

www.pipebandsqld.org/qhps Queensland Highland Pipers' Society N E W S L E E T T

E November

November Meeting Monday 28th Balmoral Bowls Club, Jean Howie Drive, Morningside

at **7.45 pm**

Featuring the final of our Knockout Contest and our Christmas Party

From the Editor:

As this is the last newsletter of the year, may we take the opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The first meeting of the new year will be on Monday 27 February and the next newsletter will issue shortly before that.

The final of our knockout contest and traditional Christmas Party will be the main features at the November meeting, but there will still be plenty of opportunity to have a tune, so bring along your pipes and entertain the assembled crowd.

We can look back with some satisfaction on another successful year, with many of the normal features topped off with the successful launching of the new Piobaireachd group. I'm sure next year will see a continuation and further expansion of the activities of the Society.

Alex McConnell

Print Post Approved PP 445886/0003 Publisher: Q.H.P.S PO Box 1252 COORPAROO DC 4151 Editor: A J McConnell Phone: 07 3397 4512 qhps@optushome.com.au Price 60 Cents

R 2005

Page 2	November 2005	Queensland Highland Pipers' Society Newsletter
--------	---------------	--

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.

OCTOBER 2005 MEETING

About fifty members and others were present for our joint meeting with the Celtic Celebration Committee. President Reg O'Malley introduced the evening and mentioned the final of the Knockout Contest next month along with a last qualifying match. He then handed over to Tom McGirr from the Celtic Celebration Committee to compere for the rest of the evening.

Tom explained some details about the contest and the final to be held next May in The Irish Club before introducing the judge for the evening, Graeme Bilsland, Pipe Major of the New Zealand Police Pipe Band. He then introduced the first competitor, Matthew Supranowicz. The first element to be played was a March, Strathspey and Reel. The other competitors, in order, were Bruce Grice, Hazel Osborne, Ken Wallace, David Greenhalgh, Darin Cook, Cory Dale and Jordan Whicker.

After all competitors had played the first element, supper was served while the pipers readied themselves to come back with a Hornpipe and Jig.

Before the results were announced, we were told that the Celtic Celebration Committee had decided this year to nominate five rather than three entrants from Queensland into the Australasian final.

Graeme had a few words. He thanked the Celtic Celebration Committee and commented favourably on the standard of the playing

The placegetters were:

- 1st Cory Dale
- 2nd Darin Cook
- 3rd Matthew Supranowicz
- 4th David Greenhalgh
- 5th Hazel Osborne

Knockout Contest

This month we have the final elimination contest and then the final between three competitors.

The prizes in the final will be: Winner \$200, losing finalists \$100 each.

Wanted

Pipers and drummers

to join the **City of Brisbane** Pipe Band, currently a band that practises Tuesday nights at Chermside, performs regularly with the City Council Parks Entertainment Program, and is seeking to develop as an entertaining and musically adventurous band.

Please contact Charles Elliott, Pipe Major, at 0419 852 565.

generations

A wonderful CD collection of traditional Gaelic songs by Hugh MacLean (vocals) and Ashley MacLean (guitar)

\$20.00 each + postage and handling

To order, phone Ashley on 0412 366 015 or visit www.little-dreamer.net

What's On

Most of this information is also on the APBA Qld website. Go to <u>www.pipebandsqld.org</u> and click on "Coming Events". There are links to web pages for events, email contacts, etc

	26	Ormiston House Thanksgiving Day - Contact 07 3286 1425, 07 3821 2732		
N O V	26	Ipswich Thistle Pipe Band St Andrew's Ceilidh - at 7pm \$15 for non-members. Contact 0414776361		
v	28	Society Meeting – Final of Knockout Contest and Christmas Party		
D	3	B Daylesford Highland Gathering, Victoria. Contact 03 5447 0024		
E C	4	4 Society Piobaireachd Group – Rochedale High School – 10am to 1pm		
J A N	1	Fred Logan New Years' Day Highland Gathering – Petrie Park, Nambour. See further information later in this newsletter		
	21	1 Burns Supper and Dance – Brisbane Clans Pipes & Drums – Wellers Hill Bowls Club. Contact 3369 2232 or 3849 8271		
F E B	12	Berwick Highland Gathering, Victoria		
	19	Ballarat Royal South Street Society Competition, Victoria		
	27	First Society Meeting for 2006		
MAR	5	Ormiston House Highland Celtic Day. Contact 3824 1285		
	5	New Zealand Pipe Band Championships: - Hamilton – Details here http://www.nzpipebands.org.nz/contests.htm		
	10-12	Australian Pipe Band Championships Ringwood, Victoria. Details here: <u>http://www.pipebandsqld.org/event.htm#Champ2006</u>		
IN I	19	Victorian Pipe Band Championships – Geelong Highland Gathering		
		Society Meeting		
	27			
		Tartan Day Toowoomba		
		Maclean Highland Gathering - (Good Friday and Easter Saturday)		
A		Society Meeting		
P R	28-30	South West Coast Piper Drummer Workshops, Warrnambool, Victorial		
	29,30	Ipswich International Tattoo – Ipswich Civic Hall. Saturday 2pm & 7pm, Sunday 2pm. Adults \$39, Concession \$35, Under 16 \$25. Bookings Ipswich Civic Hall 07 3810 6100. Further information 0414 776 361		
	5-7	International Police Tattoo - Adelaide Entertainment Centre		
	13,14	RU Brown Piobaireachd Society of SA solo competitions – Adelaide, SA		
M A	14	Ormiston House Heritage Day and Mothers Day. Contact 3824 1285		
Ŷ	20	Australasian Piping Final for Festival Interceltique de Lorient. Qld Irish Club		
	20	Pine Rivers Multicultural Festival		
	22	Society Meeting		
J U N		Ipswich International Tattoo on Tour – Empire Theatre Toowoomba 2pm & 7pm Adults \$39, Concession \$35, Under 16 \$25. Bookings Empire Theatre 1300 655 299. Further information 0414 776 361		

The Smallpipers Group meets on the first Tuesday of each month.. Contact Malcolm McLaren - mrmclaren@bigpond.com

Page 4	November 2005	Queensland Highland Pipers' Society Newsletter

The NSW Pipers' Society meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6 Holterman Street, Crows Nest. Contact Ron Clement – 02 9948 1914.

The NSW Solo Pipers Club meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at the Blacktown Pipe Band Hall, Blacktown Showground, Richmond Road, Blacktown. Contact 0412 602 983 or at <u>www.blacktownpipeband.com</u>. Each meeting is a competition based on age rather than grade

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

Scottish Radio	4EB - FM 98.1 – Thursday afternoons 2.15—4.30 pm
Programs	2RDJ - FM 88.1 - Tuesday morning 9 am - 10 am

For more details about any of the above events where a contact is not mentioned, ring or email the Society Secretary (07 3397 4512 or qhps@optushome.com.au) and we will see what we can dig up for you.

If we don't know about your event (social, musical, fundraising or whatever) we can't publicise it in the Newsletter. So **tell us** and get **free publicity**.

Piobaireachd Meeting

Our November meeting attracted the usual fifteen or so devotees of the "Big Music".

Malcolm McRae introduced the morning and the first piper, Maurie DeHayr, whose tune was *The Battle of the Bridge of Perth*. Unfortunately he had a break in the crunluath singling but resumed and continued on. After finishing, he apologised for some sticking fingers. Malcolm commented that this is a very old tune.

The next piper was Max Yeo playing *The Glen is Mine* - one of our previous studies. His pipe was good at first but drifted a little. This was a good steady performance.

Matthew Supranowicz was the next Piper. His tune was *Lady Doyle's Salute* - he said he was going with a safe one as he has had Uni exams! His pipe seemed a little quieter than usual.

The set tune for the day was *The Company's Lament*. Malcolm distributed copies for all to follow and we engaged in the usual sing along. He explained that this tune appears in Joseph MacDonald's 1760 Compleat Theory of the Scots Highland Bagpipe, which is the first record of bagpipe music on the stave. Joseph was a talented musician (violin etc) and wrote this manuscript on the way to India as a young man. He died a couple of years later of a fever and an 1803 version published by his brother was inaccurate. Roderick Cannon's 1994 edition was compiled with reference to the rediscovered original manuscript. Malcolm read an excerpt from this edition about the posture of the piper. Malcolm then played the tune on the bagpipe.

After a break for morning tea, we heard Fraser Bolton play *The Wee Spree*. Bernie Yeo read the story from Roy Gunn's book. The name belies the sound of the tune – it has been said to be the saddest lament

Sandy Dalziel, making his first visit to our group, was next to play and his tune was *The McFarlane's Gathering*. Bernie again read the story.

lain Bruce played *The Bicker* and Bernie carried on reading. Malcolm commented on the very melodious ground and doubling of this tune.

The next meeting was announced as being on 4 December and the next will be in early February – exact dates to be advised.

Finally Malcolm played *The Battle of Castle Strome* (after Bernie read the story).

Contributions. We always welcome contributions to the newsletter – post or email your article to the Secretary or ring to discuss what you want to put in and we will be glad to help.

Pipers Needed We often get calls for solo pipers for weddings funerals, parties, etc. If you would like to be on the list we refer these people to, please give us your name, contact details (preferably phone or mobile), the times you are available and, if you wish, the fee you usually charge. We will put you directly in touch with the person who wants to hire the piper and you work out final details with them. People available for New Years Eve or Anzac Day are particularly needed.

LEGENDARY AND HISTORICAL NOTES ON CEOL MOR 'INTRODUCE YOUR TUNE"

A handy, small reference book giving the stories on most of the tunes listed and indexed similar to the Piobaireachd Society Collection. A must for every serious player of the great music to carry in the pipe case and a superb teaching aid.

Compiled by Roy Gunn for Topgunn Productions. \$20 plus airmail postage and handling \$6. Contact Roy Gunn, 31 Mariner Quays, 3 Lee Road, Runaway Bay, Qld, 4216. Phone 07 5529 2852

Subscribe NOW! To

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 - \$26 (including postage)

ALBA Publications PO Box 8024, Wynnum North, Qld 4178 07 3396 9025

CONTEST RESULTS

<u>Gaelic Mod piping competitions - Stornoway,</u> <u>– 16 October</u>

Write to:

or Phone

Piobaireachd

- 1st Stuart Liddell
- 2nd John Angus Smith
- 3rd Simon McKerrell
- 4th Neil Smith

- 1st Simon McKerrell
- 2nd Stuart Liddell
- 3rd John Angus Smith
- 4th Robert Watt

Overall

Stuart Liddell

Judges: Iain MacFadyen, John MacDougall and Ronnie Lawrie.

<u>Glenfiddich Solo Piping Championships -</u> <u>Blair Atholl – 29 October</u>

- Willie McCallum of Bearsden, Scotland, made it a record eight overall titles by winning both events at the at the Duke of Atholl's house.

Piobaireachd

- 1st Willie McCallum, *Lament for Donald Ban MacCrimmon*
- 2nd Greg Wilson, Donald Gruamach's March
- 3rd Bruce Gandy, MacCrimmon's Sweetheart
- 4th Angus MacColl, *Lament for Patrick Og MacCrimmon*
- 5th Murray Henderson, The Old Men of the Shells
- Judges: Iain MacFadyen, Gavin Stoddart, Andrew Wright

MSR

- 1st Willie McCallum, Captain Campbell of Drumavoisk, Dora MacLeod, Lt. Col. DJS Murray
- 2nd Angus MacColl, John MacFadyen of Melfort, Cabar Feidh, Mrs. MacPherson of Inveran
- ^{3rd} Murray Henderson, Crags of Stirling, Shepherd's Crook, John Morrison, Assynt House
- 4th P/M Gordon Walker, Argyllshire Gathering, Piper's Bonnet, The Sheepwife
- 5th Iain Speirs, *Donald MacLellan of Rothesay, Arniston Castle, The Smith of Chilliehassie*

Overall

Willie McCallum

- Judges: James Banks, Angus J. MacLellan, Iain Morrison
- Annie Grant of Strachur, Scotland, was awarded the Balvenie Medal for her lifetime of service to piping.

<u>Combined Scottish Societies of NSW Band</u> <u>Contest - 30 October</u>

Juvenile

- 1st City of Blacktown Juv
- 2nd Scots College A
- 3rd Scots College B

Grade 4

- 1st Bellinger River
- 2nd City of Liverpool
- 3rd Manly Warringah
- Drumming City of Liverpool

Grade 3

- 1st Qld Irish Association
- 2nd United Mineworkers
- 3rd City of Blacktown No 2

Drumming - United Mineworkers

Grade 2

- 1st Canberra Burns Club No 1
- 2nd United Mineworkers
- 3rd City of Blacktown No 2
- Drumming Canberra Burns Club No 1

Grade 1

1st City of Blacktown No 1

<u>NSW State Solo Championships - 5</u> <u>NOVEMBER</u>

Sub-Intermediate 2/4 March

- 1st Vaughn Parker
- 2nd Lincoln Hilton
- 3rd Phil Ragno

Sub-Intermediate S&R

- 1st Vaughn Parker
- 2nd Lincoln Hilton
- 3rd Jamie Forsyth

Sub-Intermediate Jig

- 1st Vaughn Parker
- 2nd Stephen Weir
- 3rd Lincoln Hilton

Champion Sub-Intermediate Piper Vaughn Parker

Piobaireachd Urlar

- 1st Robert Christie
- 2nd Alex Low
- 3rd Joe Chalker

Intermediate 2/4 March

- 1st Vaughn Parker
- 2nd Sean Hodgman/Phil Ragno

Intermediate S&R

- 1st Vaughn Parker
- 2nd Charles Barnard
- 3rd Sean Hodgman

Intermediate H&J

- 1st Vaughn Parker
- 2nd Sean Hodgman
- 3rd Jude Johnstone

Champion Intermediate Piper Vaughn PARKER

Restricted Piobaireachd

- 1st Vaughn Parker
- 2nd Lincoln HIlton
- 3rd Jude Johnstone

Open 2/4 March

1st David Welsh

November 2005

- 2nd lair Porter
- 3rd Barry Gray

Open S&R

- 1st David Welsh
- 2nd Blair Porter
- 3rd Alan Armitage

Open H&J

- 1st Blair Porter
- 2nd Maree Poole
- 3rd Bruce Spence

Open Piobaireachd

1st Bruce Spence 2nd Rod Parker 3rd Frances Crown

Champion Open Piper

Bruce Spence

Veterans' March

- 1st Bruce Spence
- 2nd Rod Parker

<u>Scottish Piping Society of London's annual</u> competitions - Glaziers' Hall – 5 November

Bratach Gorm

- 1st Gordon Walker, Lament for the Children
- 2nd Stuart Shedden
- 3rd Greg Wilson
- 4th Iain Speirs
- 5th Alasdair Gillies
- Judges: Jack Taylor, Iain MacFadyen, John Wilson
- This contest is open to winners of a Highland Society of London Gold Medal, the Open Piobaireachd at London, or the Dunvegan Medal. It qualifies the winner for the next year's Glenfiddich Championships.

Gillies Cup (Piobaireachd for Bratach and A-Grade players)

- 1st Robert Wallace, *The King's Taxes*
- 2nd Stuart Shedden
- 3rd Colin MacLellan
- 4th Greg Wilson

Judges: Andrew Wright, Gavin Stoddart

A-Grade Piobaireachd (R.G. Lawrie Snuff Mull)

- 1st Alastair Dunn
- 2nd Callum Beaumont
- 3rd Andrew Rogers

B- & C-Grade Piobaireachd (John Roe Plate)

- 1st Matt Pantaleoni, USA
- 2nd Craig Sked

3rd Gordon Bruce

Amateur Piobaireachd (Highland Club Challenge Cup)

- 1st Douglas Gardner
- 2nd Marco Gresnigt
- 3rd Jamie Forrester

A-Grade March (J.B. Robertson Trophy)

- 1st Roddy MacLeod
- 2nd Willie McCallum
- 3rd Simon Marshall
- 4th Donald MacPhee

Premier-Grade MSR (London Medallion)

- 1st Roddy MacLeod
- 2nd Willie McCallum
- 3rd Bruce Gandy
- 4t h Simon Marshall

A-Grade MSR (Strachan Cup)

- 1st Finlay Johnston, Glasgow
- 2nd Andrew Hall
- 3rd Callum Beaumont

B- & C-Grade MSR (Hodden Grey)

- 1st Ryan Canning
- 2nd Michael Fitzhenry
- 3rd Jean Morrison

Amateur MSR (Highland Society of London Targe)

- 1st Connor McCallion
- 2nd Jamie Forrester
- 3rd Robin Davies

Premier-Grade Hornpipe & Jig (Mary Flora Beaton Cup)

- 1st Gordon Walker
- 2nd Roddy MacLeod
- 3rd Willie McCallum

A-Grade Hornpipe & Jig (Donald Forbes Trophy)

- 1st Bernard Bouhadana, Denmark
- 2nd Andrew Hall
- 3rd James Stewart

B- & C-Grade Hornpipe & Jig (Hugh MacMillan Trophy)

- 1st Megan Harrington
- 2nd Ryan Canning
- 3rd Matt Pantaleoni, Gordon Bruce (tie)

Amateur Jig (Peter Richardson Trophy)

1st Connor McCallion 2nd Jamie Forrester 3rd Douglas Gardiner Page 8

November 2005

18 & Younger Air & Jig (Highland & Islands Trophy)

- 1st Connor McCallion
- 2nd Emmett Conway
- 3rd James Gore

- 4th Callum Armstrong
- 5th James Thomson
- 6th Fiona Teerlink
- 7th Alan Gibbs

ADDENDUM TO THESIS ON DRONE HARMONICS & SCALE OF HIGHLAND BAGPIPE CHANTER.

Ian Young from Home Hill is an avid student of the sound of the bagpipe and has supplied us with the text of an interesting lecture which we will publish in the new year. However, he has also written the following addendum which can stand on its own – Editor

Low G occupies a unique and distinctive position in the scale. It is doubtful whether it truly belongs to the A major scale, and yet to the piper's ear it is not rendered acceptable if sharpened to the major third below B. Low G is just a little flat to the B minor scale of B, D & high G of the chanter.

The playing of the two settings of "Bonnie Dundee" (2nd measure) by different visiting pipers in a band situation, some going to B and some to low G, certainly does not give the effect of harmony (playing seconds) and cannot be given as an excuse – except discord. The playing of D and low G also stretches the bounds of "good sound"!

However, the immediate change from low G to high A gives such a dramatic effect – as does low G to F – that it must be true. Consider the relevant parts of "The Lament for the Harp Tree", which speaks its own revelation.

Low G at 9/8 (M) major tone below low A stands at the simple ratio of 9/4 to high A. The 9/4 ratio consists of two perfect fifths, $3/2 \ge 9/4$. One perfect fifth to another must conform (though complex) to the best laws of music.

As an aside, the chanter F stands as a true major 7^{th} above low G (15/8), and is the only "true" note in the chanter scale of G, the rest being modal. I stand in awe at the great natural musicianship of the piobaireachd players of old who made such examples in the "Ceol Mor of antient lineage". The gap between chanter C and E is a minor 3^{rd} (6/5) and is used as standard in harmony playing and pipers' tunings.

The high G (ceol beag style) is sharper than an octave above low G but is a minor third (6/5) above E (again useful in harmony playing and scale testing). Algebraically speaking, if C ~ E and E ~ G', then C ~ G'. Not so in practice ("in vivo"). This chain of minor thirds in other music causes problems re "true harmony". $6/5 \times 6/5 = 36/25$, which is not a simple ratio. In practice, the high G has to be flattened to give the required harmony (compound as it may be) to chanter C – but of course not to E. On measuring the resultant note this G' stands as a 10/7 ratio to C, which is the fifth harmonic of the bass drone. This G' is flatter than the 10/9 G' of the ceol beag scale, but not as flat as the octave of low G.

The high G may be fingered in three ways. Two are discussed here.

- (i) Open as in ceol beag pinkie off, E, F & G' off -- OPEN
 - (ii) Closed as in ceol mor pinkie off, E & G' off, F on -- CLOSED

Examples are embari, hiriri, chedari.

There is a strong theory (USA) that G' in the closed form is the 7^{th} harmonic of the bass drone. In practice this is far far too flat and only for theoreticians.

I have repeatedly heard it said by "wishful thinkers" that G' is an octave above low G. Again, this makes lovely theory, but the note is too flat for the comfort of the ear, although it can be not too difficult to achieve. Experience over many reeds and chanters, though revealing quite a range of frequencies with

Queensland Highland Pipers' Society Newsletter

November 2005 Page 9

individual reeds and chanters, shows it to be very difficult to set the reed true ceol beag style, and then to get the octave low G result with ceol mor style fingering. It is invariably slightly sharper, but of course slightly flatter than the ceol beg style. Yet when everything is right, the piobaireachd player delights in the "embari – hiriri – chedari" demonstrations.

Question: Is this the 10/7 gap above C (the 5th harmonic of the bass drone)?

In "Lament for Mary MacLeod", going from C to G' can be so dramatic – and again if not right, out of context scalewise.

D is the note which players of other instruments query. It suits so beautifully with B of the chanter, but not with low G. This latter gap is sharper than a perfect 5th, and if flattened does not go well with the bass drone.

In the Donald Mor rundown, P.M. Robert Brown fingered the D with the D finger up and little finger off. Whilst a quick note, it was still "melodic". This fingering has the effect of flattening the D to a perfect 5th above low G. His playing was dramatic, and to me, changing to the modern orthodox style loses flavour, in this tune, in this part.

Quoting Otto Karolyi:

Music is both an art and a science. It must be understood BOTH emotionally and intellectually.

Music, being the art of sound, has to be intelligently heard. As with any language, it takes many years to achieve even grammatical fluency.

Ian Og Home Hill "Lan Finne Oigh"

HOW TO GET TO THE BALMORAL BOWLS CLUB

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

<u>From the Gateway Arterial</u>—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 Morningside 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.

<u>From the City</u>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 Morningside 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.

<u>From the west (old Cleveland Road</u>—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.

Page 10

November 2005

Queensland Highland Pipers' Society Newsletter

