



The City of Wellington Pipe Band News

September

Spring is here (can't you feel it in the rain?) and the lambs are learning to swim. This months Newsletter encompasses big screen productions to three score years of award winning pipers.

Bouncy Regards
Chris Golder

Pipe Major's Report

New Players

We still have four learners coming along on Wednesday night.

Last night our new piper Clive Brodie from South Africa, joined us in the Band and another COW Band member from a few years ago rejoined us as well. Ewan Robertson last played with the Band at the 2005 Edinburgh Military Tattoo and he has been asked to rejoin the City. He seems happy to do so as he already has a lot of our (old) music. Welcome to both of you.

Visual Aids

The big screen we have constructed continues to be successful. With this we are now able to project sheet music up onto the wall three metres high and two metres wide.

Band members seem to be able to 'Bed' their music in on the big instrument much better. Now the drummers want a piece of the action as well so they can put their music on the screen as well.



The Gaelic Club

The Band recently played at the Gaelic Club in Wellington and I am happy to report that the evening was a great success. Three of our ladies looked after the supper so a big thank you to Louise, Glenda and Sue for that. A raffle for a (donated) bottle of perfume was very popular and it bought in \$100.00 for the Band.

Following the event, the Gaelic Club indicated that they were very happy with the performance of the Band and donated \$400.00 to the Band for its efforts. Thank you very much!



Number 2 Band 1993

To the left is a photo of the number two Band from 1993 Christchurch contest. The Band won grade three and were elevated to grade two. You can notice some big names in the ranks; Gazza, Andrew Nicolson, the 'Family Allison', Geoff Notman, Steve Biggs, Robert Sinclair. The photo includes three pipers who were to become Pipe Major of the principle Band.



Address to a Haggis

Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face,
Great chieftain o the puddin'-race!
Aboon them a' ye tak your place,
Painch, tripe, or thairm:
Weel are ye wordy of a grace
As lang's my arm.

The groaning trencher there ye fill,
Your hurdies like a distant hill,
Your pin wad help to mend a mill
In time o need,
While thro your pores the dews distil
Like amber bead.

His knife see rustic Labour dight,
An cut you up wi ready slight,
Trenching your gushing entrails
bright,
Like onie ditch;
And then, O what a glorious sight,
Warm-reekin, rich!

Then, horn for horn, they stretch an
strive:
Deil tak the hindmost, on they drive,
Till a' their weel-swail'd kytes belyve
Are bent like drums;
The auld Guidman, maist like to rive,
'Bethankit' hums.

Is there that owre his French ragout,
Or olio that wad staw a sow,
Or fricassee wad mak her spew
Wi perfect sconner,
Looks down wi sneering, scornfu
view
On sic a dinner?

Poor devil! see him owre his trash,
As feckless as a wither'd rash,
His spindle shank a guid whip-lash,
His nieve a nit:
Thro bloody flood or field to dash,
O how unfit!

But mark the Rustic, haggis-fed,
The trembling earth resounds his
tread,
Clap in his walie nieve a blade,
He'll make it whistle;
An legs an arms, an heads will sned,
Like taps o thrissle.

Ye Pow'rs, wha mak mankind your
care,
And dish them out their bill o fare,
Auld Scotland wants nae skinking
ware
That jaups in luggies:
But, if ye wish her gratefu prayer,
Gie her a Haggis!

My 'Address to a Haggis'

I was recently privileged to be invited to a birthday party at the Band Hall, the event was a great success and the Hall felt so enviting full of people and music. But what I really wanted to talk about was the ceremony of the Haggis, it was the first time I witnessed this event (and participated in it!) and I found it to be an extremely powerful ceremony which sent shivers up my spine while the Address to a Haggis was read.

Chris Golder



This photo was taken at a recent Braemar Highland Games
Braemar Highland Games

For those who have not yet heard, Marion Horsburgh was placed first in the Gold Medal at Braemar.

We all offer her our congratulations for her efforts. As we all know, she has worked extremely hard for this type of result and it is a worthy outcome.

Also at the same Games, Greg Wilson was presented with the Shield for the Most Points (aggregate).

Now there is a little story about this shield. It was presented by the Piping & Dancing Association of Otago & Southland; and made by a well known Southland school teacher named Gordon Elder.

The shield was first won by a Kiwi in 1958 by Louis Turrell (this was just a year after he won the Gold Medal for the Piobaireachd in 1957). This puts

Pipe Major Louis Turrell

I had the honour to listen to Louis playing his pipes last Saturday night. He is playing a set of 1888 McDougalls and they are very very sweet to listen to. There is a lovely story behind the (previous) ownership of the pipes and I am certain that the maker would be pleased the pipes are still sounding so good. Louis's piping is still right up there, very musical and wonderful to listen to! Keep up the good work Louis!

Peter Menzies

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Well that's the end of another Newsletter, we must be fast approaching the first Birthday of the COWPBN, I will have to check the archives.

Keep dry!

Regards
Chris Golder