

DONALD DINNIE DAY, THE GATHERING VII

Sunday 6th August 2023 @ Potarch Café & Restaurant

Running order and lifting schedule

(all events subject to change)

Session 1 – 12 noon – 12.45pm

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

The confirmed athletes competing (listed in alphabetical order) are:

Donald Dinnie Games	Jan Todd Games
1. Chris Beetham	1. Annika Karhu
2. Grant Bigley	2. Hannah Linzay
3. Fergus Crawley	3. Jessica Xuereb
4. Craig Lewis	
5. Tim Meadows (3 rd in the 2022 DD Games)	
6. Dale Murray	
7. Johnny Nelson	
8. Dave Philips	
9. John Pollock	

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 and is simply called 'Magoo'. 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.

Athletes will lift in alphabetical order for Event 1 and in ascending points order for the remaining events. 10 points will be awarded to the winning athlete in each event, 9 points to the second placed athlete and so on down to 1 point for 10th place.

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/ Hannah Linzay

2/ Thomas Wade

3/ Jessica Xuereb

4/ Tim Eichinger

5/ Romark Weiss

6/ Nate Finch

Session 3 – 1.15pm – 2pm

Event 2 of the Donald Dinnie Games - The Nicol Walking Stones Challenge:

(Stones provided by Brett Nicol).

This event (designed by Brett Nicol) replicates the side-by-side technique used in carrying the Dinnie Stones. It requires the athlete to pick up two ringed stones similar to but lighter than the Dinnie Stones and walk with them as far as possible. The stones are approximately the same height as the Dinnie Stones from the ground to the top of each ring at its highest point and weigh 138kg & 114kg. Each rings is made from different diameter steel. Athletes are allowed a maximum of 2 pickups. Once either of the stones touches the ground the first pickup is over and the athlete will have 10 seconds to commence their second pickup from that point. Following the second pickup once either of the stones touches the ground or if the lifter fails the second pickup the attempt is over and the distance will be measured from the starting line to the front of the stone farthest from the starting line.

Event 2 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 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 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. 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.

Session 4 – 2pm – 2.30pm

Group 2 of Dinnie Steen attempts on the Mound

- 1/ Florian Fink
- 2/ Reed Smith
- 3/ Andy Lickley
- 4/ Harris Ashraff
- 5/ Brian Jaguttis

Session 5 – 2.30pm – 3.15pm

Event 3 of the Donald Dinnie Games – David Webster's Steen Tossen (Original Rendrag Stone provided by Steve Gardner). ***This event is dedicated to the memory of Karen 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. The stone will start in the middle of the field and the first athlete must pick the stone up and carry it back to the stop board. Each subsequent athlete will pick the stone up from where the previous athlete threw it and bring it back to the stop board to make their throw.

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) features a 13kg 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

We are very excited to announce that this session will feature a Dinnie Stones carry attempt by former Europe's Strongest Man and World's Strongest Man competitor Laurence Shahlaei who will be looking to complete the original challenge of carrying the stones 17' 1.5" and also to extend his current world record carry for distance which stands at an amazing 14'10". This will be followed by a Dinnie Stones world record hold attempt by DD Games athlete Grant Bigley and an Inver Stone display featuring a piece on the McGlashen Stones and their link to the Inver Stone and the modern day Atlas Stones.

Session 7 – 3.45pm – 4.30pm

Event 4 of the Donald Dinnie 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 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 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 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.

Event 4 of the Jan Todd Games – The Freya Medley (Stones provided by Stevie Shanks & Brett Nicol).

This is a gruelling event 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 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: Men 98kg (Feugh Stone), 113kg (Bucharm Stone), 123kg (Cushnie steen), 137kg (Mennie Stone), 152kg (Stewart Stone).

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

There will be a time limit of 75 seconds.

5.15pm – 5.30pm prize giving and event close

Organising Body

David Webster OBE – Event Chieftain

Jack Shanks – Guest of Honour

Jan Todd – Guest of Honour

Malcolm Nicol – Ballogie Estate Manager

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

Conor Curran (2 x Donald Dinnie Games Champion) – Guest Referee

Martin Jancsics – Dinnie Games Events Co-ordinator and Inver Stone Display

Mark Sherriffs – Dinnie Games Events Co-ordinator

James Grahame – Dinnie Games Events Co-ordinator

Mark Haydock – Dinnie Games Events Co-ordinator

Jamie Duncan – Dinnie Games Events Co-ordinator

Gordon Ingram – Dinnie Games Events Co-ordinator

John Gibb – Dinnie Games Events Co-ordinator

Mikey Brown – Dinnie Games Events Co-ordinator

Matt Jones – Dinnie Games Events Co-ordinator

Stig Parker – Dinnie Games Events Co-ordinator

Lydia Nicol – Ballogie Estate Team Leader

Helen Knowles – Ballogie Estate Team

Christina Nicol – Ballogie Estate Team

Jenny Colley – Ballogie Estate Team

Sam Colley – Ballogie Estate Team

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