

The RSPBA Golden Jubilee- 1980



The RSPBA promoted a competition to compose a new tune commemorating the 1980 Jubilee Year of the Association and they reported *“a splendid submission of entries”*. A similar project had been undertaken to celebrate the first 25 years. Reporting the 1980 results in the RSPBA magazine the editor wrote:-

Who then is the (winning) composer, we hear you ask.... It is Pipe Major Alex MacIver of the 214 Glasgow Company of the Boys Brigade. Alex is also a member of The Rutherglen Pipe Band in Glasgow and he was featured in a special article in the previous issue of this magazine, so you will be already be familiar with our friends Piping history. Congratulations to Alex on his fine achievement on this Jubilee Year.

Second Prize - Mr D.Lee of Stamford, Lincolnshire.

Third prize - Pipe Major Mathew McLellan of Larkhall in Lanarkshire.

Many composers submitted scripts, which were refined to a short leet of six by the College Board. Angus MacLellan of the Strathclyde Police played these tunes over on the pipes many times, assisting the Board to arrive at the final awards for the winning three tunes. Angus seen below front right was one of the most accomplished “drones over the right shoulder” pipers (although not a corrie fister!) of the twentieth century, both as a soloist in Ceol Mor and Ceol Beag. He was Pipe Sergeant for thirteen years with Ian McLellan in “The Polis” during the band’s halcyon days from 1972.

The tune is now framed and on display in the History room of the RSPBA in Washington Street, Glasgow.



The Pipe Major to the left above is Ian McLellan B.E.M. ex-214. The Pipe Sergeant on the right is Angus MacLellan, and front centre is Drum Major George Seymour ex-214. Two more ex-214 men are in the back row: far left is Alex Connell Drum Sergeant and one in from the right is Stirling McMurchie.



From the left are Willie Grant, Dougie Cleland (big drummer who played with the Glasgow Police), Ian McLellan (in training for his eventual role as Pipe Major as seen above), Robert Caldwell, Alex MacIver, Hamish McMurchy, Robert Little, Graham Smith, Dan Finlay, Willie Goldie, and Robin Tedford.
N.B. Please note Ian and Robert wearing borrowed lifebuoy socks!

THE R.S.P.B.A. GOLDEN JUBILEE — 1980 (MARCH) ALEX. M. MACIVER.

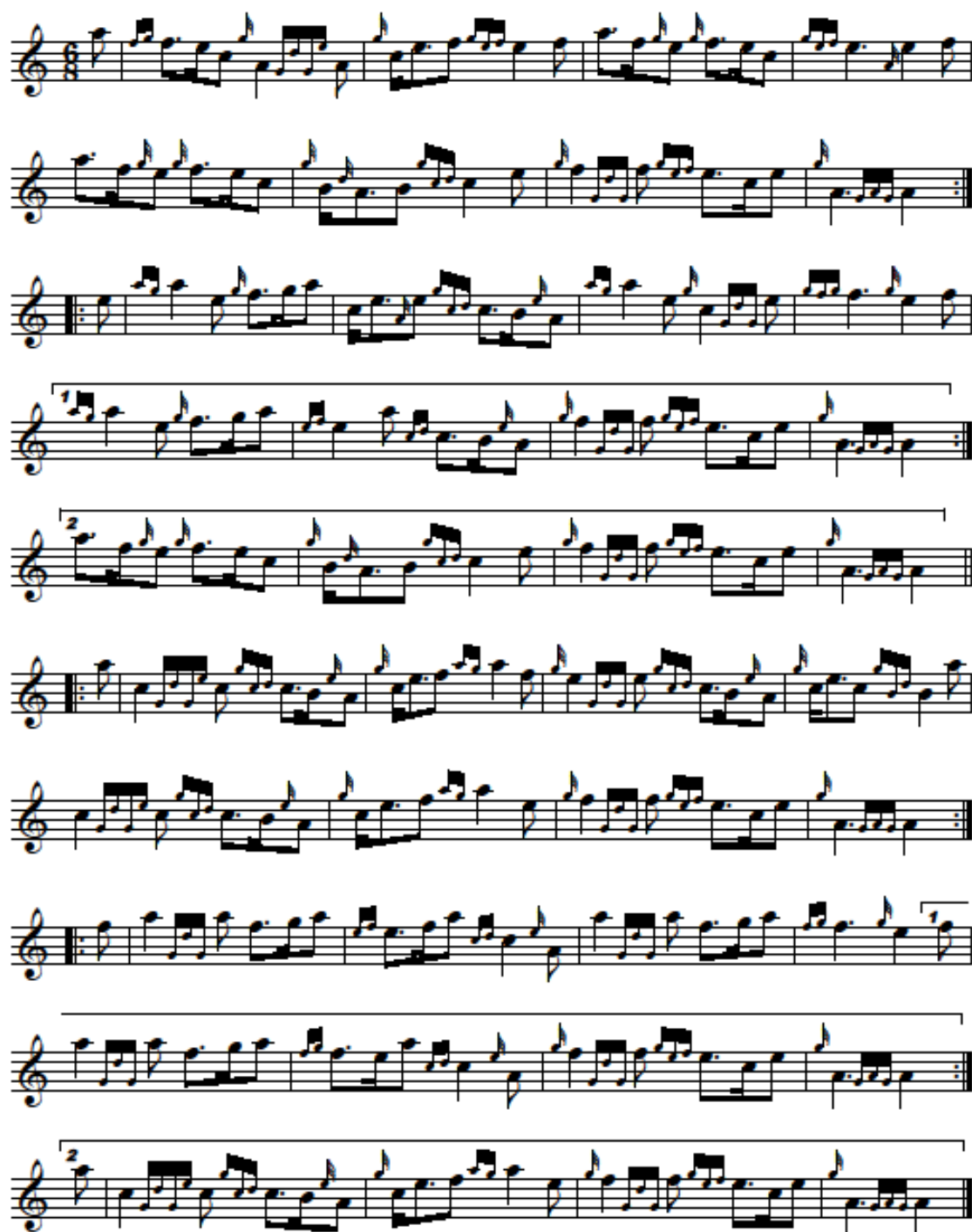


This is the original copy of the tune in Alex MacIver's hand and shown below is the tune as it has been re-type set.

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6/8 March

Alex M MacIver



Alex. MacIver received his piping tuition in the ranks of the 214th Glasgow Company of The Boys' Brigade under the careful teaching of Alex. F. Ibell, a man dedicated to the welfare of youth, particularly through the art of piping.

Alex M. was still a member of the company pipe band when, on the outbreak of World War II, he, being a member of the Territorial Army, was mobilised. He served with the 15th Scottish Division in the ranks of the Royal Corps of Signals and became Pipe-Major of the Regimental Pipe Band. Under his leadership, the band won the Divisional championships. Promotion came fairly quickly, and, after attaining Company Sergeant-Major rank, Alex. was commissioned and subsequently completed his war service as a Captain on the North-west Frontier of India, as it was then. On return to civilian life, he straight away returned to serve the 214th Glasgow Coy. B.B. as an assistant to his former tutor, and very soon afterwards he was Pipe-Major. In the post-war years, Alex. raised the standard of performance of this Company band and they went on to win the Glasgow Battalion championship for 25 years in a row, a splendid achievement indeed and perhaps Alex.'s way of repaying the Company, and the tutor, who had both served him so well in his formative years. In open competition, the band won the World Juvenile Championship 11 times, and the European, British, Cowal and Scottish Championship annexations go into double figures also.

From the ranks of that 214th B.B. Company pipe band have come many of the leading band performers of the present day. Boys who have later served in Strathclyde Police Band include the present Pipe-Major, Ian MacLellan, Piper Alastair Ross, Leading Drummer Alex. Connell, Drummer Stirling McMurchy and former Drum-Major George Seymour. Many former members of the "214" have continued with Shotts and Dykehead; Muirhead and Sons; Babcock-Renfrew; Red Hackle; Dingwall RBL; Rutherglen and Milngavie pipe bands. Many former members, as well as playing in pipe bands, became leading solo performers in their own right and names which come readily to mind are Ian MacLellan, Robert Wallace and Jim Hardie. As many more again come to mind when one recalls those who are now still playing their pipes and drums in lands across the World, especially in Canada and Australia — and quite a lot in England, too!!



Photo by Alan Dimmick.



THE PIPE BAND

JULY - AUG. 1980

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ROYAL SCOTTISH PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION



*GOLDEN
JUBILEE
YEAR
1980*

PIPE – MAJOR
IAN MacLELLAN
Strathclyde
Police Pipe Band
Reigning
World Champions

35p

Ian McLellan is the most successful Grade One Pipe Major of the 20th Century and owes his formative training to Alex Ibell and Alex MacIver of The 214 B.B. Ian's contribution to piping, judging, and his record breaking success as Pipe Major of The Strathclyde Police Pipe Band has been recognised by The R.S.P.B.A. by awarding him the accolade of Honorary President of The Association.

These notes were written in conjunction with The History Section of the R.S.P.B.A. to be retained in Washington St with the framed copy of the tune. We are pleased to include this piece of Alex MacIver's music in his collection of compositions which is freely available in its entirety on the 214BB website www.214BB.com