



NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY SHOW
NORTHUMBRIAN PIPING COMPETITIONS
RULES AND ORDER OF PLAY 2026



Judge: Andy May

Northumbrian Piping Session from 11am-12.30. Competitions will begin at 1pm

Rosettes awarded to 4th Placing - Prize money 1st - £20, 2nd - £10, 3rd - £5

Entry includes 1 admission ticket to the show.

Please return entry form to Show Office, Hexham Auction Mart, Hexham, NE46 3SG or bring it to the Piping Tent on the day

Trophies allocated as below for classes. To be returned in 2027.

BEGINNERS (for the Lancelot Robson Cup)

The player must not have previously won the Novice class at the Northumberland County Show competition.

Programme: one slow air and one quicker tune, each played twice through with usual repeats. All tunes played must be in the Northumbrian Piping tradition.

INTERMEDIATE (for The Hay & Kilner Award)

The player must not previously have won the Intermediate class at the Northumberland County Show competition.

Programme: one slow air and one quicker tune, each played twice through with usual repeats. All tunes played must be in the Northumbrian Piping tradition.

OPEN (for the Northumberland County Show Cup)

Programme: A programme of the player's own choice lasting no more than 5 minutes. Selection of tunes will be taken into account in the judging for the way it demonstrates the Northumbrian Small Pipes' character, the player's command of the instrument and musicality. All tunes played must be in the Northumbrian Piping tradition.

DUET – PIPES AND PIPES OR PIPES AND ANOTHER TRADITIONAL INSTRUMENT

A programme of the players' own choice, lasting not more than four minutes. Judging will take into account the technical and musical ability of the performers, the quality of the harmonies and the overall musicality of the performance. All tunes played must be in the Northumbrian Piping tradition.

BEST YOUNG PIPER (for the Dave Shaw Cup)

The trophy will be awarded to the player who, in the opinion of the Judge, shows most promise as a young piper (under the age of 18 on the day of the Show), either during the competitions or the session before the start of the competitions.

- All pipes must be Northumbrian Small Pipes.
- Players may only enter one of the Novice, Intermediate and Open classes. If they win, the Judge has discretion to allow them to enter the next class.
- The decision of the Judge on all matters will be final. Any competitor who is uncertain about how the Rules will be interpreted should consult the Judge in advance of the start of the relevant class.