

## The Ramsay Pipeband –

We are looking for new members. To play in a pipeband, you need four things: 1) a uniform, 2) a musical instrument, 3) a good stance, 4) a good marching ability and then 5) an ability to play the instrument.

We do not expect you to be able to play the instrument soon, but we want you to wear our uniform and we would like you to wear it well. Uniforms and instruments are available. Tuition in wearing the uniform, carrying an instrument, marching and finally in the playing of your instrument will be part of your regular training.

### 1) Tips for wearing the uniform –

No matter how good a piper or drummer is, he or she cannot play in a pipeband without a uniform. The uniform is therefore the most important feature of a pipeband and wearing it properly is essential.

Each band has a different uniform, but some things do not change

#### Hat

- \* Hats should be worn well down on the face, almost touching the eyebrows. Glengarries may be worn at a tilt to the right but no hat is ever worn at a tilt to the back.
- \* Hair should be tied back. No hair, longer than the top of the ears, should be allowed to be seen from the front.
- \* Earrings should not be worn.

#### Kilt

- \* Underwear should not be visible through the shirt.
- \* Pants should be black or of a colour to match the tartan. They should not be too long nor too short. NB Wearing a kilt without pants contravenes the law of most countries.

#### Sporran

- \* Sporrans should not droop too low. Trim men may wear it approximately one hand's space down from the belt but anyone with a paunch needs to wear it higher. The bigger the paunch the higher the sporran.

#### Socks.

- \* The top of the socks should be three fingers width down from the bone at the side of the

knee. A good clear space is needed between kilt and sock. Socks worn too high give the wearer an effeminate look.

## **2 – Stance**

A good stance is essential for playing in a pipeband. A 'banana back' with the shoulders rolled well back will not only look good but will provide a solid base for the drones and a good support for the drum.

## **3 – Marching**

The third most important thing needed to play in a pipeband is the ability to march well. No matter how well you pipe or drum you will not be an asset to a pipeband unless you can march well and in step. Good marching is essential for all performers but especially for drummers. They have to be able to tap out the correct footing. When the drummer taps, everyone should be on the left foot.

## **4 – Music**

Musical ability is not needed at all. This is one of the most common mistakes made. Players who stand well, dress well and are able to march correctly but are unable to play their instrument can be placed in the centre of the band and so are a great help to the band because they swell the numbers.

We have uniforms available and so criteria number #1 has already been achieved. Join us.