



Queensland Highland Pipers' Society

NEWSLETTER

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Next Meeting

Monday 22nd June

**Souths Leagues Club, Jane Street, West End.
at 7.45 pm**

The Meeting Will Feature a Veterans' Competition

Test piece: Slow Air into a 4-parted 2/4 March.

Prizes: 1st: \$50, 2nd: \$25, 3rd: \$20

Entries to the Secretary phone 3397 4512 after hours or by post **by 19/6/98**

Please remember the rule that smoking will not be permitted during the meeting.

All comments made in this newsletter reflect the views of the author and do not necessarily reflect the policy or views of the Queensland Highland Pipers' Society or of any officer or member of the Society.

CONTACT YOUR SOCIETY ELECTRONCALLY

Society Secretary Alex McConnell can be contacted by electronic mail. The Internet address is: alexm@ozemail.com.au

THE PIPER'S DIARY

JUNE

- 20th Bannockburn Dinner - Irish Club - \$50 per person (4 course dinner & drinks) - Contact Trevor Campbell 07 3359 6662
- 22nd **Society Meeting (Veterans)**
- 24th NSW Pipers Society - Uniting Church Hall, Holterman St, Crows Nest
- 27th Scottish Pipe Band Championships, Rothesay

JULY

- 4th Queensland Scots Association Ceilidh - Balmoral Bowls Club - Contact 3399 9267
- 10-11th Tenterfield Pipers Retreat
- 18th Sunshine Coast Band Contest – See notice later in newsletter
- 22nd NSW Pipers Society - Uniting Church Hall, Holterman St, Crows Nest
- 27th **Society Meeting (Jimmy Durham Trophy)**

AUGUST

- 5th Silver Chanter Piobaireachd Contest – Dunvegan Castle, Isle of Skye
- 15th World Pipe Band Championships -Glasgow
- 24th **Society Annual Meeting & 6/8 Contest**
- 26th NSW Pipers Society - Uniting Church Hall, Holterman St, Crows Nest
- 26th-27th Argyllshire Gathering, Oban
- 29th Ipswich Thistle Solo and Band Contest – See notice later in newsletter
- 29th Cowal Pipe Band Championships - Dunoon

SEPTEMBER

- 19, 20th Newcastle Gathering, solos, bands
- 23rd NSW Pipers Society - Uniting Church Hall, Holterman St, Crows Nest
- 26th NSW Pipers Society Silver Chalice Piobaireachd Contest
- 28th **Society Meeting**

If you need more details about any of the above events and a contact is not mentioned, ring the Society Secretary (3397 4512 after hours) and we will see what we can dig up for you.

Scottish Radio Programs

SBS Radio – Brisbane FM 93.3 - Thursday nights 10-11pm
4EB - AM 1053 – Thursday afternoons 3-4pm

MAY MEETING

Our May meeting saw about 35 members and guests turn out on quite a cold evening for the annual Hornpipe and Jig competition. Bob Payne opened the proceedings and welcomed back to our midst Daniel McDiarmid. Daniel has been away in North Queensland and Melbourne for the past few years but has now moved back to Brisbane to work at QUT as their promotions director. Also welcomed was Andy Wood, who was attending his first meeting.

Given the number of entries, it had been decided to have one "all in" competition, but to pay four rather than three prizes. Without further ado, Bob then announced our judge for the evening, Mark McKenzie, and announced the first competitor. Mark takes up the story from here.....

For the May meeting I was honoured to be invited to judge the annual Hornpipe and Jig competition. This is the 2nd time I have judged for the QHPS and my first time at Souths Leagues Club.

I thought it might be a pleasant change from the usual battle of bagpipes versus the weather but as the last competitor finished playing the "Judge's Dilemma" I realised that competing might have been easier.

The first player was an up and coming young piper who is now an honorary member of the Queensland Police Pipes and Drums. I am talking about **Alexander HOOD** son of Brendan HOOD who is apparently coaching his son in the finer arts of piping (instead of that loud raucous band stuff).

Alexander's tunes were **Calm Beag** and the **Fettie Boatman**.

His instrument was well balanced and nicely tuned. I noticed that he warmed up for a short period of time prior to playing and I feel that this contributed to his having the best sound of the junior players in this contest.

Calum Beag began at a nice controlled pace which continued throughout the tune with a minor blemish in the 1st time through the 4th part. The change to **Fettie Boatman** was timed very well and he did a fine job of this tune up to the 4th part when he lost, his way slightly which may have contributed to a noticeable choke just before the end of the tune.

A fine effort overall that could have been improved by concentrating to the very end of the tune instead of relaxing too soon (I how the feeling well). Watch out for this lad in the future!

Gillie MacKenzie (no relation) played next and presented himself in an experienced and polished manner with a robust but sweet instrument. He informed me prior to playing the he was paying a jig first and then the hornpipe.

The jig was (I quote Gillie) "yet another train tune" called **Wellington Express** followed by the hornpipe **Hugh Douglas MacLeod**. He took off at a quite brisk pace that he held together well with "cracking" birls in the 3rd part. The change to the hornpipe was timed nicely and again played at a brisk pace that flowed nicely

except for a small slip in the 3rd part. During this performance I was strongly reminded of Gillie's father John MacKENZIE who has played these tunes once or twice around the country. Well done.

After a small discussion on "case law" with officials it was ruled that the QHPS does not care what order you play as long as it is enjoyable. Keeping this precedent in mind I found Gillie's performance very enjoyable and therefore no penalty was invoked for being a "back to front" fellow.

Another budding star named **Leah AHAKOVA** performed next. Leah's tunes were **Donald McLeod** and the slip jig **Donald Willie and his Dog**. Leah's instrument was quite strong and clear sounding tending towards a band sound, ie strong loud chanter with quiet drones giving a slightly unbalanced sound, however after a short warm up the instrument "came in" well and sound quite melodious.

Leah began his Hornpipe at good controlled pace but perhaps beat his foot a little too loudly which interfered with my enjoyment of his performance. His rendition of **Donald MacLeod** was almost flawless with only one or two minuscule gracenotes missed here and there (particularly D) which were highlighted in the repeat of the part.

The change to the jig was a touch stilted when Leah slowed towards the end of the Hornpipe then began the jig a touch too slowly (again with a lot of foot beating) but came up to speed and

then came up to speed a bit more! As I watched Leah's fingers flying up and down the chanter I started to feel like a worn out "has - been" and resolved to either practice harder or give up the pipes altogether

Unfortunately for Leah his high speed of this jig contributed to some very small slips in the 4th part. All in all a great effort and again I recommend to members that a close eye be kept on this promising young player. Leah is credit to the tuition of society member Les GRAY and his own dedication (not to mention the miles his mum Enid has clocked up on the car).

Matthew RIGBY, fresh from winning the AOM invitational competition, appeared next with the instrument formerly owned and played by society member (the late) Allan DODD very nicely set up. After a short warm up Matthew gave us a very pretty and succinctly Irish hornpipe called **O'Donnell's Hornpipe** followed by the jig **Brae Riach**. The hornpipe began nicely and was played flawlessly throughout. The large number of very musical runs demonstrated this tunes Irish origins and had me wondering in what book I might find it.

Matthew's change to the jig was a little slow and cautious at first but came up to speed nicely. The predominant and well executed bottom hand work in this tune gave a very "heavy" and difficult feel to Matthew's performance. A very impressive effort from Matthew and I how he will do well

in Lorient, Brittany in August this year.

The final player of the evening was **Phillip COWAN**. Here we have yet another "fireworks fingered" young player. Phillip's instrument could have benefited by more warm up time before commencing his tune as well as a slight touch up on the drones. He was also plagued by a slightly "chippy" chanter reed which presented itself when playing a G gracenote whilst on Low A.

Phillip commenced his hornpipe **Train Journey North** by marching to it and continued marching throughout the tune. Unfortunately this gave the tune the feel of a 2/4 march instead of a lively hornpipe. His chippy chanter reed was lurking in the background during this tune but was controlled well.

Phillip's change to the jig **Judges Dilemma** was timed nicely (with some heavy foot beating) and played well throughout with a problem being the chippy Lo A I mentioned earlier which presented itself at the end of each part when played with the birl. His GDE's were well executed and it was an impressive rendition of this tune. His reed finally sneaked a large squeal during the 4th part of this tune marring an otherwise gallant effort.

Overall Phillip's very musical performance would have been improved by a different chanter reed prior to the competition. Irrespective of his reed problems Phillip is obviously another rising

star in Queensland piping and a great asset to the QHPS.

I enjoyed judging this year's Hornpipe and Jig contest and the final results were:

- 1st Matthew RIGBY
- 2nd Gillie MacKENZIE
- 3rd Leah AHAKOVA
- 4th Phillip COWAN
- 5th Alexander HOOD

Thanks to QHPS and the members who attended to support the players.

Mark McKENZIE

Bob took advantage of a short break to announce that society member Ron Fleming has been advised that he is in the prizewinning list (6-10) in the Princess Diana composing competition. We wait for the final result with interest – details will be released on 25 June. He also reminded members of the Band Contest to be held by St Andrew's Pipe band next Saturday at Pine Rivers Park and reminded members that our June meeting will feature our annual Veterans Competition.

Mark McKenzie spoke briefly after the contest was over, complimented the players on their performance and mentioned the difficulty of tuning up outside on a cold night and then playing in a warm room.

Our three top prizewinners for the night then gave us a few more tunes. First was Matthew Rigby, whose music included **Colin's Cattle, Lochanside, Pipe Sergeant John Barclay, Chief Steward Duncan McGillivray, The Friar's Butcher** and **Johnny the Tree Lopper**. This was an excellent performance with both finger fireworks and musical interpretation in equal measure.

Phillip Cowan played next, and included in his selection were **Hector The Hero, P/M**

William Gray's Farewell to the Glasgow police, Major Manson of Clachanstruahal, Inverary Castle, Loch Carron, Sugar Beet and Ballochyle.

Finally Lea Ahokava played a short selection including *Gleelands, Ellen Orr, The Argyllshire Gathering, Dora MacLeod, Don Manson's Reel, Carnival Reel and Incubator.*

Both of the younger pipers showed an increasing maturity in their playing. When the bagpipe appears to 'speak' rather than having a tune manufactured out of it, you can tell that the player is gaining command over the instrument, and both these young players were playing in that way.

The time had by now passed 10.00pm, so the raffle was drawn by Pam Hayne and won (for the second month in a row) by Bill Sharpe. Bill promptly donated the prize back to be used again next month. All then retired for the obligatory chat and a particularly good supper for a cold winter's evening.

If it comes off there may be a special introduction to our next meeting before our competition for Veterans commences, but come along anyway to hear the mellow tones produced by some of our more senior members.

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Proposed Society Meeting Program for 1998

The following list shows a proposed program for the year. It's not quite final, so if you would like to have some input, we would welcome it. There are two nights listed as **Special Program**. A couple of suggestions for these are a lecture on some aspect of piping, perhaps a discussion about either the instrument or current trends in pipe music, or even a Video or CD night - there are starting to be quite a few resources of this type available.

June	Veterans Contest – Air & 2/4 March for those over 50	September	<i>Special Program</i>
July	Jimmy Durham Trophy - 2/4 march for Junior players	October	<i>Special Program</i>
August	Annual Meeting and 6/8 Contest - two 4-parted 6/8s	November	Pair of Pipers (Medley) and Christmas Party

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RESULTS

European Championships held on May 23, 1998, in Ayr

Grade 1

1. Shotts and Dykehead
 2. Field Marshal Montgomery
 3. Strathclyde Police
 4. Scottish Power
 5. Vale of Atholl
 6. Royal Ulster Contabulary.
- Shotts was first in drumming, followed by Boghall and Bathgate.

Bundaberg Highland Gathering and Solo and Pipe Band Contest - 6th May 1998.

SOLOS

Learner Chanter:

1. A.Reid

Elementary March:

1. G, Sinclair
2. S. Taylor
3. A. Noy

Elementary Slow Air:

1. G. Sinclair
2. A. Noy
3. D. Rainbird-Sinclair

Sub-Intermediate M.S.R.:

1. L. Ahokava
2. K. Tuttle
3. A. Hood

Sub-Intermediate Hornpipe/Jig:

1. A. Hood
2. L. Ahokava
3. K. Tuttle

Intermediate M.S.R.:

1. L. Ahokava
2. O. Capon

Intermediate Hornpipe/Jig:

1. A. Hood
2. O. Capon

Open M.S.R.:

- J. Palfrey,
2. I. Campbell

Open Hornpipe/Jig:

- I. Campbell,
2. J. Palfrey

BANDS

Grade 4 Mini Bands:

1. Bundaberg Caledonian No. 1
2. Rockhampton

Wide Bay Capricorn Shield:

- Bundaberg No. 1

Paul Rainbird Shield [Piping Points]

- Rockhampton

Grade 4 Full Bands:

1. Bundaberg Caledonian
2. Rockhampton
3. Ipswich Thistle

Grade 3 Full Bands:

1. Sunshine Coast Pipes & Drums
2. Bundaberg Caledonian

Grade 2 Full Bands:

1. Queensland Highlanders
2. Sunshine Coast Pipes & Drums

St Andrew's Band Contest – Pine Rivers Park – 30 May

Grade 2

1. Queensland Highlanders
2. St Andrew's No 1

Grade 4

1. St Andrew's No 2
2. Scots PGC College No 1
3. Redcliffe Scottish



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SATURDAY

29th AUGUST 1998

*Enquiries to Liz McGhee - (07) 3281 5408 or by
direct correspondence to PO Box 689, Booval 4304.*

FROM THE NSW PIPERS SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Seminar by Pipe Major Richard Parkes, Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band, Northern Ireland, following the Easter Australian Pipe Band Championships (Richard was a judge at the Championships)

Jigs and Hornpipes Session

Jig Rhythm

6/8 or 9/8 time

Accents 6/8: = Strong Weak

9/8: = Strong Weak Weak

Irish Jig rhythm round

Scottish Jig rhythm - some pointed phrases

Pulses between accents determine rhythm

Tempo = 124-128 beats/min

Bagpipe

Ref: John MacLellan (1967)

More Music for the Highland

Richard pointed out that many pipers who believe they are playing rounded (i.e. quaver group all equal) were in fact still accenting the first to the detriment of the second quaver. Asking for a volunteer I believe The Gold Ring was the Jig played. Richard detected that the middle quaver was slightly shorter, asking the volunteer to place more accent on the centre note. to counteract the tendency to emphasize the first.

Your scribe found it difficult to pick the difference at first when Richard raised the point - I guess because my focus was on the melody - we are talking about milliseconds in timing, but after a few examples I could detect the difference.

It is mind boggling to realize that it could be this fine detail of timing which separates the top 10 bands in the world- and they probably have 16 pipers on the field.

So the message is concentrate on the second quaver of the group of three In Irish Jigs which should be played "round".

Recalling a Society contest at Campsie several years ago when your scribe played Paddy's Leather Breeches rounded including the last bar, the judge suggested that I should hang the C In the last bar.

I asked Richard for his opinion on this point- he **said play them all even (the last bar as well)**

How fashions change - take a look at the Scots Guards setting -all groups of three are accented - quaver, semi quaver, dotted quaver. The Royal Irish Rovers Book has the tune-all even quavers (i.e rounded)

Does this put the tune In the category of Scottish Jigs, despite the name Paddy?

Is there a dancer who can advise a preference in accenting to suit the dance steps?

Hornpipe Rhythm

2/4 time

Accents - Strong Weak

Can be round or pointed

Pulses between accents determine rhythm

Tempo = 104 - 108 beats per minute

TO ALL BANDS, BAND MEMBERS, SUPPORTERS & FRIENDS

**THE SUNSHINE COAST
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WILL BE STAGING THEIR

PIPE BAND CONTEST

ON

SATURDAY - 18TH JULY, 1998

AT THE

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN COLLEGE
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GRADE 3 - FULL BANDS
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AND DRUM MAJORS SOLO COMPETITION**

MASSED BANDS/PRESENTATION OF PRIZES/PRIZE
MONEY & TROPHIES AT END OF CONTEST

**ENTERTAINMENT - STALLS - CANTEEN - BAR FACILITIES - WET
WEATHER VENUE**

RESERVE THE DATE ON YOUR CALENDARS AND JOIN US ON
SATURDAY - 18TH JULY, 1998

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

P/M WAYNE CLARKE ON (07) 5479 2653 A/H
SEC. ROBYN ALLEN ON - (07) 5448 4520 A/H
