North Berwick Pipe Band

STANDARDS FOR DRESS AND DEPORTMENT

In addition to creating its own unique and thrilling sound, a pipe band is a visual spectacle and so every performance is enhanced when its members look and act the part.

The term "Uniform" implies that all look the same. Just as there are different versions of familiar tunes there are many views on the wearing of highland dress. However, as with our music, the important factor is that we all do the same thing. Thus you should wear your uniform without variation from our adopted standard, regardless of your personal taste, and remember that parading without parts of your uniform is like forgetting to bring your instrument.

Whilst pipe bands generally derive their uniform and deportment practice from military origins, as a volunteer band we draw back from being overly prescriptive when it comes to personal appearance. However, when on parade and in uniform all members should be clean and tidy, aiming to preserve our reputation as an entity rather than standing out as an individual in appearance or behaviour.

The following pages show our standards whilst detailed instructions for achieving the correct look are contained in appendices 1 to 5. Maintenance procedures are described in appendix 5.

No. 2 Outfit

Note: Although illustrations are predominantly white and green the Band has changed the uniform colours since the time of producing this document. The current colours are:

Shirts – medium blue.

Hose – navy blue.

Tie – navy blue.

Flashes – red.

Jackets, waistcoats and glengarries remain black, the kilt remains Mackenzie Seaforth.

HOSE AND SHOES

Black ghillie brogues are preferable; plain black brogues or shoes are acceptable. You must supply your own shoes and keep them well polished.

Long laces with leather tassel ends can be supplied by the QM. They are tied up the hose to the front as shown.

Hose colour is blue, ribs should run vertically. Hose tops are turned over as required to give the bulky effect. The top should stand three or four fingerbreadths below the bottom of the kneecap.

Appendix 1 demonstrates rolling of hose tops.

Underwear: *"I am not a true Scotsman I wear socks and shoes under my Kilt."* - when we wheel right around the lifeboat shed kilts always catch the breeze……so on this one we say do as you please!

Appendix 2 demonstrates how to tie the laces

Flashes are worn on the outside of each leg so that a vertical line through the divide would pass through the centre of the ankle joint. If yours are too long double them over the elastic so that three finger widths protrude below the hose top.

Sgian Dubhs, although personal items, are permitted in uniform for those who wish. If worn it should be tucked in the top of the right hose, with 1½" (38mm) of hilt showing.

When travelling in uniform a standard Sgian Dubh will not be allowed in an aircraft cabin. Bladeless versions are available from most kilt specialist.

KILT AND ACCOUTREMENTS

Kilts of Seaforth Mackenzie tartan are worn central to the body (red line running up the middle), hem on mid kneecap, thus if you kneel on both knees the hem should clear the floor.

Kilt pins carry the Clan Maclennan slogan "While I Breath I Hope" surmounting the image of a piper. They are worn to the wearer's right, centre line approx 3" (75mm) in from the edge of the apron and sword tip 3" (75mm) above the hem of the kilt.

The famous piper and composer D.R. Maclennan, formally of the Seaforth Highlanders, was at one time Pipe Major of North Berwick, hence the choice of tartan and kilt pin.

Belts are worn firm to the body, buckle central with the kilt, runner as near to the buckle as possible; the small bow amongst the thistles should be at the bottom of the buckle detail. Always wear your belt to engagements as, depending on weather conditions, we may play without waistcoats, or you may be required to carry your cape pouch.

Sporrans are worn central with the kilt, the cantle one hands breadth from the bottom of the waist belt. Drummers (side and tenor) move their sporrans to the rear of the **right** hip when carrying the drum. This may also be required of the bass drummer depending upon how the harness sits.

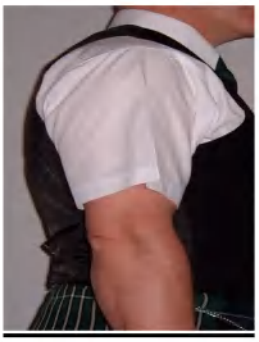
TOP HALVES

Jackets of black "Argyle" style with silver buttons are worn open with the waistcoat. Ensure all buttons are sewn on firmly, that the pocket flaps are out and that there is nothing too bulky in the pockets.

Waistcoats to match the jackets are worn Edward VII style (i.e. with bottom button undone). Again ensure all buttons are sewn on firmly and that there is nothing too bulky in the pockets. Drummers will find that the harness rubs on the buttons. Check them regularly.

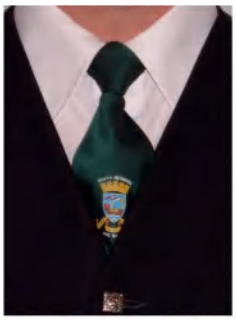
Shirts are available through by the Band. There are many shades of blue, but we use one supplier to achieve a standard colour.

Shirts are now long sleeved but depending on circumstances, e.g. touring in a hot climate, we may, on rare occasions revert back to short sleeves.



Shirts should be clean and ironed; models designed for detachable insignia can be tidied by removing the black buttons and loops from the shoulders. Plain sewn on epaulets, as in a pilot shirt, are fine.

Ties should be clipped centrally in the shirt collar. The traditional tie should be knotted in the even "Windsor" style and positioned centrally in the collar. In both cases the top shirt button is fastened and the crest is visible above the "V" of the waistcoat. A tie pin concealed below the waist coat will help to keep it in place.



Appendix 3 demonstrates tying of the "Windsor knot".

THE GLENGARRY

Ours are all black with a plain band (i.e. no chequers) and a red bobble. It is worn with the point in line with the nose. Although the picture shows it worn straight a slightly jaunty tilt to the right is normal, about 1" (25mm) above the left eyebrow and ½" (13mm) above the right eyebrow. The rosette is usually pre-attached but if not sew it firmly to the wearer's left with its centre 4" (100mm) from the front. The badge fixes through the centre of the rosette and is held with split pins, screws or pins & caps on the inside. For uniformed organisations the hat is the conventional place to wear a poppy. Keep the tails neatly pressed.

CAPES

Band Spec types are currently issued; this fine garment will keep you warm and dry. The pouch has loops allowing it to be carried on the waist belt. Drummers will normally wear the pouch at the small of their backs. Some pipers wear the pouch to their left side to help support the pipe bag.

Always have your cape with you; you will not be popular if the Band has to play in the rain without capes just because you have forgotten to bring yours, consequently you may be dropped for that engagement.

Capes are easily mixed up between bandsmen especially at massed events and they are not cheap to replace so form a close attachment to this vital investment!

Appendix 4 shows how to fold the cape to fit the pouch in the recommended crease avoiding manner – easy when you know how!

A good tip is to put your belt on after your sporran. This makes it easier to get the belt off and on when fitting or remove the cape pouch.

Store the cape on a hanger; this will ensure that it is properly dried, avoid creases and mould and afford you plenty practice in the folding method!

PERSONAL APPEARANCE

Hair (including beards/moustaches)

As a volunteer band we avoid being too prescriptive but please aim to be tidy so as to give the best all round impression of the Band. Hair that is long enough should be tied back. A full-bodied style may require a larger glengarry if it is to sit on your head a described above.

Make up and other grooming

Again we don't wish to be overly prescriptive but by being subtle you will blend with the uniform appearance of the band rather than stand out as an individual. (and this applies to our female members as well).

Jewellery

Bare essentials worn discreetly are acceptable. With the waistcoats, a few members wear pocket watches and fobs with chain. This is acceptable as long as the style of wearing is standardised and all the chains are silver/chrome.

Appendix 1: Sock Tops

Pull the sock on so that ribs run straight up the leg and the heel is correctly positioned.

Fold top edge down to bottom of bobble pattern and attach flashes at correct height.

Turn the double thickness of the top down again so that the sock is now four finger widths below the centre of your knee cap. The "peppercorn" section is now three layers thick giving the appropriate bulky effect.

Appendix 2: Shoe Laces

Step 1.

Twisting the laces at the front. *This shows six twists. ½ hitch prior to any twists is optional but can help to prevent the laces coming loose.*

Step 2.

The twisting at the back. *This shows two twists with the laces pulled artificially high in the front, they will be lowered for final tying. This view is looking back over your right shoulder with your toe resting on the ground.*

Step 3.

Tie your knot. *The picture shows the knot to the side in exaggerated fashion. The knot lies just to the outside of centre as on the picture right.*

Tying a reef knot before making the bow will ensure that it does not come undone mid performance, but you must do this properly

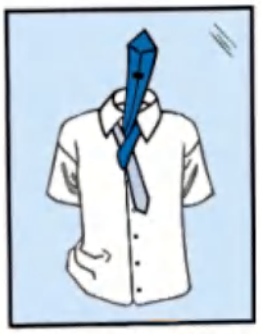
- right over left and under,
left over right and under -

Otherwise you get a granny knot - very difficult to undo!

Appendix 3: Windsor Knot

1) Start with the wide end ("W") of your necktie on the right, extending about 12 inches below the narrow end ("N") on the left.

Cross W over N then -



up through the loop between the collar and your tie and -

back down again.

2) Pull W under the knot and to the right, then back through the loop from the top so that W now lies inside out.

3) Now take W across the front from right to left.

4) W goes up through the loop from the bottom again -

then down through the knot in front.

6) Finally using both hands tighten the knot carefully and draw it up to the collar.

Congratulations, you did it! It is not rocket science after all. Keep practicing until you can tie this necktie knot within less than two minutes.

Appendix 4: Cape Folding

Step 1 - lay flat and fold wings in.
Lay cape out so that you can see its full shape; fasten studs to make it easier. Fold each wing in to lie on top of the coat.

Step 2 – fold lengthwise to fit width of pouch.
Fold right side over beyond centre line then fold left side on top and check against pouch to ensure correct width.

Step 3- reduce to 1/3rd length
Like folding a letter for an envelope, fold bottom third up and top third down.

Step 4 -fold in half
Fold your thirds in half again to get a roughly square shape that matches the pouch

Step 5 – Finish
Pack away and admire your neat result!

Appendix 5: Maintenance

LEATHER

Shoes, Waist belt, Drum Sling, Sporran.

Polish applied regularly not only shines but also helps to preserve the leather.

Belt - Especially where the buckle is attached as this marks the leather.

Sling - Watch for polish at the edges as this can come off on your shirt. (This also applies to the waist belt).

Sporran - Not so critical, but watch for any wear or blemishes and cover up immediately.

Shoes - "Bulling" is not essential but polishing is.

If you do decide to "bull" your shoes try the following method:

- Use **Kiwi Parade Gloss** polish. Brushed cotton pillowcases cut into oblongs to use as rags. Do not use yellow dusters as they are too harsh and you get yellow bits everywhere.
- With new shoes, don't try to do it in one day. It will take several layers of polish to get to the 2nd stage.

Bulling shoes is a three-stage process.

1. Get **water as hot as you can stand**. Put the cloth round a finger and soak it in the water. Load the cloth with a large amount of polish and rub it into the leather in large circles. Keep rubbing until the polish is almost completely rubbed in. Repeat this to add layers of polish until the leather is very shiny.
   For new shoes you will probably need 5 or 6 layers and it will take quite a few hours to get to this stage.

2. Get **cold water**. With another cloth, barely dip it in the water and put a really small amount of polish onto it. Rub this in with circles as small as you can with light pressure onto the shoe. This is the real "bulling" part. If you have completed stage 1 properly, the toecap will start to really shine as you are bulling.

3. If you have done this correctly you should have properly bulled toecaps, but there may be marks where you have been rubbing in small circles. To get rid of these dip some cotton wool into the cold water and lightly rub over the toecap. Then blow the water off.

Once you've gone through this, you should only need to do the 2nd stage to renew the shine. This should only take about 10 minutes.

METAL

Belt Buckle, Drum Sling Buckle, Cap Badge, Kilt Pin, Sporran Cantle.

The drum sling buckle is the only item that will require cleaning with metal polish. Keep the metal polish off the leather.

Wipe finger marks off other shiny bits with a dry cloth.

CLOTH

Hose, Shirt, Kilt, Jacket, Waistcoat, Hat.

Hose and shirts should be washed before any engagement.
Kilt, jacket, waistcoat and hat should be brushed with a clothes brush.

Routine dry-cleaning and repairs can be arranged by the Quartermaster but you are responsible for the day-to-day cleaning i.e. spilt soup or the like. Capes have cleaning instructions attached.

Press all relevant items carefully. Use brown paper between the material and the sole of a steam iron or under a damp cloth.
Check the iron is at the correct heat setting for the material.
Don't press too hard or linger too long as you will mark or even singe the material.

Wet kit should be allowed to dry in a well-ventilated room without forced heat before being pressed and put away.
Don't forget the glengarry which should be carefully pressed after it dries out.

The kilt, jacket and waistcoat should be stored carefully on the hanger in the suit bag provide on issue. The items should also be handed in with your uniform should you leave the band.

INSTRUMENTS

Drums, Pipes, Harnesses

Clean drums with a spray-on furniture polish and a soft cloth. Chips or scrapes on the coated metal parts of the drum or the harness should be touched up with an appropriately coloured matt paint. Use insulating tape as protection where continual wear occurs.

Pipes should be cleaned with a spray-on furniture polish and a soft cloth. In addition silver or nickel mountings should be cleaned with an appropriate metal polish. Pipe bag covers should be brushed with a clothes brush. Always store the chanter and its reed out of the pipes, use a false stock to protect the reed. Where pipes have had heavy use leave the case open for a few days to allow them to dry. If you are a wet blower open the bag zip a little also.

Wet instruments should be allowed to dry naturally in a well-ventilated room. The highland bagpipe and the drums they are predominantly constructed from wood and metal. Packing away wet **will** lead to mildew, rust and rot. Once this occurs it is very difficult to rectify.

Keep snare drum top heads as dry as possible; proprietary covers have been issued and should be used at the first sign of rain. Water absorption deadens the sound from the head and can interfere with the hydrogen bond created during manufacture. Similarly Kevlar also degrades in UV so store the drum in the case provided. If raining, place the drum upside down when resting it on the ground.