



The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association

The Music Board

Member Details – Heather MacKay

Branch: North of Scotland Branch

Band: Buchan

Discipline: Piper

About me:

I began my piping career began in 1975, aged 8, taught by the late Sandy Robertson, Jim Campbell, Stuart Reid and George Cowie, all with the 47th Culter Coy, Boys Brigade. As no girls were allowed to play in Boys Brigade bands, I was encouraged to join Deeside Ladies in 1976 (led by Pipe Major Lillian Nicolson) and during her time with the Band, invitations to play at the famous Stromness Shopping Week in Orkney and music festivals in Spain and Sicily were accepted. In 1981 we won Grade 4 Champions of Champions and in 1986 I played my part in winning all 5 Major Championships in Grade 3, gaining Deeside Ladies the Champions of Champions title.

As a youngster I competed in local solo piping contests, receiving tuition from the late Donald Morrison and Willie Easton, formerly of Boghall and Bathgate Caledonia Pipe Band.

I went back to my roots in 1988 joining Culter & District for 6 years before signing for Buchan Pipe Band in 1994 along with my brother Hamish. In 1996 I played in the Grade 2 Champion of Champions winning band, taking all 5 Major Titles that year. As well as playing in Grade 2 I was the Pipe Major of the Buchan Grade 4 band during 2002 – 2004 seasons and competed with reasonable success taking 6th place in Grade 4a at the 2004 British Championships held in Turriff.

At Branch level I have been on the committee for several years, 4 of which I had to role of Assistant/Minute Secretary and compiler. In 2007 I was voted on as Music Board Piping rep, replacing Jim Campbell, not an easy job, but one which I hope my 30+ years playing experience will help.

Music Board Activities:

Branch Representative

