the Editors, Bob Gunn and Bill Elder and their wives, Linda and Sharyn, I am speaking for each and every member of the Association.

I have purposely left our biggest event of the year until the end of my report, and of course that is the Annual Gathering. This year it was again a social success and a financial disaster. You will hear during the Treasurer's report that the cost of the gathering was just a few cents short of \$2000.00 and the receipts just over \$1000.00, a loss of almost \$1000.00 which is considerably more than our revenue from all other events combined, and I am sure you will agree with me that this situation can not go on indefinitely. If we are to continue these gatherings on the high level they have attained over the past fifteen or twenty years, and I believe we must, then we will have to make sure that we not only have the support of the competitors, but also the support of all the members and their friends to assure us of full houses at the gathering, and I would suggest to the incoming board of directors that they give this event top priority during these discussions.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members for giving me the honour of serving as President for the last two years. Also, my thanks go to the Board of Directors for the co-operation they have given me, and to the many members, both active and associate who worked so hard at the various events we held during the year, and a very special thanks to the Secretary, Mrs. Donald Ross and the Vice President Mr. Bill Elder who between them have made my job a very pleasant one, and as this is the end of my term as President I would heartily recommend that the vice president, Bill Elder be given your endorsement as President for the ensuing year.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this concludes my report.

William Lamont

\*

Following the formal meeting the regular monthly Knock-Out Competition was well received. The first competition was between David Wilson and Harold Senyk. David won the competition on a split decision. Two judges saw David winning while one favoured Harold. Both competitors played beautifully and either could have been the winner.

The second competition was between Bill Elder and Bill Russell. Bill Russell played first and, although he performed quite well, had the misfortune of going off his tune on two occasions. Bill Elder, on the other hand, gave one of his better competitive performances and was awarded the win by each of the three judges.

Bill Elder and David Wilson move on to the quarter final round and compete against each other on the 2nd of April.

The next knock-out competition will be held following the General Meeting on February 5th. Ian MacDougall will play against Fred Brodie and Donald MacMillan will play against John A. MacLeod. The meeting will start at 8:00 P.M.

Once again we are pleased to announce the great attendance at our knock-out competitions and General Meetings and we heartily encourage our members to attend these enjoyable social gatherings.

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### BI-MONTHLY COMPETITION

Due to the snow condition the January competition was postponed until JANUARY 29, 1971 at the Scaforth Armoury.

The Novice (Section 2) will play Old Highland Airs and the Juniors will play Jigs starting at 8:00 P.M.

The December competition was held on the 18th of the month at the Armoury with the following results:

<u>Juvenile Strathspeys and Reels</u>	<u>Amateur Hornpipe</u>
1st - Douglas Sommerville	1st - Terry Lee
2nd - Stewart Reid	2nd - Sherea Barwell
3rd - Lynda Flynn	3rd - Glen Palmer
4th - Alison Palmer	4th - Jack Lee
5th - Gordon Patterson	

The judge for the evening was Garnet Snow. There were 15 competitors in the Juvenile class and 14 in the Amateur class.

NEXT COMPETITION - JANUARY 29, 1970  
- NOVICE - Section 2 - Old Highland Airs  
- JUNIOR - Jigs

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### ANNUAL DUES

If you haven't received your Annual Dues Statement you will within the next day or so. Remember to send it in promptly as these things tend to be forgotten. Send the statement and dues to:

ROBERT GUNN  
1073 Doran Road  
North Vancouver, B.C.

Old Age Pensioners pay only \$2.00 rather than the stated \$5.00.

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ANNUAL GATHERING

This years Annual Gathering will once again take place at the North Vancouver Community Centre. The dates are April 30th and May 1, 1971. There will be a slight change to previous year's format in that the April 30th competition will start at 3:30 P.M. rather than early morning. The later start is due to the decision of the Board of Directors to limit the number of entries in the Novice competition. Preliminary competitions prior to the Annual Gathering dates will be held to determine the "finalists" who will compete at the Gathering. More information on these preliminary competitions will follow in subsequent Newsletters.

As mentioned last month, P.M. Archie Cairns is to be the judge for the two day competition.

Remember the dates - April 30, 1971 - 3:30 P.M.  
- May 1, 1971 - 8:30 A.M.

Place: North Vancouver Community Centre

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CHARLES MacKENZIE

One of the B.C. Pipers' Association long standing and hard working members has passed away at the age of 85. Charles MacKenzie will be remember by many of our members. He was on the Board of Directors from 1938 to 1945, Vice-President 1945-1947 and President 1947-1949. He remained on the Board for many years following his retirement as President and was presented with a Life Membership in 1961.

Charlie was always an avid piper and played with the 2nd Battalion Seaforth during the Second World War.

The Association is saddened to hear of Charlies passing and offers its deepest sympathy to the MacKenzie family.

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TARTAN BALL

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

Tickets - \$3.50 per person

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 and information from Donald Ross - 526-7905  
or Bill Lyons - 526-8161

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WESTERN PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION

At its Annual General Meeting last November, The Western Pipe Band Association adopted a set of rules governing individual drumming. For many years individual drumming competitions have been governed by a confusing array of rules, usually changing with each games. When the W.P.B.A. was formed it was suggested by many drummers and interested groups that the W.P.B.A. set up a set of regulations in view that drummers possess no organization. Many plans were put forward including organization by age, by band class and classes similar to piping. After much discussion it was decided that the last would be the most acceptable. Classes were then organized as follows:

I CLASS STRUCTURE

NOVICE - Any drummer who in the previous calendar year has not placed 1st or 2nd in at least two (2) competitions where there are six (6) or more competitors in the class. A Novice shall be required to move up to amateur at the end of the calendar year if he/she has placed 1st or 2nd in at least two (2) or more competitions.

AMATEUR - An amateur shall be required to move up to senior amateur at the end of the calendar year if he/she has placed 1st or 2nd in at least two (2) competitions where there are six (6) or more competitors in the class.

SENIOR AMATEUR - A senior amateur is not required to move up to professional class except at his/her own discretion.

PROFESSIONAL -

Any competitor may choose to compete in a higher or more senior class but having done so would forfeit his/her right to again compete under his previous classification.

These rules like all others are not perfect and can be taken advantage of if one is so inclined, especially in the first year of operation. Any set regulations depend a great deal on each individual choosing the class he or she thinks best suits his or her ability. During the second year I believe, the classes will settle down to the smooth operation that is characteristic of piping. Most important of all, I believe is that at last word all competitions in our area will be adopting these rules, providing a degree of standardization.

Another contentious spot for some time has been the scoring of individual drumming and as a result the W.P.B.A. has adopted a score sheet for all drummers individual and corps. This score sheet was put together by Mr. George Pryde who has used it last summer and is in the opinion of the W.P. B.A. exceptional in its scope and coverage.

Bruce MacRae

January 5, 1971  
R.R. #1 Hutchinson Road  
Cobble Hill, B.C.  
Phone 743-2563

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

Gentlemen:

I would like to advertise the following for sale in your publication:

1 Set Hardy Pipes, Sterling Silver and  
Ivory Mounted with ivory mounted chanter.  
These pipes are 3 years old and are in  
new condition - Price \$250.00.

I am selling them because due to an accident I have not been able to play for the last year. I believe the cost of a similar set new is in the vicinity of \$400.00 in Vancouver. I can be contacted at the above address or telephone.

Yours truly,  
A.J. Pink

\*

We received a note from Alvin Halversen, Executive Secretary of the Coeur d'Alene Scottish Festival and Tattoc informing us that the dates for the Coeur d'Alene Scottish Festival and Tattoc are to be July 30, 31 and August 1, 1971.

Also, The Saint Andrews Society of the Inland Empire, will present their Annual "Burns" program at the Masonic Temple, W-1108 Riverside Avenue, Spokane, Washington, Saturday, January 30, 1971, and all visitors from North of the Border are cordially invited.

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FOR SALE

West Highland White Terrier Puppies

Available - February 6, 1971

For information telephone 522-4426

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COEUR D'ALENE SCOTTISH FESTIVAL AND TATTOO

As 1970 drew to a close, the plans for the 1971 Scottish Festival and Tattoo were being drawn up in final form and the necessary arrangements are now well under way.

Once again, we are happy to announce that the planned adjudicators will be, for piping, Mr. Seumas MacNeill, Dr. John MacAskill and Pipe Major Neil Sutherland. The position of drumming adjudicator is yet to be filled and notification will be sent to competitors as soon as this position is filled and confirmed.

It is our intent to introduce a new facet in professional solo piping requirements this year by focusing attention on a great composer of the past, Mr. John MacColl.

The professional piper entering in Saturday's events must submit:

- (a) Two marches. At least one of them is to be a composition by John MacColl. The other may be of the competitor's own choice.
- (b) Two strathspey reel, in sets. Both of these are competitor's choice.
- (c) Two piobaireachd. At least one is to be submitted from the following list.
  1. MacDonald of Kinlochmoidart's Lament (1 or 2)
  2. Lament for the Earl of Antrim
  3. The MacDougalls' Gathering
  4. The Company's Lament
  5. The Vaunting
  6. Lament for Mary MacLeod
  7. Scarce of Fishing
  8. Too Long In This Condition
  9. I Am Proud To Play A Pipe
  10. A Flame of Wrath for Patrick Caogach

The professional drummer will be required to play a complete MSR set, each tune being at least four parts in length. The only change in drumming requirements this year is the deletion of the rule requiring the competitor to submit a drum score to the adjudicator.

There will be no changes in requirements for any other competition category. These will remain as stated last year.

The events taking place at Coeur d'Alene will be in the following order.

FRIDAY, JULY 30, 1971 -

At 5:30 P.M. the afternoon of July 30, the annual Spokane Piobaireachd Society's "BRATACH NAM BEANN" (Banner of the Mountains) piobaireachd competition will be held on the campus of North Idaho Junior College, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. The winner of this event will agree to accept economy air-fare from his or her home to Prestwick, Scotland and

and return to his or her home in the United States or Canada. The mission being to compete for the Gold Medal at Oban.

Depending on the number of competitors entering the piobaireachd competition of this day, the Spokane Piobaireachd Society is planning a 6/8 March competition. A substantial cash prize will be offered. For further information and details, write Lt. Col. John McEwing, West 3309 Dalke Avenue, Spokane, Washington, 99208.

SATURDAY, JULY 31, 1971 -

Beginning at 8:00 A.M., the annual Scottish festival and tattoo competitions will commence. The amateur and professional piping and drumming events will be held throughout the day and will be followed by the quartette competitions in the afternoon. Substantial cash prizes are offered in the professional divisions in addition to the magnificent trophies offered in both the professional and amateur piobaireachd competitions. Evening at the stadium will feature the spectacular pipe band competition and drum major's event. An excellent program is planned for spectator as well as competitor.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 1, 1971 -

At 10:00 A.M. the novice piping competitions will commence and will feature two categories: Those who have been on the pipes 15 months or less (chanter time excluded), and those who have never won an award in any other competing situation. Following this competition will be the annual Scottish Picnic which will feature a varied program of piping and dancing. We wish to encourage participation in this program by any visiting groups who desire to.

For any details regarding the activities for Saturday or Sunday, write P.O. Box Manito Station 8032, Spokane, Washington, 99203.

We wish to extend to all, our best wishes for an excellent new year and look forward to seeing you at Coeur d'Alene in 1971.

Sincerely,

Bill Thomas  
Rules Chairman

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PROBABLY A DANCER

The first week of January proved to be most eventful for co-editor of the Newsletter, William Elder. Bill was elected President of our Association, won a Knock-Out Competition and brought home a charming baby girl. 6 lb. 3 oz. Fiona Mary arrived on December 31, 1970.

Baby and mother Sharyn are both doing marvelously and although Fiona has lovely fingers Sharyn somewhat favours dancing for her baby girl.

Congratulations to the Elders.

P.S. It's Fiona's fault the Newsletter is late!

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## EDITORIAL

The news that the prize monies for the Open Piobaireachd at Oban and the Clasp at Inverness are to be increased is very welcome, but unfortunately more for the gesture than for the reality. The few more pounds will be acceptable by the winners, but will make no difference to the number of people who compete.

One wonders what indeed is the function of these two prestigious contests. Are they primarily methods of securing an airing for tunes not often heard? Are they meant to be attempts to educate the very good pipers by widening their repertoires? Or are they trials of strength to decide who is the best player?

No doubt the Piobaireachd Society hopes that all of these aims are held in mind, and are being realised. To some extent this is true, but to a lessening degree every year.

The world is changing very rapidly nowadays, both economically and socially, and the piping world is feeling the effect. Even ten years ago you would not have found, on the benches at the premier meetings, judges who were at least equal in playing ability to the best players in the competition. In fact, if things go on as they have been, it will not be long before all the best pipers will be teaching or judging (or both), while their pupils do the competing.

The problem is very largely a financial one. During this century the value of money has fallen dramatically, but the prize money for piping has only gone up slowly. The winner of the Clasp at the start of this century received a few pounds. Donald MacPherson this year received £30, but for spending value the prize of sixty years ago was worth five times as much.

The financial standing of pipers has improved tremendously in recent years. At the beginning of this century the Clasp prize probably represented something like a month's wages to the winner -- something which made a big difference to his home. Now it's less than he can earn in a week. In the old days too, the piper's expenses were usually paid by his employer, or by the army. Now he has to pay his own, and perhaps stand loss of earnings as well.

All in all, the game is not worth the candle. John MacDonald of Inverness won four Clasps after he was 60 years of age, but no competitor goes on that long nowadays. And the world of piping loses because of it. If a man stops serious playing because the incentives are gone, then all who might hear him are the poorer.

It is not the fault of the Piobaireachd Society, or of the Meetings. It is just a consequence of our changing society, that at this time -- when pipers are more numerous and probably better than at any time in the last two centuries - we do not have a system adequate enough to encourage the very best pipers to continue playing the best they know how.

Reprinted from the Piping Times  
January, 1971

It is interesting to note that the opinion of the Piping Times Editorial Staff is similar to that of the Newsletter Editors. See Page 1, Issue 92, June, 1969.

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"See you at the Statue"

