

121st Games a Great Success

Despite thunder storms on Friday preparing the field, games day dawned bright and sunny and it stayed that way for the entire day. The weather helped draw an excellent crowd of around 4,500 people from all over the country and tourists from all corners of the globe.

There was a good turnout of competitors for the Young Heavies, Heavies and Track and Field Events. Seventy nine runners took part in the gruelling Ben Rinnes 5 Tops Hill Race with the winner, Kyle Greig from Forres Harriers doing it in a time of 2:06:24.

The Highland Dancing competition had 115 dancers who kept the crowd entertained throughout the day. The Tug of War was a hard fought battle between Cornhill and Elgin with Cornhill finally coming out on top. A team of French under-18 rugby players took part to decide their best team of eight but they were no match for the experienced locals.

The massed bands paraded from the Clock tower in the early afternoon with hundreds of people following them onto the field. There were 169 pipers and drummers in the eight bands. A Youth Pipe Band from Colorado joined in and were thrilled to be part of their first highland games. A couple of their young drummers also walked away with prizes in the drumming competition.

A new competition this year was the Best Presented Pipe Band. The crowds loved it as each band paraded down the side of the field - the Elgin and District Pipe Band taking the honours.

A special presentation was made to Arthur and Margaret Brown for their hard work and dedication to the games over the past 27 years.

The day concluded with the 'Beat the Retreat' in the town square where a large crowd gathered to watch the bands perform for the final event.

The Dufftown Highland Games Committee would like to thank the dozens of volunteers who work so hard every year to make the games a success. Without you we could not do it.

Linda Brown
Chairperson
August 2013