



Old Scotch Pipes & Drums

Monthly Newsletter

No.7, 2009



Upcoming Events *(more details below):*

- ❖ Next regular monthly practice session: 10:00am, Sunday 8th November, 2009
- ❖ Final bands competition (Daylesford): 9:30am Saturday 5th December, 2009

OSP&D on 'extended' public parade

The recent performances of **Jesus Christ Superstar** (*staged by the OS Music & Drama Club*) saw the OSP&D provide a mini-band for each of the 10 shows, welcoming the crowds in the forecourt outside the Geoffrey McComas Theatre. Not only did the band get great exposure and recognition, but our playing skills improved markedly with all the additional practice and performance.

Special thanks to Brian and Jono for all their tuning and coaching – and thanks also to all the playing band members who participated, especially to drummers Scott and Simon (our essential 'heart beats'). See the photos attached.

Many of us also got to see the show – truly fantastic production! – strongly recommended as an Old Scotch "must see" event next year (*it will be a new production next year, of course!*).

- ☺ *Medieval manuscripts and carvings often depict the 'nakerer', or drummer, with two small round drums slung from a belt carried at groin level – which perhaps explains the origins of the vulgar term 'knackers' for testicles [source: 'Agincourt - Henry V and the battle that made England', Juliet Barker, (Wylie)].....*

Our Jono triumphs in NZ

Hearty congratulations to Jono Quay for his very impressive performance in the recent solo piping competitions held at St Andrews College in Christchurch, New Zealand. Specifically, Jono's results included:

- 2nd – A-grade 2/4 March;
- 1st – A-grade strathspey & reel;
- 4th – A-grade hornpipe & jig;
- 1st – B-grade piobaireachd; and
- 2nd – 'Silver Chanter' event!!

The judges were reportedly very complimentary of his pipes set-up, and overall performance. We can rest assured that the OSP&D 'rehabilitation' is in safe and highly skilled hands when our piping tutor achieves results like that!

Amazing Grace

If you appreciate the amazing versatility of the human voice you might well be impressed, as were we, with a recent performance by the (new) 'four tenors' Il Divo, at the Colliseum in Rome (*with an accompanying piper, no less!*).... and the acoustics of this antiquity are astonishingly good! See:

<http://link.brightcove.com/services/player/bcpid1785324681?bclid=1338935106&bctid=1913313052>

Letters to the Editor

Over the past month or so we've received further correspondence, copied below for your enjoyment:

Hello Stewart,

Thank you for including a "technical corner" in the newsletter – it should prove to be a useful source of handy information for all. However, I am greatly fascinated but confused by the information offered in the last newsletter. For example:

I thought a 'low A' was a short person (like me) whose A was close to the ground.

I thought a 'B flat' was a very annoying event arising when you are on a driving holiday.

I thought a 470Hz was something that you found when you were looking for a leak in a water pipe.

I thought an "anchor note" was my Mother in Law.

I thought that bagpipes played only one note at a time but I now know differently.

I thought that the G spot had nothing to do with bagpipes.

I have absolutely no idea what the G# spot is----- ah, yes, it is on the Myxolydian scale.

Look, it's time to come clean: you pipers are just making all this up as you go along, aren't you!!!! Looking forward to clarification in a future issue.

Yours

Reekin' lum

OS P&D Web-site

It's been a little while coming, but we've now developed the essential structure & layout for an initial OSP&D web site, and assembled most of the content – comprising 14 pages! It's now just a case of loading all that into a web-site editor package, fine-tuning the content, and up-loading to our host web server. Hopefully, that will all be achieved in the next few weeks.

As we are beginners in this area, our first attempt will no doubt stimulate further (helpful?) input from you all. Over time, the web site will evolve and improve – but establishing a 'web presence' with contact details and resources for members, was a key priority. Watch your email for advice of the Internet address (or URL, for you techies).

☺ *A Scotsman walking through a field sees a man drinking water from a pool with his hand. The Scotsman shouts 'Awa ye feel hoor thatâs full Oâ coos sharn' (trans: Don't drink the water, it's full of cow s**t). The man shouts back 'I'm English: speak English – I don't understand you!' The Scotsman shouts back 'Use both hands – you'll get more in!'*

The Band CDs

We now have a small stock of band CD's on hand for distribution (many thanks to Andrew Buick). These CDs include music (piping scores) and MP3 tracks to assist with brushing up your basic repertoire. So, if you need a set, come along to our final playout (*Sunday 6 December*) to collect your 2-disc set.

Atholl Brose

We've received several requests for a reprint of the recipe for Atholl Brose – possibly in preparation for a little Christmas cheer. So, here it is (*the rest will be all your own fault!*):

Ingredients:

3 rounded tablespoons of medium oatmeal
4 dessertspoons of (heather?) honey
Scotch whisky – any 'reasonable' label

Method:

Put the oatmeal into a basin and gradually mix with cold water until it forms a thick soupy paste. Leave for half an hour and then put through a fine strainer, pressing with a wooden spoon to extract as much liquid as possible. Throw away the oatmeal lees (*or give the dog some 'roughage'*) and use the creamy liquor from the oatmeal for the 'brose'.

Mix four dessert spoonfuls of pure honey and four sherry glassfuls of the prepared oatmeal brose and stir well. (Purists insist on a silver spoon for stirring!) Put into a quart bottle and fill up with malt whisky. Shake well before serving. Slainte Mhath! (*pron. slan'j'e vaa – good health!*)

Solo Piping Events

With the solo piping competitions now over for this year, we're very pleased to report that Stewart Malcolm achieved a 4th place in D-grade at the recent Victorian Championships, and 10th place overall for the year. Well done, Stewie!! Others were also well into the points, so we're hoping for a few 'wins' next year – as well as a few more members having a go. These events do wonders for improving your piping generally, involve lots of goodwill, and are an opportunity to meet other pipers and hear some very good pipers performing at their best.

Final 2009 Practice Session

The final practice session for 2009 is scheduled for 10am, Sunday 6 December – and we're thinking of making it into a relaxing BBQ lunch, with an invitation to the 'better half' of you all. So do be sure to mark the date in your diaries, to keep the day free. Venue is still under discussion – will be close to Scotch – but, we'll let you know shortly. More details by email, soon.

☺ *Five Englishmen boarded a train just behind five Scots – who, as a group, had only bought one ticket between them. Just before the conductor came through, all the Scots piled into a toilet stall at the back of the car. As the conductor passed the stall, he knocked and called “Tickets, please!” and one of the Scots slid the ticket under the door. It was punched and pushed back under the door. When it was safe, the Scots came out of the stall and took their seats. The Englishmen were mighty impressed by the Scots ingenuity. So, on the trip back, the five Englishmen decided to try it themselves and purchased only one ticket. They noticed that, oddly, the Scots had not purchased any tickets this time. Anyway, again, just before the conductor came through, the Scots all piled into one of the toilet stalls, and the Englishmen into the other. Then, one of the Scots leaned out, knocked on the Englishmen’s stall and called “Tickets, please!” When the ticket slid out under the door, he picked it up and quickly closed his own stall door.....*

Victorian Pipers Association:
<http://www.vicpipers.org/>

Australian Pipe Band College:
<http://www.pipebands.asn.au/college.asp>

Australian School of Piping:
<http://www.schoolofpiping.com/index.htm>

The College of Piping:
<http://www.college-of-piping.co.uk>

Royal New Zealand Pipe Bands Association:
<http://www.nzpipebands.org.nz/>

Download the Bagpipe Player software:
<http://www3.telus.net/public/dougwick/>

Bagpipe Tuning:
<http://www.hotpipes.com/tuning.html>
http://cityofoaks.home.netcom.com/Bagpipe_Tuning.html

Drumming Scores:
<http://www.drumscoresearch.org/?select=listbook&book=ADB1>

Free subscription to access music scores:
www.scottishpiperclub.com

Traditional Scottish Recipes:
http://www.rampantscotland.com/recipes/blrecipe_index.htm

There is a huge variety of other stuff available on the Internet limited only by your imagination in regard to key search ‘arguments’.

Interesting Internet Links

The following Internet links, identified by various members, provide access to some interesting content that you may find useful:

The Scottish Banner:
<http://www.scottishbanner.com/default.aspx>

Victorian Pipe Band Association:
<http://www.pipebandsvic.com/store/default.pl>

2009 Committee Members:

President: Brian Symington - Tel: (03) 9818 8414
Vice-Pres: Stewart Wallace - Tel: 0409 022 334
Treasurer: Graham Reid - Tel: 0409 350 059
Secretary: nomination is sought
Committee: Jono Quay (technical); and still seeking several more nominations

Piping Tutors: Jono Quay – Tel: 0430 291 604
 Brian Symington – Tel: (03) 9818 8414
Drum Tutor: TBC

2009 Band Leaders:

Pipe Major: TBA
Drum Major: TBA
Lead Drummer: TBA

New members:

Contact: Stewart Wallace - Tel: 0409 022 334

OS P&D Mini-band – Welcoming guests to Jesus Christ Superstar



...and a few more photographs us in action:

