

PERTH AND DISTRICT PIPE BAND HISTORY 2012

JANUARY 2012

The year 2012 had barely begun when Peter Scott and Aaron Bryce undertook the band's first engagements playing in the New Year at the Ex-Servicemen's Club and the Railwaymen's Club in Feus Road, Perth respectively.

Aaron was back in action on Friday the 13th of January, this time entertaining the members of Perth Gaelic Society at their monthly gathering.

On the 23rd January younger members of the band came home with a series of prizes from the Vale of Atholl Junior Piping and Drumming Solos - a very tough competition:

Drumming:

Nicola Sinclair - 2nd in Novice event

Laura Oswald - 4th in under 18 years

Piping:

Jamie Sinclair - 3rd in 11-12 years chanter

Aaron Bryce - 6th in the under 15 march

Aaron Bryce - 5th in the under 15 jig

Dress and Deportment:

Aaron Bryce won the prize for the best dress and deportment of all the many competitors that day!

The band is always involved in events connected with Burns' Suppers at this time of the year. Jamie Sinclair entertained the residents of the old folk's home at Corrie Place in Scone on Friday the 27th January and a junior quartet comprising Aaron, Andrew, Peter and Ross performed at the Railwaymen's Club in Feus Road later that evening.

FEBRUARY 2012

Bell's Sports Centre was the venue for the Scottish Badminton Championships on the first weekend in February. A novice band turned out on Sunday afternoon and a couple of pipers led the prize-giving ceremony later that day.

Ross MacKinnon was the piper for the Perth Gaelic Society's ceilidh on Friday the 10th of February.

Thursday the 16th of February saw the first of the band's new lovat blue hose being issued to those who had already paid.

At the annual Strathmore Junior Solos on Saturday the 25th February quite a number of our pipers came home with prizes:

Jamie Sinclair - 1st in the under 13 chanter and 2nd in the novice piping.

Brogan Townsley - 2nd in the under 13 chanter and he also picked up the most promising chanter player award.

David Smith - 1st in the 13 - 18 years chanter category.

Aaron Bryce - Playing in the under 15 section, he was 1st for the MSR, 3rd in the jig and 3rd in the medley.

Well done to all of you!

MARCH 2012

March the second was the date of the Band Ceilidh. A large turnout was entertained initially by the band and then by an impressive range of solo performers, a Gaelic choir and a group of dancers. The ceilidh band was led by our very own George McGibbon who we were pleased to see back in action following his illness.

Prizes were given out to Ross MacKinnon (most improved piper), Cameron Gillies (most improved drummer), Iain Sinclair (most improved tenor drummer), Duncan McFadzean (most improved young player) and Ian Stevenson (outstanding service to the band - the Vermicon Trophy).

The band was delighted to receive a new banner on Monday the 5th March from the High Constables of Perth in recognition of the long association between their society and ourselves over many years. The Pipe Major played for the High Constables. Nathan Davies, Duncan McFadzean, Jamie Sinclair and Iain Sinclair were the band members also in attendance to witness the ceremony.



Pro Rege, Lege et
Grege: For the King, the
Law and the People.

On Friday the 9th of March, Ian Stevenson and a couple of younger players performed for the guests at the Rotary Club function at the Royal George Hotel in Perth.



Many thanks go to the Gannochy Trust for responding positively to our grant application for items of uniform and equipment.

The band's under 16 players had a very successful time in the Perform in Perth competition held in Scone on March the 10th. Indeed, everyone present that day won a prize!

Of the 14 competitors in the under 13 chanter - *1st - Brogan Townsley, aptly winning the Perth and District Pipe Band trophy we donated a few years ago.*

2nd - Duncan McFadzean

3rd - Jamie Sinclair

5th - Finlay MacIntosh

Novice piping 13 - 16 years - *1st Ross MacKinnon*

MSR 13 - 16 years - *2nd Aaron Bryce*

13 - 16 years side drum - *1st Laura Oswald*

3rd = Nicola Sinclair and Cameron Gillies



7 year old
Brogan with the
U13 chanter cup

The AGM of the RSPBA was held in the Trades Hall in Glassford Street in Glasgow also on the 10th of March and had representatives of 42 bands present. Neil Myles, our secretary, and Irene Black, the branch treasurer who is enrolled with us as a non-playing member were in attendance and put forward the band's views on the proposals up for voting. They were informed that the World

Championships from 2013 in Glasgow will be a 2-day format. Bathgate (May), Forres (June) and Dumbarton (July) will be the venues for the British, European and Scottish majors in 2013, 2014 and 2015.

Ian Sinclair travelled to St Andrews to play for guests arriving for the Scottish Builders' Federation Dinner at the Fairmont Hotel on the 30th March and also piped in the 'top table'.

APRIL 2012

It was with real sadness that the band learned that one of our members, George McGibbon, had passed away on the 10th of April. George played the base drum to a high standard and regularly featured with the band especially at Remembrance Day parades which he was determined to attend even when not keeping well. He was the leader of his ceilidh band and had played for us only a few weeks ago at our ceilidh, which turned out to be his last ever public performance. We will miss him.

Our sincere thanks go to the Perth Strathearn 200 Round Table for their generous donation to the band's funds.

The 2012 competition season for band got under way at the Dundee, Perth and Angus branch indoor mini-band competition held in Forfar Academy. We entered 3 bands, including one with very young players. Out of 21 entries we came up with 5th, 11th and 15th places overall. The drummers did very well coming in at 5th, 6th and 11th.

MAY 2012

Dunbar opens the outdoor competition season for us each year. Grade 4 had two competitions: the marches and the MSR. The marches saw us in the top half of the results at 8th with one piping judge giving us a 4th place. In the MSR an impressive 2nd place for ensemble still didn't get us any higher than 9th overall.

The Scottish Championships at Dumbarton on the 19th of May didn't feature the driving rain of 2011 but it was still very cold and windy. Although sounding good all week in practices and prior to the competition, the performance in the ring was nothing like so impressive and we finished up a lowly 20th.

It is with regret that the band has learned of the death of Hamish Lowe. Hamish played with us from 1992 - 94 competing in grade 3 when we were first promoted. He also travelled to Lorient on our visit to Brittany.

JUNE 2012

The Pipe Major and Honorary President kicked off the trio of jobs on Friday the 1st of June by playing for the cameras of the BBC and Sky and being interviewed in connection with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

The Pipe Major then did an extended stint entertaining the new Provost Liz Grant and her guests from a number of our twin towns just after tea time at the foot of the High Street and on Tay Street.

He didn't have far to go to join the mini-band, mainly of younger players, who had started tuning up at the Royal George Hotel. They entertained the Rotary Club and passes-by on the lawn in front of the building for about half an hour.

A band in excess of 40 in size, led by the Drum Major, took part in the Jubilee celebrations in Perth on the 2nd of June. A very long march through crowd-filled streets in central Perth was immediately followed by massed bands featuring all the pipe bands and pipers from all over the world who had been part of the long parade.



Sunday the 3rd saw another large band in action, this time for the Kirking of the Council. The event is always held later than usual following local elections. Uniquely, it was only a one-way job: there was no return to the Council Chambers. The much larger numbers of people involved (including numerous representatives from our twin towns who had attended the Jubilee celebrations) resulted in the reception being held in the Salutation Hotel. The Provost said hello to the band members present, taking time to shake hands with all still present when the official party arrived after the church service.

It was a busy day during the Volunteers' Market in Perth on Saturday the 9th of June. The band stall had been set by early morning before the players arrived to tune up at 9.15. We played along St John Street and High Street to the Soutar Ring in time for the Provost, Liz Grant, to open the market. Thereafter, there were 20 minute selections of tunes about 45 minutes apart until we finished about 3pm. Thanks to the support of Perth residents and visitors we made a four-figure sum via the stall and bucket shaking - thank you.



Tuesday the 12th June was the day the Olympic Torch relay reached Perth on its way from Aberdeen to Dundee. We played a few times at Scone palace for BBC Radio 2 with Jeremy Vine. A number of mainly younger players spoke to him live in what was a pleasant series of interviews. Another role was piping in the Provost's guests. The Pipe Major played Chariots of Fire as the torch arrived. If the timings we played at that morning bore little relation to the slots intimated, even the day before, the afternoon was really chaotic. Another band had been asked to play for the torch in our place! However, we played for the first time ever on the pavement on the Perth Bridge as the entourage and the flame passed by.

Honorary President, Robin MacIntyre took charge of the 11- strong mini-band performing at the Oakbank Primary School Olympics Fete on the 16th. The band played twice on a really miserable day, braving the rain first time. On the second occasion everyone was more sheltered under a large porch area beside the playground but played in persistent smoke from the barbeque right beside us which was also taking refuge from the inclement weather.

The band wishes to express its thanks to the Perth Kinnoull Rotary Club for its recent donation to our funds.

Another hectic weekend saw the band out three times on the 23rd of June: First up, in the morning, were the pipers and drummers who joined with two army bands, the Pipe Major and Pipe Sergeant of the Black Watch Canada and cadets as part of a march from the South Inch to the North Inch. Thereafter, there was a service for the final laying up of the Black Watch and 51st Highland Volunteers' colours in which our Pipe Major played a solo.



Before that ceremony had finished a mini-band had taken to the field for the first time during the Luncarty FC fete. They played again later in the afternoon. The band also had a cake and candy stall. Thanks to all those who handed in baking.



In the evening a 30+ band featuring many of the players from earlier in the day performed a beating the retreat at the Doocot Park for guests of the Gannochy Trust.

The Pipe Major undertook another of his City Piper duties on behalf of the Council on the 24th when he played at the Armed Forces Day during the raising the flag ceremony.

An improved result in our second major of the season, the British Championships at Annan on the 30th of June, saw us 11th overall. The highlight was the drumming with the judge placing us at 6th - well done!

JULY 2012

We played at the seating area outside the Perth Concert Hall on the first of July to entertain guests from all over the country who were present to see the lead person for all the rotary clubs in the UK being installed in his post.



In the afternoon there was the garden party at Kincarrathie House. A full band played for those present on two extensive occasions. Thanks to Kincarrathie House for the buffet laid they laid on.



A big thanks to the Cross Trust for accepting our request for a grant.

The Queen paid a visit to Perth on the 6th of July as part of her Diamond Jubilee celebration trips around the UK.

Our band supplied the biggest number of pipers and drummers in a massed band of over 120 players who provided part of the entertainment for the thousands of people who came to see Her Majesty in Tay Street.

The massed band played along the street, led the parade for the monarch's vehicle and performed a third time at the North Inch as she made her way to Balhousie Castle.

Alistair Duthie, the P/M, nipped along to the castle too to play solo for Her Majesty. He then travelled to Scone Palace to play for her going into lunch after she had been to Perth College.

Jubilee visit photos:



The initial request came to Neil, our secretary, after band practice on Monday. The details were not sorted out until lunchtime Tuesday. But the band turned out in numbers exceeding 30 on the Thursday ie the 26th July to play for St Johnstone FC during the Europa League match against Eskişehirspor. A number of sets were played outside the stand with a good number of away supporters in attendance followed by performing around the pitch perimeter just before kick-off and again at half time. The band appeared live on Turkish television. Beforehand, at 5pm the Pipe Major and Honorary President had piped in the official party from the Turkish club and the P/M played for dancers. The Turkish visitors were impressed with the band, many taking time to say thanks; so too were St Johnstone officials and also the supporters who attended the game.



The final job in July was at Upper Springland where the band holds its practices. Douglas Smith led a mini-band who played on the garden area at the rear of the premises as part of their annual fete.



AUGUST 2012

The Friday of Perth Show had been cancelled due to very wet conditions underfoot but Saturday the 4th August was a sizzler when we played in the arena and around the show ground. For the first time in 2012 it was shirt sleeve order. Thanks to the visitors who put money into our buckets.



The World Championships in Glasgow is the hardest competition in the whole year. Going into it minus a fair number of experienced players is not a good portent. And so it proved - 18th position overall with piping, drumming and ensemble grades more or less the same.

There were organisational difficulties at Perth Highland Games the next day. The programme showed us playing MSR first and we were about to go to final tuning when we were informed that the 2/4 marches competition was starting instead. We didn't do at all well in the marches. The MSR set later in the afternoon wasn't any better and we had our poorest results for ages.

Scone Church Fete is a regular feature of our season. Our role on August the 18th was to march on prior to the opening then play a good number of sets in the hot, humid afternoon. The P/M played for the dancers and the band went on again later.

Sunday the 19th was the date of this year's Crieff Highland Games where the end of season good result in local competitions came a little earlier than usual. A 1st place in the MSR followed a 3rd in the marches. Well done to all involved.

It was back to earth with a bump on the competition front at Cowal on the traditional last Saturday in August. 15th place was what the 4 judges decreed, all very close in the position they gave us.

It was an unusual occurrence for another engagement to take place on the date of a competition. The Rotary clubs had asked if we could play during their market day in the centre of Perth. They have been generous donors in recent years and we wanted to help out.

The 9-strong mini-band performed creditably on three occasions plus played a couple of slow marches in St John's Kirk as a thank you for the use of their premises to store kit between performances. This was much appreciated



by the group of foreign visitors who were present. Thanks to our bucket shakers.



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SEPTEMBER 2012

The Braemar Highland gathering has been taking place on the first Saturday in September for many years. The bands who play for the visitors and the royal party are invited to attend. For the first time ever we took part. Indeed, we were the biggest band present. The playing schedule was onerous: 3 long stints in massed bands, a 20 minute one at the overseas tent plus one of similar length in the arena itself, all within the space of about four and a half hours. Nevertheless, the large number of players thoroughly enjoyed themselves and we hope to be back next year.



The band was delighted to receive a framed picture of the presentation of the banner donated by the Society of the High Constables of Perth. Iain Halliday, the Moderator, came to a Thursday practice to officially hand over the picture.

A trio played at the Hilton Dunkeld Hotel on the evening of Friday the 7th September for the PKAVS 40th Anniversary Ball. The organisers were very pleased with the playing and the friendliness of those who took part: Pipe Major Duthie, Pete Iannetta and Aaron Bryce.

On Sunday the 9th of September Robin MacIntyre and Jamie Sinclair, two residents of Scone who are members of the band, played for the Scone New Church open day which coincided with the official opening on the new road to Balgarvie Mill opposite.

One of our pipers is always present at the Perth Gaelic Society to help entertain the guests at their ceilidhs. The first of their new autumn series events was held in St Matthew's Church Hall on Friday the 14th of September and Pipe Major Alistair Duthie was the person involved.

We announce, with deep regret, the sad and sudden death of Alastair Dewar who, while employed by Smiths of Coupar Angus, was the regular driver of the band bus in the early 1990s, Alastair was more than just a very accommodating driver. He was an enthusiastic supporter of the band, attended many band functions and joined us as a supporter and not a driver at the European Championships in Belgium. Alastair Macintosh played at the graveside service at the Scone Cemetery.

The City of Brechin Pipe Band solos were held in Brechin High School on the 15th of September. Our younger players won a number of prizes in this very tough competition:

- *Eilidh Duthie - 1st in under-18 novice tenor drumming*
- *Laura Oswald - 2nd in under-18 intermediate drumming*
- *Nicola Sinclair - 3rd in 15 - 18 years novice drumming*
- *Aaron Bryce - 3rd in 18 and under 6/8 march and 4th in the under 15 MSR*
- *Jamie Sinclair - 4th in the 18 and under novice piping*

OCTOBER 2012

The historic setting of Blair Castle was the venue for a full band playing in the evening as part of the festivities associated with a wedding on the 6th October. The temperature was low but the night was clear and calm. Ian Sinclair piped in the guests as they arrived and a large band turned out after the meal to play a range of sets in the lit courtyard. The guests were appreciative of our efforts, even enduring the cold to wait to give a round of applause as we finished in the distance down the drive.

The Pipe Major played for the prestigious medal ceremony on behalf of the British Philatelic Society on the 21st of the month, initially in St John's Kirk where the presentation took place and later at the reception in the Queen's Hotel. Philatelists from all over the world were in attendance. Recipients came from as far away as New Zealand. Only a few hundred people have been given a medal stretching back over a number of centuries.

NOVEMBER 2012

Our AGM was held on the 1st of November. Members voted to make a number of changes to the constitution and to keep the minimum donation for membership the same as for the last two years. The following post holders were elected: Pipe Major - Alistair Duthie; Leading Drummer - Owen Sweeney; Competition Secretary - Pietro Iannetta; Drummers' Rep - Iain Sinclair; Pipers' Rep - Ian Sinclair; Quartermaster - Stewart Coupar; Secretary - Neil Myles; Social Convenor - Alastair Bryce and Treasurer - Kerry Smith. The Pipe Major thanked Andrew Davidson, Vince Davidson and Jim Scott for their services to the band after they had decided not to seek re-election.

The Pipe Major delivered another of his interesting talks about piping and the Perth and District Pipe Band on the 6th of November at the Perth Kinnoull Rotary Club. As usual, it was well received by their members who attended that evening.

Ross MacKinnon turned out at the November Perth Gaelic Society ceilidh on the 9th, held as always in St Matthew's Church hall in Perth. He played early on and again near the end.

On the 10th of November there was a ceilidh in Bankfoot to raise money to fund the trip of children from Chernobyl in Ukraine, something that the village has organised for a few years now. A quintet comprising the Pipe Major, Aaron Bryce, Eilidh Duthie, Neil Myles and Rab Wallace played a number of sets to entertain the numerous guests who attended.

We were very heavily involved in Remembrance Sunday events in the Perth area. A large band played the High Constables and Councillors to and from St John's Kirk as usual. In the interval between them Pipe Sergeant Alistair McIntosh played Flowers o' the Forest at the North Church. At the same time Ian Stevenson performed the same duty at Perth Prison and Robin MacIntyre was involved at the memorial in Luncarty. Also that morning Ian and Harris Sinclair and Rab Wallace took part in the proceedings at Bankfoot.

In the afternoon a band turned out at Scone where the lament at the war memorial was carried out by Pipe Major Duthie.

This was the first day that the band had turned out resplendent in their new jackets, waistcoats and kilts.

The annual RSPBA Dundee, Perth and Angus branch solo competitions were held at the Loch Leven Campus in Kinross from 9am to 5pm on Saturday the 23rd November.

A number of our younger players came away with prizes:

Chanter: 1st Callum Younger (in his first competition!); 2nd Andrew Allan.

Novice Piping: 6th Brogan Townsley, in his first competition as a piper.

Drumming on Pad: 4th Rebecca Oswald.

Novice Drumming: 3rd Nicola Sinclair; 4th Cameron Gillies.



Sunday the 24th was the date at which Santa Claus was welcomed into Dobbies Garden Centre, Perth, led by the band as has been the case for the last few years. This time, however, the weather was pretty miserable and capes were the order of the day.

We played through the aisles, in the plant area and did our finale on the stairs to the enjoyment of the many shoppers present.



DECEMBER 20 12

Aaron Bryce is a weel-kent face at the Perth Gaelic Society's ceilidhs even though he is under 14 years of age. He gave another excellent performance on Friday the 7th of December.

An invitation to play at the annual dinner of the Society of the High Constables of the City of Perth is a regular feature on the band's calendar. This year Alistair Duthie was joined by Peter Scott in the event held in the Salutation Hotel on Wednesday the 12th of December.

The numbers of players attending the practice on Thursday the 13th December was lower than usual and the average age well up. Why? Lots of our youngsters were at Mother Goose, the pantomime in Perth Theatre, that night using the block booking made by Kerry Smith, our treasurer.

At Tesco Crieff Road during the afternoon of the 22nd we had non-stop playing under the canopy at the entrance (due to persistent, heavy rain) from noon until about 4pm. All the band played to start then 2 mini-bands alternated until the finale with everyone and a march through the store. Thanks to Tesco, our bucket shakers and the shoppers who contributed to these buckets.



At Tesco Crieff Road during the afternoon of the 22nd we had non-stop playing under the canopy at the entrance (due to persistent, heavy rain) from noon until about 4pm. The full band played to start then 2 mini-bands alternated until the finale with everyone and a march through the store. Thanks to Tesco, our bucket shakers and the shoppers who contributed to these buckets.



Edinburgh Road, the other major Tesco store in Perth, also requested some players. Despite the short notice we turned out 2 mini-bands, one on Friday the 28th and the other the next day, both from noon to 2pm. The shoppers here were also very generous when dropping money into our buckets. Thank you all.

To end 2012 there was a traditional job, thanks to M&S, bag packing inside plus playing and bucket shaking in the High Street just outside the entrance. This was a long engagement: starting at 8am and ending well after 5pm. There were alternating mini-bands in the morning and one after lunch interspersed with solo and duet slots.

