



**Queensland  
Highland  
Pipers' Society**

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**November**

**2000**

## **November Meeting Monday 27th**

**Souths Leagues Club, Jane Street,  
West End**

**7.45 pm**

Featuring the

Veterans' (over 50) Contest -- 5-7 minute medley  
1st: \$40, 2nd: \$20, 3rd: \$15

And

The Christmas Party (please bring along some  
extra goodies for supper)

### **From the Editor:**

This is the final newsletter for this year. As usual we will go into recess until February after the November meeting. By the time you get your next newsletter in February, your committee will have had the chance to meet and plan out the year. We will be looking at new opportunities and formats and also reviewing our meeting venue. Any contributions to this process will be most welcome.

Our November meeting will feature a contest for our more mature members (see above) followed by our traditional Christmas Party. Following on the AOM trophy local finals held last weekend, this makes a fitting close for the piping year.

The committee wishes all members all the best for the festive season and for the New Year and looks forward to seeing you in the year 2001.

*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.

## OCTOBER 2000 MEETING

A modest crowd of about 25 keen supporters turned up for our October "Pipers Night" which we had gently pushed in the direction of Piobaireachd.

Apologies were received from Geoff Foote, Matthew Rigby and Gill MacKenzie.

President Doug Thoresen opened the evening in the best possible way - by playing himself! Sporting a new set of drone reeds about which he was a little apprehensive, he first set off into a selection of light music including the air *Dreaming Island*, marches *Arthur Bignold of Lochrosque* and *Duncan MacInnes*, air *Dream Angus*, strathspey *Islay Ball*, reel *Captain Lachlan MacPhail of Tiree* and the jigs *Lieut Maguire* and *The Jig of Slurs*. There seemed little need to be apprehensive about the pipes as they rapidly settled in.

Doug then had a few words and another couple of tunes. He finished up with *MacIntosh's Lament*, as he described it a very sad tune about the demise of a bridegroom soon after his wedding.

Next to play was Phillip Cowan. He started with a selection of light music including *Hector the Hero*, *Caber Feidh*, *The Pap of Glencoe*, *Captain Duncan MacGregor*, *The Sheepwife*, *San Francisco*, *Trinity Bay Blue*, *The Ewe Wi' the Crookit Smile*, *She Walked Through the Fair*, *The Death of a Space Piper (!)* and then treated us to the *Lament for Alistair Dearg McDonnell*. His pipes had a fair bit more volume than Doug's but well tuned and sweet nevertheless.

The next piper was Iain Bruce. On a softer but full toned and well balanced instrument he warmed up for a short time with a selection of small tunes. When the pipe became sufficiently resonant, he played for us *Catherine's Lament*. After a brief re-tune we heard *I Am Proud to Play a Pipe*. Despite a couple of unfortunate slips in the Crunluath of the second piece, this was quite a mesmerising performance.

Roy Gunn was next to have a tune. His tune was *The Big Spree*, one of the three "Sprees". The tune commemorates the after battle celebration of one of the warriors of the Clan MacGregor, a blacksmith by trade, who was noted for wielding a very effective claymore in battle. Roy had a quick tune up from a "standing start" and then played a few tunes of light music including mainly 6/8s and 2/4s of the "heavier" variety to settle the pipe followed by a couple of Strathspeys (*Highland Harry* and *Caledonian Canal*) and Reels (*Alick C MacGregor* and *Bessie McIntyre*), a task accomplished in good style. The pipes were well set up for Piobaireachd with an excellent balance between chanter and drones in volume and a clear resonance on every note. If anything, the instrument improved throughout to be really singing at the end of the Piobaireachd.

Finally Mark McKenzie gave us a few tunes. He introduced his instrument as being a bit louder than Roy's, and it was! He gave us some rousing tunes to start including *Jeannie Carruthers*, *Mrs John McColl*, *Piper's Bonnet*, *Ewe Wi' the Crookit Horn*, *Susan MacLeod*, *Little Cascade* and *Setting Course for Lewis*. Finally he played the Piobaireachd *Lament for Mary Macleod* and *In Praise of Morag*.

All in all, we had a solid two and a half hours of piping, starting at about 8.15 and finishing at about 10.45! This must be a record in the recent history of the Society. And together with

this, it was all of high quality.

Doug gave a few reminders of coming events and commented on the excellent night of piping we had had.

He got Bob to conduct the raffle. He got Roy Gunn's niece, Elizabeth Saunders, to draw the raffle and it was won by Dave Sinclair (again!). Then all retired for supper.

## What's On

<b>N O V</b>	25	Balmoral Scottish Community St Andrew's Ceilidh—7.30pm—\$15, bookings essential: phone 3399 9267. Supper, entertainment, bar and raffles
	27	<b>Society Meeting – Veterans' Contest &amp; Christmas Party</b>
<b>D E C</b>	2-3	Daylesford (Vic) Band, Mini-Band and Solo Contests—Victoria Park
<b>J A N</b>	1	Nambour New Years Day Gathering—Petrie Park Nambour 10am to 4pm. Contact Fred Logan 07 5441 4238
	20	Brisbane Clans Pipes and Drums Burns Supper & Dance—Wellers Hill Bowls Club—\$25 per head for a three course meal. Bookings essential. Contact Kate Wyse 07 3369 2232
<b>F E B</b>	11	Berwick (Victoria) Highland Gathering—03 9705 5246
	27	<b>First Society Meeting for 2001</b>
<b>M A R</b>	18	Geelong Highland Gathering—Contact 03 5243 4276

**The NSW Pipers' Society** meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 6 Holterman Street, Crows Nest. Contact Ron Clement - 02 9948 1914

**The WA Pipers' Society** meets on the 3rd Saturday at the Autumn Centre, Inglewood. Contact John McMurchie - 08 9401 9587

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

## NEWS

**S**cottish Parliament gives the Piping Centre in Glasgow a grant of \A3250,000 (\$A645,000). This brings the total amount of public money invested in the centre to \A33.75M (\$A9.68M), plus a lottery grant of \A3180,000 (\$A465,000) for their National Schools Project. This will write off the remaining debt from the establishment of the Centre. The Centre is also co-operating with the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (RSAMD) to provide a university degree course in piping (see separate article in this edition). The Parliament has allocated \A3850,000 over the next three years for the appointment of schools co-ordinators to champion culture, \A31.5M over the same period to promote excellence in traditional arts and established a ministerial task force to work on cultural tourism (that probably means us colonials).

**P**ipeline radio programme produced by the BBC to be broadcast over the internet from the start of the new year. The programme will be in the same hour long format that it is in at present and will be broadcast from 8pm - 9pm on a Saturday evening (GMT).

**I**an Duncan steps down as P/M of Vale of Athol after 25 years--some sources say the retirement may only be temporary. Andy Renwick will take over the Grade 1 band and Gordon, Ian's brother, will lead the Grade 3 band.

SPBA Pipe Band Competition List - Season 2001. Note that venues have not yet been decided

**R** upon for the British & Scottish Championships.

Sat May 12th Dunbar All Grades & D/M  
Sun May 13th Gourock All Grades & D/M  
Sat May 19th Ayr(European) All Grades & D/M  
Sun May 20th Penicuik 4 & D/M  
Sat May 26th Bathgate 1, 2, 3, 4, NJ & D/M  
Sat May 26th Enniskillen 1, 2, 3, 4 & D/M  
Mon May 28th Richmond 2, 3, 4 & D/M  
Sat June 2nd Ahoghill 1, 2, 3, 4 & D/M  
Sat June 2nd Shotts All Grades  
Sat June 2nd Strathmiglo 2, 3, 4  
Sun June 3rd Colchester 2, 3, 4 & D/M  
Sun June 3rd Girvan 2, 3, 4 & D/M  
Sun June 3rd Markinch 1, 2, 3, 4, NJ & D/M  
Sun June 3rd Turriff 1, 2, 3, 4 & D/M  
Sat June 9th Bearsden All Grades  
Sat June 9th Cookstown 1, 2, 3, 4 & D/M  
Sun June 10th Ardrossan 2, 3, 4, NJ & D/M  
Sat June 16th Banbridge 1, 2, 3, 4 & D/M  
Sat June 16th Lesmahagow 2, 3, 4, & D/M  
Sat June 16th Oldmeldrum 1, 2, 3, 4 & D/M  
Sat June 16th Whitley Bay 2, 3, 4 & D/M  
Sun June 17th E'burgh (Marie Curie) All Grades  
Sun June 17th Aberdeen 1, 2, 3, 4 & D/M  
Sun June 17th Banbury 2, 3, 4 & D/M  
Sun June 17th Pontefract 2, 3, 4 & D/M  
Sat June 30th Annan 1, 2, 3, 4, NJ & D/M  
Sat June 30th Newcastle 1, 2, 3, 4 & D/M  
Sat July 1st Cupar 1, 2, 3, 4  
Sat July 7th Omagh(All Ireland) 1, 2, 3, 4 & D/M

Sat July 7th Thornton 2, 3, 4 & D/M  
Sun July 8th Birmingham 2, 3, 4 & D/M

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Sun July 8th Stirling 2, 3, 4 & D/M  
Sat July 14th Balloch All Grades & D/M  
Sat July 14th Corby 2, 3, 4 & D/M  
Sat July 14th Douglas (Isle of man) (All England)  
1, 2, 3, 4 & D/M  
Sun July 15th Ashbourne 1, 2, 3, 4 & D/M  
Sat July 22nd Lochearnhead 2, 3, 4  
Sat July 28th Bangor 1, 2, 3, 4 & D/M  
Sat July 28th Callender 2, 3, 4 & D/M  
Sat July 28th Dundonald 1, 2, 3, 4 & D/M  
Sun July 29th Aboyne 1, 2, 3, 4 & D/M  
Sat Aug 4th Inverkeithing 1, 2, 3, 4 & D/M  
Sat Aug 4th North Berwick 1, 2, 3, 4 & D/M  
Sat Aug 4th Portrush 1, 2, 3, 4 & D/M  
Sun Aug 5th Bridge of Allan 1, 2, 3, 4 & D/M  
Sat Aug 11th Glasgow(Worlds) All Grades & D/M  
Sun Aug 12th Perth 1, 2, 3, 4 & D/M  
Sat Aug 18th Melrose 2, 3, 4 & D/M  
Sat Aug 18th Belfast 1, 2, 3, 4 & D/M  
Sat Aug 18th Rothesay All Grades & D/M  
Sun Aug 19th Crieff 1, 2, 3 & 4  
Sun Aug 19th Kilmarnock 1, 2, 3, 4 & D/M  
Sun Aug 19th Mintlaw 1, 2, 3, 4 & D/M  
Sat Aug 25th Dunoon (Cowal) All Grades  
Sun Sept 2nd Chatsworth 2, 3, 4 & D/M  
Sat Sept 8th Pitlochry 1, 2 & 3  
Sun Sep 9th Peebles 2, 3, 4 & N/J  
Sat Oct 6th Houghton-le-Spring 2, 3 & 4

## AOM Trophy Regional Final

The AOM final for Queensland took place on Sunday 19 November at Wynnum Manly Leagues Club, organised by the Celtic Celebration Committee (Qld). The surroundings were excellent in a room well suited to playing and thoughtfully equipped with a bar to lubricate the audience.

A good turnout of supporters and exponents of the art were in attendance, about a hundred in total at the peak according to reliable reports. Unfortunately your scribe was delayed at another function so we can't really comment on the playing.

The first two placegetters go to Melbourne in May for the finals but the organisers asked the judge (Gordon Ferguson) to give four places in case the winners are prevented from attending the final. Each had to play a March Strathspey & Reel and an Irish Selection.

There were eight competitors and the results were as follows:

Placing	MSR	Irish Selection	Overall
<b>1st</b>	Darin Cook (Anne Edgar, Dora Macleod, Brown Haired Maid)	Ian Campbell (Easter Snow, Liam's Fancy, Tommy's Jig, Granny Macleod, 2 Unknown Jigs, Going to the well for water, Irish Air, The Blackbird, The Gravel Walk, McFadden's, Robert Watt's Reel)	<b>Darin Cook</b>
<b>2nd</b>	Jason Palfrey (Highland Wedding, Cameronian Rant, The Sheep-wife)	Jason Palfrey (Bard of Armagh, Give us a minute, Old Hag at the kiln, Nightmare on Ringhaddy Avenue, Mrs. Macleod, Lord Ramsay's Reel, Gravel Walk, McFadden, Lismuranne Lamps, Old Mountain Road).	<b>Ian Campbell</b>
<b>3rd</b>	Mark McKenzie (Jeannie Carruthers, Cameronian Rant, Mrs McPherson of Inveran)	Darin Cook (The Burst Mattress, Friar's Britches, Nightmare on Ringhaddy Avenue, Tommy Tully's Air, Johnny the Tree Wrecker, Cup of Tea, Little House under the Hill, Mountain Road, McFadden's, Lismuranne Lamps)	<b>Jason Palfrey</b>
<b>4th</b>	Ian Campbell, Phillip Cowan	Mark McKenzie	<b>Mark McKenzie</b>

Following the more formal contest, there was a "Kitchen Piping" Competition, with the decision being made by audience vote. The results of this contest were:

- 1st Phillip Scott Cowan
- 2nd Mark McKenzie
- 3rd Lea Ahokava

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### **PIPING CENTRE AND RSAMD LAUNCH PIPING DEGREE**

Beginning next year, a Bachelor of Arts (Scottish Music) degree offered jointly by the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and the Piping Centre means pipers will for the first time in Scotland, be able to graduate with a specialist higher qualification in their art. It also gives them the opportunity to go on to teacher training and full certification as a classroom music teacher.

Said Roddy Macleod, director of Piping at the Piping Centre "from the start it has been my remit from the founders to try to raise the status of piping in every respect including obviously the academic status of Piping. We have been into primary schools to tell children about piping and stimulate their interest. We are now teaching in a number of secondary schools, and we are trying to support young pipers who are doing standard grade and higher grade music with pipes as their chosen instrument. It was very obvious that you could take pipes to 6th year studies level and thereafter there would be very limited opportunities.

We've been involved with the RSAMD since the Centre opened, helping with the teaching of the BA (Scottish Music) Degree. but this new collaborative agreement is an immensely exciting step. It promotes the Piping Centre to the level of a higher education establishment. This will inevitably benefit the Piping Centre as it helps us to gain more acceptance within the academic community, it would seem that all kinds of research and development opportunities may become possible. We also become subject to a number of quality assurance procedures, this can only be good for the way we operate and teach".

Referring to the new developments, he said, "it was my feeling, and that of others, that the Piping element in the BA (Scottish Music) Degree could go a lot further in terms of the performance requirements and the historical and technological aspects. I also thought it would be desirable under any review to consider building in the requirements for students to be able to go on to teacher training.- These ideas were, I think, in the melting pot at RSAMD and so were met very enthusiastically. These new components will make the degree quite revolutionary as it will create the possibility for pipers and hopefully in future years other traditional musicians to become classroom teachers. This will in time change the profile of music departments in schools, it also makes the course much more marketable, because there'd be a definite end product".

As a development of the piping strand of the RSAMD's B.A. (Scottish Music) programme, the new degree will see top class piping tuition supplemented with courses in bagpipe technology, piping history and repertoire, and a number of academic and practical music components. It trebles the teacher-student contact time given in the existing degree to instruction on the pipes as a principal instrument.

The Piping part of the curriculum (constituting five of the programme's fifteen hours weekly formal tuition time) was developed largely by Roddy MacLeod, Colin MacLellan, Greg Wilson and Dougie Pincock. Colin MacLellan is the educational officer for the Piping Centre and has recently been working closely with RSAMD on much of the detail of the course components.

The degree can be seen as a necessary progression from a fairly rapid succession of developments of piping in education. It's not quite 30 years that the first approaches were made to get piping tuition funded into state schools. About five years ago, prior to the establishment of the B.A. (Scottish Music) Degree, a consultancy process gleaned ideas from people like Allan MacDonald, Peter Cook, Malcolm McRae, Hugh Cheape. Roddy

Cannon and others. A lot of what they posited at that time, gave us the basis of things we've gone ahead with, obviously, we've also gone ahead in close consultation with the people across the street of RSAMD.

Said Colin MacLellan "first and foremost, this is a performance-based degree and we would expect a graduate to be an outstanding player. We'd also expect that individual to be very knowledgeable in all areas of piping"

An hour a week will involve individual tuition in piobaireachd, another hour a week will be for ceol beag tuition, (with two students and one teacher), and an hour a week will be spent in a performance seminar (involving five students and a teacher) focusing on topics such as alternative settings, canntaireachd and other performance issues as they arise from the more intimate sessions.

A Piping History and Repertoire component will cover the history of the bagpipe, including the history of bagpipe making, education in piping, piping families, and an examination of repertoire, looking at early manuscripts, historical documents and research.

A Piping Technology course will include bagpipe and reed making, advances in technology. the tuning of pipes for a pipe band and solo work. a study of sound and related topics.

Colin MacLellan said Small Pipes are in the curriculum as a principal study instrument. The term we're using is "bellow pipes" - "small pipes" is a bit restrictive. A requirement of the degree is to take a second study instrument on which the students have a half an hour study a week An issue being discussed with RSAMD is

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whether to allow bellows-blown pipes as a second instrument. At the moment, for pipers, the bellows blown pipes are disallowed because Highland pipers have been using Highland fingering, and repertoire on bellows pipes. You can understand why it's seen a bit of a soft option. It was intended, though, to develop the RSAMD programmes to ensure that authentic repertoire fingerings and interpretations are taught and required for bellows blown pipes. When it gets to that stage. it'll be considered for pipers as a second instrument. We fully recognise the Lowland and Border traditions as well as the Highland traditions.

Said Roddy Macleod, "It's a really broad-based degree. There's a lot of scepticism about how employable someone with a degree in Scottish Music is going to be in the long term. But. teaching aside. there's no reason why a graduate in Piping should be treated differently from a graduate in any other musical field in relation to positions as general arts officer and people who are involved in cultural promotion. Graduates might decide to move into manufacture, and there's a growing market there but, in fact because of the broad range of music and business studies components which will be studied, graduates will be well qualified to move into the music industry in a number of ways. And the opportunity to go into classroom teaching is a good job prospect for anyone. It also has the desired effect of balancing the delivery of music instruction in schools. If pipers can pave the way for traditional Musicians to get into the classrooms then, in years to come, you would hope to see some considerable benefits for traditional music in Scotland", he concluded.

The Teaching Staff at The Piping Centre includes:

Roddy Macleod -- Principal of Piping and Gold Medallist

Colin MacLellan -- Education Officer and Gold Medallist

Gordon Walker -- Gold Medallist

Greg Wilson --National Schools Project Officer and Gold Medallist

Willie Morrison -- Glenfiddich MSR Winner

Jim MacLean -- ex Strathclyde Police

# CONTEST RESULTS

## **Glenfiddich Invitational--Blair Atholl, - 28/10/ 2000**

### **Piobaireachd**

1st Bill Livingstone, "The Lament for the Earl of Antrim"

2nd Robert Wallace, Stepps, Scotland, "The Earl of Seaforth's Salute"

3rd Willie McCallum, "My King Has Landed In Moidart"

4th Angus MacColl, Benderloch, Scotland, Lament for the Children"

5th Stuart Liddell, Inverary, Scotland, "The End of the Great Bridge"



Judge: Andrew Wright, John Allan, and William MacDonald (Benbecula)

**March, Strathspey & Reel**

1st Gordon Walker

2nd Greg Wilson, Falkirk, Scotland

3rd Willie McCallum

4th Angus MacColl

5th Stuart Liddell

Judges: Iain MacLellan, Angus J. MacLellan, and Malcolm MacRae

**Overall:**

1st Willie McCallum

2nd Bill Livingstone

3rd Gordon Walker

Also competing were Michael Cusack, Houston, Texas, USA; Michael Rogers, Maryland, USA; and Bruce Gandy, Prince Edward Island, Canada.

