

# PERTH AND DISTRICT PIPE BAND HISTORY 2011

## JANUARY 2011

Quite a number of our young members attended the solo competition in Pitlochry on the 22nd of January. Despite a large number of high quality competitors taking part there was a plethora of prizes won:

- Aaron Bryce was 4th in the novice piping and 6th in the under 15 event
- Rowan Smith picked up 1st prize in the over 13 chanter and 5th in the novice piping
- 10 year old Jamie Sinclair was 5th in the under 13 chanter
- Nicola Sinclair came 3rd in the novice drumming
- Cameron Gillies was awarded 6th prize in the novice drumming
- Laura Oswald gained a very creditable 4th place in the under 15 drumming



Laura at Pitlochry.

At the request of the management of Tesco Edinburgh Road store, a mini-band turned out to play for a few hours on the 23rd January. We were allowed to bring along our buckets and collected an impressive total in excess of £350. Thanks to the public for their generosity and Tesco for their catering.



At Tesco's.



Aaron and Ali Bryce receiving the cheque from Kevin Leith of the Perth Round Table.

The band was delighted to receive another cheque for £1000 from the Perth Strathearn 200 Round Table to help with running the novice juvenile band. We are very appreciative of this continuing generosity.

Robin MacIntyre turned out on the afternoon of the 25th to play for the Burns event at St John's Primary School in Perth by leading their march around the streets beside the school.



At Bankfoot

Two mini-bands turned out on the 29th of January to help charity events. The first played outside the Queen's Hotel in Perth to welcome guests to the Round Table Charity Burns' Supper whilst the second played at Bankfoot in a fund-raising event for Bulgaria in which members Iain and Sean Sinclair will take part later in the year.

## FEBRUARY 2011

In what is becoming a regular feature on the band's calendar the novice juvenile band played at regular intervals at the Railwaymen's Club Burns' Supper in Perth on the evening of Friday the 4th of February. The haggis was piped in by Peter Scott.



It was the novice band in action again, this time at the Scottish Badminton Championships at the Bell's Sports Centre in Perth on the 6th of February. They put in a very good performance that afternoon. The prize winners were piped in at the end of the event by Aaron and Sean.



Ian Stewart came to the rescue of a charity Burns' Supper in Auchterarder on the 12th of February when he volunteered to play, with very little notice, after their piper called off with a dislocated shoulder.

On the 14th of February players were issued with new glengarries purchased in part with Lottery money. Thanks to Vermicon, they had the newly designed cap badges on them. The recipients were very pleased, made to measure caps with a very classy badge - a real improvement!



The Pipe Major was part of a delegation from Perth, including the Provost and his Depute, to the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh on Wednesday the 23rd of February. They were met by the First Minister and the leaders of all the other main parties.

## MARCH 2011

A large number of members attended Dougie Reid's 80th Birthday party on the 5th of March. It was a big surprise when a band of pipers and drummers entered his door in full flow - even more so when one considers that he lives on the 3rd floor of an old building with well-worn stone stairs leading up there. There were also many players from the Vale of Atholl band with whom he played a long time ago. The party was enjoyed by all. Happy Birthday Dougie!



On Saturday the 12th of March the Perform in Perth festival featured piping and drumming. A number of our younger players picked up prizes that afternoon:

- Nicola Sinclair was 1st and Cameron Gillies 3rd in the 13 - 16 years drumming
- Harris Sinclair was 1st in the under 13 chanter competition and Jamie Sinclair 2nd
- In the novice piping Rowan Smith came second
- Aaron Bryce won the under 13 MSR
- Another MSR first prize went to Joshua Barthram, this time in the 13 - 16 years group

Also on the 12th the secretary and Irene Black attended the RSPBA AGM in Glasgow. There they had the opportunity to vote on proposed changes to the competition rules, elect a new chairperson and vice-chair and hear about the conversion of the Association into a Company Limited By Guarantee.

Our Pipe Major played in a high profile job at the finale of the World Curling Championships held in the Dewar's Centre in Perth on Sunday the 13th of March.

The Scottish Parliament was the next venue for the P/M. He attended on the 24th of February with the Provost and depute who were collecting signatures from all the party leaders for the city status bid for Perth.



Have you heard about the Scotsman, the Canadian and the New Zealander? No? Well, in what must be a first for this band, or any Scottish band, we had three Black Watch Pipe Majors at the two band practices in the third week in March. The picture shows, left to right, Scotsman Alistair McIntosh - our Pipe Sergeant, Canadian Cameron Steven - current P/M with the Black Watch Canada based in Montreal and New Zealander Alistair Duthie who is the band's P/M.



A quartet consisting of Pipe Sergeant Tosh, John, Neil and Robin played for guests arriving at the Upper Springland charity event in their theatre on the evening of Friday the 25th of March.



## APRIL 2011

The P/M entertained the Provost, the Mayor of twin town Cognac and guests in Perth on the 21st of April.

The Ex-Servicemen's Club in Perth was the venue for the annual ceilidh on the 29th of April. As well as being a good night for the members and guests it was the occasion when the Provost, Dr John Hulbert, was officially installed as the band patron.

The band played a few tunes - featuring Chloe in P&D kit for the first time and also Vince and Iain playing in their first ever engagements. Also featuring were George McGibbon's ceilidh band, Gaelic singers and dancers. Prizes were awarded to some of our younger players.



Band in action



Provost becoming Patron



Prize winners with the Provost

On the morning after the ceilidh two mini-bands took part in the resurrected RSPBA Dundee, Perth and Angus Branch indoor competition at Forfar Academy. Considering that a number were playing in their first ever competition and there had been two very late call-offs they performed well achieving 8th and 19th out of 25 bands.



## MAY 2011

A very windy Dunbar was the venue of the first outdoor competition for the 4A band. 11th place was achieved in both the Marches and the MSR out of 37 bands. One piping judge placed us 3rd. Our very young drum corps (average age 17) performed creditably well.



Sunday the 15th of May was the date of the Kirking of the Council led by our band of 37 players. Following the service the P/M was officially installed as Piper to the City of Perth by Perth and Kinross Council Chief Executive, Bernadette Malone. The Provost presented the band with a new banner in recognition of the many years the band has been turning out for council events.



Parading to the St John's Kirk.



P/M receiving the Banner.



City Piper status being bestowed.

Although the weather was dry at 7.45am on the 21st of May at Broxden when the bus started out on the trip to the Scottish Championships at Dumbarton it wasn't long before the weather en-route became pretty miserable. This reflected the band's view of its performance - in large part due to numbingly cold fingers and the horrendous downpour beginning as we started to play. The judges concurred and put us in a lowly 22nd place.

On the evening of Tuesday the 24th of May Pete Iannetta played for the guests at a meal for a Golden Wedding at the hunting lodge at Rossie Ochil. Pete was impressed with the friendliness of the people involved.



## JUNE 2011

On the 2nd of June a 12-strong mini-band led by Tosh, our Pipe Sergeant, played at the head of the Muirton Eco Group march along Malvina Place to the North Inch Campus where they played a few further sets. The band also acted as fine ambassadors for Scottish tourism by posing for photographs with an American visitor.



It must be years and years since any band commitment commenced at 8.15am. Douglas Smith started at that time to play on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June for a couple of hours at Aviva to welcome their staff into the workplace on the 2nd birthday of the Aviva brand name at Pitheavlis.



The Volunteers' Market this year found us in a new location down the side of the old City Halls due to the upgrading of the pedestrian area in High Street and King Edward Street on Saturday the 11th of June. Despite increasingly heavy rain the band played a good number of times. A feature of the day was the mini-band group of younger players performing in the High Street.



It was really good to see David Whyte (Kirrie) back in competitive action as Drum Major following his extended illness. The fact that he managed 5th place out of 10 entries at the Strathmore Highland Games on the 12th of June was a good achievement.

There was a large turnout on Fathers' Day on Sunday the 19th of June at Dobbies. The band played regularly outside the shop at the front and in the plant area plus we marched through several times and played the traditional finale lined up on the steps to the upper shopping area.

Better weather, a bit better result at the British Championship in Annan on the 26th of June. 14th overall could have been bettered if both judges had agreed that the piping was 8th rather than 8th and 18th. A good ensemble score of 6<sup>th</sup> is worthy of noting.

## JULY 2011

It is with real sadness that the Band has learned of the death of Bert Henderson. Bert played drums in the band in the 1980s and early 90s. He was also our treasurer during that time. Bert is second from the right in front row of this picture taken in Aschaffenburg in 1986.



After an absence of 3 years a mini-band played at the Crieff Gala Day on Sunday the 10th of July. One of the performances was in the newly refurbished grandstand. On a day of heavy showers the players had a fortunate pair of time slots and were able to play without getting soaked.

The band supplied a quartet of pipers (P/M, David, Eddie and Tosh) to play at the Cocktail Party at Balhousie Castle in Perth on Thursday the 21st of July - a very pukka event!

Saturday the 23rd of July was a hectic day for the band. One half played at the head of the Black Watch parade from the North Inch to Balhousie Castle. Meanwhile the other half was entertaining the visitors to the Kinrossie Gala Day on one of the best days for weather this year. We were pleased to be able to include local bass drummer Christina Duncan.



## AUGUST 2011

Ross MacKinnon played on the 5th of August in Bridge of Earn as part of the welcome given to the judges for the Scotland in Bloom competition.

The weather for Perth Show on the 6th of August was warm and humid. The large band played very extensively all around the show ground and in the ring. This was a very demanding playing commitment in these conditions. And just as we finished the rain came on!

The Northern Belle is the train operated by the world-famous Orient Express in the UK. On Monday the 8th of August it waited in Perth Station for about an hour. We entertained the 93 guests and also gave them an opportunity to take photos of the whole band and with small groups of players.



With the Northern Belle in the background.



Member of the train staff.



Photo opportunity and blether with some of the guests.



On BBC2's Towns program about Perth broadcast on Thursday the 11th of August the band played a cameo role - no sound but a brief glimpse of the Remembrance Sunday parade last November. Also that day the P/M and Aaron were involved with Perth in Bloom. The poor souls got soaked during their short time playing.

The pipe major has a mystery to solve for a lot of major competitions: how a different band masquerading as the P&D can sneak on and play quite poorly in the ring when the real P&D has tuned up in the park and at final tuning sounding really good. On Saturday the 13th the mystery struck again at the World Championship in Glasgow. If any super sleuths have an answer will they please let the band know via our Contact Us page!

The band looks forward each year to the competition at the Perth Highland Games: an enjoyable set of contests and no travelling involved. Many of the bands who had played at the World Championships turn up to play before heading home to places all over the globe. This year, unfortunately, the South Inch was very wet underfoot and the games were called off.

Scone Fete was the venue for one of the engagements on Saturday the 20th of August; the other was a solo job by Eddie Townsley at Glencarse where he played from the village to the fete venue at Inchyra House and did a short spell thereafter.



On Sunday the 21st of August the band had a busy day in Crieff: playing in the grade 4 march competition, the grade 4 MSR competition (no prizes for either, unfortunately), a march through the town and a few players rendering some sets for the customers of the Station Hotel.

The last Saturday in August is always the date of the last major for the season, the Cowal Gathering at Dunoon. We finished further up the order of merit than at Glasgow but not within the prize winners. Thanks to Brian Souter of Stagecoach who donated the coach to a silent auction which we successfully bid for. This saved us a fair bit of cash while helping out another charity.

## SEPTEMBER 2011

It took a long time coming, the very last competition of the season at Pitlochry on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September to be precise, but at long last the band performed to its best in the circle. We were the first of 10 bands in our grade that day.

At the City of Brechin Pipe Band Solo Competition on the 17th of September a good number of young players picked up prizes in this tough event:

PIPING: Under 15 MSR - Aaron Bryce 2nd; Novice Piping - Ross MacKinnon 4th; Under 13 chanter - Jamie Sinclair 4th.

DRUMMING: 18 and under intermediate - Laura Oswald 3rd; 18 and under novice tenor - Nathan Davis 3rd; novice drumming - Nicola Sinclair 4th.

The band has turned out a piper or two for the last couple of years at the regular Gaelic Society ceilidhs held in Perth. On the 16th of September the Pipe Major entertained the guests in St Matthew's Church hall.

## **OCTOBER 2011**

This is our quietest month due to school holidays and the post-competition season break when the pipers and drummers have a well-earned rest!

## NOVEMBER 2011

On the 3rd of November St John's Primary School moved into the North Inch Campus which it now shares with St John's Academy leaving behind. The pupils were meant to have walked from their old premises in the city centre but they started much closer to the campus due to heavy rain. A mini-band led the march for the last stretch and played in a circle whilst all the pupils paraded past on their way to the assembly hall.



The 2011 Band AGM was also held in Upper Springland on the 3rd of November. There was a good turnout and some lively discussion. The constitution was updated to reflect the OSCR guidance on committee members being a minimum of 16 years rather than 18 years of age.

The new committee chosen was: Alistair Duthie (PM), Andrew Davidson (L/D), Neil Myles (secretary), Vince Davidson (competition secretary), Kerry Smith (treasurer), Alistair Bryce (social convener), Jim Scott (quartermaster), Eddie Townsley (pipers' rep), and Iain Sinclair (drummers' rep).

Sheets were issued to those present to confirm the accuracy of the data held on them and to sign to say that they were legally able to be with youngsters and vulnerable adults. All other members will each be issued with their sheet in the near future.

Five members turned out to help the Strathearn Round Table to collect money in their buckets on Saturday the 5th November at the fireworks display at the South Inch. Well done Ali, Aaron, Helen, Jamie and Nicola!

Peter Scott turned out to play for the Perth Gaelic Society on Friday the 11th of November. Most of the other members were at the reception in the Ex-Servicemen's Club following the wedding of Tosh, our pipe sergeant. Very positive comments were forthcoming about the event.

The Remembrance Sunday parade got off to a confusing start with the band being given the quick march command from the leader of the parade behind us despite the fact that there was a police motorcycle right in front of us and a car on the junction a few yards further on. The front row coped well! After the return from St John's Kirk the band attended a short reception at the Council Building.

In addition that morning, Alistair McIntosh played for the North Church, Robin MacIntyre at Luncarty and Ian Sinclair at Bankfoot along with Rab Wallace.

In the afternoon a mini-band took part in a parade to the memorial in Scone and the P/M played the lament. Thanks to the British Legion for laying on a lunch beforehand.



The annual branch solo championships were held on the 19th November at the Loch Leven Campus in Kinross. Prize winners were:

- Chanter - Duncan McFadzean, 6th
- Ross MacKinnon - Novice piping, 3rd
- Aaron Bryce - Under 16 piping, 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Novice Drumming - Cameron Gillies 4th

Well done to you all.



Duncan and Ross



Cameron, Jenny and Aaron

The following day was a double-header: playing at Dobbies for the arrival of Santa and as part of the entertainment in Perth High Street prior to the Switch on of the Lights.



Fortunately, the overnight storm-force winds had abated to a stiff breeze and the rain been replaced by glorious sunshine when the band headed up the St Andrew's Day march in Errol from the square to the church on the morning of Sunday the 27th of November. The parade included the Provost and his deputy, senior council officers and fireman, the army cadets, Air Training Corps, and the Guides.



## DECEMBER 20 11

The 3rd of December was a like a re-run of the Errol job, lots of overnight rain and wind ceasing to give a cold, sunny morning. Thanks, however, to the kindly staff on duty at St John's Kirk allowing us tune up inside there were no cold fingers for the start of the engagement at the re-opening of the High Street following the refurbishment of the surface. We played 4 times until 12.30 with a welcome return to the Kirk for a cuppa break half way through.



Piper Ian Sinclair was helping his uncle tidy up an old workshop when he came upon an article in a newspaper from 1960 about the band. In it was a picture from about 1906 under its predecessor name of Perth and District Good Templars' Pipe Band! His great grandfather is one of the members present!

We returned to Dobbies in Perth on the 18th of December for a fundraising event, playing for a time before and after lunch.



Note the discounted price for some of our pipers! ->



Christmas is a time for giving ..... and a time for receiving. As far as the band is concerned it has been an auspicious few weeks on the latter front. We have been hugely fortunate in the number of groups who have given donations to the band.

Thank you to the Common Good Fund, The Rotary Club of Perth, Perth Kinnoull Rotary Club, The Thomson Trust, the Jimmy Cairncross Trust and the Guildry Incorporation of Perth for your donations to the band. Your support will make a real difference to what the band can achieve in helping learners, improving the

standards of playing of all members and how we are turned out at both local events and competitions throughout the country.

Monday the 19th December saw the commencement of the issue of new bag covers to pipers. They are fitted with an anti-slip leather section to help the bag from sliding when playing and also a full-length zip. The new embroidered logo featuring the Perth crest is quite impressive.



St John's Academy and Primary School were officially opened on the 20th of December by Cardinal O'Brien and MSP John Swinney. The pipe major played as part of the celebrations.

The final event of the band year was the bag packing at Marks and Spencer Perth on the 31st December. The first members were at the tills at 8.30 and the packing continued until 4pm. Meanwhile an on-going shuttle of solo pipers, duets and pipers with a drummer played outside the shop in the High Street. Thanks M&S. Thanks too to the people of Perth who gave generously to our bucket collection.

