
Bobby MacLeod, accordion player

Some notes from Two Days on Mull by Robert Wallace

Tobermory Games: A 5am start saw us via a flask of coffee, some sandwiches and the A82 at Oban pier at 7.15am. On board the Mull ferry we met fellow judges Ian McLellan and Barry Donaldson and piping convenor Torquil Telfer. A short crossing and we were at Craignure (pro. Craig-y-nure by locals) and off north via the partially single track road to Tobermory. We gathered in the Mishnish Hotel to be welcomed by proprietor Robert MacLeod. Robert took over from his late father, the famous box player Bobby some years ago. Some great pictures on the walls of the hotel and Robert told me a little of the family's history. They were originally from Assynt but were cleared off the land. Fortunately they had a boat and were able to move to Gairloch in Wester Ross. I don't know how they ended up on Mull but the hotel has been in the family's ownership for close on 150 years. Robert told me his father had had pipe lessons from an uncle from the age of four and even had a miniature set of pipes made for him. Good picture. When Willie Ross started teaching round the Highlands, Bobby had lessons and remembered being tutored along with John Burgess. John D remained a lifelong friend. Another pic shows Bobby at a games. I think it is North Uist as the person on the left looks like the John Maclean featured recently in the PT. Then there's P/M John MacDonald, Glasgow Police, and finally the well known Highland character and fiddler extraordinaire 'Pibroch' MacKenzie. I am sure that the classic eight-part version of Charlie's Welcome that we used to play in Muirheads was by him.

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A Scottish Musical Miscellany

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