



**Queensland  
Highland  
Pipers'  
Society**

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**May**

# **May Meeting**

## **Monday 24th**

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

**This meeting will feature  
the Annual Patron's  
Trophy Competition (MSR  
for senior players)**

**Prizes:** 1<sup>st</sup> \$50 and Trophy, 2<sup>nd</sup>, \$25, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$20.

**Entries** to the Secretary by 22 May would be appreciated (phone 07 3397 4512 A/H)

### **From the Editor:**

Once again a successful meeting last month for the Society, followed by the contest and other activities associated with the AOM Trophy – another good month for piping in Queensland.

Our next meeting features the Annual Patron's Trophy Contest and we would encourage as many as possible to enter.

On a sadder note, our thoughts go out to Doug Thoresen, whose wife passed away early in May. The Society was well represented at her funeral.

*Alex McConnell*

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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.

## APRIL 1999 MEETING

About 40 people (including 2 babies!) turned up for our April meeting, to hear a Hornpipe and Jig Contest. We had a good turnout of competitors as well, enabling us to a senior and a junior division.

Bob Payne introduced the evening, welcoming Mrs Maclean from Tiree (via Sydney), a friend of Hugh Maclean's, and also Jim McLachlan, a friend of Ron Fleming who comes originally from Ron's home town of Campbelltown in Argyll. Jim is now retired in Maryborough.

He also reported that the recent music expo had gone off quite well, with pipe bands getting good exposure. Also mentioned was the upcoming AOM Trophy competition, to be held at the Irish Club on 8 May, the associated Piobaireachd workshop to be given by Sir Ian MacKay from New Zealand, who will be one of the judges at the AOM and the Band workshop to be given by Nat Russell who is also a judge at the contest.

Our judge for the evening was Neil Readshaw, who is a former vice-president of the Society and is now living in Santa Cruz, California where he works in the computer industry and plays with the Prince Charles Pipe Band. Neil gained his advanced piping certificate from the Australian Pipe Band College before he left for the US and is now an

accredited judge with the Western United States Pipe Band Association. He has kindly provided the following notes on the competition:

### QHPS 1999 Hornpipe and Jig Contest - Judge's Report

The April meeting saw the annual Hornpipe and Jig contest. Entries were sufficient to split the contest into junior and senior divisions. I had the pleasure of adjudicating this event, and my report follows. Congratulations to the winners, and thanks to all competitors for contributing to the evening of piping. On a personal note, it was great to return to Brisbane after a couple of years and see the society going as strong as in the past. Well done to all concerned here also.

#### Junior Competition

Matthew Supranowicz - Dora  
Watt/Judge's Dilemma

Matthew's vibrant chanter and rich drone sound made for a good sound, appropriate for this level of competition. The tunes were nicely executed for the most parts, with a couple of chokes and some rushed phrases in the hornpipe being the only exceptions. The break between the tunes was not rushed, and was most pleasing. The jig was considerably more settled, and the strong G-D-E execution was a feature that highlighted the cut-and-held demonstration of this tune. Matthew exhibited the common problems of rushing back into the starts of measures and half-measures, and occasional loss of expression during

parts of the tune that involved more difficult hand changes.

Steve Taylor - Arthur Gillies/Glenorchy

Steve's tunes were well executed, at well-controlled and steady tempos. For level of competition, a slightly higher tempo is required, but to Steve's credit, he played to the best of his ability, and didn't try to go 'too hard, too soon'. The groundwork was solid throughout, with only a few occasions where the movements were not clear. Again, the jig was played in the cut-and-held style. The drones were not well set to the chanter. This was distracting, and marred the performance a little. On future occasions when tutors are not available to tune the pipes of junior competitors, I think it is a must to have other members of the society assist, and usually it is only a matter of asking.

#### Senior Competition

Matthew Rigby - The Professional/Brae Riach

Matthew's pipes were generally well set, although the top hand of the chanter suffered from a restricted sound, perhaps indicating heavy amounts of tape or a reed that was not operating efficiently. The drone sound was excellent, and well set to the pitch of the chanter. This was a fine demonstration of the hornpipe and jig idioms. I particularly enjoyed the triplet theme in the hornpipe, which were executed near-perfectly. Aside from a slight choke and a couple of unclear triplets, this had all the elements of a prize-winning performance.

Phillip Cowan - Train Journey North/Duncan the Gauger

Phillip's hornpipe was executed at a tempo below that which I would consider suitable for an open competition, although to his credit, it remained controlled and steady throughout. Notes 'C' and 'E' were

sharp on the chanter, which was most distracting in these particular tunes. The break to the jig was a little rushed, and the jig itself was very well executed. The chanter sound was robust, possibly symptomatic of playing a band setup. To his credit, Phillip took his time in the front of the judge, ensuring that the pipes were settled. In fact, I was happy for this to continue for a little while longer, if it would have produced better chanter intonation.

Mark McKenzie - John McKenzie's Fancy/Troy's Wedding

Mark's pipes exhibited his usual strong drone sound, which was well-tuned to the chanter. Tempos were brisk, but remained controlled, and the break between the tunes was suitably timed, and not rushed. This was a clear run, except for some slightly unclear execution in the 3rd part of the hornpipe. My only complaint was that the player's foot-tapping distracted from the performance a little. I seem to remember a certain society member (and competitor on the evening) telling me not to do this a few years ago. I won't mention any names...

Lea Ahokava - Donald Macleod/Donald Willie and His Dog

Lea played well-executed tunes at appropriate tempos. This was a clean run for the most part, and the execution and groundwork was a pleasure to listen to. The sound was spoiled by sharp 'high G' and 'high A', and severe underblowing towards the end of the jig. There is no excuse for this in a solo competition, and a hard finish on the last note of the tune does not have to be achieved. This was most noticeable on 'F' and 'D'. More time or assistance should have been employed to get the drones set more closely. Lea also wins the award from standing the furthest away from the judge. It is something to be watched when playing in this room, given its size.

As a general rule, players standing so far away place doubt in the judge's mind as to the confidence they have in their instrument and execution. I did not make this a consideration in my judgement, but is a worthy note for the future.

Results

## Junior Competition

1. Matthew Supranowicz
2. Steve Taylor

## Senior Competition

1. Mark McKenzie
2. Matthew Rigby
3. Lea Ahokava
4. Phillip Cowan

Following the contest, we had, as usual, some of the competitors playing for us again. Phillip Cowan gave us a selection which included *Mrs MacSwan, Major Manson, Captain Colin Campbell, The Cockerel in the Creel, Pumpkin's Fancy, Bulgarian Bandit, Rocking the Baby* and *Jig of Slurs*.

He was followed by Matthew Supranowicz, who played *Morag Duncan, Jean Mauchline, Louise Munro-Ross, Highland Harry* and *Colonel Macleod*. Matthew Rigby was next with *Dr Ross*, a jig he couldn't remember the name of, *Cody's Jig, By the Pond, The Pap of Glencoe, Atholl Cummers* and *John Morrison of Assynt House*.

Finally we heard from Mark McKenzie whose selection included *Angus McKinnon, Jeannie Carruthers, 91<sup>st</sup> at Modder River, Mrs John McColl, Cameronian Rant* and *The Sheepwife*.

The evening concluded with the drawing of the raffle by Betty DaHayr and the winning of it by Doug Watkins, followed by supper.

**QHPS Program for 1999**

<b>24 May</b>	Patron's Trophy (MSR for senior members)	<b>27 September</b>	Pair of Pipers
<b>28 June</b>	Pipers Night	<b>25 October</b>	Pipers Night
<b>26 July</b>	Jimmy Durham Trophy (2/4 March for junior members)	<b>22 November</b>	Veteran's (Medley 3-5 minutes)
<b>23 August</b>	Annual Meeting and 6/8 Contest		

**STRATHCLYDE REEDS**

(Geoff Smith and Val Dodd)

**have a new address and phone number for orders and enquiries**

15 Howell Street, Kedron

0408 755 443

<b>What's On</b>		
<b>MAY</b>	24	<b>SOCIETY MEETING</b>
	26	NSW Pipers Society, Holterman Street, Crows Nest
<b>JUNE</b>	12-13	Rockhampton Highland Gathering (see notice later in newsletter)
	28	<b>SOCIETY MEETING</b>
	30	NSW Pipers Society, Holterman Street, Crows Nest
<b>JULY</b>	1	International Tartan Day – King George Square – see notice later in newsletter
	3	Concert – Qld Police Pipes and Drums and the Pipes and Drums of the Queen Victoria School Dunblane, Scotland
	26	<b>SOCIETY MEETING</b>
<b>AUGUST</b>	14	World Pipe Band Championships (Glasgow)
	23	<b>SOCIETY MEETING</b>
	28	Ipswich Band & Solo Contest – Contact 07 3291 5408
	28	Cowal Championships, Dunoon

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

## Subscribe NOW! to **“Raising the Standard”**

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Begin to play a tune at any point	add other tunes	Continuous play
tunes		
plays piobaireachd		

**Anyone using 'BMW' and wishing to purchase 'Piob Mhor V2.7' will receive, FREE, a program which converts your BMW files to Piob Mhor files.**

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3.5" Program Disk and instructions dispatched immediately upon receipt of payment.

E-mail: [dennis@turboweb.net.au](mailto:dennis@turboweb.net.au)

# CONTEST RESULTS

### **Dan Reid Invitational held 1<sup>st</sup> May in San Francisco**

This event is becoming one of the world's major solo contests, as is attested by the lineup of competitors and the names in the results.

#### **Master's Piob**

1. Bill Livingstone
2. Jack Lee
3. Roddy MacLeod

#### **Master's MSR**

1. Jack Lee
2. Roddy MacLeod
3. Bill Livingstone

**Overall Winner:** Jack Lee

#### **Cameron-Gillies**

Piobaireachd: Mike Rogers  
MSR: Mary Ann MacKinnon

Overall: Mike Rogers

**AOM trophy – Queensland Irish Club –  
Saturday 8 May**

The first three placegetters will represent Australia at the Festival Interceltique in France later this year. There were three parts to the competition - a MSR, an Irish selection and a Breton selection. There were twelve competitors - Mark Bowles (Vic), Lachlan McCabe (QLD), Alisdair McLaren (WA), Glen Anderson (NSW), Barry Gray (NSW), Paul Spencer (WA), Larry Flynn (QLD), Danny Boyle (VIC), Andrew Roach (NSW), Mark McKenzie (QLD) and Scott Nicholson (WA).

1. Andrew Roach
2. Lachlan McCabe
3. Danny Boyle
- 4.

**Dunbar Highland Games, Saturday 8  
May 1999**

**Grade 1 –**

- 1st Vale of Atholl
- 2nd Polkemmet
- 3rd Glasgow Skye
- 4th Boghall & Bathgate

Drumming - Boghall & Bathgate  
**Piping Judge** - Harry McNulty  
**Drumming Judge** - Alister Aitken

**Grade 2 –**

- 1st Bucksburn
- 2nd Dumbarton
- 3rd Boghall & Bathgate
- 4th Scottish Gas
- Drumming - Boghall & Bathgate
- Piping Judge** - Robert Mathieson

**Gourock (Sunday 9 May)**

**Grade 1**

- 1st David Urquhart Travel
- 2nd Strathclyde Police
- 3rd Glasgow Skye
- 4th Dumbarton & District

**Grade 2**

- 1st Dumbarton & District
- 2nd City of Glasgow
- 3rd Black Watch
- 4th Tayside?

**Nov Juv**

- 1st Dunoon Grammar
- 2nd Dumbarton & District
- 3rd Knightswood



## WEBSITE FOR THE PIOBAIREACHD SOCIETY?

Peter Anderson writes (26 April) - At the Piobaireachd Society General Committee meeting held at the AGM/Conference this weekend I was asked to help put together a web site. We will co-opt an expert computer person onto the General Committee to actually design the site (the person has already been selected, but has not been told yet).

I have some of my own ideas as to what the site should contain but what I really want is your input, after all it will be primarily for your use.

Some of the things I have in mind are (not in any order):-

- ◆ Current 'Proceedings of the Society' and downloadable back editions (I must warn you that these are large files).
- ◆ List of the Silver & Gold Medal tunes selected by the Music Committee for the current year.
- ◆ News from the Society and the Judges Seminar.
- ◆ News of projects under way.
- ◆ Sound extracts from the Society Conference.
- ◆ Photographs of some of the original manuscripts & notes.

Any other suggestions are most welcome.

*If any members have ideas but no access to the Internet, I will be glad to pass the ideas on. if you do have Internet access, Peter's email address is [peter@bklands.demon.co.uk](mailto:peter@bklands.demon.co.uk) (Editor)*

## 1999 GS McLennan Memorial Invitational Piping Competition (12-14 November) and Tune Composition Competition

The Invitational is shaping up to be the best so far. While final confirmations of invitations are still in the process, the following are confirmed participants:

Donald MacPherson (Judge), Alasdair Gillies, Gordon Walker, Roddy MacLeod, Willie McCallum, and Jack Lee (Competitors).

More information is available at [www.bydand.com/gsmpl.html](http://www.bydand.com/gsmpl.html) for those with internet access.

In celebration of the **100th anniversary of GS McLennan's enlistment into The Gordon Highlanders**, Bydand Forever (host of the GS McLennan Memorial Invitational Piping Competition) is pleased to announce a **tune composition contest**. We invite composers to select and submit their best original reel. A panel of three impartial judges will review the submissions, placing special emphasis on musicality, and select the winning tune. The composer will receive a McLennan Medallion (previously available only to competitors and judges), and may give the tune its first public performance at the Judge's Recital on 12 November, 1999. The tune will be given the title selected by the McLennan family and the Regimental Museum staff.

### Contest Rules

- 1) The contest is open to anyone interested in making a submission, and who agrees to comply with the rules of the contest. Submission of a tune indicates that the composer agrees to comply with the contest rules. Members of The McLennan advisory committee are not eligible to submit a tune.
- 2) Any individual may submit one reel (minimum of 4 parts); multiple tunes by the same composer will not be accepted.

- 3) The submitted reel must be the original, unpublished, untitled work of the composer which has not been previously publicly performed.
- 4) The composer retains the copyright to the reel, but grants Bydand Forever unlimited license to publish, perform, and publicise it. The tune copyright shall carry the title selected by the McLennan family and the Regimental Museum staff. A more detailed definition of this will shortly be available on our web page.
- 5) A submission will include:
  - a) a written copy of the tune (computer generated preferred, but at minimum must be very clearly hand-written on composition paper), and
  - b) a clear audiotape of the tune (on chanter or pipes. The performer does not have to be the author), and
  - c) the author's full name, mailing address, phone number, and (if possible) e-mail.
- 6) Submissions must be sent to: Bydand Forever, Tune Contest, 7787 Hillandale Dr, San Diego, CA 92120 USA.
- 7) Submissions must be postmarked by 7 August, 1999, and received by 14 August, 1999.

***From the NSW Pipers' Society Newsletter.....***

**Brigadoon at Bundanoon -**

**-Claimed to be the largest Highland Gathering in Australia**

A perfect day, about 24 degrees, after the street march to the grounds, 17 bands gave displays, most in summer shirts. There were Country dancing displays, dog trials, caber tossing events etc. A very full and interesting program. The committee should be congratulated as it went like clockwork.

At the closing ceremony they announced that last year's attendance was 19,900 and this year the numbers looked about the same. Bill Hart had his display of all types of bagpipes, there seemed to be more craft stalls than previous years. The grounds reflect improvements made by donations from the committee. A small grandstand is also on the drawing board. Local charities of course benefit from the support of Scots who have travelled for 2 to 3 hours to the Southern Highlands annually for 22 years.

Next year the date is April 8th 2000. Be there!

**INTERNATIONAL  
TARTAN DAY**

Wear something tartan and join with us to celebrate.

Presented By -  
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THURSDAY 1 JULY  
KING GEORGE SQUARE  
FROM 10 AM 'TILL 4 PM

July 1st is the  
217th anniversary of  
the Repealing of the  
Act of Parliament  
(British) that made it  
punishable for wearing  
Tartan. Almost two  
generations of Scots  
were banned from  
wearing tartan.

**ROCKHAMPTON  
HIGHLAND  
GATHERING**

**Queens Birthday Weekend  
June 1999**

Saturday 12 - Solo Piping & Drumming  
Sunday 13- Grade 4 Mini Band Contest  
Full Band Contest - all grades  
Drum Majors Contest

Venue: Rockhampton Pipe Band Hall  
Gladstone Road, Rockhampton

Queensland Highlanders in Concert Saturday Night  
Rockhampton High School Assembly Hall Campbell  
Street, Rockhampton (\$10/\$7)

Enquiries: Wayne & Eunice Palfrey (07) 4928 5419  
3 Standish Street

We are presenting a variety of activities for all to enjoy.

Official launch of Tartan Day celebrations- Lord  
Mayor Jim Soorley  
11.00 am

Displays by Scottish  
Highland and Country  
Dancers

The Queensland Police  
Pipes & Drums ( 10.30  
am & 11.30am)

A visiting Pipe Band  
from Scotland will  
entertain during the  
afternoon

Solo pipers, other  
musicians and  
dancers are  
encouraged to attend.

Static displays and  
information will be  
available on Family  
History, Dancing,  
Bands, Social  
activities, Historical  
and Travel.

Several Clan Groups  
and their  
representatives will be  
in attendance.

Over 300 tartan  
samples on display.

Scottish pies will be  
available at the Red  
Cross Cafe in City  
Hall.

Contact President:  
John Hocknull 5544  
6400

or Vice President Ian  
Campbell 3359 8195  
for further  
information.