

26/73

BRAEMAR: A MEETING OF THE CLANS:

After twelve hours of rain, the sun breaks through on the Braemar Gathering just in time for the arrival of the Royal Party, making the traditional march past as brilliant as it has ever been.

The Highland Games at Braemar are unlike any other major sporting event in Britain; the events, and their rules, are unique. Putting a sixteen-pound stone well over 40 feet would be an achievement in any part of the world - and few athletes would like to try tossing Braemar's outsize 19-foot caber. In fact, only two men have done it successfully.

Honours go to a Donside farmer, Sandy Gray, for his triumphant toss; several other heavyweights try, but no one else can make it.

Cumberland style wrestling too, has its own rules; if both fall, the first man whose body touches the ground is the loser. A great favourite with the Royal family - and everyone else - is the Highland dancing.

And to think that a few hours before, it was feared that the Gathering might be literally washed out!