

The North American Scottish Games Association is dedicated to the promotion and understanding of Scottish Athletics. Published quarterly at \$3.00/year.

Forward: Gatherings of the clans and the accompanying contests of athletic skill have been popular in Scotland for well over a thousand years according to some authorities. Over the years the martial aspect of these gatherings gave way to a country fair type atmosphere with an emphasis on athletic contests, Highland Dancing, and bagpipe playing. In the early part of the 19th century, Queen Victoria, realizing the considerable loyalty of her Scottish subjects and their value to the Empire, gave her blessing to the Games by attending the Braemar Gathering. Traditionally, the reigning monarch has attended these Games annually since then (all Games were suspended during war years).

From the 1820's until today the Games have swollen in number to about one hundred per year in Scotland although roughly forty are considered on the Heavyweight circuit.

In the United States within the last few years many Scottish Games have begun in areas particularly high in Scots ancestry and this year alone will see Bath, N.Y.; Savannah, GA.; and possibly Jacksonville, Fl. will join such "oldtimers" as Grandfather Mtn., N.C. and the Caladonian Club of San Francisco's annual gathering in Santa Rosa, California.

Explanation of Selected Events:

1. Stone Toss: Tossing or putting a stone which may weigh from 16 lbs. to 28 lbs. requires a good deal of skill in holding the stone, moving or gliding with it in position and delivering a timed thrust. Only those men who can combine this skill with strength and speed can become proficient in the event.

Stones of varying sizes and weights have been tossed in Europe for centuries as a means of contesting individual strengths. The Shotput grew directly out of these stone throwing contests. It is reputed that Henry VIII was one of the better stone tossers of his day.

Nowadays the stone toss or clachneart is usually the first event in a Games. It is thrown from a dirt or grass area seven feet six inches long and behind a trig or wooden tie four feet six inches long and about six inches high. The throw is measured from the center of the trig to the first mark made by the

stone in the ground.

2. Weights for Distance: The 28# and 56# weights were standard measurements (1/4 and 1/2 a hundredweight) in nineteenth century Scotland as they were readily available, they became the standards for some other strength contests.

The object is to throw the weight as far as possible with a one hand delivery. The weight is attached to a ring or triangular handle by means of a chain. The overall length of the implement should not exceed 18 inches, and a nine foot approach is allowed. The throw must be delivered from behind a 4'6" X 6" high trig and is measured from the point on the trig behind which the athlete has planted his left foot prior to the release of the weight (if he is a right handed thrower; and using the right foot plant if he is a left handed thrower). Furthermore, two sticks of roughly 1 1/2 feet each should be laid at 45 degree angles to the back and from each end of the trig and if the thrower touches the tops of these sticks, trig, or the ground outside this area, the throw shall be a foul. This method is used at several Games in Scotland, including The Argyllshire Gathering at Oban. As in all Heavy events, three throws per competitor are allowed in competition. Although it is up to the discretion of the field judge, each athlete should be given a minimum of three warmup throws per event.

Dunedin Scottish Games: March 26, 1977 Dunedin High School, Dunedin, Florida
Field Events Chairman, Dr. Norman Ross; assisted by George L. Murray
Attendance: 3000

Warm, sunny weather contributed to a good start for the Heavies at the first Games of the new year. Veteran athletes Ed McComas (Baltimore, Md.), Pete Hoyt (Altamonte Springs, Fla.), and Fred Vaughan (N. Myrtle Beach, S.C.) were joined by Bryant Robertson (Tampa) and several novice competitors in an exciting competition. After four events the top three men were separated by only six points; McComas 28, Vaughan 26, and Hoyt 22. The Championship was not decided until the final event, the 56 lb. wt. over the bar, which Vaughan won, giving him the trophy with 52 points to 50 for McComas.

McComas had two firsts and one PR. and Vaughan had four firsts and two PR.'s, a new U.S. Record (56# wt. Throw: 36'8") and a 4th attempt exhibition throw of 38'9" with the big weight. Hoyt finished third with 31 pts., a win in the Sheaf toss and four personal records. Hoyt also set a record of sorts by smashing the scorers table with the 56# wt. . This is the leading foul throw of the year and added some excitement to the afternoon.

All winning throws were Dunedin Games records and all events were thrown with the same implements used there in 1976.

28# wt.

Vaughan...75'6"
McComas...67'5"
Hoyt.....52'9"

56# wt.

Vaughan...36'8" *(U.S. Record, old record 36'2";
McComas...33'8" Vaughn, 1976, Stone Mtn, Ga.)
Hoyt.....25'1"

Sheaf:

Hoyt.....21'6"
McComas...21'6"
Vaughan...20'3"

Caber:

McComas
Hoyt
Vaughan

22# Hammer:

Vaughan...80'5"
McComas...79'3"
Hoyt.....74'2"

16# Shot:

McComas...50'6 1/2"
Vaughan...47'2 1/2"
Hoyt.....41'4 1/4"

56# wt. for ht:

Vaughan...13'11"
McComas...13'5"
Hoyt.....11'11"

Overall Championship: Vaughan... 52 pts.; McComas... 50 pts.; Hoyt... 31 pts.

Ellerbe Springs Highland Gathering: April 23, 1977 Ellerbe, North Carolina

Ed McComas of Baltimore, Md. dominated the competition to win the championship of the second annual Ellerbe Springs. Games. McComas scored 54 points and won three firsts and placed second in the other four events to defeat a strong field of experienced competitors including Arnold Pope (Fayetteville, N.C.), Pete Hoyt (Altamonte Springs, Fla.), Ron Short (Winston Salem, N.C.), David Bryson (Albermarle, N.C.), Bruce Wheeler (Norfolk, Va.), and Fred Vaughan (Myrtle Beach, S.C.).

Vaughan was second with 42 pts., three firsts and two seconds; followed by Short who won the Caber with two very strong throws and 26 points. Rounding out the standings were Bryson (7 pts.), Hoyt (6 pts.), and Pope (5 pts.).

Five field records were set; the most outstanding in the 22# Hammer by McComas who upped last years mark by nearly 17 feet. Also Vaughan increased his own Ellerbe record in the 56# wt. throw by five feet.

Guy Soule was assisted by his son, Phillip, in judging all events and Barbara Pope graciously consented to be official scorer. Bruce Bartram was coordinator of athletics.

22# Stone:

McComas...37'7"
Vaughan...36'7"
Short.....35'3"
Hoyt.....30'11"

56# wt:

Vaughan...36'1 1/2"
McComas...33'10"
Short.....31'6"
Pope.....26'4"

22# Hammer:

McComas...86'11"
Vaughan...82'
Hoyt.....81' 1/2"
Short.....77'10"

28# wt:

Vaughan...67' 1"
McComas...62' 7"
Short.....62' 6"
Pope.....53' 3"

Caber:

Short
McComas
Pope
Bryson

56# wt. for ht.:

Vaughan...14'
McComas...13' 6"
Short.....12' 6"
Hoyt.....12'

Sheaf:

McComas...21'
Bryson....21'
Short.....19'
Hoyt.....19'

New field records underlined!

Overall Standings:

McComas... 54 pts.	Bryson.... 7 pts.
Vaughan... 42 pts.	Hoyt..... 6 pts.
Snort..... 26 pts.	Pope..... 5 pts.

Webster Groves Highland Games: Memorial Stadium, Webster Groves, Missouri
(a suburb of St. Louis)

Approximately 6,000 spectators watched as some of the best Heavies in the country competed in eleven events over a five hour period. The facilities were top notch as the games took place on a level, grassy football field a few miles outside of St. Louis. The athletes responded by setting numerous personal and field records.

Ed McComas (Baltimore, Md.) won four events and placed second in the other five regular Scottish events and won the Championship by three points over Fred Vaughan of Myrtle Beach, S.C. Vaughan won four events, placed second in three, and took a third and a fourth. Peter Hoyt (Altamonte Springs, Fla.), won one first place and third in the overall. A rejuvenated Arnold Pope (Fayette ville, N.C.), placed fourth in the overall, one point behind Hoyt, and set P.R.'s in all the weight throws. Fifth place went to veteran Scottish athlete and local hero, Bill Bangert.

An added feature of these Games was the 2nd Annual World Championship Beer Barrel Throwing Contest sponsored by Anheuser-Busch. The object is to see who can throw an empty keg (about 30#) and a full keg (cement: 197#) the farthest. Pete Hoyt successfully defended his title by having the farthest combined distance of the two throws, (best one of three throws with each barrel), edging Ed McComas by ten inches!

All weights were correct except for the 56 lb. implement. This weight is beautifully made with a large ring attached to a steel sphere by chain of two or three links. Unfortunately, it weighs more in the neighborhood of 50 pounds.

The Webster Groves Gathering is sponsored by the Greater St. Louis St. Andrew. Society and was so successful in their first year, 1976, that they were able to donate \$4,000 to children's hospitals and charities in the St. Louis area. Many thanks to Mr. and Mrs. William Stirrat of the St. Andrew Society and to field judges and helpers Keith and Alex Mackie and Dave Massey.

1. <u>22# Hammer:</u>	2. <u>28# wt:</u>	3. <u>Sheaf: (22#)</u>
McComas...84' 10"	Vaughan...76' 2"	Hoyt.....20' 1"
Vaughan...79' 9"	McComas...65' 8"	McComas...20' 1"
Hoyt.....78' 11"	Pope.....56' 10"	Vaughan...20" 1"

4. <u>56# wt: (c50#)</u>	5. <u>16# Shot:</u>	6. <u>Hvy Stone: (28#, no glide)</u>
Vaughan...40' 2"	McComas...50'	Vaughan...31' 7"
McComas...36' 5"	Vaughan...45' 3"	McComas...31' 5"
Pope.....34'11"	Hoyt.....37' 3"	Hoyt.....26'
Bangert...28' 7"	Pope.....36' 1"	Bangert...25' 2"
7. <u>Caber:</u>	8. <u>Barrel: (30#)</u>	9. <u>Barrel: (197#)</u>
McComas	Hoyt.....39' 9"	Bangert... 9' 5"
Pope	McComas...38'	McComas... 9' 5"
Bangert	Vaughan...36'	Hoyt..... 8' 6"
10. <u>56# wt for ht:(c50#)</u>	11. <u>Lt. Hammer: (16#)</u>	
Vaughan...15' 6"	McComas..101'10"	
McComas...15' 3"	Vaughan..100'	
Pope.....13' 6"	Hoyt..... 94'10"	
Bangert...13'	Pope..... 73' 3"	
Hoyt.....13'		

Championship: Scored on a 6-4-3-2-1 basis: McComas...44 pts., Vaughan...41 pts.
Hoyt...24 pts., Pope...23 pts., Bangert...9 pts.

Standard Weights: It is obvious that where the heavy events are concerned, the specified weight of the implement should be adhered to as much as possible.

Of course it is no easy matter to even obtain the necessary weights and if they are off a bit, little can be done. However, it is hoped that all weights will be close to the desired poundage and according to Scottish Games Association description. Anyone wishing to obtain the official S.G.A. yearbook, which includes rules, regulations, upcoming Games, and last year's results in Scotland, may write: T. C. Young (The book costs but 60p, but you should send Eskbank, Dalkeith \$3.00 to pay for postage and handling) Scotland, U.K.

The most important rule is that all competitors throw the same implements and that the same implements be used from year to year in the same Games. This is the way it is done in Scotland and this adds to the uniqueness and charm of each Highland Game. Implements are similar, but not identical (at different Games) as are throwing surfaces and landing areas; and usually the same weights are used each year.

Mr. Malcolm Ramsay, Chairman of Athletics at the Caledonian Games (U. S. Heavy Events Championship) in Santa Rosa, Ca. suggests that exact weights be indicated in future results listings. Whenever possible, actual weights will be marked in parenthesis next to that thrown. It should be noted that due to information recently obtained by Mr. Ramsay, Bill Anderson's throw of 34'7" in the 56 lb. wt. was actually done with a 60 lb. 13 oz. weight; a terrific throw! Another fine throw made at the same Games was 14'6" over the bar with an actual weight of 57 lbs. 15 oz. by Brian Oldfield.

Corrections and Additions: It was incorrectly reported that throws of 22' in the Sheaf toss by Hoyt, McComas, and Vaughan were made at the Delco Games in 1976. They were all made at the Delaware Heptathlon in Fair Hill, Md.

Webster Groves Games: 5/8/76 St. Louis, Mo.

<u>16# Stone:</u>	<u>22# Hammer:</u>	<u>Caber:</u>
Bangert...38'11"	Hoyt.....80' 1"	Pope
Hoyt.....37'11"	Bangert...74'10"	Bangert
<u>28# wt:</u>	<u>56# wt: (c50#)</u>	<u>56# wt for ht: (c50#)</u>
Bangert...53' 1"	Bangert...31' 3"	Bangert...15'
Hoyt.....50'10"	Pope.....26' 1"	Pope.....12'10"

Champion: Bill Bangert; 2nd, Arnold Pope; 3rd, Peter Hoyt

Norfolk Scottish Games: 6/12/76 Norfolk, Va.

<u>28# wt:</u>	<u>16# Stone:</u>	<u>22# Hammer:</u>
Pope.....49' 9"	Pope.....34' 6"	Pope.....59'
<u>Sheaf:</u>	<u>56# wt:</u>	<u>Caber:</u>
Pope.....25'	Pope.....23' 7"	Pope
<u>56# wt for ht:</u>		
Pope.....11' 6"		

1977 Rankings (As of 5/14/77):

<u>22# Stone:</u>	<u>28# wt.</u>	<u>Caber:</u>
WR: 49'	WR: 87' 2"	
AR: 49'	AR: 80' 7"	
1. McComas...37' 7"	1. Vaughan...76' 2"	1. Short
2. Vaughan...36' 7"	2. McComas...67' 5"	2. McComas
3. Short.....35' 3"	3. Short.....62' 6"	3. Pope
4. Hoyt.....30'11"	4. Pope.....56'10"	4. Bryson
	5. Hoyt.....52' 9"	5. Bangert

56# wt:

WR: 41' 11"

AR: 36' 8"

1. Vaughan...36' 8"

2. McComas...33' 10"

3. Short.....31' 6"

22# Hammer:

WR: 123' 5"

AR: 103' 4"

1. McComas...86' 11"

2. Vaughan...82'

3. Hoyt.....81' 1/2"

4. Short.....77' 10"

5. Pope.....61' 7"

Sheaf:

1. Hoyt.....21' 6"

2. McComas...21' 6"

3. Bryson....21'

4. Vaughan...20' 3"

5. Short.....19'

16# Hammer:

WR: 151' 2"

AR: 132' 3"

1. McComas..101' 10"

2. Vaughan..100'

3. Hoyt..... 94' 10"

56# wt for ht:

WR: 15' 7"

AR: 14' 6"

1. Vaughan...14'

2. McComas...13' 6"

3. Short.....12' 6"

4. Hoyt.....12'

Championships: F. Vaughan, Dunedin, Fla.

E. McComas, Ellerbe Springs, N.C.

E. McComas, Webster Groves, Mo.

Coming Events:

June 18 ... Delco Games, Devon, Pa. 181 Foxcatcher Lane, Media, Pa. 19063

June 25 ... Keuka Lake Games, Bath, N.Y. P. O. Box 64, Hammondsport, N.Y. 14840

... Charleston County Scottish Fair, Charleston, W. Va.

... United Scottish Societies Highland Gathering, Long Beach, Ca.,

July 1 ... Gathering of the Clans, Pugwash, N.S. Canada

July 9,10 . Grandfather Mtn. Games, Linville, N.C.

July 23 ... Virginia Scottish Games, Alexandria, Va.

... Athena Caledonian Games, Athena, Ore.

July 30 ... Glengray Highland Games, Maxville, Ontario, Canada

July 31 ... Scottish Highland Games, Collins Polo Field, Pebble Beach, Ca.

... Scottish Festival and Tattoo, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Aug. 6 ... Eldon Highland Games, Eldon, Prince Edward Island, Canada

Aug. 13 ... Fergus Highland Games, Fergus, Ontario, Canada

... Rocky Mtn. Games, Golden, Colorado

Aug. 20 ... Crieff Games, (Scottish National Heavy Championship), Crieff, Scotland

Sep. 3 ... International Scottish Games, Kansas City, Mo.

Sep. 4,5 .. Caledonian Highland Games, (U.S. Heavy Events Championship), Santa Rosa, California

Sep. 10 ... Ligonier Games, Pa.

Sep. 17 ... Charleston Scottish Games, Charleston, South Carolina

Oct. 1 ... Flora MacDonald Highland Games, Red Springs, N.C.

Oct, ... Stone Mtn. Games, Atlanta, Ga.

Subscriptions: The NASGA Newsletter includes yearly rankings and results distributed four times per year (Feb., June, Sept., December). Send \$3.00 for postage and printing to: NASGA Newsletter

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