**
BLUE KNIGHTS 2019 INAUGURAL MINI HIGHLAND GAMES**

**(Friday 7th TO SUNDAY 9th JUNE)**

Ewan Skinner and partner Kim, Kyle Walker, Jack Russell, Jim Thomson, Ian Mackay, Andy and Libby Salmon, Libby Barnes-Chisholm and partner Steve, Stuart Blyth and Kyle’s long-time friend Jeff rode through to Glasgow from Edinburgh, met up with our host for the weekend, John Bryden and then attended Ron “Rocket” Harrison’s (BKS III) funeral before heading up to Trust House in Lochailort for the Blue Knights inaugural mini Highland Games.

After the funeral, those attending the Highland Games headed north stopping at the Green Welly for fuel and food. Another stop in Fort William again for fuel and essential rations, then on to Trust House.

After a delicious chicken curry, prepared by Kyle and Alan, (a friend of John’s) Ewan stood up with an announcement. John and Jan were presented with a cheque for £1,500.00 for Kirsty’s Kids, BKS II’s chosen charity.

Saturday morning dawned with the continuation of Friday’s weather, a beautiful day, contrary to the weather reports, much to our glee!

After breakfast our ride-out took us on a beautifully scenic route northwest through Arisaig to Mallaig, where we found a charming coffee shop near the town centre. We sat in the sun, had refreshments and ‘shot the breeze’.

Returning to Trust House, everyone who wanted to try out the ‘HEXHOG,’ an amazing six wheel drive vehicle which can be driven by severely disabled persons which our donations had helped to buy for the kids. Those who dared took the Hexhog through its paces and were amazed at its capabilities.

After the Hexhog experience, we prepared to do battle in the Highland Games. There were no teams, each one for him/herself! There was one exception though. One of the challenges involved trusting pairs.

The first challenge was darts; a standard dart board with standard darts. The best of three goes each determined the round winner. The round was won by Jan, with a little help from Chieftain John.

Next challenge was ‘putting’ the rock. The object was to get the rock as close to a stake as possible with one throw, and everyone using the same technique. Jasmine taking honours for this round!

The third challenge which involved the trusting pairs, was for one to be blindfolded and the other to direct as quickly as possible and by verbal command only, the blindfolded person round a course. Andy won this round with an impressive time! It must be noted that one blindfolded person ended up in the bushes and another led down the drive!!!

The final challenge was a game of petanque, a version of the French boules. Kyle was leading up to the last boule when one of Kim’s boules was knocked into top spot!

As there was no overall leader, Chieftain John proclaimed that a wee toss of a caber should be the decider for the overall Inaugural Blue Knights’ Highland Games Champion.

This was another closely contested challenge, with Jasmine being adjudged the winner and receiving the Inaugural Blue Knights’ Highland Games Champion trophy, Andy came a very close second, with Kim bringing up a worthy third.

As mini cabers were used for this final challenge, a larger caber was now brought out for the ultimate caber challenge. Steve and John battled it out, with Steve beating John by a toss, and received the enviable ‘trophy’ of a Heilan’ Coo soft toy.

A delicious BBQ ended a great day.

Unfortunately Sunday dawned dreich! After breakfast, most of us depart for home, Kyle and Jeff escorting us to Fort William where we parted and went our separate ways home, stopping once again at the popular Green Welly for food and fuel.,

All in all, everyone who attended had a great time, and all are looking forward to the 2020 Blue Knights Highland Games at Trust House where the Champion’s trophy will be eagerly contested for.