

Stephen Creighton

delivers

Workshop II





Spring 2024



Congratulations to **Killeshin Pipe Band** on celebrating their 60th Anniversary



Left: Limerick band recovers from near extinction

Members of the City of Limerick Pipe Band tune up ready for St Patrick's Day. The band practices on Tuesday and Thursday nights in Our Lady Queen of Peace School at Janesboro. 75 years—not out

Below: Youghal Pipe Band, now 110 years young, the photo below was probably taken in the late 1930s or early 40s





Above: Piobaireachd success for Con Houlihan at the CLASP contest on January 13th January

Note: We are indebted to all the people who photograph bands & events and post those photographs in the public domain.



It is with great sadness that we learned of the recent death of June Nolan.

June had been a stalwart member of the IPBA for many years serving as IPBA College Secretary, IPBA Registrar and most recently as Treasurer of the organisation. She also served as a Drumming AJudge on the IPBA Panel of Adjudicators. Our deepest sympathies to all her family and friends.

Workshops

Workshop II:

Thanks to David Doyle who organized and collated a questionnaire on the second Workshop, held in Tralee Bandhall on Sunday 11th February.

There were 21 respondents in total, 10 pipers, 8 snare drummers and 3 tenor drummers.

The outcome of the questionnaire was circulated to the members in advance of the meeting.

There was a high level of satisfaction with the content, delivery and logistics. It is hoped to continue with this format of education, going forward.

Workshop for Pipe Bands Aughnamullen & Carlingford:

Conducted by Terry Tully on 17th & 18th February, the initial workshop was in Aughnamullen, Co Monaghan on Saturday 17th February with a second session in Carlingford Bandhall, Carlingford, Co Louth on Sunday 18th February.

Both sessions were very well received with high praise being accorded to Terry.



Members of Thomas Davis Pipe Band, Mallow organising events to celebrate their Centenary.



Left: Noah Dowling, who together with Cian O'Seachnaigh are the main 'movers' in a recruitment campaign for Newcastle West & District Pipe Band

Right: Thank You to Fingal County Council who has sponsored many of our events this year

Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council





Workshop II Tralee Bandhall 11th February Stephen Creighton





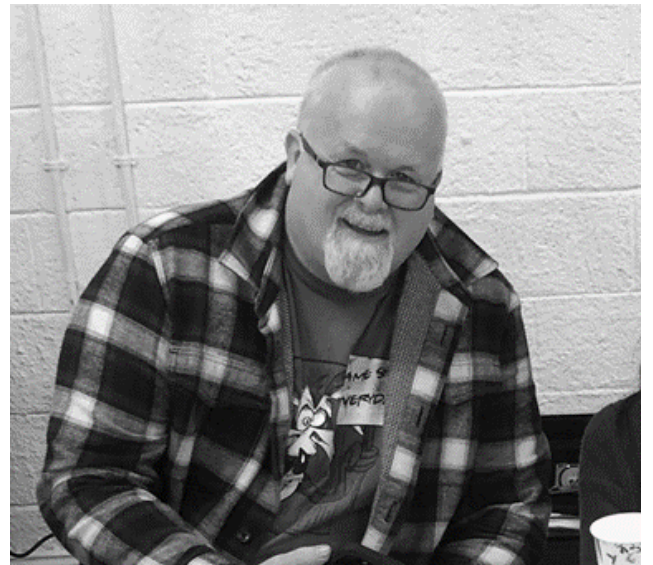
Workshop II Tralee Bandhall 11th February Hanna Creighton













PM Terry Tully Workshops

Aughnamullen 17th February





PM Terry Tully Workshops Carlingford Bandhall 18th February

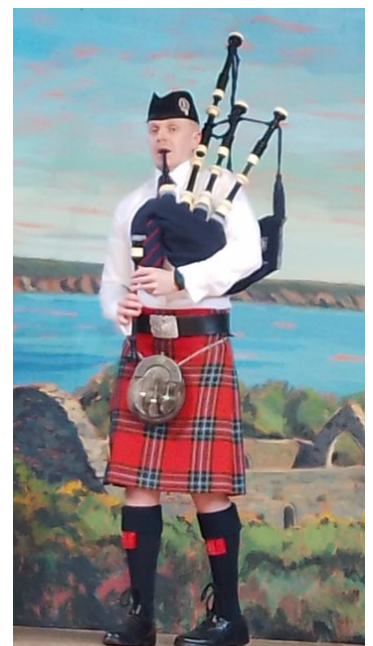




Ben Cardy — Winner of the Pipe Major Tommy Tully 12 & Under Practice Chanter Competition



Left:
Overall Winner
Conor Sinclair





The Pipers and organisers for the Piping Competition on stage in Ardmore.

Great piping in Ardmore!

ARDMORE ploughed another new furrow, when the home of St. Declan provided the very welcoming venue for the first ever Invitational Solo Piping Competition, where ten pipers, many of them from abroad, contested for the Ardmore Cup.

For several hours, a well populated St. Declan's Hall resounded to the skirl of the pipes as some of the most talented pipers from the island of Ireland and Scotland took part in this unusual and innovative competition.

There was a tempting €1,000 and Trophy which went to the winner, Connor Sinclair: who also received an invitation and paid airfare/flights to the SunBelt Invitational Piping Competition to be held in Florida on 11th November next.

Eric Stein, organiser and MC of the competition, thanked those present for the great welcome they had received and the co-operation of the local people they had met. Eric spoke about other competitions which Maureen and he had organised in the past.

"I promised that when I

retired I would not organise any more competitions, but after retirement I was bored and I also felt that Covid was having an additional impact on the already declining new population of pipers. You see that everywhere including America. It's difficult to get young people involved and that is the reason why, in SunBelt, we did not charge for kids and were not charging here for kids. Seeing it live is so much better than just livestreaming for children who might want to get involved.

"On November 12th, 2022, we held the first 'SunBelt' invitational Piping Competition, aka 'An Críos Gréinne' in Orlando Florida," said Eric.

"We were absolutely delighted with the success of our inaugural piping event," he said. "At the after-contest celebration, in An Tobar Pub, I found some members of the SunBelt Team in a deep conversation with my brother, Andy Stein and his guest, Stephen Power.

"Stephen wanted to know if we could re-create such an event in Ireland. Before I could respond, my children, Eric Jnr. and Delia replied with a resounding 'YES, WE CAN!'"

Stephen wanted the event to take place on February 25th in the Village in which his father grew up, before emigrating to America. He generously provided the financial backing to make the Ardmore event possible and with the largest prize purse in the history of piping in Ireland.

Speaking of his trip to Ireland, Eric said that after resting up from the SunBelt, shortly after Thanksgiving, he booked a flight to Ireland to put the pieces in place.

"My great friend Terry Tully picked me up at Dublin Airport and we headed straight to Ardmore in the lush rain. We were welcomed by everyone we met in Ardmore.

"We were most fortunate to meet Fr. Milo Guiry and Terri McGrath, the Village Hall Manager, and Maria Stibwell who made us very welcome. We booked the Village Hall and checked out the pubs, restaurants, hotels etc. to make sure we could hold this event with a fairly short timeline.

"We have put together a great day of piping," he said, "with ten excellent pipers and a great panel of Judges who are: Ian Duncan,

Ronan Maguire and Richard Parkes, MBE.

Eric sent special thanks to their major piping sponsor, R. G. Hardie and Company, who donated a custom set of Henderson Heritage Pipes with the Ardmore Cup logo engraved in the Bass Drone Stock.

He also thanked the Irish Pipe Band Association for their help in putting this event together, especially Brian McMahon, Johnny Sheehan and Noel O'Mahony, as well as Tony Wallace and Sean Egan for organising the fantastic Crystal trophies.

"Lastly, I would like to thank my wife, Maureen," he said, "for supporting this endeavour after I promised that there would be no more Piping Competitions after we moved to Florida. (Buy her a pint, it could save my marriage.) Let's hope that this is the first of many Ardmore Cups."

Eric's wife Maureen, said that a good friend of theirs, Stephen Power came to their competition in Florida.

"He loved what he saw and heard," said Maureen, "and asked us to put on the competition in Ardmore. We arrived here a few days ago with all our children and grand-children, all of whom helped with the organisation and running of the competition. The pipers taking part are from Scotland and Ireland and make a very talented panel of competitors."

The family have strong Irish connections. Maureen also has family in Ennis in Clare and Eric's mother was from Tipperary. Maureen and Eric both played the pipes from their teenage years and that is how they met.

"We are married fifty-one years," she said.

Eric said that they were originally New Yorkers living on Long Island, but retired to Winter Garden, Florida.

"My mother was from Templemore in Tipperary," he



Competition organiser Eric Stein on stage during the inaugural Ardmore Cup Invitational Solo Piping Competition held in St. Declan's Hall last Saturday.



The Judging Panel for the Piping Competition.

said, "so we have strong ties with Ireland. I played for a couple of years with the Callen Pipe Band in Cork. I'm still friends with many of the bands in Ireland including St. Laurence O'Toole's; St. Joseph's, Clondalkin and the Gorey Pipe Band. My first band was Saffron Kilts Pipe Band in Babylon, New York.

About twenty bands are represented here with pipers from Scotland, Ireland and Northern Ireland. We have ten really great players for this individual piping competition."

This was a unique and very successful event in Ardmore which paid tribute to musicians whose talents are very often taken for granted.

The pipers taking part were: Willie McCallum, (Kintyre), Fred Morrison, (Scotland); Angus MacColl, (Oban, Scotland); Kris Coyle, (Ballyclare, Co. Antrim); Ashley McMichael, (Antrim); James Stone, (Munster) who replaces Glenn Brown, (Ontario, Canada) who was ill and could not come. Julian Dorman (Tallaght Co. Dublin), Connor Sinclair (Creeff, Perthshire); Chris Earls and Allen Tully, both from St. Laurence O'Toole Pipe Band, Dublin.

The Overall Winner was Connor Sinclair. MSR Preference: 1st. Connor Sinclair; 2nd: Willie McCallum; 3rd: Fred Morrison; 4th: Allen Tully and 5th: Ashley McMichael.

Medley Winners were: 1st Fred Morrison; 2nd Angus MacColl; 3rd Connor Sinclair; 4th Chris Earls and 5th Allen Tully. Best Dressed was Connor Sinclair.



Some of the large audience in St. Declan's Hall last Saturday for the inaugural Ardmore Cup Invitational Solo Piping Competition sponsored by Stephen Power and organised by Eric Stein and his family.





Ardmore Cup 23rd / 24th February - Ardmore Co Waterford

Headline: Connor Sinclair retained the Ardmore Cup.

This year's competition featured ten top pipers: Alister Donaghy, Chris Earls, James Frazer, Bruce Gandy, Angus MacColl, Willie McCallum, Connor Sinclair, James Stone, Alen Tully and Scott Wallace.

Judges for the event were David Caldwell, Tim Farrelly and John Wilson. The contest was organised by Eric M. Stein.

This event consists of two play-offs, a March, Strathspey & Reel element of which three tunes of each mhad to bebe submitted.

The second section consisted of a Medley Selection.

results

March, Strathspey & Reel		Medley Selection	
1	Connor Sinclair	1	Alen Tully
2	Bruce Gandy	2	Connor Sinclair
3	Angus MacColl	3	Bruce Gandy
4	James Frazer	4	Angus MacColl
5	Alen Tully	5	James Stone



Above & Below: Peace Proms 2024



LeAbove: North Texas Caledonian Pipe Band who will be competing in both the East of Ireland and the All Ireland Pipe Band Championships 2024

The North Texas Caledonian Pipes and Drums has established a strong legacy of musical excellence since 1977.

The NTCPD promotes Scottish culture throughout the North Texas area, and is a consistent award winner of competitions throughout the USA.

Under the leadership of Pipe Major Don Shannon, the band has had the opportunity to play with a variety of accomplished musicians, including The Chieftains, Carlos Nuñez, Rod Stewart and Michael W. Smith. T

The NTCPD is a regular performer at festivals and Highland Games across the country, as well as local church services, golf tournaments, concerts, and more.

This pipe band is an all volunteer organization, where members from across North America and as far afield as Northern Ireland donate their time, energy and resources to make the NTCPD a world class performance and competition band.



John Dunne

John Dunne retires as SLOT Bass Drummer

"For me I think this is the day I dreaded the most since I joined the band some 25 years ago, when you have a man on the bass drum that is world renowned and as dedicated and as passionate about every note, stroke and step that the band takes from Monday through to the Sunday every week and has also won every major to be won several times over, it's also nice when he becomes part of every conversation in your household, rings or texts nearly everyday and becomes family, not just the bass drummer in your band.

John we will miss you and remember every performance you gave, 200% as always, a calm presence on every trip, a mentor to every tenor drummer and snare that passed through ranks past and present. A maestro of the bass drum, a true friend for life, enjoy your retirement you and Veronica deserve it, we will miss you both. But we must carry on somehow."

"It's with the greatest of pleasure, coupled with a touch of sadness, that I find myself writing a few lines about the man who has been the heartbeat of the SLOT pipe band for many years. It's also a reminder to us all that nothing stays the same and eventually, all good things come to an end.

John Dunne's first season with the SLOT band was in 1986, but I've known him from his earlier days with the Fintan Lalor and the Narraghmore pipe bands. It was obvious to many, even in his early days, that he always had a great flare when playing the bass drum and has spent years perfecting the best-sounding bass drum you'll ever hear. His unique posture, subtle style, and feel for the music contributed to the beautiful quality sound he produced from his drum.

Through thick and thin, in good times, bad times, and hard times, John was always a loyal and dedicated member of the SLOT band. I will personally miss you John, as will everyone in the current band for many years to come.

Behind every great Bass Drummer sometimes stands a supportive wife. John's wife Veronica has been a major support to him and the band for as many years as John has himself. I want to acknowledge that and thank you Veronica for all those years of support.

Thank you John for nearly 40 years of service to the SLOT pipe band, and your support to me in my years as Pipe Major.

I wish you and Veronica the very best in health and happiness into the future"

- Terry Jully
Former Pipe Major



Thank You John,
FROM all at SLOT

"I met John in 2013 in Tallagh. I was bricking myself at the time. I knew John's reputation spoke for itself, and still does! I knew he was the man in the room I needed to impress. Initially, what struck me was his attention to detail and his high standards he demanded of everyone around the table. This mentality never altered. He didn't care about previous successes, he was 2 steps ahead thinking about the next move, a mentality that made him special.

John's subtle touch on the drum and his trademark sound was nothing short of exceptional, something that has inspired so many! His track record and consistency couldn't be faulted! Playing along side John has been such a privilege and something I couldn't be more grateful of.

John was and always will be a huge role model to me personally. In our earlier years when JD was still working, he opened my eyes to what hard work and graft was. Early hours and late nights were the normal for John, how he managed to fit a pipe band in along with his family speaks volumes of his commitment and dedication, not to mention the Dublin GAA games.

John was so much more than just a bass drummer. What people don't know is the effect he has had on our personal lives. John was there for us when we needed our heads lifted! He was also there to pull us back down to earth when we got too big for our boots. John was a father figure, a mentor and friend to so many. I speak for





From Left: Stephen Creighton, Paul Barrett, Simon Hodgett & Alen Tully

My name is Paul Barrett and I have the privilege of now calling myself The Bass Drummer for St. Laurence O'Toole Pipe Band.

Believe me when I say, this is a privilege and burden I will gladly carry with pride and passion.

Many years ago I started my Pipe Band journey with the Malahide Pipe Band and then onto Lord Edwards Own Narraghmore Pipe Band where we competed in Grade 2. I took a few years out of playing to focus on my career as a Chef and returned to play in the Grade 3 St. Laurence O Toole Pipe Band where we won majors in drumming and as a band.

In recent years I took a break to focus on becoming a proud Dad. A few months back, the phone rang one day and Stephen Creighton asked if I would be interested in the job. For many pipers and drummers growing up in Ireland, SLOT was always the dream so, when the call came from Stephen, I just couldn't turn it down.


Now I know I have big shoes to fill replacing someone like John Dunne who has become world-renowned. Not an easy thing to do. John carried the Bass Drum for many years with ease and grace, and he was always someone I looked up to as a fellow Bass Drummer. I will give my all to continue the legacy he leaves and seek to make the position my own and bring my own touch to the corps.

A lifelong goal for me was to one day cross the line in the unit that is SLOT with my brother Robert Barrett. In just a short few weeks I look forward to that goal becoming a reality.

Thanks to Stephen, Alen and all the SLOT team for their trust and to my family and friends for their support in what's sure to be an exciting new chapter.

Here's to a successful 2024 season and for many years to come.

- Paul Barrett
Bass Drummer




American Pipe bands in Limerick for St Patrick's Weekend

Above: The Friends of the Shillelagh Pipe Band

Below: Claddagh Mór Pipe Band from Portland, Maine

Both bands participated in the Limerick International Band Contest on Monday 18th March



Members of the Pipe Band Club, Limerick who come together to play once a year for St Patrick's Day





A Blast from the Past

Durrow 30 years ago





A Blast from the Past

continued





A Blast from the Past

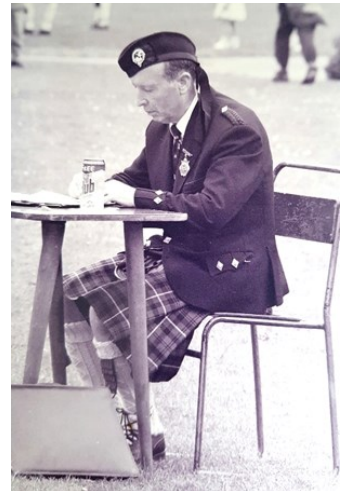
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A Blast from the Past

And finally from 1994





Above: The **Leinster Solo Piping & Drumming Championships** were held in Rush National School on Saturday 23rd March 2024.

This contest forms the first leg of the IPBA Solo League. Congrats to all who participated and a special shout to all those who were in the prizes.

The Adjudicators for the day were Ronan Maguire (Piping & Piobaireachd), Stephen Creighton (Drumming) & Piping Assessors Julian Dorman and Paul Russel. This was the first event for the newly reconstituted Leinster Branch IPBA. Many thanks for a well run event.

SAVE THE DATE!

New Ross & District Pipe Band - 50th. Anniversary Dinner Dance



Brandon House Hotel, New Ross

Saturday 26th. October 2024



On the 50th Anniversary of the band, New Ross & District lead the St Patrick's Day Parade in their home town.

Above: 'Save the Date' For further details contact Brian MacMahon on ipba@icloud.com or 086/8326316

for detailed information on all IPBA events go to www.ipba.ie



Our History



Cork Pipers' Club members Bernie O'Donovan, Michael & Mary McCarthy

120 Years Ago

In Navan, in July 1904, John Drennan of the Dublin Pipers' Club played a selection on the warpipes at an open air concert.

A 'Pipers' Concert', sponsored by Cumann na Piobairí (Dublin Pipers' Club), was held in the Rotunda on the 17th December, where it is noted that bagpipes were played.

We have Master Bernard O'Donovan, Skibereen, recorded as demonstrating the warpipes by playing a selection at the Dingle Feis on 25th July 1904. Bernie was equally proficient on the Warpipes and Uilleann pipes. He later moved to Chicago USA

110 Years Ago

the Oireachtas

The **Oireachtas** was an arts festival promoting Irish Language and Culture, which ran for a week every year, featuring performances, demonstrations and competitions (literary, music, games, dancing, instrumental etc). The festival was organised by Conradh na Gaeilge and was initiated in 1897.

An 'Coiste Sugradh Gael', the Games and Carnival Committee of Dublin Gaelic League, which appears to have been 'aligned' with the Oireachtas Committee, was the body which initially had responsibility for pipe bands, their first promotion being a 'pipe band camp' at the 1910 Oireachtas.

Edward Martyn, the philanthropic President of the Dublin Pipers' Club presented a solid silver cup for the winners of the pipe band contest.



Lusk Pipers parade through

26th August 1914

Oireachtas

Killarney, Co Kerry

Bands

- 1st Dublin Pipers Club
- 2nd Athlone Pipers Club
- 3rd Lusk Pipers Club

9 bands participated

Solo War Pipes

Solos

- 1st Lughaidh Mac an Uasail, 35 Mayfield Avenue, East Ealing, London, (*Louis Noble*)
- 2nd James Wynne, Sycamore Street, Dublin
- 31 soloists competed*

There was an objection to the winner of the solo piping as his pipes had been produced in Scotland

Best Arrangement of 6 tunes on the warpipes: 1st Laurence Gardiner, Rathdowney, Queen's Co, 2nd Ristead Mac Ardhuill, Pipers' Club, Lusk



Lusk Pipers' Club and others Killarney 1914 including William Gibson (LordAshbourne)



New Rules for Pipe Bands at An tOireachtas for 1914 included

Minimum of six pipers also a contest was instigated for the best medley of six tunes on the Warpipes and the best composition of a reel - manuscripts had to be submitted in advance.



Members of the **London Pipers' Club** at the Oireachtas Contest, Killarney August 1914



Lusk Piper's Club (Black Raven) 26th August 1914 parade through Killarney. The Limerick contingent in this parade was led by a lady solo piper, possibly Miss Maggie McDonnell



Art McMurrough Warpipers Enniscorthy

Apart from the initial annual **Oireachtas**, counties Wexford and Waterford appear to be the area in which solo and pipe band contests of the early 20th Century found most purchase and both Feis Carman and Feis Portlairge were generally well attended and contested by solo pipers and pipe bands.

It was at **Feis Carman**, held in New Ross, Co Wexford on 25th June 1914 that we have the first recorded placing of **St Laurence O'Toole Pipe Band** in a contest, when they achieved second place to Art McMurrough Warpipers, Enniscorthy.

1914 Pipe Bands become 'Politicised'

In an August '14 article, printed in several newspapers, which was possibly penned by J Curry Brownstown Kildare, a member of the executive committee of **Piobairí na hÉireann**, he makes the case for the newly established Irish Volunteer Movement to establish pipe bands, rather than brass or fife and drum bands, as part of their establishment, indicating that instruments, both pipes and drums can be had from **McKenzies, Bolton Street** and **McCullogh's Belfast**. Expert advice can be had from the **Irish Pipers', 5 Windsor Villas, Ballybough, Dublin**.

The Secretary of the **Irish Warpipers' League, Piobairí na hÉireann** was Prionsais Mac Ionraich of the above address.

1914 saw the spread of the Volunteer movement throughout the country and the consequent founding of large numbers of pipe bands directly associated with this movement

The Tailteann Games or Aonach Tailteann

The Tailteann Games or Aonach Tailteann was an Irish Sporting and Cultural Festival held in the Dublin in 1924, 1928, and 1932.

While primarily seen as a sporting tournament, sporting events only made up a portion of the 'Games'. Competitive events were organised in Irish Dancing, Poetry, Prose, Drama, Oratory and Story Telling (All in Irish and English). Music competitions were held in the categories of brass and pipe bands, individual pipers and harpists and individual singers.

When Dáil Éireann was established in 1919 Sinn Féin embraced the idea of reviving the Aonach

Aonach Tailteann was initially scheduled for 1922, however the outbreak of the Civil War meant that the games were postponed until August of 1924.

At the time the first games were held, much of Dublin had yet to be rebuilt after the fighting of the Independence struggle and the Civil War.

The organisation of the Games was a tremendous undertaking and thirty two sub-committees were set up to co-ordinate events.



100 Years Ago

Tailteann Games Pipe Band & Solo Piping Championships 1924

The Tailteann Pipe Band Contest 1924, held in the Showgrounds, Ballsbridge, was an oddly run affair, held on two separate days over three sessions, the first being on Tuesday 12th August, from 2.30 to 5.30 pm, when bands, most of which were from outside Dublin competed.

In spite of the unfavourable weather there was a good attendance and the crowd proved very appreciative. That evening from 7.00 pm the Dublin bands played. To confuse the issue further, bands from Northern Ireland were heard on Saturday 16th August from 2.00 pm.

The adjudicator for these contests was **Dr S C Bannatyne**, a Scot, who was a prolific composer and writer on all matters relating to piping including Piobaireachd.

The above arrangements were destined to cause little confusion and a lot of controversy, with the outcome that the **results could not officially be released until 1st September due to objections.**

The Solo Piping was run in a similar fashion with the greater number of entrants being heard on Friday 15th August, commencing with players from the provinces at 2.30 pm and those from Dublin at 7.00 pm while the Northern Ireland Soloists competed on Saturday 16th August from 2.30 pm.

The solo contest was held in the Great Central Hall, Ballsbridge.

The event had a large attendance with great interest shown. The night session on Friday was particularly well attended.

Competitors were required to play test pieces consisting of
a) any 4 part 2/4 March, b) Money Musk, c) any Irish Reel and
a) March, b) Strathspey, c) Reel.

Some of the competitors noted on Friday were:

Joseph Mullaney	100 Short Strand, Belfast
Alexander O'Toole	Kilruddery, Bray
F J Biggar-Hope	Campbell Lodge, Hawthorne Road
Tadhg O'Croadhloich	Lee Pipers' Cork
Sean Ryan	106 Gerald Griffith Street, Cork
Michael Magee	43 Springview Street, Belfast
Stanley Howett	St Joseph's Prize Pipers' Band, Manchester
George C Huntley	St Joseph's Prize Pipers' Band, Manchester
Harold Hickey	St Joseph's Prize Pipers' Band, Manchester
J Byrne	St John's Ambulance Brigade
Richard Young	St John's Ambulance Brigade
George Purcell	St John's Ambulance Brigade

Irish Examiner - Monday 1st September 1924
Results of Band Contests

In the case of the band contests at the Tailteann Games, it has been impossible until today to announce the names of the winning bands owing to objections having been lodged in certain cases.

These objections have been most carefully considered by the Musical Committee and their findings were put before the General Purposes Committee of the Tailteann Council, who upheld the decision of the adjudicator in every case except that of the military bands.

The following are the results: -

Pipe Bands

1st St Laurence O'Toole's, Dublin.

2nd Lee Pipers, Cork and St John's Ambulance, Dublin were adjudged equal in second place.

Individual War Pipes

1st Richard Young, St John's Ambulance Band, Dublin

2nd F J Bigger-Hope, Belfast.

Further contestants were to be heard on Saturday 16th August



The adjudicator for the Solo Piping was Sergeant Major **Louis Noble**, Chief Instructor, Pipe Band Army School of Music, Beggars Bush, Dublin.





Odds & Sods



Boy scout Peter O'Toole, aged 16, plays the bagpipes at a Scout Jamboree in Listowel in 1948

