

# BAGPIPE TUTORIALS

Pipe Major Bill Robertson,  
ex The Royal Scots



## The Little Cascade Reel PM GS McLennan

Please see next page for some lesson pointers



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## LESSON POINTERS

Although the composer seldom showed pointing in his published tunes, he apparently played his light music with pointing much as we know it today. It has been said that George McLennan left the pointing of his written music to the good taste of the performer, although I wonder if he did not want to reveal too much of his style.

With this tune I suggest that you relax on the shorter notes without over-pointing, that is why reels are written most likely in 2/2 or  $\phi$  time. In other words have good clarity of execution, and avoid treating the pointing like a 2/4 March. There are some slightly different ways of playing some of the parts, especially the fourth part i.e. absolutely dead round nearly all the way, or have a subtle shortening of the first note in first beat of each bar first three bars followed by the roundness as I do. I have it on good authority from my friend and fine piper Willie Cruickshank son of Pipe Major George Cruickshank ex Gordon Highlanders a contemporary and friend of the composer. I feel that the grace note on these second notes of these groupings indicates certain feeling on that second note. The choice is up to the performer.

A tempo of about 72-84 beats per minute recommended.