



Queensland Highland Pipers' Society

www.pipebandsqld.org/qhps

Newsletter - June 2008

June Meeting

on Monday 23 June

7.15pm for 7.30pm

Balmoral Bowls Club

Jean Howie Drive, Morningside

The meeting will be a **Pipers Night**, so we need lots of people to turn up with their pipes and play

The sad news of the last month has been the passing of Ron Fleming, and you will find more about this inside. He was certainly an irreplaceable part of our local piping scene and we extend our sympathies to his son Hugh and to all his close friends and family.

On the brighter side, the contest season in the Northern Hemisphere is now in full swing, as is shown by our contest results section. We have our own "mini-season" in south east Queensland with band and solo contests planned at Carrara, Ipswich and Redlands over the next few months.

The meeting this month gives everyone an opportunity to come along and have a tune or two or three and is a good opportunity for those planning on competing over the next few months to practice their playing in a performance environment.

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 particular officer or member of the Society.

SOCIETY CALENDAR

June	Pipers Night
July	Jimmy Durham Memorial (2/4 March for junior players)
August	Annual Meeting
September	Pipers Night
October	Pipers Night
November	Jack McCandlish Trophy (6/8s) and Christmas Supper

- ◆ After each competition, the floor is open for all as at a Pipers' Night.
- ◆ 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.

MAY MEETING

Our May meeting was well attended with the twin fettaures of the Patron's Trophy contest and a visit by pipers from the Socts PGC School in Warwick.

President Reg O'Malley opened the meeting and told us that Joan O'Neill had advised that Ron Fleming was very ill.

Sandy Dalziel then introduced the Scots PGC pipers, giving a quick summary of where they were at in terms of learning. Nick Tomkins was the first to play – his tunes were the iigs *Paddy's Leather Breeches*, *Under Pressure* and *Rocking the Baby*.

Rylie Douglas then played the slow airs *Skye Boat Song* and *Piper's Waltz*, followed by her brother Kirby with the air *Gin I Were a Baron's Heir* and the 2/4 *Captain Norman Orr-Ewing*. Sandy then played with the younger ones as a group and their tunes were *High Road to Gairloch*, *Brown Haired Maiden*, *Marie's Wedding* and *Highland Laddie*.

We then went on to the Patron's trophy. Our judge for the evening was Malcolm McRae. Each competitor had been required to submit two marches, two strathspeys and two reels and the judge selected the combinations for them to play immediately before their performances.

Tom McGirr had drawn first and he played *Mrs John McColl*, *Maggie Cameron* and *Mrs MacPherson of*

Inveran. Iain Bruce was next with *Charles Edward Hope de Vere*, *Lady Louden* and *John MacDonald's Reel*.

Matthew Supranowicz was next to play with *Donald MacLellan of Rothesay*, *Piper's Bonnet* and *The Sheepwife*, followed by James Nelson with *Lonach Gathering*, *Susan MacLeod* and *Broadford Bay*.

While the judge was deliberating we heard a few tunes from Sandy Dalziel on his own, including *Magersfontein*, *Col. Robin Campbell*, *Argylls Crossing the Rhine* and *Loch Maree*.

Malcolm McRae gave a commentary on the performances and our Patron Maurie DeHayr presented the prizes, which were as follows:

- 1st Matthew Supranowicz
- 2nd Tom McGirr
- 3rd James Nelon

Finally we had a few tunes from James Nelson (*Battle of Waterloo*, *The Wee Highland Laddie*, *Rose of Allendale*, *Intercontinental Gathering*, *Tommy Tully's Air*, *Man from Skye*, *Rory MacLeod*) and Tom McGirr (*P/M George Allan*, *Emancipation*, *Donald Willie and His Dog*, *Glasgow Police Pipers*, *Troy's Wedding*, *Braes of Melinish*, *Gin I Were a Baron's Heir*) before adjourning for supper. The raffle was won by Glenys O'Malley.

Piobaireachd Group

Our May meeting was well attended with about 14 players and listeners. We had apologies from Yasu Hamilton and Bob Payne.

The first piper to play was Malcolm McRae and his tune was *The Bicker*. He was followed by Tam McGirr playing *The Big Spree*. Your scribe took on the "story reader" role for most of the tunes on the

day.

Malcolm commented that The Big Spree and the other Sprees are all Laments. Variation 1 of the Big Spree is a bit of an example of similar variations in many tunes.

Ross Campbell was the next to play, again with *The Bicker*.

Next we went through the set tune for the day, *The Lament for Captian McDougall*. Malcolm read the story for this one and went on to say that the tune has been popular in the last 20 or 30 years, perhaps because it was a favourite of Bob Brown's. Most people's interpretations are similar, but some players tend not to keep each phrase together and this can make it sound unmusical. The penultimate bar in the 3rd line has to be reformatted to 4 beats. In variation 1, proper wieght needs to be given to the first note in each phrase..

After we had a break for morning tea, Malcolm played the tune on the pipie.

Iain Bruce was the next player and his tune was *Corrienessan's Salute* and finally we heard from Roy Gunn with *The Lament for the Departure of King James*.

Vale Ron Fleming

As most will know, Ron passed away in the early hours of 1 June after a long illness and his funeral at the Ithaca Presbyterian Church on 6 June was attended by many piping and band identites from the Brisbane scene over the last several decades, attesting to the universal esteem in which he was held. Jim McLaughlin, who had known Ron as a boy in Campbelltown, gave the eulogy and Bill Sharpe played us into the church with *Bengullion* and played Ron's coffin out of the church with *Two Ronnie's Maggies*.

Ron was born in Campbelltown Argyllshire in 1932 and made his way to Brisbane via South Africa, Rhodesia (as it then was) and Melbounne. He played in Bands at the Grade 1 level in Brisbane and later founded what was meant originally to be a non-competitive Band, which still contines as the Brisbane Clans Pipes and Drums. One of the features of the Band when it was formed was that all members wore their own tartan, with other aspects of the uniform being common. It was intended to be a Band which played at a good standard but without the pressure of a highly competitive unit and although it did compete in later years it still retained the original ethos.

However, it is as a composer that he will be most remembered. He wrote many tunes and some, such as *Men from Dalintober*, *Two Ronnie's Maggies* and *Bengullion* have become "standards" played worldwide, a great achievement for any composer. His international stature is attested by the email received from Robert Wallace, principal of the College of Pping in Glasgow, when he heard of Ron's passing.

Ron's ability as a composer would not be a surprise to anyone who met him because music in various forms was a great thread through his life. Even when his tecnical ability on the pipes had past its peak, partly because of his long practice of his trade, the music always came through when he played the pipe. The music collection published by this Society in 1985 contained no fewer than 20 of his compositions, 30% of all the tunes in the book. There are many tunes still unpublished and his son Hugh has expressed interest in seeing a full collection of Ron's music compiled. It was sometimes hard to pin Ron down as to exactly how to play some of his tunes, as he always had a new twist on a old tune which he considered made an improvement - the music was very much a living thing for him.

Ron suffered a great loss ten years ago when his wife Maggie passed away and he had struggled with his health over the last few years. He also suffered a house fire which destroyed many items of

personal memorabilia, but he still soldiered on, having the house rebuilt and staying as engaged as he could with the piping and band community.

After the funeral and committal there was a gathering at Bert and Kate Wyse's house where some true and tall stories were told about Ron's life and times, and it would be good to hear some more.

Because of the house fire mentioned above, many details of his life are elusive and we would be pleased to hear any stories that people may have about him which we can compile and possibly publish in due course. They can be sent to PO Box 1252, Coorparoo DC, Qld, 4151 or emailed to qhps@optusnet.com.au

Alex McConnell

*The
July Meeting
of the Society*

*will be the Annual Jimmy Durham Memorial Trophy for Junior
Players (Elementary and Sub-Intermediate)*

*The test piece is a 4 parted 2/4 March of own choice and many
of the prominent pipers in Queensland have won this contest on
their path up the competition ladder*

**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. \$20 plus airmail postage and handling \$1.

Contact Roy Gunn, 31 Mariner Quays, 3 Lee Road, Runaway Bay, Qld, 4216.

Phone 07 5529 2852

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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)

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

07 3396 9025

What's on.....

21 Clan Campbell Society Bannockburn Dinner - Irish Club - \$70 a head (4 course meal) - band "Murphy's Pigs" - speaker William Campbell. Bookings to Trevor Campbell - 07 3359 6662 or email tcam5646@bigpond.net.au

23 Society Meeting

27 Queensland Police Pipe Band 50th Anniversary Concert - Brisbane City Hall - 2pm and 7.30pm - Tickets \$25/\$20 - Australian Army Band, tenor Gregory Moore and other acts. Bookings 07 3253 3800 Mon to Fri 8am to 4pm.

27-29 Duckadang Retreat for Regional Pipers & Drummers. Contact Caithe Cameron - 0409 896 164 or lca31486@bigpond.net.au

28 British Pipe band Championships, Birmingham

29 Society Piobaireachd Group

5 Maclean Tartan Day - Cameron Park - 10am - 3pm. Contact 02 6645 2887

5 Aberdeen Highland Games - Upper Hunter Valley, NSW. Similar format to Bundanon. Enquiries Charles Cooke 02 6545 8141

6 Tartan Day at South Bank Cultural Forecourt - Brisbane. 9.00am to 4.00pm Contact 07 3359 8195. www.aussie-scots.org.au

12 Pipe Band Association Band & Solo Contest - Carrara Sports Grounds, Gold Coast - solo details were in last month's newsletter

26 European Pipe Band Championships, Lisburn, Northern Ireland

27 Society Piobaireachd Group

28 Society Meeting - Jimmy Durham Memorial Trophy

16 World Pipe Band Championships, Glasgow

23 Police Pipe Band 50th Anniversary Dinner - Brisbane City Hall - For information contact Senior Sergeant Peter Flexman 07 3253 3800

24 Society Piobaireachd Group

25 Society Annual Meeting

27,28 Argyllshire Gathering, Oban

30 Ipswich Thistle Band and Solo Contest - Limestone Park - details were in last month's newsletter

30 Cowal Championships, Dunoon, Scotland

4,5/9 Northern Meeting, Inverness

20/9 Redlands Solo Contest - Judy Holt Park, Birkdale - more details to come

21/9 Redlands Band Contest - Judy Holt Park, Birkdale - Queensland Championships - more details to come

2/11 Australian Pipe Band Championships at Castle Hill, NSW.

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

The NSW Pipers' Society meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month. The venue is about to change. Contact Ron Clement – 02 9948 1914.

The NSW Solo Pipers Club. Contact 0412 602 983 or at www.blacktownpipeband.com.

Canberra Pipers Society: contact Sean Hodgman ph 6282 2795 or email u4114272@anu.edu.au
OR Jamie Forsyth 0419 631 999 or email jamesforsyth@hotmail.com

RU Brown Piobaireachd Society of South Australia: Contact Sue Kempster 08 8264 3329
skempster@adam.com.au

The WA Pipers' Society meets on the 3rd Saturday at the Autumn Centre, Inglewood. Contact
Mrs Alma Dender – 08 9448 7446

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

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

Contest Results

Highlands and Islands - Oban - 3 May

'P' & 'A' Grade Piobaireachd

- 1st Gordon Walker, *Lament for the Children*
- 2nd Stuart Liddell, *In praise of Morag*
- 3rd Innes Smith, *Hiharin Dro o Dro*
- 4th J Murray, *Lament for Captain MacDougall*

March Strathspey and Reel

- 1st J Murray
- 2nd Gordon Walker
- 3rd Stuart Liddell
- 4th Callum Beaumont
- Judges: I MacFadyen, J Wilson

'B' Piobaireachd

- 1st I Marshall, *Corrienessan's Salute*
- 2nd G Bruce, *The Wee Spree*
- 3rd I Finlayson, *Macleod of Raasay's Salute*
- 4th C Campbell, *The Rout of the MacPhees*

March Strathspey and Reel

- 1st P Whyte
- 2nd I Finlayson
- 3rd I Marshall
- 4th S Hannah
- Judges: R Wallace, N Mulvie.

Scottish Pipe Band Championship - Dumbarton 24 May

Grade 1 (Medley)

- 1st St. Laurence O'Toole, Dublin
- 2nd House of Edgar-Shotts & Dykehead
- 3rd Field Marshal Montgomery (ensemble preference)
- 4th Strathclyde Police
- 5th Boghall & Bathgate
- 6th ScottishPower
- Drumming: House of Edgar-Shotts & Dykehead
- Judges: John Moles, John Wilson (piping); Alan Ronaldson (ensemble); Billy Dunlop (drumming).

Grade 2

- 1st Torphichen & Bathgate
- 2nd Killeen
- 3rd Ravara
- 4th Dumfries & Galloway Constabulary
- 5th Buchan
- 6th Lomond & Clyde
- Drumming: Ravara

Juvenile

- 1st George Watson's College
- 2nd Inverary

3rd Boghall & Bathgate
 4th Kintyre & District
 5th North Lanarkshire Schools
 6th Dunoon Grammar Schools
 Drumming: George Watson's

Blair Atholl Games – 25 May

Overall

Gordon McCready

A-Grade Piobaireachd

1st William Geddes, *Old Men of the Shells*
 2nd Allan Russell, *End of the Great Bridge*
 3rd Gordon McCready, *My King has Landed in Moidart*
 4th Alastair Dunn
 5th Innes Smith
 6th Margaret Dunn

B-Grade Piobaireachd

1st Xavier Boderiou, *MacCrimmon's Sweetheart*
 2nd James McKenzie
 3rd John Mulhearn
 4th Nathan Drysdale
 5th Jamie Forrester

MSR

1st Alastair Dunn
 2nd Margaret Dunn
 3rd Cameron Drummond
 4th Gordon McCready
 5th Callum Beaumont
 6th Neil Hall

Hornpipe & Jig

1st Gordon McCready
 2nd Glenn Brown
 3rd Margaret Dunn
 4th Alastair Dunn
 5th Xavier Boderiou
 6th Callum Beaumont

Bathgate Highland Games - 31 May

Grade 1

1st Strathclyde Police
 2nd Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
 3rd Lothian & Borders Police
 Drumming: Boghall & Bathgate
 Best Bass: Strathclyde Police
 Judges: R. Shaw (piping), Gordon Craig (drumming)

Grade 2

1st Torphichen & Bathgate
 2nd Denny & Dunnipace
 3rd Lomond & Clyde
 Judges: M MacKenzie (piping), P Turner (drum)

Markinch Games - 1 June

Overall

Gordon McCready

Piobaireachd

1st Gordon McCready, *Sobieski's Salute*
 2nd Andrew Carlisle
 3rd David Wilton
 4th John Mulhearn
 5th Tracey Williams
 6th Keith Bowes
 Judges: Walter Drysdale, Andrew Wright

MSR

1st Alen Tully
 2nd James Murray
 3rd Neil Hall
 4th Davis Wilton
 5th Gordon McCready
 6th William Geddes

New Zealand Piping Championships - Dunedin 31 May

Dunedin Gold Medal Open Piobaireachd (New Zealand Championship)

1st Greg Wilson, *The Phantom Piper of Corrieyairack*
 2nd Brian Switalla, *The Battle of Park*
 3rd Marion Horsburgh, *The Stewart's White Banner*
 Judges: Colin MacLellan, Tom Speirs

Dunedin Silver Medal B-Grade Piobaireachd (Otago Championship)

1st Harrison Hawke
 2nd Bradley Guy
 3rd Courtenay Williamson
 Judge: Lewis Turrell

Premier MSR

1st Richard Hawke
 2nd Brian Switalla
 3rd Lea Ahokava
 Judges: Colin MacLellan, Lewis Turrell, Tom Speirs

Qualifying MSR

1st Lea Ahokava
 2nd Harrison Hawke
 3rd Matt Fraser
 Judges: Colin MacLellan, Lewis Turrell, Tom Speirs

Open 2/4 March

1st Richard Hawke
 2nd Brian Switalla
 3rd Greg Wilson
 Judge: Tom Speirs

Open Strathspey & Reel

1st Greg Wilson
2nd Richard Hawke
3rd Brian Switalla
Judge: Tom Speirs

Open Jig & Hornpipe

1st Brian Switalla; *The Man from Skye, Bidy From Sligo*
2nd Greg Wilson; *Pipe-Major George Allan, The Shaggy Grey Buck*
3rd Jamie Hawke; *John Walsh's Walk, The Fiddler's Rally*
Judge: Colin MacLellan

Under 21 2/4 March

1st Jamie Hawke
2nd Matt Fraser
3rd Harrison Hawke
Judge: Colin MacLellan

Strathmore Games, Glamis Castle, Forfar - 8 June**Overall**

Allan Russell
Piobaireachd
1st Allan Russell, *Park Piobaireachd No 2*
2nd David Wilton, *Corrienessan's Salute*
3rd Gavin Walker, *Battle of Auldearn No 2*
4th Robert Gray, *The Groat*
5th Tracey Williams, *Hector MacLean's Warning*

March

1st James MacKenzie
2nd Allan Russell
3rd David Wilton
4th Bruce Erskine
5th John Mulhearn

Strathspey & Reel

1st Allan Russell
2nd David Wilton
3rd James MacKenzie
4th John Mulhearn
5th Alistair Henderson