

THE 28TH

Nicol-Brown

AMATEUR INVITATIONAL
PIPING COMPETITION



~: October 9, 2010 ~:

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
Albany, New York, USA

www.nicol-brown.org

What a weekend!

FRIDAY, October 8, 2010

Angus MacColl Concert and Nicol-Brown Reception

7:00 to 9:00 pm at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

The 2010 competitors and judge will be introduced, and tune selections for the contest will be announced. Angus MacColl will make beautiful music.

SATURDAY, October 9, 2010

The Contest!

10:00 am to 7:00 pm at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Celebration Dinner

8:30 pm at the Holiday Inn at 205 Wolf Road, Albany 12205

If you'd like to join us for dinner, please see Barb McCarthy to ask if space is available, and to arrange for payment.

SUNDAY, October 10, 2010

Master Class

10:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Invermark Piping Studio

91 Puckertoot Road, Petersburg, New York 12138

Nicol-Brown competitors will have an open lesson with Angus MacColl and Donald Lindsay, who will discuss highlights of the contest and give valuable insight for any pipers wanting to improve their musicianship.

Private Lessons with Angus MacColl

2:00 to 7:00 pm at the Invermark Piping Studio

MONDAY, October 11, 2010

Group Workshops with Angus MacColl

The Celtic Hall, 430 New Karner Road, Albany, New York

9:00 2/4 Marches 11:00 Piobaireachd

To attend the classes on Sunday or Monday, please call Maureen Connor: 518-374-6034.

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The Nicol-Brown committee welcomes the judge for 2010: Angus MacColl



ANGUS MACCOLL is one of the most musical solo pipers in the world today. He has won every major prize in piping at least once, and it is an honor to welcome him to Albany for the Nicol-Brown weekend. Angus taught at the Invermark summer schools on Skye for several years, until his schedule as a piping teacher in the Oban schools caused a conflict. The students of Oban are privileged to have such an outstanding teacher and mentor, and the Oban High School Pipe Band is flourishing under his leadership. They won the Novice Juvenile Pipe Band events at the World Championships and the Cowal Games in August of 2010.

Angus has recorded three outstanding CDs of pipe music, which belong in every piper's library. In the liner notes of Angus's second CD, *A Tradition of Excellence*, Ronald Morrison comments: "It is remarkable how history repeats itself. One hundred years ago the famous John MacColl of Oban won the Clasp at the Northern Meeting. His great-grand nephew, Angus, repeated the performance in 2000 where he gave an immaculate performance playing the little heard 'Sutherland's Gathering'. Indeed it is reckoned that this would rank among the best ever heard at Inverness. Of course winning prestigious prizes comes second nature to Angus, considering his track record..."

Judges for the Nicol-Brown Amateur Invitational Contest

1982	Ed Neigh	1998	Jack Lee
1983	James McGillivray	1999	Michael Cusack
1984	Murray Henderson	2000	Alasdair Gillies
1985	Donald F. Lindsay	2001	Michael Rogers
1986	William Livingstone	2002	Jack Taylor
1987	Amy Garson, Ed Krintz and Chip Reardon	2003	Bruce Gandy and Michael Rogers
1988	Donald F. Lindsay	2004	Stuart Liddell and Donald F. Lindsay
1989	Seumas MacNeill	2005	Donald MacPhee
1990	James McGillivray	2006	John Wilson and Alasdair Gillies
1991	Colin MacLellan	2007	John Wilson and Nancy Tunnicliffe
1993	George Bell and Donald F. Lindsay	2008	Nancy Tunnicliffe, Bobby Minnear, and R. Iain MacDonald
1994	Colin MacLellan and Donald F. Lindsay	2009	Murray Henderson, Amy Garson, and Andrew Douglas
1995	Bob Worrall	2010	Angus MacColl
1996	Scott MacAulay and Donald F. Lindsay		
1997	Donald F. Lindsay		

The Competitors

BOBBY DURNING (Haverhill, Massachusetts)

Bobby began playing the pipes at age 9. After having a few different teachers, he started taking lessons with P/M George M. Bell of Parlin, New Jersey in November 2002 until his untimely passing in January 2010. Bobby has won the George Sherriff Memorial, the Metro Cup Amateur Championship, the Sandy Jones Invitational twice, and the Gilchrist Challenge twice. He is a freshman at Zion Bible College in Haverhill, Massachusetts, double-majoring in Biblical Studies and Youth Ministry. Bobby plays with the Stuart Highlanders Pipe Band.

MARSHALL GERMAN (Corona, California)

Marshall started on the pipes at age 14 after one year on the chanter with instruction from P/M Mike Terry of the University of California Riverside. In the fall of 2007, he began studying under Ian Whitelaw, with whom he continues. He also receives yearly instruction with Bruce Hitchings, Robert Watt and Iain Macey. He has had the privilege of instruction from Murray Henderson as well. Marshall is currently with Dowco Triumph Street Pipe Band from Vancouver, British Columbia as well as the UCRPB from Riverside, California. He moved up to Grade 1 solos in January 2010.

Marshall won the Piobaireachd event at the Balmoral U.S. Jr. National Solo Piping Championships and a 2nd place overall in November of 2009. Also this past June he took 2nd place in Piobaireachd at the U.S. Piping Foundation Amateur Championships in Delaware. He has won the grand aggregate for WUSPBA for grade 3, 2 and 1 consecutively with prizes in both Piobaireachd and light music. A couple of highlights for him were: He was asked to play with the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and Coldstream Guard Bands while on their North American tour, giving him the solo position for Amazing Grace, their first and only guest ever, as well as performing with The Band of the Irish Guard Argyll and Sutherland 5th Battalion while on their North American tour.

Marshall is a senior at Kennedy Middle College High School and also takes classes at Riverside Community College. Music is his passion and he would like to pursue composing for film and television. He is self-taught on a number of instruments, including guitar and piano. He enjoys snowboarding up in Big Bear, California. Marshall would like to thank first and foremost his grandmother for her support, along with the St. Andrews Society of Southern California, WUSPBA, the Southern WUSPBA branch, and P/M Mike Terry.

ANDREW LAIRD (Winnipeg, Manitoba)

Andrew started piping at the age of 9, receiving light music and Piobaireachd instruction from Pipe Major Robert Fraser from Arbroath. Andrew played with the Lord Selkirk Boys Pipe Band, Winnipeg, for many enjoyable years, and was Pipe Major of that band before joining St. Andrew's Society of Winnipeg Pipe Band. He has traveled three times to Scotland for the World Championships with his bands. Andrew's commitment to piping no longer allowed for a Provincial Volleyball team schedule and piping became his major focus. Andrew currently receives instruction from Jack Lee and P/M Wes Sheppard. Andrew has attended many piping workshops with world-class instructors who have also contributed to his piping education and he has made many friendships along the way.

Andrew is in his final year of high school and is looking to pursue an education in audio-engineering/digital multi-media. He is playing his grandfather's pre-WWI Henderson bagpipes. Andrew has had a successful piping year in 2010, winning two Firsts at Maxville, the Grade 1 Piobaireachd at the BC Annual Gathering, and Grade 1 Aggregate and Piobaireachd at many competitions.

LEE CHO-LAM, CHRIS (Hong Kong)

Chris Lee is originally from Sham Shui Po, Hong Kong (where the pipe tune "The Road to Sham Shui Po" is from). He began piping in 2003, at age 13. His first introduction to the bagpipes was from his friend, Roy Lau, who encouraged him to join a local pipe band. Then, after 3 years, he started taking online lessons from Bruce Gandy. From 2008 to the present time, he has had the wonderful opportunity of spending half the year at the Halifax Citadel School of Piping in Nova Scotia on a scholarship and he has fulfilled his dream of playing with the 78th Highlanders Halifax Citadel Pipe Band. Chris would like to thank his teacher Bruce Gandy, his family and friends for their great support.

DANIEL PISOWLOSKI (Canterbury, Connecticut)

Dan is a 17-year-old high school junior, and is an honors student at Norwich Free Academy. He started on the practice chanter at the age of nine in 2002, when he began playing with the Mystic Highland Pipe Band, an entertaining street band from Mystic, Connecticut. In 2005, he joined the ranks of the Rhode Island Highlanders, a Grade 3 competition band, and he began solo competing. With instruction from John Sullivan, Dan worked his way up through the grades and entered Grade 1 in 2009. Along the way, he won the Grade 3 Overall prize at the North American Championships in Maxville, Ontario in 2007 and the Grade 2 in 2008. Dan also won the EUSPBA Season Championship in Grade 2 in 2008. He placed 2nd Overall in Grade 1 at Maxville in 2009 and 2010. In his first year in Grade 1 last year, Dan was invited to the Nicol-Brown, the Balmoral Classic, and the George Sherriff Memorial (He did not attend the Sherriff). The highlight of these events was a third in the March, Strathspey, and Reel at the Balmoral Classic.

Since 2006, Dan has played with the Grade 2 Manchester Pipe Band, and in mid-2010 was named Pipe Sergeant. Dan has begun to foster interest in bagpiping at his high school, where he has helped form a piping and drumming club. An avid composer, Dan has over one hundred tunes to his credit, ranging from all forms of light music to Piobaireachd to some tunes that have no classification in pipe music. Dan won honors for a strathspey titled "Waldo Kahler" in the Controversy of Composers tune contest sponsored by *the VOICE*. In addition to piping, Dan is also a competitive drum major at the professional level and, in 2010 competed in Scotland, taking 2nd at both the North Berwick and Bridge of Allan Highland Games followed by a 12th place at the World Pipe Band Championships. Dan has also tried his hand at solo snare drumming, taking the EUSPBA Grade 4 Jr. Season Championship in 2009.

BEN REID (Port Dover, Ontario)

Ben has been playing since he was ten. His band is the Paris-Port Dover Pipe Band. The band played on stage this past summer with Sir Paul McCartney at the Air Canada Centre in Toronto. Ben receives instruction from Ed and Geoff Neigh. He also plays the trumpet and is currently enrolled at Humber College in their Music degree program. He plays McCallum bagpipes.

ELLIOT SMITH (Batesville, Arkansas)

Elliot was exposed to bagpiping when he was six years old and attended his first highland games at Loon Mountain in Lincoln, New Hampshire. A few years later, inspired by the British military pipe band, the Black Watch, he began taking lessons in earnest. He began his career with Gordon and Lezlie Webster and was lucky to receive early Piobaireachd tutelage from piping great, Ed Neigh. This young exposure to Piobaireachd created a lifelong love for piping music.

After taking a brief hiatus from piping, Elliot is currently playing with the Grade 2 Stuart Highlanders Pipe Band from Wilmington, Massachusetts. He is also wrapping up his first successful season in Grade 1 solos, and at the end of September he was in second place overall in Amateur 1 piping in the Eastern United States Pipe Band Association. This year he also won the Senior Amateur Piobaireachd at the Glengarry Highland Games in Maxville, Ontario.

Presently, Elliot is attending Lyon College in Batesville, Arkansas, where he is earning one of the few bagpipe music majors offered in the country, under the expert instruction of Pipe Major James M. Bell. In his free time, Elliot enjoys downhill skiing and backpacking.

MYLES STEWART (Vancouver, British Columbia)

Myles is originally from Edmonton, Alberta, where he learned how to play the pipes through the Edmonton Boys' Pipe Band. When he went to the World Championships for the first time with Edmonton Boys' in 2002, they captured the Novice Juvenile title. In 2006 he entered the Grade 1 pipe band scene with Alberta Caledonia, where he spent two years. Myles moved to Vancouver, British Columbia in 2008 to join the Simon Fraser University Pipe Band and pursue his education in the field of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry. Myles is currently in his 3rd year with the SFU Pipe Band, having been part

of the 2009 World Championship win.

Myles receives instruction from Andrew Bonar, and has been quite successful in his amateur solo piping career, having won the Jig at the BCPA Annual Gathering in 2008 and winning the MSR and overall aggregate for Grade 1 in 2010 two years later. His most recent solo accomplishment is winning the BC Pipers' Association Grand Aggregate for Grade 1 in 2010, having won the Grade 1 aggregate for 7 out of the 9 BCPA sanctioned events.

Myles plays hockey regularly in his free time between school, band, and solos. He also enjoys going for the lunch special at Capitol Hill Szechuan Restaurant with his bandmates every Sunday.

GLENN WALPOLE (Tiverton, Ontario)

Glenn started piping when he was 8 years old. His first lessons were with David Hamilton, an instructor for the Kincardine Scottish Pipe Band. After a year, Glenn began lessons with Bill McLeod of Kincardine, and he has been mentored by Bill ever since. Bill arranged for him to study piobaireachd with Archie Cairns, and he continues to study with Archie. Glenn's first band was the Penetangore Grade 4 band, then he moved to the MacNaughton Highlanders Grade 2, and he now plays for the Peel Regional Police Pipe Band Grade 1. He has collected prizes in solo competitions across Ontario, in Fredericton, New Brunswick, in Pleasanton, California and in Alma, Michigan. He was the Amateur Piper of the Day at the 2010 North American Championships and he won the 2010 Grade 1 Champion Supreme for both Light Music and Piobaireachd for the Pipers' and Pipe Band Society of Ontario.

Glenn is in Grade 12 at Saugeen District Secondary School in Port Elgin. He plays tuba in the school band and is an avid golf team member. Golf is his second love.



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6/8 Marches

(The competitors have chosen two tunes to play in this order.)

CHRIS LEE

Miss Ishbel T. MacDonald
Mrs. Melody Piper

GLENN WALPOLE

Ballochyle
Dr. Ross's 50th Welcome to the Argyllshire Gathering

BOBBY DURNING

Dundee City Police Pipe Band
Frank Thompson

DAN PISOWLOSKI

Mrs. MacDonald of Uig
Ballochyle

BEN REID

Pipe Sgt. John Barclay
The Trees of North Uist

ELLIOT SMITH

Jean Mauchline
Jimmy McIntosh, MBE

ANDREW LAIRD

Cameron MacFadyen
Dr. Ross's 50th Welcome to the Argyllshire Gathering

MARSHALL GERMAN

Nameless (by Donald MacLeod)
Caverhill

MYLES STEWART

Heights of Cassino
Frank Thompson

IMPORTANT PHOTO OP

Please meet in the sanctuary immediately following the final 6/8 March performance for the official 2010 group photo of the competitors and judge. Weather permitting, outdoor photos will also be taken at this time. *Please wear your Nicol-Brown lapel pin!*

Piobaireachd

(The judge has selected one tune for each competitor.)

DAN PISOWLOSKI

The Groat
The Old Men of the Shells #1
Lachlan MacNeill Campbell of Kintarbert's Fancy

BEN REID

The Groat
Too Long in this Condition
Tulach Ard

ELLIOT SMITH

Glengarry's March
Lament for Donald of Laggan
The Little Spree

ANDREW LAIRD

The MacGregors' Salute
The Desperate Battle
Patrick Og MacCrimmon's Lament

MARSHALL GERMAN

The Battle of Auldearn #1
Lament for Captain MacDougall
Patrick Og MacCrimmon's Lament

MYLES STEWART

The Massacre of Glencoe
Too Long in this Condition
Corrienessan's Salute

CHRIS LEE

The King's Taxes
MacCrimmon's Sweetheart
Lachlan MacNeill Campbell of Kintarbert's Fancy

GLENN WALPOLE

MacCrimmon's Sweetheart
The Massacre of Glencoe
Corrienessan's Salute

BOBBY DURNING

Lament for the Viscount of Dundee
Lady Margaret MacDonald's Salute
The Groat

March, Strathspey and Reel

(The judge has selected one set of tunes for each competitor.)

ANDREW LAIRD

2/4 Marches: The Abercairney Highlanders
The Duke of Roxburgh's Farewell to the Blackmount Forest
Strathspeys: Lady Louden
Bogan Lochan
Reels: Ca' the Ewes
The Sheepwife

MARSHALL GERMAN

2/4 Marches: Captain Campbell of Drum a Voisk
The Braes of Castle Grant
Strathspeys: Cabar Feidh
The Piper's Bonnet
Reels: Johnnie MacDonald's Reel
The Grey Bob

MYLES STEWART

2/4 Marches: The Braes of Castle Grant
Mrs. John MacColl
Strathspeys: Cabar Feidh
Maggie Cameron
Reels: Lieutenant Colonel D.J.S. Murray
Alick C. McGregor

CHRIS LEE

2/4 Marches: Hugh Kennedy
John MacDonald of Glencoe
Strathspeys: Cabar Feidh
Highland Harry
Reels: The Sound of Sleat
Lochiel's Away to France

GLENN WALPOLE

2/4 Marches: The Lochaber Gathering
The Abercairney Highlanders
Strathspeys: Susan MacLeod
Blair Drummond
Reels: Alick C. McGregor
Duncan Lamont

BOBBY DURNING

2/4 Marches: Knightswood Ceilidh
Leaving Glenurquhart
Strathspeys: Cabar Feidh
Delvinside
Reels: Broadford Bay
Alick C. McGregor

DAN PISOWLOSKI

2/4 Marches: Dr. E.G. MacKinnon
Conon Bridge
Strathspeys: The Islay Ball
Lady MacKenzie of Gairloch
Reels: The Little Cascade
Mrs. MacPherson of Inveran

BEN REID

2/4 Marches: Mrs. John MacColl
John MacColl's March to Kilbowie Cottage
Strathspeys: Cabar Feidh
Lady MacKenzie of Gareloch
Reels: Broadford Bay
The Cockerel in the Creel

ELLIOT SMITH

2/4 Marches: Leaving Lunga
Glenfinnan Highland Gathering
Strathspeys: Glenshee
Maggie Cameron
Reels: Major Manson
The Cockerel in the Creel



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The Executive Committee of the
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extends a very warm welcome to Angus MacColl,
and best wishes to the Nicol-Brown Amateur
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volunteers, organizers and spectators.

This is truly one of the premier amateur piping events
in the world and it is an honor to be a sponsor.

EUSPBA Executive Committee

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Steve Serneels, Recording Secretary
Helen Harlow, Officer-at-Large/Membership Coordinator
Ken Adler, Officer-at-Large



Please join us for the 2010 Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Saturday, November 13, 2010 — Meeting at 9 a.m.
Holiday Inn BWI Airport
890 Elkridge Landing Road, Baltimore, MD 21090

Presentation of awards for EUSPBA overall 2010 champions, and ceilidh on Saturday night.

For more information, please contact:

Executive Secretary Sheldon Hamblin at zecsec@euspba.org

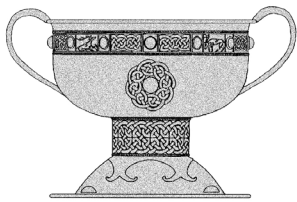
History

In recognition of the continuing development of piping standards in North America, Donald F. Lindsay and students from Williams College in Massachusetts established the First Annual Williams College Amateur Invitational Piobaireachd, where the Nicol-Brown Chalice was first presented on April 2, 1982. This special event was dedicated to Robert Brown and Robert Nicol ("The Bobs of Balmoral") who shared a deep and abiding enthusiasm for Piobaireachd. It was out of their affiliation with John MacDonald of Inverness that their life-long commitment to the teaching and perpetuation of Ceol Mor grew. As musicians and as world citizens, their lives remain an inspiration to pipers everywhere. It is upon the shoulders of these great teachers and Piobaireachd authorities that today's pipers and instructors stand.

Modeled after Scotland's Oban and Inverness competitions, the "Olympics of Piping," the Nicol-Brown Invitational provides enthu-

siastic top amateur pipers with a prestigious competition which sets a standard by which to judge their piping, and a goal to direct their hours of practice. Piobaireachd, or classical pipe music, does not always get a fair hearing due to the length, difficulty and intricacy of the tunes, but this invitational contest has become a respected place to play and listen to Piobaireachd in the United States. In order to encourage Piobaireachd of the highest standards, the top amateur Piobaireachd players from across the North American continent have been invited to compete. All competitors selected for the Nicol-Brown must be ranked at the top amateur level for both Piobaireachd and Light Music by their home associations, and must have significant results in the current season.

The Nicol-Brown has pioneered the way for elite invitational events for amateur pipers. Many former competitors and their family members return each year to volunteer their time to continue the traditions of the Nicol-Brown — a testimony to the influence that the contest has had on the lives of so many pipers.



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Maureen Connor
Betsy Douglas
Paula Glendinning
Donna Hanks
Donald F. Lindsay
Barbara McCarthy
Eric Ouellette
Heather Scott
JoAnn Scott
Mary White

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Eric MacNeill
Dan Parsons
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Stephen Walker

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MEMORIAL GIFTS

Doreen Forney's donation is given in memory of P/M Angus Macdonald.
Peter Kent's donation is given in memory of Henry Hood.
Fairlie M. Sharp's donation is given in memory of her parents, Bob and Annie Brown.
Nancy Tunnickliff's donation is given in memory of Janet Milley.
Rick Woolard's donation is given in memory of Ronald Morrison of South Uist.

Be a Patron of the Arts!

The Nicol-Brown Contest has provided an elite, formal, indoor event for Amateur pipers since 1982, thanks to the generous donors and volunteers who have given their time and financial support over the years. If you'd like to volunteer to help with next year's contest, please speak with one of the committee members. If you'd like to send a donation of any size, mail a check payable to the Nicol-Brown Chalice to:

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Trophies and Prizes

In 1982, Brian Yates, an American piper and silversmith, was commissioned to craft the Nicol-Brown Chalice, with the winning Piobaireachd competitor's name to be inscribed on the base each year. Brian has described the Chalice project as a "cathedral" which would take years to complete. Stephen Walker of Walker Metalsmiths has volunteered many hours of his artistic skills to bring the cathedral closer to completion.

In 1987, the Nicol-Brown committee added a March, Strathspey and Reel contest, and commissioned Mr. Fred Graham, Scottish Celtic Armourer and Silversmith of the "Royal Mile" in Edinburgh, to make a targe in honor of P/M William Ross. The MSR winner's name is inscribed on the targe each year, along with the tunes played in the winning performance.

In 1990, a 6/8 March contest was added in honor of Donald MacLeod, with a silver buckle designed by Brian Yates to be awarded each year. In 2007, Stephen Walker designed a new edition of the buckle, to be awarded for the fourth time this year. He has done considerable research on a technique to create "chip-carving" which is how he believes many of the early medieval masterpieces of Celtic metalwork were fashioned. The method seems to have been lost about a thousand years ago, and Stephen is working on a revival.

Nicol-Brown Chalice For Piobaireachd

1982	Nancy Crutcher: "Lament for Donald Duaghal MacKay"
1983	Ian Beatty: "Black Donald's March"
1984	Robert Minnear: "Lament for Donald Duaghal MacKay"
1985	Kenneth Garson: "The Vaunting"
1986	June Potter: "The Park Piobaireachd" #2
1987	Joyce McIntosh: "The Old Men of the Shells"
1988	Daniel Whatley: "The Park Piobaireachd" #2
1989	Katy Rashid: "The MacDougalls' Gathering"
1990	Daniel Kenny: "The Desperate Battle"
1991	Skip Cleavinger: "The Earl of Seaforth's Salute"
1992	The contest was not held.
1993	Paula Glendinning: "The Desperate Battle"
1994	Andrew Hoag: "Beloved Scotland"
1995	Paula Glendinning: "The Desperate Battle"
1996	Ryan MacDonald: "Grain in Hides, Corn in Sacks"
1997	John MacPhee: "The Battle of the Pass of Crieff"
1998	Brian May: "The Prince's Salute"
1999	Maureen Connor: "The Marquis of Argyll's Salute"
2000	Erin McCarthy: "The Rout of Glenfruin"
2001	Erin McCarthy: "The Rout of Glenfruin"
2002	Jeremy Freeman: "The Old Men of the Shells"
2003	Lyric Todkill: "Lament for the Only Son"
2004	Eric Ouellette: "Scarce of Fishing"
2005	Colin Lee: "The Desperate Battle"
2006	Cameron Scott: "The Old Men of the Shells"
2007	Alastair Lee: "Melbank's Salute"
2008	Johnny Bassett: "The MacGregors' Salute"
2009	Anthony Masterson: "The Mackays' Banner"

The overall Nicol-Brown champion for 2010 will win a set of R.G. Hardie bagpipes with a Peter Henderson solo chanter, a custom-made kilt, and round-trip airfare from a major North American airport to London to compete in the Scottish Piping Society of London competitions in November 2011. The timing of the trip will allow our winner a year to prepare to compete in the prestigious Piobaireachd and Light Music contests in London, along with the outstanding opportunity to listen to the Bratach Gorm and other events which draw the top players from around the world. Bob Brown and Bob Nicol were both featured prominently in the prize lists in London, and we are proud to connect our contest to that history. Bob Brown won the Open Piobaireachd (now called the Gillies Cup) 12 times and the Bratach Gorm (for Former Winners of the Gold Medal or Gillies Cup) three times. His last win in London was in November of 1971, just a few months before he died.



Inspired by the Ardagh Chalice, c. 800-899 AD, the Nicol-Brown Chalice was designed and created by Brian Yates as a symbol of the pursuit of excellence in Celtic art and music. Stephen Walker of Walker Metalsmiths has added his artistry to the chalice, and has plans for further embellishments.

William Ross Challenge Targe for MSR

1987	Alasdair Wright	1999	Glenn Brown
1988	Daniel Whatley	2000	Glenn Brown
1989	Ken McKeveny	2001	Lionel Tupman
1990	Robert Boyd	2002	Lionel Tupman
1991	Alan Bevan	2003	Lyric Todkill
1993	Paula Glendinning	2004	Andrew Lewis
1994	Jason Briscoe	2005	Alex Gandy
1995	Michael Rogers	2006	Micah Babinski
1996	Michael Rogers	2007	Alastair Lee
1997	Steven Tripp	2008	John Lee
1998	Andrew Douglas	2009	Anthony Masterson



Donald MacLeod Memorial Silver Buckle for 6/8 Marches

1990	P. Andrew L. Hayes	2001	Lionel Tupman
1991	Alan Bevan	2002	Lionel Tupman
1993	Jamie Troy	2003	Lyric Todkill
1994	Ryan MacDonald	2004	Robert Beaton
1995	Paula Glendinning	2005	Colin Lee
1996	Ryan MacDonald	2006	Kegan Sheehan
1997	Joss Fisher	2007	Gordon Conn
1998	Andrew Douglas	2008	Johnny Bassett
1999	Glenn Brown	2009	Richard Gillies
2000	Andrew J. Hayes		

ROBERT URQUHART BROWN

Bob Brown was born in 1906 in Banchory, Scotland, of a family which had long shown a keen interest in all the music of Scotland. He received his first instruction on the bagpipes from William Fraser, a pupil of G.S. McLennan, who although suffering from a physical handicap acquired during the First World War, was still considered a fine player. Next, the young Brown went to Jonathan Ewen, an Inverness Medalist, who began for him his life-long study of Ceol Mor. Ewen was a pupil of Sandy Cameron, so it was not surprising that his young pupil began to win a number of competitions in his local area. This brought him to the attention of G.S. Allan, who took him under



his wing and accompanied him to the Argyllshire Gathering in 1925, where Brown won the junior piobaireachd. The following year he was unplaced but highly commended in the Gold Medal event.

Although he was a keen competitor and loved the excitement of the boards, Bob Brown did not always find it easy to get time off from his work—which is surprising in view of the fact that his employers have always been enthusiasts for piping. It was in fact 1931 before he was able to return to Oban, and this time he won the Gold Medal. By then, however, he was the

holder of the Inverness Medal, which he won in 1928. This was also the year when, according to Bob, there occurred the most important event in his piping life—he began to take lessons from John MacDonald. “I owe my knowledge,” said Bob Brown once, “to John MacDonald who made me the piobaireachd enthusiast that I am.” Certainly, it is partly through his long and close association with John MacDonald that he came to be looked on as a great authority, but this was also due to his own clear and reasoned expositions on this subject, and his unflinching ability to produce great music whenever he played.

His fame and standing increased as time went on. In the last decade of his life, pipers began beating a path to the door of his cottage at Balmoral and he began taking his knowledge to different parts of the world. For several years he was the instructor at the Invermark summer schools in New York state; he visited South Africa and New Zealand; and it was while he was in Australia in 1972 that the first signs came of the ailment which was to prove so quickly fatal. He was barely able to get home to his beloved Scotland before he passed away.

ROBERT BELL NICOL

Bob Nicol was born in 1905 in Durriss, Aberdeenshire, and was first taught by a piper MacKellar, a pupil of MacDougall Gillies, who was later killed in the 1914-18 war. He was then taught by one of the Ewen brothers. Another of the brothers, Jonathan Ewen, at that time was teaching the young Bob Brown who was later to become Bob Nicol's life-long friend. Bob Nicol had a successful junior career and his first piping appointment was as piper to Lord Cowdray at Dunecht. It was from here that he moved to Balmoral as King George V's piper in 1924. In 1926, when only 20 years old he had a shooting accident that resulted in the loss of his right eye. A shot from a fellow gamekeeper ricocheted off a frozen tree and hit him in the eye.

Later in 1926, King George V was anxious to have Bob given the best tuition and he consulted the factor at Balmoral, Sir Douglas

Ramsay, and Sheriff Grant, Rothiemurchus, who were both pupils of John MacDonald. As a result, Bob Nicol was sent to Inverness to study with John MacDonald for a month that same year. It was a nerve-racking time, as Bob related, “When John MacDonald came into the room he gave me a good dressing-down for a start. He said, ‘You're no use to me.’ In fact he was quite nasty to me for the whole month.” But on the completion of his course a very good report was sent to Balmoral. The following year he was accompanied by Bob Brown, and the visits continued every year until 1939.

During this period, Bob Nicol became one of the outstanding players, winning all the top honours including the Gold Medal at Inverness and Oban in 1930 and the Clasp in 1932. His medal tune at Inverness was “Lament for Donald Ban MacCrimmon,” a tune he was later to play at the graveside of both John MacDonald and Bob Brown. Throughout the 1939-45 war he served as pipe major in the 2nd Gordons and ran a piobaireachd class for the 15th Scottish Division. He also taught at schools in America and Brittany. He was a very good and firm teacher, a likeable man with a sharp wit and sense of humour. Dedicated to keeping the traditional piobaireachd alive, he was undoubtedly one of the greats and one of the most knowledgeable men of our time. Bob Nicol died in 1978.

(These bios include excerpts from Vol. 24, #10 and Vol. 30, #9 of the *Piping Times*.)

PIPE MAJOR WILLIAM ROSS

Pipe Major William Ross (1879-1965) learned his early piping from his father, mother, and his uncle, Aeneas Ross, who guided his early steps in Piobaireachd. By his own great musical ability, Pipe Major Ross rose to the top of his profession. Music flowed from William Ross's pipe and fingers with no apparent effort: “the mighty frame seemed hardly to need to blow”. It was the simplicity of the true expert—like the golf swing of a master—making it look easy until we try to do it ourselves. Unlike so many pipers, success never

spoiled him, and if ever one needed a tonic, an hour in the company of the illustrious Pipe Major would assure a cure for the ailment. He was peerless in conversation, a Prince of Storytellers. He loved human beings and was loved by them in return. In his life and work, Willie Ross was a delightful example of the perfect gentleman. By his courtesy, his modesty, and his professional ability, he left an indelible, honoured name that will live down through the ages and cheer the hearts of those who listen to the recordings of his lovely music.

He joined the Scots Guards in 1896 and from that date until his retirement in 1957 he served piping and pipers. In 1920 he was appointed Principal of the new Army School of Piping at Edinburgh Castle. After his retirement from the



Army, it was in 1921 that he became the Piobaireachd Society's tutor, and through his appointment, pipers both military and civilian were able to benefit from his tuition. His pupils are scattered throughout the world and always provided the cream of the piping world with many champions amongst them. The world of pipers has not only been made up of players, teachers, and composers; there have been those who worked to make the music of the pipe available to the piper, and those who worked to ensure that the great heritage was passed on. William Ross's collection of pipe music remains the mainstay and guide of many pipers.

(Excerpted from *Piping Times*, June 1966; *A Highlander Looks Back* by Angus MacPherson; *Scots Guards Book 1*; and *The Piper's Handbook* by Pipe Major John MacLellan.)

DONALD MACLEOD

Donald MacLeod was born in Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis on August 14, 1916. His first piping lessons were from his father, and at the age of six he came into contact with Pipe Major Willie Ross, who travelled to the Hebrides on behalf of the Piobaireachd Society. At age 11, Donald had his first lessons with John MacDonald of Inverness, and that relationship lasted for 25 years.

MacLeod joined the Seaforth Highlanders in 1937, and in 1939 went to France with the 2nd Battalion. He was taken prisoner at St. Valery, but escaped, and made his way back across Europe to re-join his regiment. MacLeod was made pipe major in 1941, and in 1944 returned to the front, where he piped his regiment across the Rhine during the last campaign of the war. Following the war, MacLeod spent a number of years at Fort George, where he tutored young pipers in the British Army.

Few competitors have won as many prizes as Donald MacLeod.

He won the Gold Medal at Inverness in 1947, and added eight Clasps between 1948 and 64. He won the Open Piobaireachd at Oban three times, and six Silver Stars for the Former Winners' MSR at Inverness. In 1959, Donald MacLeod competed only at Oban and Inverness. Of the seven events he entered, MacLeod won six first prizes, and was unplaced in the 7th event!

Donald MacLeod owned the bagpipe firm of Grainger & Campbell after leaving the army, and during those years he travelled around the world to teach and perform. He also was among the first to use recorded lessons for teaching piobaireachd, and he sent tapes to pipers around the world. Those original tapes are now being released in a comprehensive CD series available to all pipers.



MacLeod was a prolific composer with six books of light music, plus a collection of piobaireachd. Many of the tunes collected, composed and arranged for his 7th and 8th books of light music were published by the Gordon Highlanders after his death in 1982. His tunes are standard fare of both bands and soloists, and they are heard wherever the Highland bagpipe is played.

Donald MacLeod left many recordings of himself through years of BBC radio programs and solo records. After he had retired from competition he was heard on two excellent recordings, "The Piper in the Nave" and "The Piper's Ceilidh." Donald MacLeod was awarded the M.B.E. for his services to piping.

—by Iain MacDonald, Regina, Saskatchewan

The 2010 Nicol-Brown Champion
will receive a custom-made kilt from Sandy St. James's stocklist of over 400 tartans.
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so that our winner will look stunning at the contests in London.
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The Nicol-Brown committee would like to thank
the organizers of the New Hampshire Highland Games
for their continued support of Amateur piping
through a major annual contribution to our prize list.

The trip to compete in London is an outstanding opportunity
for the Nicol-Brown Champion each year.

This prize is dedicated to the memory of Ruffin Hobbs,
and is made possible by the generosity of an anonymous friend of Ruffin's
and the New Hampshire Highland Games.

Ruffin Hobbs was a highly accomplished piper
and nationally recognized sculptor from North Carolina
with a passion for Piobaireachd and Scottish music in general.



An invitation to the Nicol-Brown is held each year for
the Amateur Grade One Piper of the Day
at the New Hampshire Highland Games.



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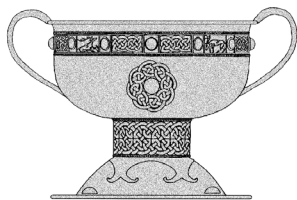
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Results of the 27th Nicol-Brown Amateur Invitational Contest

October 10, 2009 ~::~ Albany, New York

Judges: Murray Henderson, Amy Garson, and Andrew Douglas

Events and Winners

Prizes

2009 OVERALL NICOL-BROWN CHAMPIONSHIP

1. Anthony Masterson (17) Airfare to London donated by the New Hampshire Highland Games; and a custom-made kilt donated by Sandy St. James.
2. Elizabeth Sheridan (13) \$250 scholarship donated by Tartantown.
3. Ursa Beckford (11) \$200 scholarship donated by Fairlie M. Sharp in memory of her parents, Bob and Annie Brown.
4. Avens Ridgeway (8) \$200 scholarship donated by Peter Kent in memory of Henry G. Hood.

ROBERT NICOL-ROBERT BROWN CHALICE FOR PIOBAIREACHD

(Each piper in the Piobaireachd prize list received a one-year membership in the Piobaireachd Society, to encourage his/her continuing education and pursuit of excellence in Ceol Mor.)

- (Points for overall champion)
- (9) 1. Anthony Masterson Bound Piobaireachd Society Collection donated by Doreen Forney in memory of Pipe Major Angus Macdonald.
 - (7) 2. Elizabeth Sheridan Strathmore blackwood pipe chanter donated by The Piper's Hut.
 - (6) 3. Liz Cherry Angus MacKay's and Donald MacDonald's books on CD-ROM donated by Ceol Sean CDs at www.ceolsean.com; and a copy of *Sight Readable Ceol Mor* donated by Dugald MacNeill.
 - (5) 4. Avens Ridgeway A copy of *Sight Readable Ceol Mor* donated by Dugald MacNeill; and General Thomason's *Ceol Mor* on CD-ROM donated by Ceol Sean CDs.
 - (4) 5. Ursa Beckford A copy of *Sight Readable Ceol Mor* donated by Dugald MacNeill.

WILLIAM ROSS CHALLENGE TARGE FOR MARCH, STRATHSPEY AND REEL

- (8) 1. Anthony Masterson Dress sporran donated by R. G. Hardie & Co.
- (6) 2. Elizabeth Sheridan Pipe case donated by Scott's Highland Services, Ltd.
- (5) 3. Ursa Beckford *William Ross's Collection*, Volumes 1-5.
- (4) 4. Bobby Durning *The Gordon Highlanders Collection*, Volume 2 donated by Henderson Imports.
- (3) 5. Avens Ridgeway "Bagpipe Classics" CD donated by John Bottomley.

DONALD MACLEOD MEMORIAL 6/8 MARCHES

- (6) 1. Richard Gillies The Donald MacLeod Memorial Silver Buckle created by Stephen Walker; and a copy of *Along the Road* donated by Iain MacDonald.
- (4) 2. Bobby Durning A \$50 gift certificate donated by Celtic Outfitters LLC; and a copy of *Along the Road* donated by Iain MacDonald.
- (3) 3. Patrick Downing A \$25 gift certificate donated by Celtic Outfitters LLC; and a copy of *Along the Road* donated by Iain MacDonald.
- (2) 4. Ursa Beckford *The Edcath Collection* on CD-ROM donated by Ceol Sean CDs, and a copy of *Along the Road* donated by Iain MacDonald.
- (1) 5. Thomas Harrington A copy of *Along the Road* donated by Iain MacDonald.

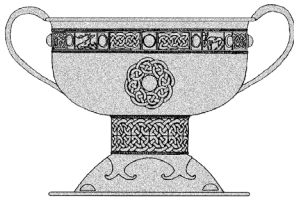
DRESS AND DEPARTMENT (judged by Eric MacNeill)

1. Daniel Pisowloski \$50 gift certificate donated by Henderson Imports.

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Results of the 28th Nicol-Brown Amateur Invitational Contest

October 9, 2010 ~::~ Albany, New York

Judge: Angus MacColl

Events and Winners

Prizes

2010 OVERALL NICOL-BROWN CHAMPIONSHIP

1. **Robert Durning** (15) Airfare to London donated by the New Hampshire Highland Games in memory of Ruffin Hobbs; a set of RGHO4 bagpipes with Peter Henderson blackwood pipe chanter donated by R.G. Hardie & Co.; and a custom-made kilt donated by Sandy St. James.
2. **Chris Lee** (13) \$200 scholarship donated by Fairlie M. Sharp in memory of her parents, Bob and Annie Brown.
3. **Glenn Walpole** (13) \$150 scholarship donated by Peter Kent in memory of his first piping teacher, Henry Hood.
4. **Marshall German** (10) \$100 scholarship donated by Rick Woolard in memory of Ronald Morrison of South Uist.

(Points for overall champion)

ROBERT NICOL-ROBERT BROWN CHALICE FOR PIOBAIREACHD

- (9) 1. **Robert Durning** Bound Piobaireachd Society Collection donated by Doreen Forney in memory of Pipe Major Angus Macdonald; and a copy of *The Cairn on the Hill* CD donated by the Spicer family.
- (7) 2. **Chris Lee** Strathmore blackwood pipe chanter donated by The Piper's Hut; and a copy of *The Cairn on the Hill* CD donated by the Spicer family.
- (6) 3. **Marshall German** *Masters of Piobaireachd*, Vol. 9 & 10 donated by Greentrax Recordings, Ltd; Angus MacKay's and Donald MacDonald's books on CD-ROM donated by Ceol Sean CDs at www.ceolsean.com; and a copy of *The Cairn on the Hill* donated by the Spicer family.
- (5) 4. **Glenn Walpole** *Masters of Piobaireachd*, Vol. 7 & 8 donated by Greentrax Recordings, Ltd; General Thomason's *Ceol Mor* on CD-ROM donated by Ceol Sean CDs; and a copy of *The Cairn on the Hill* CD donated by the Spicer family.
- (4) 5. **Ben Reid** David Glen's *Ancient Piobaireachd* on CD-ROM donated by Ceol Sean CDs; and a copy of *The Cairn on the Hill* CD donated by the Spicer family.

WILLIAM ROSS CHALLENGE TARGE FOR MARCH, STRATHSPEY, AND REEL

- (8) 1. **Glenn Walpole** Bound *Pipe Major W. Ross Collection* donated by Doreen Forney in memory of Pipe Major Angus MacDonald.
- (6) 2. **Robert Durning** Pipers' Choice blackwood practice chanter donated by Scott's Highland Services, Ltd.
- (5) 3. **Andrew Laird** *Scots Guards*, Volume 2 donated by Steve Porter; and Barry Shear's book, *Dance to the Piper*, donated by Iain MacDonald.
- (4) 4. **Dan Pisowloski** *Scots Guards*, Volume 1 donated by Steve Porter.
- (3) 5. **Ben Reid** A copy of *John MacColl 1860-1943* donated by JoAnn Scott.

DONALD MACLEOD MEMORIAL 6/8 MARCHES

- (6) 1. **Chris Lee** The Donald MacLeod Memorial Silver Buckle created by Stephen Walker; and a copy of *Along the Road* donated by Iain MacDonald.
- (4) 2. **Marshall German** *David Glen's Collection of Highland Bagpipe Music* on CD-ROM donated by Ceol Sean CDs; and a copy of *Along the Road* donated by Iain MacDonald.
- (3) 3. **Andrew Laird** *The Edcath Collection* on CD-ROM donated by Ceol Sean CDs; and a copy of *Along the Road* donated by Iain MacDonald.
- (2) 4. **Myles Stewart** *The Cowal Collection* on CD-ROM donated by Ceol Sean CDs; and a copy of *Along the Road* donated by Iain MacDonald.
- (1) 5. **Elliot Smith** A copy of *Along the Road* donated by Iain MacDonald.

DRESS AND DEPARTMENT (judged by Eric MacNeill)

1. **Andrew Laird** Red Hot Chili Pipers DVD and a \$50 gift certificate, both donated by Celtic Outfitters, LLC.