

GEELONG HIGHLAND GATHERING

1 March 2015

Contest Supervisor's Report

General:

Despite the overnight rain the day remained clear and pleasantly warm. The grounds were in good condition with only a few soggy patches which did not cause a problem. A co-operative crowd ensured an enjoyable day.

Siting of circles was fine although it meant a long walk for re-tune in the morning. It was necessary to push back the ropes around the circles to enable judges free movement around the bands.

The committee could consider siting a couple of portable toilets closer to the 'action'.

Gate Entry:

No problems reported.

Band Contest Draw:

With the short timeframe between the Gathering committee's opening event and official opening it was necessary to conduct the morning contest on two circles.

The circulated draw was not amended despite several withdrawals.

The complexity involved in constructing the draw to allow for the various special requests means late changes are extremely difficult to accommodate and the decision was taken to leave the draw as circulated to avoid reduction in the regulation time between performances for those competing in more than one grade.

Band reps are reminded to check for any late changes when signing in.

Aggregate Contest:

The contest was most enjoyable thanks to the marshalls ensuring bands arrived on time and bands being prepared to proceed at their allotted time. Thanks to Moorabbin who were happy to play a little early which allowed judges a more relaxed lunch break.

There were a number of breaches of band formation. It was apparent that not all bands are familiar with the exact conditions for the March Off. These matters were brought to the attention of the particular bands by the drill judges. It would be prudent for all band officers to revisit the Rules relating to these matters. **[Rule B.1.13 and B.9.01]**

Official Opening:

Geelong RSL band provided the required music.

Drum Majors' Contest:

There were 5 competitors in the Drum Majors' Flourish. The course was set up at the conclusion of the band contest by the Marshalls and Dress & Drill judges.

City of Whitehorse was the duty band.

Winner was D Strudwick-Anderson, 2nd B Casey, 3rd P Potter.

Finale Massed Band and Presentations:

This was one of the highlights of the day with a well-presented performance. The drum salute was followed by a performance of *Waltzing Matilda*, certainly well-received by the crowd. Additional interest was provided by the Scottish Country Dancers and the 42nd Highlanders volley of rifle fire.

Acknowledgement of Service:

Rob Bennett, former Vice-Principal of Drummer, was presented with the Clohesy Shield. This acknowledges services to pipe band drumming.

Two long-serving drumming judges, Bruce Neal OAM and Bill Russell, completed their final judging task for Pipe Bands Victoria at this contest. Between them they have given 101 years of service to pipe bands.

Acknowledgements:

Well done to the Geelong Highland Gathering Association committee for another well-organised day.

It was pleasing to see former PBV president and former president of GHGA Ian Morison OAM in attendance and enjoying the spectacle.

Thank you to all competitors and band officials for their co-operation throughout the day.

Thanks to Marshals Ian and Gary King who ensured bands were in the right place at the right time.

The judges were always ready for an incoming band and prepared result sheets promptly.

Scorers Bev and Damon worked in their usual efficient manner despite a printer problem. This was overcome with the help of Graeme McLeod scouring Geelong for a part and Damon's technical expertise in setting up the new printer.

Margaret Johnstone supervised the contest at Circle B in the morning and assisted at Circle A in the afternoon. Peter McLoughlin's assistance prior to the event was greatly appreciated and critical to the success of the contest.

Thank you to all involved for their co-operation and assistance.

Contest Officials:

Contest officials for the day were as follows:

Piping-Nat Russell GC OAM, David Telford, Tim McLeod, Athol Chalmers (ACT)

Drumming-Yvonne Coustley (Qld), Stephen Matthews

Ensemble-Bill Russell, Bruce Neal OAM

Dress & Drill-Wally Stables, Chris Earl

Contest Supervisor-Barbara McLeod

Steward/Supervisor-Margaret Johnstone OAM

Scorers-Beverley Hayes, Damon Thomson

Marshals-Ian Clark, Gary King

Band Contest Results:

	Aggregate Contest	Drum Corps	Dress	March Off
Gr 1	1 st Moorabbin PB	Moorabbin	Moorabbin	Moorabbin
Gr 2	1 st City of Whitehorse 2 nd Hawthorn City	tied	Whitehorse	Hawthorn
Gr 3	1 st Scotch College P&D (Melb) 2 nd Victoria Scottish 3 rd Melbourne No.1	Scotch	Melbourne No.1	Melb 1
Gr 4	1 st Haileybury P&D 2 nd Scots School Albury 3 rd Golden City (Bendigo)	Haileybury	Haileybury/Melb 2	Golden City
Juv	1 st Scotch College P & D (Melb) 2 nd Haileybury P& D 3 rd Scots School Albury	Scotch	Haileybury	n/a

Recommendations:

1. That the contest arena be roped off in such a way as to allow adequate room for judges to move around the bands.
2. That toilets be available closer to the contest area.

Barbara McLeod

Contest Supervisor

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