

DONALD DINNIE DAY, THE GATHERING IX

Sunday 3rd August 2025 @ Potarch Café & Restaurant

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. Andrew Lickley	1. Emmajane Smith
2. Sebastien Louvel	2. Donna Moore
3. Grant Mitchell	3. Kikki Berli-Johansen
4. Luke Stone	4. Nancy Johnson
5. Dean Harman	5. Claire McKinnon
6. William Reed	
7. Jamie Oates	
8. Jono Pritchard	
9. Alvin Soosay	
10. Kyle Scott	

Event 1 of the Donald Dinnie Games - The Gordon Dinnie Magoo Stone Challenge

(Stone provided by Stevie Shanks)

Named after our late friend and Dinnie Stones historian Gordon Dinnie, this event is designed to showcase what is probably the most common modern form of natural stone lifting in Scotland, the stone to shoulder lift. The stone weighs 102KG. Athletes will have 75 seconds to complete as many legitimate reps as possible. For a rep to be counted, the stone must be lifted from the ground to the shoulder and held motionless with one hand while the free hand is removed from the stone. The stone may only be lowered once the 'down' signal is received from the referee. The stone must be lowered under control and may not be dropped from above knee height. Athletes must remove their hands from the stone after each rep. Athletes may not use any substance to aid lifting other than chalk.

The lifting order for Event 1 will be drawn from a hat and in ascending points order for the remaining events. 6 points will be awarded to the winning athlete in each event, 5 points to the second placed athlete and so on down to 1 point for 6th place. Zero reps will not be awarded any points.

Event 1 of the Jan Todd 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 75kg Drum 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 – 50 points*

Points will be recorded and agreed by the judging panel. The lifter must remove their hands from the stone between each lift. 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 only if successful in pressing the stone overhead.

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/ Carl Sampson
- 2/ Charles Goggins
- 3/ Jeff Bach (Father & Son)
- 4/ Corey Bach (Father & Son)
- 5/ Enzo Donadio (70 years of age)

Session 3 – 1.15pm – 2pm

Event 2 of the Donald Dinnie Games - The Potarch Bridge Stone Medley (Stones Provided by Brett Nicol).

All 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 2 of the Jan Todd Games - The Katie Sandwina Freya Medley (Stones provided by Stevie Shanks & Brett Nicol).

This is a gruelling event (named after Katie Sandwina, who was the world's first Female Strongwoman) which tests speed, strength, grip and endurance. The event is run over a 10m course. The athlete will start at one end of the course and all implements will lie at the opposite end. On the referee's whistle the athlete will run to the opposite end and pick up a ringed stone weighing 115kg which must be duck walked back to the start line. The athlete must then run back to the second implement which is a 65kg stone which must be picked up and shouldered with the free hand removed. The referee will give the down signal. A pair of

ringed stones (89kg & 63kg) must then be picked up and walked to the opposite end (there are no restrictions on the number of pickups). The final implement is a 71kg natural stone called Freya which is similar in shape to the historic Fianna Stone which must be picked up and carried to the opposite end and placed on a barrel at waist height. The clock will stop when the athlete removes their hands from the stone. Each phase of the medley will be timed. There will be a time limit of 2 minutes.

Session 4 – 2pm – 2.30pm

Group 2 of Dinnie Steen attempts.

1/ Hanne Gausland

2/ Gerald Taylor

3/ Eric Sachs

4/ Jeremy Harper

5/ Paul Hallam

Session 5 – 2.30pm – 3.15pm

Event 3 of the Donald Dinnie Games - Rock the Kaz Bar (Original Stones Provided by Simon Truesdale. 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 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 20kg (44lbs) 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!

Event 3 of the Jan Todd Games – The Terry Todd Sword and the Stone Challenge: (Stones provided by Simon Truesdale & Stevie Shanks).

This event (named after Dr Terry Todd who is a very significant figure in the history of the World's Strongest man and Arnold Classic events in addition to his own many achievements in strength sports) features a 11kg natural smooth stone which is oval in shape with no embedded ring or hand holds. The event is related to a feat of strength for which Donald Dinnie was credited at many exhibition events over the years. It is said that he could hold a 56lb weight at arm's length with his palm facing up for times around one minute. For this event lifters will face off in pairs. Each lifter will hold the stone in both hands with palms facing up or inwards and suspend it horizontally at arm's length 6" above the pommel of a Claymore sword which will be placed in the ground directly under the stone. The lifter will stand upright and maintain the horizontal position with the stone. This is a timed event and the clock will stop when the stone touches the pommel of the sword or if the athlete breaks the upright or horizontal starting position. The lifter may not lift the stone above the horizontal position, nor may they bend their arms, back or legs.

Session 6 – 3.15pm – 3.45pm

This session is left free for any special appearances or noteworthy attempts on the Dinnie Stones etc. This year opens the floor for attempts at the Guinness World Record on the Nicol Walking Stones.

Session 7 – 3.45pm – 4.30pm

Event 4 of the Donald Dinnie 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. A modern challenge is to pick both stones up and hold them for as long as possible without putting them down. This event features two granite boulders with iron rings fitted weighing 163kg (Big Jack) and 115kg (Wee Donald). These boulders were sourced by Brett Nicol from the same area in Scotland as the original Dinnie Stones. They 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

Event 4 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 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 a heavy stone onto a wall at waist height. It will feature 5 progressively heavier natural stones which have to be loaded onto barrels at waist height. The first and lightest stone will be placed 5 feet from the barrel, the second stone will be placed 4 feet away and so on until the final heaviest stone which will be placed 1 foot from the barrel. 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 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 Co-Ordinator Team Leader

Jim Splaine - Photography

Rosemary Splaine – Photography

Stuart Murray – Head Referee

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

The Stoltman Brothers – Special Guests