



# Chapter IV Emergency, Organisation & Cooperation

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## Emergency, Organisation & Cooperation

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## Emergency, Organisation & Cooperation

As the South of Ireland entered its 'Emergency' phase, World War II brought most pipe band competition in Scotland to a halt. With this outlet now unavailable to those with the competitive edge, it was now time for bands here to organise and provide proper systems and regulations under which to compete.

As recorded previously, there was an attempt in 1935 to form an Association 'to place the pipe bands of Ireland upon a proper basis'.

Rev P J Hogan PP was appointed General Organiser and it was decided to contact bands with a view to forming a National Executive Committee, however, it transpires that this attempt was ultimately unsuccessful.

Bands involved were St Laurence O'Toole Pipe Band, Black Raven, Dalkey PTAA Pipe Band, St Lawrence Howth and Fintan Lalors

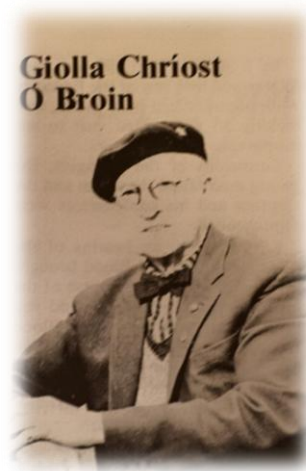
## Cumann na mBuidheann Píobairí

As reported in the Irish Independent, dated Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January 1940, '*A Pipe Band Association has been established by representatives of the following bands*'

St Laurence O'Toole, Fintan Lalor, City of Dublin Girls, St Dymphna's, Our Lady of the Rosary, St Agnes, St Dominic's, Clondalkin, St Brigid's, St Maur's, Black Raven and Clan O'Byrne.

The aim of the Association is, '*to promote pipe band music, through instruction, competition, individual and joint band displays, negotiation and association with other organisations and public authorities*'.

Giolla Críost O Broin was appointed Chairman and Mr R (Bob) Kavanagh Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.



**Giolla Críost O Broin, who was involved in the Dublin Gaelic League and acted as MC at many events was elected first chairman of Cumann na mBuidheann Píobairí**

Cumann na mBuidheann Píobairí, the new pipe band association was active from its conception and held its meetings at 14 Parnell Square, Dublin. All meetings were attended by the elected officers and two representatives of each band. It is unlikely that the Cumann was considered a 'national' organisation with the primary focus on bands in the Dublin hinterland and their interaction with the organisers of specific Dublin events.

## Evening Herald and Irish Press Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February 1940

Representatives of 14 bands attended a meeting of Cumann na mBuidheann Píobairí and the programme for the Oireachtas was agreed, and also to include on the agenda for the next meeting questions of adjudicators, prizes and other questions relating to competitions.

Without delay the Hon. Sec. R Kavanagh, with Messrs P Solan and T Duffy met with the music sub-committee of an tOireachtas to arrange for the massed and other pipe band displays in the summer, determining the draft play list for the Oireachtas pipe band display, which included, 'Brian Boru's march, the Kinnegad Slashers and a third, common to Irish and Scottish Gaelic music, Oro 'Sé do Bheatha a Bhaile, or the Haughs of Cromdale'.

Special provisions were proposed for instruction in drumming and arrangements of music.

## Mór Shiamsa and the Oireachtas Pipe Band Displays

The two main annual public events for pipe bands, in Dublin, in the early to mid '40s, were the 'Mór-Shiamsa' held in Phoenix Park and the Oireachtas Pipe Band Display staged in Croke Park. In 1940 these were held on 16<sup>th</sup> June and the 27<sup>th</sup> October respectively.

These events were more 'spectacle' than contest driven and pipe bands in all parts of Ireland, still competed at Feiseanna or Aireadachta organised by local branches of Conradh na nGaeilge (*Gaelic League*).

**Coming Pipers' Rally** -At a meeting of a sub-committee Giolla Chríost O Broin presiding, arrangements were made for pipe bands taking part in the Gaelic League Móir-Shiamsa in the Phoenix Park on 16<sup>th</sup> June to assemble near the Gough Monument at 3.30 pm and march at 4.00 pm to the Bandstand Hollow, each band playing its own selection.

For the second item, bands will again march and play individually, to take up positions in double file about the bandstand, with a selection of drummers' corps on the platform.

They will play as massed bands 'Let Erin remember' and 'The Green Flag' after which they will reform four deep and play 'O'Neill's march' in returning to position.

Ten pipe bands intimated to Cumann na mBuidheann Píobairí their intention to take part in the Gaelic League Moir-Shiamsa in the Phoenix Park on Sunday June 16<sup>th</sup>

**Oireachtas Display** - Bands that took part in the Oireachtas Pipe Band Display at Croke Park 1940 were, St Laurence O'Toole, Fintan Lalor, City of Dublin Girls, St Dymphna's, Our Lady of the Rosary (Harold's Cross), St Agnes, St Dominic's, St Maur's (Rush), Black Raven (Lusk), 3<sup>rd</sup> CBSI Donnybrook, CBSI Merchant's Quay.

Since the formation of Cumann na mBuidheann Píobairí, the organisation actively pursued a policy whereby all band contests or events in the greater Dublin area, had, at a minimum, an input from the association and the Cumann asked pipe bands and organisers of Feiseanna to communicate with them at 14 Parnell Square (Dublin).

Adjudication, prizes and other questions relating to competitions were also tackled by the new Cumann.



**Oireachtas Pipe Band Display Croke Park possibly 1940**

## Grading of Bands

**Irish Independent** Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June 1940

Rules for the Cumann Grading Competition at Finglas Feis, Finglas were approved at the last meeting and it was decided to invite bands throughout Ireland to compete.

The new Association used the Feis Fingal, held on 7<sup>th</sup> July 1940, to grade bands, with Fintan Lalor, St Laurence O'Toole and Black Raven being placed in Grade 1, while St Maur's Rush, St Dymphna's, St Dominic's Tallagh and St Teresa's Bray were considered Grade 2.

Up to this point bands competed with each other in one grouping.

Messrs Liam Dunne and Sean Dunne adjudicated in piping, W Norton in drumming and Mr Louis Noble acted as band marshal and adjudicated in marching, dress and discipline.

Another feature of all these outdoor Feiseanna or Aireadachta was the staging of a Solo Piping competition.

## Interaction with the 'Outside'

### **To Compete for Band Title**

'Fintan Lalor and Black Raven bands, first and second respectively in the recent Cumann na mBuidheann Píobairí competitions at Feis Finglas will travel to Cork tomorrow to compete for the Pipe Championship of Ireland under the auspices of the Cork Gaelic League Aeridheacht Committee. An excursion train will leave Kingsbridge at 8.45 am'

Five bands entered for the Piper's Band Championship, open to all Ireland. The Fintan Lalor (Dublin), Black Raven (Lusk Co Dublin), Thomas Ceannt (Fermoy), Volunteer's Pipers (Cork) and Fianna Éireann (Cork).



### The Cork Fianna Éireann Pipers' Band ( 1940 )

Left to Right :John Murphy, Pipe Major, Liam O'Neill, Donal O'Callaghan, Dominic McAuliffe, Mick O'Brien, Mick Murphy. Front: Tom Daly, Denis 'Adj; Murphy.

The competition was very keen and ended in a great victory for the Fintan Lalor Band, which thus secures possession of the beautiful O'Cruidhlaoidh Shield. The All Ireland Solo Piping Championships went to T J Keogh, Tramway Terrace, Sandymount, Dublin a member of the Fintan Lalor Band, which secured the magnificent Corn Cuimhneachain O'Croinín, presented by the local branch of the Gaelic League as a tribute to the famous Cork Pipe Major and Nationalist. The third competition for a fine trophy was presented by Miss J D Moriarty was also won by the Fintan Lalor Pipe Band.

*Note: Miss Joan Denise Moriarty (niece of the late Lord Justice Moriarty) was the only lady piper who competed in the Solo Piping at the 1932 Tailteann Game and the Prima Donna of Ballet in Ireland for many decades.*

#### Bands

1<sup>st</sup> Fintan Lalor also winning the M&D section (O'Cruidhlaoidh Shield)

#### Solo Piping

1<sup>st</sup> T J Keogh Fintan Lalors (Corn Cuimhneachain O'Croinín)

Elsewhere in the 'Irish Pipe Band World', broadcasts on the radio continued as noted in the **Kerryman Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 1940**

'The general public will be pleased to learn that the Thomas Kent Pipe Band is broadcasting from the Cork Studio on Saturday evening (Dec 7<sup>th</sup>) at 7.15 (new time). Three selections, an Irish, Scottish and selection of marches have been prepared for broadcast. They are as follows:

Irish Selection: Sean O'Brien of Fermoy (March), Wexford Hornpipe, Swallow's Tail (Reel) & the Kinnegad Slashers (March)

Scottish Selection: Farewell to the Creeks (March), Monymusk (Strathspey), High Road to Linton (Reel) & My native Highland Home (March)

March selection: Falls of Lorna, the Twenty Fifth's, Atholl Highlanders & Lochanside

This is the eleventh broadcast by our local Pipe Band and this fact in itself indicates that the band is maintaining its proficiency in the national instrument. Each of the broadcasts has done a considerable amount of good in furthering interest the interest in Irish piping and promoting a more widespread adherence to national music. This is an important factor at the present day when foreign influences threaten to stamp out our native music and culture.

It is to be hoped that Saturday's broadcast will merely be a fore runner of many successful ones and that the band will continue to be an influence for good in the sphere of national music. I would remind readers to again note the date and time of the broadcast – Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 7.15 (new time)'

Cumann na mBuidheann Píobairí was active right up to the end of the year as noted in:

**Irish Press & Irish Independent Monday 30<sup>th</sup> December 1940.**

**Piping Competition & Judges Will Not See Competitors**

A pipe band quartet competition under the auspices of the Gaelic League and Cumann na mBuidheann Píobairí will be held in the Mansion House, Dublin on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January 1941. Prizes for the competition, which is open to all pipe bands, will be presented by Messrs D McCullough and M Walton.

Judges of the pipe band quartet competitions will not see the competitors performing. They will be screened off and will base their decision solely on what they hear. The competition will be modelled somewhat on the Scottish piping contests and prizes will be awarded for piping and drumming separately. It is open to all pipe bands.

Particulars may be obtained from Cumann na mBuidheann Píobairí at 14 Parnell Square, Dublin.

**19<sup>th</sup> January 1941**

**Annual General Meeting**

**Elected Officers** — St. Laurence O'Toole Pipe Band elected the following committee:  
Messrs. Peadar Caffrey Secretary, P Hogan, Treasurer, T Duffy Pipe Major, L Clare Pipe Sergeant, T Conway, Drum Sergeant, L Birney and J McDonagh.

## Legal Ranglings over Bandhall and Instruments in Cork

**Irish Examiner 21<sup>st</sup> May 1941**

**OWNERSHIP OF HALL - Action At Cork Circuit Court.**

The question of the ownership of a hall at Ballintemple, Cork, erected by public subscription in 1936 and instruments of the Roger Casement Pipe Band was the subject of an action at Cork Circuit Court yesterday, in which D Kennedy, P Hegarty D. O Meacain, C O'Shea, M. Holland, J. Madden and J Falvey, officials and members of the Committee of the Roger Casement Fianna Fail Cumann, Ballintemple sought a declaration against Michael Walsh, Church Avenue, Ballintemple, and Richard Radford, Blackrock Road, concerning the ownership, and for return of the title and key of the hall and the band instruments.

Plaintiffs contended that defendants, in acquiring the site for the hall and providing the hall and band instruments, were merely acting as trustees for the Fianna Fail Cumann, of which they were members.

Defendants, however, contended that the hall and band were provided to foster the Roger Casement Social Club, which was a distinct entity. The hall was to be *used for Irish* Ireland activities, and not for any political party, and people, who were not supporters of Fianna Fail had subscribed. It was denied that subscriptions were sought in the name of Fianna Fail, and it was urged that the Fianna Fail Club had no claim to the hall or band instruments.

Judge O'Connor held with the defendants and dismissed the action.

## Army Gears Up with Pipe Bands During the Emergency

**23<sup>rd</sup> December 1940**

**Castletown, Limerick**

Castletown Pipe Band Committee: After a lapse of nearly twenty years, a meeting of Castletown Pipe Band Committee, at which practically all the surviving members were present.....It was decided that some instruments be made available to the Castletown Group of the L.S.F. for the "duration," and also to provide facilities whereby some promising young men in the locality would be afforded an opportunity of learning the art of piping and so keep the tradition alive in the district.

Twenty years ago, the Castletown Pipers' Band were under the able conductorship of Mr. Liam (Bill) Andrews, Dublin—now frequently heard in broadcasts' of pipe music from Radio Éireann.

**14<sup>th</sup> March 1941**

**Limerick Gift to Army**

A complete set of pipe band instruments was presented, on behalf, of a group of Limerick citizens, to the 9th (Desmond) Infantry Battalion, at Sarsfield Barracks, Limerick, yesterday. The Rev. J. Chawke, Army Chaplain, blessed the instruments, which were handed over by Mr. Morgan McMahon, to Comdt. Barry. A march past by the battalion, headed by the pipe band, followed.





**Above Photographs: An Céad Cathalán (1<sup>st</sup> Bn Galway) Pipe Band**

### Cumann's Quartet Competitions

At the beginning of 1941 a Pipe Band Quartet Competition was organised, under the auspices of the Gaelic League and Cumann na mBuidheann Píobairí and was held in the Mansion House, Dublin on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January. The Quartet Competition was modelled somewhat on the Scottish piping contests and prizes were awarded for piping and drumming separately. It was further decided that the adjudicators would not see the competitors performing and would be screened off from the performers. Thus the adjudicators were required to base their decision solely on what they heard.



**PM Frank Devine, Black Raven Pipe Band at the Quartet Competition in the Mansion House 12<sup>th</sup> Jan. '41**

Once again, as per the Grading Competitions at the Fingal Feis the previous year, Liam O'Duinn and W Norton were the Quartet adjudicators for 1941.

As was the case with all these events there was a Concert post competition, featuring Irish and Scottish Dance, Irish Traditional Singing, selections on the Harp and Uilleann Pipes etc. and as normal Giolla Chríost O' Broin was the MC.

For 1942, Cumann na mBuidheann Píobairí held their Quartet Competitions in the Mansion House on 1<sup>st</sup> February and as customary a concert was held post competition. Among the performances were items by City of Dublin Girls' Pipe Band Dance Troupe and St Dymphna Pipers' Dance Troupe. Prizes for the Quartet Competition were given by R&W Williams, John Ireland & Sons, O'Glasáin & Co and by the Cumann itself. Giolla Chríost O'Broin was compere.

Fingal Feis was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> July and had a contest for Pipe Band Quartets and as would now be expected Fintan Lawlor Pipe Band was preeminent in these events.

Cumann na mBuidheann Píobairí agreed details with the Dublin Gaelic League for the Mór Shiamsa in Phoenix Park on 7<sup>th</sup> June and Feis Cualann in Dunlaoighre on 28<sup>th</sup> June. It is noted that ten bands attend the former while the City of Dublin Connolly, City of Dublin Girls, Dalkey, St Laurence O'Toole's and Fintan Lalor participate in the latter.



**St Dominick's Pipe Band, Tallagh 1942**

Information about pipe band activity is now difficult to glean as, during the Emergency, most 'daily' newspapers are confined to four pages, while the 'evening' broadsheets sometimes have only two pages. Most of the news therein is about the war.

Early the following year *'For the first time in the history of Feis Atha Cliath the Coiste are organising bagpipe competitions in conjunction with Cumann na mBuidheann Píobairí'*.

The Supper Room at the Mansion House was crowded on 7<sup>th</sup> February 1943 for the competition and concert organised by Cumann na mBuidheann Píobairí. The contests consisted of Quartet – four pipers accompanied by a drummer (not Competing) and for the first time recorded, Solo Drumming – solo drummer accompanied by a piper (not competing). Prizes were donated by Tadhg Crowley, Cork and the prizes presented by Padraig O'Caomh, Secretary GAA. Giolla Chroist O Broin acted as MC.

J Langan, St Joseph's Clondalkin won the Solo Drumming while Fintan Lalor took the honours in the Quartets.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual War-pipe Festival under the auspices of Cumann na mBuidheann Piobairí was held, as always, in the Mansion House on 16<sup>th</sup> January 1944, a further event under the Feis Atha Cliath banner was held in the same venue on 5<sup>th</sup> March. The latter was the first competition in which we see specific categories for female players. Peadar Wallace is now stated to be Chairman of the Cumann.

Most of the 22 bands in Dublin City and County, affiliated to Cumann na mBuidheann Piobairí took part. Fifteen (15) bands were represented at the Feis, eighty eight (88) soloists and sixteen (16) quartets competed.

The first reference to the Irish Pipe Band Association is found (*Irish Press 30<sup>th</sup> May'44*) with reference to bands' participation in the 1944 'Mór-Shiamsa' organised by the Gaelic League in the Phoenix Park on 3<sup>rd</sup> June of that year, albeit the association is still reported as Cumann na mBuidheann Piobairí with the publication of results of the Quartet Competition of 1945.

On 13<sup>th</sup> October'44 it was sad to note that Fr. J Hogan, a founding member of St Patrick's Rathvilly Pipe Band, Co Carlow and pivotal member of the nascent National Bands' Association of the mid '20s and central figure in attempting to form a Pipe Band Association in 1935 had died.

Once again for the coming year the only discernable contest is the Mansion House event held on 18<sup>th</sup> February 1945, fifteen (15) quartets took part, eighteen (18) entered in the solo drumming all from ten (10) bands.

## Irish Pipe Band Association Rebranding ?

Next we find the following extract from Leinster Express dated 24<sup>th</sup> November 1945, although not reported in any of the national broadsheets, the article appears in many regional newspapers.

Cumann Buidheann Piobairí na hÉireann (Irish Pipe Band Association) was recently formed at a largely attended meeting at 1a Molesworth Place, Dublin.

It has as its aim, as stated in the rules, *'to promote pipe band music through maintenance of the interests and integrity of each band, through individual and joint band display, through negotiation and association with other organisations and public authorities, through publicity, through extension of the movement, through addition generally to the store, performance and quality of pipe band music and display'*.

Pipe Bands throughout Ireland (32 Counties) may communicate with the Hon. Secretary, Cumann Buidheann Piobairí na hÉireann, Molesworth Place, Dublin.

Peadar Wallace is the Chairman of the organisation before and after this meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> November 1945.

Is it a re-branding exercise?

Why would the association ask bands in Northern Ireland to communicate with them?

### Irish Press 17<sup>th</sup> October 1945 Oireachtas Pipe Band Display 1945

In connection with the massed Pipe Band display at the Oireachtas Hurling challenge match in Croke Park on Sunday next. Fourteen bands will assemble at Middle Abbey Street at 1.30 p.m.

At 2 p.m. seven bands will move off as massed bands, playing through the city to Croke Park.

Shortly afterwards the other seven bands will follow similarly.

Since its last annual Comhdhail, the Cumannnn has launched out as Cumann Buidhean Piobairí na h-Éireann. Previously membership was open only to City and County Dublin bands, but now it is open to bands all over Ireland. Headquarters is 1a Molesworth Place, Molesworth Street, Dublin.

Peadar Wallace's son recalls some names of the National Executive Committee of the Irish Pipe Band Association, namely, Peadar Wallace, Paddy Birrel, Sheamus Madden, Calacon McCarthy and Tommy Rathcliffe.

## 1<sup>st</sup> All Ireland Pipe Band Championships

The next major initiative of the Irish Pipe Band Association was the inauguration of the All Ireland Pipe Band Championships in 1946. This was organised in conjunction with the Ulster Pipe Band League of the Northern Ireland Bands Association and the following passages relate to this:

### **Irish Press 26<sup>th</sup> February 1946**

At a recent meeting between representatives of the Ulster Pipe Band League and Cumann na mBuidheann Píobairí na hÉireann as to an All Ireland Pipe Band Competition, tentative arrangements were made and it is hoped that a competition may be held this year.

### **Irish Independent 27<sup>th</sup> March 1946**

The possibility of holding an All Ireland Pipe Band competition this year was discussed by representatives of Cumann Buidheann Píobairí na hÉireann and the Northern Ireland Bands Association. A further meeting will be held in Belfast next month.

The next meeting took place in the Adelphi Hotel, Belfast, on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April 1946. The North was represented by P/M Sam McManus, P/M Mickey Magee, John Drennan, Eddie McVeigh and Tom Hart with P/M Paddy Solan and Peadar Wallace from the South. The main item of business was to establish All-Ireland Championships for pipe bands.

### **Irish Examiner 4<sup>th</sup> May 1946**

As a result of conferences in Dublin and Belfast, the Irish Pipe Band Organisations have decided to hold their first All Ireland Pipe band Competitions in Dublin on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August next, and their second in Belfast in 1947. Competitions this year will be in Senior, Intermediate and Junior grades and trophies for first, second and third prizes will be awarded in each grade. Adjudication by Scottish Adjudicators will be on test pieces.

### **5<sup>th</sup> June 1946**

Pipe Band Contest – At the monthly meeting of Cumann Buidhean Piobairí na hÉireann, the Chairman reported that, by kind permission of the President of the University College, Dublin, the Iyegh Gardens, Harcourt Street, had been made available for the All-Ireland Pipe Band Contest on August 24. It was reported that circulars inviting entries had been issued to 58 bands, and that steps had also been taken to approach 48 other unaffiliated bands.

Correspondence was read from the North of Ireland Pipe Band League indicating organising work done and exceptional interest in the events. The services of Scotch adjudicators had been secured for the contests.

### **30<sup>th</sup> June 1946 Fingal Feis Lawless Park**

An interesting point in this year's Pipe Band Contest is that this Feis will be availed of by Cumann na mBuidhean Píobairí na hÉireann to classify the Dublin bands for the forthcoming All-Ireland Pipe Band competitions to be held in Dublin in August. It is expected that over a dozen bands will be in Swords next Sunday and will strive of their best.

### 13<sup>th</sup> July 1946

The All-Ireland Pipe Band Association is holding a national competition in the Iveagh Grounds, Harcourt St. Dublin, on August 24<sup>th</sup> when two Scottish experts will cross over to judge. The Secretary of the Association, who was at the recent Feis Fingal, is Mr. Peter M. Wallace St. Oswald's, Sorrento Road, Dalkey, and any local pipe band interested in the competition should direct their inquiries to him.

The inaugural All Ireland Pipe Band Championships was held in Iveagh Gardens, Dublin on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August 1946. As previously stated bands competed in three categories i.e. Junior, Intermediate and Senior.

In all twenty six (26) bands took part, ten (10) in the Junior Grade, ten (10) in the Intermediate Grade and Six (6) in the Senior Grade and the contest commenced at 2.30 pm.

The adjudicators were, A McDermott – Piping and C Davis – Drumming, both from Glasgow and Alec Meikle from Dublin, who adjudicated the M&D.

Mr Charles Davis, the Drumming Adjudicator stated that he had no hesitation in calling it a really wonderful day. He further indicated that several of the leading Irish bands could hold their own against their opposite numbers across the channel. However he thought that the Junior bands needed more experience and that a contest such as the All Irelands was the best method of giving them that experience.

The trophies were presented by Peadar M Wallace, Chairman of the Executive Council of the Irish Pipe Band Association.



**P/M Paddy Solan, Fintan Lalors and Peadar Wallace, Chairman IPBA, 1<sup>st</sup> All Ireland Pipe Band Championships**



**Miss C Molloy, Emerald Girls Pipe Band Iveagh Gardens 24<sup>th</sup> August 1946**

Apart from the biennial staging of the All Ireland Pipe Band Championships, the other main contest sponsored by Buidheann Piobairí na hÉireann was the Quartets' Competition. This was generally held in January or February of each year, commencing in 1941 and had a concert appended as a feature.

The Solo Drumming section introduced to the contest in 1943, appears to go dormant after a few years.

For 1949 the competition was restyled the 'IPBA Annual Solo and Mini Band Contest', the 'Solo' indicating 'piping', with solo drumming only being reintroduced in 1955, which appears to have been the final year this contest was reported as taking place in the Mansion House.

The late 1930's and early '40s saw the emergence of 'all - girl' or Ladies Pipe Bands, Dublin city leading the way with the Allentown Girls PB (Tallagh), City of Dublin Girls' PB ('38), Nua Éire Girls' PB ('39) and the Emerald Girls' Pipe Band ('39- '40). This phenomenon spread throughout the country and lasted well into the 1970s. A specific grade for Ladies pipe bands was introduced to the 3<sup>rd</sup> All Ireland Pipe Band Championships of 1948, held on 14<sup>th</sup> August in the Iveagh Gardens, Dublin. Seeing how successful the inaugural All Ireland Pipe Band Contest was, as a spectacle, the Oireachtas of 1947 held a pipe band contest in Iveagh Gardens on 28<sup>th</sup> September, which also attracted bands from the north of Ireland, the customary pipe band display was held in Croke Park on the following day. The massed bands played Sean O'Neill's March.

As with all pipe band contests of the period a solo piping event was also held.

A special feature at the finale was a drumming display by Fintan Lalor Pipe Band called 'Gairm na nDrumadóirí' or the 'Drummers' Call'.

The Oireachtas was once again held the following year on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1948, but with a disappointing attendance of ten bands.



**Walter Downie & Charles Davis adjudicators at the Oireachtas contest Iveagh Garden, Dublin 28<sup>th</sup> September 1947**



**Peter O'Neill, St Patrick's Rathvilly, Co Carlow 28<sup>th</sup> September '47**



**Tommy Moore, City of Dublin Connolly PB, 2<sup>nd</sup> Senior Solo Piping Iveagh Gardens 10<sup>th</sup> October 1948**



**Massed bands at the Oireachtas display, usually held in the Autumn, which preceded a football match at Croke Park**

## Elsewhere 'In the Real Capital'

### **Evening Echo 13<sup>th</sup> March 1946**

The Irish Pipers' Society, 4 Magazine Road, sent a letter stating that there were two pipe bands in Cork City, St. Finbarr's Pipe Band and the Cork City National Pipe Band which desired to be included in this year's promenades.

On the proposal of Mr. S McCarthy, T.D. it was agreed to accede to this request.

*07<sup>th</sup> July 1947 the 'All Ireland Piping Championships' were held in the UCC Grounds at the Mardyke, Cork*

### **Southern Star 12<sup>th</sup> July 1947 Saturday**

#### **Piping Contest CARRIGALINE WINS CHAMPIONSHIP**

The All-Ireland Piping Championships which took place at University College grounds, Cork, on Sunday were championships in name only, for only two bands from Cork County took part ..... Naturally this lack of support proved disappointing to the Committee of Oireachtas na Mumhan, who had organised the competitions, and had notified the various bands throughout the county. The Pipe Band Championship for the O'Crowley Shield was won by Carrigaline, with one mark to spare from St. Finbarrs (Killeens) the only other contestant. Company Quarter Master Sergeant T. J. Burke, Collins Barracks, Cork, who adjudicated, told a Press representative that the response to the appeals of the Oireachtas Committee was, in view of the importance of the event in the revival of traditional music, most disappointing.

The standard of piping in general was rather poor, and was not in keeping with the standard of Oireachtas na Mumhan competitions of previous years. The majority of pipers with the exception of the Uilleann pipers, seemed to favour Scotch pipe music when there was plenty of good Irish material from which to select.

The lack of interest in pipe music, which appeared to be on the decline, was, he added, a matter of some concern.

The results were: —

Pipe Band Competition (O'Crowley Shield)—1, Carrigaline Pipe Band (66), 2, St.Finbarrs Pipe Band (Killeens) (65).

Quartets (three pipers and a drummer)—1, St. Finbarrs (first group) (67); 2, Carrigaline (first group) (63).

War Pipes (solo)—1, Liam O h-Ailighsa, Carrigaline (64); 2, S. O Loinshigh, 17, Redemption Ave., Cork

The Oireachtas Solos of the previous November may uphold the view of a decline in piping, particularly outside Dublin.

### **17<sup>th</sup> November 1946**

Solo Piping Competition—Winners at the Oireachtas open solo-piping competition, held at 14 Parnell Square, Dublin,

1, P Solan, Fintan Lalor Pipe Band, Dublin: 2, R Kavanagh, St. Joseph's Pipe Bands and T Keogh, Fintan Lalors.

There were no country entrants. The adjudicators were Liam Q Duinn and G. Purcell.

Efforts were being made in Cork to address this 'lull' in piping.

### **Evening Echo Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November 1948**

Cork School of Piping and Cork City Pipe Band - Meeting nights changed to Tuesdays and Thursdays. Classes now forming for learners in piping and drumming. New members invited at an Grianán, Queen Street, Cork

## Pipe Major Dies in Accident

Irish Press 26<sup>th</sup> November 1947

MR. THOMAS DUFFY

Mr Thomas Duffy, 60 Yellow Road, Whitehall, who has died in the Richmond Hospital following an accident, was Chairman and Pipe Major of St. Laurence O'Toole's Pipe, Band, an associate member, of the Dick McKee Memorial Pipe Band, Finglas and the St Joseph's Pipe Band, Glasthule. He was a member of the Executive of Cumann na mBuldhéan Piobairí na hÉireann.

He is survived by his wife and seven children.

The remains will leave the hospital this evening at 5.15 for St. Canice's Church, Finglas. The funeral will take place at Finglas to-morrow at 3 p.m.



### 3<sup>rd</sup> All Ireland Pipe Band Championships

On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> August 1948 the 3<sup>rd</sup> All Ireland Pipe Band Championships was held in Iveagh Gardens, Harcourt Street, Dublin. Thirty three bands entered, eighteen from Northern Ireland and fifteen from the South. Eighteen bands played in the Junior Grade, ten in Intermediate and five bands competed in the Senior category. The climax of the evening was expected when the massed bands participated in the 'drummers' call' and played the 'Highland Laddie'. Apart from the Dublin and Northern Ireland bands the only 'provincial' band to compete was Tullamore.

A poor entry was recorded for the Oireachtas Solo & Pipe Band Contest, once again held in Iveagh Gardens on the 10<sup>th</sup> October '48, with only ten participating bands, only one of which was from outside Dublin, St Patrick's Dundalk. Six bands entered the Junior Grade while four participated in

the Open section. The fact that there was no entry from Northern Ireland probably relates to the fact that the contest was organised for a Sunday, rather 'short sighted' from Coiste an tOireachtas. The Adjudicators: Piping PM M McGee, Belfast Drumming: DM W Graham, Belfast



**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September 1948 Fintan Lalor Pipe Band departing for the World Championships**

1949 is notable for a number of reasons, firstly a Cork Piper, Jermiah Hurley, Cork City PB appears in the prize list at the Annual Mini Band & Solo Contest, held in the Mansion House on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, but more so for the fact , at the same competition, a female piper competed and was placed in a category not specifically for 'girls'. The piper was Toni Brady of the Dalkey Pipe Band. That band was not an all female band and this is the first recorded instance we have of integration at band level. The year was also the first in which a contest, outside Dublin, was co organised by Cumann Buidheann Píobairí na hÉireann. It was held in Dundalk on 19<sup>th</sup> June and was contested over two grades, Junior and Open.

**3<sup>rd</sup> February 1949  
Pipe Band Contest**

Members of the Executive Committee of the Irish Pipe Band Association, meeting in Dundalk, completed arrangements for the holding of the 'Pipe Bands of Ireland Contests' at the Athletic Grounds, Dundalk, on June 19.

**10<sup>th</sup> June 1949  
Pipe Band Contest**

It was reported at the last meeting of Cumann Buldhean Píobairí na h-Éireann that bands from Counties Tyrone, Armagh, Down and Louth, as well as some from Belfast and Dublin, will take part in the contents and displays at the Athletic Grounds, Dundalk, on Sunday, 10th Inst. A special train bringing Dublin bands will leave Amiens St. at 11.46 am, returning from Dundalk at 8 p.m.

**Irish Pipe Band Association Annual General Meeting**

**Irish Independent 8<sup>th</sup> October 1949 Saturday  
Pipe Band Plans For Oireachtas Display**

The annual Comhdháil of Cumann Buldhean Píobairí na h-Éireann was attended by 74 delegates from Pipe Bands. The officers elected were:

Chairman S. Murphy, V/Chairman G. Purcell, Hon Sec. P Wallace, Hon Treas. S Madden, Hon Registrar Miss D James.

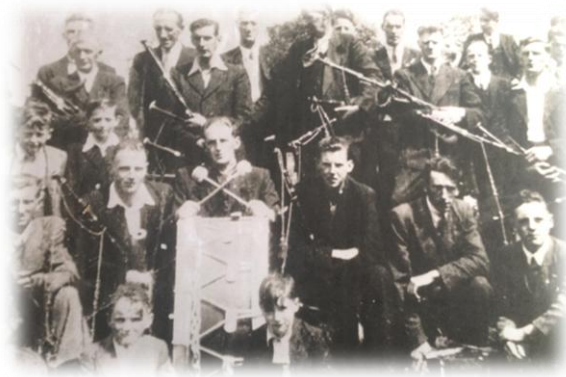
Executive Committee: Miss P Lee, Messrs J Anderson, W Gradwel, W Kennedy, J Keogh, J O'Connor, and D Young.

For the Oireachtas 'city parade and display' in Croke Park to-morrow week, Cumann Pipe Bands will assemble at Foster Place at 1.30 p.m. and move off at 2.50 p.m. in two formations.....and after marching to position in Croke Park, will broadcast from 3 to 3.10 p.m.

It was decided, provisionally, to include a Midland Contest in the coming year.

For Dublin, increased participation in the facilities of the Dublin Municipal School of Music was recommended.

### 1940s Pipe Bands



**Cappagh Pipe Band, Co Limerick**



**Carlow Pipe Band**



**Laune Pipers', Killorglin**

## Emerald Girls - The Early Years

Irish Press      1<sup>st</sup> November 1947      Saturday

It's the skirl of the pipes and the throbbing of the drums. Footsteps halt in the busy street. Here they come! All eyes watch as they come swinging round the corner, a kilted band, a Pipers' Band, and Girl Pipers at that. It's the Emerald Girls' known, now so well known, not only in the city but all over the thirty two counties of Ireland.

The girls look so glamorous on the street, and their precision so artless, that no one would believe they put hard work into it behind the scenes.

The band headquarters are in North Frederick Street, where the members practice nearly every night of the week.

Here in their basement room all is rush and bustle.

Twelve years-old Betty Fowler rushes in and dumps a neatly-pressed uniform on the table. "Patty's working late. She'll be over at half-six."

Patty is Patricia Fowler, Pipe Major and Officer Commanding the band. She is assisted by Pipe Sergeant Joan Lynch.



**Youngest playing member : Piper Angela McKenna, aged thirteen - and - a - half. She was playing with the band at eleven.**



**Drum Major; Mary Lynch**

The dashing girl you see on the page here with the silver-mounted twirling staff and the air of a warrior queen, is Drum-Major 24-years-old Mary Lynch.

Youth is the keynote in this band. Oldest member is Margaret Lynch 26, the youngest playing member is Piper Angela McKenna, a schoolgirl of thirteen - and - a - half, who was playing at eleven.

Margaret, a sister of Mary, is the dynamo of the organisation. Of the original band of 15 girls she is the only still-active member, the others are nearly all married. She plays the pipes, takes the beginners' Tuesday night classes and, as Secretary, does most of the booking and keeping records.

#### **How they started**

The band was formed in 1939 and after two years of tough grinding practice they made their first public appearance at the Queen's Theatre, Dublin, in the 1941 St. Patrick's Day show. This booking lasted for four weeks, long enough to catch the public eye and prod Dubliners into taking a vivid interest in a new and colourful venture.

Since then they have played many parts in the world of entertainment and public pageantry. In 1945 six members toured Ireland with Duffy's Circus for six months.

When Caughoo, the little horse that won this year's Grand National, arrived at the North Wall, the Emerald Girls' Pipe Band piped him up the quays. The year before, at the Metropole, they piped in the birthday cake of Pat O'Brien, visiting Irish film star. Pat O'Brien was delighted and offered to kiss every girl in the band.

They were booked for the showing of Captain Boycott at the Royal in September last, and during its three weeks' run drew thunderous applause from the audience.

They have broadcast five times, won many prizes at Fels Atha Cliath. They went to Fintona, Co. Tyrone, as guests of the town, and got a public reception.

They are the only civilian band, male or female, that ever played with the Army Pipers.

Today there are thirty in the band, and 72 aspirants in the drumming and piping classes, working hard against the day when they will qualify for enrolment. Every week there are three classes under instruction.

The pipers are taken one night by Pipe-Major Dick Young of the St. Dymphna Pipe Band. Another night is given up to a drumming class, in the expert hands of Mr. Paddy O'Donovan, the well-known drummer. Miss Margaret Lynch instructs the beginners on the third night.

In, addition to learning drumming and piping, the girls are taught foot-drill and elementary drill, which accounts for their smart appearance on parade. There are some very young girls in the classes. Some of them are school-children as young as eight years old.

#### **What Makes a Piper**

All the members who are not still at school are employed in various occupations during the day. There is a jam worker, a chemical factory worker, a silk stocking machinist, employees from tobacco factories, a tailoress, a waitress, a glove maker and a girl from a watch maker's shop. Miss Lynch's dictum is that you cannot make a piper, you can only teach them, and, if they have the talent, they will learn to be quite proficient in a couple of years. There is great competition to get into the band, so there is no slacking in the classes.

#### **The Cost**

The money the band earns goes into new instruments and equipment.

Here are a few of the items :

Set of Pipes..... £13 10s.

Bass Drum ..... £13

Tenor Drum..... £11

Side Drum..... £10

Costumes are expensive, too. Complete kit comes to well over ten pounds. Precious coupons are pooled for the material, and Mrs. Rita Dunne, mother of one of the pipers, makes it up into the

smart jackets and jaunty knee-length kits. No danger of the New Look creeping in here. Excepting the brass sleeve badges and the senior's gold braid, all their gear is Irish made.

#### **The Bass Drummer**

There was a flurry of feet on the stairs and a petite girl, dark haired five footer, rushed in, breathless. That's Chrissie Doyle, the Bass Drummer.

'Lo', grinned Chrissy struggling into her Leopard Skin (a gift from a Dublin priest, whose nephew shot the original owner in Africa). She belted up, slung on the big drum and gave it a preliminary whack. 'St Patrick's Day is our busiest day, First we march the Colours around the city. Then we may have a Croke Park engagement, finishing up with two or three ceidlidhes. This year for instance, we played at Clery's, the Metropole and the Gresham, getting home at four in the morning. What matter, it's great fun' said Miss Lynch.

#### **On Parade**

Somebody said 'Ready Girls' ?

A rapid roll call, then the band began to tune up. Drones and chanters whined up and down the scale.

Then - 'Tattoo, one, two and the room was filled with the wild swing and skirl of 'The Tattoo March'. The Drum Major lifted her staff and the pipes and drums were silent. 'Fair enough girls'. A final cigarette and then up the stairs and into the street. More crackling commands from the Drum major, snappy as an army man.

'Fall In' They formed up. 'Rolls One Two' and they were away, waitresses, hairdressers, dress makers, egg packers, chemical workers, all swinging and swaggering down the hill, crowds gaping, streamers flaunting from the pipes.....

#### **The Marriage Toll**

Marriage claims the band and one by one they go. The original band is all practically married off now. More than half the girls are engaged, but the youngsters are coming in to take their places, and when they finish their two year course, it's money on that they too, will 'Follow the Band'.



## Contest Result

30<sup>th</sup> June 1940

Meath Feis

Pairc Tailteann

### Pipe Bands

#### Grade 1

- 1<sup>st</sup> Black Raven
- 2<sup>nd</sup> St Maur's, Rush
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Owen Roe PB, Drogheda

### Solo Piping

- 1<sup>st</sup> Seosaimh McEoghain, Dublin
- 2<sup>nd</sup> P Ní Crathóin, Dundalk
- 3<sup>rd</sup> D Behan, Dundalk

### Solo Piping U16

- 1<sup>st</sup> Colm O'hAnnrachain, Dublin
- 2<sup>nd</sup> MI O'Maol Eoin, Dublin
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Máire Ní Riala, Dublin

7<sup>th</sup> July 1940

*Feis greatest success in five years*

Feis Fhine Gall

Cumann na mBuidheann Piobairí Grading Competition

### Pipe Bands

#### Grade 1

- 1<sup>st</sup> Fintan Lalor
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Black Raven
- 3<sup>rd</sup> St Laurence O'Toole

#### Grade 2

- 1<sup>st</sup> St Maur's Rush
- 2<sup>nd</sup> St Dymphna's Dublin
- 3<sup>rd</sup> St Dominic's Tallagh
- 4<sup>th</sup> St Teresa's Bray

### Solo Piping

- 1<sup>st</sup> John Solan Fintan Lalors
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Rory Hearn Fintan Lalors
- 3<sup>rd</sup> J Mc Cormack Fintan Lalors

### Previous Winners Contest

- 1<sup>st</sup> T J Keogh Fintan Lalors
- 2<sup>nd</sup> M Keavy Connolly Band
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Eamonn O'Brian Connolly Band



Louis Noble acted as Marshal of the Bands at the Fingal Feis

25<sup>th</sup> August 1940                      Aerideacht -National Pipe Championships      UCC Hurling Grounds,  
Mardyke, Cork

*Bands entered: Fintan Lalor (Dublin), Black Raven (Lusk Co Dublin), Thomas Kent (Fermoy), Volunteer's Pipers (Cork) and Fianna Éireann (Cork).*

**Bands**

1<sup>st</sup> Fintan Lalor    also winning the M&D section                      (O'Cruadhlaoidh Shield)

**Solo Piping**

1<sup>st</sup> T J Keogh Fintan Lalors    (Corn Cuimhneachain O'Croinín)

12<sup>th</sup> January 1941                                      Quartets    Mansion House, Dublin

*joint auspices of Conradh na Gaeilge & Cumann na mBuidheann Piobairí*

1<sup>st</sup>      Fintan Lalor    Prize by Denis McCullough  
dr      Catholic Boy Scout Band, Merchants Quay  
2<sup>nd</sup>      St Maur's Rush  
dr      Fintan Lalor

*Liam O'Duinn and W Norton were the adjudicators      -      12 quartets entered*

3<sup>rd</sup> August 1941                                      Féile Gaedheal                                      UCC Grounds Mardylke, Cork

**Mens' Solo Championship of Munster**

1<sup>st</sup> P J O'Laoighre                      Cork Volunteers  
2<sup>nd</sup> Liam Connor

**Boys' Solo Championship of Ireland**

1<sup>st</sup> Sean O'Muirighte                      Thos Kent, Fermoy  
2<sup>nd</sup> Liam O'Cathassaigh                      Cork

**Mens' Solo Championship of Ireland**

1<sup>st</sup> M O'Laoighre                      Cork Volunteers  
2<sup>nd</sup> P J O'Laoighre                      Cork Volunteers

**Senior Bands**

1<sup>st</sup> Thomas Kent                      Fermoy  
2<sup>nd</sup> Irish Volunteers                      Cork

**Junior Bands**

1<sup>st</sup> Fianna Éireann                      Cork

**Best Dressed Band**

1<sup>st</sup> Volunteers                      Cork

*Adjudicators: Thomas de Burca, T Carberry, Tadhg Crowley, D O'Murchada*



16<sup>th</sup> January 1944

War-Pipe Festival

Mansion House, Dublin

*4<sup>th</sup> Annual War-pipe Festival under the auspices of Cumann na mBuidhean Piobairí For the first time special drumming competitions were held. Quartet – four pipers accompanied by a drummer (not competing) Drumming – solo drummer accompanied by a piper (not competing)*

**Open Drumming**

1<sup>st</sup> Sean Keogh, Fintan Lalor  
2<sup>nd</sup> L White, St Laurence O'Toole & J Duffy, St Laurence O'Toole tied

**Girls' Drumming**

1<sup>st</sup> Annie Brady, Nua Éire Girls  
2<sup>nd</sup> Evelyn McDowell, City of Dublin Girls

**Open Quartette**

1<sup>st</sup> Fintan Lalor (PM Keogh's Quartette)  
2<sup>nd</sup> St Maur's PB

**Girls' Quartette**

1<sup>st</sup> City of Dublin Girls PB  
2<sup>nd</sup> Nua Éire Girls PB

*P Wallace Chairman Cumann na mBuidhean Piobairí*

5<sup>th</sup> March 1944

Feis Atha Cliath

Supper Room,  
Mansion House, Dublin

*15 bands, 88 soloists and 16 quartettes*

*Callachain Mac Carthaigh, Chairman Cumann na mBuidhean Piobairí (Dublin City & County)*

**Open Confined March Piping**

1<sup>st</sup> T J Keogh, Fintan Lalor  
2<sup>nd</sup> S Carrick, St Maur's

**Open March Piping**

1<sup>st</sup> T J Keogh, Fintan Lalor  
2<sup>nd</sup> R Heron, Fintan Lalor

**Open March Piping Girls' Pipe Band**

1<sup>st</sup> Vera McCullagh, Emerald Girls

**Confined March Piping**

1<sup>st</sup> S Hand, Dalkey  
2<sup>nd</sup> J Greene, Fintan Lalor

**Open Reel & Jig Piping**

1<sup>st</sup> J McCormick, Fintan Lalor

**Open Reel & Jig Piping Girls' Pipe Band**

1<sup>st</sup> Clare Cronin, Nua Éi

**Confined Reel & Jig Piping**

1<sup>st</sup> D O'Brien, Dalkey

**Confined Strathspey & Reel Piping**

1<sup>st</sup> J Greene, Fintan Lalor  
 2<sup>nd</sup> T Andrews, St Maur's

**Open Slow Air Piping**

1<sup>st</sup> T J Keogh, Fintan Lalor  
 2<sup>nd</sup> T Andrews, St Maur's  
 3<sup>rd</sup> C Lanigan, St Maur's

**Confined Drumming**

1<sup>st</sup> W Byrne, Our Lady of the Rosary

**Open Quartette**

1<sup>st</sup> Fintan Lalor ( T J Keogh drummer)  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Fintan Lalor ( G J O'Brien drummer)

**Confined Quartette**

City of Dublin Connolly  
 St Maur's (C Carrick drummer)

**Open Strathspey & Reel Piping**

1<sup>st</sup> T J Keogh, Fintan Lalor  
 2<sup>nd</sup> J McCormick, Fintan Lalor

**Open Strathspey & Reel Piping Girls' Pipe Band**

1<sup>st</sup> Vera McCullagh, Emerald Girls

**Open Drumming**

1<sup>st</sup> W Byrne, Our Lady of the Rosary  
 2<sup>nd</sup> G J O'Brien, Fintan Lalor

**Drumming Girls**

1<sup>st</sup> Evelyn McDowell, City of Dublin Girls

**Girls' PB Quartette**

1<sup>st</sup> City of Dublin Girls

18<sup>th</sup> June 1944

Feile Ordna na hArd Chraoibhe

Iveagh Gardens

**Bands**

1<sup>st</sup> Fintan Lalors Pipe Band

18<sup>th</sup> February 1945

Quartet Competition

Mansion House, Dublin

*15 quartets took part and 18 in the drumming from 10 bands*

#### **Open Drumming**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Our Lady of the Rosary, Harold's Cross (**side drummers**)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> St Maur's & St Laurence O'Toole tied (**side drummers**)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Catholic Boy Scouts 61<sup>st</sup> Dublin (**tenor drummers**)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Fintan Lalors (**tenor drummers**)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Fintan Lalors (**bass drummer**)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> St Malachy's, Belfast (**bass drummer**)

#### **Girls' Drumming**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Nua Éire Girls (**side drummers**)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Nua Éire Girls (**tenor drummers**)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Emerald Pipers (**bass drummer**)

#### **Open Quartet**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Fintan Lalor (T Keogh's Quartette)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> St Maur's PB

#### **Girls' Quartet**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Nua Éire Girls PB

*P Wallace Chairman Cumann na mBuidhean Piobairí*

23<sup>rd</sup> February 1946

Cumann na Buidhean Píobairí Quartets

Mansion House

**Quartets**

1<sup>st</sup> Fintan Lalor (T Keogh)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Fintan Lalor (P Solan)

**Piping confined to Girls:**

1<sup>st</sup> City of Dublin Girls (Miss Gaffney)

**Drumming (Open)**

1<sup>st</sup> Fintan Lalor  
2<sup>nd</sup> Fintan Lalor

**Drumming confined to Girls:**

(Side, Tenor, Bass & Team)  
1<sup>st</sup> Emerald Girls

**Tenor Drumming**

1<sup>st</sup> St Malachy's  
2<sup>nd</sup> Fintan Lalor

**Team**

1<sup>st</sup> Fintan Lalor  
2<sup>nd</sup> St Malachy's

**Bass**

1<sup>st</sup> Fintan Lalor  
2<sup>nd</sup> St Malachy's

24<sup>th</sup> August 1946

1<sup>st</sup> All Ireland Pipe Band Championships

Iveagh Gardens, Dublin

Saturday

*Bands competed in three categories i.e. Junior, Intermediate and Senior.*

*In all twenty six (26) bands took part, ten (10) in the Junior Grade, ten (10) in the Intermediate Grade and Six (6) in the Senior Grade. The contest commenced at 2.30 pm. The adjudicators were, A McDermott – Piping and C Davis – Drumming, both from Glasgow and Alec Meikle from Dublin, who adjudicated the M&D.*

**Junior**

1st	29th Old Boys Association	<i>Pipe Major T Nelson</i>
2nd	Donnybrook Catholic Boy Scouts	<i>Pipe Major G Purcell</i>
3rd	St John's, Blackrock	<i>Pipe Major J Caulfield</i>

**Intermediate**

1st	Waringsford	<i>Pipe Major S McManus</i>
2nd	St Dominick's, Tallagh	<i>Pipe Major F Somers</i>
3rd	Ballycoan	<i>Pipe Major W H R Wood</i>

**Senior**

1st	Fintan Lalor	<i>Pipe Major P Solan</i>
2nd	Sydenham	<i>Pipe Major J Taylor</i>
3rd	East Belfast	<i>Pipe Major C Coulter</i>

17<sup>th</sup> November 1946

Oireachtas Solos

14 Parnell Square, Dublin

**Solo Piping**

1<sup>st</sup> P Solan, Fintan Lalors, Dublin

2<sup>nd</sup> R Kavanagh, St. Joseph's Pipe Bands

3<sup>rd</sup> T Keogh, Fintan Lalors

*There were no country entrants. The adjudicators were Liam Q Duinn and G. Purcell.*

19<sup>th</sup> January 1947

Cumann Solo & Quartet Competition

Mansion House

17 Quartets & 18 Soloists results not available

07<sup>th</sup> July 1947

All Ireland Piping Championships

UCC Grounds, Cork

Bands

1<sup>st</sup> Carrigaline

2<sup>nd</sup> St Finbarrs

**Quartets**

1<sup>st</sup> St Finbarrs *Group 1*

2<sup>nd</sup> Carrigaline *Group 1*

**Solos**

1<sup>st</sup> Liam O'hAughsa, Carrigaline

2<sup>nd</sup> S O'Loinshigh, 17 Redemption Walk, Cork

28<sup>th</sup> September 1947

Oireachtas Pipe Band Competition

Iveagh Gardens, Dublin

**Junior**

1<sup>st</sup> Columcille, The Birches, Portadown

2<sup>nd</sup> Donnybrook CBSI

3<sup>rd</sup> Rathvilly, Co Carlow

**Intermediate**

1<sup>st</sup> Prince of Wales, Belfast

2<sup>nd</sup> City of Dublin James Connolly

3<sup>rd</sup> St Dominick's, Tallagh

**Senior**

1<sup>st</sup> N/A

2<sup>nd</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup>

9<sup>th</sup> May 1948

Feis Cualann

Dunlaoghre

**Solo Junior**

1<sup>st</sup> G Byrne, Glasthule Pipe Band

**Solo Intermediate**

3<sup>rd</sup> J McCormack, Fintan Lalors

**Bands**

**Junior**

1<sup>st</sup> Blackrock Pipe Band

**Intermediate**

1<sup>st</sup> City of Dublin, James Connolly

14<sup>th</sup> August 1948

3<sup>rd</sup> All Ireland Pipe Band Championships

Iveagh Gardens,  
Harcourt Street, Dublin

**Results**

**Junior** 16 entries

1<sup>st</sup> St Joseph's, Drumnass, Co Down

2<sup>nd</sup> Dick McKee Memorial PB, Finglas, Co Dublin

3<sup>rd</sup> St John's, Blackrock, Co Dublin

dr Dick McKee Memorial *tied with* North Belfast

**Intermediate** 10 entries

1<sup>st</sup> Donnybrook CBSI, Dublin

2<sup>nd</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> Old Boys Association, Belfast *tied with*

2<sup>nd</sup> Waringsford, Co Down

dr Donnybrook CBSI, Dublin

**Senior** 5 entries

1st Fintan Lalor

2nd Dromara, Co Down

3rd St Laurence O'Toole

dr Fintan Lalor

*18 bands from NI and 15 bands from South*

10<sup>th</sup> October 1948

Oireachtas Solo & Pipe Band Contest

Iveagh Gardens, Dublin

**Solos**

- 1<sup>st</sup> E Mc Donald, Fintan Lalors
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Thomas Moore, City of Dublin James Connolly
- 3<sup>rd</sup> J McCormack, Fintan Lalors

**Bands**

**Junior**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Dick McKee Memorial (PM J O'Connor)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Emerald Girls (PM P Fowler)

**Open**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Fintan Lalors (PM P Solan)

*10 bands entered, 6 in Junior and 4 in the Open Grade*

*Adjudicators: Piping PM M McGee, Belfast Drumming: DM W Graham, Belfast*



Pipe-Major J. O'Connell (right), of the Dick McKee Pipe Band, Finglas, Co. Dublin, placed second, congratulating Pipe-Major J. Dullaghan, of the St. Brigid's Pipe Band, Dundalk, winners of the junior event at the annual Pipe-Band Contest at Dundalk yesterday.

23<sup>rd</sup> January 1949

Annual Mini Band & Solo Contest

Mansion House, Dublin

*18 bands and 35 soloists competed*

**Grade Junior Piping**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Jermiah Hurley, Cork City
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Patrick Hayes, Dick McKee Memorial, Finglas
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Tony Brady, Dalkey

**Grade Open Piping**

- 1<sup>st</sup> T J Keogh, Fintan Lalor
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Ewan McDonald, Fintan Lalor
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Patrick Leech, Fintan Lalors

**Ladies Solo Piping**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Doris James, Emerald Girls
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tony Brady, Dalkey
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Thelma McGinley, City of Dublin Girls

**Grade Junior Mini Bands**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Dick McKee Memorial (*Michael Hughes*)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Dick McKee Memorial A (*John O'Connor*)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> St Patrick's, Dundalk (*William Marks*)

**Grade Open Mini Bands**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Fintan Lalor (*PM P Solan*)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Fintan Lalor (*G O'Brien*)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Donnybrook 3<sup>rd</sup> CBSI (*PM George Purcell*)

**Ladies Mini Bands**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Emerald Girls (*PS Joan Lynch*)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> City of Dublin (B) (*Mairín Collins*)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> City of Dublin (A) (*Miss MacKernan*)

19<sup>th</sup> June 1949

Dundalk Pipe Band Contest

Dundalk

**Junior**

- 1<sup>st</sup> St Brigid's PB, Dundalk
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Dick McKee PB, Finglas
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> St John's PB, Blackrock
- dr

**Open**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Fintan Lalor
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Donnybrook CBSI
- 3<sup>rd</sup> St Patrick's PB, Erinagh, Downpatrick

## Paddy Donovan

*Article by Allan Chatto which charts the life and times of a man whose influence on the drum corps is still felt today.....*



Paddy Donovan in 1949 one of the last pictures to be taken of him in uniform

At the Cowal Games, Dunoon, Scotland, August 1939, the massed bands stood waiting for the announcement of the results of the Open contest, the then World Pipe Band Championship.

Then: *'1st City of Glasgow Police, 2nd Glasgow Corporation Transport, 3rd Edinburgh City Police – and the winners of the World Open Drumming Championships, the **Fintan Lalor Pipe Band** from Dublin.'*

A great cheer went up, and for the Fintan Lalor's Leading Drummer, Paddy Donovan, it was probably the greatest thrill in a lifetime of dedication to drumming and percussion.

But let's go back to the beginning and see how Paddy got started. Despite his character, simple and unassuming as it was, he developed an expertise in the art of drumming that in time took the marriage of pipes and drums to a new dimension of concordance.

Previously the drum had tended to be a glorified metronome for beating time, and perhaps in some minor way, assisting rhythm and expression.

Paddy, during his involvement with the pipe band movement from 1932 till 1950, created a new era in drumming with the arrangement of scores to suit each particular tune.

Using rhythm to its fullest, with subtle dynamics together with syncopation and a complexity of beatings, he gave a new ensemble effect to pipe band performance.

His warmth of character, ready friendship, and readiness to assist all, from the beginner to the most accomplished leading drummer, was always appreciated in his native Ireland and in Scotland and by the many drummers he corresponded with all over the world.

Paddy Donovan was born in the fair city of Dublin in 1892. Of adventurous disposition, in 1907 he enlisted in the famous Connaught Rangers Regiment (88th), and commenced his military career as a drummer boy with the 2nd Battalion, drumming having captured his fancy since childhood.

After three years service he was discharged, but in 1915 during WW1, re-enlisted in the Royal Field Artillery, serving till the cessation of hostilities in 1918.

At this stage Paddy was probably not very interested in pipe bands as drummers tended to play fairly rudimentary and nondescript beatings offering little scope to one with initiative and imagination such as Paddy.

But he began to study music theory and for many years used his talents with various dance bands in the Dublin area together with playing in a number of flute and drum bands, notably the successful O'Connell Flute and Drum Band. Later Paddy was to have an association with the Dublin Symphony Orchestra as a percussionist.

During the mid 1920s developments were starting in pipe band drumming in Scotland, firstly with the publication in 1922 of 'A Collection of Highland Bagpipe Music and Drum Settings' by Pipe Major William Gray and Drum Major John Seton of the City of Glasgow Police, and then with the progressive innovators such as Drum Major AD Hamilton and Jimmy Catherwood.

By 1930 technique and playing and the composition of scores had improved greatly and so, rather late in life, Paddy Donovan was suddenly attracted to the pipe band movement and thereafter decided to concentrate all his efforts in that direction.

Probably the most important event in his career to that point was when he was approached by Fintan Lalor to become their leading drummer and instructor.

The band was very successful but alas, in 1916, it was disbanded. Efforts were made to revive it and a year later this was achieved. Further progress came in 1920 when Pipe Major Alex Meikle began teaching them. Alex had been a prisoner of war in Germany and on demob married a Scots girl living in Dublin.

The 'Fints' were successful throughout the 1920s and in 1932 and '34 swept all before them. Plans were made to visit Scotland with P/M Meikie drilling the pipers and Paddy Donovan the drummers. He used the opportunity to exploit many of his new and exciting ideas about pipe band drumming. In 1934 at Cowal the Fints created something of a sensation coming second in the drumming, just half a point behind the winners. Successive appearances there added to their prestige. They were the first band from Eire to win prizes in Scotland. The climax came with winning that World Drumming title in 1939.

These visits to Scotland brought Paddy into contact with all the leading drummers of the day and after each contest there would be a session where scores would be exchanged and new ideas discussed. A keen letter writer, Paddy also corresponded with drummers such Allan Bradford in Canada.

When the then SPBA started their individual solo championship from 1935 onwards many of the contestants played Paddy's drum score arrangements; they seemed to have that 'something extra'. As I said, winning the Worlds drumming in 1939 was the highlight of Paddy's career but that same year war intervened. Throughout those difficult times Paddy continued to correspond with all the leading drumming lights of the day.

Paddy remained with the Fintan Lalor for 15 years continuing with the innovative approach that had caused such a stir in Scotland. In 1946 he was on the committee that helped establish the new All-Ireland Pipe Band Championships.

For some reason Paddy left the Fints in 1947 to join the St Laurence O'Toole band playing with them until 1949 when, shortly after appearing with them in Belfast at the All Irelands, he fell ill. Paddy Donovan passed away a few months later on January 9, 1950. He was only 58.

He was mourned by all who knew his genial personality or who had been touched by his infectious enthusiasm for perfection in drumming. The Irish Pipe Band Association inaugurated a perpetual trophy in his memory, the 'Paddy Donovan Trophy', to be awarded each year to the champion drummer at the All-Irelands.

Though Paddy wrote a great number of drum scores in his lifetime most have not survived. D/M John Seton in his tutor '50 Years Behind the Drum' (1954) did include four of his scores including one for the 2/4 march the Highland Wedding, the same score the Fints played when they won the World title in 1939.

I will conclude with the words of that other great pipe band drummer and innovator, Alex Duthart: 'Of all the drummers I have known perhaps Paddy Donovan was the greatest'

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## Tadhg Crowley

Promoter of Piping, Pipe Maker, Music Collector & Publisher



The Crowley brothers came from Saint James Square, Blackpool. Tadhg was born in 1899 and his brother Denis in 1908. Tadhg began to learn the bag pipes at the age of sixteen. He was associated with two pipe bands, The Lee Pipe Band and The Brian Boru Pipe Band. At this time most bands were playing marches and Scottish pipe music. It was Tadhg's love of his own native music that led him to transcribe all of the 1001 tunes from the famous O'Neill's book, into bag pipe settings. Original manuscripts of this huge task thankfully still survive.

Tadhg began repairing bagpipes and drums around 1920. He opened a business with his brother making Highland, Irish, and Uilleann pipes.

Tadhg Crowley actually studied piping with MacDougall Giles in Glasgow circa 1925.

MacDougall Giles, in addition to being a renowned piper was also a pipe maker and worked as a manager at Hendersons in the early quarter of the 20th century. So, it is likely that the Crowley, and hence the Kennedy bores, are indeed along the line of the old Hendersons. Alfie Kennedy got his pipe making equipment from Tadhg Crowley, plus a lot of stock etc.

'Crowley's Collection of Music for the Highland or Irish Bagpipes' Book One was published in 1940.

I am not aware of a second book being published.

Tadhg promoted piping through Cumann Píobairí na hÉireann (Cork Pipers' Club) and lamented the lack of support that the instrument and music was receiving in the late 1930s and early 40s.



**Cumann Píobairí na hÉireann**



**Tadhg Crowley with a set of his bagpipes**

Letter from Cumann Píobairí na hÉireann (Tadhg Crowley) seeking support for the revival of piping.

19th September 1939

Hon. President: Lord Longford

Hon V/President: Prof. Eamonn O'Donnchada UCC

Patron: Cardinal McRory Primate of All Ireland

A Chara

Having in mind the deplorable condition of piping in Ireland at the moment, I appeal to you to join our ranks and help to articulate in Ireland's most ancient culture.

The following are the objectives of this society.

1. Practice of the Píob Mór.
2. Practice of the Píob Uilleann.
3. To enlighten pipers and the public in general on the history and music of the Píob Mór and Píob Uilleann.
4. To practice the Irish Píobbrachs. To collect and publish, if possible, all forms of Irish pipe music from the earliest times to the present day.
5. To give lectures on the history of the instruments and their music.

Tadhg Crowley

Sadly Tadhg Crowley passed away at the age of 52.



**Funeral cortege of Tadhg Crowley 1952.**

## Bands

1940

Bearney PB, Co Donegal  
Clan O'Byrne  
Fianna Éireann, Cork  
Our Lady of the Rosary, Harold's Cross  
St Dominic's, Clondalkin  
St Dymphna's

1941

Breheny Memorial PB, Sligo  
Collooney PB, Sligo  
Cullen Pipe Band  
Emerald Girls, Dublin  
Kilcar PB, Co Donegal  
Kilcock Pipe Band  
Killybegs P B, Co Donegal

1942

5<sup>th</sup> Inf Bn Pipe Band  
9<sup>th</sup> Inf Bn Pipe Band  
Balla LDF Pipe Band  
Castlebar LDF Pipe Band  
Dick McKee Memorial Pipe Band, Finglas  
Heath Pipe Band  
St Baithin's Pb, Co Donegal

1943

6<sup>th</sup> Thomond Regt Pipe Band  
10<sup>th</sup> Inf Bn Pipe Band  
12<sup>th</sup> Bn Desmond Regt Pipe Band  
Athenry Pipe Band  
Athlone LDF Pipe Band  
Ballingeary Pipe Band, Co Cork

1944

Ballyfin PB, Co Laois (PM Thomas Wrafter)  
Clonaheen PB, Co Laois  
Killalaghton P B (PM Jos O'Halloran NT)  
Laune Pipers', Killorglin, Co Kerry

1945

3<sup>rd</sup> Bn, Pipe Band  
17<sup>th</sup> Bn., Donegal  
Alexandra Schools Pipe Band  
Arklow Pipe Band  
Carrigaline PB, Co Cork  
City of Cork National PB  
Clonaheen P B, Co Offaly  
Killenard PB (*reformed after 25 years*)  
Lucan Pipe Band  
St Brendans Boys PB, Loughrea  
St Laurence O'Toole Castledermot PB  
St Manman's PB, Clonaslee  
St Mary's Castleblaney PB  
St Patrick's PB, Dundalk  
Yellow Walls, Malahide (*reforming*)

1946

Drummuck Pipe Band  
Ederney PB, Co Donegal  
Lackan Pipe Band  
O'Dempsey Pipe Band, Killenard

1947

2<sup>nd</sup> Inf Bn Pipe Band  
Caherlistrane P B, Co Galway  
Clara Pipe Band, Co Offaly  
Derrydruil & Falcorrib PB, Co Donegal  
Padraig Pearse PB, Mountmellick  
Rathcoole & Dist. Pipe Band  
Thos Ashe PB, Scartaglin, Co Kerry  
St Brigid's PB, Dundalk  
St Kilian's PB, Co Meath  
St Mary's Boys PB, Westmeath  
St John's, Blackrock  
St Joseph's PB, Glashule

1948

Ballyshannon Pipe Band  
Baltinglas Pipe Band  
Caherlistrane Pipe Band  
Caslkitin Sam O'Flaherty PB, Co Donegal  
Collooney Pipe Band, Sligo  
Killoran Pipe Band, Sligo  
Liam Lynch Mem. PB, Mitchelstown, Co Cork  
Powerstown Pipe Band  
St Michael's P B, Lisnagrieve  
Timoleague Pipe Band, Co Cork

1949

- Bandon FCA Pipe Band
- Ballybunion Catholic Boy Scouts PB
- Clonmel Boys' Club Pipe Band
- Grange Pipe Band, Co Tipperary
- Keel & Dooagh PB, Achill
- Kiltubrid Pipe Band, Co Leitrim
- Killoran Parish Pipe Band
- Knockcroghery PTAA Pipe Band, Westmeath
- Narraghmore Pipe Band
- Roskelton Pipe Band
- Silverbridge Pipe Band, Co Louth
- St Bernadette's Girls PB, Dun Laoghaire
- St Killian's PB, Co Meath
- St Mary's Pioneer PB, Co Westmeath

Bands known to exist 'on or before' dates above

