

Joyce McIntosh Wins Nicol-Brown Chalice

by: Janet Cassidy

Joyce McIntosh of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania was the top winner in the sixth annual Robert Nicol - Robert Brown Amateur Invitational Piobaireachd competition. The event was held at Chancellor's Hall, Albany, on the afternoon of November 21, 1987. Eleven top amateur players from the U.S. and Canada were invited to play.

Joyce's tune was the lovely "The old Men of the Shells." Ms. McIntosh played with the confidence of a professional, on a beautifully tuned pipe. Second was Daniel Whatley, with "The Unjust Incarceration." Third prize was awarded to Skip Cleavinger of Bowling Green, Kentucky for "Lament for Donald Duagal MacKay." Fourth was Katy Rashid of Rome, NY, "Lament for the Departure of King James" and fifth was Frances McClure of Kitchner, Ontario with "Hector McLean's Warning."

For the first time, the William Ross Challenge March-Strathspey-Reel competition was added to the venue. This event was also an invitational, in which eleven competitors played. Top prize went to Alister Wright of Ottawa, Ontario. Alister's tunes were Leaving Lunga, Bob of Fettercairn, and The Smith of Chillichassie. Katy Rashid was second, Ian Murdock, third. Fourth was Campbell Crosby, and fifth, June Potter.

Judges for both events were Amy Garson, Ed Krintz, and Chip Reardon.

From its inception this contest has aimed to provide the finest possible environment for piobaireachd, a consideration rarely given the amateur player. The auditorium in Chancellor's Hall, with its comfortable seats and excellent acoustics, is a fine place to listen to piping. Performers were introduced by Donald Lindsay, and a program provided biographical information on each competitor, as well as a list of tunes submitted. The result was a first-rate competition that many professional level events could learn from.

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