

## **ABERNETHY HIGHLAND GAMES - Aug 8<sup>th</sup> 2009**

### **GAMES REPORT & RESULTS**

The promise of a fine dry day brought the crowds flocking to Nethy Bridge on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August, where a record breaking attendance was achieved. In excess of 3500 visitors enjoyed a packed and entertaining programme of events. Many arrived by train on the Strathspey Railway, enjoying a scenic trip, as well as a very reasonable combined ticket price.

The Grand Opening Parade of Massed Pipes & Drums was a real spectacle, with 5 bands participating, followed by the March of the Clan Grant, led by their Chieftain, Lord Strathspey, this year joined by a visiting group from Bavaria, (not Grants) parading in their "lederhosen". The Clan Grant Society were happy to sign up several new members in advance of their International Gathering in 2010.

As well as marching round the field several times throughout the afternoon the bands also competed in a pipe band competition, where they played individually; judge Bill Blacklaw declared our local Badenoch & Strathspey Pipe Band the winner for the second year running.

In his opening address, Chairman Neil Sutherland said "It is now nearly 180 years since the Games were first held in Nethy Bridge and 63 years since they were first held on this field. It is due to the foresight and practical skills of the Committee back in 1946 that we have such an excellent field for our Games today. Just as they were then, today's Games are in every way a community event, owned and run by the people of Nethy Bridge, many of whom are helping out on the field today, or have helped to put the Games field together over the last week. I would like to thank my fellow members of the Games Committee for their enthusiasm and commitment through the past year in planning the Games, and all the other people and organizations whose help and support in many different ways make today's Games possible" He then invited Chieftain, John Kirk to formally open the 2009 Abernethy Highland Games.

As ever, the morning programme of kiddies fun events proved a real crowd pleaser, and was extremely busy, especially the events involving parents, such as the wheelbarrow and 3 legged races, where many heats had to be run before reaching the final. In the running races, competitors in the 5-6 years group were well tested, running a full 60 metres, cheered along by a very vocal crowd.

The number of Highland Dancers was a little down on the previous year, but competition was strong, and dancers from Canada, as well as all over Scotland provided a wonderful display, accompanied by the indomitable Ian Fraser, piping for the dancers at these Games for over 50 years now! Also piping were Richard Anderson and Jordan Neil. Judges were Colinne Smith and Jean McIntosh of Buckie. The Abernethy Highland Games Dancing Trophy for Best Beginner went to Logan Simpson of Rosehearty, and the Jessie Watt Scroll for Best Novice was won by Lauren Moore of Rosemarkie. Gemma Johnston of Inverness took the G.D. Gray Silver Salver as Best Intermediate. In the

Premier section Becky Dempster of Huntly took the Clan Grant Society Cup for Best National; Anthea Bundy of Grangemouth was Best Highland and carried off the Abernethy Games Trophy as well as the Elsie Ross Trophy for Best Premier Dancer Overall. In the Local Category, Lucy McGillivray was best in the 11yrs and under, taking the Kimberley Trophy while the Culreach Cup for Best Local 12 years and over went to Lucy Fraser. The Philpot Trophy for Best Overseas Dancer was awarded to Colleen McGregor and the Spey Valley Challenge Cup for the Most Successful Dancing School went to the Fraser School.

The fine day produced a large field of 88 runners in the 10 mile race with strong local and international presence. Cairngorm Runners fielded 10 finishers, and took the team prize. From further afield runners traveled from France, Belgium, Germany, Sweden, Australia and USA to take part. A new prize for 'First Lady from Badenoch and Strathspey' was on offer this year and it was won by Nethy Bridge resident Elspeth Grant. Thanks again to the RSPB for their generous sponsorship of this Race.

The day saw some robust competition in all classes of Junior Piping with Andrew Clark, Montrose, setting the standard. Judge, Jim Hamilton praised the musical quality of several competitors, particularly Jordan Neil, Aviemore who at the age of eleven was more than holding his own in the competition. In the Senior Open competition Niall Matheson, Inverness, again took first place in the Pibroch while overall success in the form of the Gordon Cup went to Alan Clark of Aberdeen. Judges Duncan Watson and Sandy Spence commented, "He just shouldn't have stopped playing".

The Drumming events are still in their infancy yet there is a growing interest from the pipe bands and others to compete. Judge, John Moneagle has given much wise counsel on how this competition should develop and this year's Senior event was a first for the Games.

Eighty eight competitors took part in track and field events. Brian Harrold from Nethy Bridge won the overall Local Heavy competition which included Rab Ritchie from Newtonmore, who is the number two world veteran heavy champion and he provided a strong challenge to the younger competitors. The junior heavy category was split in to two age groups for the first time in order to encourage more competitors of the younger age class. The younger class included Jamie Gunn (first time competitor at Abernethy) and son of the well known Alistair Gunn from Halkirk who competed in the open event. Brothers Dale and Greg Walker from Fettercairn competed in the under 20 junior heavy competition with Dale winning the overall competition. Two other brothers took part in the open competition Craig and Grant Sinclair from Banchory. It seems that talent in this field does run in the family! Craig won the overall Open competition, Alastair Gunn came second and Willie Falconer from Edinburgh was third. Both Alastair Gunn and Craig Sinclair were awarded a bottle of Glen Grant for successfully throwing the Big Caber - the first time anyone other than Alastair Gunn has thrown it.

Carrbridge proved too strong for Harborne Rugby Club and retained their Tug o' War title.

Till the last minute it seemed we only had one team entering the tug o' war, but luckily Harborne Rugby Club (suburb of Birmingham) who were in the area, heard about the Games and called to ask if they could participate. They brought along 12 of their players. Unknown to organisers the German party staying at Nethy House (leder hosen crew) were also fun and sporty, and they also agreed to compete. They are a club from near Pfarrkirchen (east Of Munich) in Bavaria southern Germany. The first pull was Carrbridge vs. Harborne. Despite having a number of heavy prop forwards Harborne could not hold Carrbridge and it was a pretty easy pull for the defending Champions. The German team then took to the field against Harborne and despite the leder hosen could not hold the weight of prop forwards. This match continued with Pfarrkirchen fielding a ringer and won the end taking it to a decider which Harborne won. The Germans went away happy having enjoyed their participation with a small consolation prize which gave them each a beer. 10 minutes later the track and road events were over and so the final 2 ends were held on the track close to the spectators. After a false start Harborne made a better show of holding the Champions, but inevitably, Carrbridge won the second end to retain the Cup. However, Carrbridge in a spirit of 'fair play' agreed to have a final demonstration pull against all 12 of the Harborne Rugby Club which the Rugby club won. Honour being satisfied the 2 clubs disappeared to the beer tent with their prize money.

On the track no records were broken this year but with some strong competition a number of records came close to being matched.

18 track and field and heavy competition judges officiated on the day and thanks go to them for their hard work. The judges were Mr M Archibald, Mrs E Allan, Mrs M Allan, Mr N Allan, Mr G Bethune, Mrs L Bethune, Mrs M Cooke, Mr K Davies, Miss S Grant, Mr J Lawther, Mr K Macdonald, Mr D McPherson, Mr S Murdoch, Mr C Ross, Mr R Ritchie, Mr D Shepherd, Mr M Scott, Mr and Mrs Tasker

Chairman Neil Sutherland was delighted with the turnout and commented "It's especially satisfying to witness such a welcoming and happy atmosphere, where the quality of the competition and the enthusiasm of the spectators all contribute to what is aptly known as the "friendly games""

## RESULTS

### RSPB Abernethy 10 Mile Race Results

1. Douglas Ross	Mansfield	MV	60.23
2. Barry Ingram	Aberdeen Metro	M	61.05
3. Mark Cooper	Perth RR	MV	61.51

4. Lievens Herman	Belgium	MV	62.21	
5. Manny Gorman	Westerlands	MV	62.31	
6. Colin Green	Moray RR	M	63.25	
7. Bradley Carrol	UA	M	63.27	1st Local
22. Marie Cooper	Perth RR	F	71.17	1 <sup>st</sup> Lady
26. Jane Chalmers	Gala Harriers	FV	72.55	
28. Sarah Houston	Moray RR	FV	73.43	
38. Espeth Grant	Cairngorm Runners	FV	78.20	1 <sup>st</sup> Local Lady

**Team:** Cairngorm Runners 4.56.48

## PIPING AND DRUMMING RESULTS

### CHANTER

Event 1 12 YEARS & UNDER (March, any choice)

1. Wilson McAndie Lochill by Elgin
2. Katherine Jack Nethy Bridge
3. Stacy Baker Port Askaig, Isle of Islay

### PIPING EVENTS, LOCAL

Event 2 14 years & under (March) competing for the Bank of Scotland Trophy

1. Jordan Neil Aviemore
2. Scott Hay Kincaig
3. Wilson McAndie Lochill by Elgin
4. Neil Convery Kingussie

Event 3 15 to 18 years (March, any choice)

1. Graham Wallace Nairn
2. Christopher Grant Elgin

Event 4 March, Strathspey & Reel competing for the McGillivaray Cup

1. Colin Campbell Carron
2. Graham Wallace Nairn
3. Jordan Neil Aviemore
4. Scott Hay Kincaig

### SENIOR OPEN

Event 5 Pibroch (choice of three) competing for the Lord Strathspey Cup

1. Niall Matheson Inverness
2. Alan Clark Aberdeen
3. Martin Kessler Basel, Switzerland
4. Hamish Munro Elgin
5. James Macphee Inverness
6. Colin Campbell Carron

Event 6 March (choice of three)

1. Alan Clark Aberdeen
2. Martin Kessler Basel, Switzerland
3. Hamish Munro Elgin
4. James Macphee Inverness

Event 7 Strathspey & Reel *competing for the Banks Bros. Centenary Cup*

1. Alan Clark Aberdeen
2. Martin Kessler Basel, Switzerland
3. James Macphee Inverness
4. Hamish Munro

Event 8 Jig *competing for the Ibbertson Trophy*

1. Alan Clark Aberdeen
2. James Macphee Inverness
3. Niall Matheson Inverness
4. Hamish Munro Elgin

**The Gordon Cup - awarded to the competitor who accumulates the most points in the Open Piping**

Alan Clark Aberdeen

## **JUNIOR OPEN**

Event 9 March (four-part) under 18 years

1. Charles MacDonald Inverness
2. Andrew Clark Montrose
3. Graham Wallace Nairn
4. Jordan Neil Aviemore

Event 10 Strathspey & Reel under 18 years *competing for the George Trophy*

1. Andrew Clark Montrose
2. Graham Wallace Nairn
3. Charles MacDonald Inverness
4. Jordan Neil Aviemore

Event 11 Jig under 18 years

1. Andrew Clark Montrose
2. Charles MacDonald Inverness

3. Christopher Grant Elgin

4. Jordan Neil Aviemore

**The David Grant Blyth Cup - most promising player under 18 years**

Andrew Clark, Montrose

**DRUMMING EVENTS**

Junior Solo March tune 2/4 time in four parts, *competing for the AHG Junior Solo Drumming Trophy*

1. Cameron McLure Aviemore

2. Craig Watt Dufftown

Open Solo March tune 2/4 time in four parts, *competing for the AHG Senior Solo Drumming Trophy*

1. Douglas Caldwell Hopeman

2. A. Harling Kingussie

**Dancing Results: (winner of each section only)**

**5 years & under Primary:** Pas de Basque, Mollie Lewis; PDB and High Cutt, Mollie Lewis; Fling, Swords, Mollie Lewis

**6 years Primary:** PDB Blythe Wilson; PDB, High Cutt, Fling and Swords, Blythe Wilson

**10 years and under Beginners:** Fling, Jill Campbell; Swords, Ashleigh Stirling; Seann Truibhas, Jill Campbell; Flora, Lilt, and Reel, Logan Simpson

Section Winner - Logan Simpson from Roseheartly, Burnett School of Dancing

**11 years and under Novice:**

Fling, Sophie Kay; Swords, Lauren Moore; Seann Truibhas, Ceitidh Petrie; Flora, Ceitidh Petrie; Lilt, Lauren Moore, Reel, Lauren Moore

Section Winner - Lauren Moore of Rosemarkie, Isobel Rae School

**11 years & under Intermediate:**

Fling, Elisha Scobie; Swords, Elisha Scobie; Seann Truibhas, Elisha Scobie; Highland Laddie, Eilidh Petrie; Jig, Elisha Scobie; Hornpipe, Jenna Wilson

Section Winner - Elisha Scobie from Glenrothes, Sarah Hendry School

**12 years and over Intermediate:**

Fling, Ashleigh Rose; Swords, Gemma Johnston; Seann Truibhas, Gemma Johnston; Highland Laddie, Jig & Hornpipe, Gemma Johnston

Section Winner - Gemma Johnston of Inverness, Le-Ellen School

**10 years and under Premier:**

Fling, Carmen Watt; Swords, Catriona Dempster; Seann Truibhas, Veronica Duthie; Highland Laddie, Jig & Hornpipe, Veronica Duthie

Section Winner - Veronica Duthie from Fraserburgh, Elizabeth Low School

**12 Years and under Premier:**

Fling, Becky Dempster; Swords, Tracy McNaught; Seann Truibhas, Highland Laddie, Jig and Hornpipe, Becky Dempster

Section Winners - Highland, Tracy McNaught of Inverness Bryce School; National, Becky Dempster of Huntly, Brenda Gordon School

**14 years and under Premier:**

Fling, Swords, Seann Truibhas, Highland Laddie, Jig, Anthea Bundy; Hornpipe, Sinead Scobie

Section Winner, Highland & National, Anthea Bundy of Grangemouth, Delma Wilson School

**16 Years and under Premier:**

Fling, Stephanie Duthie; Swords, Seann Truibhas, Highland Laddie and Jig, Colleen McGregor; Hornpipe, Stephanie Duthie

Section Winner - Highland & National, Colleen McGregor from Canada, McGregor School

**17 Years and over Premier:**

Fling, Laura Smith; Swords, Duncan Slessor; Seann Truibhas & Highland Laddie, Laura Smith; Jig & Hornpipe, Duncan Slessor

Section Winners - Highland, Laura Smith of Huntly, Brenda Gordon School; National, Duncan Slessor from Peterhead, Slessor School

**TRACK & FIELD EVENTS:**

Event No.	Event	Name	Result	Place
1	Putting the shot (Local)	B. Harrold	9.77	1

		S. Reid	7.42	2
		R. Ritchie	7.14	3
		P. Hozniak	7.05	4
2	28lb Weight for distance (Local)	B. Harrold	12.96	1
		R. Ritchie	10.29	2
		P. Hozniak	7.60	3
		S. Reid	6.63	4
3	Scots Hammer (Local)	B. Harrold	27.05	1
		R. Ritchie	21.19	2
		S. Reid	14.82	3
		P. Hozniak	13.61	4
4	56lb Weight for distance (Local)	B. Harrold	11' 00	1
		R. Ritchie	10' 9	2
5	Tossing The Caber (Local)	B. Harrold	12	1
		R. Ritchie	12	2
		S. Reid	40	3
		P. Hozniak	10	4
6	Putting the shot (junior heavy under 17)	J. Gunn	12.58	1
7	Putting the shot (junior heavy under 20)	D. Walker	10.55	1
		G. walker	10.26	2
8	Putting the shot (Open)	W. Falconer	14.26	1
		C. Sinclair	13.21	2
		A. Gunn	12.89	3
		J. Blackhall	9.66	4
		B. Harrold	9.30	5



9	100yds (under 13 boys)	C. Macdonald	13.6	1
		R. Freck	14.4	2
		N. Cameron	14.6	3
10	100yds (under 13 girls)	C. Ross	13.9	1
		G. Gordon	14.4	2
		J. Crawford	16.1	3
11	100yds (under 15 boys)	C. Macdonald	13.5	1
		A. Goodfellow	15.3	2
		C. Guest	15.5	3
12	100yds (under 15 girls)	K. Murdoch	13.4	1
		E. Murdoch	13.7	2
		G. Gordon	14.1	3
13	100yds (under 17 boys)	S. Freck	11.3	1
		C. Cameron	11.5	2
		J. Prince	13.1	3
14	100yds (under 17 girls)	C. Mair	12.6	1
		E. MacLennan	12.9	2
		E. Murdoch	13.3	3
15	100yds (under 20 men)	S. Freck	11.1	1
		D. Fergusson	11.5	2
16	100yds (handicap ladies)	K. Madigan	11.4	1
		R. Mackenzie	11.5	2
17	High Jump (handicap men)	C. Macdonald	1.53	1
		D. Ross	1.45	2
		J. Fergusson	1.40	3

18	High Jump (handicap ladies)	R. Mackenzie	1.65	1
		C. Mair	1.50	2
		C. Ross	1.35	3
19	16lb Weight for distance (junior heavy under 17)	J. Gunn	18.00	1
20	22lb Weight for distance (junior heavy under 20)	G. Walker	24.52	1
		D. Walker	20.42	2
21	28lb Weight for distance (open)	C. Sinclair	21.63	1
		W. Falconer	19.61	2
		A. Gunn	18.86	3
		J. Blackhall	15.88	4
		G. Sinclair	13.31	5
23	100yds Men	A. Beaton	10.7	1
		S. Hamilton	11.2	2
24	800mts (handicap ladies)	C. Ross	2.27.3	1
		C. L. Ross	2.30.4	2
		G. Gordon	3.06.5	3
25	800mts (handicap men)	D. Fergusson	2.18.8	1
		S. Hamilton	2.31.6	2
26	200mts (under 15 boys)	C. Macdonald	31.1	1
		R. Freck	34.0	2
		C. Lisle	36.5	3
27	200mts (under 15 girls)	K. Murdoch	30.3	1
		C. Ross	31.1	2
		E. Murdoch	31.2	3

28	Putting the shot (ladies)	K. Maddigan	7.90	1
		R. Mackenzie	6.93	2
		C. Guest	6.66	3
29	200mts (ladies)	C. Mair	29.0	1
		K. Maddigan	29.6	2
		E. McLennan	30.6	3
30	200mts (junior men)	S. Freck	25.8	1
		C. Cameron	27.0	2
31	200mts (men)	A. Beaton	24.6	1
		S. Hamilton	25.9	2
		S. Walker	26.1	3
32	Scots hammer (junior heavies under 17)	J. Gunn	24.92	1
33	Scots hammer (junior heavy under 20)	D. Walker	34.88	1
		G. Walker	34.39	2
34	Scots hammer (open)	C. Sinclair	38.58	1
		A. Gunn	36.00	2
		W. Falconer	30.64	3
		J. Blackhall	30.17	4
		G. Sinclair	30.12	5
35	1500mts (under 15 boys)	S. Lisle	5.48.0	1
		C. Macdonald	5.39.5	2
		C. Morrison	6.13.5	3
36	1500mts (men)	D. Ross	5.14.2	1
		A. Donnachie	5.39.5	2
		G. Antoine	6.13.5	3

37	400mts (handicap ladies)	R. Mackenzie	61.2	1
		K. Murdoch	62.7	2
		C. Ross	66.7	3
38	400mts (handicap men)	S. Hamilton	56.3	1
		D. Fergusson	58.0	2
		D. Ross	69.2	3
39	32lb Weight for distance (junior heavy under 17)	J. Gunn	12'6	1
40	44lb Weight for distance	D. Walker	12'6	1
		G. Walker	11'	2
41	56lb weight for height (open)	C. Sinclair	13.0	1
		A. Gunn	12.6	2
		W. Falconer	12.0	3
		G. Sinclair	11.0	4
		J. Blackhall	10.0	5
42	Tossing the caber (junior heavy under 17)	J. Gunn	12.00	1
43	Tossing the caber (junior heavy under 20)	D. Walker	12.01	1
		G. Walker	12.02	2
44	Tossing the caber (open)	A. Gunn	12.00	1
		C. Sinclair	11.55	2
		W. Falconer	0.85	3
		J. Blackhall	0.75	4
		B. Harrold	0.55	5
45	Tug o War	Carrbridge		1
		Harborne RC		2

