

# Welcome to Begg Bagpipes

-----Est. 1980 Glasgow city centre's oldest bagpipe shop-----  
click on the banner for our home page



## Newsletter - March 2010

Dear Piping Enthusiast,

Welcome to the March Newsletter and thanks for your purchases whether it was via the online shop or from our premises set in the trendy heart of Bath Street, Glasgow. I trust you are enjoying the online email newsletter, which has been running for a couple of years now. It is sent to customers and friends of Begg Bagpipes and the nice thing about it from my point of view, is that it is going to people who support and promote piping around the globe - keep up the good work, and if we can be of help in any way, please do not hesitate to ask. Yours Aye,

James C Begg

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

## News

We have the innovative Lomond and Clyde 10th anniversary Pipe Band event taking place shortly in the Radisson Hotel, Glasgow. Tickets for this competition on Saturday 20th of March can be purchased from [www.Tickets-scotland.com](http://www.Tickets-scotland.com). The previous week-end sees the annual Uist and Barra invitational solo piping contest at the College of Piping in Otago St, Glasgow - well worth a visit if you are around. Both events are supported by Begg Bagpipes and we will be there, so please say hello.

As I alluded to last month, new customers are coming on board weekly and it's proving a rather nice challenge to keep up with it. We have Richard Hawke from New Zealand ordering for his band, as well as George

**INVITATIONAL GRADE 1 INDOOR COMPETITION**

**LOMOND & CLYDE PIPE BAND**

HOUSE OF EDGAR SHOTTS AND DYKEHEAD PIPE BAND  
TAYSIDE POLICE PIPE BAND  
BALLYCOAN PIPE BAND  
PIFE CONSTABULARY PIPE BAND  
INVERARY AND DISTRICT PIPE BAND  
BOGHALL AND BATHBATE CALEDONIA PIPE BAND  
ROBERT WISEMAN DAIRIES VALE OF ATHOLL PIPE BAND  
CULLYBACKEY PIPE BAND

**20th March 2010**  
Doors open 12.15pm

**Radisson SAS Hotel**  
301 Argyle Street, Glasgow

Tickets from [Tickets-scotland.com](http://Tickets-scotland.com)  
More info: [www.lomondandclyde.co.uk](http://www.lomondandclyde.co.uk)

**YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

SPONSORED BY:

**Radisson SAS**  
**WHITELAWS SHOES**  
01690 792000  
[info@whitelawshoes.co.uk](mailto:info@whitelawshoes.co.uk)

**WALLACE BAGPIPES**  
1700 GARDIE

Shepherd ordering bags for the Australian Highlanders. Richard teaches piping full time with the St. Andrews College Pipe Band in NZ as well as being p/m of grade 1 Canterbury Caledonian Pipe Band. He is also a well known soloist and travels to Scotland to play in the top competitions. We are also pleased that he found the time to select his top three tunes - see below.

George Shepherd was formerly p/m with the Clan Gregor Pipe Band in Scotland and a relation of the famous Shepherd bagpipe making company from Fife - he has recently moved to Australia. Both bands are making the long and somewhat costly trip to the World Championships this year in Glasgow Green and we wish them great success.

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### **Top Tip - Chanter Reed Strength**

When buying a pipe reed, pick one that is in your comfort zone for strength. You are looking for one perhaps slightly harder than you might blow but not a lot - there is no fun in playing a reed that is too hard for you. Yes, you get more volume and oomph but you'll also get a hernia or the like! If the reed chokes i.e. cuts out a little, then it's a sure sign it's too hard. To begin with, it may be harder than you are comfortable with but this should ease after a few plays. Try to ease the new reed in gradually and keep using the easier old reed at the same time. Your drones may also stop with the new reed but again don't have a knee jerk reaction and alter your drone reeds until your new reed settles a bit - i.e. in the first week. Remember the new reed will also be flatter to begin with and therefore your drones will tune higher up - i.e. 1/2 inch.

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### **The Top Tunes Selection - by P/M Richard Hawke**

1. Lament for the Children - since I first heard this piobaireachd and knowing the story behind it, this tune in my mind absolutely highlights the power of the music of the highland bagpipe. It's a tune that you would never tire from listening to or playing.
2. John MacColl's March to Kilbowie Cottage - a classic 2/4 march that I have always enjoyed playing.
3. The Masons Apron - again another classic tune that had an instant impact the first time I heard it and a tune that is still being regularly played as a fun tune with all its variations. Always a crowd pleaser.

Richard Hawke is one of New Zealand's most successful pipers, having won the Highland Piping Society of London Gold Medal (Oban), the Braemar Gold (twice) and Silver Medal (twice), and the Dunvegan Gold Medal. Within pipe bands, Richard has gained 4 National New Zealand Grade 1 championships, and 9th in

the Grade 1 world championships. He is currently pipe band director of St Andrew's College Pipe Band and the Canterbury Caledonian Pipe Band.

Thanks Richard for your selection. Watch out in future issues for other leading figures in the world of piping and pipe bands making their Top Tunes selections.

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### Online Special Offer

Buy 5 reeds - Morrison, Shepherd, Warnock, Eezedrone and get a case for them free of charge - also free post to anywhere in the world.

Look out for more great offers coming soon! At the point of purchase, we will price match any product of the same quality from another supplier.

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**They don't come along very often.**

This is a relatively new bagpipe made by McCallums in Kilmarnock- approx 5 years old. It's from their clasp collection, with silver mounted into **REAL** ivory mounts –hall marked silver slides and silver ferrules in a thistle design. It has a wooden McCallum chanter and silver sole as well as a bag-piper case.

It would normally retail in the region of £3,500-4,000 but as Begg Bagpipes approaches our 30th birthday, I am prepared to consider any reasonable offer to let this pipe go to a good home.

Call us on ++44(0)1413330639 or

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

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### YouReport

If you would like to report on any aspect of the Piping World from wherever you live, we'd be pleased to include it in this Newsletter

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

Thanks

Bill Begg

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