



Queensland Highland Pipers' Society

www.qhps.org

Newsletter - May 2012

May Meeting

on Monday 28th at 7.30pm

at Balmoral Bowls Club

Jean Howie Drive, Morningside

featuring the

Annual Patron's Trophy Contest

MSR for senior players (Open & Intermediate)

Members and non members welcome to compete or to listen

The test piece will be a March, Strathspey and Reel each of at least 4 parts.
Competitors are to submit two sets of tunes of which the judge will choose one

Prizes: 1st: Patron's Trophy and \$100, 2nd \$50, 3rd \$30

Entires by email to qhps@qhps.org, phone to 07 3397 4512 or before 7.30
on the night

This month sees our annual Patron's Trophy contest so please encourage as many as possible to compete and to attend. Last month was a fairly quiet meeting due to the proximity of Anzac Day so we need to regain our momentum!

The first band contest of the Queensland season was held on 12 May and the solo and band championships are coming up on 9 June at Ipswich. There is also the possibility of another band contest in July, final details yet to be confirmed.

In our editorial last month we forgot to congratulate the Queensland Highlanders for their 2nd in the Australian Championships so we do so now and apologise for missing them out last time. They were a casualty of your editor trying to do two things at once!

Alex McConnell
Secretary

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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 particular officer or member of the Society.

2012 SOCIETY CALENDAR

MONTHLY MEETINGS

FEBRUARY 27 TH	2/4 MARCH THEME NIGHT - PLAY YOUR FAVOURITE 2/4S AND FIND OUT ABOUT THE HISTORY, STRUCTURE AND PLAYING OF THIS MUSIC,
MARCH 26 TH	HORNPIPE AND JIG (SENIOR) /AIR AND JIG (JUNIOR) CONTEST
APRIL 23 RD	PIPERS' NIGHT
MAY 28 TH	PATRON'S TROPHY CONTEST (MSR FOR SENIOR PLAYERS)
JUNE 25 TH	STRATHSPEY & REEL THEME NIGHT (tunes to be advised)
JULY 23 RD	JIMMY DURHAM MEMORIAL CONTEST (2/4 MARCH FOR JUNIOR PLAYERS)
AUGUST 27 TH	MINI RECITAL NIGHT
SEPTEMBER 24 TH	ANNUAL MEETING & AIR AND JIG CONTEST
OCTOBER	A major solo contest in lieu of the monthly meeting (watch for details)
NOVEMBER 26 TH	JACK McCANDLISH TROPHY (6/8 MARCHES)

◆ After each competition, the floor is open for all.

◆ The aim is to start meetings at 7.30pm (7.15pm for a 7.30pm start) to allow an early finish/more piping/more social time at the end of the meeting. Junior competitions are to start promptly and finish by 8.30pm.

During 2012 we will be awarding competition points for each contest - 4 for first place, 3 for second, 2 for 3rd and 1 for just competing. We are going to approach sponsors to donate substantial prizes for the Junior and Senior Piper of the Year, so watch for details - but more importantly - turn up and compete!

PIOBAIREACHD GROUP

5 th February	6 th May	5 th August	4 th November (Recital)
4 th March	3 rd June	9 th September	2 nd December
1 st April	1 st July	7 th October	

APRIL MEETING

Our April meeting was only two days before Anzac Day, so we had changed it from a Pair of Pipers competition to a Pipers' Night, in anticipation of a smaller than usual attendance. That certainly occurred, with only 17 people turning out.

In the absence of Donald Galloway (who was on holidays), Maurie DeHayr took charge of the meeting. After announcing the apologies, he gave a short talk on Donald MacPherson, who had just passed away in Scotland at the age of 89. Donald was one of the greatest pipers of the 20th century and one of the pioneers in setting up bagpipes to stay in tune through an extended period of playing.

Maurie then introduced Lachlan McPhee, one of our younger players. He had a nice sounding pipe and showed good finger technique as he played a selection

including *Duncan MacColl, John MacColl's March to Kilbowie Cottage, The Conundrum, Captain C R Lumsden, Duncan McGillivray Chief Steward, John MacDonald of Glencoe, Mrs John MacColl, Maggie Cameron, The Caledonian Society of London, Alick C. MacGregor* and *Mrs MacPherson of Inveran*. Quite a heavyweight selection! From my notes I'm not quite sure whether he played all those tunes at this stage, as he played some more tunes later and I don't have any other tune names.

Bruce McLeod then gave us a few slow airs - *Loch Rannoch, O 'Gin I Were a Baron's Heir* and *Skye Boat Song*.

Maurie was next to play and his tunes included *Bonnie Galloway, The Auld Hoose, The Mist Covered Mountains, The Siege of Delhi* and *The Haughs of*

Cromdale, the Strathspeys and Reels *Dalnahassai*, *Aspen Bank*, *Molly Connell*, *Louden's Bonnie Woods and Braes*, *The Devil in the Kitchen* and *Kate Dalrymple* and finishing up with *The Old Rustic Bridge* and *The Rowan Tree*.

Your scribe then had just a few tunes, using Maurie's pipes. This was my first "public" performance since becoming ill on 28 May 2010, so I kept it short! The tunes included *Loch Rannoch*, *Scotland the brave*, *Marie's Wedding* and the 6/8's *MacNeills of Ugdale* and *Rab's Wedding* (only two parts of the latter).

Lachlan McPhee played again, as noted above and then Bruce gave us a few more tunes including *Lochanside*,

The Green Hills of Tyrol and *When the Battle's O'er*.

The final player for the night was once again Maurie and his selection included *Farewell to the Creeks*, *Leaving Port Askaig*, *Highland Laddie*. *The Barren Rocks of Aden*, *79th's Farewell to Gibraltar*, *The Highland Wedding*, *Lady Louden*, *The Grey Bob*, *Henderson's March (The Cameron's Quickstep)*, finishing up with the Piobaireachd *The Old Woman's Lullaby*.

So in the event, we were hardly deprived of an interesting selection of piping, despite the small attendance.

The night was then concluded with the drawing of the raffle and, of course, supper.

Piobaireachd Group

The April meeting of the Piobaireachd group was held as programmed though the R.U. Brown competition in Adelaide and Band practices for the Australian Championships meant there would be several absentees, in fact there were only two pipers present.

However the meeting went ahead and after welcoming all especially Alex and Desley McConnell, Maurie DeHayr spoke of the death of Donald MacPherson and of his achievements, not only as a competitor but also his ability to produce such quality sound and technique in both Ceol mor and light music; which he followed with a 1989 recording of Donald playing *The Lament for Mary MacLeod*.

Lachlan McPhee then played *Too Long in this Condition* after which Andrew Galloway read the history from Roy Gunn's book.

We then listened to another tune from the Donald MacPherson recording, it being *The Lament for the Children*

After a morning tea break (a little longer than usual) Lachlan played *The Glen is Mine* to be followed by Maurie De Hayr who played *The Old Woman's Lullaby* and followed it with the ground of *The Lament for the Old Sword*.

The time then being just on 1pm we concluded the meeting looking forward to our next gathering on Sunday 3rd June.

"Raising the Standard"

The Scottish & Celtic Magazine of Queensland

Be fully informed and up-to-date on what is happening in the Scottish and Celtic Community, here and overseas. Progressive Calendars of Events for Pipe Bands; Highland Dancing; Scottish Country Dancing; Irish Dancing and Clans Congress are featured in each edition of "Raising the Standard"

Annual Subscription - \$28 (including postage)

Write to: ALBA Publications, PO Box 8024, Wynnum North, Qld 4178

07 3396 9025

What's on.....

M	
A	
Y	28 Society Meeting
J	3 Society Piobaireachd Group
U	9 Ipswich Thistle Band and Solo Contest - 0414 776 361, www.ipswichthistle.com
N	25 Society Meeting
	30 British Pipe Band Championships, Annan
	1 Society Piobaireachd Group
	7 Tartan Day, King George Square 9am to 4pm. Contact 07 3859 8195 or www.aussie-scots.org.au
J	7 Aberdeen (NSW) Highland Games - Upper Hunter Valley. Contact charles_cooke@esat.net.au
U	
L	22 Pipe Band Contest, Brisbane Boys College - details being finalised - watch for more information
	23 Society Meeting
	28 European Pipe Band Championships, Belfast
	11 Worlds Pipe Band Championships, Glasgow
A	17-19 Scots in the Bush, Boondoomba Homestead (near Mundubbera) Bands, Dancers, Stalls, etc. Contact 07 4168 1068 or buddythomson@bigpond.com
U	
G	25 Cowal Pipe Band Championships, Dunoon, Scotland

VISIT THE COMING EVENTS PAGE AT www.pipebandsqld.org FOR MORE DETAILS ON THE ABOVE, INCLUDING WEB LINKS AND EMAIL ADDRESSES

For more details about above events where a contact isn't mentioned, ring or email the Secretary (07 3397 4512 or qhps@qhps.org) and we'll see what we can dig up for you. If we don't know about your event (social, musical, or whatever) we can't publicise it. So tell us and get free publicity

OTHER PIPING SOCIETIES

The Smallpipers Group - Contact Malcolm McLaren for meeting details - mrmclaren@bigpond.com

The NSW Pipers' Society usually meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month. Contact Ron Clement – 02 9948 1914.

Victorian Pipers Association: <http://www.vicpipers.org/>

RU Brown Piobaireachd Society of South Australia: www.rubrown.org.au

RADIO PROGRAMS

College of Piping Radio: You can tune in on the Internet on www.college-of-piping.co.uk/html/radio.htm

4EB - FM 98.1 – Thursday afternoons 2.15—4.30 pm

Radio 997 FM (Redcliffe) – Sundays 12noon to 3pm

Burnett River Radio (91.5 FM) - Thursdays 7pm to 9pm

Donald MacPherson, 1922-2012

Donald died on 21 April. He was taught by his father, Iain MacPherson, who was a pupil of MacDougall Gillies. He had a distinguished solo career and also played in a pipe band, the Glasgow Shepherds, under Archie MacPhedran.

In 1948 at the Argyllshire Gathering he won the two Piobaireachd events in one day, a very rare feat; and he repeated it in 1954 at the Northern Meeting.

His Piobaireachd competition successes include:

- 9 Clasps for piobaireachd at the Northern Meeting
- 15 Senior piobaireachd titles at the Argyllshire Gathering
- 3 wins of the Bratach Gorm in London
- 5 firsts for piobaireachd at Cowal
- 3 firsts for piobaireachd at Glenfinnan.

In light music, he won all the events at both Oban and Inverness, the Masters' march, strathspey and reel twice at Oban and four times at Inverness, the Brymay Trophy for most points at Cowal four times, the trophy for most points at Uist and Barra contest three times, and the most points at Braemar on the only occasion on which he played there.

He retired from competition at the age of 68. Among his foremost pupils are: the Gold Medallist and 2011 winner of the Senior Piobaireachd at the Argyllshire Gathering, Iain Speirs; Gold Medallist Stuart Shedden; and James and Douglas Murray.

Writing in the May 2012 edition of the Piping Times, editor Robert Wallace says:

"The statistics show that he was, without question, a staggeringly successful competitor with a record of wins at the two most important gatherings, Oban and Inverness, which is unlikely ever to be beaten. But his list of achievement does not tell the whole story. From humble Clydeside beginnings and taught solely by his father a devotee of MacDougall Gillies, he became master of the bagpipe universe. He made a game changing contribution to the world of solo piping. In his day Donald was supreme in both ceol beag and ceol mor. Possessor of a magical technique, an even more magical instrument and a gift of music most can only dream of, he carried all before him breaking records wherever he played. Those of us fortunate enough to have heard him at his best in recital and competition will be in no doubt as to the glorious harmonics of his bagpipe. Recordings really do not do it justice. There is no sense of the instrument's room filling quality, its depth of timbre, its pure sonority. It provided the ideal medium on which Donald's exemplary technique could flourish and his music enthrall. Here was the man's soul manifest. He spoke once of playing at the games at Glenfinnan. The tune was Lament for the Children and he felt that day the perfection of the music chimed so well with the perfection in the landscape that he found it difficult not to weep. His listeners struggled likewise and we will not burden you with yet another prize statistic. General Richardson once said that he would travel 10 miles to hear a Piobaireachd; 100 to hear Donald MacPherson. We know what he meant. Who among those that heard him will forget his Big Spree, his Lady MacDonald's Lament at the Argyllshire or the march, strathspey and reel he played before a packed Caledonian Hotel ballroom at the Northern Meeting 1977, first on with all the greats lining up to follow and first prize once more.

Donald bought his pipes from a work colleague in the early 1950s for 15 pounds. We have all read of stories of old master paintings discovered in attics realising millions at auction. Well, Donald's good fortune must rank alongside the best of them. Mind you he was such a gifted musician that we are sure he would have been just as successful had he been playing some other set. The man could get a tone out of a frying pan. Blessed with an immaculate ear, he tuned all three drones together, even as a boy. This was the practice he used on the boards. We never saw him touch off a tenor. A quarter turn here, a half turn there and off he would go into his march, strathspey and reel twice through or his piobaireachd, sure in the knowledge that nothing was going to alter until he finished. And this in the days before synthetic reeds, fancy water traps and all the modern paraphernalia that makes the present day piper's job so much easier. We are told that in the post war period Donald MacPherson was the first piper ever to have an instrument that consistently stayed in tune from beginning to end of the performance. As such his contribution to world piping cannot be underestimated. This was the game changer. He set a benchmark that others had to reach if they were to be successful. The sweetly set modern instrument - we hardly ever hear a bad one - can be traced back to this new standard of tonal perfection set by one man, the greatest competitive piper in the history of the art, Donald MacPherson."

CONTEST RESULTS

Scottish Pipers Association Competition - Glasgow – 14 April

Overall

Darach Urquhart

Piobaireachd

1st Darach Urquhart
2nd Gordon McCready
3rd Gary Carruthers
4th Colin Campbell
Judges: Dugald MacNeill, Willie Morrison

March

1st David Wilton
2nd Darach Urquhart
3rd Steven Leask
4th William Geddes
Judges: Iain MacLellan, John Wilson

Strathspey & Reel

1st Darach Urquhart
2nd David Wilton
3rd William Geddes
4th Steven Leask
Judges: Iain MacLellan, John Wilson

Former Winners MSR

1st David Wilton
2nd Jonathan Greenlees
3rd Gordon McCready
Judges: Iain MacLellan, John Wilson

RU Brown Piobaireachd Society Competition - Scotch College, Adelaide - 5 May

Clasp

1st Martin Frewen
2nd Marion Horsburgh
3rd Brett Tidswell

Gold Medal

1st Callum Beaumont
2nd Jason Craig
3rd Tom Glover
4th Cameron Ely
5th Tam McGirr

Silver Medal

1st Stephen Ross
2nd Thomas Fox
3rd Kaz Takehara
4th Blair Hodson
5th Michaela Doecke

Bronze Medal

1st Jeremiah Doecke
2nd Anna Doecke
3rd Gabrielle Doecke
4th Michaela Doecke
5th Amelia Chandra

Novice Piobaireachd

1st Amelia Chandra
2nd Gabrielle Doecke
3rd Anna Doecke
4th Jeremiah Doecke

A Grade MSR

1st Callum Beaumont
2nd Martin Frewen
3rd Andrew Fuller
4th Craig Sked
5th Marion Horsburgh

A Grade H/J

1st Craig Sked
2nd Martin Frewen
3rd Callum Beaumont
4th Jason Craig
5th Andrew Fuller

B Grade H/J

1st Simon Gibson
2nd Shannon Ritchie
3rd Michaela Doecke
4th Blair Hodson
5th Cameron Ely

B Grade MSR

1st Blair Hodson
2nd Simon Gibson
3rd Michaela Doecke
4th Cameron Ely
5th Craig Mckenzie

C Grade

1st Gabrielle Doecke
2nd Shannon Ritchie
3rd Michaela Doecke
4th Jeremiah Doecke
5th Anna Doecke

D Grade

1st Gabrielle Doecke
2nd Amelia Chandra
3rd Anna Doecke
4th Andrew Thomson
5th Mel Inglis

Highland & Islands Festival - Oban, 5 May**Piobaireachd**

- 1st Gordon McCready, *Earl of Seaforth's Salute*
 2nd 2 Fiona Manson, *Lament for Captain Donald MacKenzie*
 3rd 3 Finlay Johnston, *My Dearest on Earth Give Me Your Kiss*
 4th Jenny Hazzard
 5th Euan MacCrimmon

MSR

- 1st Gordon Bruce
 2nd Gordon McCready
 3rd Alisdair Henderson
 4th Finlay Johnstone
 5th Jenny Hazzard
 Judges: Hugh MacCallum and Iain MacFadyen

B Piobaireachd

- 1st Neil Walker – *Gathering of the McNabs*
 2nd Sarah Muir
 3rd Peter Hunt
 4th Colin Campbell
 5th Craig Sutherland
 Judges: John Wilson & Willie Morrison

C Piobaireachd

- 1st Connor Sinclair
 2nd Steven Gray
 3rd James Rosie
 Judges: Colin MacLellan & Dr Jack Taylor

B&C Combined MSR

- 1st Sarah Muir
 2nd Craig Sutherland
 3rd Angus J. MacColl
 4th Fiona Manson
 Judges: Barry Donaldson & Ronnie MacShannon

Dunbar Highland Games – 12 May**Grade 1**

- 1st Denny & Dunipace Gleneagles
 2nd Torphican & Bathgate
 Drumming: Denny & Dunipace Gleneagles

Grade 2

- 1st Denny & Dunipace Gleneagles
 2nd George Watsons College
 3rd Coalburn IOR
 4th Boghall and Bathgate Caledonia Juvenile
 Drumming: Denny & Dunipace Gleneagles

Grade 3

- 1st City of Edinburgh
 2nd Scottish Borders
 3rd Coalburn IOR
 4th Peter Vardy Glenrothes & District

Drumming: Coalburn IOR

Juvenile

- 1st Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
 2nd George Watson's College
 3rd George Heriot's School
 4th Erskine Stewart's Melville Schools
 Drumming: Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia

Gourock Highland Games, 13 May**Grade 2**

- 1st Glasgow Skye Association
 2nd Mackenzie Caledonian
 3rd Williamwood
 Judges Peter Hunt, John Wilson (piping); R. Dungeon (drumming); J. MacInnes (ensemble)

Grade 3

- 1st Stamperland
 2nd First Scottish Milngavie
 3rd Johnstone
 Judges: Gordon Lawrie, John Nevans (piping); Joe Noble (drumming); Malcolm MacKenzie (ensemble)

Juvenile

- 1st Dollar Academy
 2nd Oban High School
 3rd North Lanarkshire Schools
 Judges Peter Hunt, John Wilson (piping); R. Dungeon (drumming); J. MacInnes (ensemble)

Sunshine Coast Band Contest - Yandina - 12 May 2012**Grade 4 Mini Bands**

- 1st BBC Old Collegians
 2nd Maclean & District
 3rd Sunshine Coast Caledonian
 FULL BANDS

Grade 4

- 1st BBC Old Collegians
 2nd Sunshine Coast Caledonian
 3rd Maclean & District
 Pipe Corps Maclean & District
 Drum Corps Sunshine Coast Caledonian

Grade 3

- 1st Wynnum RSL
 2nd Maclean & District
 Pipe Corps Wynnum RSL
 Drum Corps Wynnum RSL

Grade 2

- 1st St Andrews
 Pipe Corps St Andrews
 Drum Corps St Andrews