

Strathardle Highland Gathering

Sun shines on 136th games

Thousands enjoy traditional event

David Phillips

The 136th Strathardle Highland Gathering and Agricultural Show at Bannerfield, Kirkmichael, on Saturday was held in warm sunshine, and Games Chieftain Sir Michael Nairn said the event was again very well supported.

Standard by Chris Pye, in his role as acting banner man.

The trophy for the fancy dress competition was donated by Sarah Andrew in memory of her sisters Kitty and Claire. The winner was Madeline Stenbridge, who dressed as a unicorn.

There was continued disappointment for spectators who have enjoyed the local tug o' war contest between teams representing Blackwater and Strathardle for the Robertson Cup. Differences in the interpretation of residential qualifications are still unresolved.

Sir Michael said there was a special welcome for members of the Clan MacThomas from across the world and their chief, Andrew MacThomas of Finegard.

And he added: "The gathering is the result of months of preparation and attention to detail by a small team of dedicated volunteer members of the committee."

Local heavyweight games were held before the traditional march into Bannerfield led by Sir Michael, Coupar Angus Pipe Band and members of the Clan MacThomas Pipe Band - as well the Ems Highlander Pipes and Drums from Germany.

The Bannerfield Standard was carried by vice-president Alec Rattray, and the Clan MacThomas

But while the men's open contests were pale compared with recent years, the ladies brought some entertaining competition with the Kirkmichael Beginners beating Strathardle Inn 2-0 to win the Ivy Bailey Cup.

The afternoon programme of competitions and entertainment also included Highland dancing, heavyweight events, and races for children and young adults. Other attractions included a parade around the arena by vintage tractors and cars and the pipes and drums.

Trophies and awards won in the agricultural and industrial sections were handed over by Councillor Caroline Shiers, who was presented with a floral arrangement by Annie Pye and Grace Norwood, P1 pupils at Kirkmichael Primary School.

Speaking to the Blairstie, Councillor Shiers said: "What a great day. A huge well done to the committee for organising a fantastic day. I was delighted to hand out the trophies and congratulate everyone who won."

"These events are a huge amount of work and make a great contribution to the annual calendar in our communities."

"It was great to see so many locals and indeed, so many visitors enjoying themselves."

The gathering was brought to a close at around 5.45pm with musical cars for the Robert Sample Trophy, which was won by Callum Calder and Robert Constable.

What a great day. A huge well done to the committee for organising



Standard bearers Enjoying a dram after the opening are Alec Rattray, who carried the Bannerfield Standard, Games Chieftain Sir Michael Nairn, and Chris Pye, who carried the Clan MacThomas standard

Games results

Heavyweights

Junior
10lb Shot: 1 Christian Ramsay 25ft 9in; 2 Oliver Ramsay 24ft 8in; 3 James Ramsay 18ft 7in.

18lb weight for distance 1 Christian Ramsay 48ft 4in; 2 Oliver Ramsay 41ft 9in; 3 James Ramsay 30ft 8in.

10lb hammer 1 Christian Ramsay 64ft 4in; 2 Oliver Ramsay 58ft 3in; 3 James Ramsay 37ft 10in.

Caber 1 Christian Ramsay; 2 Oliver Ramsay; 3 James Ramsay.

Leading junior 1 Christian Ramsay; 2 Oliver Ramsay; 3 James Ramsay.

Local
16lb Shot: 1 Pete Hart 33ft 2in; 2 Callum Rimmer 32ft 5in; 3 Hugh Alexander 26ft 9in.

16lb hammer 1 Pete Hart 94ft 5in; 2 Callum Rimmer 87ft 10in; 3 Hugh Alexander 68ft 4in.

28lb weight for distance 1 Hugh Alexander 51ft; 2 Callum Rimmer 49ft; 3 Hugh Alexander 35ft 4in.

Caber (Jim Petrie Memorial Trophy) 1 Pete Hart; 2 Callum Rimmer; 3 Christian Ramsay.

Best local heavyweight (Geordie Rodger Trophy) 1 Pete Hart; 2 Callum Rimmer; 3 Hugh Alexander.

Open
16lb Hammer 1 Sinclair Patience, Tain 119ft; 2 John McLeod 117ft; 3 Roy Valentine, Auchenclochy 107ft 6in.

22lb putt (Clark's Agricultural Contractors Trophy) 1 Sinclair Patience 40ft 4in; 2 John McLeod 35ft 11in; 3 Roy Valentine 33ft 11in.

22lb hammer 1 Sinclair Patience 103ft 1in; 2 Roy Valentine 95ft 8in; 3 John McLeod 91ft 8in.

28lb weight for distance 1 Sinclair Patience 76ft 5in; 2 John McLeod 69ft 5in; 3 Pete Hart 61ft 8in.

56lb weight for distance 1 Sinclair Patience 43ft 3in; 2 Pete Hart 33ft 7in; 3 John McLeod 31ft 11in.

56lb weight over the bar 1 Sinclair Patience, John McLeod, Pete Hart (13ft).

Caber 1 Pete Hart; 2 John McLeod; 3 Sinclair Patience and Roy Valentine.

Best open heavyweight (Aldchapple Cup) Sinclair Patience.

Tug o' war
Open 1 Strathardle A. Ladies (Ivy Bailey Trophy) 1 Kirkmichael Beginners (Kaitlin Low, Alaine Michie, Rachael Michie, Frankie Moore, Hannah Moore, Annie Winton); 2 Strathardle Inn (Heather Murison (coach), Clare Hamilton, Paula Jenkins, Alison Moore, Elle Storey, Joy Wood).

Fancy dress
1 Madeline Stenbridge (Unicorn); 2 Kyle Ormerod (cow); 3 Taylor Dolan (roadworks supervisor).

Races
100 yards boys, 7 years and under 1 Adrian Pyne; 2 Solly Drury; 3 Ben Buchanan.

100 yards boys, 8-11 years 1 Alistair McNeer; 2 Angus McKay; 3 Lochlan Stewart.

100 yards boys 12-15 years 1 Angus Robertson; 2 Oliver Ramsay; 3 Christian Ramsay.

100 yards girls, 7 years and under 1 Isabella Frieda; 2 Eva Mother; 3 Niamh Smith.

100 yards girls, 8-11 years 1 Molly Robinson; 2 Julia Morrison; 3 Ruby Flockhart.

100 yards girls 12 years and over 1 Mary Robinson; 2 Matilda McKie; 3 Lyra Borlins.

100 yards open 1 Mungo Wilson, Edinburgh; 2 Dr Nik Dhillon, Dundee; 3 Lochlan Stewart.

440 yards open 1 Dr Nik Dhillon; 2 Seth Dhillon, Edinburgh; 3 Mungo Wilson.

880 yards open (Jim Thomson Cup) 1 Dr Nik Dhillon; 2 Gaele Simpson, Ashintully; 3 Seth Dhillon.

Best light athlete (Dan Webster Trophy) Dr Nik Dhillon, Dundee.

Obstacle race, teams of four 1 Robb Runners, Edinburgh; 2 The Morrisons, Blairgowrie; 3 Balrnully Toppers, Ashintully.

Pillow fight, 12 years and under 1 Willow Boyle, Methven; 2 Archibald Gavellagh, Dollar; 3 Aman Joss, Dundee.



Up and coming talent Simon Calvin, judge of the heavyweights competition, with the junior heavies, from left, Oliver Ramsay, James Ramsay, Christian Ramsay, Byron Hart, Rowan Hart, and Pete Hart, heavies convener

Pillowfight, 13 years and over 1 Laura Martin, Wester Bleaton; 2 Paul Martin, Wester Bleaton; 3 Simon Ravenhill, Nairobi.

Dog race 1 Susan Currie with Coco; 2 Chris King with Paddy; 3 John Morrison with Poppy.

Round Bale Rolling, teams of two-

Lucien and Thotan, London.

Vintage tractors
Restored 1 Ron Crighton, Massey Ferguson; 2 Kevin Simpson, John Deere 2130; 3 Greig Wilkinson, Ford 4000.

Working tractors 1 Tom Baker, John Deere 2850; 2 Mark Nicol, Ford 7810; 3 Gary West, International 785.

Vintage car 1 Gordon McCallum, Wolseley; 2 Dave Paterson, AC 16/70; 3 Mike Aitken, Land Rover.

Musical cars (Robert Sample Cup) 1 Callum Calder, Coupar Angus with driver Robert Constable, Ballinturn; 2 Jamie Grant with driver Luke Hayfield; 3 Paul Martin with driver Stephen Martin.

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Creative Winners in the fancy dress competition, from left, Madeline Stenbridge as a unicorn, Sarah Andrew, Kyle Ormerod as a cow, Taylor Dolan as a roadworks supervisor, Sinead Ormerod as a cowgirl, and Logan Wilkinson with his cousin James Thorn as a marshal from Paw Patrol



Winners Kirkmichael Beginners won the Ivy Bailey Trophy in the ladies' tug o' war, beating Strathardle Inn 2-0, from left, Annie Winton (coach), Alaine Michie, Rachael Michie, Hannah Moore, Frankie Moore and Kaitlin Low

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STRATHARDLE HIGHLAND GATHERING



Tug o' war The Strathardle team



Right on target Games-goers had the chance to test their skills with Rannoch Archery



Judging One of the sheep classes in the agricultural show



Heavyweights Back row from left Simon Calvin (judge), Pete Hart, David Houstoun (president), Sinclair Patence, John McLeod, Ian Rimmer, John Bridge; front Paul Dearle, Roy Valentine and Dan Troy



Parade Sir Michael Naim leads the march at Bannerfield



Successful day Trophy winners in the agricultural show and the home industries show



Running the gauntlet The tilt the bucket competition



Distinguished guests Members of the Clan MacThomas Pipe Band and the Ems Highlander Pipes and Drums, with Andrew MacThomas of Finegand, chief of the Clan MacThomas, centre



Dancing As ever, the Highland dancing proved to be popular with the crowds



Presentation David Houstoun, president, left, with Dr Nik Dhillon, who won the Dan Webster Cup for best light athlete, and Niven Duncan, starter



Best seat in the house Spectators flocked to the 136th Strathardle Highland Gathering and Agricultural Show



Keeping an eye on proceedings Commentator John Morison, left, and tug o' war judge George Catto share a word



Champion Bob Simpson, Mains of Creuchies, and his daughter Ruby, with their cattle champion, a home-bred Limousin heifer off their stock bull



Race to victory Rob Wilson (secretary), left, presented the Robert Sample Cup to the winners of the musical cars competition, Callum Calder and Robert Constable