

THE 30TH

Nicol-Brown

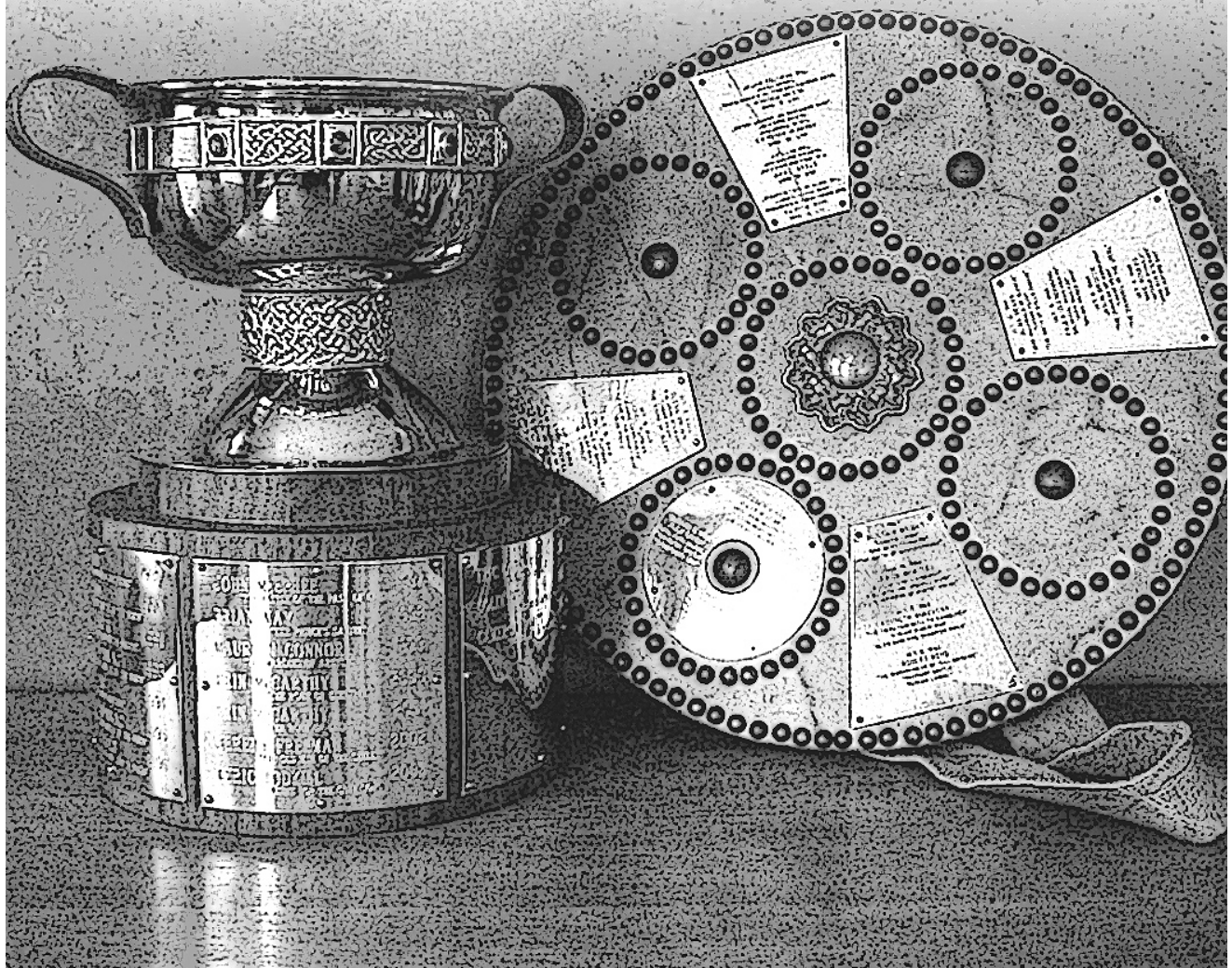
AMATEUR INVITATIONAL PIPING COMPETITION

OCTOBER 6, 2012

ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ALBANY, NEW YORK, USA

www.nicol-brown.org



What a weekend!

FRIDAY, October 5, 2012

Benefit Concert by Willie McCallum and 2012 Nicol-Brown Reception

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

The 2012 competitors and judges will be introduced, and tune selections for the contest on Saturday will be announced.

SATURDAY, October 6, 2012

The Contest!

9:30 am to 7:00 pm at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

6/8 Marches

Piobaireachd

March, Strathspey and Reel

Award Ceremony

Celebration Dinner

Holiday Inn at 205 Wolf Road, Albany 12205

7:30 private cash bar

8:30 dinner

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

SUNDAY, October 7, 2012

Master Class

10:00 am to 12:00 pm at The Celtic Hall

430 New Karner Road, Albany, New York

Nicol-Brown competitors will have the privilege of an open lesson with the judges, who will discuss highlights of the contest and give valuable insight for any pipers wanting to improve their musicianship. Please register if you'd like to sit in on this advanced class. Call Maureen Connor: 518-374-6034 or email: maureen.e.connor@gmail.com

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Judges for the Nicol-Brown Amateur Invitational Contest

1982	Ed Neigh	1999	Michael Cusack
1983	James McGillivray	2000	Alasdair Gillies
1984	Murray Henderson	2001	Michael Rogers
1985	Donald F. Lindsay	2002	Jack Taylor
1986	William Livingstone	2003	Bruce Gandy and Michael Rogers
1987	Amy Garson, Ed Krintz and Chip Reardon	2004	Stuart Liddell and Donald F. Lindsay
1988	Donald F. Lindsay	2005	Donald MacPhee
1989	Seumas MacNeill	2006	John Wilson and Alasdair Gillies
1990	James McGillivray	2007	John Wilson and Nancy Tunncliffe
1991	Colin MacLellan	2008	Nancy Tunncliffe, Bobby Minnear, and R. Iain MacDonald
1993	George Bell and Donald F. Lindsay	2009	Murray Henderson, Amy Garson, Andrew Douglas
1994	Colin MacLellan and Donald F. Lindsay	2010	Angus MacColl
1995	Bob Worrall	2011	Jack Taylor and Bruce Gandy
1996	Scott MacAulay and Donald F. Lindsay	2012	Willie McCallum, Nancy Tunncliffe, and Paula Glendinning
1997	Donald F. Lindsay		
1998	Jack Lee		

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The Nicol-Brown committee welcomes the judges for 2012:

Willie McCallum, Nancy Tunnicliffe and Paula Glendinning



PHOTO BY DEREK MAXWELL

WILLIE McCALLUM is a native of Campbeltown, Kintyre, Scotland, where he learned piping from his uncles Ronald and Hugh. He also came under the guidance of P/M Ronald McCallum MBE, his father's cousin. Willie has won almost every piping prize available, including both Gold Medals, the Former Winners' MSR at Oban five times and Inverness four times, the Senior Piobaireachd at Oban three times, Silver Chanter three times, Bratach Gorm four times and the Glenfiddich Championship eight times. This year he qualified for the Glenfiddich for the 25th time in succession. [Ed. note: Holy smoke!] In the last year, Willie has won the Bratach Gorm and Overall at London, the Piping Live Masters and the Silver Star for the Former Winners' March, Strathspey and Reel at the Northern Meeting. In that time he was also the overall winner of the P/M Donald MacLeod Memorial in Stornoway and the Springbank Invitational, both for the eighth time.

Willie lives in Bearsden, Scotland with his wife, Christine, and children, Hailey and Scott. He runs his own piping business, Willie McCallum Piping, which has a broad range of activities including performing, teaching, as well as selling bagpipes and acting as a consultant to McCallum Bagpipes Ltd, in Kilmarnock. It is an immense privilege to have Willie and Christine join us in Albany for the 30th Nicol-Brown Weekend.



NANCY TUNNICLIFFE is a professional musician, about to celebrate 40 years in piping as a performer, competitor, teacher, and judge. Her particular love is piobaireachd, and she has had the advantage of excellent tuition and study opportunities in the Great Music. She has also been fortunate to appear with many of the country's finest symphonies as a guest bagpipe soloist, as well as stints on radio and TV shows as a spokesperson for the Scotch whisky industry.

Nancy was the first winner of the Nicol-Brown Chalice in 1982. She went on from there to a successful professional career, and since retiring from competition, pipes for her own enjoyment and for events in her community in the Berkshires of western Massachusetts. She takes great satisfaction in judging as a means of fostering expressive and uplifting musical performances.



PAULA GLENDINNING loves piping and loves teaching, after being inspired by great teachers, beginning with Donald Lindsay and Sandy Jones at Peary High School in Rockville, Maryland, and including Bob Brown, Bob Nicol, P/M Angus Macdonald, Angus J. MacLellan, and Jack Taylor. Paula was an Invermark student as a teenager, and has been a teacher at Invermark for the past 13 years. She teaches the Rockville High School Pipe Band, and gives private lessons at home, where her rescue dog, Islay, greets every student and enjoys the music.

Paula won the Nicol-Brown Chalice in 1993 and 1995, and has been a member of the committee since 1997. Her other solo prizes include 1st in the B Piobaireachd at London; the Boreraig Trophy twice at the Colonial Highland Gathering; and prizes in the B MSR and B Hornpipe/Jig in London. Paula judges at many EUSPBA events, and was honored to be on the judging panel for the George Sherriff Memorial Contest in Ontario in 2006.

Paula was a member of the City of Washington Pipe Band from 1970 through 2009, traveling with the band to compete in Scotland 14 times, winning the World Championships in Grade 2 in 1999 and qualifying for the finals in Grade 1 in 2001 and 2004. The band was a major part of life for many years for Paula and her husband, Charlie, and another source of inspiration.

The Competitors

KIRK BRUNSON (Derry, New Hampshire)

Kirk began playing the bagpipes in 2002 at the age of eight. One year later, he started lessons with Pipe Major Adam Holdaway, and is currently studying with Adam Holdaway, Donald F. Lindsay, and Willie McCallum. In 2006, he had the opportunity to join the Stuart Highlanders, and has played with them as they have progressed from Grade 5 to Grade 2. Last year in 2011, the Stuart Highlanders made their first appearance at the World Championships and played respectably, winning the piping in both the Grade 2 qualifier and final, and placing fifth overall. Kirk hopes to be able to continue to play and compete in Scotland in the near future.

ANDREW DONLON (Germantown, Maryland)

Andrew has been playing the bagpipes for 9 years. He joined the Rockville High School Pipe Band in 2003 and remained with the band until his graduation from high school in 2010. During that time, he studied solo playing with Chris Hamilton and Paula Glendinning. While with the Rockville High School Band, Andrew was Pipe Major for four seasons, and from 2008-2011, Andrew was also a member of the Grade 3 MacMillan Pipe Band. After graduation from high school, Andrew enrolled at the College of Wooster and began solo study with Jon Maffett, and joined the band at the College. After one year at Wooster, Andrew joined the Peel Regional Police Pipe Band of Ontario, Canada. He also was fortunate enough to meet Willie McCallum at the Geug Gheal Grade 2 Invitational in Vermont in January of 2012 and began study with Willie following the contest. The 2012 season has proved to be a success for Andrew, who is currently leading the EUSPBA Grade 1 overall standings.

CALLUM HARPER (Bolton, Ontario)

Callum is 17 and a Grade 12 Student. He started taking bagpipe lessons when he was 6 and received instruction from Jamie Blackloch. For the past few years he has been receiving instruction from Bob Worrall.

Callum played in his first World Pipe Band Championship when he was 10. He has played in several bands, which include Georgetown Pipe Band, Niagara Regional Police, Scotia-Glenville Juvenile Pipe Band (placing 3rd in the World Championships), Penetangor Pipe Band, and finally Peel Regional Police, who won the Champion Supreme distinction in Ontario in 2011.

Before making it to Grade 1, Callum won Champion Supreme in Grade 5 for light music, and for Grade 2 in light music and Piobaireachd. This year, he won Champion Supreme in Grade 1 for light music and Piobaireachd.

Callum also enjoys other interests such as snowboarding, soccer, tennis and golf. He hopes to go to University next year while continuing his career in solos.

JAMIE KUBASIEWICZ (Winnipeg, Manitoba)

Jamie began piping with Transcona and District Pipe Band, receiving an excellent foundation in piping from the late Pipe Major George Lawrence. After moving to the Lord Selkirk Boys Pipe Band, Jamie studied piobaireachd under the late Pipe Major Robert Fraser. Jamie attended Piping Hot Summer Drummer in B.C. for four years, and enjoyed the intense immersion in piping that it provides.

Since 2009, Jamie has been very fortunate to study piping under the guidance of Jack Lee. In 2010 at the age of 15, Jamie began to play with the Grade 2 St. Andrew's Society Pipe Band, the senior pipe band in Winnipeg and also received instruction from Pipe Major Wes Sheppard. Last year, Jamie was one of the piping instructors for the Two Rivers Pipe Band, a new youth pipe band in Winnipeg. This fall, Jamie moved to Vancouver and will begin to play with the SFU Pipe Band. Jamie is the 2012 Champion Supreme for Grade 1 Piobaireachd and Grade 1 Piping Aggregate in the Prairie Pipe Band Association of Manitoba.

Jamie completed French immersion high school in June, and is now studying Engineering at Simon Fraser University. When not piping, Jamie enjoys playing golf and volleyball.

DANIEL PISOWLOSKI (Canterbury, Connecticut)

Dan is a freshman at a Bryant University in Smithfield, Rhode Island. He started on the practice chanter at the age of nine in 2002, and began playing with the Mystic Highland Pipe Band, an entertaining street band from Mystic, Connecticut shortly thereafter. In 2005, he joined the Rhode Island Highlanders, at the time a Grade 3 competition band, and he began solo competing. From 2006 to 2010, Dan played with the Grade 2 Manchester Pipe Band, and rose to the rank of Pipe Sergeant before leaving the band in early 2011, at which point he rejoined the Rhode Island Highlanders.

From 2005-2011, Dan received primary instruction from John Sullivan, and has received subsequent instruction from Ed Neigh. Once he started competing seriously, Dan worked through the grades, winning the Overall prize for Grade 3 at the North American Championships in Maxville, Ontario in 2007 and for Grade 2 in 2008, as well as the EUSPBA Season Championship for Grade 2 in 2008. He entered Grade 1 in 2009 and placed 2nd Overall in the North American Championships in Maxville in 2009 and 2010, and won the 2010 EUSPBA Grade 1 Season Championship. Since entering Grade 1, Dan has been invited to the Nicol-Brown, the Balmoral Classic, The PM George M. Bell Memorial at the Metro Cup, the George Sherriff Memorial, and the Robert Gilchrist Memorial Challenge. Thus far, the highlights of these competitions have been a first-place finish in the March, Strathspey, and Reel at the 2010 Balmoral Classic and the overall win at the 2012 Gilchrist Challenge. As a result of his Gilchrist Challenge win, Dan traveled to Scotland to compete in the 2012 MacGregor Memorial competition at the Argyllshire Gathering in Oban.

In addition to piping, Dan is also a competitive drum major at the professional level and has earned prizes in Scotland. Dan has also tried his hand at solo snare drumming, where he currently competes in Grade 3. Outside of competing, Dan founded a Celtic folk group, called the Celtic Club, with whom he recorded two albums: "Sounds Familiar" in January 2011, and "Among Friends" in February 2012. An avid composer, Dan has over 125 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 2008.

ALEXANDER SCHIELE (Snohomish, Washington)

Alexander Schiele (pronounced she-lee) is 16, a junior (3rd year) in High School and is also attending his first year of college in a music production program. He began playing bagpipes at the age of 8 with Kevin Auld, and now enjoys instruction from Shaunna Hilder and plays with the Grade 1 Dowco Triumph Street Pipe Band from Vancouver, British Columbia. Alexander also plays piano and guitar.

After winning the US Junior Solo Championship at the Bamoral Classic and placing 1st in Piobaireachd at the George Sherriff Memorial in 2011, Alexander made his first solo competition trip to Scotland this year. He qualified in the top 6 of 27 at the MacGregor Memorial, and won both the MSR and the Piobaireachd in Open Juvenile 16/17 at the Cowal Gathering. He's the Grade 1 piping Grand Aggregate winner in the British Columbia Pipers' Association.

SARAH SIMPSON (Cavendish, Prince Edward Island)

Sarah is a 19-year-old resident of Cavendish, a small community on Prince Edward Island's north shore. She has been involved with the College of Piping and Celtic Performing Arts of Canada since 2001, when she first started taking piping lessons at the age of 8 under the Doug and Debbie Hall Scholarship Program. She has been a successful amateur soloist in Atlantic Canada for the past few seasons, being the ACPBA's Grade 1 Aggregate in 2012 and Grade 1 Piobaireachd Champion for 2011 and 2012. Sarah's past instructors have been the late Scott MacAulay and Matt MacLaine. She currently takes lessons from James MacHattie. Sarah was part of the College of Piping Grade 4 band that won the North American Championships in 2011, and traveled to The World Pipe Band Championships this summer to compete in the Grade 3B contest with her band. Next summer, The College of Piping will field three bands in grades 5, 4, and 3, and Sarah will be an instructor and Pipe Major for the newly formed Grade 4 band.

Sarah is currently in her second year of Architectural Studies at Holland College and plans to go on into Architectural Conservation. She is very involved in the traditional music scene in PEI and organizes ceilidhs throughout the year. Sarah would like to thank her family, the staff and faculty at The College of Piping, the Atlantic Canada Pipe Band Association, and Doug and Debbie Hall for their support and encouragement throughout her piping career. Sarah is honored to participate alongside North America's top amateur soloists in this year's Nicol-Brown Amateur Invitational Competition.

JOSEPH STEWART (Seattle, Washington)

Joseph started piping at the age of 7 and hasn't looked back since. He was the 2010 U.S. Junior Solo Champion and was honored to win both the 2011 Nicol-Brown and George Sherriff Memorial competitions. He is excited to be entering his fourth season with the Grade 1 Dowco Triumph Street Pipe Band, having competed with them at the 2010, 2011, and 2012 World Pipe Band Championships.

Along with being a full-time senior in high school, Joe is a member of its select Jazz Choir and enjoys biking and spending time with his family and friends. He would like to express his sincere thanks to all those who have helped, supported and inspired him throughout his piping journey, particularly Murray Henderson and David and Shaunna Hilder.

NICHOLAS THERIAULT (Danville, California)

Nick is a musician of many genres. He is a singer/songwriter and leads his church's youth band, performing on guitar/vocals and piano, as well as being a bagpiper. Nick began piping six years ago and receives instruction from Jack Lee. He initially played with the Prince Charles Pipe Band of San Francisco, serving as the Grade 3 Pipe Major for two years. He moved on to play with Robert Malcolm Memorial Grade 3 and enjoyed the experience of winning the World Pipe Band Championships with them in Glasgow this summer. He has recently joined Dowco Triumph Street Pipe Band and looks forward to a rewarding season with them. In solo piping this year, Nick was the 2012 Grade 1 Aggregate Champion at the Las Vegas Highland Games, the Costa Mesa Games and the Pleasanton Highland Games. He is the 2012 WUSPBA Grade 1 Champion.

DYLAN WHITTEMORE (Kitchener, Ontario)

Dylan began playing bagpipes at age ten with the encouragement of his uncle, Ron Fisher, and began formal lessons the following year under the instruction of Piper Major Ed Neigh. He started playing Grade 5 solos in 2006 and quickly made his way through the ranks to Grade 1. He was been competing in Grade 1 for the past three seasons. Dylan began his band career with the Paris Port Dover Pipe Band, playing in Grades 5, 4 and 3 and was Pipe-Sergeant of the Paris Port Dover Pipe Band in 2009. He has spent the last two seasons playing with the Peel Regional Police Pipe Band. Some of Dylan's solo accomplishments include: Piper of the Day in Alma Michigan in 2011, in Cambridge, Ontario in 2012 and Almonte, Ontario in 2012. Dylan currently teaches bagpipes at the Sound Factory Music School and is in first year Arts and Science at Conestoga College in Kitchener, Ontario.



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6/8 Marches

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

1. ALEXANDER SCHIELE
MacLeod of Mull
Invercharron Highland Gathering
2. NICHOLAS THERIAULT
Donald MacLean of Lewis
John D. Burgess
3. CALLUM HARPER
Bengullion
Miss Ishabel T. MacDonald
4. ANDREW DONLON
The British Legion
The MacNeils of Ugdale
5. JOSEPH STEWART
Ellenorr
Dornkop
6. DYLAN WHITTEMORE
Ballochyle
The Heights of Cassino
7. SARAH SIMPSON
Miss Ishabel T. MacDonald
Fairview Cottage
8. JAMIE KUBASIEWICZ
Bruce Gandy's Farewell to the Iron Horse
Rab's Wedding
9. KIRK BRUNSON
Cameron MacFadyen
Capt. C.R. Lumsden
10. DAN PISOWLOSKI
The Banks of the Farrar
Mrs. MacDougall

Piobaireachd

(The judges have selected one tune for each competitor.)

1. ANDREW DONLON
Mackintosh's Lament
The End of the Great Bridge
The Marquis of Argyll's Salute
2. JOSEPH STEWART
The Red Speckled Bull
Lament for Mary MacLeod
Hector MacLean's Warning
3. DYLAN WHITTEMORE
Black Donald's March
The MacFarlanes' Gathering
The End of the Great Bridge
4. SARAH SIMPSON
The Bicker
Queen Anne's Lament
Corrienessan's Salute
5. JAMIE KUBASIEWICZ
The Desperate Battle
I Got a Kiss of the King's Hand
The MacLeods' Salute
6. KIRK BRUNSON
Lament for Donald of Laggan
Too Long in this Condition
The Groat
7. DAN PISOWLOSKI
Lachlan MacNeill Campbell of Kintarbert's Fancy
The Old Men of the Shells #1
The End of the Great Bridge
8. ALEXANDER SCHIELE
The Unjust Incarceration
The King's Taxes
Mackintosh's Lament
9. NICHOLAS THERIAULT
The MacGregors' Salute
The Desperate Battle
Lament for the Viscount of Dundee
10. CALLUM HARPER
I Got a Kiss of the King's Hand
Lament for Captain MacDougall
Lament for the Viscount of Dundee

IMPORTANT PHOTO OP

Please meet in the sanctuary immediately following the final 6/8 March performance for the official 2012 group photo of the competitors and judges. Weather permitting, outdoor photos will also be taken at this time.

Please wear your Nicol-Brown lapel pin!

March, Strathspey and Reel

(The judges have selected one set of tunes for each competitor.)

1. SARAH SIMPSON

2/4 Marches: 91st at Modder River
John MacColl's March to Kilbowie Cottage
Strathspeys: Inveraray Castle
Struan Robertson
Reels: The Little Cascade
Kalabakan

2. JAMIE KUBASIEWICZ

2/4 Marches: The Braes of Castle Grant
The Abercairney Highlanders
Strathspeys: John Roy Stewart
Cabar Feidh
Reels: Ca' the Ewes
The Smith of Chilliechassie

3. KIRK BRUNSON

2/4 Marches: The Pap of Glencoe
The Braes of Castle Grant
Strathspeys: The Shepherd's Crook
Susan MacLeod
Reels: Alick C. MacGregor
Captain Alex M. Fraser

4. DAN PISOWLOSKI

2/4 Marches: Lord Alexander Kennedy
The Glengarry Gathering
Strathspeys: Dora MacLeod
The Caledonian Society of London
Reels: Miss Proud
Charlie's Welcome

5. ALEXANDER SCHIELE

2/4 Marches: Kantara to El Arish
The Knightswood Ceilidh
Strathspeys: MacBeth's Strathspey
The Islay Ball
Reels: The Grey Bob
Major David Manson

6. NICHOLAS THERIAULT

2/4 Marches: South Hall
The Pap of Glencoe
Strathspeys: Tulloch Castle
The Caledonian Society of London
Reels: The Rejected Suitor
Thompson's Dirk

7. CALLUM HARPER

2/4 Marches: The Pap of Glencoe
Angus McKinnon of Eigg
Strathspeys: Doone of Invernochty
Arniston Castle
Reels: Neil Angus MacDonald
Mrs. MacPherson of Inveran

8. ANDREW DONLON

2/4 Marches: The Abercairney Highlanders
David Ross
Strathspeys: Inveraray Castle
Delvinside
Reels: The Grey Bob
Pretty Marion

9. JOSEPH STEWART

2/4 Marches: The Glengarry Gathering
The Abercairney Highlanders
Strathspeys: The Shepherd's Crook
Lady Louden
Reels: Major David Manson
The Brown Haired Maid

10. DYLAN WHITTEMORE

2/4 Marches: Mrs. Duncan MacFadyen
Captain Campbell of Drum a Voisk
Strathspeys: Lady MacKenzie of Gairloch
The Bob of Fettercairn
Reels: Bessie McIntyre
Willie Murray's Reel

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The Executive Committee of the
Eastern United States Pipe Band Association
extends a very warm welcome to
Willie McCallum
and best wishes to the
Nicol-Brown Amateur Invitational Piping Competition
competitors, judges, 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.

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Dave Hall, Officer-at-Large



Please join us for the 2012 Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Saturday, November 3, 2012 — Meeting at 9 a.m.
DoubleTree by Hilton — Newark Airport
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Presentation of awards for EUSPBA overall 2012 champions

For more information, please contact:
Executive Secretary Sheldon Hamblin at zecsec@euspba.org

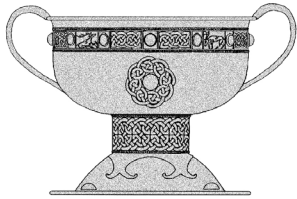
History

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

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Frank Strauss
Rick Woolard

DEDICATIONS

An anonymous donation is given in honor of all the parents who have encouraged their children to play the pipes.
Doreen Forney's donation is given in memory of P/M Angus Macdonald.
Peter Kent's donation is given in memory of Joan Fitch.
The donation toward the trip to London was given by the The New Hampshire Highland Games in memory of Ruffin Hobbs.
Fairlie M. Sharp's donation is given in memory of her parents, Bob and Annie Brown.
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:

Barb McCarthy ■ 5 Ascot Circle, Apt. 9 ■ Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

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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"
2010	Robert Durning: "Lament for the Viscount of Dundee"
2011	Joseph Stewart: "The Red Speckled Bull"

The overall Nicol-Brown champion for 2012 will win round-trip airfare from a major North American airport to London to compete in the Scottish Piping Society of London competitions in November 2013. 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	2000	Glenn Brown
1988	Daniel Whatley	2001	Lionel Tupman
1989	Ken McKeveny	2002	Lionel Tupman
1990	Robert Boyd	2003	Lyric Todkill
1991	Alan Bevan	2004	Andrew Lewis
1993	Paula Glendinning	2005	Alex Gandy
1994	Jason Briscoe	2006	Micah Babinski
1995	Michael Rogers	2007	Alastair Lee
1996	Michael Rogers	2008	John Lee
1997	Steven Tripp	2009	Anthony Masterson
1998	Andrew Douglas	2010	Glenn Walpole
1999	Glenn Brown	2011	Ursa Beckford



Donald MacLeod Memorial 6/8 Marches

1990	P. Andrew L. Hayes	2002	Lionel Tupman
1991	Alan Bevan	2003	Lyric Todkill
1993	Jamie Troy	2004	Robert Beaton
1994	Ryan MacDonald	2005	Colin Lee
1995	Paula Glendinning	2006	Kegan Sheehan
1996	Ryan MacDonald	2007	Gordon Conn
1997	Joss Fisher	2008	Johnny Bassett
1998	Andrew Douglas	2009	Richard Gillies
1999	Glenn Brown	2010	Chris Lee
2000	Andrew J. Hayes	2011	Joseph Stewart
2001	Lionel Tupman		

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 Medallist, 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 Clasp 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






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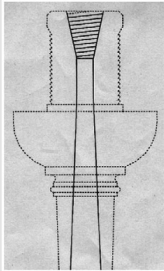
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The thread means the reed is locked in place – it can't move unless the piper moves it.

You turn it clockwise to sink the reed and sharpen it, and anti-clockwise to raise it and flatten it.

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C1

C2

C3

C4

C1 McCallum plastic pipe chanter

Our plastic chanter is played by bands from all grades, all over the world, including many of the top Grade 1 bands.

C2 McCallum blackwood pipe chanter

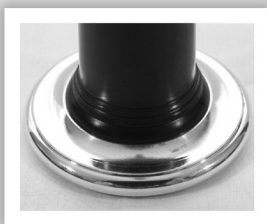
The blackwood chanter is played by many bands including... It is also used as a solo chanter by some of the top pipers in the world.

C3 McCallum M^cC² plastic pipe chanter

C4 McCallum M^cC² blackwood pipe chanter

Our McC2 chanter was designed by Willie McCallum for his own use competing in the top solo piping competitions and he has been very successful with the chanter. It is also played by a few bands and Bagad Cap Caval became World Pipe Band Champions in Grade 2 playing this chanter.

CHANTER SOLE OPTIONS



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Engraved alloy



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Hand-engraved silver



Sterling silver



Imitation ivory with engraved alloy plate



Results of the 29th Nicol-Brown Amateur Invitational Contest

October 8, 2011 ~::~~ Albany, New York

Judges: Dr. Jack Taylor and Bruce Gandy

2011 OVERALL NICOL-BROWN CHAMPIONSHIP

1. Joseph Stewart (19) Airfare to London donated by the New Hampshire Highland Games in memory of Ruffin Hobbs; and a custom-made kilt donated by Sandy St. James.
2. Ursa Beckford (18) \$200 scholarship donated by Doreen Forney in memory of P/M Angus Macdonald.
3. Alexander Schiele (14) \$150 scholarship donated by Steve Porter.
4. Scott Wood (12) \$100 scholarship donated by Albert McMullin in honor of all parents who've encouraged their children to play the pipes.

ROBERT NICOL-ROBERT BROWN CHALICE FOR PIOBAIREACHD

1. Joseph Stewart (9) "The Red Speckled Bull" Prizes: A bound Piobaireachd Society Collection donated by The Piper's Hut; and a *Front Row Seat* CD donated by Bruce Gandy.
2. Ursa Beckford (7) "Lament for the Children"
3. Scott Wood (6) "Catherine's Lament"
4. Alexander Schiele (5) "The King's Taxes"
5. Eilidh MacDonald (4) "The MacFarlanes' Gathering"

WILLIAM ROSS CHALLENGE TARGE FOR MARCH, STRATHSPEY, AND REEL

1. Ursa Beckford (8) "David Ross," "The Caledonian Society of London" and "The Sheepwife" Prize: A nickel-soled McC² pipe chanter donated by McCallum Bagpipes.
2. Scott Wood (6) "Bonny Ann," "John Roy Stewart" and "The Little Cascade"
3. Alexander Schiele (5) "The 93rd Argyll at Modder River," "The Islay Ball" and "Major David Manson"
4. Joseph Stewart (4) "Leaving Lunga" "Lady Louden" and "The Brown Haired Maid"
5. Jonathan Bellia (3) "Dr. E.G. MacKinnon," "The Bob of Fettercairn" and "Broadford Bay"

DONALD MACLEOD MEMORIAL 6/8 MARCHES

1. Joseph Stewart (6) "Ellenorr" and "Dornkop" Prize: The Donald MacLeod Memorial Silver Buckle created and donated by Stephen Walker.
2. Alexander Schiele (4) "The Trees of North Uist" and "Invercharron Highland Gathering"
3. Ursa Beckford (3) "Monte Cataralto" and "Kenneth J. MacLeod"
4. Dan Pisowloski (2) "Ballochyle" and "Captain Lumsden"
5. Marshall German (1) "Nameless" by Donald MacLeod and "Caverhill"

DRESS AND DEPARTMENT (judged by Eric MacNeill)

1. Scott Wood Prize: \$25 gift certificate donated by Celtic Outfitters, LLC.



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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 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 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, provided that piper has also played in the Grade One Piobaireachd event that day.



Results of the 30th Nicol-Brown Amateur Invitational Contest
October 6, 2012 Albany, New York
Judges: Willie McCallum, Nancy Tunncliffe, and Paula Glendinning

Events and Winners

Prizes

2012 OVERALL NICOL-BROWN CHAMPIONSHIP

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. ALEXANDER SCHIELE (18 points) | Airfare to London donated by the New Hampshire Highland Games in memory of Ruffin Hobbs. |
| 2. JAMIE KUBASIEWICZ (13 points) | \$200 scholarship donated by Fairlie M. Sharp in memory of her parents, Bob and Annie Brown. |
| 3. JOSEPH STEWART (11 points) | \$200 scholarship donated by Doreen Forney in memory of P/M Angus Macdonald. |
| 4. NICHOLAS THERIAULT (9 points) | \$200 scholarship donated by Peter Kent in memory of Joan Fitch. |

(Points for overall champion)

ROBERT NICOL-ROBERT BROWN CHALICE FOR PIOBAIREACHD

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------------|---|
| (9) | 1. ALEXANDER SCHIELE | A bound Piobaireachd Society Collection donated by Jon Maffett from The Piper's Hut. |
| (7) | 2. JAMIE KUBASIEWICZ | McCallum blackwood practice chanter with a deluxe hardshell case donated by Henderson Imports. |
| (6) | 3. NICHOLAS THERIAULT | Pipetech Tuner donated by The Piper's Dojo, and a <i>Front Row Seat</i> CD donated by Bruce Gandy. |
| (5) | 4. DYLAN WHITTEMORE | A Piper Case, AdjustiStick blowpipe, and a tshirt donated by R. G. Hardie & Co. |
| (4) | 5. KIRK BRUNSON | 6-month premium membership donated by Dojo University; and General Thomason's <i>Ceol Mor</i> and Donald MacDonald's book on CD-ROM donated by Ceol Sean CDs. |

WILLIAM ROSS CHALLENGE TARGE FOR MARCH, STRATHSPEY, AND REEL

- | | | |
|-----|----------------------|--|
| (8) | 1. ALEXANDER SCHIELE | An McC ² blackwood pipe chanter with imitation ivory sole donated by McCallum Bagpipes. |
| (6) | 2. JAMIE KUBASIEWICZ | A Peter Henderson blackwood pipe chanter and baseball cap donated by R. G. Hardie & Co. |
| (5) | 3. JOSEPH STEWART | <i>Scots Guards</i> , Volume 3 donated by Scott's Highland Services. |
| (4) | 4. DANIEL PISOWLOSKI | <i>Scots Guards</i> , Volume 2 donated by Doreen Forney in memory of P/M Angus Macdonald. |
| (3) | 5. CALLUM HARPER | <i>Scots Guards</i> , Volume 1 donated by Doreen Forney in memory of P/M Angus Macdonald. |

DONALD MACLEOD MEMORIAL 6/8 MARCHES

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------------|--|
| (6) | 1. JOSEPH STEWART | The Donald MacLeod Memorial Silver Buckle created and donated by Stephen Walker of Walker Metalsmiths, and a copy of <i>Along the Road</i> donated by Iain MacDonald. |
| (4) | 2. ANDREW DONLON | A bound Donald MacLeod Collection donated by Steve Porter, and a copy of <i>Along the Road</i> donated by Iain MacDonald. |
| (3) | 3. NICHOLAS THERIAULT | Bruce Gandy's <i>Contemporary and Traditional Music</i> , Vol. 2 and <i>The Piping Centre Recital Series</i> CD, Vol. 4 donated by Celtic Outfitters; and <i>Along the Road</i> donated by Iain MacDonald. |
| (2) | 4. CALLUM HARPER | <i>Philharmonic</i> by Murray Blair donated by Celtic Outfitters, and <i>Along the Road</i> donated by Iain MacDonald. |
| (1) | 5. ALEXANDER SCHIELE | <i>The Glendinning Collection</i> donated by Charlie and Paula Glendinning, and <i>Along the Road</i> donated by Iain MacDonald. |

DRESS AND DEPARTMENT (judged by Eric MacNeill)

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. JOSEPH STEWART | Hand-crafted cherry pipe case from Rad Pipers donated by David Rennie. |
|-------------------|--|

Save the Date! ■ October 12, 2013

The Nicol-Brown Contest is on Columbus Day Weekend/Canadian Thanksgiving Weekend.