

DONALD DINNIE DAY, THE GATHERING VI11

Sunday 4th August 2024 @ 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 (listed in alphabetical order) are:

Donald Dinnie Games	Jan Todd Games
1. Dave Hawlins	1. Sandra 'Sunny' Bradley
2. Mark Johnson	2. Chloe Brennan
3. Andrew Lickley	3. Caitlin Duguid
4. Sebastien Louvel	4. Jeana Jenkins
5. Dale Murray	5. Hannah Linzay
6. John Pollock	6. Emmajane Smith
7. Ed Reilly	
8. Thomas Wade	

Event 1 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. Athletes are allowed a maximum of 2 pickups (including the initial pickup). 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 heaviest stone. The lifting order for Event 1 will be drawn from a hat and in ascending points order for the remaining events. 8 points will be awarded to the winning athlete in each event, 7 points to the second placed athlete and so on down to 1 point for 8th place.

Event 1 of the Jan Todd 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 71KG. 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.

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/ Joshua Davidson
- 2/ Sarah Pearson
- 3/ AJ Pearson
- 4/ Kyle Scott

Session 3 – 1.15pm – 2pm

Event 2 of the Donald Dinnie 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) – approx. 160kg
2. Lapping the stone (the stone must be above the knees and rested on the lifter's lap) – approx. 140kg
3. Standing up with the stone (the lifter must stand upright and the bottom of the stone must be above waist height) – approx. 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) – approx. 100kg
5. Pressing the stone overhead (the stone must be held overhead at arm's length with the arms locked)– approx. 80kg.

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

Event 2 of the Jan Todd Games - David Webster's Steinstossen (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 developed by the Swiss centuries ago known as 'Steinstossen'. 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.

Session 4 – 2pm – 2.30pm

Group 2 of Dinnie Steen attempts.

- 1/ Jono Pritchard
- 2/ Dean Harman
- 3/ Mackenzie Hoven
- 4/ Conor (Rollo) Stirling
- 5/ Tristan McDonagh

Session 5 – 2.30pm – 3.15pm

Event 3 of the Donald Dinnie Games - The Terry Todd Sword and the Stone Challenge: (Stone 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 20kg 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.

Event 3 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 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. Matt Jones will attempt a Dinnie Stones carry and Ben Crook will attempt to break the record for holding the Dinnie Stones

In addition to this, the historic Inver Stone will be on display throughout the day as will the Balmoral Stones which were commissioned for Queen Elizabeth's platinum Jubilee in 2022.

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. 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 - 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 11kg (24.2lb) 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!

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

Ben Crook – 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

Liz and Loz Shahlaei – Special Guests

The Stoltman Brothers – Special Guests

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John & Kenny Gibb at KLG Engineering – Rock the Kaz Bar apparatus

Cerberus Strength

Atlas Endurance

Steve Gardner – games cash prizes

James Grahame – Peter Martin Stone Medley prize

Ballogie Estate for use of their land and access to the Dinnie Stones

Esslemont Marquees

