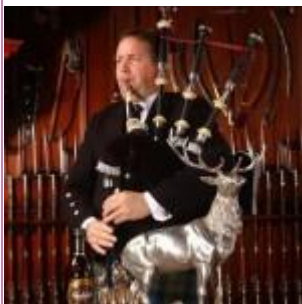


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-----Piping Perfection Est. 1980-----  
click on the banner for our home page



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[Newsletter](#)

Dear Piping Enthusiast,

A guid new year to all and here we go again into the frantic, frenetic, manic, opinion orientated and almost Orwellian world of piping for another year- and it is our 40th – nice! We are here though to solve problems, to be above politics and without bias - and without charitable status as we make our living on our own merits and without the crutches that others seem to have all around. So rest assured Begg Bagpipes ethos is to solve bagpipe issues and not to create them. If your pipes are not as you would like, then we can resolve that.

It is great to report that we have seen the busiest ever start to the year and this looks like continuing into February and beyond. Lomond and Clyde, Scottish Power, Glasgow Police and Shotts to name but a few have all been on board in January. International customers are to the fore as well with big Ali Mackenzie of Invercargill NZ along with Eire's Manor Cunningham in the mix.

Yours aye,  
James C. Begg  
**Piping Perfection**

[www.beggbagpipes.com](http://www.beggbagpipes.com)

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## News.

Roddy Macleod resigned from the National Piping Centre. This was a bit of a bombshell and I suspect Roddy will be missed more by the Centre than the other way round. Few people have the qualities to do this job well and he had it in spades. Roddy will not be short of options for sure and a freedom to do his own thing - more Glenfiddichs on the cards perhaps but he won't be mowing the lawn for very long! Sounds like a good name for a tune?

RSPBA hitting the news. Papers are suggesting some skulduggery regarding the refurb of premises in Washington Street along with other issues in the background from disgruntled

members. I suspect all has been above board but you wonder about the merits of a headquarters that is badly located and underutilised and one which could have easily moved – thereby saving money which instead could have been used to start to provide some realistic levels of prize money in competitions. The world has changed as you can see from my successful move out of Glasgow City Centre based on the internet and ease of access from all around Scotland. We all like posh and nicely decorated offices but it did not stop the College of Piping in Glasgow achieving absolutely excellent levels of teaching in the 60s and 70s in what frankly was a dump of a building. It was truly awful especially as time went on but hey ho, I was there for the tuition not the niceties.

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### **Special Offer - a great deal on hand crafted pipes.**

[A JCB3 spec Begg bagpipe](#) at the price of the standard JCB 1 less a further massive 10% discount. So an excellent spec and a great discount to our newsletter customers. African blackwood with ancient flat combing and nickel ferrules, imitation ivory tops and wooden projecting mounts.

All made by hand throughout. Pipes supplied with plastic reeds, no maintenance hide bag and set-up ready to play - pipes, bag and set-up all by Begg Bagpipes.

Varnished or hand waxed finish in stock.

So for the EU that's a brilliant £765 (incl VAT) and for outside the EU £637.50 - a saving on both counts of some 17%. Postage to be added at cost.

Email James on [james@beggbagpipes.com](mailto:james@beggbagpipes.com)



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### **New Tune - Cameron Bell by Pipe Major Don Bradford.**

Don Bradford, the P/M of Lomond and Clyde and a composer of note, was in the shop recently and during our chat, I asked him if he had another tune which we could again publish in our newsletter. Don writes: "I have just written a tune for a friend of mine, bagpiper Cameron Bell from Australia who co-incidentally is a stockist of the Begg sheepskin bag. Recent news is that Cameron was unfortunately a victim of the Australian bushfires where he lost several noted high quality instruments, one of which was his 1919 silver Macrae bagpipes made for P.M Willie Gray. Our thoughts are with him during this stressful time."



Click on [this link](#) to see and play Don's lovely new composition. Thanks a lot Don for another great tune and the very sad background to it.

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### **New Product - The Collection.**

Chris Armstrong has recently released 'The Collection', his new digital collection of pipe music on USB Flashdrive. It is fully navigational through embedded links which allow you to click on tune titles in the contents page and view them without the need to scroll. There are also links at the bottom of each page which will take you back to the contents page. This makes for a much more interactive experience and allows more



efficient navigation of the book.

Here is a link with reduced functionality to give you an idea of how it works:

[https://static1.squarespace.com/static/537b1d91e4b0e8c9b2b14545/t/5db1b1161bb1ee36f5b364b2/1571926294799/Chris Armstrong-The Collection-Sample.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/537b1d91e4b0e8c9b2b14545/t/5db1b1161bb1ee36f5b364b2/1571926294799/Chris+Armstrong-The+Collection-Sample.pdf)

You can purchase a download or flashdrive directly from Chris on

<http://www.chrisarmstrong.co/shop>

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## Field Report - The SPA.

I had the great pleasure of attending the Scottish Pipers Association's one hundredth anniversary on Friday the 10th of January 2020. The SPA officially started in 1920 but had less formal meetings prior to that going back to 1910.

The current president Tom Johnstone (on the right next to the first President John MacDougall Gillies) was hosting the evening and did so in a very able manner.



It was a most relaxed and enjoyable evening and ideal for meeting up with old friends. The ethos of the association is to promote up and coming players as well as to provide annual competitive events for professionals, amateurs and juveniles alike. It's amazing that over all these years with everything that has happened in the world that it has continued and flourished – due in no short measure to the input and work of some dedicated people. I was part of the fabric back in 70s /80s /90s and in addition to being a weekly player at the Dorchester Hotel Glasgow, I was a vice-president. This involved quite a lot of work and organisation and one of my strongest memories was during a knock out event I ran. The final was between Gordon Walker and Gordon Duncan and it nearly ended up in fisticuffs when the bold Seumas MacNeill threw a grenade into the works by declaring “If this is piping, I would rather take up the fiddle”. There was uproar as you can imagine! Such an event was a big commitment to organise since it lasted for nearly a year and I ended up even cancelling holidays. However it was all worth it and I managed to get the BBC to record and broadcast the final. The knock-out has now achieved a bit of an iconic status and I hope my input played some part.

The highlight for me of this year's anniversary meeting was not just hearing the perennial players like Barry Donaldson, Logan Tannoch, Rory Grossart and Tom Johnstone but the fact there were 3 or 4 young players participating - this is really the whole point of the club.

The Club received a welcome donation from Stuart Letford from the Piping Centre, being the web site donations from the Glenfiddich streaming. Support for the SPA and others like the Uist and Barra are essential to ensure we maintain the lifeblood of piping.

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## YouReport

If you would like to report on any aspect of the Piping World from wherever you live, or if you would like to comment on any articles or issues, we'd be pleased to hear from you.

Email to [bill@beggbagpipes.com](mailto:bill@beggbagpipes.com)

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