

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



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the British Columbia Pipers' Association**

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B.C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT	WILLIAM LAMONT
VICE-PRESIDENT	WILLIAM ELDER
SECRETARY	ISHABEL ROSS
TREASURER	ROBERT GUNN

B.C. Pipers' Newsletter

EDITORS: Robert Gunn
William Elder

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VANCOUVER POLICE FORCE PIPE BAND

The beginning of the Vancouver Police Pipe Band already seems to be shrouded in the mists of antiquity, but its history, which is long and varied, states that it all began when a few Scotsmen played their pipes at the opening of the police station on Cordova Street in 1914. The Chief Constable at that time, a Canadian by the name of Malcolm Bruce MacLennan, was so inspired by the playing that he set about forming a Band. Although the Cordova Street station has long since given way to a parking lot, the Pipe Band has continued to grow in size and reputation.

The Band, now in its fifty-sixth year of continuous operation, is the oldest and most famous marching Pipe Band in the Pacific Northwest. It is also the senior Police Pipe Band in all of Canada. The Vancouver City Charter names it as the civic Band for the City of Vancouver, a title its members carry with great pride.

At the present time, the Band is wearing the Prince Charles Edward Stewart tartan, and their uniforms are patterned after those worn by the famed regiment of Scots Guards. This privilege was granted by the late King George V during his visit to this City many years ago. Since its formation, the Band has performed at almost every conceivable function that has been held in this area, and has travelled with incomparable distinction in Canada and the United States.

Since its inception, the Band has taken part in many competitions and parades. Up to the present time it has won well over sixty first place trophies, forty second place trophies, twenty third place trophies, as well as numerous individual and senior quartette awards.

The Police Band has had the honour of being chosen many times by the Federal Government to represent the Dominion of Canada, and in this capacity has appeared at many places on the west coast of the United States. One such appearance took place during the Canadian Centennial Celebrations in 1967, when they travelled to San Francisco to help publicize the Canadian Exposition which was being held in Montreal. During this time they appeared daily with the Canadian Guards Regiment and performed a miniature version of the Changing of the Guard ceremony.

The Vancouver Police Pipe Band has had many honours bestowed upon it. Following are some of the outstanding highlights:

*In 1920 the Band was invited to Portland, Oregon to play for the famed R.C.M.P. Musical Ride. It was during this visit that one of the Bandsmen apprehended a hold-up suspect in an armed robbery of a downtown bank. The suspect was later tried and convicted of the crime. As a result of this action, the Band was made an Honorary Member of the Portland City Police Department.

*In 1937 the Band was again called upon to represent Canada, this time to take part in the opening of the famous Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco.

*In 1939 the Band represented the Canadian Law Enforcement Officers at the International Police Convention in Mexico City.

*The pipes and drums of the Vancouver Police have been heard twice

in the tropical islands of Hawaii, first in 1951, and again in 1963. It was during their second visit that John F. Kennedy, President of the United States was assassinated. In tribute to him, the Band played a full retreat ceremony in the City of Honolulu on November 23rd. As a result of this the Band was asked to play for President L.B. Johnson when he visited Vancouver the following year.

The Vancouver Police Pipe Band has an authorized strength of twenty-one regular policemen utilized as follows: four side drummers, two tenor drummers, one base drummer, thirteen pipers (including the Pipe Major), and one Drum Major. Over the years a total of nine Pipe Majors and ten Drum Majors have seen service with the Band. Operations at present are under the direction of Pipe Major A.D. Perrie and Drum Major F.J. Hall.

The Band is sponsored by the Vancouver Police Force, with participation on a voluntary basis. Members are subject to all the disciplinary requirements of the Force, and are considered as being on duty during all parades and performances. Their dress is laid down by regulation and is therefore considered as a uniform of the Force. Liaison is directly with the Deputy Chief Constable and he, in turn, is responsible for the operation of the Band to the Board of Police Commissioners.

We are extremely proud of our Pipe Band, and the honour and goodwill it has gained for the Vancouver Police Department and the City of Vancouver.

October 20, 1970

B.C. Pipers' Association
Secretary
834 Burnaby Street
New Westminster, B.C.

Dear Sir:

The Trail Pipe Band is interested in obtaining the services of a qualified side drum instructor -- preferably in the latest side drum techniques.

Our tentative plans are to hold a school for our side drummers. We have our own hall so facilities are no problem. We felt a weekend session would be preferred as to obtain maximum number of students.

We would appreciate any assistance you may be able to give us to names and addresses of anyone who may wish to help us out, and the possible cost to our Band.

Sincerely,

Joe Furiak
Secretary-Treasurer
Box 68, Trail

PIPER OF THE MONTH

During the last 15 or 20 years the number of girl pipers appearing on the competition boards and as members of pipe bands has increased significantly. This month as our feature piper we have chosen one of these girls, Miss Sherea Barwell. Sherea is presently the Pipe Major of Vancouver's best known and most successful girl's band, The Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band.

Sherea was born in Vancouver to parents who were not particularly active in the Scottish music or dancing circles but were friends of the Gillies family. The Gillies' were avid Scottish dancing people and their daughter Peggy was a dancing student. As Sherea was a friend of Peggy's she too wanted to be a dancer and at age six took her first dancing lesson from Phylis Murray and continued for six years.

At Sherea's admission she was not a dancing star by any stretch of the imagination but luckily enough her friend Peggy started piping and Sherea followed in her footsteps. When she was fourteen years old Sherea was given her first piping lesson from Malcolm Nicholson.

Her piping lessons began in September 1958 and by the summer of 1959 she was playing in her first competition with the Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band. Although Sherea was not overly keen at the prospect of competing individually she managed to win her first prize at the B.C. Pipers' Association Annual Gathering in 1960 when she walked away with the first prize in the Novice Marches. To this day Miss Barwell prefers to play as a band member than in individual competition although she always seems to be a regular member of the prize list when she chooses to compete. The highlight of her individual piping to date was winning the Junior International Championship in 1966. In 1967 she travelled to Halifax to represent British Columbia in the Amateur Class during Canada's Centennial celebrations and placed second. Also among her personal triumphs was tying for "Best Amateur Piper of the Day" at the Seattle Highland Games in 1963 and 1970.

During Sherea's twelve years with the Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band she has served as lance corporal under P. M. Norma Nicholson (Thompson), corporal under P.M. Peggy Gillies (Askew), Sergeant under P.M. Rae Marie MacInnes (MacAulay) and was finally appointed Pipe Major in 1969.

At one point in Sherea's piping career (about 1964) she and the three above mentioned Pipe Majors, Norma, Peggy and Rae Marie, decided to form a show quartette. The girls for two years performed at conventions, hotels and night clubs. They were kept busy with many bookings and complimented such performers as Brenda Lee, the Kim Sisters, Dennis Day and Jack Carter while performing at the Cave Supper Club in Vancouver.

As most of our readers are aware, the Ladies band has travelled extensively including trips to Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Reno, Lake Tahoe, Santa Monica, San Francisco, Edmonton and Sitka and Juneau Alaska. Of course the most significant trips have been the two visits the band made to Scotland. The first of these was in 1964 when the girls won second prize in the Scottish Championships in Edinburgh and first prize in the European Championship when competing in Grade 4. The Band also played at the Edinburgh Tattoo, during their five week stay, and had the honor of being the first Ladies Band ever to perform at the Tattoo. Sherea also danced with the Vancouver Highland Lassies at this event.

The second trip to Scotland for the Band was in 1969 when Sherea played as pipe sergeant. The Band was now competing in grade 3 and were somewhat disappointed in not winning a prize for their piping and drumming skills. However, they did not come away empty handed as they won the marching and deportment prize on two occasions.

Before returning to Canada Sherea was appointed Pipe Major as P.M. Rae Marie MacAulay was not returning to Canada for several years.

In the local competitions the Vancouver Ladies have been keen competitors for many years. Sherea says their most difficult competition has been the Port Moody Pipe Band and the Ladies seem to make a habit of placing second to this band. However, in 1963, 1966 and 1969 the Ladies won the Pacific International Championship in Class B.

In order to keep up the impressive band record Sherea finds that the band must practice three or four times a week depending on the competition schedules. By the time she has her band practices and attends her own lesson from Jim MacMillan Sherea finds her spare time is almost nonexistent. At one time she started teaching the pipes during her free moments but found she could not keep up with the busy schedule.

During all Sherea's piping activities she also managed to graduate from the University of British Columbia in May of 1968 with a Bachelor of Education and now teaches school.

As the most senior member of the Ladies Pipe Band much of their success must be credited to Sherea Barwell and we wish her and the Band many years of future first prizes.

KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION

November 6th, 1970 was the first in the winter series of knock-out competitions. Judging by the encouraging attendance a large percentage of our Newsletter readers are aware of the results. Approximately 130 people gathered to hear the two scheduled competitions. The first was to be a contest between Theresa McEarlin and Bill MacAulay. Unfortunately Theresa was unable to attend and Bill was awarded the victory after presenting an entertaining selection of well played tunes.

The second competition saw Donald MacInnes defeat Alex Young in what most agreed was a closely fought competition. Donald played first giving a crisp presentation of chosen selections and Alex followed with a very musical performance. The two competitors were difficult to judge due to the noticeable difference in styles. The first being sharp and clear while Alex's was more rounded and lilting. The judges making the final decision were Alex Reid, Malcolm Nicholson and John MacDonald.

Bill MacAulay now moves on to contend with Donald MacInnes on March 5th, 1971. These two have much the same style of play and the competition should be keen.

The balance of the November 6th evening was spent enjoying the company of the membership and listening to a Seaforth Highlander trio

and impromptu piping.

The next competition on December 4th will be most interesting. Last year's knock-out competition winner, Ruairidh Macdonald, will contend with the high ranking Jamie Troy from Victoria and Bruce Topp will pair off against his former Pipe Major Albert Duncan.

It seems that the Newsletter need not try to encourage members to attend these evenings in the future. The keen competition and friendly social atmosphere has become well known, and the existing hall facilities cannot accommodate much of an increase in attendance. However, we will meet this problem when the time comes.

NEXT COMPETITION: DECEMBER 4th, 1970
PLACE: STEELWORKERS HALL
33 East Broadway
TIME: 8:00 P.M.

NO PIOBAIREACHD LIST FOR 1971 COMPETITIONS

For some years now the Directors of our Association have insisted that professional Piobaireachd competitors play tunes from a specific list (or lists) of tunes. The main purpose of this procedure was to discourage the playing of the same tune year after year by any one competitor. In this respect the lists have performed their function, however, many feel that they have also performed another function. Discouraging the professional piper who cannot devote the required time to learn several new piobaireachds each year. Therefore, the decision has been made to discontinue the lists for 1971 and see if the number of Piobaireachd players increases.

The Board of Director's feel that although this may be a step backward as far as professionalism is concerned, it is useless to have a highly professional organization with no competitors.

The Association was saddened to hear of the passing of Mrs. Agnes Douglas on November 3, 1970. Mrs. Douglas was the wife of the late Walter Douglas who was the President of our Association in 1941. Mrs. Douglas presented the Douglas Memorial Trophy which is presented each year at the B.C. Pipers' Annual Gathering to the winner of the Junior Quartette Competition.

The B.C. Pipers' Association extends it's deepest sympathy to the Douglas family.

BI-MONTHLY RESULTS

The October and November bi-monthly competitions were held in the Seaforth Armoury on October 23 and November 20 respectively.

The judge for the the October competition was Ian McKinnon, and the judge in November was John Blewitt.

The results are as follows:

Juvenile Old Highland Airs

Amateur Jigs

- 1st - Stuart Reid
- 2nd - Alison Palmer
- 3rd - Teresa Collister
- 4th - Linda Flynn
- 5th - Marion Wood

- 1st - Jack Lee
- 2nd - Robert Menzies
- 3rd - Terry Lee
- 4th - Judi Taylor
- 5th - Heather Able

There were 15 competitors in the Juvenile class and 18 in the Amateur class.

Novice - Section I
Old Highland Airs

Junior Marches

- 1st - Wade Calder
- 2nd - Debbie Ann Fraser
- 3rd - Gordon Lyle
- 4th - Gail Dawson
- 5th - Gail Burnett

- 1st - Cindy Chambers
- 2nd - David Rutherford
- 3rd - John MacKay

There were 18 competitors in the Novice class and 6 in the Junior Marches.

The next bi-monthly competition will be held at the Seaforth Armoury December 18, 1970 beginning at 8 P.M. The Juvenile Strathspey and Reel and the Open Amateur Hornpipes will be played.

WORLD PIPE BAND CHAMPIONSHIP

Held on June 27th, 1970.

Novice Juvenile Championship - 1st, Polkemnot Juvenile; 2nd, Dysart and Dundonald; 3rd, 1st St. Andrews B.B.

Juvenile Championship - 1st, Knightswood Juveniles; 2nd, 214 Glasgow Co. B.B. Drumming, Knightswood Juveniles.

Grade Four Championship - 1st Alloa Collieries; 2nd, Dingwall British Legion; 3rd, 93rd Glasgow B.B.; 4th, Wallacestone and Dist; 5th, Annan British Legion. Drumming, Alloa Collieries.

Grade Three Championship - 1st, Singer; 2nd, Milngavie; 3rd Carluke Cale; 4th Dysart & Dundonald; 5th Monktonhall Colliery. Drumming Carluke.

Grade Two Championship - 1st, Robert Armstrong Memorial; 2nd, Mount Carmel; 3rd, Knightswood; 4th, Dundee City Police; 5th, MacKenzie Caledonia. Drumming, Knightswood.

World Pipe Band Championship - 1st, Shotts and Dykehead Caledonia; 2nd, Muirhead & Sons; 3rd, Edinburgh City Police; 4th, City of Glasgow Police; 5th, Red Hackle. Drumming, Shotts & Dykehead Caledonia.

PRINCE CHARLES COMPOSING COMPETITION

The annual competition for new bagpipe music, for the Prince Charles Trophy, will take the form this year of a search for a new PIOBAIREACHD.

The rules this year are similar to last. Preference will be given to originality of style or structure, although traditional forms are quite acceptable. The closing date for entries is the 31st March, 1971.

RULES OF THE COMPETITION:

1. The award will be for music for solo bagpipe, which has not been published, entered for a previous competition or hitherto played in public.
2. Importance will be attached to originality of composition and style.
3. A written score is required, and a tape recording (not necessarily of the composer's own playing) would be helpful.
4. Up to three prizes will be awarded, according to the standard of entries, the winning prize being not less the £25. The sponsors however, reserve the right not to make any award if in the opinion of the judges a sufficiently high standard is not attained.
5. The entry fee will be one guinea, which will go towards the cost of administrative expenses incurred.
6. A panel of three judges will be set up, whose names will be announced in due course.
7. The sponsors reserve the copyright, for which arrangements will be published before the closing date of the competition.
8. Entries should be sent to the Secretary, the College of Piping, 20 Otago Street, Glasgow, W.2.
9. Entries will be submitted incognito to the panel of judges. It is therefore important that compositions should be unsigned and not identifiable by any handwriting, but accompanied by a covering letter, giving the composer's name and address.

"They are only 5 for \$2.00!"

4-1-1971

[Faint, illegible text covering the majority of the page, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side.]

66-10