

## **PIPE BANDS VICTORIA**

### **AUSTRALIAN PIPE BAND CHAMPIONSHIPS 2015 EUREKA STADIUM, BALLARAT, VIC.**

#### **REPORT OF CONTEST SUPERVISORS**

##### **Mr Peter Cook**

We shared the general shock and distress on the sudden death of our Secretary-Treasurer on the Tuesday before the contest. He was missed, and will continue to be so. We congratulate Margaret Johnstone, Peter McLoughlin and all concerned in filling the gaps and ensuring that the Championships could go ahead in the way he would have wished. The minute of remembrance was a fitting tribute to a great contributor.

##### **General**

We once again congratulate all concerned with the organising and presentation of this event.

The preliminary organisation was very impressive, with admirable care being taken to ensure that all concerned – workers, officials and bandspeople – had timely information about arrangements and requirements for the contest. In general, the co-operation between the people involved was very good indeed. . The information flow was impressive indeed. We report separately on a series of incidents involving one band from the beginning to the end of the contest

The venues also were impressive. Municipal co-operation made the street march a pleasure to operate and to behold.

The Stadium is a very fine venue – the catering support is very good [especially the superb afternoon teas for officials] and the ground is a delight to move about on.

The layout was entirely satisfactory. The timetable, over which Peter McLoughlin had lavished such care, ran admirably, seldom more than a minute from schedule

##### **Saturday**

The finale did stretch somewhat, but not impossibly. The co-operation of participants was .good, though not unanimously so. The contest ran to time. A couple of rules breaches were noted, and drawn to the attention of the bands concerned. None appeared to require imposition of penalties.

## **Sunday**

Again, the contest ran well. It was fortunate that when the judges rostered for the Display were not all present at the appropriate time, it was possible to use, with their kind agreement, judges from the other set to get through the day. This did have the effect of slightly delaying the results in one Grade of the Championships.

The finale was again the victim of a lack of complete goodwill among the participants – from one band. We are reporting separately about this and associated events. In any event, we were not in a position to consider these matters until well after the conclusion of the event, and it was considered inappropriate to think of alteration to results after the passing of some days from the event.

## **Contest Rules Matters**

There were two significant breaches of the rules which were considered not to require penalty in all the circumstances but which are worth noting as a general caution for the future.

### Rule B.1.02 Complement

In the Street March, the Knox Grammar School band played more than one Drum-Major. It transpired that their instructor had not thought to check the rules before using his full potential numbers. It seemed unlikely that any real advantage could have been derived, and the matter was drawn to attention. [What can happen at Anzac Day or at school is not necessarily automatically within contest rules!] It is intended to offer an amendment to the rules permitting some flexibility in this regard in the interests of crowd appeal.

### Rule B.3.03, B.4.03 Selection and Medley Procedure

W.A. Police and Hawkesbury Nepean Valley both failed to move far enough into the contest circle to enable all members playing to get within the circle as required by these rules.

It was felt that the WAPOL Pipe-Major had no great experience of this challenge and it was therefore simply drawn to attention.

When, despite the subject having been discussed with its Pipe-Major the previous day, Hawkesbury Nepean Valley No 2 did the same, it was felt not inappropriate to follow the same course and this was done.

### Conduct

Some matters arising under rule 1.08 are reported in our Additional Report.

### General

Two judges expressed the view that Hawkesbury Nepean Valley No 2 was wrongly graded in Grade 4, though no formal report was made. Rule B.1.16.08 was an attempt to preserve the nature of the championships as seeking out the best in each grade at the time when some purpose-built bands appeared. Possibly some control on sudden, late, large changes in membership shortly before a championships should be

considered. This is, of course, a matter for Conference.

### **Personal**

Anthony Sell and Barbara McLeod thank their colleagues, the officials, and the bands for another memorable event. Anthony's first Australian Championships in the job was in 1965 at Carlton, and he has officiated at 15 of the 32 Championships conducted under the auspices of Pipe Bands Australia and its predecessor . He expects this to be his last national championships in this job.

We are sorry that the stress and the weather left Tim and Michelle Bodey somewhat strained, and rejoice that they are restored to full health. Congratulations to them and their supporters for a fine job!!

### **Results**

The results have been published in full already.

Anthony Sell,  
Barbara McLeod.  
**Contest Supervisors**  
5<sup>th</sup> May 2014.