



Queensland Highland Pipers' Society

www.qhps.org

Newsletter - November 2009

November Meeting

on Monday November 23rd
7.30pm

Balmoral Bowls Club
Jean Howie Drive, Morningside

Jack McCandlish Trophy Contest for 6/8 Marches

Two Divisions - Junior (Elementary and Sub-Intermediate)
and Senior (Intermediate and Open)

Test piece for senior – two 4-parted 6/8 Marches;

for junior - one 4-parted or two 2-parted 6/8 Marches

Prizes: Senior: 1st \$60, 2nd \$30 ,3rd \$20 Junior: 1st \$50, 2nd \$25, 3rd \$15

Entries to 07 3397 4512 or qhps@qhps.org or before 7.15pm on the night

The main news this month is the awarding of the Balvenie Medal to Malcolm McRae who is, of course, a member of this Society and who has a long association with Queensland pipers and piping in our part of the world, as well as in Scotland. We cover the award in more detail starting on page 2, but it is only right that we also offer our official congratulations to Malcolm on this great honour in the piping world.

This month is our final meeting of the year and our traditional Christmas supper, along with the Jack McCandlish trophy contest, so polish up your 6/8s and work out your contribution to the supper!

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.

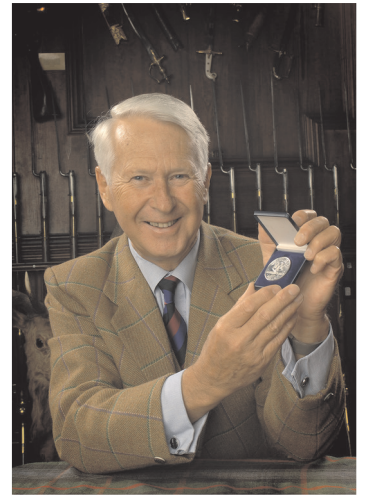
Balvenie Medal, 2009

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Balvenie Medal is presented each year for outstanding service to Piping.

This year's presentation will be the twenty-fifth, and the list of recipients contains the names of many legends of the piping world, quite a few of them, I'm delighted to say, here today.

It is traditional at these presentations to keep the audience guessing by withholding the name of the nominee until the last moment and I'll try to follow that approach as best I can. However, I fear that many of you will guess who it is before I have finished my first sentence and it's just possible that he himself will also figure it out pretty quickly.



This year's nominee for the Balvenie Medal is an Australian, albeit one with a Scottish name and very Scottish ancestry, whose contribution to piping covers the fields of professional competition at the highest level, judging, teaching, serving on committees and boards, intellectual input to debate and unstinting kindness and hospitality to pipers visiting his home over many years.

As a boy in Australia in the fifties he was smitten by the desire to play bagpipes, and he went for lessons to Peter Davidson, from Dunedin, who had previously competed with some success in Scotland. Peter Davidson had been a pupil of Robert Reid and had also had lessons from Bob Brown, so his piping pedigree was good and his pupil progressed quickly to become an excellent player.

He came to Scotland in 1967 to work in Glasgow where he teamed up with Donald Bain, a well known New Zealand piper. To further his piping he went for lessons in piobaireachd to Bob Brown at Balmoral, traveling regularly and in all weathers with Jim Mackintosh in a tiny car, which came with his job. These lessons continued for two years until he returned to Sydney at the end of 1968.

During that time he established a strong bond of friendship and mutual respect with Bob Brown, who considered him one of the best of all his pupils. He admired Brown not only as an outstanding musician, but also as someone able to analyse the music and communicate the subtleties of it in an infectious and inspiring way. He is still a devotee of Brown's ways of playing tunes and is a great believer in the oral tradition in teaching piobaireachd.

Back in Australia, he couldn't resist the lure of Scotland and returned to compete in 1973. He married in Australia in May 1974, came to Scotland on honeymoon, and stayed here for 30 years! By this time Bob Brown, his old teacher, had sadly died so he went to Robert Nicol for tuition, until his death four years later. He is therefore steeped in the Brown and Nicol approach to piobaireachd, which came in turn from John Macdonald, Inverness.

He collaborated with Robert Wallace and Norman Matheson in the production of their highly acclaimed 'Masters of Piobaireachd' series of CDs of the music and teaching of Bob Brown and Bob Nicol.

His serious interest in the traditional ways of playing piobaireachd led to many interesting and productive friendships, not least with James Campbell, son of Archibald Campbell, Kilberry, who, when he died, entrusted him with his whole archive of recordings and documents which, I think, he is still ploughing his way through to this day.

As a competitor he met with considerable success during the 70's and 80's, winning many major prizes including the Gold Medal and Open Piobaireachd at Oban, the Braemar and Dunvegan Medals, the Open Piobaireachd and the Bratach Gorm at London and many prizes for light music. He was also a regular competitor here at The Glenfiddich Championship during these years. His pipe was always immaculate, and still is!

On retiring from competitive piping he turned to teaching and judging. He has taught piping at the College of Piping and the National Piping Centre and is a qualified examiner for the Piping and Drumming Qualifications Board. He is also much sought after for individual piobaireachd tuition by pipers from all over the world.

He was an excellent and influential president of the Piobaireachd Society from 1988 until 1997 and, not content with that, followed up as Chairman and Secretary of the Music Committee for several years. He still makes a valuable contribution as an ordinary member of the Music Committee. During his time in these positions he took his responsibilities seriously, and was particularly influential in promoting the development of judging skills, and

broadening the knowledge of styles and settings of tunes, through the discussion seminars run by the Piobaireachd Society.

He was a founder director of The National Piping Centre in Glasgow and is a former President of the Competing Pipers' Association. He also served for many years on the BBC piping advisory committee and on the piping committee of The Northern Meeting.

Much of this work was done during fairly turbulent times for these organizations, some of which had just started up and others of which were going through times of change. His calming influence and diplomatic skills were invaluable.

He is a lawyer by profession and his day job was, latterly, with the Highland Council in Inverness as Head of Legal Services until his retirement in 2004, when he and his wife moved to Queensland, Australia, for some sunshine.

He does, however, return to Scotland each summer to judge and enjoy the piping season here.

He is in considerable demand as a judge, and it is greatly to his credit that he is just as happy judging half a dozen pipers at a small, wet, traditional highland games in the back of beyond, as judging the very top players at Oban, Inverness, London, Dunvegan and here at the Glenfiddich.

Despite all this piping activity, his wife of 35 years and four children are still on good terms with him! He is perhaps fortunate that his wife was also a piper, so she knows a bit about it, and her kindness and hospitality at their home to a large number of pipers from all over the world in different states of sobriety, elation and depression is legendary. She still has vivid memories, or possibly nightmares, of her Aga cooker covered in soaking wet sheepskin pipe bags drying out after competitions!

Ladies and gentlemen, I'm sure you will agree this has been an outstanding contribution to piping in the best traditions of the Balvenie Medal and I am delighted to present it now to a worthy winner and good friend:

Malcolm McRae

Alan Forbes

31 October 2009

In his presentation speech above, Alan Forbes mentions the previous recipients of the Balvenie Medal and refers to them as "legends of the piping world".

We have assembled the full list and we think it bears out his comment pretty well - here they are:

1985 - Duke of Atholl	1998 - Lt. Colonel David Murray
1986 - Major General Frank M Richardson	1999 - Angus John MacLellan
1987 - Miss Bessie Brown	2000 - Duncan MacLellan, Delaware
1988 - Seumas MacNeill	2001 - Rose Fletcher
1989 - John MacLellan	2002 - Jimmy McIntosh
1990 - Robert G Hardie	2003 - Willie McCallum Snr
1991 - James Campbell of Kilberry	2004 - Harry Denyer, NI
1992 - Andrew MacNeill	2005 - Annie Grant
1993 - Tommy Pearston	2006 - Sir Iain McKay, NZ
1994 - Alan Cameron	2007 - Andrew Wright
1995 - MacLean MacLeod	2008 - Iain MacFadyen
1996 - Duncan Johnstone	2009 - Malcolm McRae
1997 - Donald MacPherson	

2009 SOCIETY CALENDAR

MONTHLY MEETINGS

FEBRUARY 23 RD	PIPERS' NIGHT
MARCH 23 RD	HORNSPIPE & JIG CONTEST FOR SENIORS, 2 PARTED JIG FOR JUNIORS
APRIL 27 TH	PIPERS' NIGHT
MAY 25 TH	PATRON'S TROPHY CONTEST (MSR FOR SENIOR PLAYERS)
JUNE 22 ND	PIPERS' NIGHT
JULY 27 TH	JIMMY DURHAM MEMORIAL CONTEST (2/4 MARCH FOR JUNIOR PLAYERS)
AUGUST 24 TH	ANNUAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 28 TH	SEPTEMBER (PAIRS OF PIPERS)
OCTOBER 26 TH	PIPERS' NIGHT
NOVEMBER 23 RD	JACK McCANDLISH TROPHY (6/8 MARCHES)

◆ 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.

PIOBAIREACHD GROUP

1st February3rd May2nd August1st November8th March31st May6th September6th December29th March5th July4th October

OCTOBER MEETING

It was a hot and stormy night. Actually it was, with damaging storms around the south-east, and that kept all except nine hardy souls away from the October meeting. Apologies were received from Margaret Paterson and Joan O'Neill. However, of those nine in attendance, four played the pipes, so the night was actually quite a good one from the piping perspective.

It was good to see our "doorman" Jack Grant back after a period of battling back problems. He still has some way to go but it was good to see him after an absence of a couple of months.

Cory Dale, who we hadn't seen for quite a long time, was the first to play on a set of drones he had made himself, matched with a new Henderson chanter. The pipes are of a design he has been developing and were made of acetyl plastic - he is accumulating a stock of wood to begin making the same design in wood. They certainly had a powerful and resonant sound. His tunes included Ballochyle, Duncan McGillivray, Drops of Brandy, the Foxhunter, Susan Macleod, Loch Carron, Kantara to el Arish, Sine Bhan, Troy's Wedding and The Banjo Breakdown. Quite a demanding selection and well executed in a musical style.

Larry Flynn was next to play on a quieter pipe. His pipes are silver Naills with a modern Henderson chanter.

His tunes included 6/8s Ellenor and Tull Castle, jigs Merrily Kissed the Quaker's Wife and Tripping up the Stairs, 2/4s Millbank Cottage and John McColl's March to Kilbowie Cottage and strathspey Caber Feidh, and quite a number of other tunes.

David Greenhalgh was next to play. His chanter was a 2009 wooden Shepherd kindly given to him by Tam McGirr, matched with 1918 Henderson drones. His tunes included Dawning of the Day, Alex Haddow's 6/8, Shores of Loch Katrine, Acoustic Barbarians and St Ninian's Parish Centre Ceilidh.

Your scribe next had a few tune, including some 6/8s and airs which he now can't remember the names of!

Cory, Larry and David then played again in succession with some more excellent playing on good bagpipes.

The whole evening was interspersed with discussion, mainly in relation to instruments.

Before breaking for supper, we had the raffle draw, and May Maclean was both the drawer and the winner!

Piobaireachd Group

The November meeting had eight attendees, with an apology from Ian Davidson and Yasu Hamilton.

Ross Campbell started out the morning with some light music to settle the pipe and then he played the Marquis of Argyll's Salute and then The Battle of Waternish.

Next was the set tune carried over from October, The King's Taxes. Ross Campbell sang through the tune with discussion at various points. This was followed by general discussion about music copyright and chanter pitch, quite a mixture!

Maurie DeHayr had been trying to resuscitate a reed which had dried out and collapsed. He had been intermittently dipping it in water for several days, so he apologised in advance before playing. It was actually not bad and he went on to play most of Colin MacRae of Inverinate's Lament.

Morning tea followed, again accompanied by much piping discussion and afterwards Ross Campbell played the Ground and Variation 1 of The King's Taxes on the pipe.

Finally, Tam McGirr, playing Maurie's pipes, gave us a rendition of Lament for Alasdair Dearg MacDonnell of Glengarry. Despite not having played the tune for some time, it was a good performance on an unfamiliar pipe, which continued to sound quite good despite Maurie's earlier apologies for it.

Contest Results

Labour Weekend Solo Piping Competition - Christchurch, New Zealand (NZ Championships) - 24, 25 October

Overall

Brendon Eade

Silver Chanter

1st Brendon Eade

2nd Jono Quay

3rd B. McLaughlin

Judges: Jim McGillivray, Alistair Munro, Lewis Turrell

Clasp (MMSSRR)

1st Brendon Eade

2nd Stuart Easton

3rd Jamie Hawke

Judges: Jim McGillivray, Alistair Munro, Lewis Turrell

New Zealand Championship events

Open Piobaireachd

1st Brendon Eade, The Old Men of the Shells

2nd Stuart Easton

3rd Daniel Milosavljeic

Judges: Jim McGillivray, Alistair Munro

Strathspey & Reel

1st Jono Quay

2nd Stuart Easton

3rd Brendon Eade

Hornpipe & Jig

1st Ben McLaughlin

2nd Stuart Easton

3rd Brendon Eade

South Island Championship events

Strathspey & Reel

1st Brendon Eade

2nd Stuart Easton

3rd B. McLaughlin

B-Grade Piobaireachd

1st Jono Quay

2nd George Stick

3rd Ben Murray

lower-grade judges: David Burrows and Chris Stevens.

Glenfiddich Invitational Solo Piping Championships - Blair Castle - 31 October

Overall

1st Stuart Liddell

2nd Willie McCallum

3rd Roddy MacLeod

4th Bruce Gandy

5th Gordon Walker

Piobaireachd

1st Roddy MacLeod, *Lament for Donald Duaghal MacKay*
 2nd Bruce Gandy, *Lord Lovat's Lament*
 3rd Stuart Liddell, *The Earl of Seaforth's Salute*
 4th Willie McCallum, *Lament for the Earl of Antrim*
 5th James Murray, *The Old Men of the Shells*
 Judges: Malcolm McRae, Ronnie McShannon, Jack Taylor

MSR

1st Willie McCallum, *Capt. Campbell of Drum a Voisk, Ewe wi' the Crookit Horn, Roddy MacDonald's Fancy*
 2nd Stuart Liddell, *The Duke of Roxburgh's Farewell to the Blackmount Forest, Atholl Cummers, The Little Cascade*
 3rd Gordon Walker, *Edinburgh City Police Pipe Band, Maggie Cameron, Major David Manson*
 4th Angus MacColl, *John MacColl's Farewell to Kilbowie Cottage, Caledonian Society of London, Mrs. MacPherson of Inveran*
 5th Roddy MacLeod, *The Marchioness of Tuillibardine, Arniston Castle, Ca' the Ewes*
 Judges: Bill Livingstone, Iain MacFadyen, Andrew Wright

**New South Wales Pipe Band Championship -
 Sydney – 1 November**

Grade 1**MSR**

1st Pipeband Club
 2nd City of Blacktown
 Judges: Chris Swan, Gill MacKenzie (piping);
 Steven Clark (drumming); Sam Young (ensemble)

Medley

1st Pipeband Club
 2nd City of Blacktown
 Judges: John MacKenzie, Richard Knight (piping);
 Duncan Graham (drumming); Nat Russell (ensemble)

Grade 2**MSR**

1st LCC Southern Cross (Gr3)
 2nd United Mineworkers (Gr3)
 Judges: John MacKenzie, Richard Knight (piping);
 Duncan Graham (drumming); Nat Russell (ensemble)

Medley

1st LCC Southern Cross (Gr3)
 2nd United Mineworkers (Gr3)
 Judges: Chris Swan, Gill MacKenzie (piping);
 Steven Clark (drumming); Sam Young (ensemble)

Grade 3**MSR**

1st LCC Southern Cross
 2nd Scots College
 3rd United Mineworkers
 Judges: John MacKenzie, Richard Knight (piping);
 Duncan Graham (drumming); Nat Russell (ensemble)

Medley

1st LCC Southern Cross
 2nd Scots College
 3rd United Mineworkers
 Judges: Chris Swan, Gill MacKenzie (piping);
 Steven Clark (drumming); Sam Young (ensemble)

Grade 4**March**

1st LCC Southern Cross
 2nd Canberra Burns Club
 3rd Pipeband Club Development Band
 Judges: Chris Swan, Gill MacKenzie (piping);
 Steven Clark (drumming); Sam Young (ensemble)

Medley

1st LCC Southern Cross
 2nd Pipeband Club Development Band
 3rd Canberra Burns Club
 Judges: John MacKenzie, Richard Knight (piping);
 Duncan Graham (drumming); Nat Russell (ensemble)

Juvenile

1st Scots College No. 1
 2nd Hawkesbury City Juvenile
 3rd Scots College No. 2
 Judges: Chris Swan, Gill MacKenzie (piping);
 Steven Clark (drumming); Sam Young (ensemble)

**Scottish Piping Society of London Competitions
 - 7 November**

Bratach Gorm Piobaireachd (Gold Medallists)

1st Stuart Liddell
 2nd Bruce Gandy
 3rd Gordon Walker
 4th Willie McCallum
 5th Roddy MacLeod

Gillies Cup Piobaireachd (A-Grade and Silver Medallists)

1st Stuart Liddell
 2nd Bruce Gandy
 3rd James Murray
 4th Willie McCallum
 5th Glenn Brown

**London Medallion MSR (Those eligible for the
 Former Winners MSRs at Oban or Inverness and
 London Strachan winners)**

1st Willie McCallum
 2nd Callum Beaumont

3rd Iain Speirs	2nd Callum Beaumont	Piobaireachd
4th Niall Stewart	3rd Innes Smith	1st Faye Henderson
5th Roddy MacLeod	4th Jonathan Greenlees	2nd Derek Midgley
J.B. Robertson March	5th Andy Rogers	3rd Ashleigh Bell
1st James Murray	MSR (Strachan Trophy)	4th Tom Glover
2nd Willie McCallum	1st Gordon McReady	5th Xavier Bouderiou
3rd Roddy Macleod	2nd Andrea Boyd	MSR
4th Stuart Liddell	3rd Alan Johnstone	1st Sylvain Hamon
5th Callum Beaumont	4th Andrew Carlisle	2nd James MacPhee
Hornpipe & Jig	5th Cameron Drummond	3rd Derek Midgley
1st Stuart Liddell	Hornpipe & Jig	4th Craig Muirhead
2nd Glenn Brown	1st Jonathan Greenlees	5th Keith Bowes
3rd Gordon Walker	2nd Gordon McCready	Hornpipe & Jig
A-Grade	3rd Alan Johnstone	1st Derek Midgley
Piobaireachd (Snuff Mull)	B-Grade	2nd Sylvain Hamon
1st Simon McKerrell		3rd Mike Fitzhenry

What's on.....

N	20	Police Pipe Band Concert, Old Museum Building, Gregory Terrace. 2pm and 7pm.
O		Tickets \$10. For bookings phone 3253 3800, Monday to Friday 8am–4pm
V	23	Society Meeting

D	5	Daylesford (Vic) Highland Gathering. www.pipebandsvic.com
E	6	Piobaireachd Group
C		

	1/1	Maryborough (VIC) Highland Gathering - www.pipebandsvic.com
	13/2	Berwick (VIC) Highland Gathering - www.pipebandsvic.com
	21/2	Ballarat (VIC) Royal South Street Contest - www.pipebandsvic.com
	12-13/3	NZ Pipe Band Championships, Masterton - nzpipebands.org.nz
2	26/3	Maclean Highland Gathering - www.macleanhighlandgathering.com.au
0	3/4	Australian Pipe Band Championships - Caloundra - www.tartanspectacular.com
1	11/4	Ringwood (VIC) Highland Gathering - www.pipebandsvic.com
0	1-2/5	R U Brown Piobaireachd Society of SA Recital and Contest - www.rubrown.org.au
	7-9/5	Southwest Piper Drummer Workshops, Warrnambool - www.pipebandsvic.com
	15/5	Sunshine Coast Band Contest, Yandina - www.pipebandsqld.org
	12-13/6	Ipswich Gathering of the Clans Band and Solo Contests - www.pipebandsqld.org
	17/7	Scots PGC College Warwick Highland Gathering - www.pipebandsqld.org

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 any of the above events where a contact is not mentioned, ring or email the Society Secretary (07 3397 4512 or qhps@qhps.org) 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

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

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

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

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

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