

DONALD DINNIE DAY, THE GATHERING X

Sunday 2nd August 2026 @ Potarch Green

Running order and lifting schedule

(all events & competitors subject to change)

Session 1 – 12 noon – 12.45pm

Welcome and opening remarks by Gathering Chieftain, Malcolm Nicol followed by Event 1 of the Donald Dinnie Games & Event 1 of the Jan Todd Games named after the first lady to lift the Dinnie Stones. All athletes participating in the Games have previously lifted the Dinnie Stones.

The confirmed athletes competing are:

Donald Dinnie Games	Jan Todd Games
1. Adam Sauberlich	1. Hannah Linzay
2. Alfie Posyer	2. Izzy Tait
3. Andy Bell	3. Kikki Berli-Johnsen
4. Ashraff	4. Laurie MacDougall Sookraj
5. Harry Reeve	5. Martina Arsulic
6. Jack Brown	6. Pauline Mass
7. Jeremy Harper	7. Sal Brierley
8. Sebastian Hurst	8. Sandra Bradley
9. Thomas Wade	9. Teresa Troiani

Event 1 of the Donald Dinnie Games The Dougie Edmunds - Ballogie Stone Challenge (Original Stone provided by Brett Nicol).

Named after the Godfather of Strongman and World's Strongest Man co-founder, Dougie Edmunds, the Ballogie Stone Challenge is a strategy event designed to replicate all 5 phases of a natural stone lift. Each athlete will have 75 seconds to amass as many points as possible using the 123kg Ballogie Stone (Based on the Inver Stone). Points will be awarded as follows:

- 1. Breaking the ground with the stone – 1 point*
- 2. Lapping the stone – 5 points*
- 3. Standing up with the stone – 15 points*
- 4. Shouldering the stone – 25 points*
- 5. Pressing the stone overhead – 100 points*

Points will be recorded and agreed by the judging panel. The lifter must remove their hands from the stone between each lift and may not repeat a phase more than 3 times in a row. The lifter must set the stone down under control between each lift following a down signal from the referee on stand ups, shoulders and presses. No points will be awarded for a stone that is dropped before a down signal or from above knee height, however for safety a lifter may drop the stone under control onto a crash mat only if successful in pressing the stone overhead.

Event 1 of the Jan Todd Games – The JPS Stone Challenge (Stones provided by Brett Nicol).

This event, named after the late great Jón Páll Sigmarsson, is designed to get the blood pumping, the lungs screaming and the biceps complaining. It pays tribute to one of the oldest and most well-known stone lifting challenges, the Husafell Stone Challenge. The Húsafell Stone is a shield shaped lifting stone located in Húsafell, Iceland. The Húsafell stone weighs 186 kg and is located near a sheep pen built by Reverend Snorri Björnsson over two hundred years ago. To complete the original challenge the stone must be picked up and carried around the full outer wall of the sheep penn for a distance of

50 yards without dropping it. The challenge was first featured in the 1992 World's Strongest Man event and remains a popular challenge in the stone lifting world. This event features a 130kg stone (lighter than the Húsafell as the athletes also have to complete 5 gruelling events over the day's competition). Made from a mould of the actual Húsafell created by our dear friend David Accardo from Stix & Stone, it is identical in shape and must be picked up from a raised block and carried as far as possible. The athletes must choose between a pickup high on the chest allowing easier breathing but restricted vision or a lower pickup where breathing is harder but it's easier to see where you are going.

Session 2 – 12.45pm – 1.15pm

Group 1 of Dinnie Steen attempts. All Dinnie Stone lifting / carrying attempts will take place on the main platform:

- 1/ Adam Johnston
- 2/ Craig Nixon
- 3/ Alexander Stevenson
- 4/ James Spurgin
- 5/ Andrew Sheffield
- 6/ Jason Jones

Session 3 – 1.15pm – 2pm

Event 2 of the Donald Dinnie Games – The Geoff Capes Stone Flippin' Challenge (Lodge on the Loch Stone Provided by our friends Derek & Jean McCulloch from The Lodge on the Loch in Aboyne).

This event pays tribute to one of the UK's most loved strongmen, Geoff Capes, who sadly passed away in 2024. In addition to his 2 WSM titles, Geoff was an Olympic Shot Putter and a highly decorated Highland Games athlete who was very well known for how good he was at tossing the Caber. This event combines The Caber Toss with the very popular Fingal's Fingers strongman event. It is simply a flipping event. A large cylindrical granite stone named The Lodge on the Loch Stone, weighing approx. 165kg, must be flipped in a manner similar to the Fingal's Fingers event (minus the secured base). The Caber Toss phase kicks in when the stone is flipped. It will land in a narrow lane marked by 2 rope boundaries. If the stone falls on or outside either of the ropes, it will not be counted, so athletes are looking for a flip as close to 12 O'Clock as possible. Only flips that land inside the lane boundaries will be counted.

Points will be awarded based on the distance covered within a 60 second time frame.

Event 2 of the Jan Todd Games - Rock the Kaz Bar (Stone Provided by Brett Nicol. Apparatus provided by John & Kenny Gibb at KLG Engineering)

Everyone loves the spectacle of the weight over the bar challenge. This is a slightly different take on the event commonly used in highland games the world over and is named after legendary strongman and 3 x WSM, Bill Kazmaier who broke the weight over the bar world record on his first time trying it in 1979. Instead of the normal 56lb ringed cast iron weight we have a 13kg (28.5lbs) rope encased stone with a rope handle, which must be thrown over an 11ft bar for reps within 75 seconds. Not for the feint hearted this event will really test each competitor's skill and stamina.

Special thanks to John & Kenny Gibb at KLG Engineering for making and providing the amazing apparatus and to Brett Nicol for making the time consuming Monkey Fist stone!

Session 4 – 2pm – 2.30pm

Group 2 of Dinnie Steen attempts.

- 1/ Annika Karhu (Husband & Wife)
- 2/ Tatu Karhu (Husband & Wife)
- 3/ Christy Senay (Husband & Wife)
- 4/ Gary Piotrowski (Husband & Wife)
- 5/ Dennis Long
- 6/ Evan Schwerbrock

Session 5 – 2.30pm – 3.15pm

Event 3 of the Donald Dinnie Games - The Potarch Bridge Stone Medley (Stones Provided by Brett Nicol).

All of our games so far have featured people who have made a significant contribution to the stone lifting community. This event pays tribute to Potarch Bridge, the scene of Donald Dinnie's historic feat of strength which inspired our Donald Dinnie Day Gathering. The event is a load and pull medley. It features 3 stones with a combined weight equal to the weight of the Dinnie Stones. The first (ringed) stone must be duck walked over a 10m course and set onto a wooden sled. The athlete must then go back to the start line and pick up the second stone which must be carried Husafell style up the 10m course and also loaded onto the sled. The 3rd and final stone must be loaded onto the athlete's shoulder, carried up the 10m course and set beside the other 2 stones on the sled. The sled, which is attached to a rope, must then be pulled along specially created rails for a distance of 17' 1.5".

On completing each phase, the athlete must set the stone on the grass over the line before loading onto the sled. The stones may not be loaded directly onto the sled and must be set down on the grass first (this is to avoid damaging the wooden sled). Each of the 4 phases will be timed and the winner will be the athlete who completes the most phases on the fastest time.

Stone weights are as follows:

Phase 1 ringed stone - 150kg

Phase 2 stone - 102kg Ballogie Stone

Phase 3 stone - 80kg

Event 3 of the Jan Todd Games - The Peter Martin Stone Medley (Stones Provided by Brett Nicol).

This event is designed to replicate all five phases of a natural stone lift and is named after the late Peter Martin who was one of the world's most prolific stone lifting historians without whom most of today's historic stones would remain hidden and lost to history (www.oldmanofthestones.com). This is a brutal event designed to use up every ounce of energy the competitors have. It is a timed event with a 90 second time limit. Lifters will complete each phase of a natural stone lift with 5 stones of decreasing weight as follows:

1. Breaking the ground with the stone (there must be clear evidence of wind beneath the stone) – 140kg
2. Lapping the stone (the stone must be above the knees and rested on the lifter's lap) – 120kg
3. Standing up with the stone (the lifter must stand upright and the bottom of the stone must be above waist height) – 100kg

4. Shouldering the stone (the lifter must stand upright and the stone must be held motionless on the lifter's shoulder. The free hand must not be in contact with the stone) – 80kg
5. Pressing the stone overhead (the stone must be held overhead at arm's length with the arms locked)– 60kg.

The winner will have completed the most phases in the quickest time. Each phase will be timed

Session 6 – 3.15pm – 3.45pm

This session is left free for any special guest appearances or carry attempts on the Dinnie Stones etc.

Peteris Balodis from Dundee, Scotland & Andrew Burton from Rockwall, Texas will be attempting a Dinnie Stones carry and are both also chasing the record for distance currently held by Laurence Shahlaei at 22'4".

Session 7 – 3.45pm – 4.30pm

Event 4 of the Donald Dinnie Games - The Steve Jeck Stone Ladder Challenge (Stones provided by Brett Nicol).

This event (named after the late great stone lifter and historian, Steve Jeck) is designed to really test each lifter's grip, strength, technique and stamina. Having lifted the Dinnie Stones, all lifters will be familiar with this type of lift. 4 sets of ringed stones of increasing weights (with similar but not identical weight ratios to the Dinnies) must be lifted in order starting with the lightest set. To complete each set the referee will give the down signal once the lifter is fully locked out. All stones must be set down and not dropped. Lifters may adopt a straddle or side by side technique. The winner will have completed the most sets of stones in the quickest time. Each set will be timed based on the referee's 'Down' signal. There will be a time limit of 90 seconds. The stone weights are as follows:

- Set 1: 115kg & 89kg
- Set 2: 145kg & 105kg
- Set 3: 173kg & 138kg
- Set 4: 202kg & 155kg

Event 4 of the Jan Todd Games - The Big Jack and Wee Donald Challenge (Original Stones from Deeside in Scotland gifted to Stevie Shanks by Brett Nicol – event stones provided by Brett Nicol).

This event is a timed hold and pays tribute to original Dinnie Stone lifters Donald Dinnie and Jack Shanks. The Dinnie Stones are probably the most famous of all the historic lifting stones. Located in Aberdeenshire, Scotland the Dinnie Stones are two enormous granite boulders fitted with iron rings. The stones weigh 188kg and 144kg and the rings are at different heights. They were famously lifted by the subject of today's games Donald Dinnie who on one occasion is said to have carried them across a bridge over the river Dee and back again for a distance of 17' 1.5" (some 4 to 5 yards in Dinnie's own words) in 1860. The first man to replicate Dinnie's feat was Jack Shanks from Belfast who lifted them barehanded in 1972 and carried them barehanded the full distance in 1973 showing the world that it was possible. Since then only 300 athletes have managed to pick them up with only 5 completing the carry challenge. A modern challenge is to pick both stones up and hold them for as long as possible without putting them down. Event 2 of the DD Games features two granite boulders with iron rings fitted weighing 145kg (Big Jack) and 105kg (Wee Donald). These boulders were sourced by Brett Nicol from the same area in Scotland as the original Dinnie Stones. The original event stones were gifted to Stevie Shanks who had rings identical to the Dinnie stone rings fitted. Athletes must pick the stones up with their bare hands and hold them for as long as possible which will really test their grip strength. The rings are smooth iron and quite narrow in diameter so they will very quickly cut into the athlete's hands making them very difficult to hold on to. Athletes may not use any lifting aids and can only apply chalk to their hands. Athletes may not drop the stones, they must be set down under control.

Session 8 – 4.30pm – 5.15pm

Event 5 of the Donald Dinnie Games & The Jan Todd Games – The June Richard Stone Wall Challenge (Stones Provided by Brett Nicol, Barrels Provided by Mark Sherriffs).

This event (named after Inver Stone keeper June Richard) replicates the original historical challenge of loading the Inver Stone onto a wall at waist height (later replicated by David Webster & Dougie Edmunds in the 1980s through the creation of the McGlashen Stones which then evolved into the modern day Atlas Stones). It will feature 5 progressively heavier natural stones which have to be loaded onto barrels at waist height. This is a timed event and will be an exciting final event of the games. The time for each stone will be recorded from when the athlete removes their hands from the fully loaded and stable stone. The stone weights are: 113kg (Bucharm Stone), 123kg (Cushnie Steen), 137kg (Mennie Stone), 152kg (Stewart Stone), 168kg (Durriss Stone).

Ladies 70kg, 84kg, 98kg (Feugh Stone), 113kg (Bucharm Stone), 123kg (Cushnie steen)

There will be a time limit of 90 seconds.

5.15pm – 5.30pm prize giving and event close

Organising Body

Malcolm Nicol – Gathering Chieftain

Stevie Shanks – Producer & Event Manager

Brett Nicol – Dinnie Stones and Events Team Leader

Jim Splaine - Photography

Rosemary Splaine – Photography

Stuart Murray – Head Referee

Jan Todd – Games Events Score - Keeper

James Grahame – Games Events Score - Keeper

Steve Gardner – MC / Referee

Ramsay Campbell - Piper

Mark Sherriffs – Games Events Co-ordinator

Jamie Duncan – Games Events Co-ordinator

John Gibb – Games Events Co-ordinator

Jamie Oates – Games Events Co-ordinator

James Harris – Games Events Co-ordinator

Sam Colley – Ballogie Estate Team

Jenny Nicol – Ballogie Estate Team

Alice Nicol – Ballogie Estate Team

Cammy – Atmosphere lighting & Sound – Event PA

Guests

- The Stoltman Brothers – Special Guests
- Loz & Liz Shahlaei – Special Guests
- Arm Wrestling Exhibition by CSAL Strength
- Mark Sherriffs' Scottish Stones of Strength will be available for the public to test their stone lifting strength
- Transition Fitness Montrose will have all manner of heavy stuff to try

Stalls / Sponsors

- Claire and Levi from Smash & Pass Gymwear are very kindly providing this year's event tshirts
- Cerberus Strength will have a stall on the day and have very kindly donated excellent prizes over the years for the athletes. We're very grateful for their support
- Bee Chocolate will have a stall on the day