

## Chris McNicholl

Chris (23) is from Co. Down, Northern Ireland, and started drumming at the tender age of 5. He initially began learning to play the drum kit, before being introduced to pipe band snare drumming by ex-tutor, *Gavin Bailey*.

Aged just 7, Chris started his playing career with the *Monkstown Mossley Junior Pipe Band*, prior to joining *Bleary & District* in the year 2000. He spent seven successful years with Bleary, winning many prizes and titles, including promotion to the premier grade of pipe bands in 2004, all under leading drummer and now mentor, *Ian Lawson* (currently of *Simon Fraser University Pipe Band*, Canada). Chris also spent a year with the *Marlacoo Pipe Band*, winning the European and World drumming titles in grade 3A. Currently, Chris is a member of the world renowned *Strathclyde Police Pipe Band* from Glasgow, under the direction of leading drummer *Eric Ward*.

Along with many successes in pipe bands, Chris has attained some of the top awards in solo drumming. Most notably, he has held the illustrious title of Juvenile World Solo Drumming Champion on no fewer than two occasions (2004 and 2006), and is now a regular name at the top of solo drumming, currently ranking 7<sup>th</sup> in the world at adult level.

Away from competition, Chris has enjoyed trips to the likes of Denmark, Germany and France teaching and adjudicating at numerous events. He also plays various percussion instruments, and has performed at venues such as Belfast's Odyssey Arena, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall and the famous O2 Arena in London. As well as being a member of the *National Youth Pipe Band of Scotland*, Chris has played in concert and on CD with the *Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band*, featured on recordings with premier piper *Robert Watt* and Irish folk group '*The Rooneys*', and appeared in the internationally broadcast musical '*Celtic Man*'.

Outside of drumming, Chris has recently graduated with a first class honours degree in Product Design. He is now a practicing designer, and you can check out his work at [www.chrismcnicholl.com](http://www.chrismcnicholl.com).



