

NORTHERN IRELAND OPEN ACCORDION CHAMPIONSHIPS

President: **Joan Drummond MBE**

ORGANISER

CLYDE JOHNSTON
26 CARMOND DRIVE
LARNE
CO. ANTRIM
BT40 2DB
TEL. (028) 2827 2258

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The Eighteenth **NORTHERN IRELAND OPEN ACCORDION CHAMPIONSHIPS** held in the Belfast Loughshore Hotel Carrickfergus (formerly known as the Clarion) on Saturday 28 February 2015 were another huge success with reaction from spectators and competitors alike being very favourable towards the festival which ran like clockwork in a relaxed and friendly spirit.

Organised by **Clyde Johnston** it is the largest accordion festival held in Northern Ireland and attracted a record 240 entries. The Championships are recognised by the National Accordion Organisation of the United Kingdom as a qualifier for the UK Championships, held later in the year in Liverpool and Clyde was delighted to again welcome competitors from the **Chilton School of Music** in Co. Cavan and **Gerry Kelly's Accordion School** from Co. Meath. There were also other entries from Co. Meath, Co. Dublin, Southern England and Glasgow in addition to the local competitors and trade stands by Rolston Accordions and Rob Howard which greatly enhanced the Festival.

The adjudicators were **Ivan Black, Audrey Gillian** and **Philip Hammond**. They were greatly impressed not only by the high standard of playing but also with the smooth and efficient manner in which the Championships were run.

Star performers were **K&S Advanced Orchestra** under the direction of **Gerry Kelly** from Co. Cavan along with **Jonathan Callaghan** and **Molly McKenna**, all from Co. Meath. The Orchestra so impressed the adjudicators with their performance of the Dalmatinsche Tanz in the Advanced Orchestra Section that they awarded them the prize for Best Overall Performance of the Day and Jonathan's performances in winning the Senior Recital, the Championship Solo 17 & Under, the Advanced Solo Own Choice and the Senior Polka got him second place in the Best Overall category whilst Molly with 4 firsts in the 11 & Under Championship, the Higher Preparatory Test & Own Choice and Hi Prep Duet when she teamed up with **Sam Fitzpatrick**, earned her third prize in the Best Overall category.

12 year old **Lisa Fitzpatrick** from Co. Meath also had a memorable day picking up 5 first prizes in the Championship Solo 13 & Under, the Intermediate Test & Own Choice sections and the 12 & Under Polka as well as winning the Intermediate Duet Test with **Madison Doherty**. Madison was also in fine form winning the 11 & Under Musette and the Junior Frosini. A four times winner was **Evelyn Moore** from Templepatrick in the Late Starters Higher Intermediate Solo, Senior Sacred Solo, Higher Intermediate Duet & Sacred Duet as well as leading the **East Antrim Sacred Ensemble** to victory in the Sacred Group Section whilst triple prize winners were **Siobhan Nelligan** from Co. Meath who won the Senior Musette, the Open Solo and the Advanced Duet (with Jonathan Callaghan); **Michael Daly**, (Co. Dublin) who won the Late Starters Higher Prep, and the Irish & Scottish Traditional Sections; **Truly Mills** (Larne) who won the Championship Solo 7 & Under, the Preliminary Solo & the 7 & Under Musette Solo and **Jonathan Wilson** (Larne) who won the Senior Musette & Frosini Sections as well as teaming up with **Emma Dunlop** (Carrickfergus) to win the Intermediate Duet Own Choice. Emma went on to win the 16 & Under Polka.

Other double prize winners were the **Masterson sisters Ciara & Laura** from Co. Meath. Ciara won the Higher Intermediate Test Piece & Own Choice Sections whilst Laura won the Preparatory Solo Test & Own Choice Sections; **Nicole Doherty** (Co. Meath) in the Championship Solo 15 & the Advanced Solo Test; **Katie Bell** (Ballycarry) in the Polka Solo 14 & Under and the Musette Solo 15 & Under; **Louise Boomer** (Newtownabbey) in the Late Starters Intermediate Solo and Hi Elementary Duet Sections; **Sean Brady** (Co. Meath) in the Preparatory Duet Test & the 9 & Under Championship Solo; **Charlotte McKenna** (Co. Meath) in the Higher Elementary Solo Test & Own Choice; **Pat Kelly** (Larne) in the Late Starters Musette & Preliminary Solos and youngest competitor **Beth Jamison** (Larne) in the Introductory Solo and the 6 & Under Polka.

Other competitors from the Republic of Ireland who won their solo sections were, **Sarah O'Brien**, Elementary Solo Test Piece; **Doireann Smith**, Elementary Own Choice; **Michael Leavey**, Polka Solo 10 & Under; **Juliann Callaghan**, Late Starters Polka Solo; **Michael McKeon-Boyle**, 13 & Under Musette Solo; **Evan Eiffe**, 13-15 Irish Traditional Solo; **Ava & Alexandra Clarke**, Elementary Duet Test Piece; **Ciaran McKenna & Cian Wilson**, Elementary Duet Own Choice and **Karl Parge & Fiachra Smith** in the Preparatory Duet Own Choice whilst **Matt Murdoch** from Glasgow won the Senior Jazz Solo.

On the local front there was also success for **Laura Dunlop** from Carrickfergus who won the 9 & Under Musette Solo Section and came third in the Preparatory Solo Own Choice whilst sisters **Joanna & Susanna Coon** from Millbrook Larne won their respective Sacred sections as well as being placed second in their Polka Sections.

Chelsea Morrow from Carnalbanagh won the 16 & Under Sacred Section in addition to taking second prize in the 16 & Under Polka Solo and Ballyclare man **Alex Ferris** won the Late Starters Introductory Solo whilst four Larne girls were also among the prizes. **Emma McConkey** 2nd in the Sacred 14 & Under & 3rd in the 14 & Under Polka; **Shannon Lamont** 5th in the Higher Preparatory Test Piece; **Lauren Blackburn** 3rd in both the Elementary Solo Own Choice and the 16 & Under Polka Sections and sister **Hannah** 4th in the Polka 14 & Under Solo and 5th in the 15 & Under Musette.

In the Group Sections **St John's Accordion Group** from Portadown won the Art Level Section ahead of **Castletown Advanced Ensemble** with various **Castletown Groups** winning the Intermediate, Elementary and Preparatory Sections.

Once again the Orchestral Sections drew the largest audience of the day and they were not disappointed with the musical feast that was served. In the Marching Band Sections **Dunloy Accordion Band** demonstrated why they are acknowledged as the top marching accordion band in the country by winning the Senior Marching Band Test and Own Choice Sections titles as well as taking 2nd place in the Drum Corp Section. This was won by **Brunswick Accordion Band** from Annalong who were making a welcome return to the competition scene after an absence of 10 years. Brunswick also won the Intermediate Test & Own Choice Sections as well as taking 3rd in the Sacred March Section. This was won by **Lily of the Valley Accordion Band** from Comber who also won the Junior Orchestral March Section. **Aughafatten Accordion Band** from Broughshane were placed second in The Intermediate Marching Band Section and third in the Sacred Marching Band Section and Drum Corp Section. **Dunloy** went on to win the Senior Orchestra March and the Orchestral Percussion in addition to being awarded Gold for their Entertainment programme & second place in the Orchestral Sacred. This was won by **East Antrim Seniors Accordion Orchestra** who were also awarded gold for their Entertainment programme as well as winning the Intermediate March and Club Band Sections and second place in the Orchestral Percussion. Third prize in the Orchestral Percussion went to **East Antrim Intermediate Group** who also won the Entertainment Section.

In the graded Orchestra Sections in addition to **K&S Accordion Orchestra** winning the Advanced Orchestra section the **Castletown Accordion Orchestras** from Co Cavan won the Preparatory, Elementary and Intermediate Sections as well as taking Gold in the Orchestral Entertainment and Mozart Sections whilst **Killyglen Accordion Orchestra** from Larne took second prize in the Advanced Section.

At the prize presentation that night in the hotel in addition to the Deputy Mayor of Carrickfergus Borough Council **Councillor Lynn McClurg** who presented the prizes two special guests from England were welcomed. They were top accordion teacher from Hampshire **Adrienne Griffiths** and **Malachy Cairns** a professional accordionist originally from Co Meath but now living in Coventry. Malachy sang a very emotive version of Carrickfergus and got a tremendous ovation from the packed house. At the end of the prize giving youngest competitor 6 year old **Beth Jamison** presented the Deputy Mayor with a bouquet of flowers. All in all it was a splendid day's competition and music-making and already plans are afoot for next year's competition which shall be on Saturday 20th February 2016.

Special thanks are due to the management and staff of the **Belfast Loughshore Hotel Carrickfergus** for providing the excellent facilities and their professionalism and helpfulness throughout the day which contributed greatly to the smooth running of the festival, **Carrickfergus Borough Council** and the **Souvenir Programme Advertisers** for sponsoring the Championships and to the Stage Managers; **Ruth Campbell, Jack Gowdy, Elaine Brennan, Russell Ramage, Evelyn Moore & Alan Scott**; Competitions co-ordinator **Mark Johnston**, as well as **Ian Campbell, Bill McCartney & Gary Brennan** who manned the Information Desk.

CLYDE JOHNSTON

Organiser

02 March 2015

NORTHERN IRELAND OPEN ACCORDION CHAMPIONSHIPS

RESULTS 28 February 2015

Adjudicators:- Ivan Black, Audrey Gillian & Philip Hammond

Senior Recital

Jonathan Callaghan	86
Lauren Farquharson	85
Siobhan Nelligan	84
Brian Eiffe	83

Championship Solo 17& Under

Jonathan Callaghan	90
Brian Eiffe	89

Championship Solo 15& Under

Nicole Doherty	85
Arann Geraghty	84
Kate McKenna	82

Championship Solo 13 & Under

Rachael Fitzpatrick	88
Evan Eiffe	86
Michael McKeon Boyle	85
Jordan Curtis	84

Championship Solo 11 & Under

Molly McKenna	90
Madison Doherty	89
Ciara Brady	88
Ciaran Gilligan	87
Doireann Smith	86
Finn Longmore	85
Sarah McKenna	84
Laura Farrelly	84
Tara Sullivan	84

Championship Solo 9 & Under

Sean Brady	87
Sam Fitzpatrick	86
Alicia Carney	85
Fiachra Smith	84
Orla O'Malley	83
Eabha Carolan	82

Championship Solo 7 & Under

Truly Mills	85
Karl Parge	84
Roisin Sullivan	83

Advanced Solo Test Piece

Nicole Doherty	84
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Advanced Solo Own Choice

Jonathan Callaghan	87
Nicole Doherty	86
Brian Eiffe	85
Matt Murdoch	84
Siobhan Nelligan	83

Hi Intermediate Solo Test Piece

Ciara Masterson	86
Sinead Collier	85.5
Clodagh Beirne	85

Hi Intermediate Solo Own Choice

Ciara Masterson	86
Oisin Carolan	85
Clodagh Beirne	84.5
Darren Briody	w/d

Late Starters Hi Intermediate Solo

Evelyn Moore	85
Juliann Callaghan	82

Intermediate Solo Test Piece

Rachael Fitzpatrick	89
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Intermediate Solo Own Choice

Rachael Fitzpatrick	87
Emma Dunlop	82

Late Starters Intermediate Solo

Louise Boomer	85
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Higher Elementary Solo Test Piece

Charlotte McKenna	87
Madison Doherty	86
Ciaran Gilligan	85
Katya Murray	84.5
Hannah Blackburn	84
Robert Caffrey	83

Hi Elementary Solo Own Choice

Charlotte McKenna	88.5
Madison Doherty	88
Ciaran Gilligan	85
Ciaran McKenna	85
Katya Murray	84.5
Hannah Blackburn	84
Robert Caffrey	84

Elementary Solo Test Piece

Sarah O'Brien	86
Ava Clarke	85
Harry Caffrey	84.5
Joanne Healy	84
Joanna Coon	w/d

Elementary Solo Own Choice

Doireann Smith	87
Harry Caffrey	86
Lauren Blackburn	85.5
Ava Clarke	85.25
Sarah O'Brien	85
Ashling Havern	84.5
Laura Bradley	84
Emma Moran	83
Jonathan Smith	83
Donal Dunne	83
Joanne Healy	83
Oisin Martin	83
Ruth Smith	83
Martin O'Connell	w/d

Higher Preparatory Solo Test Piece

Molly McKenna	89
Sam Fitzpatrick	88
Alexandra Clarke	87
Holly Murphy	86
Shannon Lamont	85.75
Emma McConkey	85.5
Chelsea Morrow	85.25
Lauren Cassidy	85
Ciara Brady	85

Higher Preparatory Solo Own Choice

Molly McKenna	89
Sam Fitzpatrick	88
Ciara Brady	87
Holly Murphy	86
Chelsea Morrow	85.75
Susanna Coon	85.5
Shannon Lamont	85.25
Lauren Cassidy	85
Alexandra Clarke	84
Emma McConkey	84
Aoife Dunne	83
Eimear Lamb	83

Late Starters Hi Preparatory Solo

Michael Daly	85
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Preparatory Solo Test Piece

Laura Masterson	84
Michael Leavey	83
Sean Brady	82.5
Alicia Carney	82
Laura Dunlop	82

Preparatory Solo Own Choice

Laura Masterson	84
Aisling Doughty	83.5
Laura Dunlop	83
Sean Brady	82
Alicia Carney	82
Michael Leavey	82

Preliminary Solo Own Choice

Truly Mills	82
Karl Parge	81
Roisin Sullivan	80

LS Preliminary Solo Own Choice

Pat Kelly	80
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Introductory Solo Own Choice

Beth Jamison	80
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Introductory Solo Own Choice

Alex Ferris	80
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Senior Polka

Jonathan Callaghan	90
Jonathan Wilson	86
Niamh Markey	85
Siobhan Nelligan	82
Louise Boomer	81

Polka Solo 16 & Under

Emma Dunlop	85
Chelsea Morrow	84
Lauren Blackburn	82

Polka Solo 14 & Under

Katie Bell	85
Joanna Coon	84
Emma McConkey	81
Hannah Blackburn	80

Polka Solo 12 & Under

Rachael Fitzpatrick	86
Susanna Coon	85

Polka Solo 10 & Under

Michael Leavey	86
Laura Masterson	85

Polka Solo 6 & Under

Beth Jamison	80
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Late Starters Polka Solo

Juliann Callaghan	82
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Senior Musette Solo

Siobhan Nelligan	85
Louise Boomer	84
Juliann Callaghan	83

Musette Solo 17 & Under

Jonathan Wilson	87
Brian Eiffe	86

Musette Solo 15 & Under

Katie Bell	87
Ciara Masterson	86
Emma Dunlop	85
Sinead Collier	84
Hannah Blackburn	83
Chelsea Morrow	82
Joanna Coon	82

Musette Solo 13 & Under

Michael McKeon-Boyle	88
Jordan Curtis	87
Harry Caffrey	85
Darren Briody	84
Evan Eiffe	84
Alexandra Clarke	83
Susanna Coon	83
Emma McConkey	82

Musette Solo 11 & Under

Madison Doherty	87
Ciaran Gilligan	85
Sarah McKenna	84

Musette Solo 9 & Under

Laura Dunlop	85
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Musette Solo 7 & Under

Truly Mills	84
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Late Starters Musette Solo

Pat Kelly	82
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Late Starters Scottish Traditional Solo

Michael Daly	84
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Senior Frosini Solo

Jonathan Wilson	86
Louise Boomer	85
Jonathan Callaghan	84.5
Siobhan Nelligan	84
Katie Oates	83
Niamh Markey	83
Brian Eiffe	82

Junior Frosini Solo

Madison Doherty	87
Evan Eiffe	83

Open Solo

Siobhan Nelligan	86
Aoibh Collier	85

Jazz Solo

Matt Murdoch	84
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Irish Trad 13 - 15 Years

Evan Eiffe	82
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Late Starters Irish Traditional

Michael Daly	84
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Sacred Solo

Evelyn Moore	84
Juliann Callaghan	83

Sacred Solo 16 & Under

Chelsea Morrow	85
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Sacred Solo 14 & Under

Joanna Coon	83
Emma McConkey	82

Sacred Solo 12 & Under

Susanna Coon	82
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Advanced Duet

Siobhan Nelligan & Jonathan Callaghan	86
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Hi Intermediate Duet

Evelyn Moore & Clyde Johnston	87
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Intermediate Duet T/P

Rachael Fitzpatrick & Madison Doherty	90
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Intermediate Duet O/C

Emma Dunlop & Jonathan Wilson	86
Kate McKenna & Niamh Markey	84

LS Higher Elementry Duet O/C

Louise Boomer & Clyde Johnston	87
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Elementry Duet T/P

Alexandra & Ava Clarke	85
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Elementry Duet O/C

Ciaran McKenna & Cian Wilson	81
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Higher Preparatory Duet T/P

Molly McKenna & Sam Fitzpatrick	86
Lauren Cassidy & Laura Masterson	85

Preparatory Duet T/P

Sean Brady & Alicia Carney	85
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Preparatory Duet Own Choice

Karl Parg & Fiachra Smith	85
Eabha Carolan & Aisling Doughty	84

Sacred Duet

Evelyn Moore & Clyde Johnston	86
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Art Level Group

St John's Accordion Group	88
Castletown Advanced Ensemble	87

Intermediate Group Own Choice

Castletown Boys Ensemble	91
Jordan, Kate & Rachael	88
Castletown Intermediate Ensemble	85
East Antrim Juniors	84

Elementry Group Own Choice

Ashling, Doireann, Donal, Jonathan & Martin	87
Aimee, Finn, Lucy, Sarah & Tara	84

Preparatory Group Own Choice

Laure, Nicole, Ruth & Sophie	83
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Sacred Group Own Choice

East Antrim Sacred Ensemble	87
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Mozart

Castletown Advanced Ensemble	Gold
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Entertainment

East Antrim Juniors	85
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Advanced Orchestra Own Choice

K & S Accordion Orchestra	93
Killyglen Accordion Orchestra	86

Intermediate Orchestra

Castletown Intermediate Accordion Orchestra	86
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Elementary Orchestra Own Choice

Castletown Junior Orchestra	85
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Preparatory Orchestra Own Choice

Castletown Preparatory Orchestra	81
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Showband Entertainment Awards

East Antrim Seniors	Gold
Dunloy Accordion Orchestra	Gold
Castletown Accordion Orchestra	Gold

Accordion Club Band

East Antrim Seniors Orchestra	89
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Senior Orchestra March

Dunloy Accordion Orchestra	90
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Intermediate Orchestra March

East Antrim Seniors	87
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Junior Orchestra March

Lily of the Valley Accordion Band	83
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Sacred Orchestra

East Antrim Seniors	90
Dunloy Accordion Orchestra	88

Senior Marching Band Test

Dunloy Accordion Band	87
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Senior Marching Band OC

Dunloy Accordion Band	86
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Intermediate Marching Band Test

Brunswick Accordion Band	85
Lily of the Valley Accordion Band	82

Intermediate Marching Band OC

Brunswick Accordion Band	87
Aughafatten Accordion Band	84
Lily of the Valley Accordion Band	81

Sacred Marching Band OC

Lily of the Valley Accordion Band	85
Brunswick Accordion Band	84
Aughafatten Accordion Band	83

Marching Band Drum Corp

1 Brunswick Accordion Band
2 Dunloy Accordion Band
3 Aughafatten Accordion Band

Orchestral Percussion

1 Dunloy
2 East Antrim Seniors
3 East Antrim Intermediate Group

Best Overall Performance

1. K&S Acc Orchestra
2. Jonathan Callaghan
3. Molly McKenna