

Gotlandic games

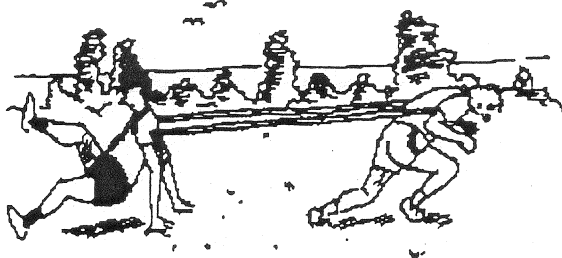
Ancient square-and-border-ball (Pärk)



Ancient square-and-border-ball is an old ballgame. You hit the ball with your hand or you kick it with your foot, on volley or after the first bounce. Ancient square-and-border-ball is played with a ball big as a fist and it is made of tightly winded wool covered with tanned sheepskin.

The game is played on a smooth grasspitch with seven players in each team. The space needed for the game (around 30m wide and unlimited length) is marked by a movable stick. The game starts with the ball being served into a square, 70x210 cm, where an ancient square-and-border-ball player from one team stands, hitting the ball towards the opponent team. The idea of the game is for one team to win as much ground as possible from the other team. After seven serves into the square, the teams change places, and the team which conquered ground must now defend it or otherwise give it back to the other side, which has seven attempts to try to recapture the lost ground. Every round gives the winning team 10 points, and you have to get 40 points to win the set. Best of three sets win the match.

Breaking the Ox



Two persons put a 10 m. long rope across their necks, forwards across the shoulders and backwards under the arms. Then you kneel, with the back towards each other, and the aim is then to pull forward and by that drag your opponent with you. The winner is the one who drags the opponent a certain distance (around 3 m.). Preferably, it should be a ditch filled with water between these two competitors - in that way one of them will get wet - and the winner has reached the goal and won.

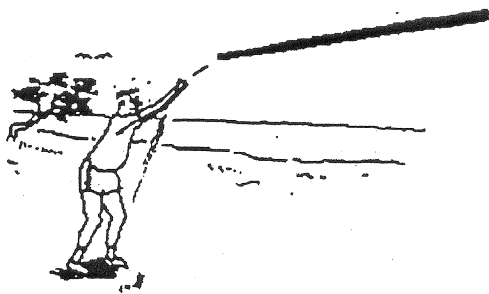
The Stone - origin of " Horse Shoe Throwing " (Varpa)

The Stone is a sport for everyone. There are two different stones, those made of stone and those made of metal. The stone made of metal consists of a aluminiumalloy.

The stone may, in principal, weigh without any limit, bur usually it weighs between 0,5 - 5.0 kilos (1 - 10 pounds). The length of the throwing-track varies due to sex, age and handicap, if any. The track is marked in each end, with a stick. When you throw the stone it is important to get it in rotation in order to get it to fall down as close as possible to the stick. The thrower who gets his/her stone closest gets one point, and when you have reached twelve points you win the set (compare it to tennis). A whole match includes three sets. The person winning most sets, wins the contest, or the throw as it is often called. As a beginner it is most suitable to start with a light stone, at a distance of 10 - 20 m, which is min and max distance in The Stone.



Pole Throwing or Caber Tossing (Stanggstörtningg)



Gotlandic Pole Throwing begins with the competitor heaving the pole into start-position. The pole weighs between 16 and 26 kilos, depending on the ability of the competitors. You heave the pole by pushing the end of the pole with your right hand and lift it with your left hand using your knee as help. (The starting position for the actual throw is both hands around the end of the pole.)

The pole rest against your shoulder and while moving forward you lower the pole and push it with a jerk forwards and upwards.. It is supposed to touch the ground making a somersault from one end to the other. The pole may fall no more than 45 degrees compared to the original push of the throw. The length of the throw is measured from the starting point of the throw to the landingpoint.
