

Ballater Highland Games

Thursday 13th August 2020

Cancelled due to worldwide pandemic

Special Souvenir Programme



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Ballater Highland Games 2020



Contents

Ballater Highland Games were cancelled in 2020 due to the Government restrictions on events to limit the spread of Coronavirus.

This programme has been produced to ensure continuity, to reflect the admiration and respect for all Highland Games, and to thank and recognise the hardworking individuals, businesses and sponsors who make it happen.

See you in 2021!

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unless otherwise stated
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A Message From Our Chieftain Captain A.A.C. Farquharson of Invercauld

Greetings!

My original Chieftain's Message this year was written, as it has always been, well in advance of proposed publication, and prior to the onset of Corona Virus. As I wrote before, I think of Ballater Highland Games and of their long and distinguished record, and I am duly but humbly proud of serving them as their Chieftain for so many years. Unfortunately, the rapid global spread of this virus has enforced the prohibition of any kind of gathering, including Highland Games. Thus we are confined to making contact by the development of technological means, such as "online".

At such moments of crisis it is in our nature, may it always be so, to try to help each other as best we can, especially those the hardest hit. As life proceeds we are all subject to ongoing change. But this would seem to be an historic moment of pivotal change globally, the inevitable result of which being that we cannot escape the need to adjust our lives and careers accordingly.

Nevertheless, in spite of this, there are aspects of life to be, I trust, constantly cherished, for example, the great customs and traditions of these Games. And as I now reflect on over seven decades of Chieftainship, it is time to consider my age, health and retirement. A younger generation knocks at the door!

The motto of our Games is "LEAL AND SICCAR". Long may our flag proudly fly, uniting us in friendship – this community, my family, Clan and supporters across the Globe.

With my heartfelt best wishes to you all. "CEUD MILE FAILTE!"

*Alwyne Farquharson
of Invercauld*



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Acknowledgements

The Directors of Ballater Highland Games Limited gratefully acknowledge the assistance of the under noted, to whom we are very much indebted:

To all our Judges.

To all the volunteers, who have given so freely of their time and expertise.

Our excellent commentators, who always keep us so well informed and amused throughout the day, Robert Lovie and Gordon Rattray.

Our Combined Pipe Bands, Wrights Fun Fair, Royal Lochnagar Distillery, Wee Jim Landscapes, Fraser Fencing, Glenaden Hotel, George Strachan Ltd., H.M Queen's Royal Guard.

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Ballater Highland Games is a qualifying event
 for the Glenfiddich Heavy Events Championship

Thanks to Our Patrons

The cancellation of this year's Ballater Highland Games was a decision taken with great sadness, and the Committee would like to extend warmest thanks particularly to those of our Patrons who, on hearing the news, took the time to send expressions of sympathy, and sometimes even a donation for our coffers.

Many have said how much they look forward, each year, to a happy day enjoying the fun, hospitality, and spectacle of their annual day out at Ballater Games. They were also appreciative of the disappointment the members of the Committee must feel in view of all the work that goes on throughout the year to ensure an enjoyable day for competitors and spectators alike.

We will miss the Games very much but might have a little picnic in the garden on the day and remember Ballater! All best wishes. *Stella & Bruce Anderson*

I am very disappointed for you and the committee. Please pass on my very best wishes. *Ian Taylor*

I'm so sorry and sad to hear this news but not surprised. For the local businesses it's a tragedy. Any support or help we can be, or give, in any way, please let me know. *John Day*

Very sad but we will be bigger and better next year! *Andrew and Gilly Bell*

I can understand how disappointed you all must be, considering the amount of work which is already in place to make the event the success it is each year. We look forward to 2021 as I'm sure you all do. *Ken Watmough*

Hope you manage to mark Games Day in some way, and 2021 can only be better. Kind Regards. *Kathleen Brown*

Of course we will miss our annual visit to the Ballater Games. Please pass on our best wishes to all who work so hard to make these Games the successful pleasure they are. Regards. *Lionel and Pat Mann and Family*

Very sad that we are not getting the Highland Games in our wonderful village this year, but guess the circumstances are outwith the games committee's control. As you say let's hope for a big comeback next year. Regards. *Neil and Fiona Bannister*

Very disappointing, not a surprise – however almost certainly wise decision given current uncertain times. Regards. *Paul and Gill Ratcliffe*

It is kind comments such as these, indicating the high regard in which the Games are held, which heartens and encourages the Committee to keep giving freely of our time and talents to produce the very best Games we can. Sadly, we can't offer you your usual dram on Games Day, but, if you are able, raise a glass to Ballater Highland Games with the wish that we can all share another great day on 12th August 2021.

Linda Drever
 Patrons' Convenor

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A Message From Our Chairman: John Sinclair



Ever since I was a kid growing up in the village, the second Thursday in August was a day I really looked forward to. From attending with my parents then progressing through a somewhat mixed career as a competitor in various events, to assisting on the day, then as a Convenor and for the last 10 years as Chairman, the Games have always played a major part of my life.

In my mind the 13th of August 2020 was all planned out, a beautiful sunny day, Ballater a buzz of excitement as young and those not quite so young headed for Monaltrie Park knowing full well they could look forward to an afternoon of pure pleasure and excitement.

Who could have foreseen the arrival of Covid-19 and the resulting worldwide devastation it would cause in both human life and to the very fabric of society?

Although the decision to cancel the Games this year was something the committee and myself took with heavy hearts, in reality considering the effect that Covid-19 was having around the world, the decision was relatively easy. The safety of all, the paying public, the competitors and helpers alike had to take priority.

We are still unsure if we are past the worst of this crisis or even if any restrictions will be in place this time next year, but I am at heart a very positive person and remain convinced that 12th August 2021 will see Ballater Highland Games once again become a "must visit" for thousands of locals and tourists alike.

Until we meet again, Stay Safe and Haste ye Back.

*John Sinclair, B.H.G. Chairman
Leal and Siccar*



News of the next Market is TBC

**All updates will be
posted on Facebook**

**We hope you are all
staying safe and well.**

**We're so looking forward
to see you again soon!**

Amy & team x

 /ballaterfarmersmarket



We had another great Ballater Highland Games which was enjoyed again by a huge number of Patrons and spectators on a lovely day in the middle of some awful weather.

Games Day started with entertainment from the 47th Culter Boys Brigade Band before the traditional events started at 11am. Not long after, we had the honour and privilege to welcome our Royal visitor HRH The Prince Charles, Duke of Rothesay, who enjoyed with us the spectacle of the Lonach Pipe Band and the Lonach Highlanders entering the arena, their first visit to Ballater Games since 1987. They had marched through Ballater to the Games Park ahead of the combined Bands, which included our own Ballater & District, the Highlanders 4 Scots Pipes & Drums, and five others.

The Duke of Rothesay presented a Games Crest to Alan Mitchell who had served the Ballater Games for 50 years, before the combined Bands entered the arena to march past the Games Committee and salute the raising of the Games Standard by our Royal visitor, who had to then leave for another engagement.

Our traditional events, including a further appearance of the Highlanders, continued until it was time to welcome our other important visitor, our Chieftain, Captain Alwyne Farquharson, who had celebrated his 100th birthday earlier in the year, and was now attending his 71st year as Chieftain! With his party he entered the arena through his Honour Guard formed by men from the Queen's Royal Guard, to be greeted by the Ballater and Lonach Bands. The Highlanders 4 Scots then entered the arena to play a new pipe tune entitled "Leal and Siccar" (the Games motto meaning loyal and certain), specially commissioned by the Games VC to celebrate the Chieftain's centenary.

The Games Committee had commissioned a new trophy, again in celebration of the Chieftain's 100th year, a silver plated "Chieftain's Salver" to be awarded each year to recognise local excellence in one of the traditional disciplines of Highland Games. This first year the chosen discipline was Highland Dancing, and the trophy was presented by the Chieftain to Abigail Gray from Ballater.

The Lonach Pipe Band and the Highlanders had come to Ballater to honour our Chieftain who is also one of their Honorary Vice Presidents. They made a presentation to Captain Farquharson of the first of the bottles of this year's Lonach Whisky 2019, together with two engraved Lonach whisky glasses.

Our traditional events, and appearances of the Pipe Bands, continued in sunshine throughout the day, and were enjoyed by all, ending with our unique Tilt the Bucket.



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A Toast Tae The Chieftain

by David Cobban

The mornin sun shines abeen the trees
And the silver mist lifts ower the Dee
The Bands line up, in fine stracht rows
The "Drummie" signals, t'is time tae go

The pipes fair skirl, as they tak the leed
Tae Monaltrie Park that's far they heed
An sic a sicht can scarce be seen
Thon Massed Bands mairch, oh fit a scene

Aneth the hill sits the field o play
As the Bands mairch in, tae lead the way
The Standard's raised, for a tae see
An The flaggie flutters in yon breeze

Sine, abody rises tae their feet
As sumdy's here they want tae greet
Yon Chieftain's here, a hunner year auld
It's Farquharson o Invercauld

His bunnet deck'd wi eagles plumes
The crowd cheer fur this honoured loon
Gled tae see him eence again
Their Chieftain's in his Heilan Hame



An man yon Games are ful o pride
Stirs passions that nae man can hide
Haimers throwin oh sae far
And tossin waichts high ower the bar

But jist hud on, the crowd gangs still
The caber's liftit, fit a thrill
A run, a thrust, an ower it goes
Tae great applause, yon perfect throw

An a the time yon pipes are chuntin
Playin for the Heilan duncin
Hans aloft and kilts a swing
In the Sword Duncie or a Heilan Fling

And as the sunshine fades awa
It's time tae hae a Dram or twa
A Heilan malt is poored a plinty
For onything less jist isna hilty

And so we gither in this great place
Tae raise a gless tae a man o grace
Oor Chieftain fa we'll aye recall
Tae Alwyne, Laird o Invercauld



Ballater Highland Games Annual Dinner 2020

The Games Entertainments Committee were keeping a watchful eye on developments leading up to the date of our dinner which although held this year is really a celebration of the previous years games. Historically our dinner is held on the second Saturday of March. In the week that a number of events were cancelling around the country, we had been contacted on a few occasions by those eager to attend and equally some who had concerns asking if we intended going ahead. After talking to everyone involved which included health professionals, we decided that the best course of action was to follow the Government guidelines as they came out. On the Friday morning we decided that we would go for it on the understanding if folk felt they did not want to attend then hopefully we would get some warning before the tables were set. The venue of the Victoria Hall had a few teething problems when our team turned up to decorate the hall. With the help of Stan, the hall keeper, these issues were taken care of and we were able to get some tartan up as well as our Games crest Leal and Siccar. This translates from auld Scots as Loyal and Certain which in turn is derived from Clan Farquharson's motto of Faith and Fortitude. By the middle of the afternoon the hall was resplendent and awaiting our caterer Harry Fraser Catering Services so when Harry's team turned up it was one less thing for us to worry about so we took ourselves off to a local establishment for a pint to relax which was much needed after all the games related trials and tribulations some of us had been put through during the previous month or so! Soon it was time to check how the halls were looking and to get changed into our Highland finery. In a change to our usual reception meet and greet of using most of the Victoria and Albert halls complex

we were trying to do everything on the ground floor level. It was hoped that the new community hub would be finished and could house some of our exhibition pieces, unfortunately this was not the case but the new toilets were in place and what a difference to the venue this makes. Members of the Entertainments Committee were on hand to meet the guests. Our new Minutes Secretary, Kerry Buchan and Track Convener, Stewart Archibald greeted folk at the main door while Ballater pipe band Pipe Major, James Cooper played a few tunes out on the forecourt to direct them where to come. Inside dinner stewards Iain Buchan and Paul Mair were handing out drinks vouchers. Guests were then able to make their way to meet our Games Chairman, John Sinclair at the bar to enjoy pre-dinner drinks with him provided by Neil Henderson and his staff from the Glenaden Hotel. There were some final touches to sort out so the evening didn't come across too parochial but we were ready to be seated at 7:30pm with an amazing number of 100 choosing to join us. I did our customary introduction of the Top Table possibly and unusually a little worse for wear. It was mentioned later that I was certainly more relaxed and even funnier in my delivery if that is possible. Sheena Blackhall, a cousin of my grandfathers, was going to be one of our main speakers. Unfortunately, in the week leading up to the games she fell ill and couldn't attend. She had been so looking forward to coming back to Ballater, a place she holds so dear, and had done so much work in Doric to Toast our Kindred Gatherings and Guests. Sheena's replacement was going to be one of our Games commentators, Robert Lovie an enthusiastic Doric deliverer but unfortunately having returned from a trip to the States Robert became unwell too. Oh my, would I just have the toast to do myself, well it wouldn't be the first time.

Then while talking to Jennifer Stewart of Lonach about Kindred Gathering transport arrangements, I remembered what a grand job of a toast she did at the Aboyne Dinner back in the New Year. With only a day to prepare Jennifer quite rightly was hesitant but agreed in the spirit of Kindred Gathering to help out and when her time came she did not disappoint. Our Chairman, John Sinclair welcomed all our guests and thanked everyone for coming. He handed over to local Minister, Rev David Barr who, after giving some safety advice on the halls, said Grace. Dinner was served at 8pm during which the Chairman announced the Royal Toast and Pipe Major Cooper played Leal and Siccar, Loyal and Certain the tune I commissioned C/Sgt Peter Grant of The Highlanders to compose on behalf of the games for the 100th Birthday of our Chieftain, Capt. Alwyne Farquharson of Invercauld, M.C. The Pipes and Drums of The Highlanders played it for the Chieftain on games day. Peter who was at the dinner said the Pipie made a grand job of it. After an excellent dinner the toasts took place to our Sponsors and Suppliers by Gates convener Barry Florence, to the Kindred Gatherings and guests by Jennifer Stewart followed by Ballater Highland Games by Kay Drummond. In one of the many thank you letters received, all with the same sentiment, the President of the Grampian Games Association, Jim Broon related, "many thanks for a great dinner once again last night. With all this foreboding about Corona – it was a therapy to be at a cheery gathering with fine company. You did well in pulling it all together and your top table was excellent. Kay spoke well with genuine passion for the games, traditions, characters and its future. Harry did us well with a superb meal as always. My table company couldn't have been better and with Bill Meston on one side and Kerry Buchan on the other – there were few lulls. Well done to you

and your Committee. Aye! Jim". We were then treated to a Piobaireachd by Dr Jack Taylor playing The Duke of Atholl's Salute. Jack, a doctor at Aboyne Hospital, is a piper in the band of the Atholl Highlanders as well as being a celebrated piper, tutor and judge. The only presentation this year was actually more of a handover as on games day our Best Dressed Highlanders in the uniformed section had two winners Lonach Highlander, Darren Smith and Ballater Bass Drummer, Martin Burgess. Martin had the Clan Farquharson Quaich and handed it over to Darren. Entertainment during the more relaxed part of the night once the tables had been cleared and the drams were flowing was Jamie Tait Comedy. Jamie a local quine from Torphins but based in Aberdeen where she has a Hair Dressing business has been on the Breakneck comedy circuit for a while but on this occasion was doing her first after dinner event. From all the great comments we received the sassy comic didn't disappoint having everyone in fits of laughter throughout her routine. Paul Anderson returned this year bringing with him Alistair MacDougal and Ian Murray who played and played while Ballater Films showed our previous Games Day on the big screen. The Games Entertainments Committee would like to take the opportunity to thank all those who attended our dinner and for collectively making it the great event it was before lockdown. Aye! Scott, Vice Chairman





2020 Vision Games

Our 101-year-old Chieftain, Capt. Alwyne Farquarson of Invercauld M.C. has attended every Ballater Highland Games Day for the last 72 years. When the decision was taken to cancel this year's event, a plan was put into operation to mark the occasion in the safest way possible.

The Games Committee will raise the Standard, Leal and Siccar, at noon on Thursday 13th August. Although we cannot recreate the reality and fantastic atmosphere of actually attending Ballater Highland Games at Monaltrie Park, we would like to invite everyone to join us in our **2020 Vision Games** by posting clips or photographs of themselves taking part in games day events to our Facebook page or on to their own page with the hashtag #BallaterHighlandGames, following the timetable below.

Pipebands are invited to post at 12:30 and at 14:30 pipers are asked to play Invercauld House for the arrival of the Chieftain.

Spectators and Traders are invited to post any time throughout the day.

10:00

Piping

11:00

Highland Dancing

12:00

Raising the Standard, Leal and Siccar

12:30

Pipe Bands

13:00

Heavy Field Events + Best Dressed Highlander

14:30

Arrival of the Chieftain, with pipers playing Invercauld House

15:00

Hill Race and Light Field Events

16:00

Tilt the Bucket and Tug o' War

17:00

Track Events, including Children's Races



A Message From Our Commentator: Robert Lovie

The cancellation of all our Highland Games this year has been such a blow to everyone involved across the country. For local communities as well as the thousands of Tourists to Scotland the lack of Games and Gatherings will leave a real emptiness over the summer months in what has already been such a difficult year to deal with. Ballater Games in particular is indeed one of the highlights in the annual calendar.

Like the three other neighbouring games, which so proudly and fondly call themselves the kindred gatherings, they are all unique with individual qualities, which they so proudly uphold.

My own love of Ballater Games lies in several qualities; firstly, the setting of Monaltrie Park with the backdrop of Craighendaroch Hill makes it one of the best. Secondly, the small but perfectly sized area makes the sport and competition the central focus of the day where the crowd are fully linked to every moment as it unfolds on the field and keeps up a fine enthusiasm for all the competitors. Thirdly, the committee have kept the Games in Ballater on a Thursday and that in itself is not only a continued link to tradition but sets them apart from a weekend and a clash with other events. Fourthly, the hospitality and welcome at Monaltrie Park is friendly and generous to the core, given and received in very generous quantities with a depth of Highland hospitality that is hard to beat! Finally, and above all, the arrival of Captain Farquarson as Chieftain at 3pm is a moment to capture the heart and imagination of everyone who adores such events. Captain Farquarson's presence, style, dedication and unfailing attendance over the years must be the very epitome of what our Highland Games stand for and represent to so many folk across the world.

I am already counting down the days to Ballater Highland Games 2021 and, God willing... we'll see you there!



Hopefully on Thursday 12th August 2021 we will welcome everyone to our full programme of events with the atmosphere only Monaltrie Park can offer



It is a strange mixture of sadness and pride with which I write a message for this programme. Sadness – that global events, which have touched us all, have forced the Games Committee to make the unenviable but entirely correct decision not to proceed with this year's Games. Pride – that a programme is still being produced because of the special place that the Games holds in all of our hearts.

For me the Games has always been the pinnacle of my summer and an event that even the very thought of brings a tingle of excitement and anticipation. The stirring skirl of the combined Pipes and Drums, the spectacles of human strength and determination that are the Caber Toss, Tug O' War and Hill Race, the precision of the Highland Dancers, the pride of the Pipers and the rock at the centre that is our Chieftain.

My family's love of the Games goes back generations and my earliest memory of the Games is sitting on my father's knee watching great big men throwing trees around. I am still in awe of it to this day. Over the years I feel I have enjoyed every element of the games from candy floss and riding on the Waltzer to sharing a Dram whilst cheering on my kilted loon of a brother in the Hill Race. The Games is a remarkable coming together of a community, whilst celebrating and sharing this community and its heritage with all of the many visitors that make Victoria Week and Games Day buzz with excitement. We are lucky indeed to have this day every year, and although we may not gather in the same way this year, I am certain that the fortitude and togetherness of this community will ensure the continuation of our Games for generations to come.

I would like to conclude with a huge thank you to the Games Committee for all their tireless work in making the Games the great success it always is, as well as a heartfelt thank you to Alex Copland, a Past Chairman and stalwart of the Games, who sadly passed away earlier this year.

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HEAVY FIELD EVENTS

Open
 Heavy Stone, 2009
S. Wenta – 49ft
 Light Stone, 2015
M. Vincent – 58ft 9in
 Heavy Hammer, 2009
B. Aitken – 119ft 4in
 Light Hammer, 2003
B. Aitken – 148ft
 Throwing Weight distance, 1985
G. Capes – 82ft
 Throwing Weight over bar, 2019
Colin Dunbar – 17ft 4in
 Qualifying
 Light Stone, 2003
B. Robb – 52ft 11in
 Light Hammer, 2015
K. Randalls – 133ft 8in
 Throwing Weight distance, 2016
K. Randalls – 72ft 2in
 Throwing Weight over bar, 2002
B. Robb – 18ft 7in
 Local
 Light Stone, 1995
G. Martin – 49ft 3in

Light Hammer, 2017
J. Dawkins – 132ft 5in
 Weight for distance, 1995
G. Martin – 71ft 11in

LIGHT FIELD EVENTS

Open
 High Jump, 1996
C. Lewis – 6ft 3 1/5 in
 Long Jump, 2017
S. Lyon – 23ft 3 1/2 in
 Triple Jump, 2017
A. Daffurn – 47ft 3 3/4 in

TRACK

Open
 Hill Race, 1978
F. Reeves – 16min 59sec
 Hill Race – Ladies, 2015
C. Whitehead – 20min 38sec
 100 yards, 2011
P. Touray – 9.85 secs
 440 yards, 1996
I. McGurk – 50.9 secs
 Half Mile, 1996
P. Walker – 2min 4.9 secs

Records



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Obituary: Alexander Cornelius Copland (1933 – 2020)



Alex Copland, a Past Chairman of Ballater Highland Games, sadly but peacefully passed away in April after having had health issues over the last few years. In these unprecedented times, unfortunately it was not possible to have a service which would have enabled the Games Committee to pay their last respects to a true gentleman and a Highland Games stalwart. The Ballater & District Pipe Band would also have been in attendance.

Alex was a Ballater loon, having been born in Ballater on 15th August 1933. He was educated in Ballater until, at age 15, he started a gardening apprenticeship at the House Of Glenmuick. It was there that he first met Rosie, whose grandfather was Head Gardener. (It would be some time before they married as Rosie was then the sweet age of 10!)

After three years, Alex was called to do his National Service with the Black Watch in Korea and Kenya. On his return home, he worked for Aberdeen Parks, before he ventured down to England. He and Rosie married and had their daughters Alison in Northampton and Karen in Somerset. Eventually the family came back to Aberdeen from many places in between. Alex became Depute Director of Leisure and Tourism in Aberdeen, but had to take early retirement due to ill health, and came back to Ballater in 1995.

That same year he was approached to sell programmes at the Games, and the love affair with Ballater Highland Games began! He became Chairman in 2004 until his retirement in 2011, when he handed over to our present Chairman John Sinclair.

Alex was very active in many groups in the Ballater community, and this was recognised some four years ago when he was awarded the British Empire Medal for services to the community. As well as the Games, Alex was involved with local organisations including Probus, horticulture, dancing, hillwalking, and Walking to Health. He also organised an old school reunion when 200 ex pupils and their partners attended a week of events – a great success!

We send our condolences to Rosie, his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, and shall miss a greatly respected, true Ballater loon – may he rest in peace.

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2019 Presentations

Games Day 2019 was set to be a special day for so many folk – not least our Chieftain, Capt. Farquharson of Invercauld, M.C. who at the age of 100 would be attending his 71st games, having never missed any Games since 1948. We had managed to arrange for the Lonach Highlanders with their Pipe Band to help us celebrate. Glenmuick estate and local farmer Frank Coutts had given us permission to use a field next to the Royal-Bridge to muster our Combined Bands and the Highlanders. 11am drams were presented to them by Claire Fraser and staff from Lochnagar Distillery, which is arranged annually by Games stalwart Betty Simpson. Meanwhile on Monaltrie Park, H.R.H The Prince Charles, Duke of Rothesay had arrived and while meeting the Games Committee was asked if he would present a Games badge to one of our youngest volunteers, Kerry Buchan, who would later become our new Minutes Secretary. Further down the line His Royal Highness would surprise Alan Mitchell by presenting him with a Games Shield in recognition of 50 years of service to the Games. Towards the end of the line it would be the Duke himself who would receive a presentation from Alan Caig, Society President of Clan Farquharson UK. Alan had a small Quaich of Laphroaig malt whisky, reportedly one of the Duke's favourites, which he looked as though he enjoyed.

During the official opening of the Games at noon with the arrival of the Lonach Highlanders, closely followed by our Combined Bands, the order of Present-Arms for the Salute was observed while H.R.H and our Games Chairman John Sinclair raised auld Leal and Siccar, our Games Standard. Our own Ballater-based kindred gathering Tug o' War team, StrathDee, were presented to the Duke before he took a tour of the arena to meet Conveners, Judges and Competitors. At 1pm our Drum Majors marched to the centre of the arena where a token of our appreciation was presented to them. The Drummies either received a bottle of whisky or gin from Peter Walker of Maryculter House Hotel or Steven Duthie of Esker Gin, Kincardine o' Neil.

During our Chieftain's arrival ceremony at 2.30pm, another order to Present-Arms was commanded to his Honour Guard provided by H.M Queen's Royal Guard from the Royal Regiment of Scotland. At this time the Chieftain would hear a new pipe tune Leal and Siccar, Loyal and Certain, which is the Games motto and describes the Chieftain perfectly, commissioned by Scott Fraser, Vice Chairman and composed by C/Sgt Peter Grant of The Highlanders, 4 SCOTS, RRS. The Highlanders-4 SCOTS Pipes and Drums marched on to play the tune and a copy of the music was presented to the Chieftain. He was also presented with a framed Certificate of Appreciation for service to our kindred gathering Games from Charlie Murray, President of the Scottish Highland Games Association. Once Capt. Farquharson was settled in his tent up on the terrace above the arena, he was shown The Chieftain's Salver, which the Games Committee had provided to honour his 100th Birthday year. He would later present it to local highland dancer Abigail Gray. Falconer Wallace and Jennifer Stewart of the Lonach Highland and Friendly Society took the opportunity to pay tribute to their Honorary Vice Patron by presenting him with the first bottle of the 2019 Lonach whisky release and engraved glasses. Four of our volunteers were recognised for their Games service. Robert Lovie our commentator referred to them as the four Ian's – Ian Ritchie, Ian Mitchell, Ian Simpson and Iain Buchan, whose combined time helping on the arena added up to 100 years, the same as the Chieftain's age. They were made Honorary Members of the Games, receiving hipflasks and Games badges.



In 1948, the first year Capt. Farquharson attended the Games as Chieftain, the Games entered into another relationship that would continue for seven decades, that of having a Boys Brigade Pipe Band. Our Pipe Bands Convener Iain Buchan presented Steve Campbell of the 47th Culter Boys Brigade with a silver salver to mark the occasion. Silver Salviers were also presented to the Lonach Highlanders to mark their return to Monaltrie Park after 30 years and to The Highlanders-4 SCOTS Pipes and Drums for their continued support of the Games. Royal Guard Commander, Major Jonny Thompson hosted a small gathering after our Beat Retreat on the village Church Green where Peter Grant was presented with a framed copy of the pipe tune he composed. Peter, originally from Braemar, was a piper with Ballater and District Pipe Band before joining the Army. He is also our junior piping judge. Congratulations to Peter on his appointment as the new Pipe Major of The Highlanders, Pipes and Drums.



Ballater Highland Games

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The BHG Team

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 Local Highland Dancing under 9 years
Callie Robertson
 R. Nicol Memorial Cup
 Local Highland Dancing 9 to 12 years
Amy Lawson
 Caravan Cup
 Local Highland Dancing 13 to 16 years
Abigail Gray
 Bobby Watson Memorial Cup
 Local Adult Highland Dancing
Eva Handsley
 Mary Arthur Memorial Cup
 Open Highland Dancing 12 years and under
Ellie Kilfedder / Amy Smart
 Winifred Leitch Shield
 Open Highland Dancing 13 to 16 years
Caitlin Findlay
 Craigendarroch Trophy
 Open Highland Dancing Champion
Rachael Walker
 R. Nicol Memorial Cup
 Piobaireachd Piping Champion
Allan Russell
 Valenzuela Shield – Local Piping Champion
Calan Daniels
 Ian Smith Shield
 Open Piping under 14 years
Travis Gordon
 Inchgeal Lodge Trophy
 Open Piping 17 years and under
Jake Robertson
 Johnston Trophy – Local and Kindred Gatherings Piping 17 years and under
Calan Daniels
 Esso Piper Cup – Best Overall Piper Open
Allan Russell
 Murray Cup – Hill Race Winner
James Espie
 Riverside Garage Trophy
 Best Local in Hill Race
Fergus Wood



Derek H. M. Livingstone Memorial Cup
 First Woman in Hill Race
Claire Whitehead
 Umbogintwini Shield
 Local Champion in Track and Light Field Events
Kirk Hutchison
 Aboyne & Upper Deeside Rotary Club Trophy – Open Champion in Track and Light Field Events
Stewart Clark
 Norman Barbour Memorial Cup
 Junior Champion in Heavy Field Events
George Evans
 Rosebowl
 Local Champion in Heavy Field Events
James Dawkins
 Glenaden Hotel Shield
 Champions in Tug o' War
Strathardle
 Sheridan Shield
 Tilt the Bucket Winners
Stevenson / Stevenson
 Honorary Drum Major Calum Morrison Memorial Trophy
 Dress and Deportment
Lewis Stewart
 Edward C. Anderson Memorial Targe
 Open Best Dressed Highlander
Major Richard J. Barker
 Clan Farquharson Quaich
 Best Dressed Uniform Highlander
Martin Burgess / Darren Brogan-Smith
 Ardmeanach Shield
 Best Dressed Highlander (Ballater Committee, Members and Helpers)
Gordon Compton
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