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# THE MACE

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## MoD to Cut Scottish Regiments

### *Worldwide Public Outcry*

An alarming announcement was made in July, and has created a worldwide public outcry. Scottish Ministry of Defense Secretary G. Hoon indicated the Scottish Regiments would be reduced to one Highland Regiment and one Lowland Regiment.

Regiments such as the Black Watch, the Royal Scots, the KOSB, the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, and the Royal Highland Fusiliers would no longer exist except to perhaps be used to name a battalion. The Highlanders Regiment would likely be scrapped altogether.

This would eliminate over 300 years of military history. As Drum Majors, our position was borne from these regiments.

In an effort to communicate details, a website (<http://www.savethescottishregiments.co.uk/main.htm>) has been created to communicate such tools as a mass rally in Dundee, Scotland on October 23; as well as an online petition, which is being signed worldwide. Please do your best to honor these regiments and spread the word of this petition within your own circles of influence.



If you would like to see the regiments retained please complete the following petition:

<http://www.petitiononline.com/STSR/petition.html>

## Drum Major Recollections

By DM Kieran Boyle

The first time I ever saw a Drum Major in front of a pipe band that I can recall was at the ripe age of six. It was a Christmas party at the Black Watch (RHR) of Canada Armory on Bleury Street in Montreal, Canada. I recall there was a tree decorated on the floor, I looked up and there were a few soldiers in uniform under the SGT Mess Battle Honors, and a few other kids running around. I was in total awe of the spectacle, and I knew I was in place that felt like home.

During the day there were games, presents handed out from a BIG jolly fellow named Bob, who I thought was Santa, since he was in The Red Suit, but the older guys called him Bob so I did as well. After the ripping of the paper and seeing the present at hand I turned to my brother, and said, "Ok I got my present let's go". My brother laughed and said, "We can't go yet the best part is still to come." Now what could else be in store for a 6-year-old kid who just found out Santa's real name is Bob, and just received the coolest toy airplane? I must say not many times in my life have I stated that my brother was right, but in this occasion he was.

Downstairs I could hear the tuning of the bagpipes, the thumping of the drums, and the blowing of the bugles. I was hooked with anticipation and total wonder what I was about to experience. Kids huddled to the far end of the floor with other family members as well, and it seemed to take forever, when suddenly there came-piercing cry from the solid oak doors: "*Pipes and Drums by the Right, Quick, March!*" I was awestruck: the doors flung open, the two 3-beat rolls crushing the air and right up front was the guy with a huge stick in control of the

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band.

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### D/M Recollections

The Drum Major was Charlie Leigh, a former Port Authority Police Officer, and then Drum Major of the Black Watch of Canada. He was a great guy to talk to, and a good friend. During the show I could not take my eyes off him as he controlled the band with *this stick*. I was hooked from that day forward, not by my brother who played in the band, but from Drum Major Leigh. His presence was unforgettable, powering, almost like a father figure. He had the stare when your Dad looked at you, that you knew you were in trouble, and he had it down pat.

I joined the Black Watch in 1984 in the Cadet Corps, and on Church Parade, I introduced myself to him. He was baffled, and still to this day I wasn't sure if he was surprised that I remembered him when I was a wee lad. I finally joined the Regiment in December of 1985, and was looking to pursue my military career when Drummie came to me and told me, "Hey pass the course and we might look at you for the band." I took him up on the offer.

Drum Major Leigh was also a tenor drummer and a very good one I must say. I started to learn the pipes, and with my musical talents he introduced me to the tenor swings. I continued learning the pipes until a transfer to the Calgary Highlanders in late 1986. I was in front of the Commanding Officer of the Highlanders, and he was introducing me to the Pipe Major. The CO stated to the PM that I was a piper in learning, where I interrupted and stated that no I'm a tenor drummer. When I returned to the Black Watch I went to DM Leigh and told him thanks for his guidance on recruiting me.

I served under DM Leigh until his retirement, and if it wasn't for him pulling his famous joke by telling all pipers, "When are you going to learn a real instrument, and not those pipes?" I wonder where I'd be now.

I was in total shock to have learned of his passing. The memory of him in front of the band that day is one of my earliest memories of my life. I wonder today when I'm in front of my band if I have that impact to change, or make someone pursue something like he did for me. He always was looking to pull a joke, and get a laugh out of you. I can say that many people will miss him.



## FIRST SOUTH AMERICAN PIPE BAND GATHERING

*Piping Thrives in the Southern Cone*

Richard Empson  
Event Organizer & DM, Riverside Pipe Band

The First South American Pipe Band Gathering, which took place on April 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> in Montevideo, Uruguay's attractive capital city, was characterized by unusual resourcefulness, high-spirited commitment, flamboyance and creative organization.

Uruguay's Riverside Pipe Band played host to pipers, drummers and highland dancers – including seven pipe bands – from Argentina, Brazil and Chile, few of whom knew each other previously. Existing contacts between bands and solo pipers in the region had hitherto been sporadic and mostly between individuals. Distances in South America are daunting, and with national economies relatively weak, piping enthusiasts have so far been fairly isolated from each other and the rest of the piping world.

***You have to be keen to pipe in South America, but the 'gauchos' have shown the world that piping can flourish under adverse conditions.***

The Gathering began on the morning of Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> with a mile-long massed bands along Montevideo's main downtown thoroughfare. The seven bands lined up beside each other in single file, separated into ranks of pipers, drummers and highland dancers, with the solo pipers and drummers filling the gaps at the back of each section. Children from seven of Montevideo's British schools brought up the rear, in a show of enthusiasm rare elsewhere in the piping world.



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***Pipe Gathering in South America, continued from page 2***

Right from the parade warm-up, high spirits were obvious. For most of the participants this was the first time participating in a massed bands parade. Several of the less proficient players had made the trip to Uruguay only to take part in the parade, so it was a significant experience for them. Bands began warming up individually, though soon groups of pipers and drummers began to mingle and glorious musical anarchy ensued. The leading drum major had an unenviable task on his hands when the time came to call the bands to order and formation.

A crowd of several thousand turned out to cheer the massed bands, and was helped by the glorious weather, despite several days of constant rain and thunderstorms.



Most of the onlookers walked the route alongside the bands, sweeping more people ahead of them and drawing in yet more from the side streets. Cameras and video-cameras were everywhere, and scenes of the parade appeared prominently in most local newspapers and were still being broadcast on local television several days afterwards.

Following the parade, national television teams and a demonstratively appreciative audience turned up for the performances by participants that marked the Gathering



proper, on the grounds of The British Schools in Montevideo's suburban neighborhood of Carrasco. The seven participating bands, several local soloists and two renown overseas pipers – Pipe Major Robert Mathieson of world champions the House of Edgar Shotts & Dykehead Pipe Band and prominent solo piper Dr. Angus MacDonald – played throughout the afternoon to the delight of all those present.

It is significant to point out that highland dancers are an integral part of most South American pipe bands. Five of the seven bands present had dancing corps, thanks to our many British (bilingual English-Spanish) schools, which places the region's bands closer to their Celtic roots than are most of their peers elsewhere in the world.

All present enjoyed the shared experience, learning from each other and to enjoying the music. Thus, the Gathering has proven to be the foundation for a new era in South American piping. The event has already led to the formation of the Scottish Pipe Band Association of South America, the region's first such organization, which will surely do much for piping on the continent in the future.



Following the close of the Gathering, a Ceilidh-like reception ensued, with food, plenty of drink and lively music, some of which was provided by the Chilean contingent who brought an array of Celtic instruments and provided extra entertainment. Hosts Riverside Pipe Band used this part of the weekend piping marathon to present the overseas tutors with commemorative plaques and all participants with Gathering pins. Homage was paid to the country's first pipe band, St. Andrew's Society of Uruguay Pipes & Drums and to the man behind its formation, Ralph Ayling, considered the father of piping in Uruguay. The party also saw the official public launching of the Scottish Pipe Band Association of South America. Celebration continued well into the night.

The following morning the scheduled workshops began at 9:00 and carried on throughout Sunday. This may have been a little early for a few who had overly enjoyed the previous evening's festivities, but the time available to most was limited due to the distances they needed to travel to return home after the event.

Few of those present at the Gathering were not local. Though some claimed Scottish ancestry, the majority were true South Americans, drawn to Celtic music and to the highland bagpipes in particular, because of the instrument's powerful sound and its unique music. And it takes more than an ordinary commitment to research and make your own

instruments, uniforms and accoutrements when they are unavailable or unaffordable, as some South American enthusiasts have had to do.

Several leading international pipers and drummers have taught in South America over the past years, including Finlay MacDonald, Bob Worrall, Ken Eller, Sandy Keith and Tyler Fry. A few of the region's bands and pipers have also obtained instruction overseas. But even for the most determined bands, such contacts have been brief and infrequent and the reality is that a good number of South American pipers and drummers are largely self-taught. In the case of hosts Riverside Pipe Band, self instruction has taken on a new dimension: most of their drums plus their kilts, sporrans and other accoutrements were hand-made by Daniel Williman, the band's pipe corporal and seanachie, and one of their piping apprentices, Andrés De los Santos, has begun to produce fine-sounding practice chanter made from discarded bars of suitable plastics.

All players clearly appreciated the exposure the Gathering gave them to overseas tutors: Pipe Major Robert Mathieson, Dr. Angus MacDonald, renowned drumming instructor Hugh Cameron and expert highland dance instructor Anna Bain. Further workshops were offered by respected tutors from South American bands.

The weekend was summed up nicely by Robert Mathieson: "I am more than impressed by the South Americans' enthusiasm! We Scots, and most Europeans and North Americans are quite reserved when it comes to playing music, and even more reserved when you put us on a competition platform. We tend to measure our music on competition standards, so our approach is very serious and can result in a clinical presentation. In Scotland, we've lost the art of listening to our music. We hear the mistakes. I don't think that will happen down here..."

A word on the meaning of the event's chosen logo. The bagpipe-wielding armadillo was selected because of a play on words lost to those not Spanish-English bilingual. To South Americans, the little mammal is known as a "tatú", which is pronounced '**tattoo**'.

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## WEBSITE AND OTHER RDMA ISSUES

### *Newsletter Maven, Publicist, Wordsmith Extraordinaire: Introducing DM Maureen Baile!*

Many thanks to DM Maureen Baile (St Ann's of Hampton Pipes & Drums, NJ, USA) for taking over the production of the newsletter! She has many ideas that will keep this publication fresh and interesting! Also, if you have any ideas that you feel others will find interesting let Maureen know at [maureenbaile@hotmail.com](mailto:maureenbaile@hotmail.com). Maureen also put together an outstanding RDMA Flyer (<http://www.drummajor.net/Newsletter/RDMA%20FLYER.pdf>) to help further the cause!

### *Site Intro Page Problems*

We have changed the intro page to the website. One of the problems that we are currently experiencing concerns members that have Apple products. Since we currently program in MS FrontPage, the sometimes non-standard html code has caused problems for non-MS users. To bypass the intro page: <http://www.drummajor.net/Default.htm>. We are still working through this; however, if you have any suggestions, please contact Paul at [polson8568@aol.com](mailto:polson8568@aol.com)

### *Web Site Statistics*

For those who enjoy statistics: We set a yet another website record in July 2004: 4.77GB bandwidth with 11,894 pages. The highest number of unique visitors occurred in May 2004 at 2848, highest number of visits also occurred in May 2004 at 4173, and the highest number of hits in June 2004 at 115,356! Also, this month we have received visitors from member countries plus Mexico, Thailand, Singapore, Peru, Portugal, Japan, Spain, Italy, Poland, and who could ever forget the Cook Islands!

### *Training DVD Project*

We have received many requests for training videos. The most recent video was produced by Jim Thompson of the Atlanta Pipe Band and Kevin MacHeffner of the Mesa Caledonian Pipe Band. Unfortunately, it is out of print and the master tapes are destroyed. We are planning to put together a training DVD. If you have experience with video production/editing and would be interested in volunteering for this project please contact Paul at [polson8568@aol.com](mailto:polson8568@aol.com).

**2004 Events Worldwide**  
**Pipe & Drum / Fife & Drum**  
*September – December*

Location	Date	Event
<b>British Isles (UK, Scotland, Ireland)</b>		
▪ Invercharron (Highland, Scotland)	18 Sep 04	<a href="mailto:ian.brinklows@btinternet.com">ian.brinklows@btinternet.com</a>
<b>Canada</b>		
▪ Calgary (Calgary, AB)	04 Sep 04	<a href="mailto:info@calgaryhighlandgames.org">info@calgaryhighlandgames.org</a>
▪ Canmore Highland Games (Canmore, AB)	05 Sep 04	<a href="mailto:chg@telusplanet.net">chg@telusplanet.net</a>
▪ Woodstock, ON, Canada	18 Sep 04	<a href="#">Victoria Cross Tattoo</a>
<b>New Zealand</b>		
▪ Auckland Highland (Mt. Rosekill)	06 Nov 04	Ph: 64-09-625-6965
<b>United States</b>		
▪ Altamont (Altamont, NY)	04-05 Sep 04	<a href="mailto:tek750@aol.com">tek750@aol.com</a>
▪ Pleasanton Highland Games (Pleasanton, CA)	03-05 Sep 04	<a href="http://www.caledonian.org">www.caledonian.org</a>
▪ Estes Park (Estes Park, CO)	10-12 Sep 04	<a href="http://www.scotfest.com">www.scotfest.com</a>
▪ Ligonier Highland (Ligonier, PA)	10-11 Sep 04	<a href="mailto:ligdir@icubed.com">ligdir@icubed.com</a>
▪ Chicago Celtic (Chicago, IL)	11-12 Sep 04	<a href="http://www.cityofchicago.org/specialevents">www.cityofchicago.org/specialevents</a>
▪ 38th Marlborough Fife & Drum Muster (Marlborough, CT)	10-12 Sep 04	<a href="mailto:mjafdc@aol.com">mjafdc@aol.com</a>
▪ Windsor Fife & Drum Muster (Windsor, CT)	11 Sep 04	<a href="mailto:WinMrD@aol.com">WinMrD@aol.com</a>
▪ Fresno (Madera Co., CA)	18 Sep 04	<a href="http://www.scottishsociety.org">www.scottishsociety.org</a>
▪ New Hampshire Highland Games (Coontocook, NH)	24-26 Sep 04	<a href="http://www.nhscot.org">www.nhscot.org</a>
▪ Charleston (Mt. Pleasant, SC)	18 Sep 04	<a href="mailto:info@charlestonscots.com">info@charlestonscots.com</a>
▪ Celtic Classic (Bethlehem, PA)	24-26 Sep 04	<a href="mailto:celticfest@fast.net">celticfest@fast.net</a>
▪ Dixon (Dixon, CA)	25 Sep 04	<a href="mailto:dixonsca@yahoo.com">dixonsca@yahoo.com</a>
▪ Tallahassee (Tallahassee, FL)	01-02 Oct 04	<a href="mailto:talscotgam@aol.com">talscotgam@aol.com</a>
▪ Anne Arundel (Crownsville, MD)	09 Oct 04	<a href="mailto:dodds60@aol.com">dodds60@aol.com</a>
▪ Stone Mountain Games (Stone Mountain, GA)	15-17 Oct 04	<a href="mailto:Info@smhg.org">Info@smhg.org</a>
▪ Richmond Games (Richmond, VA)	23-24 Oct 04	<a href="mailto:mwetton@AREvents.com">mwetton@AREvents.com</a>
▪ Salado (Salado, TX)	12-14 Nov 04	<a href="mailto:cen_tex_area_museum@yahoo.com">cen_tex_area_museum@yahoo.com</a>
▪ Ocala Highland Games (Ocala, FL)	06 Nov 04	<a href="mailto:r4n@ocalafl.com">r4n@ocalafl.com</a>
<b>Other Countries</b>		
▪ Scottish Weekend (Bilzen, BE)	11-12 Sep 04	<a href="http://www.scottish-weekend.com">www.scottish-weekend.com</a>

## Classified Ads

*A new concept we hope you'll like!*

**For Sale:** One Pakistani Malacca cane mace. Used twice and currently used for display only, since I bought a Dalman mace. No dents, near mint condition. This is the same type/style offered through several suppliers for US \$250 ("Scotty" with deluxe head – chrome ball with gold collar, gold crown w/lion). Price is USD \$175/OBO. First highest offer wins. [Polson8568@aol.com](mailto:Polson8568@aol.com)

**Pipe Band Insignia** for pipers and drummers. All ranks, top quality. Shipped worldwide.  
 Contact [Terlach3@aol.com](mailto:Terlach3@aol.com)

*If you have items to sell send them to Maureen Baile ([maureenbaile@hotmail.com](mailto:maureenbaile@hotmail.com)).  
 Editorial staff has final approval in ad insertions.*

### *Upcoming Articles for Vol 1, Issue 3:*

- The Deep River Ancient Muster—the RDMA makes new friends in fife and drum.