

THEIR MAJESTIES AT BRAEMAR GATHERING

It's not royal weather but it's the Gathering, with the King and Queen, Princess Margaret and thirty thousand others - including visitors from many parts of the world - present. From towns and villages, by car, coach and foot they've come to the games.

With the royal party are the Duchess of Kent's children, as the King gives the prize to Pipe Major McLennan, whose late father composed the winning pipe tune. Then for the first time for many years the King and Queen enter the arena to watch the field events. And so to the games, starting with the brawy stuff that fairly gets the kilt a-swinging.

When a Highlander throws a hammer he likes one that looks something like a hammer - not one of those fancy ball-and-chains they use elsewhere. The winner in this event is Louis Stewart of Corpach.

Cumberland style wrestling often gives the answer to a question that's long vexed the Sassenach. The answer's, Yes, they do - sometimes!

In the local dancing events the competition for the under-tens is always a very attractive spot in the programmes. In a close finish it's Alan Macdonald who wins.

Now the grown-ups ... and it takes a good judge to say they're better than the wee-yins.

My! don't they start young. Braemar holds a distinctive place in the calendar of the Highland Games. Long may it continue to do so.