

Piobaireachd Society Newsletter February 2019.

The Piobaireachd Society now has over 600 members, many of whom are currently competing pipers at all levels. All share an interest in Ceol Mor. Thank you for your support.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2019

The 2019 annual conference will be held in the National Piping Centre on Saturday 23rd March.

Many are sorry to leave the ambience of Birnam, especially the “baronial” hall, but our expectation is that the NPC’s central location will be ideal, and more convenient for many.

All are welcome, members or not. Prior booking is preferred, but not essential. There will be an informal ceilidh in the Pipers Tryst on Friday evening 22nd March. The conference will conclude with a dinner in the National Piping Centre on Saturday evening.

A preferential rate for room booking per night of £109.00 per room single occupancy £119.00 per room double occupancy for the nights of 22nd and 23rd March has been obtained at the Holiday Inn, Glasgow, Theatreland, 161 West Nile Street, Glasgow G1 2RL - www.higlasgow.com. This hotel is just across the road from the Piping Centre. Delegates should book directly with the hotel, quoting DOCTORS, Reservation Office working hours, Monday-Friday 9am-5pm. Telephone 0141 352 8300 / Email reservations@higlasgow.com.

The conference rate including dinner is £55; day rate including lunch, teas and coffees £35, dinner only £25.

Programme

- New evidence about the Old Competitions – talk by Jack Taylor with tunes by Iain Speirs and John Dew. Featuring a replica Donald MacDonald bagpipe, and tunes selected from the 1844 list.
- AGM
- My piping life and times – panel discussion led by Gary West.
- MacCrimmons’ Gold – a film premier.
- Dinner

For further information contact Roderick Livingstone, Treasurer:

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Last year we had first class presentations on the Evolution of Piobaireachd, the Big Music Society, and from the Competing Pipers Association. Recitals were given by students at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and Bobby Allan, recipient of our bursary for young enthusiasts. John Shone, who has attended almost all the conferences since the start gave an absorbing account of his teaching by the great players of the past, mainly J B Robertson and Donald MacPherson. All that and the usual convivial dinner with many tunes. It was an informative and friendly gathering as always.

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE CONCERT

A new venture in August was a recital at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, in St Cecilia's Hall. Four top performers each played two tunes, with no tuning on stage, so the audience of 100 was treated to Beloved Scotland, Princes Salute, A Flame of Wrath for Squinting Patrick, MacLeod's Controversy, Phantom Piper of Corriearyk, Caber Feidh Gu Brath, Lament for the Children and Desperate Battle of the Birds. The date for this year's concert is Sunday 11th August.

BURSARY

The annual bursary for young pipers was again successful, with five applicants benefitting from a week of tuition at the National Piping Centre. This is available again this year.

SPONSORSHIP

Our sponsorship of the Northern Meeting, the Argyllshire Gathering and the Bratach Gorm continue.

ARCHIE KENNETH QUAICH

The Archie Kenneth Quiaich competition on 23rd February in the RSPS rooms is well subscribed. Congratulations must go to former winner Peter McCalister for his Inverness Gold Medal win.

SET TUNES

Our normal business of selecting set tunes continues, and arrangements are at an advanced stage for 2020.

JUDGES SEMINAR

We ran one judges seminar last year, and the next one, on the 2019 Set Tunes, will be on 7th April.

WEBSITE

The website continues to develop. We have made the music scores from books 1-3 available to members on the relevant tune page. If this does not adversely affect book sales, we will add scores from books 4-16. Digital versions of books 1-16, the Kilberry Book and Sidelights to the Kilberry Book can now be bought directly from the website. Our books, kilt pins and ties continue to be available from the National Piping Centre.

Scores and recordings of the 45 Campbell Canntaireachd tunes not published in the Piobaireachd Society books have been put on the website. They are from the book Pipers Meeting, by Patrick Molard and Jack Taylor.

Jack Taylor

February 2019.