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Hi Friend,

At this the tail end of the year, this month's newsletter shall be short. I would first of all like to thank all of you for the many congratulations and best wishes we received after announcing my recent marriage to Karen. As you read this, I am with her in Arizona where we will soon enjoy



our first Christmas together. The skies are sunny and the temperature mild. We look forward to seeing you all – both in the US and in Scotland – in 2021. Maybe, virus permitting, in New Zealand as well.

It has been quite a year. As I write, vaccines are being rolled out in the United Kingdom. The vaccination programme will take us well into 2021 but maybe, just maybe we will have a piping season next summer. We can only hope.

We must look ahead with optimism and with positivity and it is good to see that the RSPBA has announced some tentative dates for the major pipe band championships. As I type, however, some solo competitions across North America – including some that I usually judge at – remain

uncertain. The rollout of the vaccine may not be achieved in time for these contests.

It has been clear to me that a great many pipers around the world have spent this year trying to improve their sound. I continue to receive great feedback from pipers everywhere who are trying my reeds and moisture control products for the first time. I want to thank them all for the great feedback and testimonials ... and for bringing my products to the attention of others.



On behalf of my lovely wife, Karen, we would like to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Bliadhna Mhath Ùr (pr. *bleeana vaa oor*) – or Happy New Year as they say in Gaelic!



Enjoy your piping.

Bruce Hitchings MBE BEM.

As ever, please send me photos or videos you'd be willing to share at [bruce@highlandreeds.com](mailto:bruce@highlandreeds.com) including a caption of event and date. Please also leave a product review on the appropriate produce page of my website – or leave a comment or video clip of you playing on the ['Submit your comment/playing' page](#).

***Right: This will soon be Highland Reeds' North American HQ.***



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