

OCTOBER 1983  
PUBLICATION NO. 206

# 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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## 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 tunes 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 HIDES 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 PIOBAIREACHD 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.

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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 be 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.

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



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  
14577-1067 Avenue, Surrey

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

Solo 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.









RULES AND REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE  
BRITISH COLUMBIA PIPERS' 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. Pipers' 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 September. 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

##### TUNE REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPETITIONS:

##### AN EVENT SHALL CONSIST OF ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- (a) Any piper in the Chanter Class shall be required to play:
  - 1. 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:
  - 1. 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:
  - 1. 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:
  - 1. March (minimum 4 parts), or
  - 2. 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





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 need 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.

oo

### 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.

oo

### 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















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 an assembly line production way of clearing pipers. It seems players are taught 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 develop their skills. Far too often I have 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 no one 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



