

# The MidAtlantic Branch

## What does the Branch do?

- Provide Monitors for 8 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

Spring 2006

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A lot has happened since the last newsletter. The Branch held a very successful Delco Workshop the weekend of February 3-5, 2006, in Baltimore, MD. Thank you to everyone for making it happen and making it a success. In conjunction with the Delco Workshop, the Branch also runs two competitions: The Robert Gilchrist Challenge and The John Murray Challenge. Congratulations to Keegan Sheehan of New York for winning the Robert Gilchrist Challenge. Thank you to Liam McGill of New Jersey for drumming at the ceilidh.

In conjunction with the workshop, the Branch held it's first meeting of the year. Items presented for discussion are included in the newsletter on Page 2. The Branch is still working towards Re-instituting some programs including Certification Exams and Winter competitions. We were quite pleased with the turnout of Branch members at the meeting.

**Mark your calendars to attend next year's Delco MidAtlantic Workshop on February 3rd & 4th, 2007.**

Congratulations to all the MidAtlantic Branch members who received upgrades in December. We have listed the members and bands that were upgraded on Page 4. Congratulations on a job well done.

The 2006 Competitions are on the minds of many of the competitors. Be sure to read up on all the rules & regulations at the EUSPBA website ([www.euspba.org](http://www.euspba.org)). A new Rules & Regulations Manual is available on the Resources Page. The calendar of events supplies a listing of all of the sanctioned competitions for the season.

Entry forms for the MidAtlantic Branch games can be found at the Branch website at [www.geocities.com/euspbamab](http://www.geocities.com/euspbamab).

The MidAtlantic Branch will be supplying Monitors for 8 sanctioned competitions this year. The list of competitions are included on Page 6. Please note the Virginia Scottish Games have changed both their date and location. Also, the Harrisburg Pipes & Drums Festival has changed their location and sponsor. Be sure to support our Branches Games and competitions.

The EUSPBA Championships are on for 2006. The Championships will be held in a similar format to the trial run in 2003 and are currently designated for Grade II & III Pipe Bands. (The Championships may be expanded to include Grade IV & V Bands in future years.) One Grade III band from each branch will qualify for the Championships. The MidAtlantic Branch qualifier will be held at the Colonial Highland Gathering in Fairhill, MD. The Grade III EUSPBA Championships will be held at the Anne Arundel Scottish Games on October 14th. The Grade II EUSPBA Championships will be held at the Capital District Scottish Games on September 2 & 3.

Congratulations to Andrew Walker for winning the Sandy Jones Invitational contest in Charleston, SC. Andrew represented the MidAtlantic Branch at both the Sandy Jones Invitational and Metro Cup Amateur Invitational competitions in February. If you are Grade I piper and would like the opportunity to win the bid to compete at these prestigious events, then plan to compete at our Qualifying competition to be held at the Branch's AGM on October 29th in Richmond, VA.

With the Virginia Scottish Games changing its date and venue, I have caught wind of the possibility of a few events in the making to help fill the large gap through the summer months. If any of these events come to fruition, we will let you know. Check out the MidAtlantic Branch website at [www.geocities.com/euspbamab](http://www.geocities.com/euspbamab) for further news.

The Branch sends its condolences to the family and friends of the Bell family. Shirley Bell passed away on February 16th. Shirley is the wife of P/M George Bell and the mother of Jimmy, Duncan, Gordon, Donald, and Laurie Ann. George, Jimmy, Duncan, Gordon, and Donald are EUSPBA Judges and Professional Grade competitors.

Sincerely,  
Thompson McConnell,  
MidAtlantic Branch Chairman

## MIDATLANTIC BRANCH NEWS

The MidAtlantic Branch held their first Branch meeting of 2006 on Sunday, February 5th, as part of the Delco Workshop. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

The meeting began with several reports from the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and Web Master.

Old Business included a report from the EUSPBA AGM from Thompson McConnell.

New Business included reports on the following:

- **2006 EUSPBA Championships.** The EUSPBA Championships have been re-instated for the 2006 season. The championships will be held at the Anne Arundel Scottish Games on October 14th in Crownsville, MD. (Editor's Note: It has been changed that the Grade II Championships only will be held at the Capital District Games in September.) Grade III Bands must qualify for the event at a Branch Qualifier. Only one Grade III Band from each Branch will qualify. The MidAtlantic Branch qualifier will be held at the Colonial Highland Games at Fairhill, Maryland. Keep an eye on the EUSPBA website for more details.
- **2006 Branch Meetings.** The MidAtlantic Branch is planning on holding four meetings throughout this year. The first is this one held at the Delco Workshop. A Spring & Summer meeting will be announced. The Fall AGM will be held October 29, 2006, the day after the Richmond Highland Games in Richmond, VA.
- **Metro Cup Qualifier.** As part of the AGM on October 29th, we will hold a qualifier open to all Grade I Pipers for the 2007 Metro Cup Amateur Piping Competition. This winner will also qualify for the Sandy Jones Invitational in February. An invitation will be sent to all MidAtlantic Branch Grade I Pipers closer to the date.

## MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

The MidAtlantic Branch has some great opportunities to listen to some of the Association's and the World's Best Pipers. All you need to do is take advantage of them. These events allow you to hear some of the area's best Professional Pipers in a relaxing, climate-controlled environment.

Both the Colonial Highland Gathering and the Virginia Scottish Games hold Professional Piping Competitions the Friday night before their respective Games. The Colonial Highland Gathering holds its Professional Piobaireachd and Professional March, Strathspey & Reel competitions at the Howard Johnson's in Newark, Delaware. The overall winner of these two events qualifies to compete at the prestigious U.S. Piping Foundation Championships.

- **Certification Exams.** We are still looking at the Certification Exams. Thanks to Paula Glendinning who will be teaching a session on the Certification Exam process as part of the Delco Workshop.
- **Winter Competitions.** The Branch will be looking to line up some Winter competitions for the 2006-2007 Off-season. More to come on this as the schedule is worked out.
- **Games Monitors.** Thanks to Kate Herr who continues as our Monitor Coordinator. If you would like to volunteer to monitor the MidAtlantic Branch games, please forward your information to the Branch. We'll make sure Kate receives the information. The MidAtlantic Branch will provide monitors for (8) competitions this year: Southern Maryland Celtic Festival, Colonial Highland Gathering (Fairhill), Bonnie Brae Scottish Festival & Highland Games, Harrisburg Pipes & Drums Festival, Virginia Scottish Games (Alexandria), Williamsburg Scottish Festival, Anne Arundel Scottish Festival, Richmond Highland Games.
- **MidAtlantic Branch Points Championships.** In an effort to support the MidAtlantic Branch competitions and competitors, we are looking at recognizing the top MidAtlantic Branch competitor (solo & band). The award will go to the MidAtlantic piper, drummer, Drum Major, or band in each grade with the most points awarded at the MidAtlantic Branch games. A list of the (9) MidAtlantic Branch games will be available in the next Branch newsletter.
- **Branch Newsletters.** We will be providing a quarterly newsletter. The first newsletter was available in November 2005. It will be available only in an electronic format and can be read using Adobe Acrobat or Acrobat Reader. It will be e-mailed to MidAtlantic Branch members who have provided their e-mail address. It will also be available from the Branch website at [www.geocities.com/euspbamab](http://www.geocities.com/euspbamab).

The Virginia Scottish Games holds the Professional Piobaireachd and Professional 6/8 March competition on the Friday night before the Games at the Host Hotel.

The MidAtlantic region is also lucky to be home of the United States Piping Foundation Championships. Check out [www.uspipingfoundation.org](http://www.uspipingfoundation.org). The winner is often selected to compete at the Glenfiddich Championships in Scotland. The event is held in Newark, Delaware, at the Amy DuPont Music Building at the University of Delaware. Previous winners include Michael Cusak (11x), Amy Garson, James McGillivray, William Livingstone, Alasdair Gillies (2x), William McCallum, Bruce Gandy, and Seamus Coyne.

## DELCO WORKSHOP

The MidAtlantic Branch held the Delco MidAtlantic Workshop the weekend of February 4th & 5th at the Holiday Inn-BWI in Baltimore, Maryland. Instructors included June Hanley (Piping), Paula Glendinning (Piping), Ed Neigh (Piping), Mike Rogers (Piping), Bob Worrall (Piping), Matt Bell (Snare), Jon Quigg (Snare), Harry Meade (Snare), Gavin Lindsay (Flourishing Tenor), Lisa Frazier (Flourishing Tenor), Marc DuBois (Rhythm Tenor & Bass), and Kevin MacHeffner (Drum Major).

The Workshop was a big success with pipers, drummers, and Drum Majors coming throughout the east coast. Classes were held all day Saturday and Sunday morning. Pipers had topics including Piobaireachd, Mastering the MSR, 2/4 Marches, Tips & Tricks for Competing Pipers, Practicing Effectively, Strathspeys & Reels, and Preparing for the Gold Medal.

The Saturday evening ceilidh was a huge success and included the final tie-break competition of the Gilchrist Challenge, a performance by the only John Murray Challenge competitor, Liam McGill, the MacMillan Pipe Band, the City of Washington Pipe Band with Kevin MacHeffner on the mace, Rockville High School Pipe Band, and a wide variety of other entertainment including pipers, small pipers, drummers, fiddlers, and story tellers. Many thanks to Ming Diaz, storyteller, for performing Master of Ceremonies duties.

Sunday morning's topics included a 2-hour ensemble class with Bob Worrall and Jon Quigg reviewing video tapes from a previous competition. Mike Rogers and June Hanley led a Master's Class for the Gilchrist Challenge competitors. Ed Neigh held a technique (Execution) class. Paula Glendinning held two sessions on Certification Exams and Teaching Others. Harry Meade of Meade Drumming Supplies and Matt Bell held a Drum Tuning & Maintenance class where they took down and setup the three major brands of snare drums (Pearl, Premier, and Andante). Marc DuBois had a tenor/bass drum tuning seminar. Kevin MacHeffner was showing some advanced mace work for his class.

Many thanks to all who helped make this year's workshop a success, especially Helen Harlow, Sarah & Terry Brenzo, Meade Drumming Supplies, ToneCzar Bagpipes, the instructors, and the Branch Officers.

**Mark your calendars to attend next year's Delco MidAtlantic Workshop on February 3rd & 4th, 2007.**

### **Robert Gilchrist Challenge**

In 1999, the MidAtlantic Branch started the Robert Gilchrist Challenge in honor of the late Robert Gilchrist. First prize includes travel money for the competitor to compete at the MacGregor Memorial, an Under 21 piobaireachd competition held at the Argyllshire Gathering at Oban, Scotland.

This year's competition included 11 of the east coast's young up and coming pipers. This year's competitors included E. Benjamin McClamrock, Duncan Moore, John Hasley, Bobby Durning, Parry MacDonald, Nick Hudson, Andrew Walker, Jenni Ewing, Keegan Sheehan, Calum Spicer, and Larson Stromdahl.

Each competitor must submit (4) piobaireachd. Each competitor must play one piobaireachd in the morning session. The top six competitors compete again in the afternoon. The winner is decided by aggregate points between the morning & afternoon events. This year, Ben McClamrock, John Hasley, Andrew Walker, Jenni Ewing, Keegan Sheehan, and Larson Stromdahl made it through to the afternoon competition. Ed Neigh judged the morning competition, and Bob Worrall judged the afternoon event.

After the two events, we had a tie for 1st Place between Andrew Walker and Keegan Sheehan. These two competitors ended up playing for a third time during the Saturday evening ceilidh. At the end of the competition, the results were as follows:

- 1st Place—Keegan Sheehan
- 2nd Place—Andrew Walker
- 3rd Place—John Hasley
- 4th Place (Tie) - Ben McClamrock & Lars Stromdahl
- 6th Place—Jenni Ewing

The 1st Place winner receives airfare to compete at the MacGregor Memorial courtesy of the MidAtlantic Branch. The 2nd Place winner received a Blackwood chanter with decorative sole & ferrule courtesy of the Scott Morton and Morton Bagpipes.

Also, many thanks to Paula Glendinning who works with the competitors to help them in the registration process for the MacGregor Memorial. It was also Paula's suggestion to start this competition several years ago.

### **John Murray Challenge**

In 2000, the MidAtlantic Branch started the John Murray Challenge. This competition is open all snare drummers age 21 and under. Each competitor must submit a March or MSR depending upon their designated competition Grade level. The 1st Place prize is a \$500 scholarship to a drumming school. Due to lack of participation the John Murray Challenge was not held this year. We hope that next year, several young drummers will step up to the challenge.

Last year's winner, Liam McGill, played a very fine march accompanied by his father, Chris, on the pipes. Many thanks to Meade Drumming Supplies and Helen Harlow for supplying alternative prizes for Liam.

## MIDATLANTIC BRANCH UPGRADES

The Music Board Announced Upgrades for the 2006 Season in Early December. Congratulations to all.

Bands	Piping	Drumming
<b><u>From Grade V to Grade IV</u></b> Greater Richmond Pipes & Drums Loch Raven Philadelphia Emerald Society Ulster Scottish Pipe Band	<b><u>From Grade I to Professional</u></b> Amber Blair	<b><u>From Grade II to Grade I Snare</u></b> Derek Cooper John McClamrock
	<b><u>From Grade II to Grade I</u></b> Nick Hudson Duncan Moore Larson Stromdahl	<b><u>From Grade III to Grade II Snare</u></b> Matthew Lewis
	<b><u>From Grade III to Grade II</u></b> Adam Green Christine Gummerson Scott Gummerson Aaron Todd	<b><u>To Tenor—Amateur</u></b> Liam McGill Sophie Moore
	<b><u>From Grade IV Senior to Grade III</u></b> Guy Blundon David Braxton John Collins Nathanael Green Peter Walker	<b><u>To Tenor—Professional</u></b> Sean Malloy
	<b><u>From Grade IV Junior to Grade III</u></b> Matthew Brenzo Matthew Daulton Charles Dean Elyse Klova Andy Norris Robert Norris Andrew Tice	<b><u>To Bass—Professional</u></b> Sean Malloy

## 2007 METRO CUP QUALIFIER

The Branch has a few opportunities to recommend a piper for prestigious amateur piping events. In 2006, Andrew Walker represented the MidAtlantic Branch at both the Sandy Jones Invitational Piping Competition in Charleston, South Carolina, and the 2006 Metro Cup Amateur Piping Competition in Newark, New Jersey.

This year we will be holding a Qualifying competition for these events. The Qualifier will be open to all Amateur Grade I Pipers registered in the MidAtlantic Branch.

The contest will include both Piobaireachd and March, Strathspey and Reel events with the overall winner winning the qualifier. Tune requirements will match current 2006 Grade I Tune requirements for Grade I events. Competitors must submit (3) Piobaireachds and (2) MSR sets.

The competition will be held on Sunday, October 29th in Richmond, Virginia, in conjunction with the Branch's Annual General Meeting. So plan on attending the Richmond Highland Games on Saturday, October 28th, and then attend the Branch Qualifier & AGM on Sunday, October 29th.

We will be sending information / registration forms to all registered Grade I Pipers later in the year. However, mark your calendars now.

## MIDATLANTIC BAND NEWS

### **News from the Rockville High School Pipe Band**

The Rockville High School Pipe Band is a self supporting school activity and must raise all of the funds for instruction, uniforms and equipment from performances and fundraising. An easy way to help the band is to go to their website: [www.rhspb.org](http://www.rhspb.org) and click on the Amazon.com logo. The RHSPB will receive 10 to 15% of the purchase price of your items from Amazon as a donation. You have to go from the band website each time you shop to participate but it costs you nothing and the band gets a quarterly check! Unfortunately there is no confirmation of the donation to the purchaser but be assured it works! Thanks for your support! Lisa Frazier, Pipe Band Director, Rockville High School.

The 37th National Capital Area Scottish Festival, a concert to benefit the Rockville High School Pipe Band, will be held May 6th at Rockville High School at 5pm. The concert includes Rockville High School, Birtles Memorial, MacMillan and City of Washington Pipe Bands, The Kiltics Ceilidh Band, Columbia School of Highland Dance and the Scottish Country Dance Society of Washington. The performers all donate their time to help the High School Pipe Band raise funds for their operating expenses.

The High School Pipe Band was founded at Robert E. Peary High School in 1961 and is celebrating their 45th anniversary this year. The band moved to it's current home at Rockville High School when Peary closed in 1984. More information will be on our website [www.rhspb.org](http://www.rhspb.org) soon.

### **News from the Guilford & Glencoe District Pipe Band**

Guilford & Glencoe has announced that many members of their original pipe band have "graduated" to other pipe bands including the Grade I City of Washington Pipe Band and the Grade III MacMillan Pipe Band. The instructors are currently working with an all new, improved, and larger group of young pipers and drummers that will be competing in the Grade V competition arena. "Shotts, keep your hands off!" They have recently completed a workshop with Gail Brown (Former Shotts & Dykehead and PPBSO Judge) and Blair Brown (Shotts & Dykehead, former 78th Fraser Highlanders).

Guilford & Glencoe welcomes pipers and drummers starting at the age of 8 years old. All members are currently under the age of 16. Guilford is instructed by a very fine staff including: Pipe Major Roderick Alexander (Pipes), Chris Hamilton (Pipes), Dan Lyden (Pipes), Jon Quigg (Snare), and Bob Meade (Bass / Tenor). Check out [www.kidspipeband.org](http://www.kidspipeband.org) for more information.

### **News from the MacMillan Pipe Band & MacMillan-Birtles Memorial Pipe Band**

The Grade III MacMillan Pipe Band led by Pipe Major Chris Hamilton and the Grade V MacMillan-Birtles Memorial Pipe Band led by Pipe Major Steve Sharp are looking forward to the upcoming 2006 Competition season. They will be starting the competition season at the Celtic Festival of Southern Maryland on April 29th. Both bands are looking forward to a trip to the North American Pipe Band Championships at the Glengarry Highland Games in Maxville, Ontario, and the Montreal Highland Games in Montreal. The band recently held a workshop with Gail Brown and Blair Brown. Visit the band's website at [www.macmillanpb.org](http://www.macmillanpb.org).

### **News from the Ulster Scottish Pipe Band & Thomas I. Hall Memorial Pipe Band**

The Ulster Scottish Pipe Band will be holding a concert featuring Bob Worrall and Charlie Zahm on Saturday, April 29, 2006 at 7:00 pm at the Milburn Stone Memorial Theatre, Cecil Community College, North East, Maryland. This is just fifteen minutes south of the Fairhill games, and less than a mile off of I-95. Bob Worrall will be performing on small pipes and tin whistle as well as pipes. Scottish folk singer Charlie Zahm will be accompanied by fiddler Tad Marks. In addition, the concert will feature several highland dances by Oran Mor bass drummer and highland dance instructor Christina Hanks. Along with performances by both our grade 4 and grade 3 bands, the concert will include several solo, duet and miniband performances and a drum salute. Tickets are only \$15 and can be purchased directly from the theatre's box office by phoning 410-287-1037 or online by visiting [www.ulsterscottish.org](http://www.ulsterscottish.org) and clicking on the link "To Purchase Tickets Click Here".

*If your band has news it wants to share with the Branch, e-mail [midatlantic@euspba.org](mailto:midatlantic@euspba.org).*

## 2006 BRANCH CALENDAR

### SANCTIONED COMPETITIONS

- April 29th **Celtic Festival of Southern Maryland**, St. Leonard, MD  
Solo Piping, Solo Drumming and Pipe Band Competition  
Branch Meeting following last Massed Bands.
- May 19th Open Piping Competition (Colonial Highland Gathering), Newark, DE
- May 20th **Colonial Highland Gathering**, Fairhill, Maryland  
Solo Piping, Solo Drumming, and Band Competition  
MidAtlantic Branch Qualifier for Grade III Bands  
Branch Meeting following last Massed Bands.
- June 3rd **Bonnie Brae Scottish Games**, Liberty Corners, NJ  
Solo Amateur Piping, Solo Amateur Drumming, and Band Competition
- June 10th **The Piobaireachd Society of Central Pennsylvania**  
**Solo Piping Competition**, Lancaster, PA—**New Location & Sponsor**  
Amateur Solo Piping
- September 16th **Virginia Scottish Games**, Alexandria, VA—**New Date & Location**  
Solo Piping, Solo Drumming, and Band Competition  
Branch Meeting following last Massed Bands.
- September 30th **Williamsburg Scottish Festival**, Williamsburg, VA  
Solo Piping, Solo Drumming, and Band Competition
- October 14th **Anne Arundel Scottish Games**, Crownsville, MD  
Band Competition only this year due to EUSPBA Championships
- October 28th **Richmond Highland Games**, Richmond, VA  
Solo Piping, Solo Drumming, and Band Competition

### OTHER EVENTS

- April 29th **Ulster Scottish Pipe Band Concert**, Northeast, MD  
[www.ulsterscottish.org](http://www.ulsterscottish.org)
- May 6th **38th Annual National Capital Area Scottish Festival Benefit Concert**,  
Rockville, MD [www.rhspb.org](http://www.rhspb.org)
- June 17th **United States Piping Foundation Championships**, Newark, DE  
[www.uspipingfoundation.org](http://www.uspipingfoundation.org)
- June 24th & 25th **Celtic Fling** at the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire, Mt. Hope, PA  
[www.parenfaire.com](http://www.parenfaire.com)
- September 22-24 **Celtic Classic**, Bethlehem, PA  
[www.celticculturalalliance.org](http://www.celticculturalalliance.org)
- October 29th **MidAtlantic Branch Annual General Meeting**, Richmond, VA  
[www.geocities.com/euspbamab](http://www.geocities.com/euspbamab)

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

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