B.C. PIPERS'

NEWSLETTER

The official monthly publication of

the British Columbia Pipers' Association

MAY/JUNE, 1976 NO. 151

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER

Published by the British Columbia Pipers' Association.

PRESIDENT	James MacDonald
VICE-PRESIDENT	Alex Young
SECRETARY/TREASURER	Richard Herring
Association Pipe Major	Seb Nellies

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.

EDITOR:	Angus Macpherson
STAFF:	Janice MacDonald James MacDonald Judi Macpherson

MAY/JUNE, 1976 NO. 151

Table of Contents

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

Once again I would like to congratulate the B. C. Pipers' Association on a most enjoyable Annual Gathering. Everyone in the Penticton contingent had a great time and we learn a lot at these events. It is a great opportunity for our younger pipers to listen to top class piping and gives them the encouragement they need to get down to work for another year. Only one small complaint - the times when the various events have to be played should be given to competitors a few days in advance; some of my students waited four hours before competing.

Regarding the problem of the Mini Gatherings. This is a tricky problem that I am sure will have to be resolved locally. We realize that if you revert to having the Gatherings on a Friday night, we would have to travel down on Friday afternoons and play the same evening, but the Gatherings have to be arranged primarily to suit the majority which, of course, are local Vancouver pipers. Weather conditions are such that there is no guarantee that people in the Interior are going to be able to attend on a given date. I personally would like to give the Mini Gathering another chance as it was set up last year.

Another problem people from the Interior have is the expense of staying in hotels, etc. Perhaps anyone who is interested in billeting young pipers could give their names to the B. C. Pipers' Association, then people from out-of-town could write them to see what was available.

It appears that there is some concern that the Interior Games at Trail and Nelson, etc. do not use the B. C. Pipers' rules and regulations. This problem has been looked into in the past and is being looked into at this time. The problem is not an easy one to overcome and some effort by people in the involved piping societies getting together and talking this over should be encouraged. It is not a simple matter changing from one rule structure to another and some people should engage their minds and think before hitting out at other rule structures. One of the main reasons it is so hard to change the rules in the Interior is because Calgary, Edmonton, Spokane, Coeur d'Alene, all send a big number of pipers to the Interior games, and their rule structure is similar.

Once again the subject of judging comes up. I would like to see the B. C. Pipers' Association publish in the Newsletter a list of bona-fide judges and their addresses every year. This should include judges from B.C., the Prairies, Ontario, Eastern Canada and the U.S. Looking back at some of the old Newsletters, I see that P/M A. Cairns ran a judges' course with some success. Perhaps the Association could appoint someone to run a similar course

so as to get rid of some of the "duds". It is amazing the power of a certificate of merit. Talking about judges, there is no way that I agree with the writer who questions taking judges from Scotland. This surely has been one of the reasons for the success of your Annual Gatherings.

Nigel Alakija,
Penticton.

Dear Sir,

Thank you very much for your coverage of our forthcoming games in your February issue. We hope to have the pleasure of seeing many of your members down here and will do our best to ensure that they have a good time.

I would like to note that we will have free parking space for campers and trailers and will have sleeping bag facilities in the school gymnasium. We have no motel accommodations in Athena, but there are many first grade motels in Milton-Freewater and Walla Walla (Wa.) to the North and Pendleton to the South. Driving time to any of these cities is less than the time required to drive across the City of Vancouver.

If the author of the article on the W.P.B.A. will send me a copy of their band competition rules, we will surely give them consideration for next year. We are new to the game and not having been aware of any such rules, tried to set up what we felt would be simplest for all concerned.

Le gach deagh run,

Donald R. Duncan, Chairman,
Caledonian Games Committee,
Athena, Oregon.

Dear Sir,

We are pleased to announce July 24-25, 1976 as the dates for the eighteenth Annual Coeur d'Alene Scottish Festival and Tattoo, at Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. It is traditional that the Tattoo and the Annual Scottish Picnic be held during the last full weekend in July. This Sunday, July 25, 1976 will be the thirty-ninth consecutive year for the "Gathering" of the Scots and their related friends in Coeur d'Alene.

A complete revised schedule of events and prize monies for Pipe Bands, Professional Piping and Professional Drumming events will be published at an early date. We are pleased to announce our plans for an expansion of the Drumming events with an inclusion of the winners in the evening "Tattoo".

Any enquiries for additional information should be addressed to Mr. David Warner, Exec. Secy., N. 5209 Fairmount Place, Spokane, Wn. 99208. Phone (509) 325-5375.

Alvin Halvorson,
Coeur d'Alene Scottish
Festival and Tattoo.

Dear Sir,

A new generation of young pipers and enthusiasts has grown up since 1957 and it won't know anything about the international appeal of that year. A lot of the older people are a lot older now and many may have forgotten subscribing to the appeal. I think my little article will make a lot of people a great deal wiser. If I can save people from throwing away their money, I'll consider I've done a good job.

Poor Old Boreraig

In the March, 1976 issue of the "Piping Times" there is an interesting article by Keith Mumby, entitled "Poor Boreraig". After the article I was astounded to read about another appeal for funds to build a summer school of piping at Boreraig. Why was I astounded?

On Saturday, November 30th, 1957, an international appeal was launched on behalf of the College of Piping for funds to restore the MacCrimmon School at Boreraig, etc., etc. As a bank messenger in Toronto, Canada, I received a small salary which I had to augment by teaching piping and by judging at piping competitions. If you study the list of donations you will observe that my enthusiasm for what I deemed a worthy cause was reflected in my generosity - £5.0.0.

It has been amply demonstrated that the Scottish Piping Dons would far rather teach at summer schools in the El Dorado of North America than in 'Poor old Boreraig' or anywhere else in Scotland. I don't blame them for this, but, for the love of Patrick Og, don't come begging again for funds. As far as I am concerned, once bitten, twice shy.

John Wilson

Editor's Note: Mr. Wilson supplied us with photocopies of the original request for funds for the College of Piping and for facilities at Boreraig. He also included copies of lists of donors and the amount donated.

Dear Sir,

I think that the time has come for the members of the B. C. Pipers' Association to take a close look at the philosophy and goals of the Association and attempt to determine whether or not we are presently fulfilling those goals. It is stated in the Constitution that the object of the Association is "to foster and preserve Bagpipe Music" and "to promote the attainment of proficiency therein". To this end the Association holds monthly meetings at which trios compete in a knockout competition and professional pipers compete for a prize of $10. During the winter, regular competitions are held for amateur pipers and each spring there is an indoor competition with an imported judge. Perhaps the point has been reached where this time-worn formula should be examined. Could the Association not be doing more to foster the growth and improvement of piping?

Attending the Annual General Meeting this year, one could not help but be impressed by the financial resources of the Association. According to the information presented at the meeting, the Association possesses invested assets of $51,494.41. I could not help but wonder how much this fifty-one thousand dollars was doing to promote piping. Are we indeed a piping organization or have we instead become a financial investments syndicate? When questioning the rationale behind maintaining such a large bank balance one invariably receives the same response: "We made that money by dint of sheer hard work in the past. These days we can't make any more money and we're forced to live on the interest." A plausible explanation but one which loses its validity when the figures are examined. During the calendar year of 1975 the Association made $9,949.93 interest on its investments. What about that excuse of "living on the interest"? Of that $9.949.93 only $2,000.10 was transferred to the active account of B.C. Pipers. Simple subtraction leaves a balance of $7,949.83. So in actual fact, instead of "living on the interest" the Association made a rather large profit. A profit which no doubt will be invested in some type of bond or maximum interest bank account. So much for promoting piping. Perhaps the Directors of the Association have become too involved in the worry of financial viability and have lost sight of our goals. Money in the bank does little to improve piping. A healthy organization, whether business or otherwise, is one in which there is a turnover of assets. We are not attempting to build a financial empire but rather a musical one.

There are perhaps three ways in which our money could be more rewardingly utilized. Firstly, greater financial rewards and encouragement could be offered to our professional pipers. Secondly, our pipers could be given more opportunity to travel in order to study and compete and thereby increase their proficiency. Thirdly, local stimulus could be provided in two

ways: by importing more judges, players and speakers and by attempting to establish some sort of permanent piping facility in Vancouver. Let us examine these possibilities separately.

Professional pipers are perhaps the least recognized and most poorly rewarded of all professional musicians. Other than self-motivation what reason does a piper have to spend years of his life in attempting to perfect his musical abilities? All that awaits him is the polite applause of a handful of spectators and the magnificent prize of perhaps twelve or fifteen dollars at one of our local games. However, things have improved lately. Now in the off-season a professional piper can compete against ten or twelve of his peers at the B. C. Pipers' meeting for the sum of $10 - winner takes all. For too long the idea has existed that a piper should play for $10 and be pleased to receive it. It is time that professional pipers were treated on an equal basis with other professional musicians and rewarded accordingly. A beginning has been made. Some people, notably Col. McEwing of Spokane, have attempted to reward pipers more adequately. Coeur d'Alene was the first place locally to offer $100 prizes for professional events. This trend must continue and become more widespread. This year's Indoor Meet illustrated that we have a professional class which, in terms of talent and depth, would be difficult to match anywhere. The time has come to pay the piper.

It may seem that my concerns are all for the professional piper. Not so. I feel that we could do a great deal to encourage our amateur players. Perhaps the most beneficial experience for a young musician is exposure to as many diverse styles and influences as possible. The best way to achieve this is by travelling. However, travel is often financially impossible for our younger players. The B. C. Pipers' Association should be taking the lead in stimulating the amateur piping scene by providing as many travel and tuition scholarships as possible. What piper would not benefit from some time spent in Scotland learning from one of the great teachers and competing against the best the world has to offer? And don't forget, such a piper would bring his newly acquired knowledge and ideas home with him. What a stimulus for local piping that would be!

It could be argued that the preceding two proposals benefit only individuals, however, there is a way that our Association could spend its money to benefit everyone. The importing of a Scottish judge for the Indoor Meet is an admirable practice. But why does this occur but once a year? Could we not instead import pipers on a regular basis to judge, give recitals, conduct workshops and perhaps present lectures? Why not make use of all the knowledge available to us? Our funds would certainly be well spent if we could say that every one of us had learned more about our

instrument by their expenditure. I think we must also investigate the possibilities of establishing a permanent piping facility in Vancouver. It is time for the Association to have a home - a building designed specifically for our purposes and one which would serve the piping community for years to come.

As I stated at the outset, I feel it is time we examined the priorities and direction of the Association. I have offered my comments and criticisms. I invite your responses.

Allan Skalazub

LAST MONTH IN AND AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

B. C. PIPERS' ANNUAL GATHERING

The 44th Annual Gathering of the B. C. Pipers' Association was held on the Easter weekend, April 16th and 17th in the North Vancouver Recreation Centre. Once again, the Gathering was a total success and not without its usual array of highlights. Having the services of Mr. Donald Morrison as our chief adjudicator is one highlight that will not easily be forgotten, nor the pleasure of listening to Jimmy McColl's interpretation of how the Big Music should be played. (The fact that Mr. McColl played this style in the competition demonstrates how strongly he feels about this subject and hopefully we will be able to present an article from Jimmy at a later date.)

Winning the MacCrimmon Cairn and a ticket to Scotland, Hal Senyk was presented with a memorable Easter present.

Last but not least - the Ceilidh - a recent innovation but most definitely a long tradition. (Carting home 100 dozen empty beer bottles was not a highlight of Dick Herring's evening.)

An event of this magnitude does not just happen and I think a vote of thanks should be extended to the Annual Gathering Committee for what will be termed the best Gathering yet. (Until next year.)

Results

Novice Marches

1. Rod Bellamy
2. Shelley Mutch
3. Christine Reid
4. Laurie Young

Glasgow & District Assoc. Trophy - Rod Bellamy

Juvenile Marches

1. Peter Aumonier
2. Pauline Alakija
3. David Winter
4. Terrie Smith

Juvenile Strathspey & Reel

1. Peter Aumonier
2. Maureen Lee
3. James Paterson
4. Brenda Barker

K. Nicholson Willis Trophy - Peter Aumonier

Junior Marches

1. Christine Waddell
2. James Stewart
3. Jean Nicol
4. Valerie Pederson

Junior Strathspey & Reel

1. Judy Carl
2. James Stewart
3. Valerie Pederson
4. Christine Waddell

Junior Piobaireachd

1. Valerie Pederson
2. James Stewart

Gordon Sinclair Memorial Trophy - James Stewart

Roderick F. MacRae Trophy (Junior Aggregate)- James Stewart

Junior Quartettes

1. Richmond Junior (Bruce McIntosh)
2. Richmond Junior (Gordon Paterson)

Junior Miniature Bands

1. Richmond Junior

Drumming

Richmond Junior

Amateur Marches

1. James Wright
2. Jill Laurie
3. Alan Wilson
4. Alison Palmer

Amateur Strathspey & Reel

1. Jill Laurie
2. James Wright
3. Alison Palmer
4. David Hennigan

Amateur Piobaireachd

1. Grant Wilkie
2. Graham Davidson
3. Jill Laurie
4. James Wright

Cabar Feidh Trophy - Grant Wilkie

Nicholson Trophy (Amateur Aggregate) - Jill Laurie

Professional Piobaireachd

1. Hal Senyk
2. Colin MacKenzie
3. Ian Whitelaw

MacCrimmon Memorial Cairn - Hal Senyk

Professional March, Strathspey & Reel

1. Steve Geddes
2. Hal Senyk
3. Donald MacMillan

Professional Jigs

1. Colin Gemmell
2. Ian Whitelaw
3. Allan MacDougall

Donald McDonald Memorial Trophy - Colin Gemmell

Mary McLeod Collins Trophy (Professional Aggregate)- Hal Senyk

Senior Miniature Bands

1. Triumph Street
2. City of Victoria

City of Port Moody Pipe Band Trophy - Triumph Street

Drumming

1. City of Victoria

Triumph Street Cup

All Events

Peter Aumonier & Jill Laurie

MacIvor Memorial Trophy

Most Promising Piper

James Stewart

Rod McLeod Memorial Trophy

Angus McKay Music Book

James Stewart

Practice Chanter

Jill Laurie

Flight to Scotland

Hal Senyk

JUDGE'S COMMENTS

On 16th and 17th April, I had the honour of adjudicating the 44th Annual Gathering.

A scan through the well presented programme gave me an insight of the large number of entrants the competition had attracted and I became acutely aware of the enormous task ahead of me. However, the dedicated work of the organizers lessened my anxiety and I was quietly relieved that an elimination process had been set up for some sections making my work very much easier.

At the outset I was very impressed with the well tuned pipes, reflecting good preparatory work and patience on the part of the instructors.

Although Valerie Pederson omitted the last two notes of the Crunluath Doubling (a fault frequently heard that day and the following), she was a worthy winner of the Junior Piobaireachd. Runner-up, James Stewart, a very promising young piper, spoiled a well played tune by emphasizing the final E of each Crunluath movement instead of carrying it through to the following melody note.

The Junior March, Strathspey and Reel produced some fine performances and the calibre of tunes played showed good tuition work especially in execution.

To generalize - in the Novice Marches; Juvenile Marches and Juvenile Strathspeys and Reels, the playing was of a high standard, again showing good preparation and tuition. However, the main faults were poor doubling on C and playing fast and unsteady. The lesson here - "never play faster than the finger ability".

In the Amateur Piobaireachd, the standard improved quite decidedly but though the fingerwork and pipes were excellent, there is an urgent need to smooth out performances - think in terms of phrases rather than rigid bars of music and introduce the "song" of the piobaireachd. This can be best achieved by singing the music once the notes have been memorized.

In the March, Strathspeys and Reels, I had to eliminate a few because of "false fingering" - mainly, playing top hand notes with the Low "G" closed. Although the performances of those concerned sounded very musical, incorrect fingering cannot be overlooked.

No Professional competition can pass without its specialized criticism. I am still very much involved in this sphere and I experienced from the bench all the anxieties of each competitor.

Colin Gemmell was first to play - an unenviable position. His handling of the Lament for Donald Duaghal MacKay was mature but a minor choke at the end of the Taorluath obviously upset him and the concluding variations were not in keeping with the Ground.

Colin MacKenzie set a high standard playing MacDougall's Gathering. Perhaps nerves caused him to drag the 1st and 2nd Lines of the Ground but he soon settled into it and with the exception of a too carefully played Crunluath Doubling this was a very competent performance.

Jack Lee playing Lady MacDonald's Lament made a sound job of a tune requiring careful study but unfortunately he had several note mistakes in the early variations but concluded very strongly.

Ian Whitelaw spoiled a well played Lament for Captain MacDougall by mistiming completely the last 2 Bars of the tune.

Hal Senyk played a musical Unjust Incarceration; if one had to seek faults - to my ear - the last line was not perhaps pointed hard enough. This was a well presented piece of music, and ultimately the winner.

Allan MacLeod gave the Lament for Mary MacLeod the piobaireachd "song" throughout but a technical omission in the Ground and a minor choke in Variation I Doubling unfortunately debarred him.

James Troy started excellently with the Lament for MacSwan of Roaig but had note mistakes in the 1st Variation. Although he did not show much appreciable time difference between Singlings and Doublings of Variations, this was indeed a well phrased piece of music.

To summarize on the March, Strathspey and Reel Competition, criticisms can be placed in three categories:

(a) very stilted playing, particularly in Strathspeys and Reels,
(b) Reels too fast,
(c) Jigs much too fast; the content too technical and unmusical.

I must make comment of the peculiar manner in which some pipers, in all Grades, march. While it does not to any appreciable degree affect the musical production, it is extremely unattractive and I think quite unnecessary.

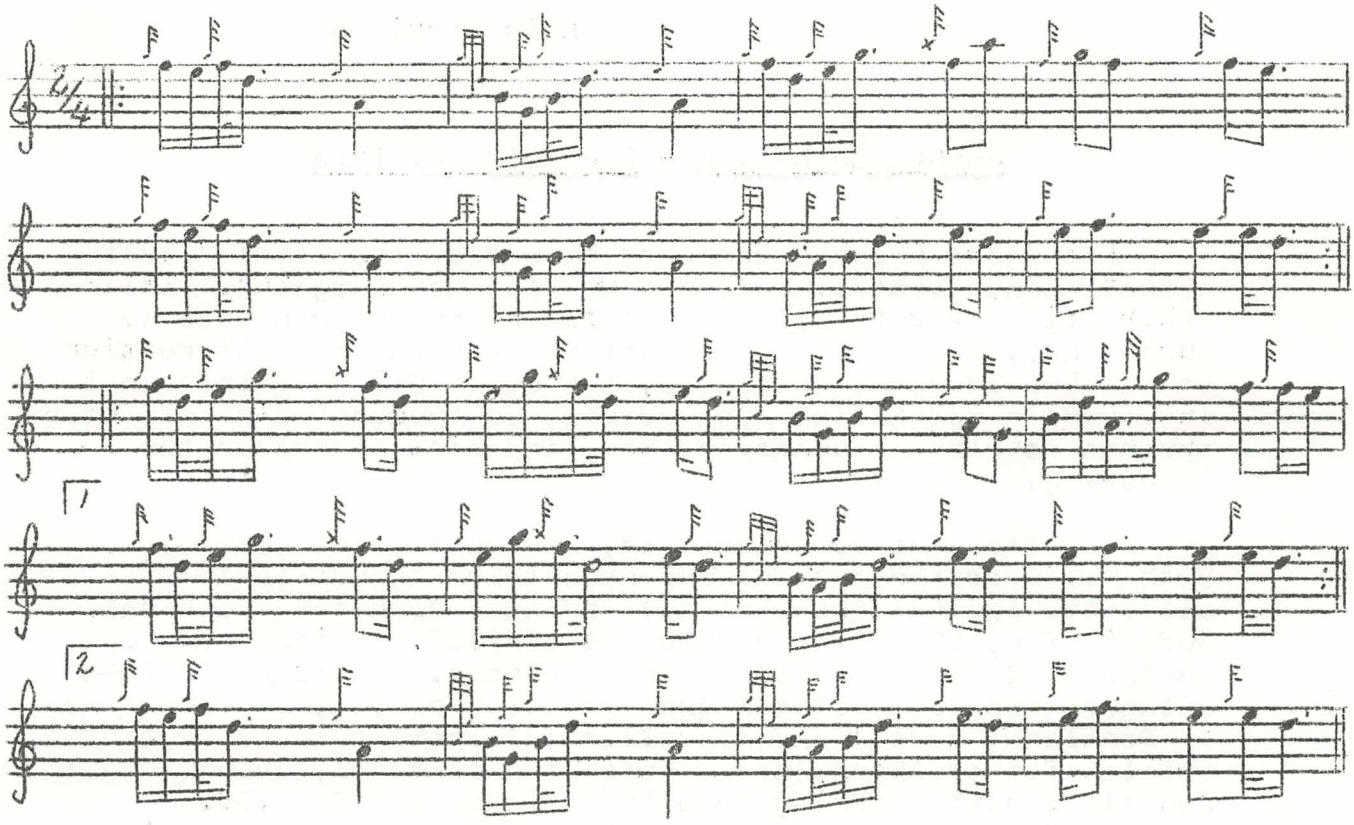
The standard of solo piping was good but the Bands really excelled.

It's a pity one has to award points in these competitions but I trust that not too much will be made of figures awarded. I was much impressed with the well tuned pipes and the quality and variety of the repertoires.

My grateful thanks to all the competitors for their good sportsmanship and cooperation. My congratulations to the winners. To the non-winners - there's always another competition and none should be despirited. I am sure all of us derived some benefit from the contest.

DONALD ROSS OF VANCOUVER

SLOW AIR



- DONALD MORRISON

To single out individuals for especial thanks would be impossible. Hospitality could be another name for Vancouver. I must however mention the Officers and Directors of the Association who made possible the competition and who obviously put in unlimited hours of work to make it such a success. It is to their credit and to all others associated with piping in the area that the great Highland Bagpipe is so very popular. The young enthusiasts are indeed in very good hands.

I shall always be indebted to the many kind people I had the pleasure of meeting. I shall always have fond memories of my visit.

Donald Morrison

Annual Gathering - Financial Picture

For years now the comments have been the same: "Great competition, great piping, but we lost money again". Still others find it difficult to comprehend how we can lose so much money, especially in recent years with the introduction of the Ceilidh and, of course, the bar. Well for those not involved in organizing such events, we thought we'd enlighten the masses with a summary of the financial report on the Gathering.

The first major expense is, of course, the judges. With Mr. Morrison's total expenses taken at 60% (40% allocated against the recital) and including the drumming judge's fee, this item adds up to $744.20. Prizes take up another sizeable portion of the expenses. Included in this category are professional and band cash prizes, the air fare to Scotland, medals and miscellaneous items such as engraving, shields for trophies, etc. This amounts to $1,139.56. Hall rental is next checking in with a staggering $400.00. Another $105.00 was eaten up with judges' and officials' lunches from the C.P. Air Junior Band. When combined with a bar bill of $993.86 and miscellaneous items, the total outlay for the Gathering reads $3,393.67.

On the receipt side of the ledger the entries are somewhat smaller. Admissions and programme sales accounted for $960.00. The bar accounted for the remainder for net receipts of $2,481.60 for the two-day event.

The net loss, therefore, for this year's Gathering was $912.07. The purpose of the above is not an effort to encourage cost cutting or to seek new sources of revenue, but merely to point out where the money comes from and how fast it goes. All things considered, this has to be one of the most successful Gatherings from a financial view in recent years.

April Knock-Out

The General Meeting for April was held in the Scottish Auditorium on April 2nd, 1976.

The Trio Competition saw Triumph Street comprising of Hal Senyk, Angus Macpherson and Ian Whitelaw beat a strong challenge from Victoria I represented by Jamie Troy, Steve Geddes and Bill Mossie, to gain a spot in the finals.

The Open March, Strathspey and Reel Competition attracted only three entries; namely, Jack Lee, Ian Whitelaw and Hal Senyk, with Hal emerging as the winner.

The judges for the evening were Ed Esson, Ian McKinnon and Danny Murray.

Impromptu piping included selections from Graham Davidson, Jack Lee, Ian Whitelaw, and Hal Senyk.

May Knock-Out

The last General Meeting of the 1975/76 season was held at the Scottish Auditorium on May 7th, 1976.

The second semi-final of the Trio Competition was staged and Victoria No. 2 triumphed over the Richmond No. 1 Trio to obtain a place in the finals. The judges were Jim McPherson, John MacLeod, and Bill Elder.

The impromptu piping featured three duets comprising of James Wright & Graham Davidson; Robbie McNeil & Jim Stewart; Bruce McIntosh & Alan Wilson. Perhaps this could be an indication that this format could replace the Trio Competition in future years. "Soloists" for the evening included Jack Lee, Jill Laurie, Rob Menzies, Robbie McNeil, and Alan MacLeod.

A welcomed change in the impromptu has been the presence of Valerie Macpherson. Val, a native of Uist, has been delighting audiences at recent meetings with her beautiful Gaelic singing.

Annual Dinner

This year's edition of the Association's Annual Dinner/ Dance was held at St. Francis de Sales School on May 15th.

Although ticket sales got off to a rather slow start, a healthy crowd turned out to dine on Cornish Game Hen and feast on some fine piping.

As the last of the dishes were being cleared, City of Victoria #2 took their place on the floor in front of judges, Bill Elder, Alex Reid and Dave Wilson. The Victoria trio consisting of Warren Fells, Bill Wishart and Doug Bell, turned in a very entertaining selection and were very well received by the receptive audience. The Triumph Street trio of Hal Senyk, Angus Macpherson and Ian Whitelaw were declared the eventual winners and, as such, remained unbeaten throughout the season.

The successful end of another knock-out season faded away as Andy Arnott's band struck up for the Gay Gordons. The band was relieved during the evening by Ian Whitelaw and Angus Macpherson supplying the music for a Scottish Waltz and Ian playing for an eightsome near the close.

If this is what we can expect next year, there should be no problem selling tickets.

ANGUS MACPHERSON

A familiar figure at all Highland Games throughout Scotland, Angus Macpherson died on May 3 following a brief illness in hospital. He was just two months short of his 99th birthday.

An Appreciation by John MacFadyen

On the morning of July 2, 1877, Angus Macpherson was born in a small cottage near Cluny Castle, the home of the chiefs of Clan Chattan.

He was ushered into the world to the sound of the pipe, which was being played by his father, the immortal Calum Piobaire, and there can be few days during his long and illustrious life when he did not hear or play a tune on his beloved instrument.

That he was a player of considerable merit there can be little doubt and even in his latter years the crispness of his fingering and his ability to tune a pipe would put many a performer three-score years his junior to shame.

The peak of his competitive career was achieved in 1923, some 53 years ago, when he won the Highland Society of London's Gold Medal at the Northern Meetings in Inverness, a gathering for which he had a special love and which he attended for 80 successive years.

Many honours came to him during his life, all of which he received with dignity, humility and pleasure. The many Highland games to which he gave so unstintingly of his services all honoured him at various stages in his career.

He was made a vice president of the College of Piping; with Dame Flora MacLeod of MacLeod and Dr. Kenneth MacKay he was elected an honorary member of the piobaireachd society for his services to piping, an honour which gave him as much pleasure as it did to the society members on hearing of his acceptance. And above all, he was honoured by his Queen with the MBE at a ceremony at Balmoral Castle.

But, fine player though he undoubtedly was, it is not as an actual performer that Angus will be remembered best. He will be remembered as a Highland gentleman of great courtesy, a great angler, dancer, and seannachaidh, but most of all, he will be remembered as the last of an era and the last of a great line of piping tradition and lore.

Reprinted from the Oban Times.

NEXT MONTH

Games' Dates

New Westminster	-	Sons of Scotland at Queens Park Stadium on June 12, 1976. Ceilidh after at the Queens Park Arenex. All solo piping will be completed by 1:00 p.m.
Vancouver	-	B. C. Highland Dancing at Minoru Park, Richmond, July 3, 1976. Ceilidh after at Sea Island Forum.
Courtenay	-	Western Canada Summer School. Competition tentatively set for July 10, 1976.
Portland	-	July 17, 1976
Coeur d'Alene	-	July 24, 25, 1976
Athena	-	July 24, 1976

Bi-Monthlies

The Board of Directors has decided to reinstate the Bi-monthly format of winter competitions. Unfortunately, the Mini Gatherings have proven unsuccessful.

Entry forms, etc., will be available in the July edition.

PIPING SCHOOLS

Coeur d'Alene

The Spokane Piobaireachd Society's 10th Annual Summer School for Piping at the North Idaho College in Coeur d'Alene. Two 2-week sessions from July 4-16 and July 18-30. Chief instructors, Andrew Wright and Donald Morrison.

For applications forms, please write:
Lt./Col. John McEwing, U.S.A.F. Ret., W. 3309 Dalke Avenue, Spokane, Wash. 99208.

Courtenay

Western Canada Summer School of Dancing, Piping and Drumming from July 4-10, 1976. R.G. Hardie, famous bagpipe maker and P/M of Muirhead & Sons Pipe Band, will be chief piping instructor. Bert Barr, Shotts & Dykehead, drumming instructor. Interested applications should write to:
Heather Jolley, 2767 Mountview Place, Burnaby, B.C. V3J 1E5.

Pebble Beach

The Seumas MacNeill California Summer School for pipers. August 1-14, 1976 at Robert Louis Stevenson School. Chief instructors, Seumas MacNeill, John Burgess and Iain McFadyen.

For reservations and enrolment write:
Charles B. MacGlashan, Sr., 501 East Romie Lane, Salinas, Calif. 93901.

* * * * * * *

DIRECTOR OF ARMY PIPING RETIRES

The British Army School of Piping at Edinburgh Castle has become a "University of Bagpipe Skill" - this is very largely due to the encouragement and enthusiasm of its Director, Captain John MacLellan.

That was the accolade of Brigadier David Riddell-Webster of the Scottish Division at the farewell ceremony to Captain MacLellan to mark his retirement after serving 40 years in the Army.

Captain MacLellan, who joined the Cameron Highlanders as a 15-year-old boy piper in 1936 and was appointed the first Director of Army Bagpipe Music in 1968, has a special memento of what he described as his "tremendously happy life" in the Army. From the sixteen piping regiments of the British Army - including the five Gurkha regiments - he received an inscribed silver salver, bearing the badges of all the regiments.

The presentation, which was a pleasant and unexpected surprise for Captain MacLellan, took place at Edinburgh Castle before a complimentary luncheon.

Among those present were General Frank Richardson, Brigadier Frank Coutts, both keenly interested in piping, Alistair Anderson, president of the Piobaireachd Society, Seumas MacNeill, principal of the College of Piping, and Captain Andrew Pitkeathly, formerly personal piper to the Queen at Buckingham Palace and now the new Director of the Army School of Piping.

Giving himself a little time - six months in fact - to adjust to civilian life and before settling down in the placid suburb of Comely Bank in Edinburgh, Captain MacLellan is off on a bit of a globe-trotting tour - South Africa, Australia, Canada, taking his pipes with him.

Contrary to the belief that old soldiers fade away, Captain MacLellan at 55 intends to be as energetic in civilian life teaching, composing and playing, as he was in the Army School.

Captain Pitkeathly, an Argyll and Sutherland Highlander, is looking forward to his new post, and the Army School - according to Captain MacLellan - is being left in "very capable hands."

- Reprinted from the
Oban Times, May 6, 1976.

THE TRIUMPH STREET PIPE BAND

Once again in its tradition of music first, The Triumph Street Pipe Band has decided to raise funds by selling what it does best - playing Pipes and Drums.

The band is embarking on a three-week tour of Scotland this summer to compete in the Grade I pipe band championships including the World Championships at Hawick, the Cowal Championships and the European Championships at Shotts.

The funds for this trip are being raised mainly by the sale of this fine album. Recorded in one of the finest facilities on the West Coast, this record combines some of the old favourites with original selections.

For $6.50 (incl. tax), you can help send the band to Scotland as well as having a fine album in your collection.

Quantities are limited so act fast.

Please phone Angus Macpherson at 526-9006, Hal Senyk at 253-1743, or write #307-707 Hamilton Street, New Westminster, B. C.

BANDSTAND

Western Pipe Band Association

The Western Pipe Band Association, which despite its good intentions was far from successful in the past, has reappeared on the piping scene. The 1976 version shows much promise with many new faces, lots of enthusiasm and a fresh outlook. The goal of the Association is to foster the growth and advancement of pipe bands, not hinder them as had sometimes been the case in the past. The Association also plans to show the Highland Games' organizations and the public what pipe bands have to offer so expect to see a greater measure of participation by the pipe bands at the games this summer.

The

Triumph Street

Pipe Band

THE TRIUMPH STREET PIPE BAND OF VANCOUVER IS PROUD TO PRESENT TO YOU ITS FIRST RECORD ALBUM. THE BAND, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF P/M HAL SENYK AND LEADING DRUMMER WILLIE McERLEAN, HAS BEEN A CONSISTENT WINNER IN GRADE 1 CONTESTS THROUGHOUT THE NORTHWEST, AND IS TRAVELLING TO SCOTLAND THIS YEAR TO COMPETE AGAINST THE BEST IN THE WORLD. THIS RECORD IS BEING DISTRIBUTED IN AN EFFORT TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THIS TRIP.

INCLUDED ON THE RECORD ARE TWO MEDLEYS, A PLEASING ASSORTMENT OF LIGHT TUNES, PLUS AN ORIGINAL AND POPULAR SELECTION OF HYMNS. WE ARE VERY PLEASED WITH IT, AND FEEL THAT THE PLAYING, TONE, ARRANGEMENTS, AND PRODUCTION ARE OF THE HIGHEST CALIBRE. WE ARE SURE THAT YOU WILL FIND IT A WELCOME ADDITION TO YOUR RECORD COLLECTION.

AVAILABLE FROM:

The first board meeting under President Albert Duncan was held on March 26. The most important result of the meeting was a change in the judging system. The five points which had previously been awarded for deportment have been added to the piping score under musical performance. The board also set annual Association membership dues at $25.00 per band and moved towards the establishment of set tunes for massed bands. Some discussion took place on the subject of non-local member bands. It is hoped that the Association will be able to facilitate a more active participation by bands from Washington and Oregon. It is also the desire of the Association to obtain the support of all segments of the pipe band community - competitive or non-competitive - and to this end possibilities are being explored which would provide for the participation of Legion bands.

The overall outlook of the "new" Association is optimistic. It is felt by the Association that the exciting and entertaining aspects of pipe band performances have yet to be properly exploited locally. A large public support of Highland Games and pipe bands can only serve to benefit all sectors of the piping community. It is towards this goal that the Western Pipe Band Association is moving.

Allan Skalazub

BAND CHATTER

On behalf of the Association, we wish to extend our best wishes to Hal Senyk and Jan Laurie on the recent announcement of their engagement. Hal, the "R.G. Hardie of the West Coast" is enjoying perhaps his best season playing wise, as well as building up his piping business. Jan, with two piping sisters, elected to take up the tenor drum and is currently a member of Triumph Street. June 19, 1976 is the date for the wedding.

Mr. and Mrs. George Abel, already grandparents, will be adding three more to the fold before the year is out. The first one came May 30, 1976 with Kristy Heather, born to Colin and Barb Abel. (Just think what can happen when you quit the Newsletter!)

Heather and Janet, ex-Vancouver Ladies, will be following suit later this year.

CLASSIFIED

(Advertising is free for B.C.P.A. members)

THE SCOTTISH SUPPLY SHOP

Come in and talk to P/M Fred Brodie about all your piping needs. Complete Highland outfitters.

Drums & Accessories

Triumph Street Pipe Band Album now in stock

Specialty - Bagpipe repairs

605 - 16th Street,
New Westminster, B.C.
V3M 4R5

Tel. 522-2151

FOR SALE:

21 green doublets, 13 red doublets - reasonably good condition. $20.00 each if sold as a lot.

Drum major's mase with chain - $30.00
Bass drummer's apron - calf skin - $25.00
Evening dress jacket - size 42 - $35.00

Contact: Archie McAffer, 2945 Sandlewood Way, Port Coquitlam, B.C. Phone 942-0980.

* * * *

Granger & Campbell Silver and Ivory Pipes.

Excellent condition. Have not been played for 3 months. Full collection of music.

Open to good reasonable offers.

Contact: John McKay, 12081 Laity Street, Maple Ridge, B.C. Phone 463-8963 after 5:00 p.m.

FOR SALE: (cont'd)

Ancient Johnston Kilt in worsted, made by P. & J. Haggart, Aberfeldy, in excellent condition. Suitable for tall slim person, waist 33".	$75.00
Hose to match above Tartan (like new) Size 10 shoe	$25.00
Hose for day wear, light brown, Size 10 shoe	$15.00
Harris Tweed Jacket (brown) and waistcoat	$45.00
Leather sporran with studs (new)	$40.00
Leather sporran with tassels (used)	$15.00
Lady's tartan skirt in Royal Stuart (new), fine saxony, Size: W-27, H-38, L-30	$25.00
Black Velvet Montrose Jacket, Chest - 40", Waist - 33", with lace Jabot	$40.00

Contact: John Paterson, #108 - 1726 West 11th Ave., Vancouver, B.C. Phone 733-7243.