



BC PIPERS' ASSOCIATION Newsletter

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P-Sgt Jack Lee, Drum-Sgt J. Reid Maxwell, P-M Terry Lee of SFU Pipe Band

SFU Pipe Band wins the RSPBA Worlds

The SFU Pipe Band was the overall winner at the 2008 World Pipe Band Championships on August 16, by virtue of two outstanding performances. The band won the Medley event, was 2nd in the MSR and won the World Drum Corps Championship. The performances were captured on

video and are available at SFUTUBE <www.sfutube.com>. Congratulations to **P-M Terry Lee, L-D Reid Maxwell**, and all the band members who worked so hard to achieve this outstanding result.

Aside from SFU's Grade 1 win there were other results from BCPA Bands at the Worlds. **The Northwest Junior Pipe Band** was fifth place in

Novice. **The Keith Highlanders** were third in Grade 4B. And the **White Spot Pipe Band** was sixth in Juvenile. The BCPA extends congratulations to all competing bands. Full results are available on the RSPBA Website.



SFU Pipe Band - World Champions



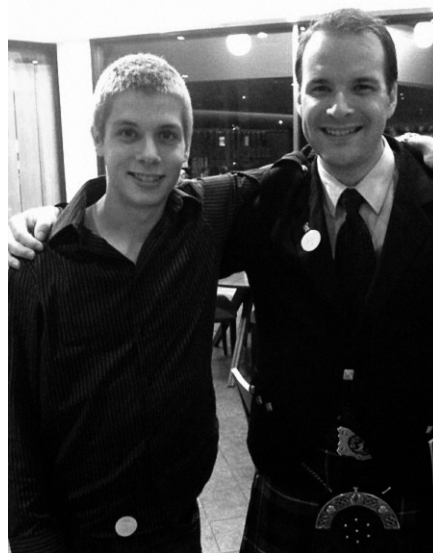
Northwest Junior Pipe Band - at Worlds



White Spot Pipe Band - at the Worlds



SFU Drum Corps - World Champions



Colin Lee (Silver Medallist) and Alan Bevan (Gold Medallist) - at The Northern Meeting, 2008

On the solo front, **Alan Bevan** captured the Gold Medal at Inverness. Alan is just the fourth piper originating in British Columbia to win a gold medal. Adding to the BCPA success at Inverness, **Colin Lee** won the Silver Medal. Alan and Colin are members of Simon Fraser University Pipe band.

At the SPSL's 69th Annual London Competition, **James P Troy** won the John Roe Plate (B & C Grade Piobaireachd) - thus continuing James' very successful season. James was also the overall winner in the B/C grades at London.

There were a number of other BCPA members in the solo prize lists overseas this past season. We try to keep abreast of these, but rely on the winners submitting them. An expanding record can be viewed at www.bcpipers.org/results-abroad.htm. Some highlights are **Jack Lee's** second place at the Oban Senior Piobaireachd and **Andrew Lee's** 2nd place at the Oban Silver Medal.

Competitors - Please submit your results if you want them recorded with the BCPA. I know there are other results from 'around the games' and London etc.

President's Address - Graham Davidson



Dear members of the BCPA, I want to welcome you to a new season of Piping, Drumming and Bands. With the first of the Knockouts and mini-gathering now under our belts, we can focus on the upcoming year of festivities. Yes, the Annual Dinner and Indoor Meet are just around the corner. As you are all aware we are in need of volunteers to help us run our events. Within the next couple of months we will identify these needs so you will have a better understanding of what is required. Don't be a retired Piper, Drummer or a Parent standing on the sidelines. Get involved! More volunteers means less work for everyone.

As I reflect over the past 12 months, many of you have had a tremendous year! This Association is the beneficiary of all your hard work. The last few months have been especially rewarding for all of us!

I would like to thank the 07 – 08 Board members who have worked so very hard over the last year. Especially Ed MacIlwaine and Alex Galloway for a year of relentless hours given to the Association. Robbie McNeil has been a main stay in the Association for the last 10 years or so. He has given a ton of hours to us during this time and I would like to give a special thanks.

In closing, I am excited about working with this year's new Board of Directors and I look forward to my growing pains and representing all of you and doing whatever I can to keep the Association moving forward.

All the best

Graham Davidson

Piobaireachd Club, October 10th, 2008

(all Piob. Club reports by Ron MacLeod)

Another dark and stormy night outside. A brilliant night of piping inside! The home of Ron and Eileen Sutherland was well stocked with

people, sociability and enthusiasm.

First up was **Andrew Lee** playing the tune that won him second place in the Silver Medal Competition, Oban – **Hector Maclean's Warning**, MacArthur setting.

John Lee followed with **Tulloch Ard**, the MacKenzie gathering tune.

Alastair Lee followed with **The Desperate Battle of the Birds**. Credit for composing this tune circa 1750/60 is attributed by many to Angus MacKay, Gairloch. A popular Gaelic poem of his time is thought to have inspired him. However, in true Gaelic style there are suggestions that the origin of the theme could be much earlier in time. This school of thought suggests that the theme may well reach back to the arranged Battle of the North Inch of Perth, 1396, where 30 men from Clan MacKay squared off with 30 men from Clan Chattan while the King looked on from wooden galleries erected to seat himself and his guests. The intent was to end a vicious and long-standing feud between the two Clans. A third inspirational candidate is linked to an incident at Ardvreck Castle where the Lady of the Castle was annoyed at the crowing of the roosters at dawn and sent servants out to tie their beaks and in this way silence them. The tune that sprang from this event is said to reflect attempts to woo the birds with soft words, followed by an explosion of concern that raised a storm of dust, noise and flying feathers from cackling hens, screeching roosters and screaming servants. All of which is reflected in the music. This latter tale, of which I only touch on, originated in Lewis in the late 15th or early 16th century and passed down orally before appearing in an article in 1959 written by the late Roderick MacLeod, first President of the B.C. Pipers' Association.

Colin Lee then played **Lament for the Castle of Dunyveg**. This tune laments the demise of MacDonald of Islay, erstwhile Lord of the Isles. The Castle was their final refuge in their struggles with Campbell of Argyll. It was finally destroyed in 1647, 54 years after the MacDonald's forfeited their title and prerogatives to the King.

Jack Lee played **The Phantom Piper of Corrieyarrick**, a tune composed by the late Captain John A. MacLellan. To put the matter briefly, the tale has it that a phantom piper, a relic of Montrose's campaign against Campbell of Argyll in 1645, still haunts the difficult and treacherous Pass of Corrieyarrick over which Montrose force-marched his troops to totally surprise and rout Argyll.

A surprising and very welcome player was up next with **Lament for the Old Sword**. **Kyle Banta** has been absent from the piobaireachd boards for a time and it was a delight to see him back at it again. His tune has its origins in the pre-Christian time of the Ossian legends, circa 200-300 A.D. It was passed down by bards and eventually adapted for the pipe by an unknown composer. It celebrates the great sword of Oscar which, as the bardic story has it, came into the possession of the Lord of the Isles and later the King, only to be lost at Flodden Field, 1513 A.D.

Piobaireachd Club, November 28th, 2008

Another wet and stormy night in beautiful B.C. Is there something about a pending Club meeting that brings on the wind and rain? Perhaps the small Celtic gods were upset. If so, there was no evidence of that once inside the warm receptive home of Jack and Christine Lee.

The pre-Christmas meeting is always special for it is at this meeting that many young pipers are first exposed to a caring, supportive audience in the comfort and security of a house filled with friends. Where better to launch a career in piping?

Alan Bevan was first up with **Clan MacNabb's Salute**, the tune he played to win the Gold Medal at Inverness this year. It is a long, long road to the Gold Medal – when Alan was a young pupil of Jack Lee he was chosen to be the junior piper-of-the-month and the first piper to play at the inaugural

meeting of the Piobaireachd Club on February 1st, 1991. A long road indeed. Well done Alan!

The young pipers followed: **Aidan Caves** with **Munro's Salute**; **Brian Haddon** with **The Field of Gold**; **Anny He** with **Catherine's Lament**; **David Stitt** with **The Massacre of Glencoe**; **John Lee** with **Tulloch Ard**; and, **Kyle Banta** with **MacKintosh's Banner**.

Jack Lee then took up son John's pipe to play **Lament for the Bobs of Balmoral**. This tune was composed by Pipe Major Donald MacLeod, M.B.E. (1917-1982) to honour the memory of two excellent pipers and equally fine gentlemen, Pipe Major Robert Brown, M.B.E and Pipe Major Robert Nicol, M.B.E. The two Bobs were employed as pipers and ghillies on the Balmoral Royal Estate when, in 1928, King George V sent them to study under John MacDonald, Inverness. They remained under his tutelage until 1939. Donald MacLeod also studied under John MacDonald.

Jack introduced the tune by saying that he will be playing this Lament at the Donald MacLeod Memorial Competition, scheduled for early April, 2009. And, for the first time he will have a fellow British Columbian travelling with him – Alan Bevan is one of eight world-class competitors invited to this competition. This memorial to Donald MacLeod has been organized by the Lewis and Harris Piping Society since its inception in 1994. The venue is the Cabarfeidh Hotel in Stornoway, Isle of Lewis. The 2009 competition will feature Donald MacLeod's piobaireachd compositions.

A great disappointment was the unexpected absence of founding member **Peter Aumonier**. One can only surmise that somewhere in the murky denseness of deepest, darkest Ontario there is a lost B.C lad struggling to find the trail to the land of sunshine and ever-blooming lotus flowers (except when occasionally it rains).



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