

## **Edge Drone Reed Evaluation.**

### **Prepared by Wes Sheppard PM St Andrews of Winnipeg Pipe Band**

The Edge drone reed manufactured by Kinnaird Bagpipes is a great innovation in the production and performance of drone reeds. The reeds are made of quality materials with excellent workmanship. Every set is produced and set up so they are virtually identical coming out of the box.

In terms of sound, the reed has a very resonant full sound. With most drone reeds, as the distance from the player increases, the depth and character of the drones falls away. With these reeds, the sound stays very even and consistent at a wide range of distances. The reeds are very easy to set up and stay set, the adjustment does not vary. They are very resistant to water and are very stable with temperature change. The best part is these reeds are very efficient, probably the best I have ever played.

The reed works well in virtually every instrument, I have not found one yet that would not accept and set up with these. Strike in is much easier, double toning is very much reduced. Adjustments are very easy to make with the adjustment screw system but the player should be wary they are sensitive to the touch.

The reed works well with a wide variety of blowing strengths. I have a student who blows a very big pipe (he plays with a well known grade 1 band) and the reed went very well in his pipe. I took the same set of reeds and put them in a beginner students pipe which is set up almost like a practice chanter. The drones set up and the student bagpipe had a very full even tone from the drones, no wandering or flaring, quite an enjoyable sound.

I had the opportunity to test these reeds in a band I was working with from the Midwest. The band was originally set up with a myriad of different drone reeds, the sound was very hard to keep stable and was not full at all. Once the reeds were changed, it created a whole new depth to the sound and a huge improvement to the stability. At our first contest, the temperature was 115°F. The reeds were incredible. They held their pitch and tone and were very easy to work with in the tuning circle. We then went to Scotland and played very wet, cold conditions. The reeds held their stability and sound and required very little adjustment touch ups.

The set I am presently playing I put in almost a year ago. I have not touched them since initial set up and they perform well right out the box every time.

Overall, I feel this is an excellent product, you will not be disappointed.

Wes Sheppard