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B.C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



The official monthly publication of the British Columbia Pipers' Association

OCTOBER 1983

THE B.C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED BY THE BRITISH COLUMBIA'S PIPERS' ASSOCIATION AND IS DISTRIBUTED TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE B.C. PIPERS' ASSOCIATION.

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CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER SHOULD BE SENT TO THE EDITOR: JEAN BOKENFOHR, 1664 LINCOLN AVE., PORT COQUITLAM, B.C., V3B 2J6, OR PHONE 941-9872 NO LATER THAN THE 10TH OF THE MONTH.

ALL OTHER COMMUNICATIONS TO THE B.C. PIPERS' ASSOCIATION ARE TO BE SENT TO THE SECRETARY: MRS. MARY MACKINNON, 6959 HALLIGAN ST., BURNABY, B.C., V5E 1R4.

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COMING EVENTS

THE PIOBAIREACHD SOCIETY

- 1. The PIOBAIREACHD SOCIETY recommend the following lists of set tunes for competitions in 1984 and this announcement is made to ensure earliest notification. It is quite without prejudice to any arrangements to be made by either the Northern Meeting or the Argyllshire Gathering.
 - A. SILVER MEDAL COMPETITIONS
 Competitors will submit SIX tumes of their own choice, one of which they will be asked to play.
 - B. GOLD MEDAL COMPETITIONS Competitors will select FOUR tunes from this list of seven tunes.

		BOOK	
1.	THE BICKER	4	K
2.	THE BLACK WEDDER'S WHITE TAIL	11	
3 •	GRAIN IN MIDES AND CORN IN SACKS	5	K
4.	THE LAMENT FOR THE LITTLE SUPPER	8	K
5.	QUEEN ANNE'S LAMENT	7	K
6.	THE MACDONALDS ARE SIMPLE	9	
7.	ALL THE MEN PAID RENT BUT RORY	11	

The conditions and tunes above will also apply to the PIOBATREACHD SOCIETY'S GOLD MEDAL competition at Ottawa.

C. SENIOR COMPETITIONS

Competitors will select FOUR tunes from this list of six tunes.

1.	ABERCAIRNEY'S SALUTE	11	
2.	LADY MACDONALD'S LAMENT	8	K
3.	NAMELESS - CHEREDE DARIEVEA	8	K
4.	THE PRINCE'S SALUTE	1	K
5.	THE VAUNTING	7	K
6.	THE RED SPECKLED BULL	4	K

- D. Competitors qualified to play in the PIOBAIREACHD SOCIETY GOLD MEDALIST (Former Winners), Ottawa, competition will submit a list of SIX tunes of their own choice, but which may not include any of the tunes listed at B above.
- 2. All the tunes listed above are published in the Piobaireachd Society's Collection, as well, where indicated by the letter K in the Kilberry Book of Ceol Mor. Competitors are not restricted to these settings and any other setting may be played although the judges may take into consideration the merits of the setting, its authenticity and the authority for it.

Altogether different tunes by the same or similar names will not be accepted as alternative settings. In this respect attention is drawn to "THE BICKER" published in Book 11.

BAGPIPE WORKSHOP, NOVEMBER 4, 5, and 6, 1983.

The Eastern Washington University (Cheney, Washington) Bagpiping Workshop is designed to instruct students of all levels, beginning through advanced. For those who have never played bagpipes, a special effort will be made so they may leave the workshop with a solid basic understanding of piping. Pipers who have played before will be offered bagpipe maintenance and instruction in all types of bagpipe music.

This is a non-profit program made possible through the cooperation of Eastern Washington University and the John McEwing Piobaireachd Society.

INFORMATION NUMBER: Eastern Washington University, Margie Wallace, University Conferences, Louise Anderson Hall, Cheney, Washington 99004 From Spokane - 458-6414 toll free, or (509) 359-2406 or 359-6183.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD PIPE BAND REGRETS TO ANNOUNCE THE CANCELATION OF THEIR PUB NIGHT DUE TO THE UNAVAILABILITY OF THE HALL. ALL MONIES FOR TICKETS WILL BE REFUNDED.

TARTAN BALL

Bellingham's first tartan ball will be held in the Crystal Ballroom of the Leopold Hotel on Saturday October 29. The traditional Scottish event is sponsored by the Bellingham Highland Dancers. Music will be provided by the Schiehallion Dance Band from Vancouver, B.C. Bagpipes and exhibition Scottish Country and Highland dancing will be performed and a raffle will add to the festivities.

The ball begins at 8:30 P.M. and tickets must be purchased in advance. Formal dress is optional

Tickets sales end October 22, please reserve early to avoid disappointment. Tickets may be ordered from: Bellingham Highland Dancers, 808 Woodbine Way, Bellingham, Wash. 98226.

Further information may obtained by calling one of the following: (206) 676-0566 (afternoons), (206) 733-5043 (evenings), (206) 398-2065 (Whatcom County residents)

Tickets are \$10.00 (U.S.) per person.

IF ANYONE KNOWS OF ANY MEMBER WHO IS ILL PLEASE CONTACT THE SECRETARY, MARY MACKINNON 522-9697.

SFUPB SCOTLAND AUDIO-VISUAL SHOW

THE SFUPB IS SPONSORING AN AUDIO-VISUAL PRESENTATION OF THEIR 1983 SCOTTISH TRIP AT LACHDALE HALL (ON SPERLING AT HASTINGS), SATURDAY NOVEMBER 19, 8 P.M. - 1 P.M. REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE. \$3.00 PER PERSON. TICKETS CAN BE BOUGHT FROM ANY BAND MEMBER.

DON'T FORGET TRIUMPH STREET'S FIRST MAMMOTH TRIVIA CONTEST - TO BE HELD ON THE NIGHT OF FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18 AT THE SCOTTISH AUDITORIUM.

TRIUMPH STREET HALLOWEEN DANCE

FRIDAY OCTOBER 28/83, PARK LODGE HALL, 29TH AND RUPERT
6:00 'TILL LATE, ADMISSION \$4.00

PRIZES AND SURPRISES

BAR SERVICE AVAILABLE

B.C. JUNIOR PIPE BAND DANCE AND PUB NITE

NOVEMBER 19, 8 P.M., KELLY DOUGLAS AUDITORIUM, 4700 BLK. KINGSWAY

JOHN MACGREGOR AND HIS MERRY MACS

ADMISSION \$7.00 EACH

FOR TICKETS PHONE: DONALD MACMILLAN AT 596-0877

ARCHIE MACKAY AT 594-6164.

VANCOUVER LADIES' PIPE BAND BURNS' DINNER

THE VANCOUVER LADIES' PIPE BAND WILL BE HOLDING THEIR ANNUAL BURNS' DINNER ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 21ST, 1984 AT ST. MARY'S HALL, VANCOUVER.

BOOK YOUR TABLE NOW BY CALLING MARGARET HANCOCK AT: 986 --4032 OR THROUGH ANY BAND MEMBER.

SEE YOU THERE!

TRIUMPH STREET PIPE BAND PRESENTS THE WEST COAST INDOOR PIPE BAND CHAMPIONSHIP THE 12TH ANNUAL TSPB CONTEST

Saturday, December 3, 1983 Location: Guildford Park Community School 14577-106/ Avenue, Surrey

Solo piping, trios and drumming 1-5 pm Band Contest 7-9 pm Cielidh to follow

Tolo Piping Events:

1. Chanter Class (Choice of tune)

2. Novice: 6/8 March

3. Novice: Strathspey and Reel

4. Juvenile: Slow Air 5. Juvenile: 2/4 March

6. Junior Amateur: March

7. Junior Amateur: Piobaireachd

8. Senior Amateur: Musical Selection (4-6 minutes)

Solo Piping: B.C. Pipers' Rules

Solo Drumming Events:

9. Novice Drumming: March 10. Amateur Drumming: MSR

11. Senior Amateur Drumming: Medley

12. Professional Drumming: Medley

Trios

13. Junior Trios (under 18)° 4-7 min. medley

Band Events

14. Juvenile Miniature Bands: 4-6 min. medley

15. Grade 4 Miniature Bands: 4-6 min. medley

16. Grade 3 Miniature Bands: 5-7 min. medley

17. Grade 2 Miniature Bands: 5-7 min. medley

18. Grade 1 Miniature Bands: 5-7 min. medley

Miniature Bands to consist of 6 pipers, 2 sides, 1 tenor, 1 bass.

Drumming and Band events: WPBA rules

Prize money to be announced.

Entry Fees: Events 1-11----\$2.00, Events 12, 13----\$3.00 Events 14, 15, 16-\$10.00 Events 17, 18----\$15.00

Competitors will be informed of their time of play before the contest. Entries must reach the secretary by November 19. No local field entries will be accepted. Entries must be accompanied by an entry fee. Make cheques payable to the Triumph Street Pipe Band. Mail entries to: Rob Menzies, #213-149 West 6th, North Van., B.C. V7M 1K4. Phone: 986-8196.

October 8 Mini Gathering

The first Mini Gathering of the 1983/84 season was held on Saturday morning, October 8th, at the Scottish Auditorium.

The judges for the day were René Cusson, Robert MacNeil, and Alison Palmer.

The results were as follows:

Chanter - March

- Harlan Janson James Blakey
- 2. Michiko Kariya
- 3. Val Mark
- 4. Brent Mykyte

Novice "A" - Slow Air

- 1. Robert Hartle
- 2. Pat Wright
- 3. Todd Sinclair

Novice "B" - Slow Air

- 1. Robbyn Bell
- 2. Ted Mark
- 3. John Ginn
- 4. Shelly Anderson

Juvenile -2/4 March

- 1. Stuart Forbes
- 2. Ritchie Hamilton
- 3. Michelle Langston
- 4. Paul Laporte

Junior - 6/8 March and Jig

- 1. Karen Mark
- 2. Kevin Mark
- 3. John Miller

Amateur - Jig and Hornpipe

- 1. Patricia Miharija
- 2. Robert MacLeod
- 3. Malcolm Bokenfohr

The November 5th Mini Gathering will commence at 10:00 am. The time schedule is as follows:

Chanter Novice	Slow Air 2/4 March	10:00
Juvenile	Strathspey and Reel	Not before 11:00
Junior Amateur	M.S.R. Musical Selection	Not before 11:00 Not before 11:30
Amateur	(4-6 mins.)	

For Sale

Hardie pipes - imitation ivory, with pipe case and practise chanter. Excellent condition. \$550 or best offer. Phone Mrs. Robertson: 937-0940

Are you interested in seeing the world and playing in a Grade 1 Pipe Band? Of course you are; Triumph Street Pipe Band is looking for both pipers and drummers. Give us a try. Call Rob Menzies: 986-8196. (An equal opportunity employer).

Results of Northern Meeting Inverness, Scotland, 1983

Gold Medal

- 1. Gavin Stoddart
- 2. Robert Wallace
- 3. James McGillivray
- 4. Michael Cusack

Silver Medal

- 1. R. McCourt
- 2. Ann MacKay
- 3. William Gass
- 4. James Hood

Clasp

- 1. Tom Spiers
- 2. P/M Ian Morrison
- 3. Ian MacFadyan
- 4. Bill Livingston

Former Winners MSR

- 1. John McDougall
- 2. Gavin Staddort
- 3. Murray Henderson

Jig

- 1. B. Donaldson
- 2. Allan MacDonald
- 3. John Wilson
- 4. Alasdair Gillies

March (section a)

- 1. Alasdair Gillies
- 2. B. Donaldson
- 3. Murray Henderson
- 4. William McCallum

March (section b)

- 1. R. McCourt
- 2. Craig Walker
- 3. Tom Harboe

S/R (section a)

- 1. B. Donaldson
- 2. Robert Wallace
- 3. Donald McBride
- 4. Michael Cusack

S/R (section b)

- 1. R. McCourt
- 2. Roger Huth
- 3. Amy Garson

NEW MEMBERS

THE B.C. PIPERS! WISHES TO EXTEND A WARM WELCOME TO ALL NEW MEMBERS.

ACTIVE:

JAMES WRIGHT

LYNNE BAUER NORTHRIDGE, CALIFORNIA CHERYL GERARD BILLINGS, MONTANA BRENT MYHYTE

POWELL RIVER

DONALD PERKINS NANAIMG, B.C. CHARLES ARMIJO ARIZONA
JAMES THOMSON

AULES AND REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE

BRITISH COLUMBIA PIPER S' ASSOCIATION 1983

PART I

- (a) Judges should have a thorough knowledge of and be conversant with the classes of pipe music they are adjudicating.
- (b) All judges shall be from a list of approved judges supplied by the B.C. Pipers' Association. Judges not on the list, or from out of the area, should, if possible, be approved by the Association prior to being engaged.
- (c) Individual competitions when practical should be adjudicated by three judges, who may sit as a panel.

PART II

RULES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF JUDGES:

- (a) Points will be awarded under the categories of Execution, Expression, Tone and Tuning, and Tempo, and reasons shall be given by the judge for points deducted. Point allocations for the various categories may vary from class to class as determined by the B.C. Pipers' Association to reflect the Association's desire to emphasize certain aspects of piping in the various classes. Point sheets for the different classes will, upon request, be provided by the B.C. Fipers' Association.
- (b) The Judge's discretion shall prevail in determining the merits of each performance, and his/her decision shall be final.
- (c) Any piper breaking down during his/her tune shall be disqualified. Other serious flaws, such as a drone stopping or mistakes in the tune, shall be left to the discretion of the judge.
- (d) Dress and deportment will not be a factor in determining a winner in any class, although competitors should be attired in recognizable Highland dress.
- (e) Judges shall be allowed a reasonable time at the end of each competition to arrive at a decision. The number of prizes awarded shall depend on the size of each class as follows: up to 15 competitors 3 prizes 15 20 competitors 4 prizes over 20 competitors 5 prizes.

PART III

CLASSIFICATION OF PIPERS:

(a) Amateur classes shall be classified as Chanter, Novice, Juvenile, Junior Amateur, and Senior Amateur. Pipers may compete in one class only.

- (b) Classes shall be determined by ability and not by age, sex or affiliation, with the exception of confined or special classes as defined by a competition organizer.
- (c) The Chanter class is limited to competitors who have not won a first, second, or third prize in Chanter in the previous season, or who have competed on the pipes.
- (d) A professional piper is one who has competed in a professional (or open) competition at any time, or where cash prizes are offered, notwithstanding e or f.
- (e) Any competitor may choose to compete in a higher class, but having done so would forfeit his/her right to compete again under his/her previous class. Exceptions to this rule may be made where, in an out of area competition, a piper may play in a higher category if there is no appropriate class for them.
- (f) Competitors shall compete in the appropriate class as determined by the Board of Directors. A list of competitors allotted to each class shall be published by the Association in September, to remain in effect until the following Septem ber. Any piper who chooses to appeal his/her classification may appeal in writing to the Board of Directors who shall be empowered to reclassify a piper at any time.

PART IV

TULE REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPETITIONS: AN EVERT SHALL CONSIST OF ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- (a) Any piper in the Chanter Class shall be required to play: I. Choice of any march, or
 - 2. Slow Air, or
 - 3. Choice of any tune.
- (b) Any piper in the Novice Class shall be required to play:
 - I. Slow Air, or
 - 2. 2/4 March (4 parts minimum), or 3. 6/8 March (4 parts minimum), or
 - 4. Strathspey and Reel (minimum 2 parts each, once over)
- (c) Any piper in the Juvenile Class shall be required to play:
 - I. 2/4 March (minimum 4 parts, once over), or 2. 6/8 March (minimum 4 parts, once over), or
 - 3. Strathspey and Reel (minimum 4 parts, once over), or
 - 4. Jig, (once over)
- 5. Piobaireachd (ground and first variation)
- (d) Any piper in the Junior Class shall be required to play:
 - March (minimum 4 parts), or
 Strathspey and Reel (minimum 4 parts), or
 - 3. March, Strathspey and Reel together (minimum 4 parts each), or 4. Jig, or
 - 5. Hornpipe, or
 - 6. Piobaireachd

Any piper in the Senior Amateur Class shall be required to play: Musical selection (4-6 minutes, own tunes), or

2. March (submit 2), or

Strathspey and Reel (submit 2 sets), or

March , Strathspey and Reel together (submit 2 sets)

Jig (súbmit 2), or Hornpipe (submit 2), or

Jig/Hornpipe set (submit 2), or

Piobaireachd (submit 2)

(f) Any piper in the Professional Class shall be required to play: Musical selection (4-6 minutes, own tunes), or

2.

March (submit 3) or Strathspey and Reel (submit 3 sets), or March, Strathspey and Reel together (submit 3 sets)

Jigs (submit 3 sets of 2 jigs, once over), or

6.

Hornpipes (submit 3), or Jig/hornpipe set (submit 3 sets), or

Piobaireachd (submit 3)

PART V

GENERAL COMPETITION RULES:

- (a) The judge shall select the tune(s) from the compe titor's list where more than one tune is submitted and shall inform the competitor.
- (b) Pipers shall play in order of posting or according to times posted by the Games Committee. Pipers not prepared to play when thus required are liable to disqualification at the discretion of the Steward.
- Tuning on the platform shall be limited to FIVEMINUTES. piper tuning longer can be disqualified at the Steward's discretion.
- (d) Pipers should be prepared to supply music for unusual or unconventional tunes or settings.
- Local contest rules or requirements can take precedence over the above rules and regulations but only upon application by the Games Committee to the B.C. Pipers' Association.

INDOOR MEET

It may seem rather early to be getting ready for the next Indoor Meet, however the Board hopes to get a headstart on it early this year. We hope to have an entry form available for the next newsletter. We want to give competitors ample time to enter. This will hopefully help to alleviate the problems of last minute entries and scheduling problems.

Also members of the association should be aware that running the Indoor Meet is time consuming. If anyone can help out in any manner (ie. stewarding, sitting at the door etc.) please notify the board. We really meed your help.

We are fortunate to have confirmed Donald MacPherson to be one of the chief adjudicators at this years meet. We are waiting for a reply from one other Scottish judge. We will notify the membership when final confirmation is made.

BAND CHATTER

Many people have been asking how Bruce Gandy is making out these days. Well, I can report that he is living and working in the Toronto area. Bruce is still actively competitive in Ontario piping. He wishes to send his regards to everyone in B.C. and says he will make an appearance at the indoor meet.

It seems that even Scotland is going to be consuming light beer. Yes, it's true. Tenants Lager is now available in a light beer. Stewart MacPherson summed it up well by saying "Everything you wanted in a beer and Nae' sae' much!"

Anyone who saw Jack Lee breakdown during the impromptu jig competition in October should not be fooled. When Jack won his first aggregate at the indoor meet he broke down in the MSR but stormed back with victories in the piobaireachd and jigs. He broke down twice in one day at Santa Rosa and the following week he won at Inverness. Does this mean he will come up with another major victory in the near future? Probably

How do you make an old Englishman laugh? Tell him a joke when he's young.

Submitted by Peter Aumonier.

KNOCK-OUT

The opening knock-out in October saw a good turnout. The hall was full when the competition got under way.

In the opening match-up, James Troy was up against Bill Heaton. Jamie was the winner and advanced to the second round. The winning performance was highlighted by a great bagpipe and a novel nameless march by the late P/M Donald MacLeod.

In the second match-up of the evening Peter Aumonier was slated to play against Neil Dickie. Neil, unfortunately did not show. Peter still

entertained the audience with a good performance. The bagpipe was well tuned and lovely in quality. The audience enjoyed, in particular, "The Hen's March Over the Midden" and a wide selection of 2 part reels. Peter advances to round 2 and will face James Troy in January.

In the final match-up of the evening, Jack Lee was drawn against René Cusson. Both players gave fine performances. Jack was declared the winner. Jack's performance was given on his usual fine instrument and with his always aggressive style. His performance finished on a high with a very musical rendition of the jig "Geese in the Bog".

After the formal knock-out format was completed, an impromptu jig contest was held. There were several good performances in this contest. Andrew Bonar made his professional debut. Although Andrew did not appear in the prizes, he made a very good showing for his first professional contest. Alison Palmer and Peter Aumonier put in good performances. Jack Lee started out in great fashion but he broke down. The crowd was stunned as most have never seen or heard of this ever happening to Jack. Jack, in his usual manner took it all in great fun. The eventual winner of the jig competition was James Troy. He played a very musical, laid back and bouncy "Biddy from Slaggo" and was a good choice to be the winner. Hal Senyk judged the contest and felt there were good performances all round.

A motion to ammend B.C. Fipers' bylaw, Section IO, was passed at an extraordinary general meeting of the Association held on October 7th,

Section IO shall now read: "The fiscal year shall end on the 3Ist day of December in each year and the annual general meeting of the society shall be held any time before the 3Ist of May of the year following at the call of the Board of Directors".

This change now gives the Board of Directors for each year the opportunity to plan and implement their annual projects. Up until now a board elected in February had to present an annual gathering planned by the previous board. This ammendment simply puts our term of office in line with our piping season.

The November knock-out will see Dave Martin face Owen Reid, Andrew Bonar versus Rob Menzies, and a match-up of two old Muirhead and Sons Pipe Band members, Jimmy Hardie takes on Alan Walters.

There will be a warm-up this month which will be 2 9/8 marches. The evening also will feature the Richmond Pipe Band. Let's all show up for the November meeting as it promises to be a good night.

INCOME	the state of the s
Bar receipts -recital	\$
annual gathering	288.00 3327.00
Door receipts - recital	310.00
Door and program - annual gathering Céilidh tickets	1762.00
Donation - Doorman Agencies	II24.00
Tultion - drumming seminar	I73.00 I40.00
Entry fees - annual gathering TOTAL INCOME	1093.00
The state of the s	\$ 82 17.00

EXPENSES

Bar expense - recital		\$ I60.00
annual gathering Rental - recital annual gathering Céilidh entertainment "The Crofters" Rental - 2-way radios Catering - annual Gathering Prizes and medals Printing and supplies Judges expenses Fare to Scotland -I. Whitelaw (est.)	*	2064.00 85.00 2122.00 400.00 150.00 99.00 3579.00 237.00 2959.00 1000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES Excess of expenses over income		\$12855.00 \$4638.00
)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I want to take this opportunity to tell you that Cathie (my wife) and I enjoy the B.C. Pipers' Newsletter very much and always look forward to receiving its next issue.

As well as enjoying the contents, we think of the time, effort and much thought that Jean Bokenfohr puts into it to make it interest - ing for everybody. We feel grateful to her for her hard work.

For the past few years we have lived on the south side of 12th Avenue, across from the Scottish Auditorium so it was easy for me to pop over for the Friday night piping sessions. However, I am 86 years old and the last two years the Friday nights proved too late for me, but on Saturday mornings I went upstairs to the novice piping and I found that most stimulating.

How the young pipers performed with all the aplomb and confidence in the world was particularly appealing. I will always remember one wee piper, not much taller than the length of his big drone, marching front of the judge playing "79th Farewell to Gibraltar", never a falter and his face all aglow.

I thought this experience was a great asset in preparing each of them to go out into the adult world and make their own way.

I also thought the Association in generating this idea and having it so well organized were performing a valuable service. So many things I thought about in connection with this operation I won't attempt to enumerate them. But I thoroughly enjoyed the piping, the splendid sets of pipes, the beautiful kilts and the buoyancy of the young pipers. Also a word of gratitude to the parents and their devotion.

 ${\tt I\,{}^{!}\,m}$ going to miss all that but your "newsletters" will always keep the memories fresh.

Could you recommend to me the names of a couple of good pipe band

tapes and where I could buy them? I've got "The Golden Sounds of The Royal Scot Dragoon Guards", also "Pipes and Drums of the Regimental Brigade of Scotland". However, when I played them, I was horrified to find that brass bands were mixed up with the pipes. My revered grandfather, dead now 79 years, if he had heard them would have described them as "A noise o' Hellery".

Thanking you. Yours very truly, A.T. Smith

October 9, 1983

On behalf of the members of Triumph Street, I would like to congratulate the Simon Fraser Pipe Band on their sixth place finish at the Cowal Highland Games this past summer. It is indeed a fine accomplishment and certainly one to be proud of. It should be noted however, that it has not been 11 years since a Canadian grade one band placed on the prize list at Cowal. The Triumph Street Pipe Band also placed sixth at Cowal, during their last trip to Scotland in 1979.

Rob Menzies

Seems to be the season for airing grievances in the newsletter. Some recent letters merit some comment.

The first, and most important, is the opinion vo ced by Peter MacNeil under the banner "editorial" which appeared in last month's edition. At the beginning Peter states that it has always been the tradition of the association to promote the highest point winners each year. This is not true. In fact it is a fairly recent practice. At one time pipers in juvenile and junior were permitted to compete as long as they wished in these classes. This obviously lead to the situation Péter is predicting this year, so a promotion system was developed. The system has been over hauled once or twice but has remained basically unchanged for the past ten years.

The decision by the Board Of Directors to place promotions "on hold" for a short period (it comes under review at the end of December) is, in my mind, not a short sighted one. For too many years now we have simply been churning pipers through the "competition treadmill" with no apparent regard for their level of competency at any time. As a teacher I feel I have no time to instruct on the basics of the instrument or the music simply because too much time is spent preparing for the next contest two or three weeks down the road. Ask any of our piping school instructors how many of the students know about their pipes or musical theory or how many can stand up and perform a medley of tunes without resorting to their band set? This whole game is not simply one of handing out prizes to kids once a month! Holding players

in their respective classes for an extra year would enable us to "fine tune" the basics and better prepare the pipers for the senior classes. I don't believe this would produce the "stagnating" and "stifling" effects Peter is forecasting.

At the first mini gathering of the season there did not appear to be any problems relating to the decision of the board. Some pipers chose to promote themselves voluntarily which was very commendable. This was obviously, however, a decision between the pupil and teacher who know far more about a player's ability, knowledge and maturity than do the directors.

Peter also refers to the dancing association and their promotion system. I think you will find however that the B.C. Highland has had many problems with the system they are currently using.

As a director of the B.C. Pipers' Association I'm concerned about the standard of playing as well as the lack of entrants in our junior and senior classes. I agree that competition provides an incentive for pipers to improve, but believe that the decision by the board is a move to have a closer look at how we are developing our younger players. By taking this action, I firmly believe we are furthering piping as dictated by the constitution.

The second comment concers the letter from George Allan. I think we would all agree that to listen to all the professional events would be most enjoyable. However, it has been very difficult to put this into practice in recent years due to time constraints. The annual gathering committee is currently investigating ways of correcting this situation for the upcoming indoor.

I'm sorry George, but your comment regarding miniature bands would appear to place you in the minority. The large turnout on Saturday night of both bands and spectators implies to me that miniature bands are doing quite nicely in promoting piping.

Angus MacPherson

I would like to reply to the letter submitted by Peter MacNeil which appeared in the newsletter of September, 1983. The letter states concern that we are not forcing any p ayers to move up a grade. I think this issue needs clarification.

The constitution of the B.C. Pipers' Association dictates that we further piping in B.C. At the amateur level we must concern ourselves with giving our young players sufficient time to become competent at the basics of piping. In the past we have promoted players to higher classes by the number of aggregate points they have accumulated during the past year. This year we have not done this. We have left the decision to move up a class, to be made by pupils, and parents. The reasons for this are simple. A player can accumulate enough points to move up simply by attending all the competitions during the summer. Eventually enough 3rd and 4th prizes will provide

a sufficient number of points to move up.

Promotion to a higher class should be based on technical ability, musical ability, and knowledge gained while at a particular level. Presently we seem to have appeassembly line production way of clearing pipers. It seems players ataught to play a minimum number of tunes so that they can compete. This does not give a player an opportunity to expand his/her musical abilities. It also does not give an opportunity to simply enjoy bagpipe music. Players must have an opportunity to enjoy piping and to develope their skills. Far too often I gave seen senior amateur pipers who don't know how to tune their own pipes because they were forced up a class by the point system. Let's give our young players a chance to develop. Players who win a lot at an early age may not be mature enough to handle playing against older players in a higher class.

Although the board has not promoted anyone this year, there has been a large number of players who have moved up. Obviously their decision to move up was based on their own desires and their teachers desires. The board still has the power to force a player up if it is obvious a person is in a class below their ability. However, we must realize every year presents a unique situation. For example, a junior class could be very good one year, and everyone should move up, and it could be very bad, and noone should move up.

The point system therefore seems to be a poor measuring stick for determining whether or not a player should advance to a higher class. Instead we should try to determine whether or not a player has developed in phases of piping before they move on.

Peter Aumonier

