

The MidAtlantic Branch

What does the Branch do?

- Provide Monitors for 10 competitions throughout the MidAtlantic region.
- Run the Delco MidAtlantic Workshop, Gilchrist Challenge, and John Murray Challenge competitions.
- Represent the members of the MidAtlantic region at Executive Meetings and the AGM.
- Host other activities including off-season competitions, certification exams, and other activities for the members of the MidAtlantic Region.

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EUSPBA—MidAtlantic Branch

Fall 2005

Chairman's Report

Your Branch officers have been hard at work since we were announced in mid-October. For those of you who haven't heard your new Branch officers are:

Thompson McConnell—Chairman
Lisa Frazier—Secretary
Jamie Carruthers—Treasurer
Helen Harlow—Officer-at-Large

Since mid-October, we have been busy getting reports and information pulled together for the AGM that was held on November 12th in Albany, New York. Three of your Branch officers were in attendance. I want to congratulate both Helen Harlow, who was awarded the Dan Dickel Memorial Award and the Hall family who received the President's Award on behalf of the late Pipe Major Thomas Hall.

The Branch officers have also been hard at work keeping the Delco MidAtlantic Branch workshop on track. We have been e-mailing constantly on various topics from instructors, to the Gilchrist Challenge, the John Murray Challenge, the venue, and lining up a new Grade III Pipe Band contest.

The Delco Workshop, Gilchrist Challenge, and John Murray Challenge have become the Branch's marquee events. Many of the winners of the Gilchrist Challenge have placed in the MacGregor Memorial. This past year has been no exception. Congratulations to Eric Ouellette, 2006 winner of the Gilchrist Challenge, for finishing in 3rd Place at the MacGregor Memorial at the Argyllshire Gathering. I'd also like to thank Paula Glendinning for working with the competitors to help them get their registration returned in a timely manner.

I would like to thank Helen Harlow, Ian Johnstone, Harry Meade, Mike Price, and Lisa Frazier for their hard work in putting together last year's Delco MidAtlantic Workshop.

What else does the Branch do for you? The Branch provides EUSPBA Monitors for 10 competitions throughout the MidAtlantic region. I'd like to thank Kate Herr for lining up the monitors for the games. Also, a thank you goes out to Kate Herr, Sarah Brenzo, and Jeanine McConnell for being the Monitor at these games.

The Branch is planning to use the Branch

website to a higher degree. Plan on visiting the website at www.geocities.com/euspbamab on a regular basis to find out what is going on in the MidAtlantic Branch. The website is already being used as a resource where you can download the Delco Workshop registration form. It's also a home base for many MidAtlantic competitors that download entry forms for many of the branch competitions. The website will soon have an up-to-date list of MidAtlantic Branch bands with website addresses and more detailed information about the Gilchrist Challenge and John Murray Challenge.

The Branch website will also provide a list of other upcoming Branch meetings and events. It will be the home of the Branch newsletter. You will be able to download the newsletter whenever you want.

You will want to make the Branch website one of your regular stops on the Internet. I would like to thank Dawn Meade for her help in keeping the website up to date.

We have started discussions with Chuck Murdoch, Music Board Chairman, about offering Certification exams to the MidAtlantic Branch members. It has been several years since these have been offered.

I would like to congratulate Andrew Walker who will be representing the MidAtlantic Branch at the Sandy Jones Invitational on February 11, 2006, and at the Metro Cup Amateur contest on February 18, 2006.

I know that several of our Grade I pipers are interested in these invitational events. We will be looking at holding a qualifying competition sometime next fall. We hope to have some of the details worked out early in 2006 so that those competitors that wish to vie for the invitation can make plans to be there.

There are many great things afoot in the MidAtlantic region. We hope you take advantage of all that is available.

Sincerely,

Thompson McConnell,
MidAtlantic Branch Chairman

EUSPBA—AGM NEWS

The MidAtlantic Branch was well represented at this year's AGM. Thompson McConnell, Branch Chairman, Lisa Frazier, Branch Secretary, and Helen Harlow Branch Officer-at-Large were in attendance. Other MidAtlantic branch members include Dave and Linda Hall and Bob Meade. This year's AGM was sponsored by the Northeast Branch and held in Albany, NY, on November 11-13th.

The weekend began on Friday evening with an Executive Committee meeting. The Executive Committee reviewed various reports and Branch proposals the evening before the AGM in preparation for the meeting on Saturday. Kenton Adler, Nominating Committee Chairman, led the Branch representatives through the Ballot counting process. President Joe McGonigal led a very cordial and positive meeting. After 2 1/2 hours of discussion, the meeting was adjourned, and the attendees made their way upstairs where further positive discussions continued on the advancement of piping and drumming in the EUSPBA.

Joe McGonigal called the AGM to order at 9 a.m. on Saturday morning. The minutes from the 2004 AGM were approved. Most of the morning was spent reviewing various reports including EUSPBA Officer reports, Membership & Sanctioning reports, Music Board, Voice, Website, and Branch reports.

As EUSPBA President, Joe McGonigal had the opportunity to recognize members who provided outstanding service to the EUSPBA. This year, Joe McGonigal awarded two MidAtlantic Branch members.

The President's Award was created to recognize an individual or band who has brought international recognition to the EUSPBA or who has performed exemplary service on behalf of the EUSPBA. This year, The President's Award was presented posthumously to the late Pipe Major Thomas I. Hall. His son, Dave Hall of the Ulster Scottish Pipe Band, was there to receive the award.

The Dan F. Dickel Memorial Award was created to recognize outstanding service of an Executive Committee Member. Joe McGonigal presented Helen Harlow, Officer-At-Large with the plaque. For those of you who don't know, Helen is one of the Officers-At-Large on the Executive Committee, Officer-At-Large for the Branch, the Sanctioning Officer, the Membership Officer, the Piping & Drumming Director of at least 4 games, and personally involved with several more competitions. Kudos to both of

the award winners. We know that they are both well deserved.

The afternoon was spent reviewing and discussing 17 Branch proposals: Northeast Branch (11), Metro (0), MidAtlantic (1), Ohio Valley (4), Southern (0), Southwest (0). The 17th proposal was presented by the Association of Scottish Games and Festivals. While this did not come through the established Branch channels, their proposal was serious enough to be presented to the AGM. I'm not going to outline all the proposals, but here are some highlights of the discussions:

- The EUSPBA is investigating the possibility of re-instating the EUSPBA Championships. This would be a Championship similar to that held in 2003. Branch Qualifiers would determine Branch representatives with a single games being named the EUSPBA Championships. A timetable has not been set, but most liking will not happen in 2006. We'll keep you informed as information becomes available.
- Members will be reminded that they should act in a way that displays professionalism and good sportsmanship. This includes behavior towards EUSPBA volunteers, Games volunteers, and fellow competitors.
- The EUSPBA will be developing programs to expand ensemble education to bands. The Judge's Seminar on Sunday included a workshop with Jack Lee and Reid Maxwell of SFU. As ensemble becomes more defined in the Judging ranks, educational programs will be expanded to include bands.
- A proposal to change the competition routine for Drum Majors from a Slow Air/Quick March competition to a Quick March only was passed to the Music Board. Drum Majors should stay informed about a possible change in format.
- The Association of Scottish Games and Festivals and the EUSPBA will be starting a dialog over various concerns. Due to the success of the EUSPBA, there has been a growing concern over the large amount of solo competitors at various competitions and the concerns over time, space, and expense. Stay tuned for more details.

A ceilidh was held in the evening. End of Season awards were handed out (see related article). The Oran Mor Pipe Band performed, as well as several soloists and drum corps (including Reid Maxwell) also performed. "Hair of the Dog" performed great music for several hours.



Dave Hall receives the President's Award on behalf of his father, the late Pipe Major Thomas Hall.



Helen Harlow receives the Dan Dickel Memorial Award

All photos in this newsletter are provided courtesy of Tom Crawford, Webmaster EUSPBA.org

Year– End Points Leaders

The EUSPBA once again recognized the points leaders for each grade. Certificates were provided to the Top 5 in each Grade. Gold Medallist Certificates were presented to the competitor with the highest points total in Piobaireachd. Congratulations to the following MidAtlantic Branch members:

Guilford & Glencoe District Pipe Band	4th Place	Grade IV Bands
Ulster Scottish Pipe Band	2nd Place	Grade V Bands
Greater Richmond Pipes & Drums	3rd Place	Grade V Bands
Philadelphia Emerald Society Pipe Band	4th Place	Grade V Bands
Michael Rogers	3rd Place	Piping—Professional
Amber Blair	1st Place & Gold Medallist Certificate	Piping—Grade I
Benjamin McClamrock	3rd Place	Piping—Grade I
Larson Stromdahl	1st Place & Gold Medallist Certificate	Piping—Grade II
Duncan Moore	2nd Place	Piping—Grade II
Nick Hudson	5th Place	Piping—Grade II
Adam Green	3rd Place	Piping—Grade III
Adam Todd	4th Place	Piping—Grade III
Nathanael Green	2nd Place	Piping—Grade IV Senior
Guy Blundon	3rd Place	Piping—Grade IV Senior
Peter Walker	4th Place	Piping—Grade IV Senior
Andrew Tice	1st Place & Gold Medallist Certificate Thomas I. Hall Memorial Trophy	Piping—Grade IV Junior
Andy Norris	4th Place	Piping—Grade IV Junior
Renz Amato	1st Place	Piping—Grade V
Nicholas Wamsley	2nd Place	Piping—Grade V
Eli Clemens	3rd Place	Piping—Grade V
Jason Hoffert	2nd Place	Snare—Professional
Tom Kee	5th Place	Snare—Professional
Ben Elkins	5th Place	Snare—Grade I
Derek Cooper	1st Place	Snare—Grade II
John McClamrock	2nd Place	Snare—Grade II
Matthew Lewis	5th Place	Snare—Grade IV Junior
Dianne Duncan	2nd Place	Tenor—Professional
Linda Hall	3rd Place	Tenor—Professional
Sean Patrick Malloy	1st Place	Tenor—Amateur
Sophie Moore	2nd Place	Tenor—Novice
Robert Meade	5th Place	Bass—Professional
Sean Patrick Malloy	2nd Place	Bass—Amateur
Wiley Spears	3rd Place	Bass—Amateur
Duncan McCaskill Jr.	5th Place	Drum Major—Professional

Website:
www.geocities.com/euspbamab

Email:
midatlantic@euspb.org

[www.geocities.com/
euspbamab](http://www.geocities.com/euspbamab)

Delco MidAtlantic Workshop

Visit the MidAtlantic Branch website in early December to download the registration form for the 2006 Delco MidAtlantic Workshop. The Branch Officers are hard at work ironing out the details for this year's event. The workshop will once again be held near BWI, just south of Baltimore. However, it will be at a different location from last year. The workshop will be held the weekend of February 4 & 5, 2006.

The Robert Gilchrist Challenge will once again be awarding an airline ticket to the winner, so that they may compete in the MacGregor Memorial at the Argyllshire Gathering in August. The format will be the same as in previous years.

The John Murray Challenge will once again be held during the Saturday night ceilidh. The event will be expanded from previous years to include all amateur snare drummers age 17 and under, regardless of Grade.

A Grade III Pipe Band competition will also be held during the Saturday night ceilidh. The competition will be videotaped with the judges reviewing the performances during the Sunday morning session for all to hear.

The instructors and format will be announced in early December.

Make plans to join us the first weekend in February!

Notice—New RSPBA Rule Affects Grade IV Bands

All Grade IV & Novice Juvenile Pipe Bands planning to compete at the World Pipe Band Championships this year should be aware that the RSPBA has instituted a new format of 2/4 Marches. Bands will be required to play two 2/4 Marches selected from a list of 14 tunes. The EUSPBA has received the RSPBA Packet containing the required information on this new

format that has been dubbed the "Musical Appreciation and Presentation (MAP) competition format.

For more information on this format, visit the EUSPBA website at www.euspb.org or the RSPBA website at www.rspb.org.

Thomas I. Hall Memorial Trophy

Pipe Major Thomas I. Hall passed away in October. He leaves a lasting legacy of many years of piping and service to the piping community. Tom Hall was a long-time member of the Ulster Scottish Pipe Band. He started playing in the band at the age of 17, under his father, Pipe Major John Hall. He served as the Pipe Major of Ulster Scottish for 42 years from 1960 to 2002. The Ulster Scottish Pipe Band is now lead by Tom's son, Dave Hall.

In Tom Hall's memory, the Hall family and the Ulster Scottish Pipe Band have donated a Challenge Trophy and keepsake clock to be awarded to the Overall Points Winner of the Grade IV Junior Piping.

The inaugural Thomas I. Hall Memorial Trophy was presented to MidAtlantic Branch member, Andrew Tice, of New Jersey. Andrew was the Overall Points winner, as well as, the Gold Medallist Certificate winner.



Dave Hall (left) and Joe McGonigal (right) presenting the Thomas I. Hall Memorial Trophy to Andrew Tice

On a separate note, Joe McGonigal awarded the late Pipe Major Thomas Hall with the President's Award for exemplary service to the EUSPBA. Tom Hall was active in getting the EUSPBA started in the Philadelphia area. He also served the Central and MidAtlantic branches in various roles including Branch officer.