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# B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



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





HAPPY NEW YEAR

The B.C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER is published by the  
BRITISH COLUMBIA'S PIPERS' ASSOCIATION.

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PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL HIGHLAND GAMES ASSOCIATION  
DELEGATE'S REPORT FROM THE NANAIMO, B.C. MEETING  
NOVEMBER 15, 1981.

This meeting was the Association's Annual General Meeting and election of officers. There was some apprehension about its' outcome as we came to order 3/4 of an hour late. This was due to the incumbent chairman, Wallace MacLean's absence due to business, and the absence of both Vice-Chairmen, viz, Albert Duncan and George Westwood. Helen Upton looked after affairs for the initial part of the meeting then asked me if I would see to the election of the required slate of officers for 1982. This I was able to do and am happy to say that we quickly filled all offices save that of chairman of heavy events.

The officers for 1982 are as follows:

Chairman	Dave Rickard, Seattle
1st Vice	Albert Duncan, Burnaby
2nd Vice	Bill White, Nanaimo
Secretary	Lavina Galbraith
Treasurer	2536 Highland Blvd. Nanaimo, B.C. V9S 3N8 Phone (112) 758-8275

The following Games Dates were announced:

B.C. Highland	July 3rd
Nanaimo	July 10th
Portland	July 17th
Seattle	August 7th

It was also announced that the Canadian Highland Dancing Championships will be held this coming year in B.C., sponsored by the B.C. Scottish Cultural Association. Dates to be forthcoming. The Nanaimo Indoor Highland Dancing Competitions will be held May 8th, 1982.

The Nanaimo Games Committee feel that they have a real plus going for them this year. A pipe band from New Zealand is to attend their games. This band, it was stated, will also be in attendance at Portland, Oregon.

Both B.C. Pipers and Western Pipe Band Association were complimented on their work at the Vancouver and Seattle Games. It was also thought that competitions for Grade Four type bands was a good idea.

As B.C. Pipers' representative, I was told of an instance where a piper was overworked playing for Highland dancers at a Nanaimo dance contest. I thought this amusing as it was stated that a protest would be forthcoming. To who or to what organization the protest was to be launched was never made clear. My re-action was to state that to my knowledge B.C. Pipers did not set conditions for the hiring of pipers.

Our Nanaimo hosts were thanked for their hospitality before we parted and the next meeting will be held in Vancouver. Time and place to be announced.

A.M. Reid



COMING EVENTS



# Vancouver Folk Music Festival

presents

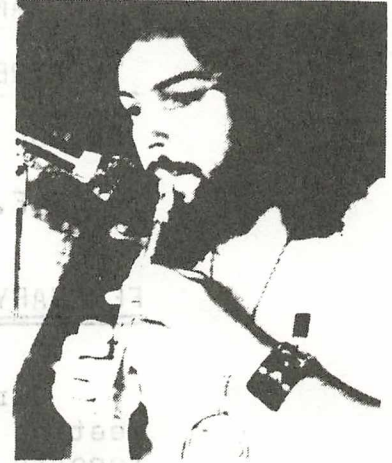
## the Masters Series

**Alan Stivell**

**Queen Elizabeth Playhouse**

*Sunday, January 31, 8 p.m.*     **All Seats Reserved, \$9.00 & \$10.00**

Alan Stivell has been called "the Pied Piper of the Celtic Cultural Renaissance" with some justification. The incredible growth of the number of groups and individuals interpreting traditional Irish, Scottish and Breton folk music and the audience that has developed for it can number Alan Stivell as one of the two or three musicians responsible for getting the ball rolling. Stivell's album "The Renaissance of the Celtic Harp" has sold well over a million copies, and showed a generation of musicians a new direction that could be taken in the arrangement and performance of traditional music. Given this, it comes as a surprise that this is Stivell's first trip to Western North America. Alan Stivell is renowned primarily as one of the world's greatest harpists. He is equally captivating with his heartfelt singing and his brilliant renditions on such diverse instruments as bagpipes, bombardé, fiddle, dulcimer and pennywhistle, blending the varied styles into a unique musical experience.



### V.L.P.B. FESTIVAL

The Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band Annual Festival will be held Saturday, February 20th, 1982 at Langara Campus, 100 West 49th Avenue, Vancouver.

The day's events will begin at 9:30 a.m. and will conclude with the miniature band competition at 7:00 p.m. There will be a céilidh following the awards presentation.

Piping and drumming entries should be mailed to:

Pat Dunbar, 3932 Dunbar Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6S 2E4  
by January 30th, 1982. For further information, please contact Pat at 738-8921.

### BURNS NITE DINNER AND DANCE

Branch 88 Legion is having their Annual Burns Dinner and Dance at the Maple Ridge Legion Hall on Saturday, January 30th. Tickets are \$16.00 each. Contact Archie McAffer at 942-0980.

GAMES IN PENTICTON

This year PENTICTON will be holding HIGHLAND GAMES on JULY 10th, featuring PIPING, DRUMMING AND HEAVY EVENTS.

Details will be supplied at a later date.

TANNAHILL WEAVERS

The TANNAHILL WEAVERS will be appearing at the S.F.U. MALL THEATRE on SATURDAY, JANUARY 30th at 8:00 p.m. Admission \$8.00 Tickets are available from any band member or at the S.F.U. Theatre Box Office at 291-3514.

FEBRUARY KNOCK-OUT - FEBRUARY 5th, 1982, SCOTTISH AUDITORIUM

Our next monthly gathering will be the annual general meeting of the B.C. Pipers' Association. Along with various reports from the executive, the election of officers will also be held. The post of President, Vice-President and that of nine Directors will be open for candidates. Only Active Members (Pipers 18 or over) are entitled to a vote in the election.

The second round of our Knock-out Competition will get into gear. The match-ups are Angus MacPherson playing Jim Stewart and Jim Troy against Alison Palmer.

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, the February meeting will see our much heralded pupil-teacher competition. This will be a DUET COMPETITION, not, as some people mistakenly took to be, a pupil versus teacher event.

The Basic Rules are: 1. Pupil to be juvenile or under  
2. 2-4 minute selection.

This is designed to be a fun event, so get our and let your pupil show you up. For those duets interested in playing, please call DONALD ROSS at 526-7905 or ANGUS MACPHERSON at 939-9614.

As the evening's programme will be quite full, the Annual General Meeting will start at 8:00 P.M. SHARP!

See you there!



# Shocks at top piping contest

THE Scottish piping fraternity was rocked on its heels when Canadians took the major titles at the Glenlivet Northern Meeting in Inverness.

It is considered by most pipers as the top competition in the world and three of the top awards went to the Dominion.



Canadian lawyer Bill Livingstone, who won the Gold Clasp competition at Glenlivet Northern Meeting.

They were the two top pibroch awards, the gold medal and the gold clasp, as well as the pibroch silver medal.

The two days of disaster for Scottish pipers started on Thursday, when Amy Goble (23), from Ottawa, won the silver medal.

Later in the day Jack Lee (23), an accountancy student from Vancouver, took the gold medal.

## Limited

And the supreme award, on Friday, the gold clasp, went to Bill Livingstone, a 39-year-old lawyer, from Whitby, Ontario.

Entrants to the gold clasp are limited to previous winners of the gold medals at Inverness or Oban.

Bill qualified by winning the Oban medal two years ago.

His father, William (73), emigrated to Canada from Cumnock, Ayrshire, in 1929.

Last year Bill finished fourth in the gold clasp at his first attempt.

## Salt in wounds

This year his playing of "The Lament for the Laird of Anapool" took first prize.

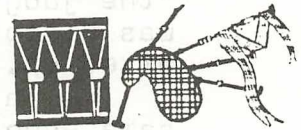
After winning, Bill went straight to a phone to pass on

the good news to his wife, Lillian, who wasn't able to make the trip.

Bill and his father headed back to Canada this week, but he won't be gone from Scotland long.

Next month he'll be back to play in Falkirk and at Blair Castle.

Jack Lee, winner of the gold medal, rubbed salt into the



Scots pipers' wounds by taking the first prize in the March, Strathspey and Reel.

Scottish honour was upheld by Pipe-Major Gavin Stoddart, of the Royal Highland Fusiliers, who won the Strathspey and Reel, and by Dr Angus MacDonald, of Glenuig, Moidart, who won the March.

Angus's brother, Allan, took third place in the same competition.

## FROM OUR READERS

Cypress, California

Unfortunately we don't have a newsletter or an organization that resembles the B.C. Pipers, and consequently we don't have the togetherness that can keep our young pipers aspiring to the top. We do, however, have a noisy and lengthy grapevine, the tendrils of which can reach and syphon some news from your own Vancouver - at times inaccurately.

To give you a look how things are in our L.A. - S.F. area: The bands are in a state of fluctuation. In S.F. we have pipers moving between Prince Charles and Culloden bands. In L.A. - pipers and drummers moving between L.A. Police and Caber Feidh bands. Culloden could become a very good grade 1 band, and Caber Feidh a good grade 2 band. Other than our major Highland Games at Song Beach and Santa Rosa, we have a number of small games that look more like fairs with a lot of stalls selling all sorts of Scottish and Irish goods. There are no band competitions at these, although they have one or more guest bands playing selections; but they do cater quite well to solo piping and Highland dancing.

J. McColl



## A CONCERNED PIPING TEACHER

The article you are about to read is not intended to discredit or embarrass either a judge, committee or any individual who do their best to make a competition a happy event instead of a chore.

In my fourteen years of teaching, I have always encouraged my pupils to compete when possible and to make sure they receive the judges remarks, which I consider to be of great value to the players progress. Going by some of the judges remarks I feel that something is going wrong. eg. a question from a competitor, "why is it that I got good remarks and didn't place but another competitor who didn't have good remarks did place?" A complaint from another competitor, "the judges remarks state that I broke down, I didn't". It was discovered later that the judge got the players names mixed up. The competitor who broke down managed to place.

In a slow air competition, two players, both in the same event, were informed by the judge that the tunes they played were not suitable for competition. The tunes played were, "The Banks of Lochail" and "The Wandering Piper".

In the event where there is a panel of two judges, the competitor receives two separate sheets of the judges remarks, which in some cases conflict to the extent that it leaves the competitor trying to decide which one to accept as being correct. In another instance, the judges written remarks state that the players pipes were in good tune throughout the event, but later informs the player verbally that he or she would have placed better if the pipes hadn't been out of tune. Another event which leaves the player confused is when the entry form states: Event # ? March (leaving out the time signature), and the competitor decides to play either a 6/8 or 3/4 - in both cases four parts), after playing is told by the judge he or she played well but cannot be placed in the prize list because a 2/4 march should have been played.

In conclusion, as judging is not an easy task, I am confident that all concerned, would profit if Pipe Major Ken Eller's advice was taken, and discussion periods between potential judges and experienced judges were held periodically.

Jim Wilson



A LETTER FROM THE JOHN McEWING PIOBAIREACHD SOCIETY

To the B.C.P.A. we extend greetings and best wishes for a happy, healthy and successful 1982.

Contrary to some prevailing rumours, the John McEwing Piobaireachd Society (formerly the "Spokane Piobaireachd Society") is very much alive and well. Since the sad loss of Lt./Col. John McEwing in the autumn of 1980, the piping school staff has undertaken the privilege and responsibility of administrating the organization. The President of the Society is John Ross, a Professor of Anthropology at Eastern Washington University and a close friend of the Colonel.

The successful 1981 Summer School for Piping at North Idaho College, Coeur D'Alene (our eleventh summer school) drew forty-seven students, aged eight to eighty. They came from as far North as Whitehorse and Anchorage; as far East as Logansport, Indiana; and as far South as Buena Park, California. The chief instructor serving his second year was Pipe Major Evan MacRae from Fort William, Scotland. Regular staff were Colin Gemmell, Spokane, Washington; Rob MacNeil of Richmond, B.C.; Sue Arbuthnott of Portland, Ore.; Judy Morrison (1981 "Medallion" winner) of Spokane, Washington; René Cusson of Lantzville, B.C. An additional teacher, Brad Wakefield, Spokane, Washington (1981 winner of the prestigious "Bratach Nam Beann") was also required.

Owing to a demand for year-round piping guidance, the society, in cooperation with Eastern Washinton University, conducted a successful weekend "check-up" seminar at E.W.U. in Cheney. Fifty-four students from as far away as Palmer, Alaska, attended the classes and recitals given by the regular staff, joined by Dan Diessner of Portland, Oregon and Tom Jones of Beaverton, Oregon. So well received was this seminar that continuity demands we offer another weekend seminar in mid-March -- details to appear in the next newsletter.

Brochures for the 1982 summer school at Coeur D'Alene, Idaho are now available and registration information will be available in the next newsletter, or contact:

Mr. John Phillips,  
Piping School Administrator,  
W. 2204 Houston,  
Spokane, Washington 99208

This year, the prestigious "Bratach Nam Beann" contest will be held mid-school, on Sunday, 11 July, so as not to conflict with the Portland Games. Eligibility to compete is by invitation only. To be considered for invitation, interested professional Piobaireachd players, including former winners, should contact the "Banner Committee" in care of Mr. Phillips. We have the right to deny an invitation. It is anticipated that prize money will be greatly increased this year.

Suas Leis a Phiob Mhor.

René P.F. Cusson, for  
The John McEwing Piobaireachd Society



JANUARY KNOCK-OUT

The first General Meeting was held on January 8th, at the Scottish Ausitorium. What might have been an historic night in the Association was rather poorly attended. Although adverse weather conditions and the close proximity to the Festive Season were contributing factors.

The notices of motion published in last month's newsletter were moved and seconded and discussion was held on the proposed changes. After discrepancies were pointed out in some of the resolutions, the motion was withdrawn.

The knock-out competition saw Hal Senyk, Jimmy Hardie and Jack Lee all move into the next round. Harold was declared the winner over Graham Davidson, while Jimmy beat Dave Wilson and Jack took the nod over Peter Aumonier.

An impromptu jig competition followed the formal part of the programme. Jack Lee, Peter Aumonier and Hal Senyk.

The judges for the evening were Albert Duncan, Terry Lee, Alex Young and Angus MacPherson.

MINI GATHERING RESULTS JAN. 9, 1982

CHANTER CLASS - MARCH

1. Jeff Macleod
2. Niki Cambell
3. Glen Mitchell
4. Norma MacLeod

NOVICE - STRATHSPEY & REEL

1. Kevin Gray
2. Karen Mark
3. Fern Miller
4. Heather McDonald

JUVENILE - 2/4 MARCH

1. Shaunna Stephen
2. Malcolm Bokenfohr
3. John Miller

JUNIOR - PIOBAIREACHD

1. Sandy Miller
2. Brian Goldie

AMATEUR - MSR

1. Darleen Miharija
2. Andrew Bonar

JUDGES:

Peter Aumonier  
Jack Lee  
Robert MacNeil



1982 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Due to increased costs in publishing and mailing the newsletter, in particular the recent increase in postal rates, we have had to raise 1982 dues to the following:

Active and Associate	\$10.00
Pensioners and Juniors	\$5.00

Your 1982 dues should be mailed as soon as possible to:

R. N. Palmer  
4694 W. 7th Ave.  
Vancouver, B.C.  
V6R 1X5

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

ACTIVE \_\_\_\_\_

ASSOCIATE \_\_\_\_\_

O.A.P. \_\_\_\_\_

JUNIOR \_\_\_\_\_



