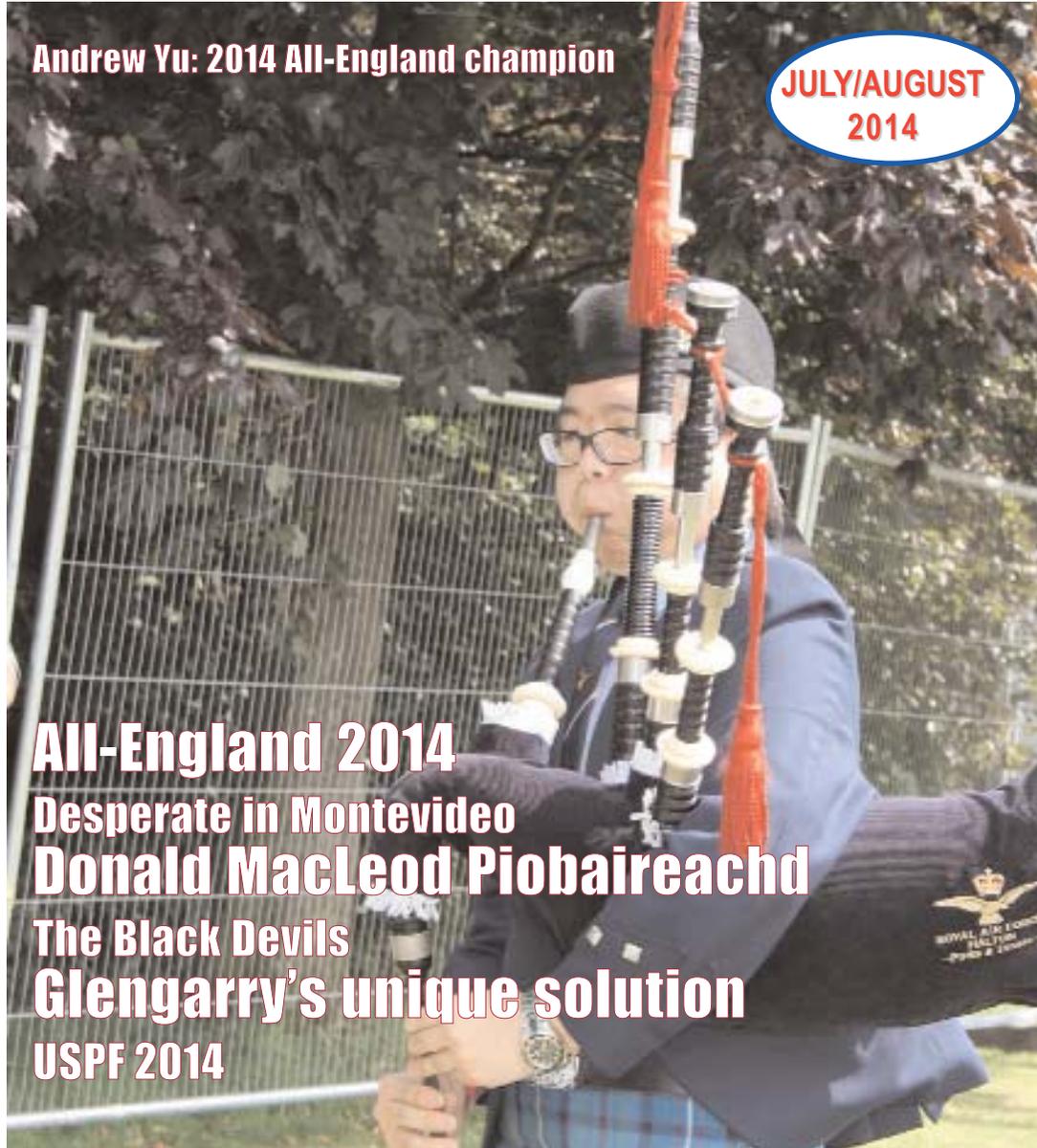


# PIPING WORLD

DIGITAL SERIES ISSUE 62

THE WORLD'S ONLY INDEPENDENT PIPING MAGAZINE



**Andrew Yu: 2014 All-England champion**

**JULY/AUGUST  
2014**

**All-England 2014  
Desperate in Montevideo  
Donald MacLeod Piobaireachd  
The Black Devils  
Glengarry's unique solution  
USPF 2014**

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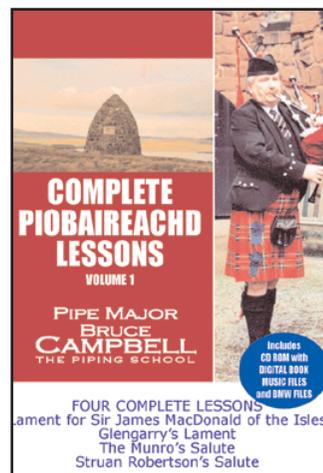
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Andrew Yu

## all-england 2014: andrew yu takes championship

**A**LMOST 40 pipers competed in a number of different grades at the All-England Amateur Solo Championships at Ashbourne Highland Games in Derbyshire on Sunday 20 July.

The event was a real shot in the arm for an English scene which has been flagging in recent years and seen the collapse of a number of other events.

With a crowd of almost 8,000 coming through the turnstiles in glorious

summer sunshine much of the spotlight was on the pipe band and solo piping contests.

At the end of the day it was Hong Kong piper Andrew Yu who took out the All-England Championship Trophy with impressive displays which netted him first placings in the Piobaireachd and 6/8 March as well as second placings in both the Air & Jig and March Strathspey & Reel.

Andrew had only flown into Britain some 9 days before the contest.

Runner-up in the Grade 1 event was Martin Bryan with fellow 101 Northumbria Regiment piper Steve Sumner in third placing.

A feature of Andrew Yu's appearance was an impressive 'Struan Robertson's Salute' on an impeccable bagpipe to secure the 'Ashbourne & District Pipe Band' Piobaireachd trophy.

His tune was marked by subtle phrasing as well as an interesting Taorluadh Movement which was played in the 'up' style and a technically impressive Crunluadh embellishment almost throughout the entire last Movement.

Fourth placed in the Grade 1 events was Pat Cox from Birmingham Irish who had a remarkable comeback to competition having not competed since she was 19 and living in Rhodesia.

Two other pipers competed in the premier grade; Phil Duthie from Leicester and Joel Grigg from Birmingham Irish Pipe Band.

Solo piping events at English Highland Gatherings often look threadbare with

sometimes not even enough entrants to provide a prize list let alone a meaningful one.

The reasons are obvious - the potential competing pipers are all tied up with pipe band events on the same day.

Ashbourne Highland Gathering in the past has been no different although it would seem that the concept of the All-England Amateur format has done much to change that.

"We pushed the boat out a bit this year," said contest organiser and PIPING WORLD editor Bruce Campbell.

"Instead of contracting the events to build up the individual event numbers we actually expanded.

"A new Novice event was added while we stuck with the concept of three Piobaireachd events - and that brought rewards for us.

"I am particularly pleased with the Grade 1 events which look really interesting.

"Six pipers entered which although not huge by Scottish standards is pretty good for south of the Border.

"Two players from Birmingham Irish Pipes & Drums have entered, Pat Cox and Joel Grigg, along with Andrew Yu from Hong Kong, Martin Bryan who lives in Wigan, Steve Sumner from Manchester and Philip Duthie from Leicester.

"Andrew Yu has just signed up with RAF Halton while Martin Bryan plays with the emerging 101 Northumbria Regiment as does Steve Sumner who had a successful day last year.

"He is also a former pipe major of Manchester Fire and West Midlands Police and has already had some success on the local contest scene.

"Martin drew the dreaded 'first up' place and started the Grade 1 events at Stand A at 11am.

"Philip Duthie is an ex pipe major of the Leicester & Rutland RBL.

"And joining the "bench" this year is John McFadden, also another ex pipe major of the Leicester & Rutland RBL."

The event organisers have also publicly staked their faith in the Grade 5 event as the future of not only the event but solo piping in England.

Next year's Gathering will see an expanded Grade 5 contest with details to be released shortly.

Seven pipers took to the 'boards' in the Grade 5 event - with 4 of them aged Under 15 and one Under 18.

"Playing in a solo competition is a light year away from the two three-piece rolls start of a pipe band event," says contest promoter Bruce Campbell.

"Things like instrument set-up and tuning, steady blowing and tempo control all come very much to the fore.

"It is all part of gaining experience and the best way to do that is to get it in a solo contest.

"You don't find out much about those aspects by playing in a pipe band because most of them have someone on hand to do it all for you.

"In a solo event you are in the spotlight; it is all about you and your pipes.

"But it doesn't have to be all pressure and intensity - if you get it right it is a real buzz, playing solo is just the best.

"And the pipe band gets the benefits too."

John McGrady and Bailey Dickson are travelling up to Derbyshire for the contest from Corby, while last year's All-England Ladies Champion Megan Rickards makes the shorter trip from Birmingham - even although her band, the West Midlands Fire Service, are not playing this year.

Other Midlands-based pipers include Andy Ewing (Seaforths), Thomas Coughlin and Oran Grigg (both Birmingham Irish).

Andrew Haig, who was last year's Under 15 champion, also competed in Grade 5.

A series of initiatives are planned before the 2015 contest which are designed to boost the Grade 5 entry level.

"We intend to hold a number of free one-day seminars aimed at helping pipers to get the best out of their competition appearances," added Bruce Campbell.

"They won't be confined to Grade 5 players but it is our intention to see if we can treble the entry for next year.

"That will also involve splitting the grade into two pools with two sets of prizes available - and, of course, we'll need to add to our judging roster.

"We'll be contacting the competitors shortly after this year's event to get their feedback as well as pipe majors

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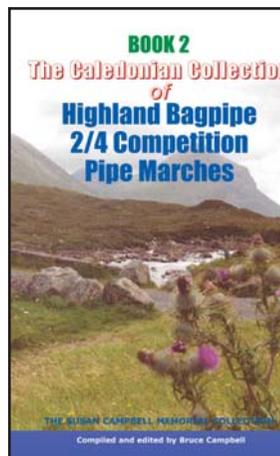
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across England for their valued input."

The choice of tunes in the various different Piobaireachd elements was almost typical for a contest of this type; 'Glengarry's Lament', 'Struan Robertson's Salute', 'Queen Elizabeth's Salute' (a modern composition of Donald MacLeod), 'Lament for Captain MacDougall', 'Lady Doyle's Salute' and 'His Father's Lament for Donald MacKenzie'.

The Grade 2 Piobaireachd was won by former Royal Signals piper Billy Wardrope who now plays with the City of Bristol Pipe Band and the Urlar event by Martin van der Boon from Keighley, West Yorkshire in his first ever contest.

He played 'Lady Doyle's Salute' with the Donald Mor Run-Down replacing the more often heard Cadence.

With well over 100 competitive performances to play through in a packed program which also included a very busy pipe band competitive card there were inevitably problems with the timing of events, a situation which will be addressed in time for next year.

The Grades 1 and 2 and Piobaireachd were judged by Bruce Campbell and the other grades by John McFadden.

results

All-England Amateur Solo Piping  
Championship, 20 July 2014,  
Ashbourne Highland Gathering,,  
Derbyshire

MAJOR TROPHY WINNERS  
ALL-ENGLAND CHAMPION  
TROPHY: ANDREW YU (Hong Kong)

THE BILL BARNES TROPHY -  
UNDER 15  
CHAMPION: MEGAN RICKARDS  
(Birmingham)

THE SPENCERS THE BAKERS  
SHIELD - UNDER 18 CHAMPION:  
THOMAS COUGHLAN (Birmingham)

CEOL BEAG  
GRADE 1

Event 1: Amateur March Strathspey &  
Reel

1 Martin Bryan

2 Andrew Yu

3 Steve Sumner

Event 2: Amateur 6/8 March

1 Andrew Yu

2 Martin Bryan

3 Steve Sumner

Event 3: Amateur Air & Jig

1 Steve Sumner

2 Andrew Yu

3 Pat Cox

GRADE 2

Event 4: Amateur 2/4 March

Strathspey & Reel

1 Billy Wardrope

2 Cameron Trotter

3 John Hoffman

Event 5: Amateur 6/8 March

1 Billy Wardrope

2 Tom Broderick

3 Martin van der Boon

Event 6: Amateur Air & Jig

1 Martin van der Boon

2 Billy Wardrope

3 John Hoffman

GRADE 3

Event 7: Amateur 6/8 March

1 Stuart MacKenzie

GRADE 4

Event 10: Amateur 6/8 March

1 Megan Rickards

2 Stuart MacKenzie

3 Tom Gray

Event 11: Amateur Strathspey & Reel

1 Tom Gray

2 Andrew Haig

Event 12: Amateur Slow Air

1 Megan Rickards

2 Tom Gray

3 Emmett O'Reilly

GRADE 5

Event 13: Amateur 2 parts March

1 Andy Ewing

2 Oran Grigg

3 Megan Rickards

4 Thomas Coughlan

5 John McGrady

Event 14: Amateur 4 parts March

1 Andy Ewing

2 Megan Rickards

3 John McGrady

4 Thomas Coughlan

5 Oran Grigg

Event 15: Amateur Slow Air

1 Andy Ewing

2 John McGrady

3 Thomas Coughlan

4 Oran Grigg

5 Megan Rickards

NOVICE GRADE

Event 16:

1 Duncan Nelmes

2 Alex Muirhead

Event 17:

1 Duncan Nelmes

2 Alex Muirhead

Event 18:

1 Duncan Nelmes

2 Alex Muirhead

PIOBAIREACHD

SENIOR

Event 18: Submit 2 tunes with

Crunluadh

1 Andrew Yu

RESTRICTED

Event 19: Submit 1 tune

1 Billy Wardrope

2 Tom Broderick

3 Keith Sutherland

URLAR

Event 18: Submit 1 Urlar

1 Martin Van Der Boon

2 Tom Gray



Paris & District Pipe Band

## alden beisen: to transform into scotland

**B**ELGIUM'S annual Highland Gathering at Alden Biesen is set to be transformed into a "Scottish city" when it is held 12-14 September.

Since its early days it has steadily been developed as an event to the stage where it is now considered by most to be Europe's premier Scottish-style event.

PIPING WORLD first covered the event way back in 1987 and even then the potential was rather obvious.

"On Friday evening, we move from the city centre towards our concert tent at Alden Biesen, where we kick-off right away with Face the West and Snakes in Exile," says organiser Rudi

Schils.

"On Saturday morning, the best dancers and pipe bands will compete against each other to win the title in their specific championships.

"Don't miss the Bagad Bried performance in our concert tent at 16:30, after the competitions but before the massed band and awards ceremony.

"Folk lovers have long known that the best folk musicians sign up to play at the Scottish Weekend with Ross Ainslie, Jarlath Henderson, Jamie Smith's Mabon and Bags of Rock all playing this year.

"On Sunday, there is more Scotland to discover, with the Highland Games for all men's and all female's teams."