

Blairgowrie Games #1 – Perthshire Advertiser, Thursday 13th August, 1868, p3.

BLAIRGOWRIE GAMES. – On Thursday evening (after less than a week's preparation) a series of games were got up and carried through with complete success. This, which we may call the first of the Blairgowrie games, was got up mainly by the exertions of Mr James Duncan, Rosemount. About a week ago he commenced to collect subscriptions, and various sums of money, with a lot of useful articles, were soon at his disposal, the gift of R. Geekie, Esq., of Rosemount ; Blairgowrie merchants, and others of the district.

The games took place on the evening of Thursday, in a field at the Welltown, kindly granted by Mr Leslie for the occasion. The hour halfpast seven was rather late, and though no time was lost, the programme was finished in darkness, slightly modified by the light of the moon.

The following is a list of the prize winners :-

Boys' Quarter Mile Race - 1, Master Lunan, Blairgowrie ; 2. W. Billing, Rosemount ; 3. D. Douglas, Blairgowrie.

Half Mile Race for All Comers 16 ran – 1. John Mollison, Blairgowrie and John Fordyce, Rosemount, equal.

Young Girls' Race – 1. Isabella Cramond, Rosemount ; 2. Jessie Steel, Rosemount ; 3. Jeanie Ferguson, Rosemount.

Putting the Stone – 1. D. M'Lellan, Rosemount, 28 feet 9 inches ; 2. A. Reid, Rosebank, Rattray, 28 feet 6 inches ; 3. James Clark, Banchory, 28 feet 2 inches.

Throwing the Hammer – 1. James Robb, Banchory, 69 feet 1 inch ; 2. William Dewar, Coultie, 64 feet ; 3. Charles Kemley, Banchory 61 feet 3 inches ; 4. James Clark, Banchory, 54 feet.

Half Mile Race - Ploughmen only – 1. John Fordyce, Rosemount ; 2. John Mollison ; 3. W. Robertson, Banchory ; 4. James West.

Tossing the Caber – 1. J. Robb ; 2. J. Clark ; 3. W. Dewar.

Girls' Race – 1. M. Hood, Blairgowrie ; 2. Ann Butter, Lochside ; 3. M. Shepherd, Milton.

Wrestling – 1. A. Scott, Thorn ; 2. J. Clark ; 3. J. Robb.

The Sack Race – 1. P. M'Glashan, Rosemount ; 2. J. Stewart, Welltown ; 3. J. Wilson.

Blind Barrow Race – 1. W. Elling, Rosemount ; 2. J. Hood, Blairgowrie ; 3. James Campbell, Rosemount.

Three Legged Race – 1. Ferguson and Stirton ; 2. Fordyce and Campbell ; 3. Hood and Ewing,

Blairgowrie.

Reel Dancing – James Watson, Rosemount ; 2. D. Grant, Milton ; 3. C. Winter, Rosemount.

The games being finished, Mr Leslie made a few remarks to the company assembled, congratulating all on the success of the games, and proposing a vote of thanks to Mr Duncan, who had been the prime mover and principal manager of the whole affair. Three cheers were given after which Mr. Duncan replied. Votes of thanks were also tendered to Messrs Leslie, Thomson, Steele, and others who had given assistance ; and afterwards dancing was commenced with spirit, and kept up thanks to the moonlight and bagpipes, till eleven o'clock. The whole proceedings were agreeable and harmonious throughout, and what is not the least commendable, is the fact that a sum of money which was over was handed to Mr Robertson, inspector of poor, whereby a four-pound loaf is to be given to a large number of the deserving and necessitous poor. We have no doubt that the general wish to make this the first of a series of annual gatherings will yet be regularly and successfully realised.