

THE GLANS GATHER

Regular visitors to the Braemar Highland Gathering have learned to be philosophical about the weather - but this year the sun's blazing as the Royal Family arrive, and it stays that way.

The crowd are disappointed the Queen isn't here; but all her family are, and 30,000 people give them a great welcome. Then all eyes and ears - Royal or otherwise - turn to the arena for the march of the massed pipe bands.

In the pavilion, the Royal Family are obviously in holiday mood - and they soon ask for their chairs to be moved into the open air for a better view of the dancing and the field events.

Sixteen pounds, that stone weighs - but more perhaps than anywhere else in Britain, Scottish traditional athletics favour muscular strength. The programme says he's an Anderson - and the tape measure says a world record; but Mr. Anderson has enough energy left to throw the 21-lb hammer. And yes, that's a record, too!

Both the small caber and the giant caber are tossed three times - which is quite unheard of! It's certainly a day for throwing records.