

DONALD DINNIE DAY IRELAND

THE GATHERING

FEATURING THE DONALD DINNIE GAMES

Saturday 17th July 2021 @ Glenarm Castle

Running Order and Event schedule

Event Commencement from approx. 11am.

Welcome and opening remarks by Event Chieftain, Jack Shanks followed by Event 1 of the Donald Dinnie Games – The Glenarm JPS Stone Challenge.

The athletes competing (in alphabetical order) are:

1. Angelo lanetta
2. Chris McBride (Armagh)
3. Davy Bagnall
4. Dean Kennedy (Dublin)
5. Gerard Buckley
6. Ivan Minev
7. Jonny Kelly (Ballyclare)
8. Matthew McCoy (Randalstown)
9. Pete Bremner (Ballymena)
10. Sean O'Hagan (Laurencetown)

The running order for event 1 will be by random draw of competitor's names from a hat and then in ascending points order for the remaining events with 10 points awarded to 1st place, 9 points awarded to second place and so on with 1 point awarded to 12th place. From event 2 onwards athletes will go in reverse order with 10th place going first. The winner of the Chieftain's Prize will be the athlete with the most points after event 5.

Event 1 – 11.15pm – 12 noon

Event 1 of the Donald Dinnie Games – **The Glenarm JPS Stone Challenge** (Original Stone provided by Simon Truesdale).

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 Húsafell 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 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 153kg stone (lighter than the Húsafell as the athletes have to complete 5 gruelling events over the day's competition) similar in shape to the Húsafell which must be picked up from a plinth and carried as far as possible. The athletes must choose between a pickup high on the chest allowing easier breathing but restricting vision or a lower pickup where breathing is harder but it's easier to see where you are going. Who will carry it the furthest and lead the field going into event 2?!

Event 2 – 12.30pm – 1.15pm

Event 2 of the Donald Dinnie Games – **The Terry Todd Sword and the Stone Challenge** – (Original Stones provided by Simon Truesdale).

This event features a 20kg natural stone with an embedded ring. 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 with both hands by the ring with palms facing down 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 with his back to a vertical steel post and must maintain contact with the post throughout the event. This is a timed event and the clock will stop when the stone touches the pommel of the sword or if the athlete breaks contact with the post. The lifter may not lift the stone above the horizontal position, nor may he bend his arms. Terry Todd was a key figure in the Arnold Strongman Classic and had a glittering career in strength sports. Along with his wife Jan Todd they founded the Stark Center for Physical Culture & Sports in Austin, Texas.

Event 3 – 1.45pm – 2.30pm

The Big Jack and Wee Donald Challenge (Original Stones from Deeside in Scotland gifted to Stevie Shanks by Brett Nicol).

This event pays tribute to original Dinnie Stone lifters Donald Dinnie and Jacks 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 for a distance of 17' 1.5" 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 150 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 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 (9/16" and 3/4") 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 – 3pm – 3.45pm

Event 4 of the Donald Dinnie Games – **David Webster's Steen Tossen** (Original Rendrag Stone provided by Steve Gardner).

The Rendrag Stone is an ancient Viking Mill Stone acquired over 30 years ago by our MC, Steve Gardner from a farm in the Channel Islands. The stone weighs 16.5kg. It is 11" long, 9" wide & 7" deep. This event replicates an ancient Viking practice known as 'Steen Tossen'. It is also similar to putting the shot which Dinnie held many records in. The object is to throw the stone as far as possible from behind a stop board on the ground. Named after Donald Dinnie historian, highland games author and worldwide ambassador for strength culture David Webster OBE, this is probably one of the oldest forms of competition using a stone (seen in Braveheart set in the 1300s). The athlete may adopt any throwing style and may use one or two hands. A run up is permitted as are overhead throws from a reverse position. Athletes will have 3 attempts each. The distance will be measured from the stop board to the first point of contact that the stone makes with the ground. The athlete may not cross the stop board during or after the throw.

Event 5 – 4.15pm – 5pm

Event 5 of the Donald Dinnie Games – **The Peter Martin Stone Medley** (Stones Provided by Simon Truesdale).

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 last ounce of energy the competitors have. It will be a timed event with a 90 second time limit. This event could really mix things up when deciding the final placings and should be a very exciting climax to the day. 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) – 160kg
2. Lapping the stone (the stone must be above the knees and rested on the lifter's lap) – 140kg
3. Standing up with the stone (the lifter must stand upright and the bottom of the stone must be above waist height) – 120kg
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) – 100kg
5. Pressing the stone overhead (the stone must be held overhead at arm's length with the arms locked)– 80kg

Each lift will be assessed by a qualified judge who will give the down signal. Lifters may not put a stone down before receiving the down signal. If they do they will have to repeat the lift. Lifters may not drop a stone from above knee height, it must be placed down under control. If they do drop a stone from above knee height they will have to repeat the lift. For safety purposes a lifter may drop the 80kg stone under control **only** if he is successful in pressing the stone overhead. Fastest to complete all 5 phases will receive maximum points. Each phase will be timed in order to rank lifters who do not complete all 5 phases. Time will be recorded when each stone touches the ground.

5pm – 5.30pm prize giving and event close

Events Open to the Public

The Flintstones Challenge

During the interval between each of the events there will be an opportunity for members of the public to try their hand at stone lifting. The Flintstones are 10 smooth atlas stones ranging from 20kg to 122kg. They must be lifted in order onto a barrel at waist height starting with the lightest and finishing with the heaviest. You must shout Yabadabbado when completing the 122kg! ☺ This feat replicates the historic Inver Stone Challenge dating back as far as 1715. The Inver Stone is an egg shaped granite stone from Aberdeenshire in Scotland which had to be lifted onto a wall at waist height outside the Inver Hotel. The stone weighs 122kg. Legend has it that Robert Dinnie said he would name his first son after any man who was able to accomplish this feat. A man called Donald McDonald successfully took up the challenge which is how Donald Dinnie got his name. The Inver Stone challenge was used as the basis for creating the original McGlashen Stone challenge first used in the 1986 World's Strongest Man competition. The McGlashen stones then evolved into the Atlas Stones which are used all over the world today in strongman competitions. Taking on this challenge with lighter stones will give anyone interested an idea of what it's like to pick up a heavy stone. This will be carried out under supervision with experienced lifters. A disclaimer will have to be signed before attempting the Flintstones.

The Shanks Stones Challenge

Two concrete ringed blocks made by Jack Shanks in February 1972 to assist in his training for the Dinnie Stones. These stones weigh 192kg and 146kg. Heavier and more awkward than the Dinnie Stones these are a formidable challenge for any strength athlete. A certificate will be awarded to anyone who manages to successfully lift these stones barehanded on the day. To date only 10 lifters including Jack Shanks have managed to put the wind beneath them. Lifters include: Jack Shanks (Northern Ireland), Brian Irwin (Northern Ireland), Luke Reynolds (Australia), Trevor Reid (Northern Ireland), Andy Cairney (Scotland), John Pollock (Scotland), Charlie Blair Oliphant (Scotland), Stevie Shanks (Northern Ireland), David Bagnall (Northern Ireland) & Chris McBride (Northern Ireland). A disclaimer will have to be signed before attempting the Shanks Stones Challenge.

Organising Body

Jack Shanks – Event Chieftain

Simon Truesdale – Event Manager

Stevie Shanks – Event Manager

Jim Splaine – Photography (TBC)

Rosemary Splaine – Photography (TBC)

Brett Nicol – Dinnie Games Events Co-Ordinator / Referee

Mark Haydock – Dinnie Games Events Co-Ordinator / Referee

Mark Sherriffs – Dinnie Games Events Co-Ordinator / Referee

Ivan Minev – Dinnie Games Events Co-Ordinator / Referee

Michael Wilson – Dinnie Games Events Co-Ordinator / Referee

Boyd McCurry - Logistics



EVENT REPORT

On the hottest day on record in Northern Ireland you'd think people would run for cover. Not my pals! They went out and lifted the heaviest rocks they could find and took part in the first Donald Dinnie Games in Ireland. What an incredible group of athletes. They all gave their heart and soul in a nail-biting competition with performances of the highest calibre. I was delighted to see dad fulfil his role as Chieftain and honoured to work with [Simon Truesdale](#) to put this event on. All of our families and friends played a huge role in supporting us and the venue was stunning. Huge congratulations to the very worthy champion [Sean O'Hagan](#)! It all came down to the last event with only a point separating the top 2 spots. It was a lot of hard work but I couldn't be more proud of how everything went. Special thanks to our friends who busted their

backs helping us move all that equipment: [Ivan Minev](#), [Davy Carney](#), [Boyd Mccurry](#), [Finnbar Mcevoy](#), [Mick Legge](#) & [Michael Wilson](#).. You are all troopers! For more photos and videos of the day please visit:

[Donald Dinnie games Ireland](#)



