



Pulse

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MIDWEST PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENTIAL NOTES

Congratulations to each and every competing band and soloist of the 2005 Season! I hope that you can share my good feelings for the games that are now behind us. There were a few rough spots, but in the end, all is well. I also want to thank the many games coordinators and sponsors who give their time and support. And to those of our membership who do not compete, I hope your year has been a good one.

The Annual General Meeting for 2005 was held on Nov. 5. We discussed points brought up by the Advisory Board as well as by the membership. First I want say it is a privilege to serve again; I was re-elected as president for the next year. As you know, I do not take the position lightly. Thank you for your trust in me. The 2006 Advisory Board members have been elected as follows.

The Executive Board of the Advisory:

President: Drew Hoinacki - Lemont, Ill.
Vice President: Cliff Davis - Topeka, Kan.
Secretary/Treasurer: Marty Boyle - Round Lake, Ill.
Registrar-Solos: Dana Freiberg - South St. Paul, Minn.
Registrar-Bands: Tad Myers - South St. Paul, Minn

The Advisory Representatives:

Adrian Melvin - Northbrook, Ill.
Bentley Wall - Kent, Ohio
Andrew Lockwood - Pekin, Ill.
Jim Higgins - Leawood, Kan.

Speaking of elections, Bob Allan has retired from the Presidency of the PPBSO so join me in wishing him well. Ron Rollo is now the president.

Your new Advisory Board will be meeting in early January. The Rules will be addressed and reworded as needed. Part of the rewrite involves Registered Instructors (RIs) and Morning Meetings. We will make every effort to have the 2006 Rules ready for distribution in late January. The Morning Meeting will

return to all of our Highland Games in 2006. We found that without that meeting, questions developed about the location of the Final Tune area, and the time and place for Massed Bands. The instructions from the Senior Drum Major were not possible until moments before Massed Bands. Only at a few contests did bands invoke the RI procedure. The Morning Meeting will be held at every highland games and the coordinators will note its time and place. Obviously, this is very important please attend the meeting. If the P/M isn't available, send another band member or have the band's runner go to the meeting. Someone from each competing band should be present at the Morning Meeting.

The RI's regular band must be a higher-graded band than the band the RI instructs and plays in. A player may only be the RI of one lower-graded band. In 2006, if you are a RI and your instructed band competes last in its grade and then your regular band competes first in the next grade, you will need to do some quick-time moving to compete with both of your bands. The RI procedure for moving bands in the order-of-play has been terminated. When the coordinators receive their "bands order-of-play," it will be official and not subject to change on Games Day.

There is something I want to mention. When you pose an inquiry about your association and pass it to me, please do not take offense if I forward your questions to another board member. As the president, I would like to be on top of all issues, but it is not possible. This is why I might redirect your request to someone more in touch with a given situation.

January is the month of Winter Storm in Kansas City. Our association is a proud sponsor of this event and includes clinical instruction, solo competitions and performances, both solo and joint, by winners of the contests, instructors and guests. Not only will you see MWPBA members at Winter Storm, but you'll meet players who hail from all points on the continent. Later in January, your president and your music chairman will be meeting with the presidents and music chairs of *Continued on page 9*

IN THIS ISSUE

PRESIDENTIAL NOTES	1
REPORT FROM THE AGM	2
MEMORIZATION & THE LEARNING PROCESS	3
WINTER STORM	6

OHIO GAMES	7
SPOT ON!	10
UPCOMING EVENTS	11

OFFICERS

President & Chief Steward

Drew Hoinacki
524 Ledo Street
Lemont, IL 60439
630/257-6570
President@mwpba.org

Vice President

Tom Ogilvy
5499 Old Jacksonville Rd
Springfield, IL 62707
217/793-8355
VP@mwpba.org

Secretary-Treasurer

Martin Boyle
1302 Oriole Ct.
Round Lake, IL 60073
847/740-5615
Secretary@mwpba.org

Registrar-Bands

Tad Myers
651/552-0912
RegistrarBands@mwpba.org

Registrar-Solos

Kay McMann
614/784-9665
RegistrarSolos@mwpba.org

Advisory Board

Central: Scott McCawley
Central: Jason Freeman
East: Bentley Wall
West: Cliff Davis

Music Board

Jim Sim, Chair
Bob Boyle
Mike Cole
Iain Macey
Scott McCawley

Editor

Dr. Richard Feely
thepulse@mwpba.org

Webmaster

Joseph Brady
admin@mwpba.org

Web site

www.mwpba.org

◆ MWPBA News ◆

The MWPBA Annual General Meeting was held at the St. Andrew's Society's Heritage Hall in North Riverside, Ill. on Nov. 5. The representatives included 22 bands as well as many solo pipers and drummers. Drew Hoinacki, President MWPBA, called the meeting to order at noon. The minutes of the 2004 AGM and the Treasurer's report by Martin Boyle were approved. The assets of the organization continue to be in good shape and well documented.

Next, the awards presentation began with the Mark McDonnell Award going to the Champion Supreme Grade IV March. This year Joseph Biggs received the \$500 check and trophy presented by Mark McDonnell's parents, in memory of the former PM of the Glengale Pipe Band.

The registrar's report for Bands was given by Tadd Meyers, stating 2005 had a net increase of four bands in the MWPBA that two bands from Arkansas and Ohio have returned to the association.

The registrar's report for solo piping was given with the President providing the report for L.K. McMahon indicating 354 soloists registered in the MWPBA in 2005. There were 120 combined piping and Piobraechn soloists as well as five drum majors among the highlights. The Music Board chairmen, Jim Sim, provided a report. Please refer to the report in the hand-out.

The Vice President's report was omitted due to Tom Ogilvy's illness. The Chief Steward report went over some potential World Games changes that are for next year.

For 2006, if a band is going to Scotland, the RSPBA will have a different championship format, please see below. The RSPBA will request the exact registry of all participants as well as the grade recommendation of that band when they do go to Worlds in Scotland. In particular, there are 15 two-parted 2/4 marches from which bands will select two tunes for participation in the music appreciation and presentation of the five major championships in 2006. Together with the guidance on how to achieve effective drum core influence.



Bob Droppleman presents the Champion Supreme Piobraechn Players Amateur Solo award to Hannah Goss.

The new things for this year: Mar. 4 at the Scottish Home there is an adjudicator seminar. There are four new full adjudicators for 2006. Grade I will only have a 5-7 minute Medley. Grade IV and V will have no changes except that it is advisable that bands understand the RSPBA rules and requirements if they plan to go to Scotland. All bands will be pre-drawn and their times will be set for their performance. Grade III, IV, and V may have a registered instructor who must be signed up at the appropriate date well in advance according to the rules and bylaws. The registered instructor must be from a higher-grade band from within the MWPBA.



Mr. McDonnell presents Joseph Biggs the Mark McDonnell Award.

The McAllister College Games were lost. A Minneapolis/St. Paul group tried to regroup their games in 2004 however, the Board of Directors voted not to be sanctioned in 2005. There is a need for more tenor solo drummers and snare drummers. In the MWPBA, there is a propensity of solo drummers and the President encouraged more solo drummers to come out for the next year. The 2006 season as of AGM had no dates set. The coordinators have not submitted any dates or requirements but there will be a Mini-Band contest to be held in the Spring on a Saturday in the Chicagoland area as well as a Solo contest on a different Saturday in Spring in the Chicagoland area. These will probably be 3-4 weeks apart.

The 2006 games will have a 10:00 a.m. meeting that will occur at each game. All PMs or their representative are required to sign in. The pre-draw will be done well before the game so the bands will know exactly which time the bands will perform. No bands will be moved up or down after the pre-draw assignment. If there is a no-show, the space will be left open and the bands are only allowed to perform at the assigned times. Solos may be moved up in their assigned time slot if there is no other soloist prepared to

perform at that time. All new rules changes will be available on the website in early February.

After some regular business items were mentioned, the election of officers was held. The President was unanimously re-elected. The Vice President elected, Cliff Davis, was appointed unanimously. The Secretary/Treasurer, Marty Boyle, was unanimously elected. The Registrar soloist, Dana Freiberg, was unanimously elected. The Registrar of Bands, Tad Meyer, was unanimously elected. The Advisory Committee representing the east, Bentley Wall, was unanimously elected. Jim Higgins representing the west was unanimously elected. The Central nominees were Adrian Melvin, Andrew Lockwood, and Jason Freeman. Mr. Melvin and Lockwood were elected for the calendar Feb. 10 Rockford Pipes and Drums, Winter Kalley. For Mar. 4 Celtic Cross, Peoria, Ill., expo-gardens Spring Kalley.

2005 Music Board Report

The Adjudicator Seminar for Professional Development will be held on Mar. 4, 2006 at the Scottish Home. It will be conducted by Pipe Major Ken Eller of St. Catharines, Ontario.

Music Requirement changes include for Grade I one 5-7 minute Medley, Grade IV & V no changes but be aware of the RSPBA changes.

Judges cards had a change in the Novice piping requirement to match rules and add the Drum Major requirement. The new adjudicator applications include Jim Higgins (approved Full Judge pending shadow judging), Bentley Wal (approved Full Judge pending shadow judging), Steve MacNeil (approved Full Judge pending shadow judging), and Willie Muirhead (approved Full Judge from Associate Judge All Categories). All members of the Adjudication Panel must be Paid Solo Members of the MWPBA in good standing.

A professional Code of Conduct will be drawn up for all MWPBA Adjudicators to go by. RI rule will be allowed in Grades III-IV-V. The RI must be from a HIGHER Grade band and can only be an RI in ONE Band. When the draw is made it will not be changed to accommodate and RI Bands.

To enhance crowd appeal for Highland Games a tune will be played at the final Massed Bands where the tenor drummers come to the front of the Massed Bands to perform four parts of march music.

Shadow Judging must be done in a two year time frame. The Shadow judge needs to notify the MWPBA President and Music Board when and where they will be Shadow Judging and should receive a free entrance ticket. When judges are hired to judge at a

Continued on page 5

♦ Music Education ♦

MEMORIZATION AND THE LEARNING PROCESS*By Ken Eller**Contact: captain@computan.on.ca*

What kind of learner are you? What learning skills do you bring to the table? What are your strong suits? Where are you lacking? There are visual learners, auditory learners and even the touch-reactionary type of learner. Those of us that use visual skills can be divided into two sections; those that need the written score to survive and those that get by with watching the fingers of their instructor. The auditory learner needs to hear the tune. They always ask, "how does it go?" Others must have someone physically point to their fingers or literally lead them by the hand with some form of physical contact. This type of learner is rare.

In my experience, most learners are a combination of the above. When the mix of learning skills is balanced, an accelerated program can proceed where you have the written score, the playing of the instructor and the response of the student. However, like government budgets, when the scales weigh heavy in one or other of these directions, a deficit occurs - a learning deficit. It is this learning deficit (LD) I wish to address.

In the normal schooling of a child, you might call this a learning disability. How dare I imply that pipers have LD's, but I will cite several scenarios that have occurred over the last few years and let you be the judge.

The case of the student that is 100% visual

Jack can read every score I put in front of him. He reads note for note, phrase by phrase and plays the tune from the written score. A month passes and he still hasn't memorized the tune so he plays it through again from the written score with all my notes for phrasing in place. A year passes and Jack is still not playing the tune on the pipes from memory or playing it up to tempo from the score. What we have is a learning disability. I have an analogy of what is happening. Jack's brain is likened to a sponge. His eyes read the score - the brain soaks up the message - his brain expunges the message to the fingers that play the phrase or tune - and then the process repeats itself with an empty brain again. After each play of the tune, the brain is left empty - a dry sponge. The only organ of Jack's body that is working well are the eyes. The very organ that should be used to memorize (the brain) has not been used for anything other than a short-term retainer - something like RAM in a computer. After the computer is shut down, the RAM is empty! This type of learner under exercises the brain so he has extreme difficulty memorizing the music.

The case of the student who is 100% auditory

Now Nancy has difficulty reading the music and needs me to play the tune constantly for her. She repeats my phrasing and has to learn the tune note by note, doubling by doubling. The difference between Nancy and Jack becomes apparent. Jack can't recognize the rhythms I play because he has been too focused on reading just notes. On the contrary, Nancy hears these rhythms and melody notes fluently. Nancy memorizes better than Jack, but has a hard time understanding where all the embellishments go. But Nancy is totally instructor dependant. She cannot proceed without her weekly lesson and has a hard time retaining the information during the time away from the instructor. Nancy has also inadvertently created another problem that could be experienced by the auditory learner. Her practice chanter is much sharper than mine...in fact a semitone above so that my B sounds like her A. So I play Scotland the Brave starting on A and she responds with the same tune off low G...go figure. All my audio lessons with her are now questionable. I don't know what message she is receiving. If the instruments aren't in tune, the audio learner is at a disadvantage. Interesting here, Nancy can sing an octave with proper intervals in place, whereas Jack stumbles out of the gate trying to find a starting note and then has great difficulty with the distance between the notes of our scale.

The case of the student who is 50% visual and 50% auditory

Now, what happens to a student who is perfectly balanced? David and Jan are in a class together. Both read music well. Both can pass a simple sound test - I play a note or rhythm and they play it back to me. This is first done with chanter visible and then with chanter hidden. The results are excellent either way. What we have are two students who can now feed off each other in the same learning environment. They are ideally suited to take lessons together. Each prospers from either the visual or auditory lesson of the other. Their "learning receptors" are multi-dimensional. The results become obvious as they nurture a competitive learning relationship within the class structure.

Meanwhile, what have I done with Jack? His music therapy sessions now begin with his usual read of the score, but just once. I then immediately force his eyes away from the written page and ask him to test himself by playing as much from memory as he can. This is not to discover what he knows, but to discover what he doesn't know. We then drill the things needed and return to the testing mode, constantly forcing him to put the tune in his

Continued on page 10

Continued from page 3

games they should be told what they are judging and what grades if possible.

When MWPBA Bands are going to play in the RSPBA they must notify the MWPBA Music Board well in advance so we can send over rosters to the RSPBA and Grade recommendations. Rubric on score sheet will have Levels A-D with wording to clarify level.

Re-Grades

Bands

Chicago Caledonian	Grade IV to Grade III
Wichita Caledonian	Grade IV to Grade V

Solo Piping

John Prakash	Light Music Grade IV to III Piob. Grade IV to III
Cody Hunter	Light Music Grade IV to III
Dana Freiberg	Light Music Grade III to II
Campbell White	Light Music Grade II to I Piob. Grade II to I
Jayne White	Light Music Grade IV to III Piob. Grade IV to III

Solo Drumming

Jessica White	Grade III to II
Greg Novak	Grade III to II
Molly Gutcher	Grade IV to III

2005 MWPBA Champion Supreme Winners

Bands

Grade II	Midlothian Scottish Pipe Band
Grade III	Macalester College Pipe Band
Grade IV	Chicago Caledonian Pipes & Drums
Grade V	Tunes of Glory Pipes & Drums

Solo Piping

Open March	Tristan Wilson
Open S/R	Tristan Wilson
Open HP/Jig	Matt Pantaleoni
Open Piob.	Graham Mulholland
Grade I March	Nathan Ziegler
Grade I S/R	Ian Crane
Grade I HP/Jig	Andrew Spitsnogle
Grade I Piob.	Jon Maffett
Grade II March	Campbell White
Grade II S/R	Ben Peterson
Grade II HP/Jig	Campbell White
Grade II Piob.	Jonathan Snow
Grade III March	Jonathan Quinn
Grade III S/R	Patrick Shanley
Grade III Jig	Patrick Shanley
Grade III Piob.	Patrick Jazwiecki
Grade IV March	Joseph Biggs
Grade IV Piob.	Hannah Gough
Senior Novice	Timothy Hess
Jr. Novice	Thomas Busby
Practice Chanter	Sierra Gehring

Solo Snare Drumming

Grade I MSR	Steve Sutherland
Grade I HP/Jig	Steve Sutherland
Grade II MSR	Tony Todero
Grade II HP/Jig	Tony Todero
Grade III MSR	Heather Stavropoulos
Grade IV March	Molly Gutcher
Novice	Kaylin Smith & Niko Malobabic

Solo Tenor Drumming

Novice	Casey Freeman
Open	Tatia Privratsky

Group Tenor Drumming

Novice	Patrick Meers
Open	Owen Sehon

Drum Major

Kenneth Smith

List the RSPBA New Academy of Pipe Band Musicianship has been established to provide advanced guidance to pipers, leading drummers, and band tutors to help them achieve better combined affect from their band's pipers and drummers in terms of musical presentation. The RSPBA is introducing a new music appreciation and presentation "MAP" competition format in 2006 at Major Championships for Grade IV and Novice Juvenile pipe bands. The RSPBA Academy of Pipe Band Musicianship has developed an educational program to assist with materials associated with the education program that has now been distributed to all registered RSPBA pipe bands including a complete booklet, "The Language of Music: Applying the Concept to Pipe Bands." A wallet containing the 14 two-parted 2/4 tunes from which bands will be required to select two for the new MAP competition format.

The seminars are being designed to ensure awareness and common understanding of the competition format and the learning programme. They have been planned for various locations throughout the UK to enable Pipe Majors, Leading Drummers and tutors of all registered Grade IV and Novice Juvenile bands to attend. The seminars will also be open to other RSPBA members who may be interested in the learning program. A DVD is also being developed to provide additional support to the learning program. The DVD will be distributed during November 2005.

MAP Competition Requirements

The 2/4 marches for RSPBA MAP competitions in 2006 include (Select two of the following):

Teribus, Mhari Bhan, Brown Haired Maiden, Corriecholies 43rd Welcome to the Northern Meeting, Campbell's Farewell to Redcastle, McKay's Farewell to the 74th, Greenwood Side Earl of Mansfield, Sweet Maid of Glendaruel, I'll Gang Nae Mair to Yon Toon, 72nd Highlanders Farewell to Aberdeen, Drunken Piper, P/M William Ross's Farewell to the Scots Guards, Jenny's Bawbee

WINTER STORM 2006

On Jan. 13-15 the Fifth Winter Storm Weekend hosted by the Midwest Highland Arts Fund (MHAF) is scheduled in Kansas City. The Weekend continues its spectrum of piping and drumming competitions with their acclaimed workshop and concert featuring MHAF's World Champion piping and drumming instructors.

The contests begin Fri., Jan. 13. Details, rules, and photos of the competitions can be found on the winterstorm.net website, including the MHAF & MWPBA U.S. Silver Medal Piobaireachd Competition, the K.C. St. Andrew Society - MHAF U.S. Gold Medal Piobaireachd Competition, the Tone Czar Bagpipes - MHAF North American Gold Medal & Amateur Drumming Championships, and the TyFry - MHAF Gold Medal & Amateur Tenor Drumming Championships.

MHAF & MWPBA U.S. Silver Medal Piobaireachd Competition

Featuring 35 of the best young pipers in North America, the prizes have been expanded where First Place receives \$500 U.S.D. through Fifth Place \$100 U.S.D. as well as a half-silvered stand of McCallum pipes, courtesy of Kenny MacLeod and new sponsor McCallum Bagpipes. Newcastle Brown Ale continues sponsoring the competition.



The judges will be award-winning pipers and Gold Medallists Mike Cusack of Texas, and Stuart Liddell and Willie McCallum of Scotland.

K.C. St. Andrew Society - MHAF US Gold Medal Piobaireachd Competition

A change in rules will allow prior U.S. Gold Medal Champions to defend their Championship - bringing all the best pipers in North America to this year's contest.



Competitors must be eligible to apply for the Gold Medal contests at Oban or Inverness. In addition to the Gold Medal prizes include First Place \$750 U.S.D. through Third Place \$250 U.S.D., and an invitation to the G.S. McLennan Competition in San Diego, is a stand of half-silvered Naill pipes, courtesy of new sponsor David Naill & Company. Dr. Richard Feely of Chicago is also a new and welcomed sponsor to the contest.

The judges will be award-winning pipers and Gold Medallists John Cairns of Canada, Alasdair Gillies of Pennsylvania, and Andrew Wright of Scotland.

Tone Czar Bagpipes - MHAF North American Gold Medal & Amateur Drumming Championships

Featuring the richest prizes in drumming, the Champion will win the Gold Medal, \$750 U.S.D., a Premier or Pearl snare drum, and



two round-trip tickets from the U.S. to Scotland on Icelandair for the Champion and his/her piper to compete in the World Solo Drumming Championships. Second Place wins \$500 U.S.D. and Third Place \$250 U.S.D. The Amateur Championships award solid bronze replicas of the Tone Czar Medal to the first three places in

Amateur Grades I, II, and III. In addition, Premier Percussion and Pearl Drums have generously donated snare drums for each grade's winner.

Judges will be award-winning drummers John Fisher of Canada, and Jim Kilpatrick and Barry Wilson of Scotland.

TyFry - MHAF Gold Medal & Amateur Tenor Drumming Championships

New for the popular contest this year is the splitting of the Amateur contest into Intermediate and Novice divisions. The first three places in each division wins a solid bronze replica of the TyFry Medal, and Premier Percussion has generously donated Hosbilt tenors for the winners. The Gold Medal Champion will win the Gold Medal, \$750 U.S.D., and a Premier/Hosbilt tenor drum; Second Place wins \$500 and Third Place \$250.



Judges will be award-winning drummers Scott Currie and Haggis MacLeod of Scotland, and Tyler Fry of Texas.

The day's competitions end with the awards ceremony to be held at the Marriott ballroom.

The Workshop begins Sat. Jan. 14 and continues through Sun. Jan. 15. and is sponsored by the MidWest Pipe Band Association.

Winter Storm Piping & Drumming Workshop

World-class piping instruction will be from the Gold Medal faculty, all former winners of the Gold Medal at the Northern Meeting and the Argyllshire Gathering. The seven piping instructors include John Cairns, Mike Cusack, Alasdair Gillies, Jack Lee, Stuart Liddell, Willie McCallum, and Andrew Wright.

World-class drumming instruction will be from the Champion drumming faculty. The four snare instructors are John Fisher, Jim Kilpatrick, J. Reid Maxwell, and Barry Wilson; the three tenor instructors are Scott Currie, Tyler Fry, and Haggis MacLeod; the bass instructor is Duncan Gibson. MHAF's huge faculty gives pipers and drummers at all skill levels a meaningful learning experience.

Saturday evening brings the new fundraiser cocktail party,

Continued on page 9

Saturday, January 14, 2006 at 7:30 pm
winter storm
2006
THE PIPES & DRUMS CONCERT



For information & tickets
visit **winterstorm.net**

COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
4601 Main Street, Kansas City, Missouri

Adults - \$25, Kids under 12 - \$10, Kids under 5 - FREE!
Free parking at the nearby garage, all levels EXCEPT FIRST.

Showing the Talents of Renowned Professional Pipers & Drummers

Gold Medal Pipers

- John Cairns
- Mike Cusack
- Alasdair Gillies
- Jack Lee
- Stuart Liddell
- Willie McCallum
- Andrew Wright

Champion Drummers

- Scott Currie
- John Fisher
- Tyler Fry
- Duncan Gibson
- Jim Kilpatrick
- Haggis MacLeod
- J. Reid Maxwell
- Barry Wilson

Master of Ceremonies
Ken Eller

Also performing
Kansas City Highland Dancers

With the 2006 Winners of
The US Gold & Silver Medal
Piping Competitions
AND
The Gold Medal & Amateur
Snare and Tenor Drumming
Championships



Supporting Highland Artists in the Midwest



The Balmoral School

A non-profit, tax-exempt corporation established 1978

at Lewis University

Romeoville, IL (near Chicago)

June 25 - 30, 2006

Learn from Champions!



- *Designed To Meet The Individual Needs Of Beginning To Advanced Pipers & Drummers* •

- *Pipe Band workshops and instruction* •

- *Improve your technique, expression, tone, and playing pleasure* •

- *Tuning and maintenance workshops* • *Small Classes (Maximum 6 per class)* •

Expert tuition for all levels of pipe bands and soloists. Beginners welcome!

Learn the tips that can give you the winning edge!

**John Wilson Gold Medalist & Pipe Sergeant of Strathclyde Police Pipe Band
for Eight World Championships**

**Alasdair Gillies World Champion Solo piper - 11 time winner of the
Former Winners MSR at the Northern Meeting, Inverness**

Former Pipe Major, Queens Own Highlanders, and Director of Bagpipe Music Program, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA



**Adrian Melvin Award winning Open piper, Veteran instructor
Pipe Sergeant of Midlothian Scottish Pipe Band**

**Maureen Connor Award-winning Open Highland piper,
instructor with award-winning students**



Jim Sim Scottish drumming instruction;

Veteran instructor with 30 years competitive experience



For the history of the Balmoral Schools, info on the daily routine of the session, or for online registration please visit our website at www.bagpiping.org or contact us at: 412-323-2707, email: info@bagpiping.org



For brochure/application or other information, contact:

George Balderose, Director

The Balmoral School of Piping

1414 Pennsylvania Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15233-1419

Voice **412-323-2707** • Fax 412-323-1817

www.bagpiping.org Email info@bagpiping.org

Additional Balmoral 2006 sessions:

June 11-16 Thomas More College, Crestview Hills, KY: Alasdair Gillies, John Wilson, Maureen Connor - Jon Quigg (drum); **June 18 - 23 Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, California:** Jack Lee, John Wilson, Jim MacColl, Rob Boyd - tentative Liza McAdam (drum); **July 16-21 & 23-28 East Stroudsburg Univ., E. Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania:** Alasdair Gillies, Scot Walker, George Balderose (plus smallpiping, wk 1 only), Maureen Connor (wk 2 only) - Gordon Bell (snare & bass drum), Bernadette Bell (tenor drum, wk 1 only)

Continued from page 1

the other nine associations of North America. The 2006 ANAP-BA Summit is in Orlando, Flor.

Games Schedules are not ready at this time. The McPherson Games will be held, but per their pipe bands' committee, they will not be sanctioned. There are plans for an All Solos Event as well as a repeat of the Day of Mini-Bands. The dates and locations will come later in future editions of Pulse, the MWPBA website, and the MWPBA Yahoo groups.

As I write this column, I think of the approaching Christmas holiday. It is usually a time for wishes of peace. Community groups and individuals work their magic for the less fortunate and everyone tries to be more pleasant with their bosses, co-workers, families and friends. However, the network news still reports military actions in far-off lands. There are many people who continue to feel the ravages of weather problems and destruction. There are many who don't eat much and don't have much. While thinking of whatever you do have, take time to think of peace, to feel alive and to perform some random act of kindness. Who knows, we might all get good at it.

Best Wishes and Holiday Cheer to All
Drew Hoinacki, MWPBA President

Continued from page 6

Friends of Winter Storm, to the home of Dr. Frank and Debbie Holladay, featuring Alasdair Gillies, Jim Kilpatrick, and Tyler Fry. (Contact Beth for an invitation, beth@mhaf.org).

Winter Storm: The Pipes & Drums Concert

"The concert is considered by many to be the 'must see' piping and drumming concert in the world" - Jim Kilpatrick, MBE, 16-time World Champion solo snare drummer.

The two-hour, high-energy concert plays to a packed house at the beautiful and acoustically perfect, Frank Lloyd Wright designed Community Christian Church. The concert's Master of Ceremonies, Ken "The Captain" Eller, is Piping's Ambassador to the World. Internationally known piping adjudicator, former Pipe Major of Clan MacFarlane Pipe Band, and piper with Ontario's 78th Fraser Highlanders, Ken's wit, charm, and piping knowledge perfectly fit the Winter Storm. The venue showcases the talents of many of the best pipers and drummers on the planet - the entire Winter Storm faculty and the contests' Champions.

Saturday night wraps with "the World's Best Indoor Beer Tent," Winter Steam, held at the Marriott. Sponsored by Newcastle Brown Ale, Steam is rapidly becoming one of the most popular events of the weekend; bring your pipes & drums and party!



Rampant Lion celtic traders

Specializing in Celtic Music

NOW stocking piping supplies
"Smart Drones"

Visit our new store at:
221 East St. Charles, Suite H
Villa Park, IL 60181
(630) 834-8108

Order by mail or on the Internet:

Fax: (630) 833-3701

gayle.baker@aquila.net
www.rampantlion.com



Continued from page 4

head. He is now exercising his learning muscle. At the end of the session he is forced to play completely from memory - no music. On repeat sessions, I do not allow the music - I play for him and have him clone me.... This extreme session will take Jack through a tune with no music whatsoever. And yes! He is resisting all the way, but I am a formidable foe here.

Nancy on the other hand is being held captive in a room with just the written score. We break down the rhythms so she sees them on the stave. We analyze the beat structure of each bar and play at most one phrase at a time. We build a tune up from the written ground floor - beat by beat, bar by bar, phrase by phrase, part by part and finally the complete tune. This too is a long term project, but her struggle is not as severe as Jack's.

Somewhere between these extremes is a comfortable place for all pipers to learn music easily. We must develop listening skills (auditory) along with an academic knowledge of the written score. We must use our eyes to watch the technique flowing from our instructor yet also appreciate the sound coming to our ears. When you find that comfortable place for learning, David and Jan will be waiting for you.

Many adult learners have major concerns with tempo. Without memorizing the tune, the learner is usually playing at the speed at which they are reading. How many of us read fast? Of course not..... Thus these learners have a further LD. They practice and practice, yet their marches never get beyond 50 beats per minute. The solution is simple. Get the brain thinking through the tune at

60 BPM and leave the written score behind and start to bring the tempo up with the use of a metronome. That's right....no music at all....play from the brain. Rely on the consistent tempo increases from the metronome. Try it, the results will be dramatic.

As usual, I hope this discussion of some aspect of the learning process has been insightful and interesting to you. For further discussion, you may contact me through my website, The Captain's Corner at www.thecaptainscorner.com. Enjoy your learning experiences.

SPOT ON!

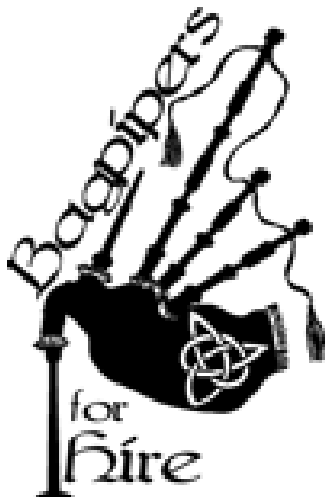
By Dr. Richard Feely, MWPBA Editor

Congratulations to the MWPBA Champion Supreme Winners of 2005 and the runner-ups that competed so valiantly over the year. A special recognition goes to Open Piping Champion Trista Wilson for March S/R and Matt Panteleoni Open HP/Jig and GramAm Mulholland Open Piobaireachd. These three individuals are MWPBA's best solo bagpipers for 2005. Congratulations! Solo snare drumming continues to improve although we don't have any Open Drummers we do have Grade I MSR and HP/Jig Champion Steve Sutherland who is congratulated for excellent work in leading the way for MWPBA Solo Drumming. Congratulations to all pipers and drummers that competed in 2005 and I hope to see you on the field in 2006.

BAGPIPERS FOR HIRE

Lessons available in the Chicagoland and Rockford areas.

Adrian Melvin, formerly of Victoria Police, Vale of Atholl, and 78th Frasers and currently the Pipe Sergeant of the Midlothian Scottish Pipe Band leads the Individual or Band Workshops.



Contact Adrian:

630/841-4073

Adrian@bagpipersforhire.com

www.bagpipersforhire.com

Adrian is also a dealer of McCallum bagpipes Kinnaird Products.

◆ Upcoming Events ◆

JAN. 13-15—MHAF WINTER STORM WEEKEND

Midwest Highland Arts Fund is proud to host the 5th Annual “Winter Storm Weekend” Workshop, in Kansas City the weekend of Jan. 13-15. All pipers and drummers, all experience levels, can gain and have a meaningful educational experience.

World-class piping instruction will be from our Gold Medal faculty, all former winners of the Gold Medal at the Northern Meeting and the Argyllshire Gathering. World-class drumming instruction will be from our Champion drumming faculty.

Visit the new Midwest Highland Arts Fund website here <http://www.mhaf.org/index1.htm>.

Kevin is also a seven-time WUSPBA Champion, two-time Western North American Champion at Pleasanton and a WUSPBA Champion tenor drummer in Grade I. In ceremonial facets, Drum Major MacHeffner has arranged and led over three dozen massed bands in North America and Scotland. Kevin also teaches on a regular basis through ScottishDrumming.com.

Come ready to work hard.

FEB. 18—FLINT SCOTTISH PIPE BAND

Please join the Flint Scottish Pipe Band on February 18, 2006 to celebrate their 90th year. The night will feature the Windsor Police Pipe Band Grade 1, Ann Arbor Pipes and

Drums, Grand Rapids Pipe Band, Flint Scottish Pipe Band, Equinox, Heinzmann School of Irish Dance, and Lakes Area School of Highland Dance.

Doors open at 6:30 pm at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 8428 Davison Rd., Davison, MI 48423.

We expect this event to sell out early.

For advance tickets contact Sherri Cook at 810/730-9946 or check out our website at www.flintscottishpipeband.org.

APRIL 7—SECOND ANNUAL GREAT LAKES SUPERIOR PIPING CHALLENGE

The 2nd Annual Great Lakes Superior Piping Challenge will be held Friday April 7th 2006 in Traverse City, Mich. The Henderson Challenge is a new event. It will also consist of Piobaireachd and MSR. Fewer tune submissions are required to enter; players who have won prizes in certain competitions are excluded. The winners will be invited to play in the Prize Pipe competition. Association grades do not apply to this event. The aim of the junior event is to promote a higher standard among young U.S. solo pipers, particularly in Piobaireachd. Consequently, competitors are required to compete in both Piobaireachd & MSR. The event has been reorganized into one age group, 18 & under. Association grades do not apply to this event. Download a flier with more information and applications at www.mwpba.org. Visit www.hendersongroup ltd.com for more information.

Pulse is the official quarterly newsletter of the MidWest Pipe Band Association (MWPBA), representing pipe bands throughout the Midwest, including Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas and Wisconsin. The MWPBA is a 501c3 not for profit organization.

MWPBA board members represent every segment of piping and drumming in the Midwest; its members include individuals and bands. The opinions expressed in this publication's educational articles are not necessarily those of the MWPBA nor its directors.

To place ads or submit articles for possible publication, please direct materials to: Dr. Richard Feely, Editor, *Pulse*, 150 E. Huron, Suite 1104, Chicago, IL 60611. Materials, inquiries and subscription requests will be accepted electronically at vp@mwpba.org or via fax at 312/266-0495. The official MWPBA Web site is www.mwpba.org.

© 2005, MidWest Pipe Band Association. Permission to reprint portions of this publication is granted subject to accompaniment by appropriate credit to MWPBA and *Pulse*. Submission deadlines: Spring, Mar. 1; Summer, June 1; Autumn, Sept. 1; Winter, Nov. 15.

◆ MWPBA 2006 CALENDAR •

ALL DATES TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Date	Event	Location	Contact
TBA	Mini-Bands Indoor Solo Indoor	TBA Chicago, Ill.	Drew Hoinacki, 630/257-6570
May 20	Springfield Games	Ill. State Fairgrounds Springfield, Ill.	Tom Ogilvy, 217/793-8355
May 27-28	Alma Festival	Alma College Alma, Mich.	Mike Riley, 989/779-9745
June 3	Milwaukee Games	Bavarian Inn Milwaukee, Wisc.	Gary Bottoni, 414/774-8124
June 10	Kansas City Games	Wyandotte County Kansas City, Mo.	Tom McKee, 913/634-8904
June 17	Chicago Games	Oak Brook Polo Club Chicago, Ill.	Drew Hoinacki, 630/257-6570
June 24	Ohio Games	Wellington, Ohio	Mike Mihalic, 330/342-1510
Aug. 26	Quad Cities Games	Davenport, Iowa	Jennie Baas, 309/764-9886
Sept. 2	Waukesha Games	Waukesha, Wisc.	Russ Read, 262/820-9524
Sept. 23	McPherson Games	Lakeside Park McPherson, Kan.	Ty Kaufman, 620/241-2551
Oct. 7	St. Louis Games	Forest Park St. Louis, Mo.	George Gerules, 314/963-7242
Nov. 4	MWPBA AGM	Scottish Home	Drew Hoinacki, 630/257-6570



MidWest Pipe Band Association

150 E. Huron, Suite 1104
Chicago, IL 60611

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

www.mwpba.org