

Bevan takes four out of five at Nicol-Brown Piping Competitions

October 12 & 13, 1991

Troy, New York — The tenth annual Robert Nicol-Robert Brown Memorial Piping Competitions were held here at the Troy Savings Bank Music Hall. The competition is the premier amateur event, not simply in North America, but probably the world. Top North American amateur pipers are invited each year to the competition, which was founded in 1981 to foster the standard of piping in North America.

The competition in 1991 took up the challenge seemingly avoided by other contests by introducing new angles to competitive piping. "The Distinguished Composer" medley contest was commenced, with competitors required to submit a selection of tunes written or arranged by P-M Donald MacLeod, MBE. The Nicol-Brown Competitions also began a "20th Century Piobaireachd" event where contestants have to submit a Ceol Mor composition written in the 1900s.

Alan Bevan, 15, of Abbotsford, British Columbia, was first in four of the five competitions. Alan earned his invitation to the event by winning the BC Pipers' Society amateur competitions in the spring of 1991, and he is the first from BC to qualify through the "Exchange of Champions" program, where the EUSPBA and the BC Pipers' Society have a reciprocal agreement.

The venue for the event is a 1,250 seat concert hall built in 1875, and is renowned worldwide for its near-perfect acoustics.

The Nicol-Brown Competitions have everything a top-flight piping competition, amateur or professional, requires: organization both before and after the event, an excellent venue, careful selection of invited performers, and a challenging and inventive variety of contests.

Nicol-Brown Chalice Piobaireachd Competition

1st: Skip Cleavinger, Bowling Green, Kentucky, "Earl of Seaforth's

Salute"; 2nd: Andrew Hayes, Napean, Ontario, "Salute to Donald"; 3rd: Jenny Hazzard, Woodbridge, Ontario, "Lament for Ronald MacDonald of Morar"; 4th: David Hicks, St. Catharines, Ontario, "The Desperate Battle"; 5th: Alan Bevan, "The Prince's Salute"

William Ross Challenge Targe MSR

1st: Alan Bevan, "John MacDonald of Glencoe," "Caber Feidh," "The Smith"; 2nd: David Hicks; 3rd: Jenny Hazzard; 4th: Jeremy Freeman; 5th: Skip Cleavinger

6/8 March

1st: Alan Bevan, "MacLeod of Mull," "P-M Donald MacLean of Lewis"; 2nd: David Hicks; 3rd: Andrew Hayes; 4th: Gordon Peters; 5th: Skip Cleavinger

Distinguished Composer Medley

1st: Alan Bevan, "The Long Island," "Capt. Colin Campbell," "Fiona MacLeod," "The Grey Orchy," "The Old Woman's Dance," "The Wee Man from Skye"; 2nd: Andrew Hayes; David Hicks

20th Century Piobaireachd

1st: Alan Bevan, "Lament for Angus MacPherson of Invershin"; 2nd: Andrew Hayes, "Ancestral Voices"; 3rd: William Wiley, "The Phantom Piper of Corrieairack"

Judge for all events: Colin MacLellan, Maxville, Ontario.

Toronto Branch Knockout First Round Action

Etobicoke, Ontario — The first round of the Toronto Branch Knockout Piping Competition was held on December 20, 1991, at the Thistleton Community Centre at Albion and Islington. Competitors played their own choice of hornpipe & jig set.

Nine competitors were chosen by adjudicators Tom Anderson, John Elliott, and Ron Rollo to go on to the second round: Andrew Bonar, Terry Cleland, Brad Davidson, Bruce Gandy, Michael Grey, Craig MacDonald, Hector MacDonald, Iain MacDonald, and Jake Watson.

Don't settle for imitations!

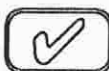


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