

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



The official monthly publication of
the British Columbia Pipers' Association

OCTOBER, 1967.

No. 84

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The official seal of the
National Association of

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B. C. P I P E R S ' N E W S L E T T E R

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PRESIDENT: Albert Duncan
VICE-PRESIDENT: William Lamont
SECRETARY: Ishabel Ross
TREASURER: Wm. A. McAdie

B.C. Pipers' NEWSLETTER:

EDITOR: C.I. Walker
PUBLISHER: Wm. A. McAdie
REPORTER: Cathrine Paterson
COLLATORS: Donald Urquhart, B.b McAdie
Ken McIlvena

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In order that we might avoid any delay in communicating information to the Newsletter, we would point out that all material can be forwarded to either of the following addresses:

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All subscriptions should be sent to the Vancouver address, and articles for the Newsletter can be sent to either address.

Any correspondence with the B.C. Pipers' Association not in connection with the Newsletter, should be forwarded to the Secretary.

Mrs. Ishabel Ross,
834 Burnaby Street,
New Westminster, B.C.

We hope that this multiplicity of addresses will not unduly confuse you. You can see that as our operations are widening, our scope does indeed acquire a more provincial flavour.

- 0 -

GENERAL MEETING - OCTOBER 27th, 1967.

The monthly meeting was held in the Seaforth Armoury on Oct. 27th. Fourteen members were present. Mr. Wm. Lamont presided as the President was unable to attend.

The 1968 Indoor Meet was discussed - the Gardens are unavailable - and a new location must be chosen. Also there was discussion concerning prizes. The Chairman Mr. Lamont reported on the Ceilidh, and stated that everyone enjoyed it, although both the weather and the attendance could have been better.

The next monthly meeting will be held November 24th at the Seaforth Armoury. Let's have a good attendance.

After the meeting, the members were entertained by Pipe-Major Fred Brodie, and members of the Port Moody Pipe Band.

- 0 -

We have heard that our President Albert Duncan has recently changed jobs. Formerly employed by the Canadian National Railways, P.M. Duncan is presently employed as a Manager with a local chain of drive-in restaurants. Good luck Albert!

- 0 -

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BI-MONTHLY COMPETITION - OCTOBER 20th, 1967.

Here are the results of the competitions held on Friday, Oct. 20th, in the Seaforth Armoury.

Novice Marches: (24 competitors)

1. April MacDonald (P.M. Sam Scott)
2. David Rutherford (Athol & Breadalbane)
3. Bruce McMahon (Balmoral High.)
4. Gordon Peterson (Balmoral High.)
5. Donna Cameron (Earl of Mansfield)
6. Leonard Lyon (Capt. Norman Orr Ewing)

Junior Strathspey & Reel: (9 competitors)

1. Doug Bernon (Arniston Castle & Alick C. McGregor)
2. Colin Abel (Maggie Cameron & Alick C. McGregor)
3. Sandy Marshall (Major McBeth & Willie Cummings)

Deportment:

- Novice - Cindy Chambers
- Junior - David Anderson

Mr. William Lockie judged the competition.

The next Bi-Monthly competition will be held on November 17th, starting at 8:00 p.m. in the Seaforth Armoury. The classes will be Juvenile Old Highland Airs and Open Amateur Jihd.

Please phone the secretary (562-7905) your entry and tune at least one day before the competition for the first competition.

B.C. HIGHLAND DANCING ASSOCIATION HIGHLAND GAMES, JULY 1st, 1967.

Piping Results:

Under 14 years - Novice Marches:

1. Ian Hall 2. Robert Menzies 3. Mitchel Bain 4. Leonard Lyon

Over 14 years - Novice Marches:

1. Daryl McNeil 2. L. Freshwater 3. Tina McLeod

Juvenile Marches:

1. Bill Russell 2. Heather MacInnes 3. Sandy Marshall
4. Lindsay Maddock

Juvenile Strathspey & Reel:

1. Stewart Thompson 2. Heather Upton 3. Heather MacInnes
4. Lynn Grocott

Juvenile Old Highland Airs:

1. Heather Upton 2. Margie Rogers 3. Margie Forsyth
4. Doug Bernon

Juvenile Aggregate: Heather Upton

Junior Marches:

1. Dennis Collister 2. Neil Hunter 3. Kelvin Wood
4. Alex MacInnes

Junior Strathspey & Reel:

1. Jean Jarvis 2. Donald Taylor 3. Bob Gallaher 4. David Don

Junior Jigs:

1. Sandy Shatford 2. Bob Gallaher 3. Alex MacInnes

Junior Aggregate: Jean Jarvis, Bob Gallaher, Dennis Collister, Sandy
Collister (4 way tie)

Amateur Marches:

1. Dal Jessiman 2. Robert Heggie 3. Donald MacMillan

Amateur Strathspey & Reel:

1. Sherea Barwell 2. Donald MacMillan 3. Laurie McIlvena

Amateur Piobaireachd:

1. Robert Heggie 2. Laurie McIlvena 3. Dal Jessiman

Amateur Aggregate: Robert Heggie

Open Marches:

1. Bob MacDonald 2. Therese MacInnes 3. Norma Thompson

Open Strathspey & Reel:

1. Norma Thompson
2. Rae Marie Macaulay
3. Therese MacInnes

Open Piobaireachd:

1. Norma Thompson
2. David Wilson
3. Albert Duncan

Open Hornpipe:

1. Rae Marie Macaulay
2. Bob MacDonald
3. Norma Thompson

Open Aggregate: Norma Thompson

Individual Drumming "B" Class:

1. Anne McNeill
2. Ross McRae
3. J. Thomas

Individual Drumming "C" Class:

1. Palmer
2. Gordon McCartney
3. Neil Marshall
4. David Ballantyne

Drum Corps - White Spot Jr. Boys Band

"B" Class Bands:

1. City of Port Moody Pipe Band
2. Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band

"C" Class Bands:

1. Kiwanis Boys Band
2. Highland Laddies Pipe Band
3. Vancouver Ladies Jr. Pipe Band

SCOTTISH PIPE BAND CHAMPIONSHIPS: AUGUST 12th, 1967 - EDINBURGH.

Grade 1:

1. Invergordon Distillery Band
2. Edinburgh City Police
3. Glasgow City Police
4. Woolmet Colliery

Grade 2:

1. Ayr Society
2. Robert Armstrong Memorial
3. Lady Victoria Colliery

Grade 3:

1. British Hydro-Carbon Chemicals
2. Bilston Glen Colliery
3. 1st Port Glasgow Boys' Brigade

Grade 4:

1. Greenock Burgh
2. Hawick British Legion
3. Monktonhall Colliery

Best Ladies Band - McLean Ladies
Best Juvenile - 1st Port Glasgow
Boys' Brigade

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PORTLAND HIGHLAND GAMES - JULY 15th, 1967.

Novice Marches:

1. Drew Noot
2. Linda Freshwater
3. Tim Noot
4. Robert Menzies

Juvenile Marches:

1. David Anderson
2. Bernie Rudsit (Tacoma)
3. Heather MacInnes
4. Terry Leonard

Juvenile Strathspeys & Reels:

1. Jim Leonard
2. Bill Russell
3. Heather Abel
4. Margie Forsyth

Juvenile Old Highland Airs:

1. Bernie Rudsit
2. Doug Bernon
3. Heather Abel
4. Lloyd McCaffery, (Corvallis)

Junior Marches:

1. Bill MacAulay
2. Kelvin Wood
3. Mary Swift
4. Donald Taylor

Junior Strathspeys & Reels:

1. Mary Swift
2. Sandy Shatford
3. Donald Taylor
4. Kelvin Wood

Junior Old Highland Airs:

1. Mary Swift
2. John Wright
3. Bill MacAulay
4. Sandy Shatford

Amateur Marches:

1. Donald MacMillan
2. John MacLeod
3. Robert Heggie
4. Laurie McIlvena

Amateur Strathspeys & Reels:

1. John MacLeod
2. Sherea Barwell
3. Dal Jessiman

Amateur Piobaireachd:

1. John MacLeod
 2. Sherea Barwell
 3. Robert Heggie
- (Judge Ian MacKinnon said this class was the best one of the day - there should have been six first prizes!)

Open Marches:

1. Rae Marie MacAulay
2. Theresa MacInnes
3. Bob MacDonald

Open Strathspeys & Reels:

1. Bob MacDonald
2. Norma Thompson
3. Catherine MacLellan

Open Piobaireachd:

1. Norma Thompson

"C" Class Pipe Bands:

1. Vancouver Kiwanis Boys Pipe Band
2. Vancouver Junior Ladies Pipe Band
3. Seattle Junior Boys Pipe Band

"B" Class Pipe Bands:

1. City of Port Moody Pipe Band
2. Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band
3. Clan MacLay Pipe Band

Quartettes:

1. Vancouver Ladies
2. Vancouver Kiwanis
3. Vancouver Junior Ladies

Aggregates:

- | | | | | |
|----------------------|---|-----------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Juvenile | - | Bernie Rudsit, Tacoma | - | Crieff Trophy |
| Junior | - | Mary Swift | - | Assoc. British Societies Trophy |
| Amateur | - | John MacLeod | - | Roderick L. Macleay Tr. |
| Sr. Am. Piobaireachd | - | John MacLeod | - | MacAlpine Trophy |
| Open | - | Norma Thompson | - | James McDonald Trophy |
| Open Piobaireachd | - | Norma Thompson | - | Cowal Highland Gathering |

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DUNVEGAN SILVER CHANTER WON BY HECTOR MACFADYEN, PENNYGHAEL:

(from The Oban Times, Aug. 31, 1967)

The first MacCrimmon Memorial Piobaireachd Competition which took place in the historic drawing room of Dunvegan Castle, home of Dame Flora MacLeod, was won by Hector MacFadyen, Pennyghael, Mull.

The room was packed with piobaireachd enthusiasts from all over the world and it was obvious from the rapt attention given to the competitors that they were very much aware of their surroundings, of the calibre of the players taking part and of the legend that tells us that the last competition to take place in the room, which was then the banqueting hall, was organised by Alasdair Crotach, 8th Chief of the MacLeods, some 450 years previously.

Chairman for the evening was Dr. Kenneth A. MacKay who, with his knowledge of piobaireachd and sense of history, gave an excellent and much appreciated description of the tunes played and the players who played them.

The competition was confined to previous winners of the gold medal at Oban or Inverness or the Dunvegan medal for piobaireachd, Portree, and eight competitors took part. Each competitor submitted a list of six MacCrimmon piobaireachds from which the judges selected the tune to be played.

First to play was the winner, Hector MacFadyen, and his tune was "MacSwan of Roag". He was in excellent form, had, as usual, a good pipe, and gave a first class performance.

He was followed by the second prize-winner, Iain MacFadyen, Glasgow, who played "I Got a Kiss of the King's Hand". He, too, was in excellent form and his rendering of this musical tune was much appreciated by all.

Third prize-winner and fifth to play was John MacDougall, Bucksburn. His tune was "The Lament for the Earl of Antrim". This, too, was a very good performance marred only by a slight technical imperfection.

Duncan MacFadyen, Glasgow, was seventh to play and gained fourth prize with "The Lament for the Only Son". His pipe was excellent from start to finish and his tune was very good although some might have thought that his second variation was on the slow side.

Captain D.R. MacLennan was fifth prize-winner with "The Lament for Donald of Laggan". This was a first class effort on the part of a player who had not competed for a number of years and he is to be congratulated for the high standard of his playing.

Hugh C.R. MacRae played "Too Long in This Condition"; William M. MacDonald, Inverness, played "Donald Duaghal MacKay"; and William MacDonald, Benbecula, was unfortunate to make a mistake in his last variation of "The Lament for Donald Ban MacCrimmon".

The trophy, a beautiful silver chanter, was presented to the winner by Dame Flora at the end of a most successful evening and a special vote of thanks was given to the three gentlemen, General F. Richardson, Colonel Neil Ramsay and Mr. Seton Gordon, to whom had been entrusted the difficult task of adjudicating.

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THE MACCRUMMENTS, Hereditary Pipers to MacLeod of MacLeod, or of Dunvegan.
(continued from No. 82)

Donald Mor had a brother, who lived in Glenelg, part of MacLeod's estate, who was known by the name of Patrick Caog, on account of a squint or defect in one of his eyes. This young man had a quarrel with his foster brother, a native of Kintail. Sometime after the dispute, while he was in the act of washing his face, in a burn or rivulet adjoining his dwelling, the Kintail man came behind him, and treacherously with his dirk gave him a mortal blow. This being made known to Donald Mor at Dunvegan, he prepared to revenge the untimely death of his brother, and taking his Pipes up to MacLeod's room, he threw them on the bed. MacLeod surprized, demanded to know what had occurred. In few words he related to him the affair, when the laird pacified the enraged Piper, and promised him, on condition of his remaining at home, to see justice done before the expiration of twelve months. MacLeod thought that his wrathful Piper would forget the cruel murder by that time, and allow his ire to abate; but such was not the case, for on the termination of the twelve months, he set out himself for Glenelg, without informing any one of his intention; and finding on his arrival there, that the murderer of his brother had gone to Kintail, he pursued his journey thither.

The offender having been apprised of his arrival, concealed himself in the house of a friend; and the inhabitants of the village not choosing to deliver him up, MacCrummen was so enraged, that he resolved to set their houses on fire, - a resolution which he found an opportunity of carrying into effect that night, and burned eighteen of their houses, which caused the loss of several lives. (This is called Lasan Phadruig Chaog, or a flame of wrath for Squinting Peter). Donald then made his escape to Lord Rea's country, where he remained for some time under the protection of Donald Duaghal Mackay, afterwards Lord Rea, with whom he had been formerly acquainted.

As soon as Lord Kintail was apprised of this affair, he offered a great reward for the apprehension of MacCrummen, and sent a party in pursuit of him; but they returned without being able to trace the fugitive. He, however thought it prudent to seek a place of concealment in a more remote district, and wandered among the hills for a considerable time, making occasional nocturnal visits to his friend MacKay, who, to avoid detection, recommended him to one of his shepherds, with whom, he was assured he might remain in safety, and for greater security, a bed was constructed, concealed in the wall of the house.

Soon afterwards, Lord Kintail, whose daughter had been married to Donald Duaghal, having learned where MacCrummen was lurking, dispatched his son and twelve men to seize him. It was a very wet day, and Donald Mor happened to be at home, when the party approached the house; but while they were at a distance, the shepherd's wife espied them, and immediately gave the alarm to the unfortunate Piper, who betook himself to the bed already mentioned; and the good woman made a large fire, which was always in the middle of the house, for the entertainment of his pursuers. On their arrival they were welcomed, and asked to be seated, civilities of which they gladly availed themselves, being thoroughly soaked by the rain. The woman then spread their plaid on ropes, which had been placed along the house, for the purpose of

forming a safe passage for MacCrummen's retreat whom she then apprized of the opportunity, and thus he effected his escape, unobserved by MacKenzie or any of the party. All this was the work of a moment; and MacKenzie was hardly seated, when he asked where their guest Donald Mor was concealed. "I know nothing about him," replied the shepherd; "I have indeed heard that your father has offered a great reward for his apprehension; but he has not come my way, else I should certainly have given up." A lengthened conversation regarding MacCrummen then ensued, and MacKenzie finding he could gather nothing from the faithful couple; ordered his men to search the house and its vicinity, which they did, but to no purpose. The night continued extremely rainy and boisterous, so that the party was glad to remain in the shepherd's cot; and after partaking of what refreshment it could afford, retired to rest.

The goodwife managed matters well. She made MacKenzie's bed in a corner of the house by itself, so that there might be an easy access to it. When all was fast asleep, MacCrummen having been informed of all that had passed, entered the house; and taking MacKenzie's arms and part of those of the men, laid them one across the other, over the place where MacKenzie lay, and took his departure, without disturbing any one, - the party after their fatigues sleeping very soundly. When MacKenzie awoke in the morning, and found so many arms placed over him, he called to his men to get up, saying, "I might have been a dead man, for ought you could have done for me. If Donald Mor MacCrummen be alive, it was he that did this; and it was as easy a matter for him to take my life, as to do so."

On going out, they saw MacCrummen walking on the other side of the river, with his claidheamh-more or great sword, in his hand. Seeing the man they were in pursuit of, they prepared to ford the stream, with the intention of seizing or dispatching him; but MacKenzie threatened to shoot the first man, who would dare to touch him. He then approached MacCrummen, and desired him to cross the river. "No," replied he, "it is as easy for you to come to me, as it is for me to go to you." "If you will come over," rejoined MacKenzie, "I pledge my word of honour that you shall not be injured." "Not so," says the other, "swear all your men, and I will take your own word;" which was accordingly done, and MacCrummen crossed over the river. MacKenzie then asked him, if it was he who put the arms over the bed, during the night, when he was answered in the affirmative. Then said MacKenzie, you might have easily taken my life, at that time; so I now promise to procure your pardon, if you will be at my father's house this day three weeks. This being agreed to, MacKenzie took his departure for the residence of Donald Duaghal, where he remained a few days, and then proceeded to Kintail, and told his father all that had happened. MacCrummen also went to Donald Duaghal, who consented to accompany him to his father-in-law's, and arrived the evening of the appointed day, at the house of Lord Kintail's fiddler. They were shewn into an upper room, where MacKay left his companion, and went alone to Lord Kintail's. By some means the fiddler discovered that his guest was Donald Mor; he therefore sent for a party of men, in order to secure and carry him before his Lordship, claiming the reward for his capture. So after every thing had been arranged, the wary musician went up stairs, and said to MacCrummen, whose door was secured inside,

that his wife had laid him a wager, that he would not come down, and drink his share of a bottle with them. MacCrummen replied, that he had no objections to do so, and opening the door, came out. There was along with the fiddler a younger son of Lord Kintail, who had formerly seen MacCrummen, and who took an opportunity to whisper to him, "Will you go down stairs where a house full of people await to take you prisoner?" Donald Mor immediately knocked the fiddler down stairs, and again fastened himself in the room. The youth went straight to inform Donald Duaghal, whom he met on the way, and he on hearing what had taken place, made all possible haste, and arrived just in time to save the Piper, by producing a pardon for him, received from Lord Kintail. All then dispersed peaceably, and MacKay and MacCrummen proceeded to the castle of his Lordship, where they made merry all night and next day the Piper returned to Skye, where he remained without much further adventures until his death.

He was succeeded by his son Patrick Mor, a diligent composer of Piobaireachd, of whom it is related that he was accompanied to church one Sunday by eight sons, who all, with one exception, died within twelve months, on which bereavement he composed a tune called Cumha na Cloinne, or Lament for the Children.

His only surviving son Patrick Og succeeded. He was a composer of scarcely less merit than his father, and his pupils were considered the best Pipers of those days. He was twice married, and had issue by his first wife, a son Malcolm, and a daughter; by the second he had no fewer than eighteen children, of whom only John, Donald Bane, and Farquhar came to the years of maturity.

John was Piper to the Earl of Seaforth. Donald was killed in the skirmish which took place at Moy near Inverness in 1746. Farquhar lived in Harris, and Malcolm the eldest succeeded his father at Borreraig, and dying he left issue John Dubh, and Donald Ruadh. The first of whom became of course Piper to Dunvegan. He was twice married, and had by his first wife, two sons and four daughters. His sons were Malcolm and Donald, the former of whom it is believed is still alive at Ardrossan, but does not follow the profession of his forefathers. The latter went to the West Indies, and died on his homeward passage. One of the daughters, Mrs. MacKinnon, is still alive; a worthy gentlewoman who now keeps a school for females at Dunvegan. John Dubh married the second time at the age of sixty, and had issue five children, some of whom yet survive, as does the widow.

About 1795 the last of this celebrated race of Pipers left his ancient patrimony, and John Dubh proceeded as far as Greenock with the intention of emigrating to America. He however altered his mind, and returned to his native isle, where he spent the remainder of his life in quiet retirement; and when the infirmities accompanying a protracted life, prevented him handling his favourite Piob-mhor, he would sit on the sunny braes, and run over the notes on the staff which assisted his feeble limbs in his lonely wanderings. He died in 1822, in the 91st years of his age, and was buried with his fathers in the churchyard of Durinish.

JOHN WILSON'S BOOK 3.

1867

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ROUND THE GAMES WITH JOHN WILSON:

(Ed. Although the following reports are somewhat dated, we know that they will still be of great interest to our readers)

JUDGES UNDER COVER:

SCARBOROUGH "CENTENNIAL YEAR" HIGHLAND GAMES, JUNE 24th, 1967.

This year, 1967, The Pipers and Pipe Band Society of Ontario has ruled that at all pipe band contests under its jurisdiction, the judges must be under cover. This is a new departure for our Ontario Games as far as I know. Since I came to Canada in 1949, all the judging I have done and seen has been done in the open. In Scotland the judges at most pipe band contests have been under cover and still are, I believe. I have had judging and competitive experience of both methods, so I'll give you my opinion of their respective merits and/or demerits.

For the under cover method, two small canvas erections (for all the world like out-door privies at a camp site) are provided for the two piping judges, with enough room between them for the pipers to form circle, and another similar canvas erection for the drumming judge is placed in line with one of the other two nearer the drummers. Each little cubicle has, or should have, a table and chair for the judge. The judges are put in these kiosks about half an hour before the contest starts because the whole idea of this system is secrecy. The judges do not know the result of the draw for order of playing and they cannot see the bands; so they just listen and concentrate on what they hear. When a band finishes its selection, the judges quickly fill up the points sheets and pass them out to the stewards whose duty it is to collect them. The stewards immediately take the sheets to the official computers. The next band is started as soon as the sheets are gathered, and so on.

As far as I am concerned this is the easiest judging assignment. The judge simply listens and then gives his verdict or opinion. He can sit all the time or stand up if he gets tired of sitting. I must admit it does get dreadfully monotonous looking at the canvas walls, but one can always close ones eyes as long as sleep is avoided. As we do not have the huge entries over here that they have in Scotland, the task of the judges should be so much easier. I think the band members like the under cover method better. The sight of the judges looking at them and taking notes makes some players nervous, and when the judges are hidden it is a case of "out of sight out of mind".

It is a simple matter for any judge to make a little hole in the canvas if he wants to, but a judge who is worth being called a judge, should scorn to use any such method, and should rely competely on his own ability to give each band the score it plays for.

The open style of judging implies right away that the judges are trusted and can be depended on to give their honest opinion. It also means, of course, that the judges must start with each band from the very start, and march with it to where the circle is formed. The eyes are used as well as the ears, for strange things can happen. If the judges do not approach any nearer to the players than six feet (as specified in our Ontario Rules until this year) the players should not be nervous. Pictorially, there is

no doubt in my mind which looks best; the three little canvas erections or the three judges dressed in the proper garb for the day. I can't see why judges under cover should have to wear the kilt at all, for it isn't seen. They may as well wear old slacks and a sports shirt. Judging in the open is harder on a judge's feet, and demands greater alertness, but I for one prefer it to the monotony of the "wee hoose". However, the one who pays the piper is entitled to call the tune, and a capable judge should be able and willing to judge according to any reasonable rules.

I strongly advise judges who have never been "shut up", to be sure to visit the Men's Toilet before the start of a contest, as they cannot be allowed out until the finish.

In the solo piping events Chris Anderson was in a class by himself and easily won all three first prizes. In the amateur grades competition was very keen and the results very close indeed.

The Pipe Bands all played splendidly. The "Toronto Girls" looked very neat and smart and won first spot in the Grade 3 contest. In Grade 2 the "Balmoral Highlanders" from Syracuse gained the top prize, while in Grade 1, the "Clan McFarlane" of St. Catharines and the "City of Toronto" gave wonderful performances to gain 1st and 2nd places in the March, Strathspey and Reel. Their positions were reversed in the Slow March - 6/8 March.

The weather was pleasant and not too hot, and, for a first time, the Clans of Scarborough should be quite proud of their effort.

Here are the piping results:-

Open Piobaireachd: (Judge - John Wilson)

1. Chris Anderson 2. J. Fryer 3. Garry Hall

Open Jig: (Judge - John Wilson)

1. Chris Anderson 2. Ed. Neigh 3. Bill Robertson

Open March, Strathspey & Reel: (Judge - Duncan Gibson)

1. Chris Anderson 2. Ed. Neigh 3. Bill Robertson

Amateur - Grade 1 March: (Judge - Archie Dewar)

1. S. Girling 2. Garry Hall & Trudy Campbell (tie)

Amateur - Grade 1 Strathspey & Reel: (Judge - Archie Dewar)

1. J. Sutherland 2. Garry Hall 3. R.B. Henderson

Amateur - Grade 2 March: (Judge - Archie Dewar)

1. Gail Brown 2. L. Jones 3. R. Worrall

Amateur - Grade 2 Strathspey & Reel: (Judge - Archie Dewar)

1. R. Worrall 2. L. Sloan 3. G. Brown

Amateur - Grade 3 March: (Judge - Duncan Gibson)

1. M. Wilson 2. N. Anderson 3. I. Webster.

Grade 3 Pipe Bands:

1. Toronto Girls ($85\frac{1}{4}$)
2. Bruce Junior (84)

Grade 2 Pipe Bands:

1. Balmoral Highlanders (92)
2. Highland House ($87\frac{1}{2}$)
3. 400 Squadron, R.C.A.F. (86)

Grade 1 Pipe Bands:

1. Clan McFarlane ($99\frac{1}{4}$)
2. City of Toronto (98)
3. St. Thomas Legion ($95\frac{3}{4}$)

Open Slow March & 6/8 March:

1. City of Toronto (96)
2. Clan McFarlane ($95\frac{1}{2}$)
3. Balmoral Highlanders ($94\frac{3}{4}$)

ZORRA HIGHLAND GAMES, EMBRO - JULY 1st:

The Zorra Highland Gathering, Embro, enjoyed another glorious 1st of July. The Games were over by 6:00 p.m. and about half an hour later the countryside was swept by a torrential rainstorm. We stopped in Woodstock for a snack, and when we came out of the restaurant, the sidewalks were practically dry again.

I was asked to judge at Embro because Alex McNeill couldn't make it, so I lugged my heavy Piobaireachd books along although I had heard strange rumours. Sad to relate, the rumours turned out to be perfectly true. There was only one Open Solo Piping Competition; a March, Strathspey and Reel all in one. No Piobaireachd. Can you imagine Embro without a Piobaireachd competition? Why, the piobaireachd event at Embro attracted piping enthusiasts from far and near. And only one open Piping Event!!! If my memory serves me correctly, I won all five Open Piping events at Embro one year. And no Slow March competition for the Bands!!! The Embro Games certainly went all out for Centennial year. If an agreement hadn't been reached at the last minute with the Pipers and Pipe Band Society of Ontario I doubt if any solo pipers or pipe bands would have attended the gathering. As it turned out, eleven pipe bands attended, including five of our top bands, so the Games committee saved their skins and a considerable amount of cash, all at the expense of the pipers and drummers. This, to my mind, demands drastic action.

The Open March, Strathspey and Reel competition was won by Chris Anderson who gave a practically flawless rendering of "The Edinburgh Volunteers", "The Cameronian Rant" and "The Man from Glengarry". I thoroughly enjoyed this performance. Gordon Tuck was second and played almost as well as Anderson and on an equally fine instrument. Jas. Fryer was a good third.

In the pipe band contests, Bruce County Pipe Band from Kincardine was first in Grade 3, and Balmoral Highlanders from Syracuse was an easy winner in Grade 2. In the Grade 1 event the City of Toronto was first and the Clan MacFarlane second. In my estimation both these bands played splendidly but slightly below their form at Scarborough. The St. Thomas Legion was a very close third.

Here are the results:-

Open March, Strathspey & Reel: (Judge - John Wilson)

1. Chris Anderson
2. Gordon Tuck
3. James Fryer

Amateur Grade 1 March: (Judge - Sandy Keith)

1. J. Sutherland
2. Syd. Girling
3. Trudy Campbell

Amateur Grade 1 Strathspey & Reel: (Judge - Sandy Keith)

1. J. Sutherland
2. J. Noble
3. J. McRobb & C. McDonald (tie)

Amateur Grade 2 March: (Judge - Arch. Finlayson)

1. Scott Blashill
2. R. Worrall
3. Lars Sloan

Amateur Grade 2 Strathspey & Reel: (Judge - Arch. Finlayson)

1. R. Worrall
2. Lars Sloan
3. Gail Brown

Amateur Grade 3 March: (Judge - Sandy Keith)

1. J. Stewart
2. Martin Wilson
3. D. Campbell

Grade 3 March - Pipe Band:

1. Bruce County (78 $\frac{3}{4}$)
2. Gordon Pipers (Indianapolis) (77)

Grade 2 March, Strathspey & Reel - Pipe Band:

1. Balmoral Highlanders (92 $\frac{1}{2}$)
2. Highland House (86 $\frac{1}{2}$)
3. Ingersoll (80 $\frac{1}{2}$)

Grade 1 March, Strathspey & Reel: - Pipe Band:

1. City of Toronto (95 $\frac{1}{4}$)
2. Clan MacFarlane (95)
3. St. Thomas Legion (94 $\frac{1}{4}$)

P.S. Speaking for myself, the wind blowing the sides of the "Wee hoose" back and forth or in and out, did not help me one little bit. The other judges must have been similarly affected. J.W.

QUESTION: (Relayed to me by the President of the Pipers and Pipe Band Society of Ontario)

Was John Wilson really serious at Scarborough Highland Gathering when he gave two Grade 1 Pipe Bands maximum points, or did he make a "boo boo"?

My Answer:

As I couldn't detect anything in the performance of the two bands in question that I could deduct points for, and as, in my opinion, their playing, and tone and tuning, were absolutely first class, I felt they were entitled to full points.

Argument:

The questioner or questioners probably believe that no performance can be perfect. All right; let's go along with this argument. It following, of course, that no judge can be perfect, although some are better than others, the very same as bands. If we take four Piping Judges, A, B, C & D, what seems perfect to D might not seem

perfect to A, B, or C; what seems perfect to C might not seem perfect to A or B; what seems perfect to B might not seem perfect to A, and what seems perfect to A might in fact be slightly imperfect.

So the imperfect judge, not detecting any small imperfections in a performance, must give imperfect band the benefit of the doubt, and must not invent imperfections simply so that he can give an imperfect score. Now it also follows that the questioner or questioners are imperfect too, so it is very unlikely that he, or they, will understand all this perfectly. Right? O.K.

- 0 -

NANAIMO HIGHLAND GATHERING - JULY 8th, 1967.

The tenth annual Nanaimo Gathering has passed, and although some rain did fall no one seemed to mind. It did delay the proceedings somewhat but not to the extent that one could not endure. From the many spectators in the stands it would appear that the Games were enjoyed by all and that we might break even financially.

I would like through the medium of the Newsletter to thank the Pipe Majors and members of each band for the wonderful cooperation accorded myself and the two co-workers. Special thanks to Ken McIlvena for his efforts and assistance.

Many complimentary remarks were made and a very high appreciation should go to the bands for the two massed band parades. One took place right after the official opening the other at the completion of the pipe band competitions.

I do hope that some day appearance money can be available to help defray the expenses of the bands. This is one issue that will be looked into with the hope it can be arranged.

I must apologize for not being able to announce the last two events. Evidently the Chairman of athletics feels that once the track and field events are over the Highland Games are at an end. I'm sure he will realize at the next meeting that the picture will change.

- Ian Wallace -
Nanaimo

Piping Results:

Novice Marches:

1. Tim Noot
2. Linda Freshwater
3. Tina MacLeod
4. Glen Esdale

Novice Strathspeys & Reels:

1. Tim Noot
2. Drew Noot
3. Linda Freshwater

Juvenile Marches:

1. Doug Bernon
2. Heather McInnes
3. Sandy Marshall

Juvenile Strathspeys & Reels:

1. Heather Upton
2. Jim Leonard
3. Sandy Marshall

Junior Marches:

1. Sandy Shatford
2. Donald Taylor
3. Mill MacAulay

Junior Strathspeys & Reels:

1. Ron Skipsey
2. Sandy Shatford
3. Bob Gallaher

Amateur Marches:

1. Donald MacMillan
2. John A. McLeod
3. Dal Jessiman

Amateur Strathspeys & Reels:

1. John A. MacLeod
2. Donald MacMillan
3. Dal Jessiman

Amateur Piobaireachd:

1. Sherea Barwell
2. Donald MacMillan
3. John MacLeod

Open Marches:

1. Bob MacDonald
2. Norma Thomson
3. Theresa MacInnes

Open Strathspeys & Reels:

1. Bob MacDonald
2. Theresa MacInnes
3. Rae Marie MacAulay

Open Piobaireachd:

1. Norma Thomson

"B" Class Bands: (Island Bottling Co. Trophy)

1. City of Port Moody Pipe Band
2. Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band

"C" Class Bands: (General Auto Sales Ltd. Perpetual Trophy)

1. Vancouver Kiwanis Junior Pipe Band
2. Highland Laddies Pipe Band
3. Vancouver Junior Ladies Pipe Band

"A" Class Quartette Piping: (Sheldon Spur Trophy)

1. Vancouver Ladies

"B" Class Quartette Piping: (Tally-Ho Motel Trophy)

1. Kiwanis Junior
2. Highland Laddies
3. Vancouver Junior Ladies

Aggregates:

- Juvenile - Doug Bernon & Heather Upon (tie) - Nanaimo Realty Trophy
Junior - Sandy Shatford - Drs. Browne & Hamilton Trophy
Amateur - Donald MacMillan - D.M. Greer Trophy
Open - Bob MacDonald - P. Inkster Memorial Trophy
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I hope you can do this for me and I will be very happy. Thanking you.

Yours aye in piping

Wm. Geo. Strachan
33 Sutherland Squ.
Walworth
London S.E. 17, U.K.

- 0 -

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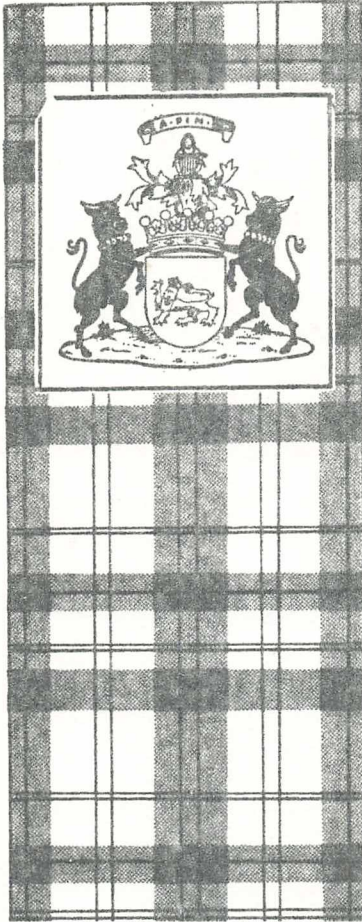
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