

TO R.S. SWIFT FOR INFORMATION IPSISSIMA VERBA 1983

THE GLASGOW HIGHLAND CLUB

Recollections of ANDREW KENNEDY
(who joined the Club on OCTOBER 10th 1932 -
the day before his 19th birthday)

(DR.) D.R. MARTIN
(Later)

I joined the Club in 1932 at the same time as ~~D.R.~~ DUNCAN (DR.) -
R. MARTIN and WILFRED A. STEWART, KILMACOLM. Duncan and I
were both pipers while Wilfred was a side-drummer from Fettes College.

Band practices were at that time and until War broke out in September
1939 held in the Central Station Hotel (Room AILSA) with HOUSE DINNERS
normally in the ARRAN Room and the BALL in the BANQUETING HALL.
Duncan McColl had just become Pipe Major and was certainly responsible for
Martin and I joining and possibly Wilfred also, his brother-in-law A.E.
MACTAGGART, LARGS, seconding us.

I had just started my second year as a C.A. apprentice, Duncan Martin
had just come from OBAN (his father was Editor of the OBAN TIMES) to
study DENTISTRY while Wilfred was doing LAW. As a result we were not
too regular in our attendance. Indeed I saw little of Martin until after the War

as he switched to Medicine and was heavily engaged with studies until War broke out.

In 1932/33 when I was able to attend practices there was very little in the way of encouragement for the Young piper as the playing, apart from that of Duncan McColl who was in a class by himself, was really very poor indeed. P/M Robert Reid who was Club Piper had only recently set up in business for himself and with that and T.A. commitments (7thth...!) it meant that he only appeared at House Dinners and possibly one practice before the Ball. Certainly there was no tuition in setting up pipes, etc. to ~~keep~~^{ENCOURAGE} any budding young pipers along. The regular attenders were the President Alan G. MacNaughton ex P/Major, Duncan McColl (Pipe Major), R. Percy Thomson (a fine dancer but a poor piper) also ex-SECRETARY of the CLUB) and myself who had a lot to learn. Ian MALCOLM (farming at MOFFAT) TAM WATSON and WILLIE YOUNG (FATHER MANAGED McCALLUM ORME) only appeared occasionally and none of these were very good players. Towards the Ball Duncan McColl would persuade Duncan Martin, Neil Kennedy and TOM LEGGAT to come along and add strength to the Band. The Drummers would appear then too - John Robertson, Junior and Wilfred Stewart ^{DRUMMERS} side with either Iain Lang or H. Parker Buchanan, resplendent in Buchanan tartan trews, on the BASS drum.

The drums were ^{never very} ~~way~~ popular with the Band, the drums themselves were ancient and not being looked after ^{OFTEN} ~~often~~ were in poor condition - though J.M. MARSHALL who joined in 1938 tried hard to get them going again. Col. YAUDEN, who was President round about 1935/36, ^{had} ~~having~~ been induced to take over the BASS DRUM. The big trouble was that the standard of piping was so poor at the normal practice that all the effort had to be directed to that. In any case the War came along and in the aftermath, when a lot of hard work had to be done to get the pipes going again the drums were quietly forgotten about.

I had gone to JOHN McCOLL (late of OBAN) for lessons the year before I joined the Club and it was there that I met Duncan McColl. Duncan in turn had gone to him through "Young" JOHN who was in charge of the GLASGOW ACADEMY O.T.C. BAND and sent any promising pupils to his father for tuition. I paid 30/- for TWELVE lessons whereas ^{DUNCAN} ~~he~~ had to pay 32/6 which always ^{rankled} Incidentally it was Robert Reid who advised me to go to John McColl. Robert of course had the GLASGOW HIGH SCHOOL O.T.C. BAND, but you had to be a pretty good player before he would accept you as a pupil. Duncan Martin, Col. DAVID MURRAY (who I see is now a member of the CLUB) and possibly John Buchanan had private lessons from Robert. John Buchanan went to OXBRIDGE and apart from one House Dinner I don't remember him at the Club until after the War.

In talking about poor standards of playing and difficulty in recruitment you have to remember that, as today, the country was trying to get over a depression. In 1931/32 when I started my apprenticeship fully qualified C.A.'s were glad to be still working where they had served their apprenticeships for £120.00 per annum, while time-served engineers, if they had a job at all, were equally badly paid. It is not surprising that the Central Hotel immediately put prospective young members off joining the Club and that one member - NEIL KENNEDY - took a job playing on Transatlantic liners, eventually settling in New York.

The House Dinners @ 5/- were really wonderfully good value and, I can't remember the price of the Ball invitations - not more than one guinea I think - but the Hotel, the Club and the Dance Band all seemed to be quite happy. I think the Club made a profit each year. The Hotel must have made a profit too for they stored the drums for us and we had Room Ailsa rent free until the War came along. This all changed immediately after the War, however, and we had to find other accommodation for the Band Practice.

The Dancers pre-war, as I remember them, in the Club were R. PERCY THOMSON, IAIN MALCOLM, COL. W.D. MACRAE, COL. T.S. ROBINSON, DR. SCOTT PARK, R.M. EASDALE, and JEX LONG with R. (BOBBIE) McNIVEN CUTHBERTSON coming along before the BALL to give expert advice.

The House Dinners were very simple meals with P/M Reid doing the piping honours - a PIOBAIREACAD^H after dinner and a March Strathspey and Reel later on. The members were always able to put one if not two sets^{up} for the Foursome Reel. CROSSLAND HIRST was ^aan very acceptable pianist - I can still see him sitting at the piano with his cigar, picking out a note here and there whilst Iain MacPherson sang The Road to the Isles or MacGregors' Gathering. Percy Thomson was always available to recite "McALLISTER" OR "ROBINA", Duncan McColl played a selection on the pipes from time to time and Col. Macrae, if we were really pushed would sing for us. In short we largely provided our own entertainment. I cannot say whether somebody brought them along as guests or they simply sang for their supper. Iain MacPherson would certainly have to be paid for, but Gaelic singers apart from Pat Sanderman who was a Director would I think be in the "GUEST" category.

We had an excellent fiddler from time to time in CHARLIE McEWAN from LENNOXTOWN and it may be that the President Col. CHARLES MURRAY, CAMPSIE GLEN, brought him along. As far as I know Robert Reid did all this for his honorarium which was very little. He would, however, get something extra for the pipers and drummers he laid on for the Ball. The Band did not play for the reels in my day.

Looking back I would say that Duncan McColl's efforts to recruit young pipers were frustrated - (1) by the Central Hotel (2) studies (3) the fact that ~~in~~ a few promising young players competed at even a local Highland Gathering for experience and ^{EVEN IF} although they did not win a prize ^{they} thereby made themselves professionals. It was certainly not until after December 1936 when I qualified that I was able to offer ^{DUNCAN} him any real support. By that time all the older members had disappeared, that is apart from dear old Percy Thomson, who was very deaf (Robert Reid in later years used to say when we moaned - and Percy went on to complete 50 years in the Band - "It's a poor Band that can't carry Percy".) The Club at this time, having not yet got over the depression, was at a fairly low ebb with possibly only 20/30 attending at the Dinners. I even remember attending one in in the "Small" AILSA Room. I remember too at an A.G.M. the Secretary phoning round the West End of Glasgow in an endeavour to get somebody to come in and make up a quorum to allow the meeting to proceed. A member who hadn't appeared in years obliged - J. RALSTON BOCK.

X I CANNOT THINK WHAT THIS MEANS UNLESS TAM - MUR

SEYMOUR TO ME - WAS APPOINTED TO SUCCEED DUNCAN AS P/M AND THEN
DISAPPEARED

- 7 -

X
(April 1938, succeeded TAM WATSON) X I have no Membership Book
for 1937/38 so can't say whether it was that season^{or} in 1938/39 that Duncan
McColl asked me to take over the Pipe Majorship. I rather think the latter. In
any case I had the good or bad fortune to come on as Wilfred J. MacLeod was
appointed President. His father was I believe one of the founder members of
the Club and having been away for years Wilfred, once a drummer in the Band,
was disgusted with the state of the Club. He blamed Col. Charles Murray who
had been in the Glasgow Highlanders with his father and generally decided he
was going to make things hum. Wilfred was ~~Pres.~~ of the Anderston
Weavers and put a good deal of time, energy and money into both this and the
Club, bullying everyone into action. Robert Reid was induced to give more
time to the Band and within the limits of what was available to us the Band^d
made quite good progress. Recruits to the pipers at this time (1937/39) would
be Archd. Leitch, ex Glasgow High School, O.T.C. who had been doing
engineering, Donald Currie from Fettes who was studying law (his father had
been a member of the Club) and most of all R.R. CAMPBELL who piped at
Merchiston, but who had been away from piping for about 15 years. Between
Wilfred and Robert, I got little peace and the Band was not allowed to slack.
Robert took himself off to John McColl for lessons and at his instigation
Duncan McColl, he and I met in each others' houses or in the NEW CLUB
(now CORNHILL BUILDING) in West George Street, Glasgow, ^{and} had compiled
^{for} a book of tunes of the Band. Robert had them copied in his office and

persuaded his printers Aird & Coghill, I think, to lace them together in a very presentable cover numbered 1/ about 30. I as P/M got No.1 which some years ago I handed to ^{THE 1464} their P/Major - E. SWINDLE. The first tune was The Glasgow Highland Club which Robert commissioned John McColl to write for us. The books were distributed to the Bank^d and when I joined up the balance was handed to the Secretary. They were not to be found after the War. Robert had by this time lost his zest for piping, otherwise he would have demanded that he be allowed to make a personal search in Macrae's office. Macrae of course as C.O. of 6th HLI would certainly be away at the start of the War.

However, I digress a little. Wilfred was the driving spirit and he aimed to revive the formal Annual Dinner and make a really good job of it. From the 1938/39 Membership Book I would say this took place on 14th November, 1938 with DR. NEAL¹ ROSS - Minister at LAGGAN and Celtic Scholar - proposing "TIR NAM BEANN". Sinclair Rae and his STRATHSPEY and REEL SOCY providing some wonderful fiddle music and no doubt we had a good singer too. Arran was too small and the Dinner was held at the head of the stair (what I think is now a second ballroom but was then a lounge) 1st floor in the Central Hotel. There was quite a good photo in the Herald the following morning if you care to look up the archives. I have already sent you the Dance Programme and Supper Arrangements for the Ball on Monday 16th January, 1939. Everything was held on a Monday pre-War and indeed for a short time after the War also.

As you may realise things were going quite well and there was a new enthusiasm about the Club. I was only ever on the Board ex officio as Pipe Major. Meetings were held about 5.30 p.m. and while Wilfred was Chairman there was no question of anybody being allowed to talk for 20 minutes and then discovering they had a train to catch as happened all too often after the War. You were committed to a certain course and woe betide you if there was no action by the time the next meeting came round. Wildred was indeed a wonderful old chap. He made enemies of course, but he had many more friends as I remember at the Southern Necropolis, Caledonia Road, Glasgow, when I attended his funeral in 1940 just before I joined up.

There was a big T.A. element in the Club and in 1939 they went to Summer Camp and didn't come back again. The Central Hotel wouldn't have us when the 1939/40 Season started and Col. Fairley Daly very kindly came to our rescue (presumably through Wilfred) by allowing us to practice in his Sauchiehall Street Store (CORSETRY DEPT. !!!). His A.R.P. Squad were of course on duty so there were no security or availability problems for the Club. Attendance was all that was required of the Band.

We had an occasional visit from P/M Reid who of course had been called up but apart from Robert Campbell (too old for SERVICE) and I, we mainly depended on young chaps from school. ROSS BELCH, MORRISON'S who was doing NAVAL ARCHITECTURE, MARKS ex Pipe Major at DOLLAR, a very good player and Bisset (HILLHEAD). Duncan McColl had had a lot of tummy trouble in 1939 and I seem to remember that although he went to OCTU he was soon invalided out because he appeared quite frequently in DALY'S, and indeed became President before the War was over. In the ~~offering~~ ^{OFFERING} that year at the ~~DTC~~ ^{DTC} competition were Alan MacNaughton's son, Glasgow Academy, and a little chap BUCHANAN from DOLLAR who were both very good players and the outlook seemed bright indeed until the body blow fell on that September Sunday a.m. 1939.

Another ploy of Wilfred's I should have mentioned was that he brought along a Mr. Macdonald to teach us GAELIC. That would either be 1937/38 or 1938/39. Apart from a few older members like Duncan McColl's father and his pal Mr. HEADRICK ^{Buchanan} the trouble was that it was the Bank ^d who were expected to support everything. It was the same with DANCING and young chaps like me, trying to get on in life, just hadn't the time for all these things.

The School's Competition for OTC Bands was well patronised and it was from them that the Club got most of its piping members. Dollar and Glasgow Academy were the leading and most consistent Bands in the 30's with Hillhead coming up in later years. The Competition was held in Glasgow Academy Playground (hence the appointment of Royden Richards as HON. MEMBER - again I don't think necessary and, as I see in the latest list I have, created a precedent - HOLDEN). I well remember taking John McColl over one year. DOBBIE P. Major of Dollar was playing his solo MARCH and the MASTER I/C was telling old John how the said DOBBIE could run the 100 yds in 10 secs. "He's doing it much faster than that now" said John. Dobbie joined the Club but was reported killed during the War as was Alan MacNaughton's son. MARKS I never heard of again and frankly having been told of the other two I hadn't the will-power to pursue his whereabouts too hard. ROSS BELCH of course went on to great things with LITHGOWS but did not re-appear at the Club after the War. Archie McNab, Hillhead and a splendid player - competed at the GAMES and became a professional soldier. He was at John McColl ^{FOR LESLIE} just before the War. Leslie Craig (Hillhead) as you know joined the Club and was recently Pres. as DR. CRAIG.

I can't remember much about our own Competitions. Duncan McColl certainly won the Frank Adam Cup 3/4 times and Ian Malcolm the Claymore??? for Dancing. I've a feeling the Claymore like the Drums went missing but I may be wrong. I only remember competing once before the War when I think Arcd Leitch won the piping and no doubt Ian Malcolm the Dancing. I would definitely not be about the Club much 1934/35, 1935/36 and 1936/37. I know I ploughed the first half of my Finals in May 1934 and had to get down to the BOOKS to pass at the DECEMBER DIET leaving me 2 years for the big one in December 1936 when I qualified.

Duncan McColl has now gone so I don't know what went on between April 1940 when I was called up and my return as Pipe Major in September, 1946. Apart from embarking on the Clyde I was never near Glasgow for the first 18 months of my service. Duncan succeeded Dr. Chas. Douglas (Naval Architect) as President so he must have known what was happening - I think very little.

Dr. Kenneth MacKay who had been P/Major of Glasgow University OTC about 1920/21 had come home after many years service as a Medical Missionary in PERU and was practising in Hillhead. He certainly came to DALY'S before I joined up and if still alive might be able to say if the Band carried on for some time after I joined up. I don't think Kenneth was ever Pipe Major but he was at least Junior Vice-President around 1949/50.

Most of his work for piping was done outside the Club (for which he was presumably made an HON. MEMBER). I no longer have his telephone number in my Diary after 1952 so he must have gone to take up PRACTICE in LAGGAN during that year.

In any case I'm sure he had just gone when he was awarded HON. MEMBERSHIP. I was sitting there at an A.G.M., it must have been, and the proposal came out of the blue. I was flabbergasted and though I thought he had not done any more than a good many others for the Club, I wasn't going to make an issue of it. As usual all the nattering took place when we got into the Hall for the Bank^{it} Practice.

So far as 1937/39 is concerned you could get another view from:

MR. ARCHD. LEITCH, A.M.I.C.E.,
31 BAY STREET,
NORTH GEELONG, VICTORIA, AUS., 3215.

Archie will be the same age as myself. He writes me each Christmas but hasn't said he has retired. He was with the Water Board so if not retired will not have had his worries to seek with the prolonged drought and now bush fires.

The only other thing I haven't touched on pre-war was the Competition for Bands in the Glasgow Battalion of The Boys' Brigade. This was held at the Bandstand Kelvingrove Park but was not ~~so~~^{so} attended enthusiastically by Club Members.

The 139th Coy. Won for about six years in a row until they were superseded just before the War by the 204th (I think) Coy. In May or June 1939 the Competition was held in Alexandra Park with only Robert Reid and I attending. I learned my piping in the B.B. at Bishopbriggs before going to John McColl but I don't know ^{of} if any other recruit to the Highland Club from this source.

A B.B. Coy. (268) from Bishopbriggs had a good run just after the War at the Highland Club Competition but I never every heard of the Club until Duncan McColl asked me to join. I was at Allan Glen's School which only had a Cadet Force (no OTC status) and I wasn't a member of it. I had started the 268 Band in 1937 and Robert Reid sent me three brothers, who had just come to live in Bishopbriggs, as a very .good nucleus. Their name was HARDIE and 'R.G.' (Bobbie) later ^{LED} ~~led~~ the 268 to fame after the War. He was of course after OWEN McNIVEN probably Robert's best pupil.

After the War I was unanimously burdened with the Pipe Majorship and had all the pre-war hard graft to do over again. I was demobilised in December 1945 but I was married by this time and before I found a house and got re-established in the ^{family} ~~faculty~~ business at Bishopbriggs I'm sure it would be the Autumn of 1946 before I gave any thought to the Highland Club.

I think we had facilities at the Central Hotel for a short time - I do remember having to phone the under-manager to see if there was a room available each week - but things became very difficult and certainly by the following Autumn we were practising in the MINERVA CLUB - In a lane off the street on the south side of ST. ANDREWS HALLS and close to NORTH STREET. There was a well know PUB on the corner whose name escapes me. I don't know to whom we were indebted for the facility but it was dammed cold and I feel sure one winter did us there.

3ε*

Ian ~~Lex~~ Long who had taken a renewed interest in piping - his son was in the Academy OTC Band - then arranged with his minister - Rev. REID - for the Bank ^d Practices to be held in their CHURCH HALL, LILYBANK GARDENS (the Church that eventually merged with HILLHEAD PARISH) and we were there until COL. CARNEGIE go~~o~~us into the Glasgow Highlanders Drill Hall\$. This was grand after the two ~~His=As.8!5~~.... gas radiators at the MINERVA CLUB and having to phone Mr. Reid every Sunday night to make

sure the CHURCH HALL was free. Fortunately only once was it not. The Church Hall was very large but on the cold side too. Mr. Adam at the Drill Hall was very good and would always let us have the Cpls' Mess when the Drill Hall was engaged. Actually the latter was a bonus because we finished there every Monday night with Mr. Adam dispensing the ^{'MERCIES'} ~~Madeira/medicine.~~

I don't know how long I continued as Pipe Major after the War. I did hand over to Archie Leitch when he came out of the ^{RE'3} ~~R.E.S.~~ but he only lasted a few months when he went off to GEELONG VICTORIA to look after the Water Works there. I went with Robert Reid and he to New Anniesland to do what must have been a B.B. Competition in May or June and the next thing I heard was that he was off to Australia. I'm sure he doesn't know it but at an A.G.M. in the Central Hotel he got quite a mention for his work as Pipe Major !!! If that's in the Minute Book then you have another case of people with no knowledge of the time facts airing their views at a meeting. Thus I was again Pipe Major because Dr. Martin setting up Medical Practice in RENFREW didn't have the time to spare.

Kenneth Mackay was rather junior in the Club and in any case was much more interested in a wider field of piping.

I finally persuaded Duncan Martin to follow me as Pipe Major but whether in 1948/49 or 1949/50 I can't say. I'm sure we were in the Drill Hall by that time. I continued in the Band with Sam Park as Pipe Major until the end of 1960 when my father died and I had to devote much more time to the family business.

Useful Band Members after the War were Stewart Bell until he went to Edinburgh to ~~DEVELOP~~...at the Bar, SANDY McLAURIN, Ian ^{JEX}~~LEX~~ Long and his son John, ^{SAM}~~Ian~~ Park - ex Liverpool Scottish and a keen Cameron Highlander like his father, now a partner with Duncan McColl in Jas. Watson & Smith, STOCKBROKERS, Alex. Kennedy (CASTLEBANK), Jock Scott Park, and Dr. W.S. THOMSON, R.R. Campbell did not return but Duncan McColl, Donald Currie, Kenneth Mackay, Ian Malcolm and later on TAM WATSON did. Percy Thomson was still going strong. Douglas Mutch was a more than useful recruit but he went off to Canada. Robert Reid ^{WHO HAD}~~LABUZ~~ finished with T.A. was now a very regular attender. His Doctor in Shettleston took on a war partner David Alexander and Robert brought him along. Robert of course had a very bad coronary about 1951/52. I should say and especially after Mrs Reid died Robert didn't go far without Dr. David Alexander. Dr. Kenneth Mackay's sons Eric and Willie appeared briefly. The latter was a good player but he was doing engineering and his time seemed to be taken up elsewhere. In any case we saw little of him after his father went north. Sandy McLaurin whose father

was a Director just after the War eventually became Pipe Major - after Sam Park I think. Sandy of course did C.A. after he had done his service. National Service was of course a further hindrance to recruitment after the War ended. ROSSBELCH did not re-appear after the War and it was not until he began to have a regular Press as M.D. at LITHGOWS that I realised where he was. I later met him on the LONDON ^{place} on one occasion and I seem to remember - he was reserved occupation of course - him saying that apart from Home GUARD he had done no piping since the DALY days.

I remember Percy Thomson's presentation for 50 years in the Bank ^{it} and I remember Robert Reid's presentation when he gave up as Piper to the Club around 1962/3 but after that my interest I'm afraid waned. In any case I had to devote much more time to my business.

The last real involvement I had with the Club was when Duncan Martin phoned ~~me~~ to tell me the short list for Club Piper in succession to Robert Reid *and who* was the likely successful candidate. I had known Duncan for so long that I took it purely as a courtesy call until a few days later Robert Reid came on the phone to tell me he thought the Highland Club was making a big mistake in not considering P/M DONALD McLEOD who was coming out of the SEAFORTH ⁵ and about to settle in GLASGOW. I immediately phoned Duncan McColl and advised him to get on to MARTIN right away - "NO NAMES NO PACK DRILL". ~~Thus did the Highland Club get a splendid successor to John~~

Thus did the Highland Club get a splendid successor to John MacDougall
GILLIES and ROBERT REID. ^{IN WEIR DOUGALL MACCOWD} According to what Robert told me he and his
mentor had held the appointment of Club Piper since the inception of the Club.
If that is true three CLUB Pipers in a century is very good going.

(Note 5)

I thought Bobbie (R.G.) Hardie would have been an ideal successor to
wee Donald but I gather he has had serious trouble with his hands for some
time. I'm a bit biased of course since he was in my B.B. Band pre-War.

Bobbie is of course 62 or 63 now so he may be considered too old but it
would have been nice to see the Sandy Cameron/MacDougall Gillies/Robert
Reid strain continuing.

I hope you noticed how Donald's appointment was handled. No going
before Committees. "Get some weight on and get the right person to apply it!
Robert obviously did not want his name mentioned amongst his brother
professionals otherwise he would have gone straight to MARTIN and I, being
persona non grata with a certain gentleman (now dead) who shall be nameless,
knew Donald had had it if ^{my} ~~any~~ name came up.

I enjoyed Robert's friendship for many years and I'm enclosing John Buchanan's appreciation from the Herald and Seton Gordon's from the Oban Times in case you are interested. Robert of course was a coal miner and the Highlanders could ^{NEVER} ~~near~~ accept the fact that he could play the Great Highland Bagpipe so well. He should have had the job at the Castle when Willie Ross got it but of course Willie was in the "Guards" and could talk everybody fair. He was a very nice chap - the unkind said with a nose to match in colour the ^{PROBATIONARY} ~~PRO~~..... Society tie - but what did he produce - probably BURGESS. Robert contended that a COLLEGE should produce something that could be recognised as coming from there and the Army School did not do that.

I remember going through in the train to Edinburgh with Martin and Robert. Robert was presenting his scrapbook to the R.S. Pipers Socy so if you want to see that I'm sure Stewart Bell can arrange. Incidentally Robert's best stories were got, going to and coming from the Scottish Pipers Competition. The teacher asking the class in SLAMANNAN SCHOOL what great men came from S^{SLAMANNAN} and the wee boy please Miss LORD HORNE the CHAN. Of EXCHEQUER and ROBERT REID the Pipe Major. Robert thought that a wonderful joke. He also enjoyed ~~at~~ ^{with} his miner upbringing the time the Highland Club OTC Competition in the TWENTIES, I believe, was won by a SIAMESE PRINCE I think from DOLLAR much to the CHAGRIN of the MEMBERS. Robert's best amateur pupil was undoubtedly Col. David Murray

who was at the High School whilst his father was Prison Governor I believe at DUKE STREET.

MacDougall Gillies' best pro pupil was of course ROBERT REID and amateur DR. J. COLIN CAIRD.

JOHN McCOLL claimed as PROS. WILLIE LAWRIE BALLACHULISH, wee DONALD McLEAN who served with the LOVAT SCOUTS during the 1939/45 War and DICKY HEPBURN from DUMBARTON area. Duncan McColl who had a very consistent record at Edinburgh - I think ^B 7 times second in the "PIOB" Competition before he actually won it when in his late 50's - ^{IN 1965} ^{WAS} has of course his best amateur pupil.

HAVING AT LAST WON DUNCAN THOUGHT HE WAS ON A RUN BUT IN THE CAR, RETURNING FROM EDINBURGH ROBERT REID TOLD HIM LIGHTNING ~~AND~~ ~~STROKE~~ ~~THE~~ DID NOT STRIKE TWICE!!!

Colin Caird had more firsts at Edinburgh and so too had David Murray than Duncan and that is probably the order of merit. Francis Caird (brother to Colin) was a wonderful player too but according to Robert Reid too inclined to insert bits of his own in his piob. To my knowledge he was never a member at Glasgow. COLIN WAS BUT HE RESIGNED OVER AN UNFORTUNATE MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT HIS WAR TITLES 'SUB'.

Duncan Martin was a very good player but there were many of them at Edinburgh and he did not have much of a record there. Like many others I simply went there for experience and never got beyond that. I think Sir James Morrison LOW BT has had some success and of course had the very great honour to be Pipe Major when Her Majesty the Queen honoured the Royal Scottish Pipers Society at the Ball last year (1982)

I certainly played in the Band with James (before he succeeded to the title) and I seem to have omitted his name. He had an electrical contractor's business in Glasgow and lived in Balmore for some time before going to the Fife side of the business in Kirkcaldy. He started at MERCHISTON but graduated to HARROW and with Jock Scott Park in the Bank in the 50's both ETON and HARROW were represented.

Going back to the TWENTIES I can only suggest that if still alive you get in touch with DR. COLIN J. CAIRD, DR. GAVIN YOUNG (ex Pipe Major) or Ian ^{JLF} ~~Lex~~ Long, MINARD. His father was a Member and Ian must have joined as a young lad. He was at the last Dinner I attended with DUNCAN McCOLL in November 1979. DR. CRAIG was President then and I think had driven Ian up from Argyllshire.

The foregoing I'm well aware is very biased towards piping and I hope I haven't offended you but I wasn't really interested in any other CLUB activity and never allowed ^{my} any name to go forward for any office other than Pipe Major.

PRESIDENTS

I've said all I need say about Wilfred McLeod - he was a retired gentleman with plenty of money and energy.

Alan MacNaughton was I think an Architect and seemed to me to have a good opinion of himself. I don't think he did much for the Club.

Col. Charlie Murray - in the rag trade Gordon Street area and was since retired and really too old for the Presidency. He let things slide a bit and Wilfred told him so.

Col. Youden - an Englishman, I think qualified through the HLI. He was a stockbroker in Glasgow. I wasn't active during his regime.

The Club was going through a difficult time and neither of the three foregoing did much to lift it up

This is probably why your MR. PENN who was President you tell me immediately before MacNaughton came back. From what you say he must have been a minimum of 70 in 1930 and probably nearer 80. He probably made a big mistake in coming back especially as he appeared to be domiciled in Edinburgh (1932/33 Membership List). With regard to your earlier request I have thought a lot about it and at the risk of being thought to teach you your business I wonder.

- 1) Was he a Professional man - if so Signet Library or C.A. Institute come to mind as possible sources of info.
- 2) If Colin Caird is not alive is brother Francis?
- 3) What about the Royal Celtic Society R.S.I.S.

Minutes of 99th A.G.M.

(Medal last ^{WON} ~~won~~ by John McColl (yes of Oban?) in 1888 - it is presented by the R. Cel. Soc. and is competed for once every 100 years !!)

Duncan McColl told me about exhibition^{at} this medal^{at RSP} but I stupidly did not ask him whether he had the medal or had borrowed it from the Society (he was a member) for the evening.

Dr. Charlie Douglas a Naval Architect and native of Corrie, Isle of Arran, like Stewart Orr the Artist was a Director when I joined.

There was quite a Corrie membership Arran Society/Highland Club. I think Dr. Douglas followed Wilfred who was followed by Duncan McColl and then:

Bailie Kenneth Mair Simpson -

- family had a store in Sauchiehall Street but I think Kenneth and his brother had sold out by 1946/47. He had lots of other business interests - Clydesdale Supply - and was very go ahead. A good Chairman at meetings and above average speaker. I think I twice attended luncheons which he threw for Directors when rationing still applied at home !!!

Murray Galbraith of Walter & W.B. GALBRAITH C.A. was the last President I actually served under. I don't think he did a great deal for the Club.

The foregoing has been written in the belief that it is all background for you so please do not quote me.

(signed)..... Andrew W. Kennedy

Note

R. Reid - Regular at Cowal 40 years - Special Gold Medal Shield for him after

..WINNING..12 years in succession.

C0578
MY MORNING Kilt 1931 /4-10-0 FROM THOMAS GORDON COWALDEN'S
1953 Eve. Kilt 15.15 Remake 1979 = over £40 (inc £3 VAT)
ANALYSIS *THOS. GORDON.*