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17-8-90

"SINGING IN THE RAIN"



Guests at the rally of the Bailies of Bennachie line up at the Back o' Bennachie. Left to right - Sandy Sandilands, of the Forestry Commission; Dr Danny Gordon, founder of Bailies; Sir Maitland Mackie; Councillor Raymond Bisset, and Senior Bailie Bert Cadenhead.

THE GADIE river was accused of changing direction on Sunday as the heavens opened during the annual rally of the Bailies of Bennachie.

The field at the Back o' Bennachie was a riot of colour as hundreds of Bailies sported golf umbrellas to cope with the intermittent showers during the afternoon.

Fortunately, the weather remained dry during the addresses given by Senior Bailie Bert Cadenhead, Sir Maitland

District Councillor Raymond Bisset.

Committee members were also able to hand out hot sausage rolls and tea to almost 300 people in dry conditions. However, when for the first time, the Bailies decided to adopt as their theme song, "O! Gin I were where Gadie rins," and handed out sheets with the words, down came the rain.

Undaunted, Mr Cadenhead, accompanied by James Mackay and Algy Watson, led the singing, managing all eight

It was James Mackay who cracked the joke about the Gadie changing direction. He later said the afternoon had been a great success, with around 300 copies of the Bailies 1991 calendar being sold and many new members having enrolled.

The Bailies, formed in 1973, now number almost 4,000 and are scattered around the world. Their main aim is to protect Bennachie from litter and vandalism, to maintain footpaths and rights of way, and to