

7.00pm Courtesy drink on arrival

7.15pm Brief meeting to approve nomination of Chieftain and President (in backroom of Clubhouse)

7.30 Dinner / Hot Buffet
Roast Beef / Gammon
Selection of Sweets
(vegetarian dish)

followed by presentation

followed by.....
Photos and snippets

Followed by

Entertainment

Dornoch Highland Gathering

Dinner in
Royal Dornoch Clubhouse

To mark the retirement of Bill Grant and recognise his devoted service as Secretary/Treasurer over the last
28 years

Dornoch Highland Gathering – list of Office Bearers

Chieftains		Presidents	
& poss before 51 1951 & 52	Major Ian Campbell, Balblair	1951 - 61	Capt JG Macdonald (1951/2 Provost JG Macdonald)
1953 - 61	Brigadier G S Rawstone CBE MC	1962 & 63	Capt C McHardy
1962 - 83	Lord Migdale	1964 - 67	Capt R Grant
1984 - 88	R.G. Grant (Glen)	1968 - 83	RG Grant (Glen)
1989 - 93	Major Alistair Shaw	1984 - 88	Major Alistair Shaw
1994 - 97	DA (Alistair) Gardner	1989 - 99	Sinclair Gunn
1998 - 2000	Margaret Thomson	2000 - 2008	Andrew MacLeod
2001 - 05	Major General David Houston	2008 -	Willie (WDM)MacKay
2006 - 07	Molly Gunn	Secretary	
2008 -	Bill Grant	1948 ?- 1951 (also previous '51)	Willie Skinner, Town Clerk (<i>Eddie MacKay, interim</i>)
Preparation of Field		1952 - 80	T.A. (Adam) Grant
1907	Robert MacKay	1980 - 2008	WG (Bill) Grant
1909	Peter Murray	2008 -	Joan Buchanan
1933	George Murray	Clerk of the Field	
1939	J. MacKay	1951 Field Committee – WG Mackintosh, HGC Munro, D Duff, J Maclean, S Bain, W Grant, G Fraser, JB Innes, JG Rutherford, RG Grant, J Mackintosh, DR Fasham	
1951	Robert Murray, Bishopfield		
1952	John Maclean, Bridge Street		
1953 - W Grant / 1954 C Gillanders (tenders)		1956 - 65	Capt C McHardy
1955 - 67,	Sinclair Gunn & Ian Sutherland	1966 & 67	JK Bell
1968 – 2000	Sinclair Gunn (1955-2000 – 45 years)	1968 – 84	H Morrison
2000 -	George Gunn & Family	1985 -	WDM MacKay

An examples of Vice Presidents : Year - 1956

Capt R. Grant; Capt C. McHardy; Lt Col. FEB Wignall; Major GC Rutherford CB; Messrs WG Mackintosh; HM Ross; DG Ross OBE; JP Whittet; Robin Miller of Skibo; Lord Migdale

Dornoch Gathering marks Bill's 28 years of service

BILL GRANT'S 28 years of loyal service as secretary and treasurer of Dornoch Highland Gathering was celebrated with a dinner in his honour at Royal Dornoch Golf Club, attended by four former Chieftains and over 60 members of the Games committee and their partners.

Bill was presented with a commemorative scene of the Games painted by local artist Sally Wild, and his wife Gill received flowers and a Celtic brooch. Those present were delighted when former president Andrew MacLeod announced that Bill had accepted an invitation to be Chieftain of the 2008 Games to be held on Friday, August 1.

Bill was joined at the table by his son Neil and daughter-in-law Dorothy from East Kilbride, and four former Chieftains.

He remarked how, for the past 56 years, the Dornoch Games had been run by two Grants - Adam Grant for the first 28 years, and himself for a similar period.

He welcomed new secretary and treasurer, Joan Buchanan, into office and warmly praised the manner in which she had organised the evening.

Joan and her husband Callum never miss a Games Day and most years the whole family manage to attend. The family connection goes back to 1955 when Joan's father Ian Sutherland and his cousin Sinclair Gunn were invited to tender for the "Preparation of the Field".

This they continued to do, together, for 12 years, then Sinclair and his family continued for a further 32 years - a remarkable and unmatched period of service which continues to the present day with Sinclair's sons, George, Willie, Derek and Frankie, setting up the



Bill Grant is presented with a picture of Dornoch Highland Gathering to mark his 28 years of service as secretary and treasurer by his successor Joan Buchanan. Also in the line-up are Games president Willie MacKay (left) and his predecessor Andrew MacLeod.

elaborate spread of equipment and tents for the "Friendly Games", as Bill referred to them.

After the presentations, field convener George Gunn and new president Willie MacKay provided a brief potted history of events recorded in the archives of Dornoch Highland Gathering since its inauguration in 1887.

In 1907 the famous heavyweight Donald Dinnie - supposedly the model for the athletic figure on every label of Barr's Irn Bru - received an appearance fee of £1-10s. In 1909 Peter Murray erected the grandstand for £5 4s 6d, and in 1911 the carriage of a tent from Lairg by rail cost one shilling and tuppence. In 1926 Robert Grant, greenkeeper at Royal Dornoch Golf Club, was paid to cut the grass of the Games field. His daughter Cathy, Bill's cousin, was present on the night.

In 1928 the records show prize money was given for horse racing, and in

1936 the prize money for wrestling was £2-5s. Wick Girls Pipe Band played at the Games in 1947

and in 1949 the Scottish Champion Heavyweight, George Clark, competed at Dornoch where he set a record of 98 feet 9 inches in the hammer. George in later years moved north to Bonar Bridge and ran the Dunroamin Hotel.

In 1953 the accounts show that 12 shillings were paid for the hire of the library chairs, and Seaforth MacGregor was paid 10 shillings for the hire of a car. In 1954 Capt Bob Grant, seconded by D R Fasham, proposed that the pillow fight be added to the list of open competitions with prize money of £1-15s.

In 1957 the committee bought an ex-army bell tent for £13 14s 6d and that same year proposed the erection of a permanent grandstand. 1958 saw a new slippery board supplied by J P Whittet, factor of Skibo Estate. In 1967 Alastair Ross joined the Games

committee and he still officiates each year on the field as well as being auditor.

In 1968 the committee made a donation to the Longhope Lifeboat Disaster Fund, and 1969 saw the deaths of Capt C McHardy and W D Munro

recorded. Capt McHardy had been clerk of the field and president. The minutes read: "Both gentlemen had been for many years prominently identified with the activities of the Highland Gathering and through their great personalities and their valuable service they shall be long remembered."

In 1970 a new marquee was bought for £314-7s. It was replaced in 2006 at a cost of £5000. In 1976 Willie Melville joined the committee and since then has given over 30 years' service on "gate duty". Willie having decided to call time, and in 2008 actually attend and see the Games, was presented with a gift to mark his loyal service.

In 1977 there was a fly-past by the RAF to mark the Queen's Silver Jubilee. Local lady Mina MacRae provided the catering. In 1978 Sinclair Gunn built a new equipment store at a cost of £500 for materials, and labour was free. In 1980 Bill Grant was invited to be secretary and treas-

urer and this took us up to the present era.

The evening closed with a selection of photos from past and present, from the pillow fight to tilt the bucket, with dancers, pipers, cyclists, heavies, runners and kiddies' tug-of-war all providing a few laughs.

A few older snaps drew great interest, in particular a photo of the Dornoch Pipe Band from the early 1960s. Innes Matheson, who was present with his Games hat on, provided names for

each and every member of the band, including Joan Buchanan's father as big drummer, Sinclair Gunn as drummer, Innes himself and his brother Christopher, Jim Duff, Alex Neish, Pipe Major Kenny MacRae, and many other local men.

Fergus Robertson then gave an eloquent vote of thanks and in particular praised the staff of Royal Dornoch Golf Club for the beautiful meal and the extremely high standard of service.