

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



The official monthly publication of
the British Columbia Pipers' Association

NOVEMBER 1985

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B.C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER

Published by the British Columbia Pipers' Association.

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EDITORIAL

An article in the recent Pipe Band, the publication of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association, struck a chord and deserves to be expanded upon. The writer's main point was directed towards the practise of bands wearing full regimental dress, suggesting that they were "apeing" the military and raising the question of the legality of this practise. Although his comments on this subject were both interesting and amusing, his thoughts on the dress of female pipers is what caught my eye. What follows is my opinion on the matter.

Since the top Scottish bands discarded their "Number Ones" for contests and the Eastern bands locked away (forever, I hope) their buckle shoes and tartan hose, the casual observer would be hard pressed to distinguish the Strathclyde Police from a band from B.C., Ontario or Australia. The top solo players from around the world are likewise unidentifiable as to country of origin.

Not so for pipers of the fairer sex. Their dress runs the gamut from nylon stockings to white hose to tartan hose to frilly blouses to even frillier blouses all the way to full dress including spats and feather bonnets! Luckily that range of dress is not found in these parts yet.

The problem started, I suppose, one historic night when Triumph Street elected to allow women into their band. Until that time, girls played in ladies bands and we had no problem. So a girl joined Triumph Street. What would she wear? (Right about this time some wag will say, "What difference would it make? Nobody looked the same in Triumph Street at that time anyway!") What she wore was a Vancouver Ladies style uniform minus the plaid and hair sporran and substituting white hose for tartan. Seemed like a good idea and that set the standard for quite a few years. S.F.U. refined it by turning out their lady pipers in shirts and ties. An improvement I think.

But then girls took to wearing white hose with their own kilts (as opposed to band) in solo competitions. Now white hose in the interests of uniformity in a mixed band is acceptable, but for solo playing thick white socks on a girl do absolutely nothing for the girl or the dress. The latest development was the insistence of the S.F.U. Pipe Band that their female members wear Ghillie brogues in Scotland.

The writer of the article referred to at the start of this piece suggests women could wear something based on the Aboyne dress with nylon stockings, rather than disguising them as oddly shaped wee fellas. I personally prefer the Vancouver Ladies style for a ladies pipe band and a white blouse with tartan hose for solos.

For a mixed band? I've got to think S.F.U. has the best bet with shirts and ties, but sans the brogues. For a mixed band with full dress? What do you think?

Angus Macpherson

LAST MONTH IN AND AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

MINI GATHERINGS

The first of the 1985/86 season's four Mini Gatherings was held on Saturday, October 19th, 1985 at Burnaby North Secondary School.

There was a good turnout in all classes (70 competitors in all) with the exception of Senior Amateur which was a bit on the small side. On the other hand, the popularity of the Adult Class is steadily growing, which is most encouraging. It is interesting to note that two members of the Adult Class travel regularly from Squamish, one from Gibsons and one from Kelowna. We certainly appreciate their enthusiasm and support.

On behalf of the Committee, special thanks to the stewards and ladies in the kitchen for their continued support.

RESULTS

Chanter - March

1. Nicole Braconnier
2. Malcolm MacDonald
3. Cameron Fisher

Novice "A" - Slow Air

1. James Blakey
2. Leigh Collins
3. Linda Wright

Novice "B" - Slow Air

1. Amanda Flack
2. Colin Newlands
3. Doug Bird

Juvenile - 2/4 March

1. Kevin Mark
2. Todd Sinclair
3. Allison Flack
Campbell Stafford

Junior - 6/8 & Jig

1. Bonnie McKain
2. Kathy MacLeod
3. Paul Laporte

Amateur - Jig/Hornpipe

1. Shaunna Stephen
2. Malcolm Bokenfohr
3. Richie Hamilton

Adult Class - Slow Air/6/8 March

1. Doug Arthur
2. Jim Wilson
3. John MacDonald

Judges

Andrew Bonar, Iain MacDonald, Peter MacNeil, Hal Senyk and Cheryl Taylor

GAELIC CHOIR

Our hearty congratulations to the members of the Gaelic Choir on their showing at the Mod.

The group placed second in Gaelic speaking and fourth overall out of a field of ten.

Details in the next Newsletter.

KNOCK-OUT ✓

The best opening night crowd ever was on hand for the first round of the new season's Knock-Outs. Over 150 people packed the confines of the Willingdon Heights Community Centre to take in a night of pretty decent piping.

The evening's entertainment kicked off with the warm-up. The requirement was a polka. The event had to be considered a success as only three pipers played Liberton Boys! Jill McKay was declared the winner by Judge Hal Senyk and was presented with the customary bottle of Bells.

The main event was run off in two segments of three players each. As mentioned in last month's Newsletter, the top three players out of the six advance to the next round.

The first group featured Angus Macpherson, Duncan Fraser and Jack Cairney, with the trio of Jill McKay, Bruce McIntosh and Cheryl Taylor following. This year the march requirement in the selection was not restricted to any particular time signature and this produced a varied selection of 2/4's, 3/4's and 6/8's.

Despite drawing in October, all six players turned in entertaining performances. Unfortunately for Bruce McIntosh his was a little shorter than the others, going off the tune in his second march. Duncan Fraser also had some bad luck. Big Dunc perfected a trick he learned a couple of seasons ago - having your bass drone shut off in the last tune of your selection. This was Jack Cairney's first time in the "pit", as playing in front of the Knock-Out crowd is affectionately known, and he acquitted himself very well. Judges John A. McLeod, Terry Lee and James Watt gave the green light to Angus Macpherson, Jill McKay and Cheryl Taylor to proceed to the next round in February where they'll meet the winners of the November Knock-Out.

The "impromptu" part of the evening was supposed to have been built around an Oktoberfest theme, but as two members of the Knock-Out committee were playing and the other two were out of town the plans went slightly awry. This part of the night was introduced by Hal Senyk who was kind enough to present the Piobaireachd of the Month. Hal gave a short presentation on the various types of tunes before treating the audience to his rendition of Duncan McRae of Kintail. Judging by the tone of his pipe, Hal should still be there for the Knock-Out final when the dust settles.

The proceedings were finished off with an open impromptu Jig contest. It was most encouraging to see 13 players get up to play in this event as that is what the Knock-Outs are all about - people getting up and bashing out a tune, not just the Knock-Out competitors. A recent refugee from Saskatoon, Iain MacDonald, judged this event and quickly got into the spirit, awarding such prizes as Best Beard (yours truly), Most Unhighland Bagpipe (Andrew Bonar), Best Shined Brogues (Hal Senyk) and Nicest Kilt Other Than Triumph Street (Bruce McIntosh). The winner, incidentally, was Duncan Fraser who finished with three drones this time.

A great start to the season. See you all next month!

VANCOUVER ISLAND PIPERS CLUB

The October meeting was sponsored by the City of Victoria Pipe Band. Members of the band who participated were P/M Jamie Troy, Steve Geddes, Gordon Pollock, Warren Fells, Bill Mossie, Colin Magee and Gordon Magee. Solo performances were given by Steve Geddes, Bill Mossie and Jamie Troy. Keith Malcolm played a selection of strathspeys, reels, jigs and Old Highland Airs on the fiddle which was well received by an appreciative audience.

NEXT MONTH IN AND AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

MINI GATHERINGS

The next Mini Gathering will be held on Saturday, November 9th, 1985 at Burnaby North Secondary School. The competition will start at 10:00 a.m.

Chanter	Slow Air	10:00 a.m.
Novice	2/4 March	10:00 a.m.
Juvenile	Strathspey & Reel	10:00 a.m.
Junior	M.S.R.	Not before 11:00 a.m.
Senior	Musical Selection (4-6 Min.)	Not before 11:00 a.m.
Adult	4 part 2/4 March	Not before 11:00 a.m.

There will be an order of play for competitors in Novice, Juvenile, Junior and Senior Amateur classes which will be drawn each month and posted the morning of the Mini Gathering.

All competitors must be members of the B.C. Pipers' Association in order to compete.

KNOCK-OUT

The November Knock-Out will be held on Saturday, November 9th, 1985 at the Willingdon Heights Community Centre at 8:00 p.m.

The six players competing for a spot in round two are Rob Menzies, P/M of Triumph Street; Bruce Woodley in his first professional competition; Graham Davidson of Triumph Street; Drew McKay also of Triumph Street; Robert McLeod who is making his pro debut; and Hal Senyk, former P/M of Triumph Street. Both Drew McKay and Rob Menzies are former Knock-Out finalists and with two young players making their first professional starts it promises to be an interesting evening.

The warm-up event will be a two part Slow Air.

No doubt the committee has something up their sleeve for the impromptu, so plan to arrive early to grab a seat!

NOTE: The warm-up requirement for December will be two 2 part Hornpipes. January participants will be asked to play a 4 part March in a time signature other than 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, or 6/8.

1st ANNUAL WINTER INDOOR GAMES
(TRIUMPH STREET)

Featuring the 14th Annual West Coast Indoor Piping and Drumming Championships this joint venture with the B.C. Highland Dancing Association is scheduled for Saturday, November 30th, 1985 at Douglas College, New Westminster.

Entry forms and more information can be obtained by calling Graham Davidson at 525-6196.

VANCOUVER LADIES' BURNS DINNER

The Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band Association is once again hosting their Annual Burns Dinner on Saturday, January 25, 1986. This year it will be held in the beautiful new hall of Our Lady of Fatima Church, 747 Alderson Street, Coquitlam, B.C. This location provides easy access from both the 401 and Lougheed Highway at the Brunette Avenue North Exit.

Now is the time to plan ahead. Get your family, friends and neighbours together for a fine evening of entertainment.

Tickets: Lewis Ross - 588-1354
Brenda Lowden - 228-8560
Frank Stephen - 936-0315 or any band member

Bar Service

Entertainment

ANNUAL GATHERING UPDATE

March 28th & 29th

Douglas College in New Westminster has been booked as the site of the 1986 Indoor. Due to restricted space in the theatre, the Junior and Grade III bands might be moved to Friday night.

The theatre has also been booked for a double-header recital on the Thursday night featuring Murray Henderson and Gavin Stoddart.

AUDITORIUM

It appears that our new Cultural Centre will be ready before the New Year. Actually, we're trying to secure the Auditorium for the December Knock-Out. Structural repairs at our present location may force a move to another venue and what better place than our own hall.

We'll let you know for sure in next month's Newsletter.

JUDGES' SEMINAR

A judges' seminar will be held on Sunday, December 1st, 1985 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 3406 of Douglas College, foot of Canada Way, New Westminster.

As mentioned previously, the aim of the meeting is not for somebody to stand up in front of the class and teach us how to judge, but rather to get an exchange of views and ideas and, hopefully, get everyone thinking in the same direction.

The following is a loose agenda of the topics that the committee has submitted for discussion. Please feel free to add your own comments.

1. Judges Sheets

- discuss and examine present sheets
- explain purpose of format
- improve or replace current sheets
- should score be presented to competitor?

2. Scoring

- panel judging - conference or blind?
- use aggregate point system, total points or merit points?

3. Problem Areas

- what do you do when
 - a drone stops
 - breakdown at start of tune
 - chokes and chirps
 - wrong tunes played in event requiring submission
 - ...

4. Judges Duties

- writing comments
- are you obliged to write a book?
- require more than good, good, good
- should you write comments during a performance
- emphasize good points for younger players

5. General

- should being a member of the professional class be a requirement for judging
- should you judge your own pupils
- apprenticeship judge programme

6. Pipe Band Judging

- a discussion on judges' sheets and scoring system if time permits

The ultimate purpose of the judges' committee is to:

- update the scoring sheets

- publish an up-to-date list of judges
- periodically review judges comment sheets
- maintain an apprenticeship programme
- hold regular seminars

To register (no fee) please call Mary MacKinnon at 522-9697.

VANCOUVER LADIES' PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION

S P R I N G F E S T I V A L

FEBRUARY 14th and 15th, 1986
NORTH DELTA SECONDARY SCHOOL
8270 - 114th STREET, DELTA, B.C.

GENERAL ADMISSION - \$2.50



FEATURING:

- Highland Dancing including dance-off for Open U-9 to Open U-13 incl. & Open U-14 to Open U-16 incl.
- Dance off for Open 16 & Over for Madeline Anderson Memorial Sword.
- Individual Piping and Drumming Contest.
- Pipe Band Contest.
- Olympia Cup Invitational Piobaireachd Contest.
- Ceilidh saturday evening.

THIRD ANNUAL OLYMPIA CUP INVITATIONAL PIобаIREACHD CONTEST
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1986 AT 6:30 P.M. NORTH DELTA SECONDARY SCHOOL THEATRE

A date to mark on your calendar!!
An opportunity to see the very best professional
pipers in action!

BAR SERVICE

FREE ADMISSION



For further information and entry forms please contact:

Heather Mitchell
7950 Goodlad Street
Burnaby, B.C. V5E 2H9
Phone: 521-4036

CLASSIFIED

Juvenile Band Equipment:

Uniforms and drums for sale. Please contact Malcolm Nicholson at 299-3589.

Drums for Sale:

Eight Premier side drums and two tenors. Ideal for Juvenile band. Please contact Linda Aumonier at 525-3526.

Last Chance:

For the owner of a practice chanter found at one of last year's Mini Gatherings. Call 939-9614.

1985-86 EXECUTIVE - continued

DONALD ROSS - DIRECTOR

Donald is the longest serving member of the Board and that fact tells you a lot about this man. He has been a member of the Society for over twenty years and a Board Member for the best part of that time. He was the founder of the Knock-Out programme and closely associated with every Annual Gathering for the past two decades.

In recognition of Donald's hard work and enthusiasm, he was elevated to active membership and thus became the only non-piper to achieve this status in the B.C. Pipers' Association.

No matter who is asking for help, Donald is always there. Whether it be to organize games in Chilliwack, Kelowna or Courtenay, he's there. If he's asked to run an Annual Dinner, steward an Annual Gathering or sell tickets to this function or that, he's there. What piper around these parts hasn't had Donald snapping at their heels telling them, "Your up next!".

In honour of his years of dedication to the Society, Donald was awarded a life membership to the Association at the 1983 Annual Dinner.

BILL RUSSELL - DIRECTOR

Bill's association with piping came as no surprise as both his father and grandfather were Pipe Majors in the Canadian Army. If that wasn't enough he is related to the great Willie Ross on his grandmother's side.

Bill was born in Calgary and started receiving piping lessons from his grandfather. He also took up highland dancing for a short time during a period of mental instability.

During his early years the family did a considerable amount of moving - from Calgary to Ottawa, to Belgium, back to Ottawa and finally to Vancouver. During this time Bill received instruction from his father, John McKenzie, and George Grant, ex-Scots Guards. After moving to Vancouver he attended Jimmy McMillan for lessons and was a member of the Seaforths under Jimmy Lang and Bruce Topp. Bill's major accomplishment at that time was winning the Caber Feidh Trophy for Amateur Piobaireachd in front of Neil Angus MacDonald at the Annual Gathering.

Bill's association with the Board started in the early '70's when he sat as Secretary under Bill Elder. His work necessitated a move out of town and it wasn't until recently that we've had the good fortune to have him back on the Executive. In addition to his regular duties, Bill is one of the Trustees for the Society. His work in this regard has been most rewarding for the Association.

CHRISTMAS STOCKING STUFFERS

So maybe it is a bit early to be thinking of reindeer, Santa and roadblocks, but to avoid disappointment now is the time to get that B.C. Pipers' pen. They'll make ideal stocking stuffers for your budding World Champions. The price is \$3.00 (\$4.50 with case). Order yours now through the Newsletter or by picking one up at the Knock-Out of Mini Gathering.

BOB YOUNG

On behalf of the Association we pass along our deepest sympathies to the family of Bob Young. Bob passed away on October 19th, 1985 after a battle with cancer.

A member of the Shrine Pipe Band, Bob also played with the Vancouver Police Pipe Band as well as the Irish Fusiliers. One of four brothers to immigrate to Canada, Bob was a respected judge and former board member.

PIPERS' CHOICE

A continuation noting the most popular tunes submitted at Grant's Championship in 1984. In September we covered Marches and last month, Strathspeys.

Reels

1. Mrs. Macpherson of Inveran	5
Thomson's Dirk	5
3. Lochiel's Away to France	4
The Smith of Chilliechassie	4
5. John Morrison of Assynt House	3
Caber Feidh	3
The Rejected Suitor	3
Lexie MacAskill	3
The Grey Bob	3
10. Bessie MacIntyre	2
Broadford Bay	2
Major Manson	2
Alick C. MacGregor	2
Traditional	2
The Sheepwife	

Next Month - Piobaireachd

(Excerpts from the Piping Times)

PUZZLE CORNER

The winner of last month's edition was Darleen Miharija who correctly identified the jumbled bars as the first part of the 6/8 March, Colonel Robertson.

This month we'll give you another go at soap operas. Once again simply arrange the names of the ten tunes listed below into a wee story.

The Highland Wedding	A Dram Afore Ye Go
Jeannie Mauchline	When the Battle's Over
Biddy From Sligo	Londonderry Hornpipe
Arniston Castle	John D. Burgess
The Smith's A Gallant Fireman	The Bride's Jig

As before the first three entries received will become the proud owners of a B.C. Pipers' pen.

BAND CHATTER

Congratulations to Lynn (Robson) and Warren Fells on the birth of daughter, Alicia. Mother and baby are both doing well and, no doubt, causing havoc to Warren's sleeping schedule. What with all the girls born to City of Victoria members, their recruitment policy could come under review very soon.

* * * * *

Hal Senyk and Scott Robertson are instructing the Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band in piping and drumming respectively. This is Scott's second "tour of duty", having instructed the drum corps during their last trip to Scotland.

* * * * *

Speaking of Scotland, looks like S.F.U., Triumph Street and City of Victoria are all making tentative plans to head over next summer.

* * * * *

The B.C. Junior Pipe Band is now enjoying sponsorship from the White Spot chain.

CANE FARMERS REVOLT!

During the summer in Scotland there was a one man advertising campaign at the games conducted by Mr. Geoff Ross, an Australian.

He has invented a new type of drone reed. Basically it is a plastic body with a regular cane tongue. On the face of it this product seems to have many good features and to date there are very few, if any, criticisms.

Some of the features:

1. The reeds can be matched for strength, tone and pitch because of identical construction.
2. The cane tongues are treated with a wood preservative to prevent water damage and problems.
3. Plastic bodies are stronger than cane and can withstand much more accidental abuse.
4. Probably the most important factor - the pitch of these reeds can be altered by changing the small plug that fits in the end of the reed. (An assortment of plugs comes with each set of reeds.)

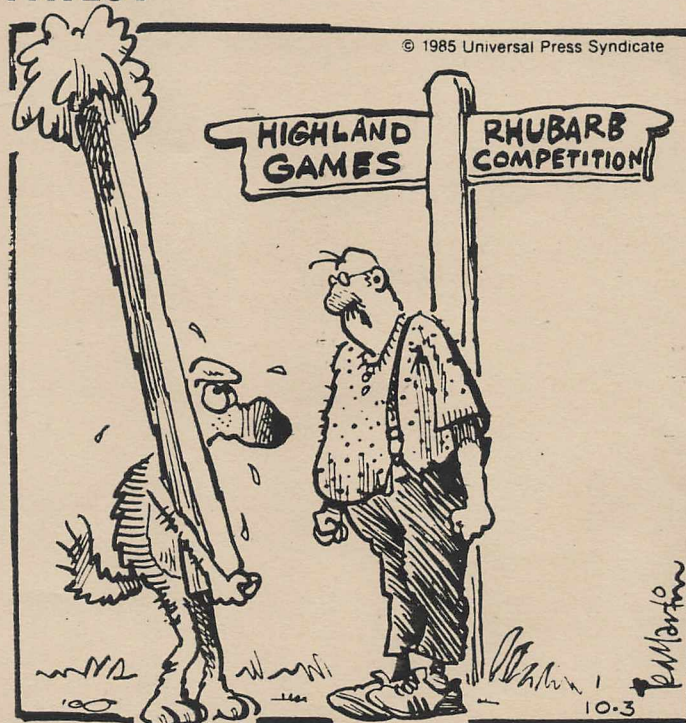
To my knowledge three of the Grade I bands had some of these on trial and seemed to be satisfied with the results they were getting.

Ian MacKinnon

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

November	6th, 1985	Gaberlunzie
	9th	Mini Gathering
	9th	Knock-Out
	16th	Sir John A. MacDonald Dance
	23rd	B.C. Junior Dance
	30th	Triumph Street Contest
	30th	St. Andrews & Caledonian Dance
December	1st, 1985	B.C. Pipers' Judging Seminar
	14th	Knock-Out
January	11th, 1986	Mini Gathering
	11th	Knock-Out
	25th	Vancouver Ladies' Burns' Dinner
February	8th, 1986	Mini Gathering
	8th	Knock-Out
	14th	Olympia Cup
	15th	Vancouver Ladies' Festival
March	8th, 1986	Knock-Out
	28th/29th	Annual Gathering

PAVLOV



"Well, what's it gonna be?"

