

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



**The official monthly publication of
the British Columbia Pipers' Association**

SEPTEMBER 1985

#224

B.C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER

Published by the British Columbia Pipers' Association.

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The B.C. Pipers' Newsletter is published monthly at 351 Dartmoor Drive, Coquitlam, B.C. V3K 5R6 and distributed to all members. Address communications concerning the Newsletter to the above address. All other communications should be sent to Mrs. M. MacKinnon, Secretary, 6959 Halligan Street, Burnaby, B.C. V5E 1R4.

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SEPTEMBER 1985

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SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY PIPE BAND



S.F.U. approaching the starting line at the World's

On behalf of the B.C. Pipers' Association I'd like to take this opportunity to offer our most sincere congratulations to the S.F.U. Pipe Band on their showing at the 1985 World Pipe Band Championships. The band was placed second overall out of a field of twenty-two in the Grade I contest. They were placed first in the morning M.S.R. competition. This is the best ever showing by an overseas band in the World Championships in Grade I.

It is indeed a credit to the hard work and talent of the band members, the support of the wives and parents, and most of all the dedication of P/M Terry Lee.

Once again congratulations and continued best wishes in your future endeavours.

Angus Macpherson
President

EDITORIAL

As we have already seen we don't take a back seat to anyone as far as pipe bands are concerned. We have had and do have a number of soloists who have acquitted themselves very well when away from home. We have a very active and healthy Association that has no doubt contributed in some part to these successes. The Scottish societies are finally working with each other and from all reports we should be settled in the new Auditorium before next summer. A pretty rosy picture as far as the B.C. Pipers is concerned. But is it?

The future of piping in this area, and indeed of the Association itself, sits squarely on the shoulders of our juvenile bands. Pipe bands are what attract youngsters into piping and drumming. Those same youngsters then become the future Jack Lees, fill the ranks of the Ladies, S.F.U., Victoria and Triumph Street, inject new ideas and enthusiasm into the Association, publish the Newsletter, steward, teach and on and on the cycle goes. Without this steady stream of novice players this Association, actively speaking, could be out of business within a decade.

Many of you probably haven't noticed but there is only one juvenile band presently competing. As little as two years ago we had four juveniles regularly turning out to contests. Granted the one remaining, B.C. Junior, is in a fairly healthy state member-wise, but the fact remains that our future is most definitely not in a healthy state. One reason put forward for the lack of newcomers, especially boys, is that most good bands have got into the habit of shunning parades. Apart from the offspring of Scots, parades were probably the number one recruiting ground for attracting youngsters into the game. Highland dancers, after watching the bands at the games, were the next largest group for new recruits. Hence the large number of girls in our solo and band ranks.

The solution to this problem does not, unfortunately, lie with the B.C. Pipers. The Association can and does encourage young pipers once they become pipers. The answer lies with the Grade I and Grade II bands. These are the people who have to attract the youngsters, teach them and get them formed into a juvenile band. The days of kids lining up to join pipe bands are over. We have to find them, and soon.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir:

I am writing on behalf of my father, Joseph Smith, who I'm sure is one of your oldest members at 94 years old. He has been a member of the B.C. Pipers' Association since 1929.

He is looking for a pipe chanter for a set of pipes he is fixing up for one of his grandsons. Anyone having an extra pipe chanter he or she would like to sell, please call Mr. Joe Smith at 327-3975.

Mrs. Cibell Mann

P.S. My father certainly enjoys all your articles in your Newsletters.

LAST MONTH IN AND AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

SEATTLE

The 39th running of the Pacific Northwest International Seattle Scottish Highland Games was held under sunny skies at the Everett Memorial Stadium on August 10th.

These highland games are the most improved on the local circuit and a credit to the organizers. A large entry in solo piping, dancing, heavy events and pipe bands contributed to a most enjoyable day. For those who prefer to wander around the grounds there was a large selection of booths ranging from Scottish suppliers to clan societies.

As has been my practice on reporting games this year - a few criticisms. The pipe band contest was started far too late with no time left for a massed band. (According to piping chairman Gordon MacDonald this situation will be rectified next year with the hiring of two more half day judges.) The method of judging the Open Piobaireachd and M.S.R. (two separate judges and total points) seemed a bit unusual. Perhaps an aggregate system (8 points for 1st, 5 for 2nd, etc.) or panel decision would have been a better choice.

Gordon has also advised us that the committee plans to raise the prize money for both the Open Piobaireachd and the Drum Corps competition for next year. The latter event proved to be most popular, attracting a large entry. (Perhaps this could be staged in front of the grandstand next year.)

Overall a most successful day with the promise of being bigger and better next year.

NOVICE - MARCH

1. Stafford Campbell
2. Calum McErlean
3. William Morton
4. Shelly Anderson

NOVICE - OLD HIGH. AIR

1. Joan Helmich
2. Calum McErlean
3. Leigh Collins
4. Bobby Kemp

Novice Aggregate:
Calum McErlean

JUVENILE - MARCH

1. Lenna Clark
2. Paul LaPorte
3. Kevin Mark
4. John Ginn

JUVENILE - S & R

1. Norma MacLeod
2. Paul LaPorte
3. Lenna Clark
4. Frank Tomasetti

JUVENILE - JIG

1. Paul Neilan
2. Kathy MacLeod
3. Lenna Clark
4. Deidre Ross

Juvenile Aggregate: Lenna Clark

JUNIOR - MARCH

1. Richard Hamilton
2. Michelle Langston
3. Graeme Savage

JUNIOR - S & R

1. Michelle Langston
2. Heather McDonald
3. Bonnie McKain

JUNIOR - HORNPIPE

1. Richard Hamilton
2. Bonnie McKain
3. Heather McDonald

Junior Aggregate: Richard Hamilton

AMATEUR - PIOBAIREACHD

(special event)

1. Heather McDonald
2. Kathy MacLeod
3. Lenna Clark

Sr. AMATEUR - M.S.R.

1. Shaunna Stephen
2. Bruce Woodley
3. Bill McDowell

Sr. AMATEUR - JIG/HORN.

1. Bruce Woodley
2. Chuck Zittel
3. Shaunna Stephen

Sr. AMATEUR - PIOBAIREACHD

1. Shaunna Stephen
2. Bruce Woodley
3. Chuck Zittel

Sr. Amateur Aggregate: Shaunna Stephen

PROFESSIONAL - M.S.R.

1. Steve Geddes
2. Dan Diessner
3. Jamie Troy

PROFESSIONAL - JIG

1. Andrew Bonar
2. Steve Geddes
3. Jamie Troy

PROFESSIONAL - HORNPIPE

1. Peter Aumonier
2. Andrew Bonar
3. Steve Geddes

PROFESSIONAL - PIOB.

1. Darlene Miharija
2. Peter Aumonier
3. Jamie Troy

Professional Aggregate: Peter Aumonier

NOVICE DRUMMING

1. Joshua Daniels
2. David Webster

JUNIOR DRUMMING

1. Carol McDonald

SENIOR DRUMMING

1. Scott Conover
2. Rick Miharija

PROFESSIONAL DRUMMING

1. Willie McErlean
2. Bud Maxwell

TENOR DRUMMING

1. Mary MacRae

DRUM CORPS

1. Simon Fraser University
2. Clan MacLeay
3. City of Seattle

PIPING QUARTETTES

1. Roy Cotton Quartette
2. Clan Stewart Pipe Band

GRADE I PIPE BANDS

1. S.F.U.
2. City of Victoria

GRADE II PIPE BANDS

1. Sir John A. MacDonald
2. City of Seattle
3. Vancouver Ladies

GRADE III PIPE BANDS

1. Clan MacLeay

Piping Judges: Jimmy McColl, Campbell Naismith, Bill Thomas, Cameron Wylie

Drumming Judge: Davey Bruce

NELSON

CHANTER

1. Tanya Turner
2. Brett York

NOVICE - SLOW AIR

1. Kevin Watsky
2. Molly McKinnon
3. Paul Bjorn
4. Patrick Napper

NOVICE - MARCH

1. Molly McKinnon
2. John McCuaig
3. Kevin Watsky
4. Marcel Ducharme

JUVENILE - MARCH

1. Anne McTeer
2. John Phillips

JUVENILE - S. & R.

1. Anne McTeer
2. John Phillips

JUVENILE - SLOW AIR/JIG

1. Anne McTeer
2. John Phillips

JUVENILE - HORNPIPE

1. Chad McCuaig

JUNIOR - MARCH

1. Danni Cusson

JUNIOR - S. & R.

1. Danni Cusson

JUNIOR - SLOW AIR/JIG

1. Danni Cusson

JUNIOR - HORNPIPE

1. Danni Cusson

AMATEUR - PIOBAIREACHD

1. Danni Cusson
2. John Phillips
3. Charles Summer

TRIOS

1. Chad McCuaig
John McCuaig
Marcel Ducharme

2. Glen Esdale
Doug Arthur
Bob Gallaher

DUETS

1. Chad McCuaig
John McCuaig

2. Danni Cusson
Bill Saul

3. Patrick Napper
Kevin Watsky

PROFESSIONAL - M.S.R.

1. Brad Wakefield
2. Alan Walters
3. Colin Gemmell

PROFESSIONAL - JIG/HORN.

1. Alan Walters
2. Colin Gemmell

PROFESSIONAL - PIOBAIREACHD

1. Brad Wakefield

AMATEUR - MARCH (for pipers who do not regularly compete)

1. Doug Arthur
2. Bob Gallaher

GRADE III PIPE BANDS

1. Lethbridge Legion
2. Kamloops
3. Angus Scott

GRADE IV PIPE BANDS

1. Kimberley
2. Kootenay Kilties

Piping Judges: Albert Duncan, Rene Cusson, Rob Rife

Drumming Judge: Bill Saul

NEXT MONTH IN AND AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

MINI GATHERINGS

The 1985-86 series of monthly competitions for amateur pipers and drummers will once again be held at Burnaby North Secondary School. This facility is ideal for our purposes and enables us to run the Mini Gatherings within a fairly short time period.

Once again we must stress, however, that any damage whatsoever to the school and we will lose the use of this facility! A couple of incidences of vandalism were reported at both New Westminster (V.L.P.B. Festival) and Vancouver Tech (Indoor Meet) Schools this past year, a situation that is totally unacceptable. Once again we urge the co-operation of competitors, teachers and parents in this matter.

As was the case last year, Novice and Junior Amateur drumming events are on the schedule. As last season was the introduction for these events the committee is hoping for a larger turnout this year, especially in the Novice class.

As always the committee is in need of stewards and people to help in the kitchen. Anyone wishing to offer their assistance please contact Janice or Jim MacDonald at 941-8057 after September 16th.

PROMOTIONS FOR THE MINI GATHERINGS

CHANTER TO NOVICE

Hugh Aspinall
Tim Hinchey
Ann Sharpe
Jacqueline Blair
Duncan McInnes
Shayleen Spitzer
Allison Weir
Tanya Turner
Scott Larson
Kevin Ball

NOVICE TO JUVENILE

Harlan Janson
Shelley Anderson
Darren Forrest
Robert Hartle
Jennifer Ginter
Patrick Lindsay
Campbell Stafford
Donnie McInnes

JUVENILE TO JUNIOR

Paul Laporte
Lenna Clark
Heather MacDonald
Norma MacLeod
John Ginn
Lesley MacKay
Kathy MacLeod

The Chanter Class is limited to competitors who have never won a first, second or third prize in chanter or competed on the bagpipes in the previous year.

When there are 20 or more competitors in the Novice Class, the class will be split into two, decided by lot.

Those competitors who have been promoted to a higher class must move up into that class. This year the Board has decided not to promote any pipers from the Junior class. Anyone not promoted but who wants to move into a higher class, may do so.

1985-86 MINI GATHERING SCHEDULE

<u>October 19/85</u>	Chanter	Choice of any March
	Novice	Slow Air
	Juvenile	2/4 March
	Junior	6/8 March and Jig
	Amateur	Jig and Hornpipe (submit 2 sets)
	Adult Class	2 part Slow Air and 4 part 6/8 March
	Novice Drumming	2/4 March
	Jr. Amat. Drumming	Strathspey and Reel
<u>November 9/85</u>	Chanter	Slow Air
	Novice	2/4 March
	Juvenile	Strathspey and Reel
	Junior	March, Strathspey and Reel
	Amateur	Musical Selection (4-6 minutes)
	Adult Class	4 part 2/4 March
	Novice Drumming	6/8 March
	Jr. Amat. Drumming	2/4 March
<u>January 11/86</u>	Chanter	Choice of any March
	Novice	Strathspey and Reel
	Juvenile	Jig
	Junior	Piobaireachd
	Amateur	March, Strathspey & Reel (submit 2 sets)
	Adult Class	4 part Strathspey & 4 part Reel
	Novice Drumming	3/4 March
	Jr. Amat. Drumming	Medley (3-4 minutes)
<u>February 8/86</u>	Chanter	Slow Air
	Novice	6/8 March
	Juvenile	Piobaireachd (ground and a variation)
	Junior	Hornpipe
	Amateur	Piobaireachd
	Adult Class	4 part Jig
	Novice Drumming	Strathspey and Reel
	Jr. Amat. Drumming	Jig and Hornpipe

All Mini Gatherings will commence at 10:00 a.m. Piping competitors must register BEFORE OCTOBER 1 by phoning Angus Macpherson at 939-9614 or Jim MacDonald at 941-8057. Drummers are asked to contact Linda Aumonier at 525-3526.

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

A new competitor who enters the day of the Mini Gathering will be first to play that day.

Pipers must be ready to play in their positions.

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

KNOCK-OUT

The 1985-86 edition of our Knock-Out competition will kick off on Saturday, October 19th at Willingdon Heights Community Centre (same place as last year).

As the draw has yet to be effected at time of writing, we are unable to advise you of the players competing at the first event. (Those pipers drawn for October will be advised by phone.) The "planned impromptu" and warm-up requirements have yet to be set, but will be available in the next Newsletter. There has been some discussion regarding a mini-band contest, the pipe section to comprise of one Novice, one Juvenile, one Junior, one Senior, one Professional and one Open Adult piper. No doubt also we'll see the return of "Trivia", "Name That Tune", and the "Olympics".

This year we'll be featuring a Piobaireachd of the Month.

If the popularity of the Knock-Outs last year is any indication, it promises to be another great season. See you there!

Saturday, October 19th

Bar Service

Admission \$3.00 Adults

BURNABY TATTOO

A Tattoo celebrating Burnaby's birthday will be held on Saturday, September 21, at Swangard Stadium featuring the R.C.M.P. Drill Team, Scottish Country Dancers, Highland Dancers, Pipe Bands and Brass Bands. The Tattoo will run from 6:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m.

Admission is free.

ANNUAL GATHERING - An Update

We have received confirmation that both Gavin Stoddert and Murray Henderson will be able to attend as chief adjudicators.

Discussions are currently underway re a change of venue for next year. The fee for Vancouver Tech is close to \$3,000.00 for the two days. Douglas College and Burnaby North are both being examined.

The ceilidh at next year's Gathering is being planned very carefully. Canned music, for our crowd, doesn't seem to be the answer. One idea is to have an Open Drum Corps event, with prize money, at the ceilidh.

MOVING?

Please don't if you can at all help it. If you must, please drop us a line giving your change of address. There's nothing more frustrating after labelling, stamping and stuffing Newsletters into these envelopes than to get them back in your lap in the next mail with "MOVED" stamped all over it!

1985-86 EXECUTIVE - continued

JAMES MACDONALD - DIRECTOR

Growing up on Kenneth Street, Inverness there was little question James would have more than a passing interest in piping. His father, Neil Angus, has many friends in this area having presided as chief adjudicator at the Annual Gathering and is a most respected figure in the piping world. Brother Ruairidh was at one time a Director of this Association and holds the distinction of being the first winner of our Knock-Out competition.

James enjoyed a promising career as a young piper in Scotland, receiving instruction from P/M Donald MacLeod. Unfortunately he retired from active playing to follow other pursuits. He immigrated to Canada in 1973 and joined the Association shortly thereafter.

Jim is one of the longest serving members of the Board and certainly one of its most active. Although involved with many committees, including the Annual Gathering and Annual Dinner, Jim's greatest contribution has been as head of the Mini Gatherings, turning our winter competitions into well organized and enjoyable events.

We hope that Jim's enthusiasm and appetite for hard work will continue for a long time to come and that his pipes won't stay in the box for too much longer.

IAN MACKINNON - DIRECTOR

Ian became a member of the Society in 1938 and served as Secretary in 1941-42, and after a long absence is serving his second term as a Director. Ian's tenure on the Board has been characterized by a strong willingness to do anything asked of him and that usually is everything. He has been, and is, the B.C. Pipers' representative for the Pacific International Highland Games Association and has also been charged with the task of having our Constitution, piping rules, scoring sheets and judges' list put into "kit" form.

Ian's piping career started at the age of eight when he began taking lessons from Donald MacIvor and continued under Alex Johnston. He was a regular winner in the Amateur classes before turning professional at the 1942 Annual Gathering. During the war years Ian served in a Navy frigate, but didn't let the U boats interrupt his piping. He played the ship in and out of harbour. His pipe band ties in the following years were quite impressive, including the Templeton Boys' Band under Malcolm Nicholson, one of the founders and first P/M of the U.B.C. Pipe Band, and the Crawford Pipe Band.

His contribution to piping also included playing for dancers and a distinguished career in judging which, happily, is still continuing.

MARY MACKINNON - SECRETARY

While the President has the title, the backbone of any well run organization is the Secretary. Mary MacKinnon is no exception. Mary has held the post of

Secretary for the B.C. Pipers' Association for the past seven years, serving under four Presidents. She has also served as the Annual Gathering Secretary and hostess to our out of town judges for the past number of years.

Mary classifies herself as a "piping groupie" as neither she nor her family were pipers. Her introduction to piping began through her involvement in the St. Andrews and Caledonian Society when she would go and listen to a young piper named Ian MacKinnon. She then became involved with running the piping events at the St. Andrews and Caledonian Highland Games when they were held at Hastings Park.

Between her job as secretary of a Burnaby school and her work with the Pipers, Mary also manages time to act as Treasurer for the Highland Society.

Next month another three members of the Board will be profiled.

JUDGES' SEMINAR

A reminder that your comments and ideas for a Judges' meeting to be held in November are being sought by Aileen Arnott.

Please forward your suggestions to: Aileen Arnott
4368 Rumble
Burnaby, B.C.
V5J 2A1

PUZZLE CORNER

Boy, what a bunch of illiterates! Not one answer to last month's quiz. So maybe the questions were a level above our usual offerings, but not even an attempt! Tch, tch.

We'll make this month's a little easier and go back to our "soap operas". As before, simply compose a wee story using the names of the ten tunes listed below.

Leaving Lismore	John Patterson's Mare
The Streaker	Highland Laddie
Paddy's Leather Breaches	Jeannie Carruthers
Kilworth Hills	Glasgow Police Pipers
Dorrator Bridge	Nine In A Row

The first three entries will receive a B.C. Pipers' pen.

Please mail entries to: B.C. Pipers' Newsletter
351 Dartmoor Drive
Coquitlam, B.C.
V3K 5R6

Anyone interested in last month's answers can give me a call - 939-9614.

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY PIPE BAND IN SCOTLAND 1985

On August 13, 1985 the Simon Fraser University Pipe Band, the Kamloops Legion Pipe Band and an entourage of 120 family members and friends boarded British Caledonian Airways Flight 5230 on our way to Edinburgh, via London. The duration of the trip was the same as the first trip the band made in 1983 and the mood was upbeat as North America was being represented by 3 of its top Grade 1 bands (S.F.U., 78th Fraser Highlanders and the Clan MacFarlane). Arriving at the Edinburgh airport on the shuttle flight from London, the band encountered the Scottish weather we had heard so much about, and were to get more of, RAIN. The band and tour group then settled into their residence, Pollock Halls, University of Edinburgh. Pollock Halls was very prepared to handle large tour groups and the facilities and services were very good. Because of the number of other international tour groups and events taking place at the Halls, the band practised for the World's on the back lawns of Abden House, a castle-like student residence which looked out to Arthur's Seat. (A number of band members later climbed the famous Seat.) Most of the days leading up to the World's were typically rainy and the band made good use of the Inverness capes, however, the day of the World's was quite different.

This year the World's was held in Hamilton, a district south west of Glasgow, as opposed to Bellahouston Park where it was held in 1983 and 1984. The record number of 176 bands enjoyed a day of constant sunshine. There were twenty-two Grade I bands on the program and the Grade I M.S.R. was first up in the morning with the Medley in the afternoon. We were twenty-second on in the morning and fourteenth on in the afternoon so this allowed us an opportunity to take in a few bands before returning back to the bus. The band played a very good set in the morning and a good medley in the afternoon. We were pleased with the performances and waited for the results. When the massed bands had assembled and the lower grade prizes were awarded, that nervousness about the Grade I results started to settle in. Robert Nicol then announced the Strathclyde Police as the winners of the 1985 World Championship. With this victory, the Strathclyde Police tied the record of 5 consecutive World Championships set by the Muirhead & Sons during the years 1965-69. For 2nd place, when Robert Nicol announced program number 22, our number, the band broke out into unrestrained excitement. The prize was significant as it was the highest placing an overseas Grade I band had ever achieved at the World's. The other Grade I placings were:

1. Strathclyde Police
2. Simon Fraser University
3. Polkemmet
4. 78th Fraser Highlanders
5. Dysart and Dundonald
6. Boghall and Bathgate

Later, the band learned that we had won the M.S.R. contest held in the morning. All this good news fueled the party on the coach back to Edinburgh and the party at the residence which finally wound down when the sun started to rise. The band members made good use of the next three "days off".

On Wednesday of the second week, the S.F.U.P.B. and Kamloops were invited up to Pitlochry by the Vale of Atholl Pipe Band to participate in one of the town's Scottish nights. Rain affected most of the outdoor performances that night, however, good song and piping followed afterwards back at the Scotland Hotel.

The next day the band and tour group bade farewell to Pollock Halls and travelled onto Wolfson Halls, University of Glasgow for the final leg of the trip.

The British Championships were held in Rothesay the Saturday after the World's. A smaller number of bands (96) attended this championship, however, there was a good Grade I representation (19). Intermittent sunshine and blowing rain was the weather on the day and "wellies" would have been more appropriate than brogues or spats. The band was seventh on and drew the 2nd medley. The performance was good, however, some tone problems affected the overall sound. The results were:

1. Strathclyde Police
2. Royal Ulster Constabulary
3. 78th Fraser Highlanders
4. Polkemmet
5. Boghall and Bathgate
6. Simon Fraser University

Also, Kamloops Legion placed 7th in the Grade IV championship.

The Prince's Street Gardens Pipe Band Contest was the day after Rothesay. Only five Grade I bands were in attendance that day, however, there were good numbers in the other grades. After the contest but before the prize announcements, Polkemmet put on a brief but very entertaining show that included some of the music they performed at their Irish Concert in Ballymena. The final results were:

1. Simon Fraser University
2. Polkemmet
3. Queensland Irish

Into the final week, the band entered BBC Scotland Studio 2 recording theatre on the Tuesday afternoon for the recording of their second broadcast. A mistake by the taxi company landed the band at the studio 15 minutes late. Also, it took about one hour before the pipes settled in and the first tracks were ready to be cut. The band cut 7 tracks between 3:15 - 4:45 p.m. and then listened to parts of the tracks. The recording has been scheduled for broadcast on November 19.

Directly after the recording, most of the pipe section caught the 6:10 train to Oban for Silver and Gold Medals, the Open Piobaireachd, and the morning's piping at the Argyllshire Gathering. Rob Wallace, formerly of the Muirhead & Sons Pipe Band and presently the piper for the Whistlebinkies, a Scottish folk group, won the Gold Medal with "The King's Taxes". He also won the Former Winner's M.S.R. the next day at the Argyllshire Gathering. Donald MacPherson won the Open Piobaireachd with a captivating rendition of "The Lament for Patrick Og MacCrimmon". The Silver Medal was won by L/Corporal Gordon Walker of the Royal Highland Fusiliers with Michael Grey of the 78th Fraser Highlanders placing second. Finally, Jack Lee won 3rd place in the Marches and 2nd place in the Strathspey and Reel contest at the Argyllshire Gathering.

The final Saturday was the Cowal Highland Games at Dunoon. The band was looking forward to Cowal, however, again the weather did not cooperate.

Rain and wind greeted the competitors. The familiar crowds that filled the slopes around the stadium were not present. The dancing competition was moved indoors because so many dancers were falling on the slippery surfaces. We tuned up down the street in a small room that the Royal Ulster Constabulary Pipe Band had acquired for the day. Playing up to the gate the sound was good, however, 5 minutes before we were to go on the rain increased to a downpour and the wind whipped up in velocity. With the Inverness capes on, flapping in the wind, and rain pelting at us we drew and played our 2nd M.S.R. but the previously good sound could not be sustained through the performance. The Strathclyde Police, playing last in the downpour, withstood the rain and wind better than any of the other bands. The march past was cancelled for only the second time in Cowal history and the prizes were announced as bandmen huddled in the stands. The final results were:

1. Strathclyde Police
2. Polkemmet
3. Boghall and Bathgate
4. Royal Ulster Constabulary
5. Dysart and Dundonald
6. British Caledonian Airways

The final tally sheets showed us in seventh place. The good news of the day was Jennifer Lindsay of Victoria captured second place in the World Adult Highland Dancing Championship. After pushing our bus out of the mud in the park we headed back to Glasgow to dry out and pack for the flight home.

In retrospect, the trip was very successful and educational. The band was very pleased to be ranked next to the Strathclyde Police at the World's and to win the M.S.R. contest at the World's. This year the Strathclyde Police proved their dominance over all bands by winning all 5 Grade I championships, the first time this has ever been accomplished. The Strathclyde Police showed that they could play well in any weather conditions. Playing and maintaining a good sound in inclement weather is one factor that the Scottish bands knew how to handle but a factor that we may have underestimated. In any case, being in Vancouver we definitely have the opportunity to prepare for these circumstances for future trips to Scotland. Credit should also be extended to the 78th Fraser Highlanders who contributed to the Canadian presence in the prize lists by taking fourth place in the World's (2nd place in M.S.R. contest and 2nd place in drumming) and third place at the British Championships. Finally, the Scottish band that stands next in line to the Strathclyde Police is Polkemmet. They have greatly improved their sound and playing style since our 1983 trip and are using innovative tunes and arrangements to put on crowd pleasing performances.

Finally, the Canadian piping and pipe band establishment should take pride in the accomplishments of its bands this year. These accomplishments can be tremendous incentives for the younger generations of Canadian pipers and drummers.

Robert MacNeil
Simon Fraser University Pipe Band

BAND CHATTER

As Scott Robertson could never be accused of being called a "handyman" it is obvious that his new book on drumming is titled "Beat Construction" not "Boat Construction" as printed in last month's Band Chatter.

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Linda Aumonier, lead drummer for the Vancouver Ladies, has announced her retirement from the band. Linda started her drumming career with the Burnaby Ladies, receiving instruction from Sheila Annan and Alex Young of Powell River. She travelled to Scotland with the band in 1971 and joined the Vancouver Ladies in 1976.

#

Colin McGee, leading tip with the City of Victoria, has just returned from Santa Rosa after guest playing with Triumph Street.

#

The City of Seattle captured 1st place in Grade II in Chicago. They advanced to Grade I for Santa Rosa and plan to stay up at least for the indoor contests.

#

P/M Angus MacDonald, formerly with the Scots Guards, has joined Grainger & Campbell Ltd., bagpipe makers. Angus was an adjudicator at the 1980 Annual Gathering.

#

The B.C. Junior Pipe Band is looking for new members. Anyone interested please contact Band Director Donald MacMillan at 596-0877.

#

For those who saw the picture of S.F.U.'s arrival at Vancouver Airport in the Vancouver Sun, Wednesday, September 6, can you name the piper on the extreme left of the picture?

#

Those of you who listen to "Morningside" on CBC Radio had a nice surprise the other week when Bill Livingstone was interviewed. Bill was on the air for close to twenty minutes giving, what we thought to be, an excellent explanation of piping to a non-informed audience.

#

Triumph Street, in what is being described as their best performances ever, picked up two firsts in Santa Rosa. Victoria Park from Saskatchewan was placed second both days and from all reports is much improved since their last trip to the Coast.

Shaunna Stephen picked up 3 firsts and a second in the Senior Amateur class while Cheryl Taylor received a second and fourth in the Open piping. Deirdre Ross, playing in the Juvenile class, was placed second and fourth.

PIPERS' CHOICE

At Grant's Championship in 1984, ten competitors each submitted six Piobaireachds, six Marches, six Strathspeys and six Reels. It may be of interest to look back to see which tunes, in a free choice, were the most popular so far as the top pipers were concerned.

Marches

Thirty-seven tunes were submitted. Twenty-two appeared only once on the list. The order of popularity was:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Abercairney Highlanders | 5 |
| 2. The Clan MacColl | 3 |
| The Pap of Glencoe | 3 |
| South Hall | 3 |
| Milbank Cottage | 3 |
| Arthur Bignold | 3 |
| 7. Major Manson | 2 |
| The Marchioness of Tullibardine | 2 |
| Brigadier Cheape of Tiroran | 2 |
| Highland Wedding | 2 |
| Donald McLean's Farewell to
Oban | 2 |
| John MacFadyen of Melfort | 2 |
| Bonnie Anne | 2 |
| Lonach Gathering | 2 |
| 74th's Farewell to Edinburgh | 2 |

Next Month - Strathspeys

Excerpts from the Piping Times

OPPORTUNITIES UNLIMITED

The Sir John A. MacDonald Society Pipe Band is looking to further develop into a stronger, more competitive Grade II band with the accent on developing youth and growth for Junior, Intermediate and present Grade II and Grade III players.

Our emphasis will be on developing our present youth and future youth players either through our present band or by establishing a Grade III competition band. The main purpose is to supplement the existing band or develop a second Grade II or higher pipe band.

Anyone interested in this concept is asked to contact John Nichol at 980-1294 (home) or 420-3400 (work).

CLASSIFIED

For Sale:

1 Dress Stewart Kilt (Adult's)	\$300.00
1 Royal Stewart Kilt	300.00
1 Black Velvet Jacket	100.00
1 Tweed Jacket	175.00
1 Beaver Sporrان	75.00
1 Sporrان	50.00
6 pr. Socks	25.00/pr.
2 Dress Shirts	15.00
3 pr. Flashes	5.00/pr.
2 Skian Dhus	50.00

All items in near new condition. For appointment to view, please phone Mrs. Joger Erica at 588-8249.

For Sale:

1 Royal Stewart Kilt 34-36	\$125.00
1 Black Watch Kilt 34-36	125.00

Both as new. Please call Glen Seeley at 531-1398.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

From the B.C. Pipers' minutes, September 5th, 1939.

A Committee meeting of the Association was held in the C.N.R. Depot with the President in the Chair. The minutes of the last meeting were adopted as read.

A Concert and Dance for the month of October was discussed as was the Annual Gathering of the Association. It was decided to leave the matter over til the next General Meeting.

The European situation was discussed at some length, but the meeting adjourned without any action being taken by the Association.

#

Our sincerest thanks to Stella Stephen for all her efforts over the past year.

Stella, much to our dismay, has resigned from the Newsletter staff.

