



**Queensland
Highland
Pipers' Society**

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October

2002

October Meeting Monday 28th

**Balmoral Bowls Club,
Jean Howie Drive,
Morningside
at 7.15 pm**

This month we feature the **Queensland Selection Competition** of the **Celtic Celebration Committee**. This means we will hear ten fine pipers playing an MSR and an Air and Jig—the draw is inside. Don't miss it! **Note** we are **starting half an hour early** to fit everything in

From the Editor:

We start with a sad note this month—Vice President Bob Payne's wife Margot passed away suddenly on 29 September. Our thoughts and sympathy go out to Bob and his family. We assure him of our support at this difficult time.

Another fine night of piping last month and promise of a magnificent evening this month with the Celtic Celebration Committee contest. Our year is really coming to a close with a peak of piping.

Don't forget the St Andrew's Day Ceilidh at the Balmoral Bowls Club on Saturday 30 November which we will be running. This is at the conclusion of a day at the club with a Scot-

tish theme (so we hope lots of the bowlers will come) and also gives us the chance to have an end of year social event.

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.

SEPTEMBER 2002 MEETING

It was a warm September evening with a slightly smaller than usual number of members and guests somewhere in the high twenties.

Getting off to a good early start, Jack McCandlish was first to play, showing us he can still turn a mean finger or two, but a bit limited at the moment in his blowing capacity. However, he does have the excuse of a few more years than most of us!

Rob Grogan was next, once again showing his increasing proficiency with quite a wide selection of tunes on a nice sounding pipe. They included *Easy Day*, *Moving On*, *Cockney Jocks*, *The Crusaders*, *Londonderry Air*, *Dark Island* and *Highland Cathedral*

Doug Thoresen was the next to take up the cudgels. An interesting set of tunes (does he ever play any other sort?) in a 'ten minute selection' (his words) as usual drawn from his large repertoire. They included *Macpherson's Lament*, *A Man's a Man*, *Corriehoillie*, *Teribus*, *Mist Covered Mountains*, *Carles Wi the Breeks*, *The Piper's Polka*, strathspeys *Tip the Toddy* and *Monymusk* and reels *Johnny Macdonald* and *Lexie McAskill*

Matthew Supranowicz was our next player on a big and resonant pipe. Apart from a couple of chokes it was well blown. . . As you can see this was a long and sustained performance of good quality tunes, including *The Auld Hoose*, *The Lea Rig*, *Old Adam*, *Dr Ross*, *Miss Elspeth Campbell*, *Susan Macleod*, *The Brown Haired Maiden*, *Lucy Cassidy* and *The Braes of Mellinish*.

Doug's comment was: "If I only had those fingers".

Ian Davidson was next and gave us a *Nameless Piobaireachd* from the Angus MacKay manuscript.

Matthew Rigby took us through the next half hour or so on a rock steady pipe with lots of good music and plenty of variety with quality. His tunes included *Mrs Mary Grant*, *The Battle's O'er*, *MacLeod of Mull*, *Jeannie Mauchline*, *Hugh Alexander Low of Tiree*, *David*

Ross of Rose hall, *Edinburgh City Police Pipe band*, *MacCrimmon Will Never Return*, *Brae Rioch*, *Turf Lodge*, *Donald MacLennan's Tuning Phrase* and *Alan MacPherson of Mosspark*.

The night was still young due to our early start and Vaughn Parker was next to play for us. He showed his continuing maturity as a player in the selection which included *Music of Spey*, *Gardens of Skye*, *Mrs Mary Grant*, *Colin's Cattle*, *Alan MacPherson of Mosspark*, *Thief of Lochaber*, *Whisky Train*, *Donald Cameron's Powderhorn*, *Plaga Cadence*, *Rodney Hull QC* and *The Mason's Apron*. Especially notable was how well he maintained the phrasing in the jigs and also the maintenance of solid blowing when playing demanding tunes.

Maurie DeHayr had put together anew school set of pipes in the last couple of days and he gave us a few tunes on it. It had quite a nice resonant sound about it. The tunes included the 4/4s *Bonnie Gallowa*, *The Auld Hoose* and *The Crusaders' March*, the 9/8s *Battle of the Somme* and *The Heights of Dargai*, the 6/8 *P/M Sam Scott*, air *The Bells of Dunblane*, song airs *The Rustic Bridge* and *The Rowan Tree* and finally the ground of *Salute to Donald*.

Robert Baker was our last player on a quiet sounding pipe. He started with a Welsh lullaby called *San Guo* and then played a set of 4/4 marches—*Gardens of Skye*, *Wings*, *Lord Lovat's Lament*, *Crusaders' March* and *The Rowan Tree*. The pipes may have been a little easy because there was an occasional squeal.

Finally, Doug, Jack, Rob, Robert, Matthew Supranowicz and Vaughn played Scotland the Brave and Marie's Wedding as a band to great effect.

After some concluding remarks from Doug, including embarrassing your scribe with a rendition of "Happy Birthday", the raffle was drawn by Bob Payne and won by Rob Grogan (again!).

What's On

O C T	26	Glenfiddich Championship, Blair Castle
	28	Society Meeting
N O V	2	Bratach Gorm Competition—London
	2-3	Britfest Solo and Band Contest—Blacktown Showground (Sydney). Contact Barry Gray 02 9623 2250
	9	Mini Band Competition—Wynnum-Manly Leagues Club. Admission \$2. Contact 07 3396 9025
	17	Ipswich Thistle 40th Anniversary of Band Hall opening. Contact Liz 0414 776 361
	17	Combined Scottish Societies Highland Gathering & Band Contest—Drummoyne Oval (Sydney) Contact John Corry 02 9580 7532
	25	Society Meeting
	30	QHPS Ceilidh at Balmoral Bowls Club—see separate notice
L A T E R	7&8Dec	Daylesford (Vic) Highland Gathering. Full Bands, Min Bands and Solos
	31 Dec	Ipswich Thistle Pipe Band Hogmanay. Contact Liz 0414 776 361
	1 Jan	Nambour New Years Day Gathering. Petrie Park, Nambour from 10 am to 4 pm. Free Admission. Contact Fred Logan 07 5441 4238

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 10-11 pm
4EB - FM 98.1 – Thursday afternoons 2.15—4 pm
2RDJ - FM 88.1 - Wednesday morning 6 am - 9 am

QHPS St Andrew's Day Ceilidh

At the Balmoral Bowls Club

Saturday 30 November
6.30 pm—11.30 pm

Piping, Highland Dancers, Set Dances, Smorgasbord Supper, Raffles, Lucky Door Prize, Bar service available.
Entry \$20 (\$10 for children under 14)

Bookings essential: Ring 07 3397 4512 or email alexmccconnell@optushome.com.au



CELTIC CELEBRATION COMMITTEE (QLD)

Queensland Selection Competition 28th October 2002

Balmoral Bowls Club, Morningside

in conjunction with the Queensland Highland Pipers' Society

Competitor	March, Strathspey & Reel	Air and Jig
1. Peter Lewis	7.30 pm	8.50 pm
2. Adam Britten	7.37 pm	8.56 pm
3. Jason Palfrey	7.44 pm	9.02 pm
4. Darin Cook	7.51 pm	9.08 pm
5. Cory Dale	7.58 pm	9.14 pm
6. Larry Flynn	8.05 pm	9.20 pm
7. Mark McKenzie	8.12 pm	9.26 pm
8. Matthew Supranowicz	8.19 pm	9.32 pm
9. Ian Campbell	8.26 pm	9.38 pm
10. Matthew Rigby	8.33 pm	9.44 pm
Short Interval		8.38 pm
Presentation of Certificates		9.55 pm
Meeting Close and Supper		10.00 pm

As we expect a larger than normal number of attendees, could members please bring along a plate to help with the supper for the evening

Celtic Celebration Committee (Qld)

On behalf of the Committee I would like to express our thanks to the Queensland Highland Pipers' Society for their cooperation enabling us to conduct our Queensland Selection Competition in conjunction with their monthly meeting in October.

Our competition will select three players to represent Queensland at the 2003 Australasian Piping Final, which we will conduct in Brisbane around late April next year. The Australasian Final will determine which three pipers win entry to the Macallan piping competition at the Interceltic Festival in Lorient, Brittany in August 2003. Valued at around \$4,000 each for air fares, accommodation and meals, these

prizes are much sought after in the piping world, as well as offering the opportunity and experience of participating in a world class international piping competition.

I hope this display of collaboration between our two organisations will prove to be just the start of a long and happy association, with our regular annual competition securing a place in your calendar – all for the advancement of piping.

For your information, the Celtic Celebration Committee (Qld) has undergone some changes in the past year and now comprises Ms Kathleen O'Malley (official delegate), Messrs Alan Hancox, Jeff Goward and Robert Wilson and Mrs Jane Hancox.

I would like to take this opportunity to express publicly my sincere appreciation to Mr Rab Lawrie for his years of hard work and commitment to the causes of the CCC(Qld) and to piping in general. His contribution will be sorely missed now that he has retired from the Committee, and many pipers can thank him for the opportunities he helped to provide.

Kathleen O'Malley
Australasian Delegate

Glenfiddich Championships Competitors—

27 October at Blair Atholl Castle

All of these have qualified by virtue of successes at the major competitions throughout the year.

- * **Mike Cusack**, Houston (winner of the United States Piping Foundation competition)
- * **Bruce Gandy**, Halifax, Nova Scotia (winner of the Highland Society of London's Gold Medal at the Northern Meeting)
- * **Alasdair Gillies**, Pittsburgh (winner of the Royal Scottish Pipers Society's Silver Star at the Northern Meeting)
- * **Willie McCallum**, Bearsden, Scotland (winner of the Senior Piobaireachd and Former Winners MSR at the Argyllshire Gathering)
- * **Angus MacColl**, Oban, Scotland (winner of the Donald MacLeod Memorial)
- * **Angus MacDonald**, Skye (winner of the Clasp at the Northern Meeting)
- * **Roddy MacLeod**, Cumbernauld (winner of the Bratach Gorm at London)
- * **Iain Speirs**, Edinburgh (winner of the Highland Society of London's Gold Medal at the Argyllshire Gathering)
- * **Gordon Walker**, Cumnock (second prize in the Clasp at the Northern Meeting)
- * **Greg Wilson**, New Zealand (winner of the Silver Chanter at Dunvegan)

There are two events and the aggregate winner takes out the championship

Judges: Piobaireachd: John MacDougall, Iain MacFadyen and Jack Taylor.
MSR: John D. Burgess, Donald MacPherson, and Gavin Stoddart.

Queensland Pipe Band Championships

September the 28th was a very warm and clear day and the venue at Pine Rivers Park had been well set up to provide an intimate setting for the band contest. With a good range of Scottish stalls, food outlets and clan societies clustered around the performance area, the scene was set for an enjoyable afternoon of pipe banding.

Despite a smallish entry, the program had been compressed into four hours, giving a good spectator experience. The Juvenile contest had two entries, Grade 4 six, Grade 3 three and Grade 1 one. Your reporter did not hear every performance so the following comments are not necessarily selective, more a "dipping into" the experiences of the day.

It was good to run into a couple of our longer standing members who we don't see very often - Don Rodger who is currently at Laidley and Doug Gifford, on one of his sojourns at his Queensland residence - he's off to Victoria again come December.

We started on a note we would want to continue - a very professional performance by the Qld Police Juvenile in the Selection of Marches. Good pipes, tight and musical playing and pipes that held almost to the end when the blowing got just a bit scratchy.

They were followed by BBC, again showing good expression and execution with perhaps a bit of overblowing early on - the sound settled down as they went on.

Qld Highlanders No 2 Marches. Big sound but a bit of a squeal at the start and some variation in blowing. By about halfway through, they were going with the cohesion and sound we are coming to expect from them.

Ipswich Thistle Marches - good solid sound and nice music.

Emmanuel College: refreshing to hear a couple of 2/4 marches - The 79ths and Brown Haired Maiden after most bands playing tunes in common time.

St Andrews MSR: Pretty good but needed a bit more bite in the chanter. End of reel a touch scrappy but good playing overall.

Police Juvenile MSR - nice sound if a bit flat but unison not there throughout.

QIA MSR: Sound OK at start but blowing deteriorated significantly at the end. The last three parts of Highland Wedding were played a bit round and unison suffered in Strathspey & Reel.

Qld Highlanders No 1: MSR and Medley: Good sound and precision throughout apart from a few minor slips.

Qld Police Juvenile Medley - Good sound and playing but got a bit lost in some of the harmonies.

BBC Medley - Well sustained performance. Drones just a bit out throughout. Handled Strathspey and reel well.

Ipswich Medley - only heard part of this—a bit of a struggle in the quicker tunes

St Andrew's Medley- Very good with just a few of finger errors. Chanter much better than in their MSR

Qld Police Juvenile Medley - This was not quite as good as anticipated with loss of unison and slips from time to time

QIA Medley - Impression was similar to Police Juveniles but they probably handled this a bit better than their MSR

One of the major impressions I came away with was the overall good sound and musical playing from all bands. This made the listening experience a very enjoyable one and any criticisms above should be put down to the traditional piping habit of always trying to find fault.

In addition, the co-operation of the bands in keeping to the timetable was something that would have only been dreamt about even ten years ago. The overall result was an entertaining afternoon.

Alex McConnell

CONTEST RESULTS

Pitlochry - 14 September 14

March

- 1st Douglas Murray
 - 2nd Allan Russell
 - 3rd Allan McDonald
 - 4th Anne Spalding, Broughty Ferry
 - 5th John Stewart
 - 6th Douglas Campbell
- Judges: Walter Drysdale, Eddie Clark

Strathspey & Reel

- 1st Douglas Murray
 - 2nd Allan Russell
 - 3rd Allan McDonald
 - 4th Douglas Campbell
 - 5th John Stewart
 - 6th Anne Spalding
- Judges: Jimmy Young, Duncan McDiarmid

Jig

- 1st Allan Russell
 - 2nd Anne Spalding
 - 3rd Allan McDonald
 - 4th Douglas Murray
 - 5th Douglas Campbell
 - 6th John Stewart
- Judges: Jimmy Young, Duncan McDiarmid

Queensland Pipe Band Championships— Pine Rivers Park— 28 September

(see article in this newsletter)

Grade 1

- 1st Queensland Highlanders

Grade 3

- 1st St Andrews
- 2nd Qld Irish Association
- 3rd Qld Police Juvenile

Grade 4

- 1st Qld Highlanders No 2
- 2nd Ipswich Thistle
- 3rd Brisbane Boys College

Juvenile

- 1st Qld Police Juvenile
- 2nd Brisbane Boys College

Gairloch Piping Festival – 27-29 September

Piobaireachd

(tunes composed by Iain Dall MacKay)

- 1st Roddy MacLeod
- 2nd Niall Matheson
- 3rd Brendon Eade
- 4th Duncan Watson

March, Strathspey & Reel

- 1st Roddy MacLeod
- 2nd Gordon Walker
- 3rd Niall Matheson
- 4th Brendon Eade

Judges for both events: John D. Burgess, John MacDougall, Hugh MacCallum.

National Mod Piping Competitions— Largs— 12 October 12

Piobaireachd

- 1st Angus McColl, *The Red Speckled Bull*
- 2nd Rab Wallace, *The Earl of Seaforth's Salute*
- 3rd Willie McCallum, *The Big Spree*
- 4th Roddy MacLeod, *Lament for Donald*

Duaghal MacKay

Judges: A.J. Wilson, A. Wright

March, Strathspey & Reel

- 1st Roddy MacLeod, *Lord Alexander Kennedy, Arniston Castle, Lt. Col. DJS Murray*
- 2nd Willie McCallum, *Major Manson of Clachantrushal, Lady MacKenzie of Gairloch, John MacKechnie's Big Reel*
- 3rd Gordon Walker, *The Argyllshire Gathering, Piper's Bonnet, John Morrison, Assynt House*
- 4th Angus McColl, *The Argyllshire Gathering, Maggie Cameron, The Rejected Suitor*

Judges: I. McLellan, R. Lawrie

Annual Nicol-Brown Amateur Invitational Piping Competition Hartford,

Connecticut - 12 October

Judge: Jack Taylor of Aboyne, Scotland

Piobaireachd

- 1st Jeremy Freeman, Houston, *The Old Men of the Shells*
- 2nd Lyric Todkill, Oak Ridge, Tennessee
- 3rd Lionel Tupman
- 4th Matt Pantaleoni, St. Louis
- 5th Iain McKee, Overland Park, Kansas

6th Doug MacRae, London, Ontario

March, Strathspey & Reel

1st Lionel Tupman

2nd Jeremy Freeman

3rd Hector Macquarrie, Halifax

4th Matt Pantaleoni

5th Justin Gonzalez, Rock Hill, South Carolina

6th Iain McKee

6/8 Marches

1st Lionel Tupman

2nd Hector Macquarrie

3rd Jeremy Freeman

4th Andrew Walker, Emmaus, Pennsylvania

5th Liz Dunsire, Washington

6th Iain McKee

Other Competitors: Adam Holdaway, Somerville, Massachusetts; Nathan Lamond, Sackville, Nova Scotia; and Andrew Lee, Surrey, British Columbia.

HOW TO GET TO THE BALMORAL BOWLS CLUB

For those who like to work out their own directions the UBD Reference is
Map 160, Reference Q12.

From the Gateway Arterial—turn north at the Lytton Road intersection (just south of the bridge), travel along Route 24 and the Route 23 (Wynnum Road) till you see the Colmslie RSL on your left. Turn in as if going to the RSL but go right through their carpark and continue along Jean Howie Drive for about 350 metres. Turn left into the Bowls Club car park.

From the City—go across the Story Bridge, left into Shafston Avenue, then into Lytton Road and Wynnum Road (Route 23). Go along Wynnum Road until you see the Colmslie RSL on your right. Turn in as if going to the RSL but go right through their carpark and continue along Jean Howie Drive for about 350 metres. Turn left into the Bowls Club car park.

From the west (old Cleveland Road)—Turn into Bennetts Road. Continue along Bennetts Road, across the railway line and a park will appear on your right. Jean Howie Drive goes through the park (the entrance to the drive is near the boundary of the Bulimba Cemetery). Go about 350 metres along the Drive and turn right into the Bowls Club car park.

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