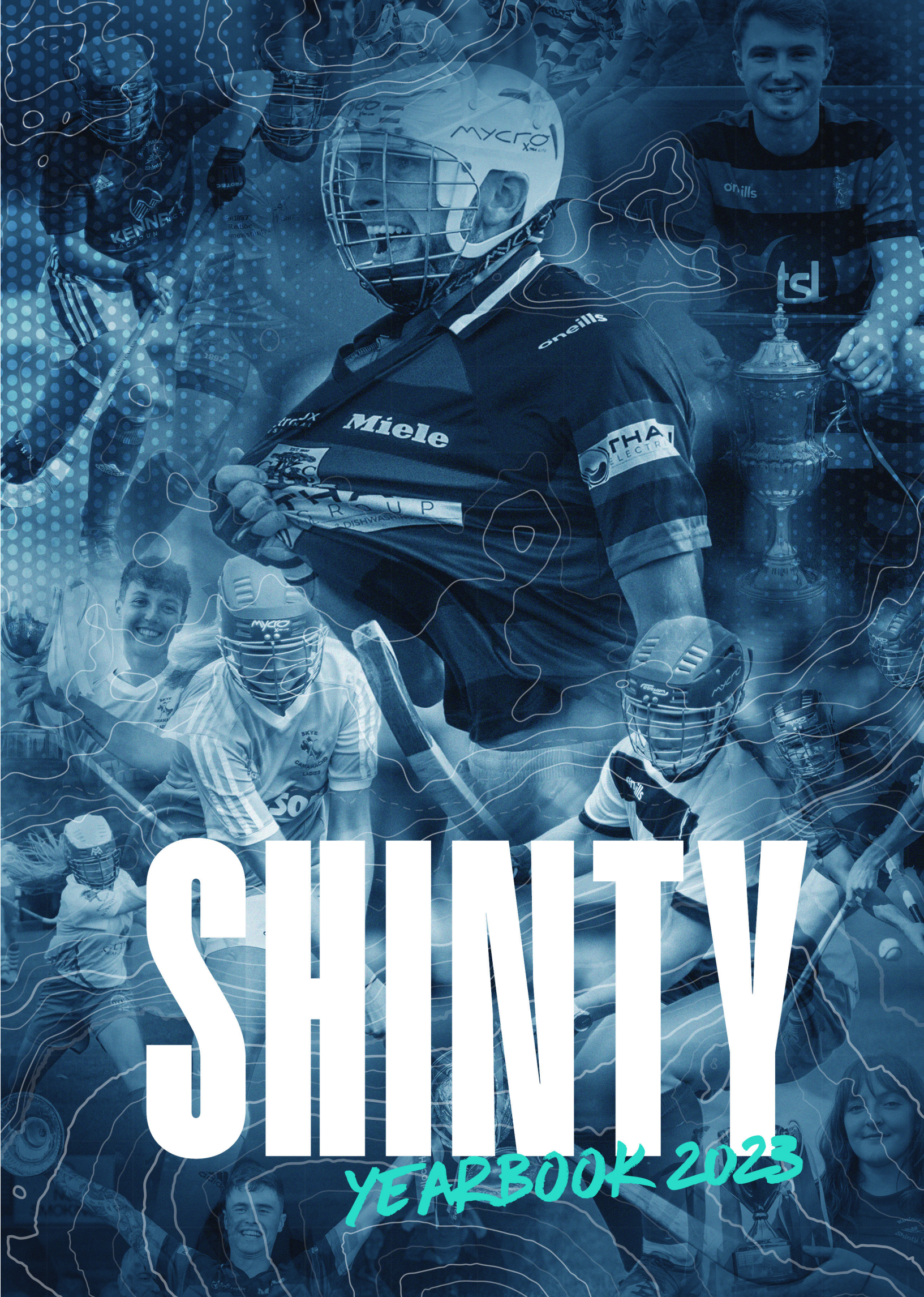




SHINTY

YEARBOOK 2023

MOWI

PROUD TO BE THE LONGEST
STANDING SPONSOR OF A
SCOTTISH SPORT

mowiscotland.co.uk





YEARBOOK 2023

PRESIDENT'S INTRODUCTION

As I write my third and final introduction to the 2023 Shinty Yearbook I look back with some pride on my time in office. Much has been achieved and the 2023 season has proved to be no different.

Kingussie and Oban Camanachd vied for supremacy at the elite level with Kingussie clinching the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup with a goal in the dying minutes to edge the major honours count. We also had the best attended Balliemore Cup in years (possibly ever), with Ferguson Transport and Shipping hosting a wonderful final at Spean Bridge. Similarly, Highland Industrial Supplies hosted an unforgettable Centenary Sutherland Cup Final at Drumnadrochit with every post-war winning club invited for music, food and refreshments.

The Mowi leagues provided exciting competition as usual, while our friends in the Gaelic Athletic Association hosted the Scotland squad in Newry, Northern Ireland, as the Mowi Shinty-Hurling International returned for the first time since COVID. The Mowi awards saw numerous worthy individuals and clubs recognised for their contribution on and off the park, but probably the most exciting development of all is the extension of Mowi's support for another three years in what must be the longest running sports sponsorship in British sport.

Off-field the Association remain determined to make our sport as safe as possible for all involved. Another step forward was taken at the AGM with helmets and faceguards becoming mandatory for under-25s. This is something I'm sure we'll return to in the future.

The redevelopment of the Bught Park continues apace with the venue now closed and a funding bid being worked up in conjunction with our consultants, Slikk7. The Association have also committed to the replacement of the Camanachd Cup and are grateful to Tulloch Homes for their financial contribution. This icon of our sport will form one of the main attractions of the Inverness Castle project, protecting the

trophy for posterity and potentially attracting a whole new audience to our ancient game.

Before signing off I'd just like to reflect on the last three years. It seems a formality now and relatively straightforward that we got back to competitive shinty in season 2021. It was anything but. It's easy to forget that COVID delayed the season start to June, compressing the finals in an intense couple of months. Even getting to this point was an achievement as we grappled with COVID guidelines and how these should be applied to shinty!

Season 2022 was more straightforward, but it was important that the Mowi Leagues were delivered in full after the abbreviated league set-up provided the flexible foundation upon which season 2021 was built upon. To all intents and purposes, the staff, Board and I have returned the sport to its pre-COVID basis with the return of shinty-hurling and shinty-camogie. All this has been achieved while delivering a surplus of £45k in 2021, £25k in 2022 and another surplus likely in 2023.

There are some disappointments as my term ends. Failing to persuade enough of our member clubs to make helmets mandatory in season 2024 means there is still work to do in this area. A personal regret is that restoring competition after COVID prevented a critical look at our competition structure with my own personal opinion being that a reduction to eight team leagues would shorten the playing season and create breathing space for players, coaches, volunteers and supporters alike.

All that remains is to thank the Board and staff for their support over the last three years and to wish Burton Morrison every success in his time as President.

Yours in shinty,
Steven MacKenzie

WOMEN AND GIRLS

GIRL ONLY TRAINING

7 new girl only training camps were delivered in 2023 with over 164 girls taking part.

GIRL ONLY PRIMARY COMPETITION

10 Primary schools and over 80 girls took part in girl only primary school competition in 2023

RESIDENTIAL CAMPS

The Association and partners continue to offer unique experiences in sport with the ever popular residential camps providing first class coaching for youngsters.

Girls camp - 52

Boys camp - 92

Disability camp - 95

COMPETITIONS

SENIOR FIXTURES

This year we organised 609 adult fixtures including recruiting and deploying officials to each of these games.

RECORD TICKET SALES ONLINE

Camanachd, MacTavish, Balliemore and Sutherland Cup finals all sold record numbers of online tickets for the finals.

YOUTH PARTICIPATION

The Association is proud to report a 16% increase in youth membership from 2022-2023, a positive reflection on the efforts from both staff and volunteers across shinty.

HEALTH & SAFETY

NEW HELMETS

Our partnership with Mowi helped deliver the introduction of over 250 new helmets into our game with distribution from Highland Industrial Supplies.

CHILD PROTECTION

25 Club Child Wellbeing Officers attended the latest Child Wellbeing and Protection in Sport Course. All CPOs continue to be supported by Alaina MacLennan the safeguarding lead at the Association.

WELLBEING

The Association has partnered with Mikeysline and SAMH to create a number of suicide prevention videos. The first of these was released in September in World Suicide Prevention Week with a further two videos subsequently released. The aim of this campaign is to let shinty members, and their wider community, know that there are avenues to support and that no one needs to suffer alone.

INCLUSION

RURAL AREAS

After School shinty club has been re-established in Ullapool training on a weekly basis. Lewis Camanachd enjoyed a residential weekend for primary aged pupils and in fact played a series of matches against the newly resurrected Ullapool side.

RECORD 95 ATHLETES ATTEND DISABILITY FESTIVAL

13 teams took part in our annual residential shinty camp with 95 athletes taking part including new teams from Dunoon, Tain and Dingwall. In addition a Highland Disability Festival was also supported, reaching over 35

GROWING THE SUPPORT NETWORK

CAMANACHD TRAIN 196 TEACHERS

Partnered with UHI to train 125 teaching students to deliver the sport in primary schools. In addition, 7 School based CPD sessions were also provided, upskilling 71 current teachers in their delivery of shinty.

13 SCHOOLS OF SHINTY

4 New Schools of Shinty have been developed. Dunfermline High, Portree, Glasgow Gaelic and Greenfaulds High have joined in 2023.

OVER £21K FUNDING FOR CLUBS

We also worked with a number of shinty clubs to support funding applications which generated in excess of £21,000 into the sport. Additionally, our partnership with Mowi, saw £5,000 invested through the Mowi Youth Development Fund.

FACILITIES

BUGHT PARK REDEVELOPMENT

In partnership, the Association has continued to work on the plans for the development of a Shinty Exhibition called "Shinty's Story" at Bught Park. This development will show case the rich heritage and culture of our sport and leave visitors with an unforgettable experience.

CENTRAL SCOTLAND

The Association continues to support GMA in their quest to make Peterson Park their permanent home and also a centre for shinty in Glasgow. Including, liaising with sportscotland and the

EDUCATION

28 YOUNG SHINTY AMBASSADORS TRAINED

Engaged and trained 14 schools with 28 ambassadors involved in the Shinty Young Ambassador Programme.

110 NEW SHINTY COACHES

110 new coaches were trained across 12 Foundation Courses, while 32 coaches took the next step on their journey to Level 1.

62 TRAINED REFEREES

Five referee courses were delivered throughout the year with 62 attending. The majority of these referees have supported the youth game however, some have gone on to regularly officiate in the senior game. 42 referees were used in senior shinty with 28 of them taking

PROUD TO BE THE MAIN SPONSORS OF THE CAMANACHD CUP



BUILDING ON
95
Years
EXPERIENCE

For the best choice of new homes in Scotland visit a Tulloch show home today...



Inverness
Kirkhill
Aviemore
Forres

MOST SHOW HOMES/MARKETING SUITES OPEN THURSDAY TO MONDAY. FOR OPENING TIMES AND TO BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR CONTACT 01463 229300.

www.tulloch-homes.com



FRESH BLOOD INVIGORATES CAMANACHD ASSOCIATION...



The 2023 AGM saw a number of new directors appointed to the Camanachd Association Board. **Willie MacDonald** was re-elected after stepping off for a period. Willie enjoyed a very successful shinty career since childhood with Kingussie, GMA and Scotland. Upon his retirement from 2nd team shinty, aged 51, the Press & Journal reported that Kevin had won "12 Camanachd Cups, more than 20 Premiership titles, 14 MacTavish Cups and 14 Macaulay Cups" – making him one of the most decorated players in the game's modern history. Professionally, Kevin has been the Managing Director of The Thain Group for over 25 years and has history with the Association having served on the Camanachd Association Competitions Committee.

Kevin Thain also bolstered the strength of the Board, Kevin had a very successful shinty career since childhood with Kingussie, GMA and Scotland. Upon his retirement from 2nd team shinty, aged 51, the Press & Journal reported that Kevin had won "12 Camanachd Cups, more than 20 Premiership titles, 14 MacTavish Cups and 14 Macaulay Cups" – making him one of the most decorated players in the game's modern history. Professionally, Kevin has been the Managing Director of The Thain Group for over 25 years and has history with the Association having served on the Camanachd Association Competitions Committee.

Graeme MacDiarmid was also elected to Board and has been involved in shinty for over 50 years, starting out his journey with Inverloch Primary before winning MacPherson, McBean and Wade Cups at Lochaber High. At club level, Graeme started out with Fort William, picking up North Division 2 and Sutherland Cup medals as well as receiving representative honours for the North U21s. However, he would soon move south and played for Strathclyde Police in Glasgow as well as starting his coaching career once his family came along. He helped form and develop the Glasgow Gaels for 17 years holding down a number of volunteer positions during this time. Most recently, Graeme led Glasgow Mid Argyll women to the Mowi Valerie Fraser Cup Final in 2023.

Alan Clark was also formally adopted; Alan, formerly of sportscotland as Head of Partnerships Management and latterly Regional Development Manager for Highlands and Islands and Grampian is a lover of shinty, not affiliated to any club, and brings a wealth of professional expertise in sports development to enhance and develop the shinty pathway and

support CA staff in their job working with clubs.

The Association was saddened to lose both Kirsty Deans and Daniel Palombo as their terms came to an end but know that we will be working closely with them both to progress shinty's development in the future. Kirsty was unable to attend the AGM but Daniel was presented with a token of appreciation for his time on board with Kirsty receiving hers at a later date. Finally, at board level, the Association was delighted to co-opt Alister MacKinnon in advance of the AGM.

2023 was also a year of development for the Association's Staff team. Deborah MacPherson closed her chapter at the Camanachd Association in September after 5 years in post, however taking control of the reins is **Atholl Davidson**. A native of Inverness, Atholl joins the Camanachd Association and will bring extensive financial and administrative experience from the Public and Private Sectors to the role of Finance and Administration Officer. Atholl is no stranger to shinty, with his mother being brought up in Newtonmore and his father a lifelong follower of Lovat. His eldest son also currently plays his shinty in the Mowi Premiership, as Atholl continues to remain hopeful that at least one of his daughters will also try the game in the near future.

The Association reaffirmed their commitment to developing shinty opportunities for women and girls by appointing **Kirsty Lobban** to a role with that very focus. Kirsty grew up in Inverness but now lives in Edinburgh after finishing a degree in Sports & Exercise Science at Edinburgh Napier University. Kirsty has a passion for all sport and is looking forward to having a positive impact for women & girls in shinty.

The Camanachd Association were boosted by the appointment of two current players to the Development Team. Namely, **Will Cowie** and **Alaina MacLennan**. The former took up a role in the West of Scotland and was immersed in shinty from his upbringing in Skye where he played shinty from primary school to senior level. Currently plying his trade for Kyles Athletic, Will is a former Scotland under 17 and under 21 cap and holds a degree in Sports Studies from the University of Stirling. Alaina operates in the East region and plays her shinty for Kinlochshiel. Having joined the Association after completing a degree in BA(Hons) Sports Coaching and Development at the University of the West of Scotland, Alaina is a two time Mowi Challenge Cup winner with Kinlochshiel and is also responsible for the vital area of Child Protection.

KINGUSSIE RETAIN MOWI PREMIERSHIP TITLE

Kingussie secured their 3rd consecutive title with a 4-0 win against Skye at the Dell on the penultimate day of the season.



Kingussie received the Mowi Premiership trophy from President Steven MacKenzie after a final day 3-1 victory over Badenoch rivals Newtonmore – having secured the title the previous week against Skye.

To say Kings went into the season as favourites would have been an understatement, fresh off the back of their G and Slam winning season in 2022, there were few people who would’ve wagered against the red and blue hoops collecting their third Mowi Premiership title. However, after an opening day victory against Lovat at The Dell, Caberfeidh would shock the champions by beating them 3-0 on the same pitch a week later. Any kind of panic was quickly allayed by the champions though who would beat the likes of Kinlochshiel, Oban Camanachd, GMA and Kyles before coming head-to-head with early season title challengers, Newtonmore in June. That game would be a test of Kingussie’s nerve and patience as the holders found themselves 2-0 down with 8 minutes to go, the inevitable Ruairidh Anderson would half the deficit though, before a Zander Michie strike levelled terms 1 minute from time, securing an important point at The Eilan.

From that date in early June, Kingussie would only drop 1 more point (away against a stubborn Kinlochshiel, thanks to an 89th minute equaliser from Archie MacRae) until their next title showdown, this time against a resurgent Kyles Athletic. One week before the huge Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Final in Inverness and Kings could have been forgiven for taking their eye off the ball, however, a late double – this time from 2019 top scorer Savio Genini meant that the champions would snatch victory from the jaws of defeat. Following that win, the title was within touching distance for the Badenoch side, however, they were defeated at Castle Leod (Cabers completing a famous double over Kingussie – the only side to beat them in the league in 2023) 1-0.

That left Kingussie needing 6 points from their last 4 games, two of which were against newly promoted sides, one of which was against already relegated GMA and the other

against Badenoch rivals Newtonmore. In the end though, the calibre of opposition didn’t matter as Kingussie vanquished all 4 teams scoring 17 goals and conceding just 2 on their way to lifting yet another Mowi Premiership title. Ruairidh Anderson was their top goal scorer in the league notching up 12 goals, with strike partner James Falconer just behind on 11. However, to focus purely on their scoring output would do a disservice to the quality of their defence. Kings conceded 10 less than the next best defences in the division (Kyles Athletic & Newtonmore) and Full-Back Robert Mabon received much of the plaudits throughout what was an outstanding campaign for him on a personal level – capped by a Scotland International call up in October along with teammates Anderson and Falconer.

Captain, James Falconer said: “It’s been an honour to lead the team out this season on what has been a very successful year, I’d like to thank not only my team mates for the work rate this year but my manager and assistants who took over after previous years of success, supporters who are there week in week out to support us and to everyone else associated with the club who go unnoticed throughout the season because without them there would be no Kingussie Camanachd, I wish the next captain of Kingussie all the best and hope there’s many more years of trophies to come.”

MOWI PREMIERSHIP									
Pos	Club	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	 Kingussie	18	14	2	2	42	13	29	28
2	 Kyles Athletic	18	11	2	5	46	23	23	24
3	 Newtonmore	18	9	4	5	34	23	11	22
4	 Caberfeidh	18	8	4	6	48	45	3	20
5	 Oban Camanachd	18	7	5	6	38	30	8	19
6	 Lovat	18	7	5	6	29	28	1	19
7	 Kinlochshiel	18	7	4	7	34	31	3	18
8	 Skye	18	7	2	9	29	30	-1	16
9	 Beauly	18	5	1	12	24	38	-14	11
10	 Glasgow Mid Argyll	18	0	1	17	10	73	-63	1

BADENOCH LADIES THREE-PEAT MOWI WCA NATIONAL DIVISION



Badenoch Ladies were presented with the Mowi WCA National Division title after winning 9-0 against Glenurquhart on the final day of the season. That result capped off a nearly flawless campaign for Badenoch – the only blemish a 2-1 defeat against Lochaber in their opening game of the season. If that was the negative, the positives included conceding less than a goal a game (0.71) and scoring an average of over 7 per game (7.14). In addition, the club boasted a Gold & Silver in the divisions top scorers charts with Zoe Reid’s 30 goals enough to beat 2nd placed Kirsty Deans (21) to the accolade. Captain Megan Ralph said: “The girls have worked so hard for each other this season especially with some challenges we’ve faced and I’m delighted to see all the hard work has paid off.

It’s been a real team effort and I’ve been fortunate to lead them this year and we wouldn’t be where we are without Scott and Iain’s hard work and knowledge guiding us. I’m glad we’ve managed to lift another trophy for them in their last year managing us. I know we’ll be raring to go again next season and see where it take us!”

Top scorer Zoe Reid said: “Retaining the league title for a third year in a row has been a massive achievement for everyone involved in Badenoch Ladies Shinty Club. The commitment to training, games, and personal fitness and development has been outstanding this season and our coaches Scott and Iain have a massive part to play in this. Although we’re disappointed we couldn’t do the double for Scott and Iain’s last season coaching us, we hope we’ve made them proud as we wouldn’t be in the position we’re in as a club without their help and input over the last 6 years. We will miss them a lot however look forwards to next season with a new insight to retaining the league title and getting the Valerie Fraser cup back in Badenoch.”

President John Robertson said: “At the last training session of the season, on the last Wednesday evening in September, it was pouring rain, half dark, and there were no competitive

games left. However, 25 women turned up to train and practice. It showed yet again the commitment the Badenoch players have at all age levels, and I am delighted for them that the season turned out so well.”

“On the 10th September, all three of the Badenoch teams were playing at home on the Dell and the First Team was presented with the National Premier League Mowi Trophy. It was a terrific day for the Club and a large local crowd turned out to see Camanachd Chieftain, John MacKenzie, present the trophy to Badenoch Club Captain, Megan Ralph. It was a good occasion for the Badenoch players which brought all the teams together, and the day was completed with an evening barbecue. I am pleased for everyone involved as the team spirit has maintained and built all season.

“The under-14 team and Second Team progressed dramatically as the season went on, and there are many youth players now who are potential First Team players. I can only congratulate Jeanette, Julie and Douglas for their work with the youth players this season. The Second Team’s performances improved as the season went on and this was reflected in their finishing league position in North Division 1.”

WCA MOWI NATIONAL DIVISION 2023								
Pos	Club	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Badenoch A	14	13	0	1	100	10	26
2	Lochaber A	14	10	1	3	45	18	21
3	Skye A	14	9	2	3	54	21	20
4	Glasgow Mid Argyll A	14	8	3	3	55	21	19
5	Glenurquhart A	14	4	2	8	39	51	10
6	Inverness A	14	3	2	9	14	34	8
7	Ardnamurchan A	14	2	2	10	11	76	6
8	Aberdour A	14	1	0	13	12	99	2



LOCHABER WIN MOWI NATIONAL DIVISION



Lochaber won the Mowi National Division, sealing the title with a late goal from who else but Ben Delaney as they were comeback kings with a 2-1 victory over local rivals Kilmallie at Canal Park. The red and white hoops had a good start to the season winning 2-0 against Inveraray, before picking up expected home victories against Col Glen and Oban Celtic, but they hit the first bump in the road at the start of April as they lost 4-3 to Glenurquhart who at the time had 4 points from 4 games; with hindsight it's clear that Glenurquhart would kick on and become one of the form teams in the division, also earning promotion to the Mowi Premiership but at that point there were a few question marks over Lochaber's credentials. However, they were soon proven to be exaggerated as an uncharacteristic defeat to Fort William would be the only other major blot on the champion's copybook as they romped to the title with a game to spare.

Realistically, doing the league and cup double is as good a season as anyone at Lochaber could have dreamt of and so full credit has to go to Ally Ferguson and his backroom staff as they picked up a team still reeling from relegation in 2019 and the effects of the COVID pandemic and moulded them into a solid unit. The signs were there towards the backend of last year as they were starting to click as a team and the fruits of their labour are now clear to see in 2023.

It's impossible to talk about Lochaber's campaign without mentioning Ben Delaney and his incredible contribution, 17 goals in the league make him the 2nd top scorer in the division, but you can add another 12 to that tally across all competitions taking him to 29 and making him the 2nd highest scorer in all of senior shinty after a certain Craig Morrison. It is far from a one man show at Lochaber though with a high talent level across the whole squad including, but not limited to, the likes of Jack Dignan, Patrick Toal, Finlay McDonald, Conor Sweeney and of course the returning Max Campbell whose goals really helped drive Lochaber over the line. Lochaber are a side whose performances this campaign deserve reward and that's exactly what they have got.

Manager Ally Ferguson:

"Winning the Balliemore cup and then the National league this season has been incredible, it's great credit to the players, and the coaching team. The work effort and commitment they have all put in this season, has been amazing. A couple of seasons ago we reached a really low ebb, hopefully we have turned the tide now, and the hard work has evidently paid off, we will now look to enjoy and celebrate the success of this season. We will then look forward to and plan to the next challenge ahead and step up being in the Premier league next season, which we will relish, with the understanding, and knowledge that it is up a level again, and we are under no illusion on just how tough this can and will be. But we are there on merit and we look forward to it."

President Bruno Berardelli:

'This year has been incredible and will live long in the memory. Firstly, winning the Balliemore Cup on home soil, and then to clinch the National Division One title with a last-minute winner at Canal Parks really gave our fans something to celebrate. This is testament to the work of our Manager, Ally Ferguson, coaches John Dino MacDonald and Angus Morrison, plus of course the hard work, commitment and skill of the players, ably led by Captain Pat Toal. The success of our Men's First time this year has given the whole community a boost.'

MOWI NATIONAL DIVISION								
Pos	Club	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	 Lochaber	14	10	2	2	40	25	22
2	 Glenurquhart	14	7	5	2	38	15	19
3	 Fort William	14	8	2	4	51	22	18
4	 Kilmallie	14	7	3	4	48	26	17
5	 Inveraray	14	5	3	6	18	28	13
6	 Col Glen	14	4	3	7	21	36	11
7	 Oban Celtic	14	0	7	7	12	44	7
8	 Strathglass	14	2	1	11	23	55	5

BUTE ARE MOWI SOUTH DIVISION 1 CHAMPIONS



Congratulations to Bute who were confirmed as Mowi South Division 1 Champions after a 4-1 victory over their nearest league rivals Glasgow Mid Argyll II. Rather than ecstatic jubilation there was a sense of job done as Bute clinched the title, something they had seemed destined to do for a couple of months. There is an argument to be made that Bute had one of the best seasons in shinty in 2023 on a pound-for-pound basis in terms of their individual competitions, competitiveness in the cups against higher ranked opposition as well as their total domination of South Division 1, Bute have been as close to flawless as you could expect all year.

The league campaign has seen 12 games and 12 wins. Across those 12 games Bute have scored 84 goals and only conceded 6, as far as league campaigns are concerned, that is about as dominant as you can be and only bodes well for the Islanders step up to the Mowi National next season as they will look to replicate the success that Col Glen had in the league above.

Credit goes to James Craig for the work he's done, and of course to the team themselves who took the disappointment of last year, introduced some of their second team players, reshaped their squad about and went about their business in an emphatic manner. Even outside of their league campaign Bute did well, they reached a Ferguson Transport & Shipping Balliemore Semi-Final, and were victorious over National Division opposition twice having defeated Strathglass and of course their massive 3-1 victory over Inveraray in the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup. If they can replicate those kind of results next season they will be in good stead for a longer stay in the National Division than was the case in 2019.

Mowi Media Award winner Cammy Middleton commented on Bute's success saying: "Next season will be very interesting for them to see how they make the step up. Col-Glen coped

very well and if it wasn't for injuries and suspensions they could have been higher up the table. I'd argue Bute are in a better position for promotion than Col-Glen were last year, with a bigger and younger squad - meaning more depth in positions which is crucial for the step up."

MOWI SOUTH DIV 1									
Pos	Club	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	 Bute	12	12	0	0	84	6	78	24
2	 Lochside Rovers	12	8	1	3	35	19	16	15
3	 Aberdour	12	5	2	5	34	24	10	12
4	 Glasgow Mid Argyll	12	7	2	3	37	30	7	12
5	 Ballachulish	12	3	1	8	16	43	-27	5
6	 Kyles Athletic	12	2	1	9	18	44	-26	3
7	 Ardnamurchan	12	1	1	10	15	73	-58	3



NEWTONMORE RETAIN NORTH 1



Newtonmore were crowned Mowi North Division 1 Champions after defeating local rivals Kingussie 5-1 at the Eilan (a result that also confirmed Kings' relegation from the division). Going into the season, it is safe to say that 'More would again be considered favourites having won the league the year before, however, an opening day defeat to Glengarry raised some eyebrows across the shinty world and some were predicting the downfall of the holders. However, they would bounce back in the following 4 league games, defeating Kinlochshiel, Lovat, Fort William and Skye scoring 17 in the process.

A trip to Portree at the start of May saw the blue and white

MOWI NORTH DIV 1									
Pos	Club	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Newtonmore	18	15	0	3	72	25	47	30
2	Skye	18	10	3	5	52	37	15	23
3	Fort William	18	8	5	5	45	32	13	21
4	Kinlochshiel	18	9	2	7	38	34	4	20
5	Glengarry	18	8	3	7	55	53	2	20
6	Beaully	18	4	8	6	33	38	-5	16
7	Inverness	18	7	2	9	38	45	-7	15
8	Glenurquhart	18	4	4	10	42	51	-9	12
9	Lovat	18	5	2	11	31	68	-37	12
10	Kingussie	18	4	3	11	38	61	-23	11

hoops drop another two points thanks to a late strike by Skye's Taylor Matheson, though this would prove to be the last time the holders would drop points before being confirmed as champions – a 9 game winning run that saw 'More use all of their experience to put together a title winning run. Inverness would claim a victory against them in the penultimate game of the season but the champions would still go on to win the title by 7 points. Newtonmore top goal scorer Glen MacKintosh, who bagged 22 goals, would go on to win the division's player of the year at the Mowi Awards and his dogged determination epitomises the character of a great Newtonmore side who will undoubtedly be amongst the favourites for the title again in 2024.

KINLOCHSHIEL GO ONE BETTER AND WIN MOWI WCA NORTH 2

Kinlochshiel were confirmed as Mowi WCA North Division 2 winners on 24th September 2023 following a 9-0 win over Lovat. The west coasters narrowly missed out by 1 point to Glenurquhart in 2022, although they did win the Mowi Challenge Cup – a trophy they would retain in the first week of September and for some time this season it has been clear that they were going to win the division too. They were denied the chance to seal the title on the 17th as Skye handed Shiel their only defeat of the campaign, however, in the end that was purely academic as Shiel would go on to record a 9-0 win over Lovat to seal the title with a couple of games left to spare.

111 goals in 16 games speaks volumes about just how good this Shiel side have been in the league and Lexie MacKenzie has reaffirmed just what a talent she is across this campaign. She finished up as the league's top scorer having bagged 48, Lorna MacRae just missed out on a podium spot in the charts with 20 (4th) and those two are a formidable partnership in the forward line and integral to Shiel's chances next season. It was clear throughout the campaign that Shiel are already a Mowi National side and given the dominance they have shown throughout the season it wouldn't be unreasonable to think that they will be able to compete very well next year in the division above.



WCA MOWI NORTH DIVISION 2 - 2023									
Pos	Club	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Kinlochshiel	16	15	0	1	111	21	90	30
2	Badenoch B	16	12	0	4	74	39	35	24
3	Glenurquhart B	16	10	1	5	50	29	21	21
4	Inverness B	16	9	0	7	57	66	-9	18
5	Lovat	16	7	0	9	38	57	-19	14
6	Glengarry	16	4	3	9	13	54	-41	11
7	Strathglass	16	4	2	10	28	42	-14	10
8	Strathspey	16	4	0	12	39	70	-31	8
9	Skye B	16	2	4	10	23	55	-32	8

LOCHCARRON BOUNCE BACK TO NORTH 1 AT THE FIRST TIME OF ASKING

MOWI NORTH DIV 2									
Pos	Club	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Lochcarron	16	12	2	2	42	23	19	26
2	Lewis	16	12	1	3	66	21	45	25
3	Kilmallie	16	8	2	6	39	29	10	18
4	Caberfeidh	16	8	0	8	43	34	9	16
5	Aberdeen University	16	7	2	7	17	31	-14	15
6	Boleskine	16	5	2	9	30	45	-15	12
7	Inverness	16	4	3	9	29	44	-15	10
8	Lochaber	16	5	2	9	26	29	-3	8
9	Strathglass	16	3	2	11	13	49	-36	4
10	Strathspey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

There are few teams in shinty who had such opposing feelings on the final day of season 2022 and season 2023 as Lochcarron did. Look back 12 months, and the west coast outfit had just been relegated after losing an end of season tussle with Lovat – fast forward a year, and they have made a triumphant return to the division, pipping Lewis to the title. Lochcarron started life back in Mowi North 2 strongly with a hat-trick of victories in March, including wins against eventual runners up Lewis and challengers Kilmallie. Dropped points against Strathglass in April was cause for concern, but that was short lived as the blue and whites won every league game between then and the end of July. Two defeats in three



games, coupled with the excellent form of Lewis Camanachd, would mean that there was a surprise title race on, even after Lochcarron had looked so comfortable. However, a 5-0 win at Boleskine and solid point at Canal Park would mean the Battery Park side could seal the title with a victory over Strathglass at home. Alas, that game was unable to take place and so with the points awarded to Lochcarron they had secured their return to Mowi North Division 1. They will look back on the strong early season form that served as a great platform for success and also to the 18-goal haul for North 2 top scorer Crisdean Finlayson as a key element in their success in 2023.

KILMORY MOWI SOUTH 2 SUCCESS

Congratulations to Kilmory who won MOWI South Division 2 title, the 2nd time the club has done so in 4 years. Kilmory secured the Mowi South Division 2 title with a 3-0 victory over holders Bute II in Rothesay with goals from Euan Gilmour, Alec Cunningham and Bruce Johnstone enough to ensure that Kilmory could not be caught. Kilmory played a nearly flawless campaign, winning 13 of their 14 matches with their sole defeat coming away to Strachur-Dunoon in July. Across their 14 league games, they scored an average of 4.93 while conceding just 0.93. Cunningham was the division's top scorer with 22 goals in 14 games, just edging out teammate Johnstone (21). Kilmory's work off the field has also been commended this year, the club is currently looking to expand its schools network as well as enrolling a large number of coaches in courses.

Mowi Media Award Winner, Cammy Middleton said: "A great mixture of squad consistency and blend of older heads and youth meant that many teams in the league and indeed across the country weren't able to cope with Kilmory. They stormed their way to the South 2 title and had a great run in the Single Team Cup. Having marked Euan Gilmour this

season I can vouch for his quality and the combination of Cunningham Johnstone and Leiper are very dangerous too."

Following their final match of the season, the Mowi South Division 2 Trophy and Medals were handed over by Former Camanachd Association Director Iain MacPhee. Kilmory Manager - Ronnie Campbell: "Absolutely delighted for the lads. They trained really hard throughout the season and to go through league campaign suffering only one defeat is testament to all the effort they put in. Huge amount of credit has to go to our dedicated team of coaches at all levels within the club who works tirelessly to ensure this success has been delivered. Every single player deserves recognition for their dedication and commitment to the club."

Kilmory Captain - Bruce Johnstone: "Delighted for everyone involved with the club, it's been a real effort from everyone involved. It was great to see the younger players really coming on and making a huge contribution. Really looking forward to playing in South Division 1 again. Well done to Ronnie and rest of backroom team for hard work over the season."



MOWI SOUTH DIV 2									
Pos	Club	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Kilmory	14	13	0	1	69	13	56	26
2	Bute	14	8	2	4	33	21	12	17
3	Tayforth	14	8	0	6	45	33	12	16
4	Strachur - Dunoon	14	7	0	7	27	37	-10	14
5	Inveraray	14	6	0	8	41	39	2	12
6	Aberdour	14	4	2	8	29	36	-7	8
7	Oban Celtic	14	4	2	8	26	35	-9	8
8	Uddingston	14	3	0	11	15	71	-56	6

DUNADD LIFT MOWI WCA SOUTH DIVISION 2



Dunadd were crowned queens of Mowi WCA South Division 2 on the 24th September, despite a final day defeat to Uddingston 5-3. It is fruitless to argue that Dunadd aren't deserving winners though as other than that hiccup they played a flawless league campaign scoring an average of 6 goals per game and winning all 9 of their other matches. It's practically impossible to talk about Dunadd without speaking about Eilidh Cameron who has been an absolute revelation, she has 42 of the club's 61 league goals and won the South Division 2 top scorer award by more than double her nearest competition. Dunadd did finish 2nd last year to Ardnamurchan who were promoted so the expectation would have been that they were promoted this campaign, however, there have been countless examples of teams falling short of that expectation so all credit to the team for getting it over the line and completing what has been a really successful campaign for Kilmory-Dunadd as a whole.

Speaking of the success, Dunadd Manager Laurene Cameron

WCA MOWI SOUTH DIVISION 2 - 2023									
Pos	Club	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Dunadd	10	9	0	1	61	13	48	18
2	Uddingston	10	6	1	3	43	27	16	13
3	Tayforth	10	5	1	4	35	27	8	11
4	Glasgow Mid Argyll B	10	5	1	4	29	26	3	11
5	Ardnamurchan B	10	3	1	6	12	36	-24	7
6	Oban Lorn	10	0	0	10	15	66	-51	0

said: "We've had a tough start to the season only managing to field 7/8 players for our first few games. But the girls have been committed and consistent to training, working hard on their fitness, which has shown with only one loss this season. I can't fault their dedication and for never giving up, I'm proud of them all. We have been working on building our team so credit also goes to everyone within the club who have supported us and it's great to see all the hard work paying off. We are now looking forward to next season!"

Kilmory-Dunadd President Angus Gilmour said: "What a season that's been. The commitment to training, shinty and the club has been outstanding. Dunadd have been a thrill to watch, playing a very exciting brand of shinty. We have had a few challenges to overcome over the season, particularly in relation to the size of the playing pool, but the team rallied and pushed on to win the league for the first time in five years. Massive credit to Laurene and the players for this great achievement."



MOWI NORTH DIVISION 2 2022									
Pos	Club	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Beauly	16	14	0	2	100	21	79	28
2	Kilmallie	16	9	4	3	37	20	17	22
3	Aberdeen University	16	10	1	5	23	15	8	20
4	Lewis	16	8	0	8	20	56	-36	16
5	Strathspey	16	8	2	6	37	38	-1	15
6	Lochaber	16	5	2	9	32	33	-1	10
7	Boleskine	16	5	1	10	36	46	-10	10
8	Strathglass	16	4	1	11	21	45	-24	7
9	Inverness	16	3	1	12	24	56	-32	6

We also present the Mowi North Division 2 table from 2022 for posterity reasons as it was accidentally omitted from the 2022 shinty yearbook.



Show today who's boss

Thinking about the next steps for your start-up? Find out how we could help.

Search **Royal Bank Business**

TOMORROW BEGINS TODAY



Royal Bank
of Scotland



KINGS RETAIN COTTAGES.COM MACTAVISH CUP IN TIGHT BATTLE WITH SKYE

Kingussie beat Skye 1-0 in the first senior cup final of 2023 at Bught Park, Inverness.

The senior final was the third in a hat-trick of games to take place that day at Bught Park, following on from the Mackay and MacTavish Juvenile Finals which you can read about later in this publication.

Going into the match it is fair to say Kingussie were tipped as favourites having won a Grand Slam in 2022 and showing strong, if not imperious, form in the MOWI Premiership. That being said, newly promoted Skye had one of the strongest defensive records in the division and would have been spurred on by the adrenaline of reaching a senior final or the first time in 33 years.

It was day 6 of 20°C+ in the Highland Capital and thousands of spectators had flocked to the Bught to soak up the sunshine and the shinty. Referee Martin MacLean got the game underway and in typical cup final style, the first 20 minutes were quite frantic with hard running and passion on show more so than technique. The first real chance of the game fell the way of the islanders, a long ball was picked up on the left flank by Ruairidh MacLeod who slipped the ball infield to Jordan Murchison, his shot well saved by the onrushing Rory 'Bob' McGregor. You wait all day for a chance and then two come at once, directly on the counter-attack, a long ball dropped over the Skye defence and let Kingussie Captain James Falconer have a crack from the right wing, his shot saved smartly by the left hand of Murphy Henderson.

The first water break of the day gave the players a chance to get some much needed fluids on board but also allowed the coaches to send out some tactical instructions. Just two minutes after the restart, Kingussie had the ball in the back of the net from a corner courtesy of James Falconer - only to have the goal rightly chalked off for offside. Kingussie's tails seemed to be up after that though, Thomas Borthwick had a shot from the edge of the D that needed blocking from Skye's William MacKinnon. The resulting corner would be how Kingussie found the breakthrough though, Ruairidh Anderson drilled the ball in and Borthwick dummied at the front post, leaving Falconer to drive it home low into the bottom corner much to the delight of the travelling fans. One was almost

two straight from the throw up as Henderson was forced into another save with his feet, the Skye keeper keeping his eye on Falconer's low crack from the right wing and diverted it wide.

It wasn't long before Skye fashioned a chance of their own though, Murchison was pulled back on the edge of the D and from the resulting free hit he slid the ball into Ross MacKinnon whose backhand strike was well saved by McGregor. Still, the battle between Falconer and Henderson raged on at the other end of the pitch, another low drive from the Kingussie forward was dealt with, this time with a combination of limbs; feet first, then pushed behind for another corner. That proved to be the last chance of the half and, for the teams, a chance to get some time out of the beating sun.

The 2nd half started with some more problematic news for Skye as their Captain John Gillies was forced off with a head knock. During the treatment Kingussie introduced 2022 Grand Slam winning Captain, Savio Genini and he almost had an instant impact with a well hit low shot that Henderson had to stop with his feet and then again from Alexander Michie on the rebound.

The majority of the rest of the half was played in the middle of the park with few incidents to get the crowd going, however, there was always that feeling that it could only take one chance from Skye and it would be game on. Kingussie however, didn't allow a chance and in typical fashion they kept the pressure on. Henderson producing another flourish of saves in the last 5 minutes to keep it 1-0.

Alas, as Martin MacLean brought the game to a close it was disappointment for Skye who made a good account of themselves but failed to create enough opportunities to truly trouble the holders. For Kingussie, the first of their 4 trophies from 2022 was retained and for James Falconer another heroic moment in a final. It was Falconer himself who was presented with the trophy from sponsors cottages.com as Captain, while his team mate McGregor was awarded the Tom MacKenzie medal for Man of the Match.

Let with  cottages.com

HOLIDAY LETTING MADE EASY

Scan the QR code to get a FREE guide to holiday letting,
or alternatively call us on:

0345 268 1846

Or visit: let.cottages.com



Proud sponsors of the MacTavish Cup since 2018



BLACK AND REDS WINNERS AS OBAN CAMANACHD HIT 21 CELTIC CUP WINS

Oban Camanachd beat Glasgow Mid Argyll 2-0 to win their 21st Glasgow Celtic Society Cup Final.



For the 2nd year in succession the final was to be played in Glasgow and at Peterson Park, Yoker. Oban Camanachd had comfortably overcome Inveraray in the Semi-Finals 4-0 at the Winterton; while GMA had a much more eventful match, winning on penalties against Kyles Athletic after a 5-5 draw. While the spectators may have hoped for something as exciting as that in the final, there is little doubt that managers Alan MacRae and Gareth Evans wanted to see a level of control from their sides.

The teams were piped out and as referee Graham Fisher got the match underway there was a real sense of anticipation from the crowd who were enjoying the incredible late June weather. It took 7 minutes for the first major chance of the game to come, GMA's Cameron McCue picking the ball up on the penalty spot and firing a shot which Cammy Sutherland saved well with his feet but almost conceded regardless as Cailean MacLeod ghosted in and got a shot away 8 yards from goal but he flashed wide.

Soon it was turn for Oban Camanachd to have a chance though, one of Sutherland's powerful goal hits dropped into the final third where Daniel MacCuish outmuscled his man and pushed the ball onto Daniel MacVicar, he skipped infield and unleashed a wicked strike low into the bottom corner,

leaving Jonathan Oates between the sticks with no chance. 15 minutes in and 1-0 to the pre-match favourites, there was some rumbling amongst the crowd that we could be in for a repeat of the earlier league game which ended 5-0 to Oban Camanachd.

GMA however had other ideas, they continued to battle well and matched, if not bettered, Oban in terms of chances created throughout the remainder of the half. That being said, there was little to worry either Oates or Sutherland to any great extent as both defences forced the forwards into shots from range.

The second half began in a similar vein to how the first ended, good defensive work and blocking on show but very few chances to speak of between the sides. Both teams seemed to be getting into the final third directly from defence or goal hits, thus taking the centres out of the game for long periods. On the 60th minute the first big incident of the 2nd half happened; it wasn't a goal though but a red card. MacVicar challenged for a ball in the air and accidentally, but dangerously, followed through and made contact with Finlay Ralston flush across the faceguard – another stern reminder (as if it was needed) that helmets are an essential piece of shinty equipment. Ralston was stretchered off and could later go on to make a full recovery after being checked over by paramedics and at A&E.

With Oban Camanachd down to eleven players the question became could GMA capitalise in the last 25 minutes. While the match had been pretty even throughout the city club were understandably starting to get more control now with the extra man and they had a great chance to equalise in the 77th minute. A quick corner found its way to GMA's top goal scorer Calum McLay at the back post, his shot was well blocked by Blair MacFarlane, though the ball would fall to John McNulty on the edge of the D; unfortunately for him it just skipped under his swing and Camanachd were able to clear their lines.

Oban continued to defend doggedly and work well as a unit to shift across and cover the spare man when they had to and so it seemed it was going to end 1-0, Daniel MacCuish had other ideas though – robbing his man in the centre of the park and thundering home a scorcher of a shot from 35 yards out to make sure of the victory.

All in all a really competitive final but Oban Camanachd's day in the end, two goals and a clean sheet for them (aided by Sutherland's pre-match Cornetto?), GMA will feel that on another day it could have been a different story though and they certainly came to the game determined to prove it wasn't going to be one way traffic. With Scott Mckillop announced as the man of the match, for a tremendous defensive performance for Camanachd, all that was left to do was for Captain Daniel Sloss to lift the famous trophy high into the air!



HIGH FIVES FOR BALLIEMORE CUP WINNERS LOCHABER...

It was a gorgeously warm summer day as Kilmallie and Lochaber met at Spean Bridge for the Ferguson Transport & Shipping Balliemore Cup Final. The pitch and venue were both immaculate and prepared to a standard befitting the occasion, hundreds of tickets had been sold in advance and it was clear from well before throw-up that we were set for one of the most heavily attended Balliemore Cup Finals in recent memory.

Coming into the game, Lochaber boasted a victory over their Caol neighbours in the league, however, Kilmallie were hot on their heels in and there was a sense that the match was on a knife edge. It was the blues who started the brightest, getting their first shot away just 3 minutes after Des McNulty threw the ball into the air to start the match, the effort just skipping wide of keeper Calum MacDonald's post. Two minutes later and Lochaber replied with a chance of their own, the ball played into Ben Delaney who turned his man in a Bergkampesque fashion, spun the other way and pushed it beyond the onrushing goalkeeper, 1-0 to Lochaber and a goal that settled a lot of nerves for the red and whites.

Kilmallie's response was good though and it wasn't long before Martin Stewart drew a save out of MacDonald with a shot from the left that needed saving. 10 minutes later and MacDonald was forced into a very similar save, Kilmallie working the ball down the left flank handily, this time it was a shot from Callum MacDougall (scorer of 5 goals in the Semi-Finals) that well stopped by the Lochaber keeper. The game continued to be end to end but Lochaber's shots weren't accurate enough to trouble Kevin Toye; MacDonald would go on to make his third solid save of the half just 10 minutes before the break, this time using the stick to deny Ben MacKinnon from close range. Des McNulty brought the half to a close with the score still 1-0 and both sides probably fairly happy with their performance in the opening 45 minutes.

The 2nd half started much as the 1st half ended, with both teams exchanging chances at a ferocious pace. 11 minutes after the restart though, Lochaber took one, doubling their lead after a corner from Captain, Pat Toal, fell to Delaney, the forward made no mistake from 6 yards and knocked it

into the goal, much to the delight of those in red and white hoops. Again, Kilmallie responded quite well, kept their defensive shape and continue to pursue chances to reduce the deficit.

With time waning on though it was clear they would have to be more aggressive in a bid to get back into the game and this is when Lochaber struck. The third goal came from another Toal corner, this one skipping through to Connor Sweeney at the back post, his shot was well saved by Toye, however, there was nothing he could do about Delaney's rebound - a hat-trick for Lochaber's top scorer in all competitions and one step closer to lifting the Balliemore Cup for the first time since 2012. If that put them one step closer, Findlay MacDonald's goal 2 minutes later meant they could touch the cold silver handles; this time Delaney turned creator as he slipped through a ball, many thought the chance had gone as it clipped high into the air off a defender's stick but MacDonald was on hand to score from a tight angle, cracking the bouncing ball into the roof of the net. The icing on Lochaber's victory sponge was applied 13 minutes from time as the returning Max Campbell fired home from 25 yards after a neat layoff from Delaney.

The remainder of the match saw Kilmallie continue to battle with the determination they had shown for the majority of the game, however, it was to be in vain as Lochaber would go on to lift the 2023 Ferguson Transport & Shipping Balliemore Cup.



Jack Dignan was presented with the man of the match award by Strathglass Shinty Club in memory of Captain Archibald Macra Chisholm of Glassburn, the first Chieftain of the Camanachd Association.



FANTASTIC 4 FOR NEWTONMORE!

9th September saw the Highland Industrial Supplies Sutherland Cup Final once again take place at Blairbeg Park. The 2023 edition of this great competition marked 100 years since the first final and to celebrate, Garry MacKintosh and Highland Industrial Supplies invited guests from all post-war Sutherland Cup winning clubs to enjoy a day of hospitality and celebration. The game was to be contested by two of the strongest reserve sides as North 1 topping Newtonmore would look to retain the Sutherland Cup against 2nd placed Skye. The Badenoch side had vanquished local rivals Kingussie in the early rounds before a 6-0 win against Kinlochshiel in the semi-finals, while Skye had eliminated Caberfeidh, Lewis and Kilmallie before a riveting 5-4 win against Glenurquhart in the semis.



It was a warm but windy day at Blairbeg and as the teams were piped out on to the park the sense of anticipation grew, Craig Scott was the referee for the occasion and threw the ball high into the air to get the centenary final underway. It would be Newtonmore who fashioned the first opportunity of the match, a long distance shie falling nicely in the path of Charlie Ferguson, his back hand shot across goal had Skye keeper Calum Nicolson scrambling, however, it whistled past the outside of the post for a goal hit. In the 12th minute, Newtonmore would get another shot away as Brodie MacBean pushed the ball wide to Ferguson on the right flank, he squared it in to Xander Ross whose deft layoff was thundered home by Glen MacKintosh from just a few inches to the right of the penalty spot.

Undisturbed by going a goal behind, Skye began creating some chances of their own, the most clearcut coming from a Taylor Matheson shy, which deceived the Newtonmore backline and dropped in front of Shockie MacLennan who was unable to direct his effort on target. Fortunately, the Skye forward was able to make up for it 15 minutes later as Skye fashioned another chance from a shie, this time youngster Seonaidh Alex MacLeod with the set piece into James Robertson who took a smart touch away from his marker before slipping the ball into MacLennan – the forward made himself a half yard and fired high into the Newtonmore net; 1-1 – game on! It seemed as though we would enter half-time with no further action when 'More's Dan Craven robbed his marker in the centre of the pitch and fed the ball to Ferguson out wide, his looping ball taken down well by MacKintosh who fired one hard and low at goal, the ball just skipping beyond Nicolson for 2-1.

The second half got underway and it wasn't long before Skye levelled the score, again from a set-piece, this time a corner which was lofted towards the back post, allowing MacLennan to take control of the ball and slip it beyond Jason MacDonald from close range making it two for Skye and two for the veteran striker. As expected, the excitement didn't stop there and 5 minutes later it was Newtonmore's turn to strike. Kyle Clark collected the ball on the right wing and drilled a pass into the feet of MacKintosh, rather than take the ball in he slipped it back to Ferguson who cracked a low shot that flew into the bottom left from 25 yards out.

From that point the game turned more into a physical battle with determination, big hitting and grit becoming the defining qualities and with so much at stake you couldn't blame the sides for tensing up in a close match. However, one final bit of quality would secure Newtonmore's 4th consecutive Sutherland Cup victory. MacKintosh fed the ball into Jamie Robinson who had his back to goal, he tried a snapshot but it was well blocked by the Skye backline, however, when Robinson returned the ball to MacKintosh (now free on the right wing!) it was a different story as he fired the ball high into the opposite corner sending the travelling Newtonmore fans wild. Craig Scott brought the game to an end soon after with the final score 4-2 to the holders, it was then for Newtonmore Captain Ritchie Irvine to receive the Highland Industrial Supplies Sutherland Cup from sponsor Garry MacKintosh. In addition, there was also a new award to be handed out, a Man of the Match Award donated to the Association by Dr Hugh Dan MacLennan and unsurprisingly it was awarded to hat-trick hero, Glen MacKintosh of Newtonmore.





OBAN CAMANACHD END 28 YEAR WAIT FOR MACAULAY CUP GLORY...

The 2023 Macaulay Cup Final was a repeat of the 2019 edition as holders Kingussie looked to win their 6th consecutive major trophy against Oban Camanachd. The rain had fallen all throughout the morning with the pitch in great condition to play slick fast moving shinty. Going into the game, there was the unshakeable expectation that Kingussie would continue to show the kind of form that had made them Grand Slam Champions the year before, however, Oban had won the Glasgow Celtic Society Cup in June and had, just the week before, secured their place in the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Final.

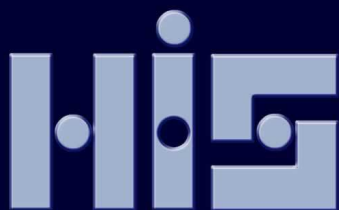
It was Kingussie who started the brighter though, and it took just 50 seconds for them to get the first shot on target, Calum Mackintosh firing it towards goal from the right wing, however, the shot didn't have the venom to truly test Cammy Sutherland in the Oban goals, a man who came into this game on red hot form after an outstanding performance in the Camanachd Cup Semi-Final. The first major chance of the game came in the 11th minute, a hopeful ball over the top was snapped up by James Falconer who danced past two challenges, but was unable to hit the target from 18 yards out. Again, Kingussie stepped up the pressure and this time forced a great save from Sutherland as a free hit was rolled into the path of Ruairidh Anderson – his powerful shot across goal requiring a hand from the keeper. However, from the resulting corner, the first goal of the game would come, Anderson's driven ball in was stopped by Sutherland but as he went to clear, Calum Mackintosh was on hand to get a good block and divert the ball beyond him. Smelling blood, Kingussie fashioned another chance just a minute later, this time after some delightful dribbling from Anderson, but this time the shot would go harmlessly over the top.

On the 30th minute mark Oban made their first good chance as good work from Daniel MacVicar to pressure Kingussie keeper Rory 'Bob' McGregor, the ball broke then to Malcolm Clark but his shot was well stopped by the 2022 Albert

Smith winner. Again, McGregor would be called into action as Camanachd started to ramp up the pressure and once again he would deny Clark from point blank range, lifting his shoulder and getting a vital block on the ball. That would be the final major incident of the first half and there was certainly a feeling that while Kingussie had the better of the half, Oban were growing into the game.

The 2nd half begun exactly the same as the first but with Oban Camanachd fashioning a chance within seconds. Matthew Sloss drilling the ball across the D where Lewis Cameron got a lovely touch to put the ball beyond McGregor, only to be denied by great defensive work on the line from Robert Mabon. Two minutes later, Sloss picked up the ball 25 yards from the goal, slipped his marker, slalomed through two challenges and cracked the ball past McGregor in a move of ingenuity, skill and determination; the 15-year-old showing that if you're good enough, you're old enough, even on the big stage. Things would go from good to great for Camanachd as 10 minutes later they scored again, this time it was a drilled ball across the D which picked up a deflection from a Kingussie stick leaving Lewis Cameron to finish smartly on the volley beyond McGregor. Just like that, in the space of 10 minutes the game was turned on its head. From there the game turned into a real battle, with a few half chances exchanged but Oban Camanachd had really turned up in the 2nd half and were able to shut down a Kingussie forward line that few had managed to keep quiet. Willie MacDonald brought the game to an end sending the local support into raptures as the red and blacks got their hands on the Macaulay Cup for the first time since 1995.

20-year-old Blair MacFarlane was named the Man of the Match for the Final for what was a dominant 2nd half performance in the centre. All that was left was for Captain Daniel Sloss to have the honour of lifting Oban Camanachd's 2nd trophy of the season high into the air.



HIGHLAND INDUSTRIAL SUPPLIES

you're in the right place!

Kirkwall
01856 874325
orkney@hisltd.co.uk

Elgin
01343 547561
elgin@hisltd.co.uk

Turriff
01888 560375
turriff@hisltd.co.uk

Dundee
01382 454344
dundee@hisltd.co.uk

Perth
01738 631641
perth@hisltd.co.uk

Fort William
01397 705159
ftwm@hisltd.co.uk

HEAD OFFICE
36 Seafield Road
Longman Industrial Estate
Inverness
IV1 1SG
T: 01463 239160
F: 01463 233424
Mon - Fri: 06:30 - 17:30
Saturday: 06:30 - 17:00
Sunday: 10:00 - 16:00

01463 239160

www.hisltd.co.uk

sales@hisltd.co.uk

Scotland's largest independent industrial supply group. Specialising in:

- Agriculture & Fencing
- Hand Tools
- Power Tools
- Welding & Engineering
- Workwear & PPE
- Scaffolding
- Building Supplies
- Ironmongery
- Plant & Civil Engineering
- Trailers
- Screws & Fixing
- Adhesives & Sealants
- Fishing & Camping
- Equestrian
- Cleaning & Catering
- Homewares



KYLES ATHLETIC CROWNED MKM BUILDING SUPPLIES BULLOUGH CUP CHAMPIONS

Glasgow Mid Argyll and Kyles Athletic met in the 2023 MKM Building Supplies Bullough Cup final in Strachur, on Saturday the 26th of August. The venue avoided the weather which had plagued the rest of the crowd as a large crowd gathered in Strachur to watch the showpiece. GMA had swept aside Kilmory 5-0 in the semi-finals, while Kyles beat the English Shinty Association 6-1 to set up the final. The teams were piped out onto the field led by official David Mitchell, Lachie Wood and Les Kinvig before the game got underway.

Kyles Athletic started the match strongly giving the holders no time on the ball and battling hard for everything and marshalled well at the back by captain Luke Thornton who was given the difficult job of keeping Glasgow dangerman Ross Brown quiet. Kyles strong start paid off when in the 13th minute Roan MacVicar received a pass and from 25 yards sent a blistering strike into the roof of the net giving Kyles a deserved lead.

It didn't take much longer for Kyles to double their lead as on 16th minute Roan MacVicar managed to sweep home after a scramble on the edge of the GMA D to the huge delight of the travelling Tighnabruaich contingent.

Kyles Athletic continued to dominate the game thanks to the influential George Thompson in the centre of the park and Ross Donald sweeping up anything that got passed his colleague in the Kyles defence limiting the service to the GMA forward line.

On 32 minutes David Martin made it 3-0 with a backhand finish from around 15 yards low into the bottom left hand corner to complete the perfect opening to the game for the Kyles team. GMA then put Garry Luke into full centre to try get Glasgow up the field. The half finished with few chances falling each way which were comfortably dealt with by the keepers.

The half time whistle went and whatever Glasgow Mid Argyll manager Angus MacInnes said in the dressing room certainly

had an effect on his players as his team came out a different animal. Only 2 minutes after the restart Glasgow got a goal back through Angus MacInnes who beat his marker before slipping it past the Kyles' Kieran Chrystal in goals to give Glasgow a lifeline.

Straight from the restart, MacInnes beat his man again before a loose ball fell to Ross Brown who put it into the net from just inside the D to take Mid Argyll back into the game just 3 minutes after the restart.

GMA continued to be the stronger side in the 2nd half pressing for the equaliser. However, against the run of play midway through the 2nd half it was Kyles who were awarded a penalty for a kick inside the D. David Martin was the man who stepped up to try give Kyles their cushion in the game back. His strike low to the keepers left was kept out by Neil Robertson who did well to turn the ball away after making the save as well.

GMA then continued their push for an equaliser and that chance fell to Ross Brown who managed to hold off 2 challenges before touching it round Chrystal in the Kyles goal but couldn't put the ball into the net as he was off balance from his strong run. Despite their late pressure Kyles Athletic managed to hold on until David Mitchell's whistle marked full time to complete what was very much a game of 2 halves. Kyles Athletic captain Luke Thornton was then presented with the MKM Building Suppliers Bullough Cup by Roddy McCuish much to the delight of the Kyles supporters.

The Camanachd Association would like to place on record their thanks to Strachur for hosting the final and providing food for both sets of players after the game. Both Glasgow Mid Argyll and Kyles Athletic for putting on a very entertaining game of shinty and to the officials on the day. Finally, to MKM Building Suppliers for their continued support of the competition.



FORT WILLIAM WIN STRATHDEARN AT WET SMITH PARK

Saturday 26th August saw the Strathdearn return to Smith Park, the home of Boleskine for the 2nd time in succession. The conditions at Farr were biblical, with rain thundering down all throughout the day, however, the pitch held up very well despite the heavens best efforts and the game was able to take place. Kinlochshiel, who had knocked out holders Newtonmore in the Semi-Finals, would meet 2019 winners Fort William with both sides in the upper echelons of Mow North Division 1.

Some games are end to end, some are one way traffic, but this was neither. Instead, each team seemed to take it in turns to have 15-20 minutes of concerted pressure before being on the backfoot once again. While chances were exchanged in this opening period, it took until the 37th minute for the first goal to be scored. It was Fort William who notched through a pretty simple free hit which Padraig McNeil played down the outside to Robert MacMillan who took a touch before firing across Calum MacMillan to make it 1-0. Ultimately, looking back on the goal, Kinlochshiel will no doubt have been disappointed to concede from set piece, but, it was well worked by Fort and was enough for them to go into the break with their noses in front.

Shiel came out stronger again in the second period and would bite back in the 70th minute, again from a free-hit, this time Paul MacRae floated a ball over the top of the Fort defence from the right wing leaving Scotland U17 International Rory Slaughter clean through on goal for an easy finish. As the rain thundered down there was the feeling that conditions could lead to a mistake in the final 20 minutes that would see someone crowned champions, however, credit to both sides who kept their concentration levels high and continued to battle the ball away, with a special mention to Fort keeper Mark Fraser who made a number of solid saves.

As the game went to Extra-Time it was Fort William who would get the decisive winner, again from a set piece, this time a corner, the ball was spun in, skipped by a Shiel back and popped up off Jack Kearney who calmly volleyed past the onrushing Calum MacMillan who took his opportunity to shush the sizable travelling Shiel support. There is no official Man of the Match but the Half-Swing Shinty Podcast gave Fraser the honour regardless as he kept his side in the lead again in the final 15 minutes of extra-time. For Shiel, there will be disappointment having managed to knock out the favourites Newtonmore that they weren't able to get over the line but they have a number of promising players coming through in a young squad that will no doubt be playing these kinds of occasions again. Fort William captain Struan Stephen had the honour of receiving the Strathdearn Cup from Camanachd Association Vice Chieftain, Richard Gall.



KINGS LEAVE IT LATE TO BRING UP QUARTER OF A CENTURY

Kingussie triumphed 1-0 over Oban Camanachd after a hard-fought Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Final at Bught Park, Inverness.

A swollen crowd gathered at Bught Park, Inverness for the 2023 Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Final between Kingussie and Oban Camanachd. The two sides had met just 4 weeks previous in the Macaulay Cup Final with Camanachd winning on the day, however, the holders Kingussie sat top of the Mowi Premiership having already lifted the cottages.com MacTavish Cup back in June. One thing was certain ahead of throw up, there was a sense that we were going to be in for a really hard fought battle with little between the sides.

Match referee Des McNulty threw the ball up to get the Final (which was the 100th Anniversary of the first final at Bught Park - 1923, won by Furnace) underway. The first chance of the game came just 5 minutes into the match as Lewis Cameron found Malcolm Clark on the left wing, his pass was smartly controlled by Daniel MacVicar who beat his man, but, was fouled just as he went through on goal, with nothing positive coming of the resulting free hit. Kingussie would respond by fashioning a chance of their own, this time the dribbling skill of Ruaridh Anderson on show as he slipped his marker and carried the ball 30 yards, only to be brought down as he approached the Oban goal - again the attacking team were unable to make the free hit count.

The Kingussie keeper, Rory "Bob" McGregor (2022 Albert Smith Medal Winner), was the first to be drawn into serious action, making a good stop with his feet after Daniel MacVicar tried his luck from the left flank. McGregor was then quickly drawn into another very similar save from the rebound before the Kings backline was able to get it clear for a corner. 4 minutes before half-time and it was Oban stopper Cammy Sutherland's turn to show his quality after persistent hassling from Thomas Borthwick enabled Kingussie Captain James Falconer a couple of yards of space - his low shot saved well by Sutherland. Seeming to grow into the game, it wasn't long before Falconer had another crack, this time after some smart movement took him away from his marker, however, sadly for those in red and blue it was over the bar from a tough angle. That proved to be the final excitement of an entertaining half despite the lack of goals. Overall, Oban Camanachd were creating more chances but it was the holders who looked more likely to score from the chances that were being created.

The first chance of the 2nd half fell the way of Kingussie after a delicate knock through from Thomas Borthwick was almost pounced upon by the Kings forward line, however, Sutherland was fast off his line to marshal the ball to safety. Camanachd responded almost immediately though and worked the ball well up the left flank; Lewis Cameron and

Matthew Sloss working the ball to Clark - his hit deflected off a Kingussie defender before falling kindly to MacVicar - Bught Park collectively drew its breath as he wound up but Calum Grant showed the tenacity needed in the big occasions to get back and do enough to put the forward off. Again the sides continued to exchange chances, however, a combination of wasteful finishing and sterling defensive work would mean that the game would press into the final 10 minutes with the score deadlocked and murmurings of Extra-Time and the dreaded Penalty Shootout reverberating around the stand.

Kingussie, however, had other ideas. Zander Michie dropped a free hit from the defensive area into Falconer on the left flank, he took it down and got away from his man before taking aim from distance...that shot was blocked, but, there was nothing that Oban Camanachd could do about the follow-up thunderbolt that Ruaridh Anderson smashed home from 25 yards out - the ball whistling beyond Sutherland in the net before anyone had the chance to react.

With 1 minute left on the clock there was little that Oban Camanachd could do to prevent Kingussie going on to win the Camanachd Cup for the 25th time as Des McNulty brought an end to the match. For Oban Camanachd, ultimately it would be disappointment, however, they can take some solace in the fact that they played exceptionally well from start to finish and were undone by a moment of magic rather than a dreaded individual error. Camanachd Captain Daniel Sloss deservedly received the Albert Smith Medal for his consistent and dominant defensive display, but the ultimate prize would be collected by James Falconer who received the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup from Sandy Grant on behalf of Kingussie Camanachd.

Late hero Ruaridh Anderson spoke with the BBC in the immediate aftermath of the game saying: "Absolutely unbelievable - I can't describe it to be honest, we knew it was going to be a really tough match, delighted that it didn't go to extra-time. I didn't get close enough to the goals in the first half but I thought I would get this one on target and well, the rest speaks for itself."

The Association would like to take this moment to thank everyone who made the final such a success including the sponsors Tulloch Homes, Highlife Highland for use of their facilities, Inverness Shinty Club for their assistance in running the event as well as the teams, fans and volunteers who make our sport possible.



ALBA KIT NOW AVAILABLE INSTORE & ONLINE



**CAMANACHD
ASSOCIATION**
COMANN NA CAMANACHD

MOWI®

macronstore
| Highlands

www.klasklothing.co.uk

Tel: 01463 417020

KLAS KLOTHING, Unit 1 - Lotland Place, Inverness, IV1 1PB



CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The 2023 Camanachd Association AGM saw a new President elected after Steven MacKenzie finished his three-year-term; the new man at the helm none other than former Competitions Director, Burton Morrison.

A chartered civil engineer, now retired, Burton is a native of Glenurquhart and was part of the successful Aberdeen University team of the early 70s which he captained to Sutherland Cup success in 1973.

After moving to Glasgow, he played for Glasgow Mid Argyll for over twenty years, managed the first team and became Club President in the early nineties.

Burton gained representative honours playing for Scotland in each of the shinty-hurling matches which took place between 1976 and 1979. Later on, he assisted Kingussie legend, the late Donnie Grant in managing the Scotland U21 team in 1991 and 1992, taking over as manager for the period 1993-96. In 1996, he returned to coaching, and was a founder member and first chairman of Milngavie and Bearsden Junior Shinty Club.

Upon taking up this new position, Burton said: "I am honoured and privileged to be elected as President of the Camanachd Association. I am also humbled when I look at the list of illustrious shinty names that have preceded me in the role. I am however reassured by the fact that as many as five of my

predecessors are still actively involved in the association, so I should not be short of guidance and advice.

I look forward to working with the Board of Directors and staff to continue to see our sport develop and thrive in an ever-changing environment, while maintaining the heritage and traditions of shinty which are so very important.

I would like to express my thanks to Steven for the immensely valuable contribution he has made to the game during his term of office. "

Reflecting on his time in office and speaking of his successor, Steven said: "It has been a privilege and honour to lead the Association through an extremely challenging period as we restarted the sport following COVID. By season 2023 we had restored our competitions to pre-COVID levels but this would have been impossible had my predecessor, Keith Loades, and CEO, Derek Keir, not reacted quickly to the COVID restrictions and nursed the Association through the early days of the pandemic. Burton played a significant role in restarting our sport as Competitions Director and could be relied upon to provide thoughtful and well-informed contributions to any discussion. I was delighted when he agreed to become Vice-President and I have no doubt he will lead our Association with integrity and distinction."

GLENGARRY LIFT SINGLE TEAM CUP

Glengarry were winners of the second ever Single Team Cup Final after defeating Kilmory 3-0 at An Aird, Fort William.



Under the shadows of the Ben at An Aird – Glengarry and Kilmory took to the field to contest the second ever Single Team Cup Final. Glengarry, eager to exorcise the demons of their defeat in the 2022 final, were favourites coming into the game; but would be coming up against a Kilmory side who were enjoying a great season in MOWI South Division 2.

Referee Steven MacLachlan got the game underway at a blustery and wet An Aird and it didn't take Glengarry long to get a shot away, however, Raymond Robertson's effort never troubled Steven Gilmour between the Kilmory posts. 10 minutes later though, Robertson would again pick up the ball in a good position, this time firing towards the keepers bottom corner – Gilmour was equal to it though and made a good save with his feet before clearing the ball.

Kilmory soon responded with a chance of their own, Alec Cunningham coming onto a loose ball and drilling a shot low at the near post, but Gordon MacDonald took a good touch with his body and was able to push the ball behind for a corner. On the game went, Glengarry dominating the ball and creating the better chances but with Kilmory carrying a threat of their own. There was a sense that the first goal would be vital. It came on the 37th minute, David Rodgers played the ball into Raymond Robertson and his shot towards the far corner from 30 yards proved too much for Gilmour, putting Garry 1-0 up.

They say there's no better time to score than right before half-time and on this occasion that seemed to be the case as within 4 minutes of the restart 1 had become 3. Firstly, immediately from the throw up Nick Dalgety showed some tremendous ball carrying and determination before slipping the ball through to top scorer Shaun Nicolson - his hit across the keeper nestling sweetly in the far corner. 3 minutes later and it was dreamland for Glengarry, a Kilmory clearance took a deflection and landed at the feet of Robertson, his shot proved too powerful for Gilmour and all of a sudden Kilmory had the thankless task of chasing a team from a higher division and a 3-0 deficit. Still, they battled well, worked hard and continued to create chances – however, Glengarry managed the game well and the score remained 3-0 throughout the rest of the 2nd half.

In the end all that was left was for Captain Nick Dalgety to raise the trophy high into the air as Glengarry celebrated what was a great achievement for the club.



RICRUDEN SCOTLAND U17S TOUR OF IRELAND: A TALE OF FRIENDSHIP AND HOSPITALITY

The RICruden Scotland U17s embarked on a great tour of Ireland, showcasing their shinty skill and passion against our Irish cousins. With two consecutive nights of competitive matches, the young Scots were given a stern test as they faced formidable opponents in Kildare and Kilkenny. The tour was an opportunity for the emerging talents to test their mettle against some of Ireland's best young players and immerse themselves in the rich hurling culture of the Emerald Isle.

MONDAY NIGHT: TRIUMPH IN KILDARE



The tour began on a high note as Scotland secured a well fought victory against Kildare on Monday night. The match was a display of both talent and determination as both teams fought fiercely for supremacy on the field. Scotland's U17s showcased their impressive skills and teamwork on the night and ran away 40-24 winners. Despite the fairly comfortable victory, the players had their eyes opened during the last 10 minutes where Scotland allowed the Kildare players to catch the ball - with the county truly coming to life.

Full score details below:

FT - Kildare U17s 4-1-10 (24) Scotland U17s 11-0-7 (40)

Goals: Archie MacRae (3); Torrin Cairns (2); Matthew Sloss (3) Rory McDonald (2); Innes Jackson (1) Points: Matthew Sloss (3); Callum MacIver (1); Archie Millar (2); Innes Jackson (1)

The win against Kildare served as a confidence booster for the young Scots, setting the stage for their next challenge against one of Ireland's most esteemed hurling counties.

TUESDAY NIGHT: A GRITTY BATTLE IN KILKENNY

The following night, the RICruden Scotland U17s faced a tough challenge against the hurling giants, Kilkenny. Known for their storied history in the sport and consistent dominance on the national stage, Kilkenny presented a formidable opponent for the Scottish team as they took on the All-Ireland Minor Runners-Up. The match proved to be a gritty and hard-fought battle, with both sides leaving everything on the field.

Though Scotland couldn't secure a victory against Kilkenny, they demonstrated incredible sportsmanship and tenacity throughout the game. Playing against such skilled opponents provided valuable lessons and insights, which will undoubtedly contribute to their growth and development as players in the future.

The squad arrived at the best County in Ireland and it showed as they were a level above but it was a tremendous learning experience for the squad. If the hurling was good, the hospitality was even better as Kilkenny put on a 2 course meal for the young Scots at short notice, something which the Association have formally thanked the County Board for.



Full details of the game and the scorers are below:

FT - Kilkenny U17s 6-0-10 (28) Scotland U17s 2-3-3 (15)

Goals: Innes Jackson (1); Matthew Sloss (1) Points Archie Millar (6) Euan Dingwall (1) Finlay MacLennan (2)

In all, another successful trip that has shown through shared love for their respective ancient Celtic stick-and-ball games, the players and spectators alike find common ground, celebrating the richness of their cultural heritage and strengthening the bonds of friendship between our two nations.





MOWI SHINTY | HURLING INTERNATIONAL

Ireland (0-22) 22-14 (2-8) Scotland

Ireland lifted the Mowi Quaich with a 22-14 win over Scotland in their 2.45pm throw-in at Pairc Esler, Newry on Saturday 21 October 2023.

Ireland manager Damien Coleman from Galway selected a strong squad for this game with eight Liam MacCarthy Cup players, including Pádraig Walsh, a two-time All-Ireland winner with Kilkenny and twice a GAA-GPA All-Star. He also made two changes to his original squad as Andrew Gilsenan-Kavanagh (Wicklow) and Caolan Taggart (Down) replaced by Ben Conneely (Offaly) and James Toher (Meath). Scotland manager Garry Reid gave starting debuts to Oban Camanachd pair Daniel Sloss and Daniel MacCuish, Lovat's Danny Kelly, Kingussie's Ruairidh Anderson and Iain Robinson from Newtonmore.

Kyles Athletic's Roddy MacDonald captained the side whilst Kinlochshiel's Finlay MacRae was capped for a remarkable 20th time.

Pairc Esler was also to host the Down Junior Hurling final, but it was postponed due to heavy rain in the days ahead of the game and the groundsmen worked hard to ensure the pitch was in good condition for the cross-codes game.

Steven MacDonald sent the first dead ball of the game just the wrong side of the post but, within a couple of minutes, Antrim's Neil McManus flicked and volleyed a free over the bar from the Irish left to set what was to be the theme of the afternoon.

Kevin Bartlett dropped a free from distance into the Irish goal area but the hoists, with Pádraig Walsh already imposing

himself, defended well.

Steven MacDonald tried his luck once more from almost the same position, but the ball went well wide of target. Ireland doubled their lead when Galway's Thomas Monaghan gathered a stray ball from Andrew King and made space by juggling the ball between two defenders before sending it over the bar.

Scotland pulled a point back when Roddy MacDonald was impeded and, from wide on the left but a bit closer than before, Kevin Bartlett drove the ball between the posts.

Ireland went back in the hunt for more points and Neil McManus converted a free from distance on the right after Kerry's Fionan Mackessy had been fouled. Then Thomas Monaghan took a quick swipe from wide on the left to make it 4-1 with 12 minutes played.

Scotland weren't as clinical as their opponents though and Steven MacDonald sent a 65 wide before Craig Morrison got away from Cork's Robert Downey and tried to play Iain Robinson in, but the Newtonmore man was crowded out. Steven MacDonald then found Craig Morrison with a good ball, but he shot just wide of target. Iain Robinson had a half chance but didn't catch hold of the ball as he'd have liked.

When Finlay MacRae played a long ball forward, Iain Robinson got away from Fionan Mackessy and Craig Morrison took the ball on the left before Iain Robinson stole ahead of the defence and came within a whisker of scoring.

Scotland were growing in confidence and were now enjoying their best period of the first half. Ruairidh Anderson's effort from the left was saved and Iain Robinson and Roddy

Macdonald couldn't get a shot away but Kevin Bartlett held back and drove low into net from outside the box, to keeper Enda Rowland's right, to make it 4-4 with just under 20 minutes played.

Ireland went back on the attack and Robert Mabon's challenge prevented Clare's Peter Duggan from shooting. Mabon was penalised for his efforts though, and Duggan hit the frame of the goal with the resultant free when he should have done better.

Ger Millerick added a point from wide of the left to put the hosts back in front and they had keeper Rowlands to thank when he dealt with Steven MacDonald's ball from distance which dropped on his goal.

Chris Nolan passed up a good chance when the ball fell for him in front of goal but it was turned behind for a 65 which Neil McManus sent over to make it 6-4.

Cork's Ger Millerick added a point from the middle of the park on the right before some nice skill from Peter Duggan saw him keep a Chris Nolan ball away from two defenders and he finished over to make it 8-4.

Scotland introduced defenders John Gillies and Duncan Matheson for their debuts. There was a moment of controversy when Ireland's Ryan Mullaney lost his stick in midfield but still shielded the ball and he was fortunate that Ruairidh Anderson didn't swing for possession. Steven MacDonald questioned referee Thomas Gleeson who bizarrely allowed play to continue.

Kevin Bartlett looked sure to convert a free from just left of

centre, but the ball came off the post to compound Scotland's bad luck. A combination of keeper Stuart MacDonald and defender Robert Mabon did well to stop Neil McManus finding the net following a high ball from midfield

Offaly's Eoghan Cahill was quickly onto a stray pass, and he juggled the ball before sending it over on 34 minutes before Kevin Bartlett's free from the right made it 9-5 after Craig Morrison had been fouled.

Oban Camanachd's Blair McFarlane was now on and his long ball forward sent Craig Morrison racing forward. Morrison's cutback found Iain Robinson's whose drive was deflected over the bar by keeper Enda Rowland to cut the deficit to 3 points. Scotland created the last chance of the half on 38 minutes when John Gillies won possession and found Craig Morrison, but he couldn't pick out Iain Robinson and it remained 9-6 at the break.

Scotland now had Craig Ritchie on, and Steven MacDonald's took a free from wide on the right, into the sun, but keeper Enda Rowland cleared the danger. Then Blair Morrison drifted the ball just wide with a free from the left.

There were gasps around the stadium when Peter Duggan took the ball down and turned away from two defenders before heading for goal but brilliant diving save to his left from Stuart MacDonald turned the ball away for a 65 which Neil McManus converted with unerring accuracy.

Steven MacDonald found Craig Morrison, who made space, but he shot just wide of the far post from the left before Kevin Bartlett pulled a point back from a free from the left after James Falconer had been fouled.





The Scotland goal survived a scare when a dangerous ball forward from Offaly's Cillian Kiely was cleared at the expense of a 65 which Neil McManus ruthlessly converted to make it 11-7.

Steven Macdonald's free was knocked down by Kevin Bartlett to Scott Macdonald and the Kyles man sent the ball just over for a debut point with his effort just inches away from going into the net.

The Irish points kept coming though, and Neil McManus sent a free from wide on right over before James Falconer saw his strike well saved and there followed a melee in the goal area as tempers flared with Roddy Macdonald unfortunate to be the only player identified for a booking.

Keeper Stuart MacDonald stretched high to keep out a Stephen Maher effort from the left after he was set up by Neil McManus.

Neil McManus was increasingly influential, and he converted another free just before the hour after Blair McFarlane had been harshly penalised. Then, Kevin Bartlett's free from the left was turned by the post by the keeper but Steven Macdonald put the 65 over to make it 13-9.

It was game-on when Blair Morrison's ball forward was gathered by James Falconer whose shot was blocked but Ruaridh Anderson kept his composure as he sent the rebound high into the net on his left side to make it 13-12 on 62 minutes. It was end-to-end as Stephen Maher got away from Andrew King and soloed in from the left before putting the ball over to add a point, but Scotland responded as Steven Macdonald's 65 into the sun made it 14-13.

Stephen Maher's attempt under pressure forced Stuart MacDonald to stretch to tip the ball away and it was cleared for corner by Duncan Matheson, but Neil McManus was exact with the 65 as Ireland got their noses further in front again.

When Luca McClusker played a long ball forward, Stuart MacDonald did well to halt a run from Peter Duggan, who cut in from the right, and Finlay MacRae got the ball away but an

Andrew King infringement gave Eoghan Cahill the change to make it 16-13 with just 10 minutes to go.

Eoghan Cahill went on to enjoy a purple patch as his huge hit from distance counted after another soft free award before Steven Macdonald pulled a point back from a free to make it 17-14 with 7 minutes left.

Eoghan Cahill then exchanged passes with Paddy Purcell before sending the ball over the bar following a dead ball wide on the left and the clock was against Scotland. It got worse when Neil McManus delivered a dead ball over from wide on the right to make it 19-14.

Andrew King won possession before sending Ruaridh Anderson into the danger area where Enda Rowland saved from Roddy Macdonald with the ball then cleared out of play. Steven Macdonald struck wide following the resultant dead ball from distance on left.

Ireland's Chris Nowlan then made space but shot wide, but it was Scotland who needed a goal and Craig Morrison's dead ball from right dropped wide of the front post after Padraig Walsh sent the ball out of play whilst at the other end, Peter Duggan hit the ball off the ground from wide on the right after Blair Morrison had cleared out of the Scotland defence and it was now 20-14.

Steven Macdonald found Craig Morrison again but shinty's top scorer saw his effort hit the post on 80 minutes. Neil McManus opened the scoring and he also completed it,



adding two more points in stoppage time, one from the right of midfield and the other from distance to make the final score 22-14.

Had the change of rules, reducing the score from a dead ball from two points to one point, not occurred, Ireland would have won 23-20 although Scots would have led by a couple of points going into the closing stages which could have been significant.

Ireland's impressive captain Neil McManus hardly wasted a ball the whole game, helping himself to eleven points overall, and he was presented with the Mowi Quaich by Ulster GAA secretary, Brian McAvoy.



Newtonmore's Steven Macdonald was the choice as Scotland's top performer.

Scotland manager Garry Reid spoke straight after the final whistle. He said: "I'm actually very disappointed with the final scoreline as I thought we were right in it until the closing stages, but you have to take your chances in these games.

"Ireland were deadly and the inclusion of so many top tier players meant they had the quality to punish any mistakes we made. That brought the fixture to life and, in a way, their quality actually makes defeat a little easier to take.

"It can be soul destroying for our defenders to see balls from distance sail over their heads and between the posts when they can do nothing about it.

"It's small margins too as I thought the referee gave them a couple of soft frees which they took advantage of, but it was only late in the game that they pulled away when our heads dropped a bit."

The Scots scored the game's only two goals, and Reid felt the Scots could have had more, adding: "We were wasteful in front of goals at times and lacked a bit of composure.

"There were positives though as I thought Blair Morrison was outstanding and Finlay MacRae, winning his 20th cap, was a steady influence throughout whilst Stuart MacDonald's save from Peter Duggan had to be seen to be believed.

"Don't forget, we blooded eleven new caps and they all coped well. John Gillies and Duncan Matheson did very well when they came on, but it is tough for them as this is a really physical test but all the new caps will be better for the experience.



"We must always remember to play our game because it is frantic out there and you can easily get caught up in it all.

"I think today leaves the international in a good place and I'd really like to see Ireland take an equally strong squad to Scotland next year as it would certainly add to the occasion."

Scotland skipper Roddy Macdonald looked back on an exciting 80 minutes, saying: "It was difficult out there as the pitch was quite long, so it was hard to play the game on the ground.

"I thought we battled well, and on another day, we probably should have scored more goals. Fair play to Ireland though as they brought a strong side and were certainly up for it."

This was the first shinty / hurling international for four years and it hopefully sets the template for the years ahead.

By Alasdair Bruce

CAMANACHD ASSOCIATION

GIRLS CAMP

**IF YOU ARE
INTERESTED IN
SUPPORTING THE
SCHOOLS**



kirsty.lobban@shinty.com



www.shinty.com



This one year long programme will include, online meetings and workshops, centralised shinty competitions/festivals and the opportunity to be part of a community of girls from across Scotland who want to improve their shinty across all aspects (technical, tactical, physical, mental).



PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Kingussie High School
Inverness Royal Academy
Kilchuimen Academy
Ardnamurchan High School
Portree High School

USA - GIRLS DEVELOPMENT CAMP 2024

Year long school programme of development and leadership followed by a 7 Day Development Camp in the United States of America.



**CAMANACHD
ASSOCIATION**
COMANN NA CAMANACHD





KINLOCHSHIEL RETAIN MOWI WCA CHALLENGE CUP

Saturday 2nd September saw the return of the Mowi WCA Cup Final's Day with the Challenge Cup opening the day's events at The Eilan, Newtonmore. Holders Kinlochshiel narrowly missed out on promotion to the Mowi National the year previous and therefore were still eligible in the competition and heavy favourites going into the match, boasting a 100% record in all competitions and having scored 44 goals in 3 games in the competition, conceding just 1. Their opponents Inverness were having a decent season, spearheaded by Isla McNeil and Kamryn Hughes who had scored 51 goals between them.

It was another young talent, however, who got the scoring started as the divisions Mowi Player of the Year in 2022 Lexie MacKenzie opened the scoring after battling well on the edge of the D and slipping a neat finish beyond the Inverness keeper. After that early set back Inverness managed to compose themselves and kept Shiel at bay for a quarter of an hour, at which point Lorna MacRae spun her marker smartly and knocked in Shiel's second of the afternoon. Two became three immediately from throw up as MacRae bagged her brace before MacKenzie did the same a minute later after some intelligent body play from the former. Not to be outdone, MacRae would get the final goal of the half and complete her hat-trick after a nice swivel on the edge of the D.

The 2nd half began and there was no sign that Shiel or MacRae were finished yet, her 4th, Shiel's 6th, was arguably the pick of the bunch as she picked up a loose ball on the right wing and fired home a rocket from 30 yards. Katie MacRae added her name to the scoresheet after a composed finish, the ball played into her after some great defensive forward play by Isabelle MacKenzie. It was a case of creator turned goal scorer for the eighth as Isabelle followed in on a Lorna MacRae strike to nick the ball away from the keeper as she went to clear. Inverness' Isla McNeil grabbed what at this stage could only be considered a consolation goal - cutting inside from the left wing and firing low at Lisa Falconer in the Shiel net. The west coasters would respond quickly through Alaina MacLennan whose drive took a cruel deflection and



deceived Campbell between the posts. With 7 minutes left on the clock, Lexie MacKenzie would complete her hat-trick, pushing the ball past the keeper after driving into the box. In the remaining 5 minutes Lorna and Lexie would each add 2 goals to their tally taking the former to 6 goals and the latter to 5, an incredible display of attacking prowess and partnership work for the two forwards. It would finish 14-1 with Shiel the dominant team on the day, all that was left was for Captain Maree MacKenzie to collect the Mowi Challenge Cup from Mowi Community Engagement Officer, Jayne MacKay. Lorna MacRae was the well deserved Player of the Match after 6 goals and an outstanding performance when moved into the back line.



SKYE ARE MOWI VALERIE FRASER CAMANACHD CUP CHAMPIONS

After the curtain was well and truly raised by the Mowi Challenge Cup it was time for the main event to get underway, the Mowi Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup Final. Holders and league leaders Badenoch had been eliminated by Skye in the Semi-Finals and so there was a real sense of anticipation and wonder as to who would be the winners this year. Skye and GMA both sat on 17 points coming into the match and the 2-2 draw between the sides earlier in the campaign only served to underline the fact that we were in for a close encounter.

It didn't take long for Skye to take control of the match as just two minutes after Deek Cameron threw the ball into the air, they won a free hit just inside their own half, Caitlin MacLean floated the ball in towards the forward line where it was snapped up by Sarah Yoxon, her reverse pass found Abbie MacLean with her back to goal - a swivel, a shot and it was 1-0 to the islanders inside the opening 3 minutes.

Any fears that Skye might run away with the game were quelled as GMA grew into the first half, however, it was the islanders who continued to fashion chances with their centre line controlling the game really well and the forwards having some flashes of good link up play. One such moment came midway



through the 1st half as MacLean worked the ball into Rhianna Kirk, her low drive saved well by Dan Oberholzer, just seconds later and Yoxon had a crack from the edge of the D which was once again expertly dealt with by the GMA keeper, an impressive double save that kept Skye at bay. However, that was short lived, as Skye hit GMA on the counter 10 minutes later Teri MacLeod found Yoxon, her knock on reached Kirk who went round her marker and selflessly slipped the ball through to Abbi MacLean who took the ball one step into the D and nestled a shot into the net. The sides went into the break at 2-0 with Skye looking good value to kick on in the second period.

It was the islanders who started the brighter, 12 minutes in Kirk picked up the ball from MacLean 18-yards out and cracked a shot just wide of Oberholzer's left hand post. A minute later and she was brought into action as Yoxon fired a low shot at the keeper after a nicely worked free hit - however, again Oberholzer was equal to it and made a smart stop with her feet before turning the ball behind for a corner.

The Skye pressure would eventually pay dividends though with Caitlin MacLean scoring from just inside the GMA half, her long and high strike would deceive both defender and keeper and skip in to make it 3-0 with 20 minutes left to play. To GMA's credit they never gave up and continued trying to fashion chances but ultimately it was Skye's day, Des McNulty brought the game to a close leaving Captain Rhianna Kirk to collect the Mowi Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup from sponsor representative Jayne MacKay. The Player of the Match award went to Caitlin MacLean who had an exceptional game from start to finish, controlling the Skye attacks and creating chances at will.





WOMEN'S SHINTY IN FULL SWING

2023 saw the return of the complete WCA calendar, we were able to re-introduce our Area Representative shinty matches and our Shinty/Camogie International match.

Congratulations to Badenoch-winning the Mowi National league for the 3rd consecutive year. To Kinlochshiel winning Mowi North Division 2 gaining promotion to the National league and to Dunadd - winning Mowi South 2, again winning promotion to the National League, well done to all clubs and coaches on their successful year, it is great to see Dunadd, one of the first competing Women's teams make a mark on the trophies after a few years of rebuilding.

Both the Mowi Valerie Fraser and Mowi Challenge Cup returned to Newtonmore, thanks to Newtonmore Camanachd for helping us host another great cup finals day, we had a great crowd and were fortunate to have the sun shining. Thank you to all the committee and the events crew for their hard work in making this day happen, Thanks also to our officials, to whom without them it just wouldn't be possible. Congratulations to all 4 teams, Kinlochshiel, Inverness, Glasgow Mid Argyll, and Skye for making it to the finals, providing us with an afternoon of goals galore, it was great to see the mix of experiences and age ranges over the two finals, with Inverness being one of the youngest teams to have reached the finals. Congratulations to the Mowi Challenge Cup Winners Kinlochshiel winning the Challenge Cup for the 2nd consecutive year and to Skye for securing the Valerie Fraser for the 3rd time.

Congratulations to Kinlochshiel who secured the league and cup win double, what a great achievement, well done to all involved at the club.

This year we reintroduced our Macaulay Association Area Representative games, the East and West of Scotland teams were selected to play at U16 and Senior level, the East came out triumphant in the Under 16s and the West secured victory for the seniors, again we are indebted to the Macaulay Association for their continued support of this fixture and in particularly Davie Hamilton for his hospitality and guidance throughout. Thanks also to all the coaches who spent time selecting and coaching the squads and to all the players



for putting in the work and getting themselves selected to represent their area- Well Done. It was great to see a record number of attendees at the Shinty Camp at Kilgraston, thanks to Katie Drain for coordinating and organising. The camp had 51 girls, training and most importantly having fun over the weekend, there was lots of positive feedback from the weekend, thanks to all the coaches who made this possible. The camp is booked for 2024 with a change of date to 12th-14th April.

2023 saw the return of our International Shinty/Camogie match, sponsored by JIG Groundworks, again we are so grateful for your support. The squad travelled to Cork where Stuart Reid had lined up two games for the squad to play, the Scots came out on top winning both. Thanks must go to Stuart, JIG our Sponsors, Macron our kit sponsors, and to our coaches James and Laura, for all their time and effort in prepping the girls for the game. A big well done and congratulations to all the players that were selected to represent their country.

The WCA are indebted to Mowi for another year sponsorship of the Women's leagues and cups, their support is invaluable to our game. We thank you Mowi. Thanks to Peter Gow who continued his sponsorship of the Player of the Match award at the Finals. It was great to be able to celebrate the successes of our clubs, players and coaches at the Mowi Awards, Congratulations to all our award winners. Thanks to Mowi and the CA for making this possible.

It has been great to see a full Women's calendar this year, this has been down to the hard work and dedication of the volunteers who make the Women's Camanachd Association, they work tirelessly behind the scenes making all these events happen and then deliver on the day. Your hours of work is so appreciated and the effects shown as the Women's game continues to grow. I'd also like to take the time to Thank Lisa MacColl for all her years service to shinty but in particular her role at the WCA, her time, dedication and driving force brought the game to where it is today, so on behalf of all at the WCA and wider Women's shinty community we thank you Lisa.

Karen Williamson President



SCOTLAND HIT GOAL TRAIL IN INTERNATIONAL DOUBLE-HEADER

The Scotland squad hit the goal trail in their weekend shinty / camogie international double-header against Irish opposition. This was the first shinty / camogie encounter since 2019 when the Scots lost 14-10 in a close encounter with Munster at the WIT Arena in Waterford.

West Cork Select (2-0) 6-28 (9-1) Scotland

Scotland took early control in their game against a West Cork select before going on to claim a solid 28-6 win at Bandon on Friday 3 November 2023.

Throw-in was at brought forward to 5.45pm and Uddingston's Alison MacVicar and Glenurquhart's Hazel Hunter both scored two goals apiece for the Scots with Kinlochshiel's Lorna MacRae, Lochaber's Natalie MacDonald, Glenurquhart's Zoe Smith, who previously played for Fort William, skipper Caitlin MacLean and Sarah Yoxon, both from Skye, getting the others. Lorna MacRae added a point and Badenoch's Mairi Stewart was named player of the match.

Carbery Camogie (2-3) 9-54 (17-3) Scotland

Fresh from their success against a West Cork select the previous evening the travelling Scotland squad took on Carbery Camogie the following day at Clonakilty on Saturday 4 November 2023. Throw-in was at 3.30pm and Scotland's firepower was on show once more for all to see.

At the final count, Badenoch's Megan Ralph scored five times with Glenurquhart's Hazel Hunter, Kinlochshiel's Lorna MacRae, Natalie MacDonald from Lochaber, Zoe Smith from Glenurquhart and Badenoch's Zoe Reid all bagging doubles. Uddingston's Alison MacVicar and Skye's Caitlin Maclean got the others with the single points coming from Lorna MacRae, Alison MacVicar and Zoe Smith.

Captain Caitlin Maclean led from the front, and she said: "I thought we adapted really quickly considering we've just had one full training session together. I also think the performances showed that we all know each other quite well off the field too as it all came together quite quickly.



The forward line had possession from the start, and they did really well, scoring early goals which helped us. I'm really proud with how everybody played and it was good to get two wins."

New cap Alison MacVicar, originally from Oban, bagged ten points overall and she added: "It was an honour to play with such a high calibre group of girls and to get my first international caps. I know I was a bit of a "wild card" selection but playing for Uddingston in Mowri South 2 this season got me back playing the sport as I'd taken a long break to train in triathlon. I'm back though and I hope I earned my place over the two games. I know my family back in Oban are very proud so that has been an amazing feeling. I'm happy to be playing again and as soon as I swung the caman at the start of the game on Friday night, I was reminded why I play this sport. It's unique, fast, unpredictable, and fun. It was strange to adapt to tackling and chasing the camogie players, but it was a case of learning as you go: trial and error. It's totally different to shinty but I loved it, and the opportunity has been unmatched."

Badenoch's Mairi Stewart added: "There were a few girls in the team who hadn't played shinty / camogie before, so for us to go out and put in such solid performances was great to see."

By Alasdair Bruce



"Mutual respect and willingness to explain the key to being a good ref"

In the off season, the Association caught up with new referee Cat Pearman-Whyte about her experience in year one of officiating.

You took up shinty refereeing last season, what inspired you to become a shinty referee, and how did you get started in officiating ?

I had been asked to help referee some under-14 games for Dunoon as I used to play shinty with one of their coaches. Then the CA were looking for more referees and especially in the south, so I was more than happy to put my name forward as I had enjoyed doing it with the juniors so much.

What was your first game? Can you talk us through it and how you were feeling?

My first senior game was Strachur-Dunoon vs Inveraray so a local derby, I was extremely nervous and excited and to be honest was not quite sure what to expect. Of course, I was worried that there would be things I would miss or would make a wrong call!

What do you think makes a good referee, what qualities do you need?

It think this is a hard one as I've only done it for a year but having played for many years I can say the qualities I appreciated the most from any referees was mutual respect and the willingness to explain a call or point out something but not in a condescending way.

In your experience, what are the most challenging aspects of refereeing shinty, and how do you overcome them?

The challenges I think can be the speed of it when you need to be on one side of the pitch then the other pretty quickly. I think I run more now than I ever did as a player! The best way to overcome that is by trying to position myself better and be fitter.

Shinty matches can be intense. How do you manage the pressure and emotions associated with officiating, ensuring a consistent performance throughout a game?

I think this is going to be a constant work in progress, I go through the steps at the start to get myself into the right space for it but I am by no means perfect at it...yet. I try to just stick to my convictions and also will hold my hands up and admit if I am wrong.

You aren't the first woman to take up the whistle, but there haven't been many in the unisex game, how does it feel to be one of the trailblazers?

I think trailblazer is a bit much!! I've been in and around playing shinty since I was 6. So I was maybe a trailblazer 30+ years ago haha! I've had the pleasure of seeing the women's game grow and been part of that. I've watched the junior game grow in Dunoon and now I'm seeing a resurgence of the senior game. I am happy to be part of that to enable games to be played to keep shinty alive in the south.

Shinty matches can draw passionate crowds. How do you manage the external pressures from spectators and ensure focus on your officiating duties ?

Intense for sure, I try positioning myself away from earshot of the sidelines so that I can focus on what I am doing as sometimes it can become distracting hearing others call out different things from what I am seeing.

What would you say to anyone who is considering taking up officiating ?

I would say give it a try because it opens your eyes up to seeing the game in a different way. I never realised how many things I missed as a player as I was only paying attention to my half of the calls.



WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT CAMP CONTINUES TO EMPOWER YOUNGSTERS...

On Friday 30th June 2023, 53 young ladies made their way from various points all over Scotland to Kilgraston School in Perthshire for the annual Residential Shinty Camp.

All the girls came together in the common room to start the weekend and were given their camp t-shirt, a briefing about the weekends schedule and plan in case of an emergency and then a tour of the facility.

Friday night team building started off really well, and the games hall was opted for due to the persistent rain outside, the girls were split into groups and given different challenges to consider using various forms of communication. The groups were mixed so everyone could get to know players from other clubs.

Next on the agenda was some basketball and 'Just Dance' however our plans were stopped by the fire alarm, this wasn't a drill and the coaches then led all of the girls to the planned meeting point discussed in the briefing earlier. Luckily no one was hurt and the alarm was caused by the other group at the school having a smoke machine at their disco (doh). While we were outside (for around an hour) the girls were split into various groups and played some ice breaker games until the arrival of 3 fire engines distracted us all! By this time it was nearly 9pm and the girls were given the rest of the night to chill out.

Saturday morning brought lots of smiley and only a few tired faces. A full day's shinty was planned with defensive drills in the morning followed by lunch and some hitting practice, working on forehand and backhand hitting as well as half swings (much to the dismay of many). The girls were putting in fantastic effort in the afternoon sun with lots taking on board feedback and applying it to the drills they were working on. A break in the afternoon allowed those who wanted to head to the swimming pool for a dip and for those who didn't fancy swimming (or mostly drying their hair afterwards) some well-deserved chill out time. Before dinner, Coach Niamh took the girls through a chat around mental health, a very important topic for us all to discuss and a lot of the chat was taken on board by the girls. The Kilgraston staff treated all the girls

and coaches to a fantastic BBQ for our dinner, pulling out all the stops with some ice cream for dessert. The girls also took this opportunity to play a little tennis on the courts which the school made available. After a fantastic BBQ dinner the girls headed back outside for the evening 6-a-side tournament.

Split into teams some fantastic matches took place over 2 pitches with Dublin taking the victory and bragging rights for the evening. The girls then had a couple of hours chill time where they used the common area facilities to relax after a full on day.

Day 3 brought some forward related drills in the morning and also two new guest coaches in the form of CA Development Officers Roddy Young and Will Cowie which was fantastic given they are both Premiership forwards. The girls rotated around 4 stations all working on full and half swings and movement on the forward line. After lunch there were some 12-a-side games to be played. Coaches were just as competitive as the players for this part of the camp with each coach being allocated a team to look after the competition was close between each group. The 'pinks' managed by Alaina and Kate were given an inspirational half time talk which saw them overturn a 2-goal deficit to win their game against the 'blues' 3-2 and also the tournament.

Parents were welcomed to attend to watch the games and also be present for the final prize giving. The weekends awards were given to;

6 a-side winners; **Dublin**

10 a-side winners; **Team Pink**

Most Endeavour Award; **Eva MacDonald** (Lochaber)

Most Improved: **Erin Maclean** (Glengarry)

Player of the Camp: **Rowan Cooper** (Aberdour)

A huge thanks go to the group of thoroughly amazing volunteer coaches, without who the weekend would not have been a success; Niamh Donnelly, Caitlin Mutch, Laura McCafferty and Kate Bradly, as well as CA Development Officers Alaina MacLennan, Roddy Young, Will Cowie and Katie Drain. Thanks also go to MOWI whose generous funding also goes towards subsidising the WCA Camp.



ISLA MCNEIL

What motivates you to perform so well?

I enjoy being part of the team, which provides me with the drive to perform well.

What are some of the things you do to stay sharp and focused during the games?

To keep focused while playing, I always plan ahead and study the game. I also enjoy the responsibilities and work that come with being a part of a team.

What is your favourite thing about playing shinty?

My favourite part of playing shinty is the camaraderie, competitiveness and getting to travel about the different places and playing on different fields

How did you first get interested in playing shinty?

I was born into shinty. I had a stick in my hand before I was in nursery. My first competition was a "Grassroots" event held at Braeview Park when I was in Primary 2-3 between Cabers, Beaulie and Inverness

How do you cope with playing two games back to back some weekends?

I have an active weekly Shinty schedule which includes either training or matches 6 days a week. So playing back to back matches isn't unusual as I play U14's on Friday, Saturdays can be Ladies North 2 or National, Sundays can be Ladies U14's, North 2 or Nationals

How do you handle the pressure of performing well in high-stakes games?

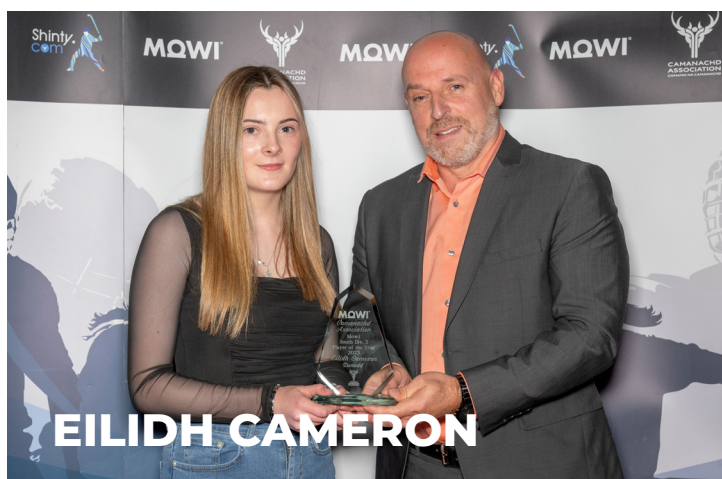
I do try to treat every game with the same mind set. Every game matters.

Who are some of your role models in shinty, and what have you learned from them?

My Dad, he encourages me to be the best version of myself. I have also learnt that you can only try your best and try to improve your weaknesses.

What advice do you have for other young players who want to be successful in shinty?

Train out-with training and train like you're playing in a match



EILIDH CAMERON

What sort of things do you do to maintain elite level focus?

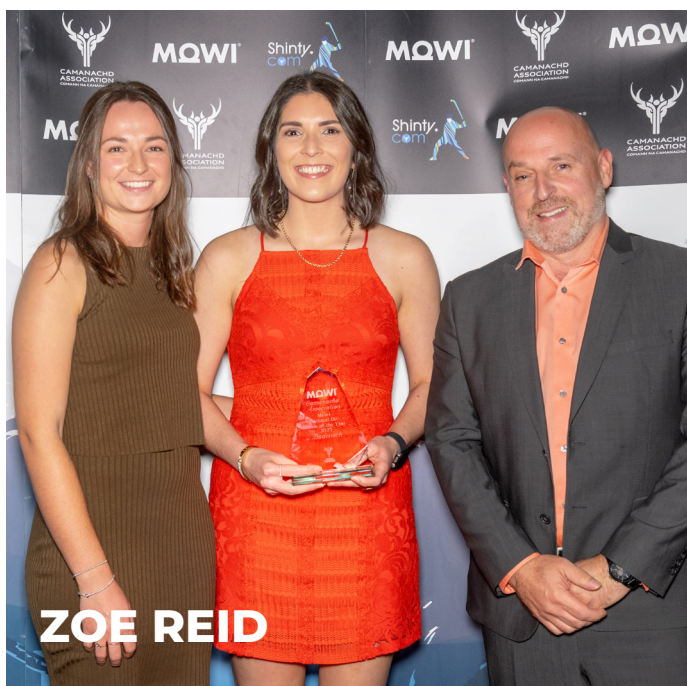
Nothing in particular to be honest. Our coaches Scott and Iain always keep us calm and focused before every game. We're also a very close team and spend a lot of time together out with the sport, which definitely helps on the pitch when it comes to encouraging each other and staying focused.

Who are some of the players or athletes that you look up to and draw inspiration from?

There's a lot of players I admire from both women and men's teams, it's hard to pick only a few. Having Kirsty Deans playing alongside me in the forward line has always been a massive benefit to my development and knowledge of the game. She reads each game so well and always ensures she encourages and motivates every team member.

How is the club adapting to fielding 2 teams every week?

The second team has proven to be a great opportunity for many members of the club. It's great that we have so many girls coming along to training and showing a great interest in playing games. Luckily everyone at our club is committed and hard working therefore fielding 2 teams each week hasn't been an issue so far!



ZOE REID



LUCY DAVIES

How did you get involved at Strathspey?

The club was founded by my brother and his friends, they asked me in the early days if I would help them out as the club secretary, which I said yes to. That was 12 years ago now, and I have never left.

Women's numbers have grown in 2023 how have you managed that?

After COVID, we were at a position where we had to start from scratch again with the women's sector. Right from then we changed the ethos and instead of concentrating on winning we created a place where all women and girls were welcome and equal. We kept things very easy and very positive and didn't put pressure on ourselves. If we could, we field a team, if we couldn't, we didn't worry and we moved on. We gave everybody equal game time, concentrating on being one team rather than an A team with subs. We kept training constant and positive, we still delivered the same level of coaching, regardless of numbers attending. We encouraged girls to bring friends along to try the sport and concentrated on the social aspect. We worked with parents to make sure any young ones were comfortable and happy. The system worked really well for us, ladies enjoyed being part of a team without the pressure of having to commit to matches and everyone improved together. As the years have gone on, numbers have continued to grow, and grow with more and more ladies and girls coming along.

Alison, can you tell us a little bit about your journey through shinty to where you are just now, how did you get involved?

My Dad had my brother Daniel and I swinging a caman before we could walk! He ran St Columba's shinty team so we were immersed in the sport from a young age. It had its perquisites and downfalls being coached by your Dad. If anything he was harder on his own children and there's nothing like being subbed off then having to eat steak pie that night swallowing your pride! I now play for Uddingston based on the location I now stay in. Eilidh Barclay got me involved when I met her at a CPD event for PE teaching. She told me she played shinty and I couldn't believe it was being played in this neck of the woods. Lee Thompson has done a tremendous job. I played for Lochaber in years gone by and I loved every minute and the girls involved.

Uddingston are a relatively new club compared to others in the division, what is the setup like at the club with training/games?

There has probably been too many gaps between games this season to really get into the swing of it. Nonetheless it has been enjoyable and been a great opportunity to get me back playing. The girls are so welcoming and friendly. They're a lot younger than this old codger now but it is nice to have a different role now even if it takes me twice as long to recover from games (remind me why the oldest player is playing full centre Lee?). We train on a Wednesday and Lee always makes it worthwhile and effective. The team are doing immensely well and only got stronger over the course of the season.

Now we are lucky to be in the position of fielding two teams, with still new girls finding us very so often. The coaches continue to work really hard to make sure everyone is getting a good level of coaching.

What roles have you had at the club?

I was the secretary for 9 years; I am now the vice chairman. I have been the lady's manager but now we have two teams, I am manager of the development squad. I oversee the adult coaching team and work closely with the treasurer on grants and sponsorship.

You're one of the driving forces behind Strathspeys development, what gives you the passion to deliver for your local community?

I was heavily involved with tennis for many years and still am, the opportunities that I got from that sport were life changing. My passion for driving Strathspey comes from my desire to give others the same opportunities I had. I believe sport has the power to change people's lives. Whether it is grass roots or professional level, whether it is playing or non-playing, people's lives are shaped and changed by the experiences they have. To be able to give back to my community, to help open pathways and provide opportunities for people to gain these positive experiences, to help them connect, grow and strive is very rewarding and drives my personal passion for the club.

You turn out for the unisex team in North Division 2 sometimes too, what is it like playing two games back to back?

If I can help out with the men's team, I do. Logistics can be a bit of a nightmare with kids when me and my husband both on the pitch at the same time! But we make it work! Saying that through, If I'm playing a match on a Sunday I try not to play on the Saturday as well as my old body can't take it!

I do enjoy playing with the men. It's a very different game, with different challenges and I enjoy pushing myself and even in my old age I feel myself improving with every game.

ALISON MACVICAR





DICKSONS OF INVERNESS SHINTY WORLD CUP

On Tuesday 5th September 2023, Bught Park in Inverness was host once again to the 'Dicksons of Inverness Shinty World Cup' North. This competition was for primary schools in the North of Scotland, there was 3 entry categories, these were;

Primary 7 and under competition for established schools

Primary 7 and under competition for emerging schools

Primary 5 and under super 6's competition

There were 26 teams there on the day and over 210 young

people taking part. Six pitches were set up and were manned by excellent volunteers.

There was one round robin group for each of the above categories with the top two teams in each progressing to a final. The competition was close in all 3 sections with it coming down to 1 or 2 points to determine who would progress to each final.

The finals ere...

Primary 7 Established
Primary 7 Emerging
Primary 5 Super 6's

BSGI V Caol
Crown V Glengarry
Tomnacross V Kingussie



All of the finals were played 6 minutes each way. BSGI took on Caol in the P7 and Under Established Final. With their group game ending 1-1 it was always going to be a very close game. Caol made their presence known first with some wonderful passing between their team resulting in a quick first goal, they later added goals 2 and 3 to secure their victory. BSGI never gave up and showed real determination. All credit to Caol though, keeping their team together from last year, learning from experience and playing some wonderful shinty to boot. Crown and Glengarry played out in the emerging schools final with some fantastic skills by both teams on show. Crown battled hard, with their goalkeeper having some fantastic saves but couldn't stop Glengarry from scoring and taking the trophy home for 2023.

Tomnacross and Kingussie then had a very entertaining game in the P5 and under final. Both teams had chances to score and there was some great teamwork by both squads. Early pressure looked fairly even but then Kingussie came into their own and just kept going. A top performance by them and rounding off their day unbeaten.

Medals to all finalists were presented by Simon Marshall from Dicksons of Inverness and we are very grateful to him for being there on the day.

Lots of thanks have to go out to individuals, as without a vast number of volunteers and staff this day would not have been able to go ahead.

Firstly to Mike MacLeod and his team at the Bught for the set up of the pitches and the help leading up to the day. To Iain Cochrane for taking fabulous photos all day throughout all pitches and to Maria MacLeod and Laura MacKay for providing the players and spectators with refreshments throughout the day.

Huge thanks have to go to all the volunteers from the day who were involved in refereeing and pitch management; Jim Barr, Andrew Grant MacKenzie, Ali White, Craig Dingwall, Cody Tinney, Aaron Gallacher, Rowan Brockie, Archie Laird, Dario Marshall, Isla McNeil and Tina Marshall. Without this group of volunteers this event would not have happened, the support they provided was invaluable and the enthusiasm they came with was a bonus.

Lastly but by no means least, to Dicksons of Inverness who have come on board and sponsored this event, without their support and enthusiasm this would not have been possible.



GMA ARE WJ CAMERON VICTORS

The WJ Cameron finals took place on the 29th of October at Mossfield Oban. Glasgow Mid Argyll, Bute Shinty Club and Lochaber Camanachd Club came together in a round robin league to compete for the trophy. The pitch was in great condition despite the flooding the week before in the local area and the weather stayed dry to set the stage for the final.

The first game of the day saw Bute playing Lochaber. Bute started strongly and raced into the lead taking a 6-0 margin to the half time whistle. Goals from Rory McDonald, Roan McVicar, Robert Lowrie gave them this lead. Lochaber kept on fighting until the end and put in an improved 2nd half performance with Seonaidh Macdonald impressive in the middle of the park throughout the game. Goals from Reuben Doyle and Jaden MacLaughlin sealed an impressive 8-0 victory in the first game for the islanders.

The second game saw GMA come up against Bute. Immediately the game was end-to-end with hard challenges going in from both sides in what was a competitive and entertaining match throughout. After 10 minutes Ruairidh MacSween gave Glasgow the lead from the edge of the area shooting across the keeper and into the side netting with a tidy finish. 5 minutes later Milo Menzies doubled their advantage with a finish in the bottom corner of the net from around 25 yards out. Bute responded with a couple of chances late in the half through Roan McVicar and Rory McDonald but they failed to find the target.

The second half began in the same nature as the first with both teams creating chances and 5 minutes in a goal mouth scramble led to Roan McVicar sneaking the ball over the line. Midway through the 2nd half GMA again extended their lead with a tidy low finish by Donald Ross Walker after some good work from MacSween. Bute continued to press to get back in the game but the GMA defence stood firm with Arran Byrne sweeping up anything that got through.

The final game saw GMA come up against Lochaber. Both teams battled hard with GMA coming through with the victory thanks to goals from Scott Craig, Ruairidh Macsween, Donald Ross Walker and Iain Mitchell to secure the trophy as well.

GMA collected their medals and captain Arran Byrne lifted the 2023 WJ Cameron for GMA.

The Camanachd Association would like to place on record their thanks to Lochaber, Bute and GMA for travelling through to Oban to compete in this final. To Iain Hay for having Mossfield in an immaculate condition for all the games on the day. These games could never happen without the volunteers, parents and coaches who provide transport and coaching to the young players involved too. Finally, as always to MOWI for their continued support of our sport.



PRESIDENT'S MEDAL JOINED BY PRESIDENT'S KILT PIN

In November 2020 outgoing Camanachd Association President, Keith Loades, donated the President's Medal to incoming President, Steven MacKenzie (see Yearbook 2020). The medal, featuring a silver Camanachd Cup medal, will be handed from President to President to wear when representing the Camanachd Association. It has now been joined by the President's kilt pin!

Steven's wife Debs is a trained silversmith and when they got married Debs made Steven a caman shaped kilt pin in silver. While President, Steven was well known for wearing the kilt at all our major events where he proudly sported his marriage gift so it therefore seemed appropriate to ask Debs to make another kilt pin for future Presidents.

Debs said: "It was an honour to be asked to design and create a gift to grace the knee of future Camanachd Presidents and I look forward to seeing it being worn with pride". She also thanked Roddie MacLennan, from Aird Artisans, for the cherry wood presentation box, and John McNaught, from Highland Print Studio, for the copper etching for the box lid. When asked what would happen if the President wasn't a kilt-wearer Debs laughed and said they could wear it as a lapel badge or even a hat pin!



SHINTY SUPERFAN STEWART MACLENNAN

As part of a focus on the fans behind shinty, HNM's Andrew Henderson caught up with "superfans", you can read his piece with Caberfeidh's Stewart Maclennan below – keep your eyes peeled for the second edition later in this publication.

For over 50 years, shinty has been Stewart Maclennan's life. As soon as he could walk, Maclennan was swinging a caman, and he would progress through school shinty into Caberfeidh's first team at just 16 years old.

Coming into an ageing team, his breakthrough into the senior game could have been several degrees easier, but he persevered and would go on to lift multiple trophies at Castle Leod over the ensuing decades.

Maclennan has shown an impressive dedication to the sport – even picking his day jobs around having the opportunity to play shinty. On rare occasions, though, those two worlds would collide.

"When I went into the team first, the club had held on to the older guys who were a great team at one time, but had gotten too old," Maclennan said.

"We managed to rebuild it. Some of the older guys trained us up, and that's the way it moved forward. Until I was about 18 or 19, we used to get some awful hammerings, but when the team came together we won the Strathdearn Cup in my early 20s, beating Lochcarron 5-2 at Bught Park. The celebrations went on for days. We had a big dance on the Saturday night when we won it in the Heights of Achterneed, and it went on to the Sunday. I worked for a small joiners' company at the other end of the Heights, and he sent me over to replace two windows in the hall on the Monday. Lo and behold, four or five of the boys had booked the Monday off, and they showed up and we all carried on.



I fell asleep, and when I woke up the boys that were there had fitted the window – but it was upside down! I told the boss what had happened on the Tuesday morning, and he just laughed.

"I had to go back over and sort it all out, but that was the first cup I had ever won with Cabers. We had some great times back then, and we had a very good team.

"We won Division Two twice in the 80s, then into the 90s, when we had another very good team. We won the Balliemore Cup four years on the trot, then we missed a year and won it again, so it was five years out of six. It was just about dedication and fitness really. Back when I first started playing, it wasn't so much about fitness. Most of the teams had big, hefty guys who were all muscle and would just beat the living daylights out of each other, but there's none of that nowadays.

"It's more fitness now and passing, a bit more like football really. We have a very good team on the go just now who are doing very well too."

A Changing Sport

Even as Maclennan became one of the older players he had once replaced, he continued to find ways to stay involved in shinty. At 42 years old, he entered management, going between the first and second teams – and for the next 15 years he never missed a match.

Naturally, in that time the game itself has changed. In some ways it has become more difficult to run a shinty club, but Maclennan believes that in others the sport is better off now.

"By the time I became manager, a lot of the rules had changed," he explained. "It wasn't nearly so hard as it was when I first started playing. You couldn't go into a proper tackle, there would be fouls all the time, but it's that fast you rarely see a hard tackle nowadays. I think the game is actually better now than it was then, but they do get a lot of injuries now that we didn't get then. I don't know how.

"In the first 20 years I played, we didn't know what a pulled



hamstring was! Recently in our second team we've had five or six players out with dislocated shoulders and knees, pulled muscles and all of that. I'm still on the committee, and when I first started playing the committee picked the team, but now it's all down to the managers.

"The committee meeting is all about organising the field or playing on, and money for buying equipment and stuff like that. It's nearly £70 or £80 for a shinty stick, and you can easily break two or three of them in a game. The transport nowadays is colossal as well. We need to go down to Glasgow and Kyles and Oban, and you're over £1000 for a bus to go down there.

"We have a charge now at the gate for supporters, but we never used to do that. It just used to be a collection. It's difficult to keep two teams going with the prices involved – you're talking up to around £20,000 to keep the club running for a year. Every penny is a prisoner."

Beyond belief

There are other aspects of shinty life that have changed – to the point MacLennan can tell a few stories that he believes would amaze youngsters making their way in the game now. Between rules on the pitch, the culture around matches and even defying medical guidance, there is not much that MacLennan has not been involved in.

"A lot of the players nowadays wouldn't believe what went on 50 years ago, I remember Ian Bartlett being out on the corner flag, he was in his 40s when I started playing, and the full back came out and broke the head off his club but Ian still dribbled the ball all the way with the top half of his club to score a goal.

"Young boys nowadays won't believe that happened, but I was playing in that game. You wouldn't get away with it, it would be a foul now because it was pretty dangerous. "One time I had broken a bone in my wrist, then the next week we were playing Lochaber at Castle Leod and we were getting beat. Me and my father cut my plaster off, I got on and we beat them! Nobody would believe that, but it did actually happen. I wouldn't be allowed to do that now either I don't suppose.

"After one match in Skye, and there was a big chimney fire in the house. The fire brigade was there, and all of a sudden

nobody could find me. They were hunting all over the place for me, and they eventually found me out in the shed sleeping. We beat Skye, and on the way home on the bus we had plenty of fun, so when I arrived home at the house there was a chimney fire and I was lying sleeping in the shed.

"There are heaps of stories, I play the pipes as well so there would be a lot of piping involved if we won big games. If it was a final or a semi final, I could always take them with me. "I enjoyed my time playing shinty, and I would do it all again if I got the chance."

Looking to the future

The 65-year-old still keeps a keen eye on Caberfeidh's fortunes as a committee member, and he has no intention of stepping away from shinty completely any time soon. MacLennan is hopeful of a successful season at Castle Leod in 2023, and he is confident the current group of players have the ability to write their own history.

"I'll be there for a while yet hopefully," MacLennan added. "I'm not as involved now as I used to be but I help out if I can. Any jobs that are needing done on the field, I give them a hand.

"We're in good form just now. Our second team went down a league this year, but there are a lot of young players coming through so hopefully they will manage to win that league this year and go back up.

"The first team is the best we've had in quite a lot of years I would say. We're getting good turnouts at training, close to 30 every week, and we've got some really good players in the team as well. I've had a great journey, and hopefully for the future it's not looking too bad."





Est. 1959

FERGUSON

TRANSPORT & SHIPPING

LOGISTIC SOLUTIONS, SUCCESSFUL WITH PARTNERS



LOGISTIC SOLUTIONS SUCCESSFUL WITH PARTNERS

General, specialised ADR, forestry, aquaculture, and waste management haulage. Plant and machinery movements.

Lifting gear – a side lift 30 tonne container lifter, heavy lifting 65 tonne crane and mobile 100 tonne crane.

Port, warehousing, and storage facilities available at Corpach, Kishorn, & Mallaig.

Stevedoring, crange and port handling.

Marine services – O&M, Ro-Ro, cargo movements, support vessels.

To find out more, please contact us:

01397 773840

enquiries@fergusontransport.co.uk





ABERCORN (A) & PARK (B) SCHOOLS VICTORIOUS AT NATIONAL DISABILITY FESTIVAL

Aviemore was the venue, for the 26th annual Disability First Shinty Festival which saw Abercorn School from Glasgow retain their title winning League A. Park B from East Ayrshire emerged victorious winning section B.

Over 90 children and a record 13 teams and 10 schools from Inverness, Kingussie, Oban, Dingwall, Dunoon, Tain, Glasgow and North Ayrshire enjoyed coaching from qualified shinty coaches and games throughout the two-day event which culminated in a tournament.

The tournament was split into A & B leagues on a round robin format, with the teams in each section playing each other once. Both leagues were extremely competitive with some excellent play and great goals scored throughout the day. Abercorn from Glasgow, the 2022 winners won League A with Park School from East Ayrshire running out winners of League B.

Rosemary MacPhee presented the trophies to the captains of Abercorn and Park schools and medals to all the children.

Camanachd Association Youth Director, Kirsty Deans, said: "This is one of the most rewarding events we hold annually as we are bringing together children who don't get many opportunities to compete in shinty. The event grows in popularity each year, and it was great to see Dunoon, Kilpatrick, St Clements and St Duthus Schools taking part for the first time".

Festival organiser and National Development Manager, Ronald Ross, said: "I would like to thank all the teams, players, teachers, and support staff that made the effort to take part in this year's festival. To have over 90 children taking part over the two days is just incredible. I would also like to thank Rosemary MacPhee and family for their continued support of the event."



Newtonmore romp to MacMaster Cup victory...



A replay of the 2022 MacMaster Cup Final saw Newtonmore and Skye U14 teams face off again. The weather was bright and a large crowd had gathered to watch these two talented youth teams.

Teams were led out by their captains and lined up to meet the dignitaries, in fact David MacMaster, Steven MacKenzie (CA President), Kirsty Deans (CA Youth Director) and John MacKenzie (CA Chieftain) all walked out to meet the squads. Jamie MacPherson got the game underway and not even a minute had passed before Skye had broken the deadlock with a well taken goal by Seth MacDonald, catching the Newtonmore defence off guard.

The game then began to settle slightly and Newtonmore began doing what they had done all season, mounting the pressure upon their opponents defence. It was on the 9th minute that Joe Coyle after a mazy run and a low hard strike into the bottom corner levelled the playing field and gave Newtonmore their well-deserved equaliser. From there the talented Newtonmore team, marshalled well by Jacob Bain in full centre continued their pressure on Skye and it was only 3 minutes later they scored a second, again through the very talented Joe Coyle.

Skye battled hard and kept chasing the Newtonmore players but their movement in the forward line was hard to keep up with. A few fantastic saves by the Skye keeper meant that the half time score at 9-1 wasn't as vast as it could have been.

The second half started more evenly and Skye dug their heels in, looking dangerous on the break but also defending well. It was late on in the half before Newtonmore began to have success once again, with precise passing and movement amongst their forwards creating more chances to score. The Newtonmore forward line (whose passing and movement would be impressive to most senior teams) was in fine form and it was fitting that their hard work resulted in more goals to end the day. Young Fergus Gilligan getting a double (with the day's best celebration). The final score was 13-1 to Newtonmore and a very well deserved victory. Skye should also be credited for their never giving up attitudes and work ethic throughout the game.

David MacMaster along with Kirsty Deans (CA Youth Director) conducted the presentations and it was 7 goal hero, Newtonmore Captain, Joe Coyle who lifted the MacMaster Cup for 2023.

YOUTH SHINTY THRIVES AT THE MACDONALD & CAMERON NATIONAL PLAYER PERFORMANCE CAMP



From Sunday 16th until Thursday 20th July 2023, a record 92 of the country's brightest young shinty prospects, from 25 clubs across Scotland, descended upon Strathallan School in Forgardenny, Perthshire for the 2023 Macdonald & Cameron National Player Performance Camp.

Each player, aged between 14 and 17, had been nominated by their youth or senior club to take part in the camp, designed to offer the very best in the technical, tactical, physical and psychological aspects of the game.

Throughout the week, the young players received specialist training from Camanachd Association coaches and International players based around all the key skills, techniques and tactics of the game.

Elanor Cormack a Sport Psychologist delivered an interactive session with the budding shinty players on the mental side of the game, working on coping strategies when dealing with pressurised game situations. Garry Reid, Scotland's senior international manager was also present and delivered an excellent session on the tactical side of the game. He also discussed in depth the attributes he looks for in players when selected the international team.

A number of awards were presented at the end of Thursday's session. The award winners were: Player of the Camp: **Shane**

O'Rua (Kilmallie); Most Committed Player: **Logan Adam** (Aberdour); Most Improved Player: **Alex Knotts** (Strathglass). East Region Regional Development Officer and Camp Organiser, Alaina MacIennan said: The National Performance camp continues to go from strength to strength. To have a record number of participants this year shows how important a role the camp players in the youth shinty player pathway. I would like to thank all the players, coaches, guest speakers and sponsors who all played their part in a fantastic week of shinty.

Camanachd Association's Youth Director, Kirsty Deans commented: "The National Player Development Camp has once again proved a great success. Since its inception over 28 years ago, the camp has helped hundreds of young players from across the country to improve all aspects of their game from the technical to the physical elements of the sport. This year saw a record number of participants. The camps are also a great way for the participants to meet other aspiring shinty players, forging ties and friendships throughout the sport." I would also like to say a huge thank you to Macdonald & Cameron for their continued sponsorship of the camp. Camp Sponsors, Macdonald & Cameron said: We are delighted as a company to have had the opportunity to sponsor the event again and are pleased to hear it has been such a success for all those involved. We wish all the participants the best in the future with their shinty careers.





FORT WILLIAM WIN COTTAGES.COM JUVENILE MACTAVISH CUP



Ahead of the senior final on 10th June, Fort William and Skye took to the Bught to showcase the best of youth shinty in the North.

It was a gloriously hot afternoon of shinty and ahead of the senior final, Fort William and Skye were set to do battle for the MacTavish Juvenile Cup. It was fairly plain sailing into the final for both sides, Fort beat local rivals Kilmallie 12-0 in the semis while Skye won 5-0 against Kingussie. As the teams were piped out onto the field it was two Archies who led their sides as Captain, MacKinnon who has been playing senior shinty for a few years now gaining vital experience at that level and Millar fresh from his call up to the Scotland U17 Squad for Skye.

Jamie MacPherson threw the ball up for the start of the match and it didn't take long for Fort William to open the scoring, Ewen Campbell picking the ball up on the left flank before driving into the centre and cracking a shot across the keeper into the top right corner. The sides exchanged a few more chances but a combination of good defending and some good stops kept it at 1-0. That was until the 27th minute when James Clark picked up the ball 30 yards from goal, skipped past his marker and rifled a low shot towards the keepers left hand post, there was nothing Archie Buchan in nets could do to stop what was a tremendous hit.

Skye could be forgiven for letting their heads drop coming into the final ten minutes of the half 2 goals down, but they did the exact opposite and bit back with a goal from Jamie Ross. A free hit from Iain MacInnes floated towards the edge of the D, while this was originally dealt with by the Fort backline, their clearance allowed Seonaidh Alex MacLeod to have a strike from distance and while Owen O'Hagen made a good save, there was nothing he could do about the rebound which was swept in by Ross. Game on! Just as the half was drawing to a close Skye were awarded a penalty for a trip on Ross as he waltzed into the D. Captain Millar stepped up and converted coolly into the keepers bottom right. From 2-0 to 2-2 in the space of 6 minutes and there was a sense amongst the crowd that we were in for a really good game.

The teams emerged for the second half and began exchanging chances, Fort with the better of most of the exchanges but unable to seriously trouble the Skye defence, that was until Campbell tried his luck from the left flank, his well hit drive stopped impressively by Buchan and turned away for a corner. Then, it was Skye's turn to threaten Millar forcing a great save out of O'Hagen from an acute angle. Fort William would soon answer with another chance though, James Clark's low hit was diverted by Buchan using his feet. With both keepers in great form, it became clear that we would require some cool headedness to separate the sides and that is exactly what we got from Skye's MacInnes who ran onto a ball and despite not generating much power, had placement and delicacy in his finish that Ronnie O'Sullivan would've been proud of.

With 12 minutes left to go Skye were ahead for the first time in the match and it was time to test Fort William's character and resilience. The Fort responded resoundingly though; a smart ball was drifted towards the Full-Forward who did enough to make sure the ball skipped on to Jack Kearney who, despite the pressure, converted impressively into Buchan's bottom right corner. The final 8 minutes of the match were tense as both sides pushed for what would surely be a winner. Skye thought they had it with a very late goal from Alisdair Stewart but the offside flag put a stop to the celebrations.

With two great teams inseparable after 80 minutes it was into extra-time and on such a hot day it is testament to the players that they continued to battle with the intensity we have come to expect from our sport. In the end it was an extra-time winner from Fort's Kearney who picked up the ball on the right flank, went round his man and then hit a skipping shot towards the Skye goal which deceived both defence and goalkeeper alike. A fitting way to end a match of real high quality from both teams. Fort William's Captain Archie MacKinnon collected the trophy on behalf of his team mates and lofted it high in the air much to the delight of the travelling Fort supporters. The Sandy MacKay Player of the Match Medal went to Skye's Seonaidh Alex MacLeod.



OBAN CAMANACHD WIN THE 2023 MACQUISTEN CUP

Glasgow Mid Argyll and Oban Camanachd contested the 2023 MacQuisten Cup final on Saturday the 24th of June. Oban progressed to the final having got the better of Kilmory 6-1 in the quarter finals before beating Bute 5-1 to reach the final of South Shinty's under 17s showcase. GMA edged Aberdour 2-0 in the quarter finals before defeating Dunoon 5-1 to cement their place in the final.

The teams were piped out onto the field led by their captains Calum Macmillan and Arran Byrne. Referee Craig Scott from Taynuilt got the game under way. Oban edged the early exchanges with Matthew Sloss flashing a shot past the post in the opening minute and following it up by hitting the side netting after 3 minutes. The shot on target came after 8 minutes when Scott Craig in the GMA goal saved with his feet from a Sloss effort. Craig was called into action again on 10 minutes where he made a terrific save with his body and scrambling it away after an effort from Innes Mackay. Milo Menzies and Logan Black had a good battle in the middle of the park with Zac Menzies doing well to contain the dangerous Sloss to half chances. The Oban defence staying solid and not allowing the Glasgow forwards any time in attack snuffing out the danger in a physical opening half. The referee halted play on 20 minutes to allow the players a water break on a muggy day at Peterson Park.

After the restart Oban continued to edge their opponents with Logan Black driving forward from the centre of the park before putting the shot just past the left-hand post on 26 minutes. On 36 minutes it was Saul Watson's turn to try break Glasgow's resolve where he fired past the left-hand post from the right-hand side.

Eventually, the pressure paid off for Oban with Scott Campbell collecting from his own half before floating an effort on target from 45 yards. Despite Scott Craig dealing with the initial effort, Kyle MacFarlane latched onto the rebound putting the ball into the roof of the net from the edge of the D. A minute later referee Craig Scott blew for half time. After half time Mid Argyll managed to have their best spell of the game doing a better job at holding the ball up front but failing to create any clear-cut chances. On 45 minutes Sloss did well to win the ball from a GMA defender before creating a yard of space and

unleashing a tremendous effort from 25 yards finding the top right-hand corner of the net giving the keeper no chance. A minute later, straight from the restart Alexander Macdonald did well to play the ball on to Sloss who turned and fired in from 30 yards into the roof of the net. This was Sloss's last action of the game as he was replaced by Aidan Lawrie with the afternoon's senior game in mind.

Midway through the second half, Iain Mitchell of Mid Argyll picked up an injury giving both teams a chance to make substitutions. GMA moved Alasdair MacDougall in goal and moving Scott Craig into the centre line.

On 70 minutes Oban were awarded a penalty after a couple of players ended up on the ground and Kyle MacFarlane stepped up to score his second of the game hitting a cleanly struck penalty to the keepers left hand side. Glasgow ended the game strongly but were unable to break down a stubborn Oban defence with Rhys Walker doing well to save from a nice Ruairidh MacSween strike with his feet. Oban saw out the remaining few minutes before referee Craig Scott brought an end to proceedings. Archie Robertson presented medals to both teams and the officials before Calum Macmillan lifted the trophy for the Oban Camanachd side.

The Camanachd Association would like to thank the Celtic Society for hosting this final before the senior cup final. Glasgow Mid Argyll and Oban Camanachd for creating a very entertaining final. Craig Scott, Ross Brown and David Mitchell for officiating and also Violet Mair and Eimear McCarthy for running the lines and all the volunteers who made everything go so smoothly during the day.



YOUNG AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME CONTIUNES TO MAKE STRIDES



The school year 2022-23 saw 30 ambassadors from 15 Schools involved in the ever growing Shinty Ambassador Program. The young Ambassadors completed various courses throughout the year, obtaining full qualifications through both Coaching and Referee courses.

The young people continued to grow throughout the year, confidence increased within each Ambassador from the coaching sessions and Shinty events that they delivered in and out of School. School Shinty has never been in a better place, largely down to the impact the Young Ambassadors

have had on their Schools. The young people have been working closely with their schools and have continued to deliver a high standard of coaching and officiating at both School events and youth events in 2023. Another huge part of the program is the continued support these Ambassadors offer at CA events (Including Shinty World Cups, Camanachd Cup Final, MacTavish Cup Final, UHI Cup, Tulloch Cup, Tunnocks Cup, MacBean Cup) We look forward to continuing to work with these Ambassadors as they move past Secondary Education, as they will continue to advocates for Shinty both in their local community and across the country.

DOUBLE DELIGHT FOR KINGUSSIE AT FRASER MACPHEE MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT

Spectators at An Aird, the home of Fort William Shinty Club, were treated to two thrilling finals on Sunday 2nd June. After a dazzling sunny day of youth shinty games, the stage was set to see which of 15 teams from the length and breadth of the Highlands would take home the two Fraser MacPhee memorial Shields. Oban's two Rockfield teams - P5s and under, and P7s and under - put up an excellent fight after reaching both finals, with the P5s and under going into extra time following a 1-1 draw.

But Kingussie proved victorious in both matches - scoring two goals in extra time to take victory in the P5s and under, and winning 1 - nil, in the P7s and under. Both teams put on a very entertaining celebration when they lifted the trophies, to the delight of the cheering crowd. The Player of the Tournament trophies went to Reid Patterson (Kingussie) in the P5s category, and Daniel Duffy (Rockfield) in the P7s. The off-pitch skills competitions also proved a big draw with the young players in between games. Archie Freshwater from Alvie School in Kinraig won fastest shot at goal for the P7s category, with

Torrin Dawson from Alvie winning fastest shot for P5s. Reid Patterson from Kingussie also took the skills competition trophy and Cian McLean from Caol won the P7s skills competition.

The sun shone all day, ensuring spectators and more than 150 players had a great day in the glorious Lochaber weather. More than £300 was raised at the tea bar, which was rounded up to £1000 and donated towards disability shinty by Rosemary MacPhee on behalf of the MacPhee family. Thanks to Alaina MacLennan from the Camanachd Association for coming along and accepting a cheque at the tournament. The MacPhee family wish to thank all the volunteers for support to make the day happen - the Latto family, Alison Stephens, Willie MacDonald, Fort William Shinty Club, Mhairi MacKinnon, referees: Struan Stephens, Bobby McMillan, Archie MacKinnon, Stuart Disher, all the coaches and parents, but most of all, all the young shinty players who give it their all every year and showcase shinty at its best. Thanks also to Iain Ferguson for coming along on the day to take the beautiful picture below.



BUTE VICTORIOUS IN U14 DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE

On Sunday the 3rd of September Glengarry Shinty Club and Bute Shinty Club met in the 2023 Development League final at Mossfield, Oban.

Alec MacVicar the official for the day got the game underway for this 1pm throw up. The game started very end to end with Lexie Cameron breaking through after 2 minutes for Glengarry but Bute keeper Connor Malcolm did well to clear. On 6 minutes it was Bute's turn to attack with Louie Macdonald striking just past the post.

On 19 minutes Louie Macdonald got the opening goal of the game for Bute with a strike from distance. A few minutes later Josh White strike from 20 yards was dealt with well by Malcolm.

On 23 minutes Holly Fraser in the Glengarry goal made a good save with her stick and did well to get the ball away under pressure from the Bute forwards. On 25 minutes Bute doubled their lead when Macdonald doubled his tally for the day.

A couple of minutes later Fraser produced another brilliant save with her stick and directed the ball past the post. Right before half time Cameron Dougal struck from 20 yards to give Bute a 3-0 half time lead. 5 minutes after the restart Lexie Cameron turned her marker before dribbling in towards the goal and slipping the ball past the keeper with a great finish. However, straight from the restart Robert Walker scored for Bute to re-establish their 3 goal cushion.

The game continued to flw end to end with Jamie Ross hit a shot narrowly over the bar on 53 minutes for Glengarry. Bute finished the ame strongly and in the last 15 minutes



they added further goals from Aaron McFarlane, Luke Horsburgh, Lloyd Robertson and another 2 from Louie Macdonald to take his tally in the game to 4. Alec MacVicar blew the final whistle as the ame ended 9-1 in Bute's favour. The teams were presented their medals by Roddy McCuish with the Bute captain lifting the trophy.

The Camanachd Association would like to thank both Glengarry and Bute for making the journey to Oban for the game and providing goal judges for the match. Iain Hay for lining the park and providing a brilliant surface for the teams to play on. The caterers for providing food for the players and coaches after the game. Finally, to MOWI for sponsoring the competition and their continued support for our sport.





OBAN CAMANACHD ARE SOUTH U14 LEAGUE CHAMPIONS



Kyles Athletic and Oban Camanachd met in this year's South Under 14 League Final at Mossfield, Oban. Kyles beat Aberdour in their semi to reach the final while Oban Camanachd narrowly edged out GMA in their semi-final to reach the showpiece. The 2 previous meeting of these sides showed how tightly matched these teams were going into the game.

Alec MacVicar got the game underway for this 3pm throw up. Oban Camanachd started stronger with the wind at their backs and in the 2nd minute of the game a long range effort was saved by Struan Limbert however, Innes Mackay latched onto the loose ball tucking the ball into the net.

From the restart Oban attacked again and another shot on target was again saved by Limbert but Mackay got to the rebound first and again finished from just inside the D in an almost identical goal to his first.

A few minutes later it was Kyles turn to attack and when Ethan Kerr struck a shot from 25 yards near the sideline his strike found the opposite side netting giving the keeper little chance and bringing Kyles right back into the game.

Again, Kerr hit a shot but this time the Oban keeper did well to deny the Kyles danger man and the score remained 2-1. On 13 minutes Oban Camanachd's Scott Campbell hit a shot from 30 yards into the roof of the net giving Limbert in the Kyles goal very little chance.

7 minutes later Innes Mackay completed his hatrick again a shot from distance from Scott Campbell was saved by Limbert but the Camanachd full forward was again first on the loose ball to tuck home. Despite chances at both end near team really worked the opposition keeper in the closing 15 minutes of the half. Alec MacVicar blew the half time whistle with Oban Camanachd holding a 4-1 advantage. At the start of the 2nd half Kyles now had the wind at their backs and began to push

to close the gap again. However, despite several chances they were failing to test the Oban goalkeeper. 15 minutes into the 2nd half Scott Campbell finished from 15 yards out to extend Camanachd's lead to 4.

However, straight from the throw up Kyles went up the other end and a 20-yard strike from James Morley found the back of the net. Kyles had the better of the next few minutes but on 55 minutes Scott Campbell completed his hatrick when he broke through the Kyles defence and finished from 10 yards to restore Oban's 4 goal advantage. Again, Kyles continued to push for more goals and had solid pressure for the closing 10 minutes of the game but the Oban defence stood firm until the final whistle.

The Camanachd Association would like to thank both Kyles Athletic and Oban Camanachd for providing goal judges for the match and putting on a very entertaining game. Iain Hay for lining the park and providing a brilliant surface for the teams to play on. The caterers for providing food for the players and coaches after the game. Finally, to Mowi for sponsoring the competition and their continued support for our sport.





PLOCKTON WIN BUSY DONELLA CRAWFORD TOURNAMENT

The Donella Crawford 6s' provides a platform for high school girls to come together and take part in shinty, while remembering Donella, who was a huge advocate of the girl's game. Ardnamurchan High School, once again, offered to host the event which saw 16 teams sign up.

It was great to see all 16 teams (around 130 girls) participating, and excellent to welcome pupils from Glasgow Gaelic School and also Lochgilphead High School who have never attended before.

Teams were split into 2 groups and played across 4 pitches, fixtures were handed out and we got underway, slightly later than planned but still with plenty of time to get through the games.

In the group stages each team played each other once allowing for the top school teams from each league to progress to the final. In Group A Inverness Royal Academy came through their group unbeaten and headed straight for the final. In Group B Plockton and Kingussie were tied on points and a play off had to take place to determine who was going to progress to the final.

The play off game was extremely close but some deadly finishing by the Plockton team was enough to see off Kingussie and see them through to the final.

The final showcased some fantastic shinty played by both teams, both very young squads with at least another one or two years left to play again in this competition. Inverness Royal Academy came out the quickest with a goal inside the first two minutes. Plockton never let their heads go down for a second and levelled up quickly. The game swayed from end to end before Lexie Mackenzie doubled Plockton's score, some strong tackling and nice passages of passing play by both teams were seen by the small crowd who had managed to stay for the final. It was Lexie MacKenzie once again who sealed the game off by scoring a 3rd, completing her hattrick and securing a Plockton victory for 2023.

Alan Gray, Active Schools Coordinator for Ardnamurchan (and the day's First Aider) was on hand to conduct the presentations, giving the medals and the trophy to the winning Plockton Captain, Poppy Glasgow. Congratulations to everyone at Plockton High School for their victory.

The Camanachd Association would like to thank Annie, Jacob and Ros for taking the time out their day to referee the event, to Alan Gray for being on hand for any First Aid throughout the day and to Colm O'Rua and Ardnamurchan High School for hosting yet again. Already looking forward to next year.



NORTH END AND ALVIE VICTORIOUS AT NATIONAL FIRST SHINTY FINALS 2023

The Ferguson Transport and Shipping National finals brought together over 150 of the best young players from across Scotland all vying for the coveted National P5 and P7 titles. The P7 & Under tournament was played at the Nevis Centre, Fort William. The standard of play throughout the day was of the highest order with all the 11 teams giving a great account of themselves.

Section A saw the talented Caol Primary School driven on by the impressive Harry Stewart top the group on 7 points with the equally impressive North End Primary team one point behind, claiming the runners-up spot. Section B couldn't have been more competitive, with the classy Glenurquhart Primary School topping the group on goal difference from the skilful Gleann Dail Primary School.

The first semi-final saw Caol Primary School take on Gleann Dail Primary from Glasgow, with Gleann Dail Primary proving too strong in the end winning 4.1 to book their place in the final. The second semi-final saw Section B winners Glenurquhart Primary take on North End primaries in what was a closely contested game, with North End eventually prevailing 3.2 to reach the final.

The final between Gleann Dail Primary and North End Primaries started at a frantic pace with play raging from end to end, with the standard of play of the highest order. North End however, driven on by the outstanding Lachlan MacLeod, raced to a two-goal lead, before Gleann Dail pulled back a well-deserved goal just before half-time. The second half saw another two goals from Lachlan MacLeod his 4th goal of the final proving too much for the talented young Gleann Dail side, with North End running out deserved 4.1 winners, to win the P7 & Under National First Shinty Championships 2023. Michael Oliver of tournament sponsors Ferguson Transport and Shipping presented the trophy and medals to all the players. The P5 & Under tournament was played at Lochaber High School. The standard of play throughout the day was excellent with all group games closely contested between the 10 top school teams from across the country.

Section A saw last year's winners BSGI go through the group stages undefeated with some excellent play and goals scored.

Alvie Primary followed them into the semi-finals as their section runner up. Section B was also very closely fought with the final games deciding who was progressing to the final 4. Rockfield school had a very impressive run of form throughout the day winning 3 and drawing 1 in the group stages seeing them go through as group winners. BSGP followed them through with 2 wins a draw and a loss.

The first semi-final saw the two Gaelic schools BSGI and BSGP face off against each other and there was nothing between these teams. BSGP were ahead by one goal going into the final seconds but a fantastic bottom corner equaliser by BSGI saw full time at 2-2 and extra time. BSGP found an extra burst of energy and grabbed the golden goal they needed to progress to the final.

The second semi-final was goals galore, Alvie who had started the tournament slowing were now on a fine run of form and couldn't stop scoring. Rockfield grabbed a couple of goals back through some excellent forward play but couldn't catch up to the bumblebees. The final score was 6-2 Alvie. The final saw some skilful shinty from both teams, tired legs were showing as a full day of shinty caught up to these young players. Alvie grabbed the first goal after some excellent play from their talented midfield line. They then continued their drive forward using that momentum adding a couple of goals to their tally and running out tournament winners for 2023. Leanne Mackay of tournament sponsors Ferguson Transport and Shipping presented the trophy and medals to all the players.



Rathbones is delighted to be a supporter of the Camanachd Association and wishes everyone an enjoyable day

Rathbones Investment Management is one of the UK's largest and longest established providers of high-quality discretionary investment management services to individuals, families and their advisers.

For further information, please contact **Calum MacLean** on **0141 248 4311** or email calum.maclean@rathbones.com



Rathbones



rathbones.com



@RathbonesGroup



Rathbones Group Plc



@Rathbonesplc

The value of investments and income arising from them may fall as well as rise and you might get back less than you originally invested.

Rathbones Investment Management Limited is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority.



NORTH U21S WRESTLE BACK THE CAOL CUP

A hot and sunny day at Mossfield, Oban, welcomed the annual Caol Cup on Saturday the 2nd of September. The representative match which put the best under 21 players in the north up against their counterparts in the south. Stephen Campbell and Alec MacVicar took charge of the South team and Kenny MacLeod and Iain Mackinnon led the North side. Referee Lachie Wood got the game underway and with a slight wind at their back the North side seized control. After less than a minute of the game Ross Gordon tested South keeper Gordon Currie who dealt well with the strike at his feet. Struan Ross had his turn a minute later when his great strike was tipped onto the post by Currie who was impressive throughout. The early pressure continued when Ross Gordon turned provider and his ball across the goal gave Max Campbell a chance but he put the effort over the bar.

After the intense start the North continued to press but a combination of the dogged South defending along with Currie keeping the scores level. The South created their first notable chance on 20 minutes where Campbell Watt hit a shot from around 20 yards but put it past Murphy Henderson's right hand post.

The North's pressure continued Ross Mackinnon testing Currie. On 28 minutes the North created their best chance of the game when the South defence failed to get rid of the ball there was a scramble in the D and Max Campbell pounced on the loose ball, somehow Currie again managed to keep the ball out of the net with a great save to his left before getting it out for a corner.

On 35 minutes the North's pressure finally paid off when Eua McCormack finished from 20 yards to the keeper right with a clean strike given them a deserved lead.

Only 2 minutes later the North should have doubled their lead when Archie Macrae hit a strike which was again saved by Currie but the rebound fell to Ross Mackinnon who put it past the post from around 10 yards. Campbell Watt had the last effort in the first half putting it past the left hand post from 25 yards.

The 2nd half began and the South who now had the wind at their back came back at the North with some early pressure. On 52 minutes Henderson was called into action with a save with his feet from South captain Scott MacVicar. The game flowed from end to end in the 2nd half with the South beginning to take hold of the centreline battle.

On 60 minutes the South had their equaliser through Scott MacVicar who latched onto a saved Herbie Patterson effort and put the rebound into the roof of the net from just inside the D.



4 minutes later, Campbell Watt who was starting to mark his authority on the game turned his marker before running forward with the ball for 20 yards and fired a shot narrowly over the bar from 25 yards with the South continuing the edge the 2nd half.

Soon after, the North created their first meaningful chance in a while where Currie denied Ross Mackinnon again with another fine stop which went out for a corner.

12 minutes from the end though, Mackinnon hit a great strike from 25 yards which again was brilliantly saved by Currie however, the rebound fell to Ross Gordon who placed the ball into the side of the net to give the North a 2-1 lead again. 3 minutes later the North managed to give themselves a cushion when Archie Macrae finished from around 10 yards on a tight angle into the opposite side of the net after being played through by Gordon.

Lachie Wood drew an end to proceedings and Roddy Mccuish presented the medals to both teams and officials Lachie Wood, Les Kinvig and Andy MacDonald. Before North captain Duncan MacPherson lifted the 2023 Caol Cup.

The Camanachd Association would like to place on record their thanks to both teams who put on a really closely fought game. The coaches who took on the responsibility of running the 2 teams. Iain Hay who had Mossfield in tremendous condition for the game and finally the caterers who provided food for both teams after the game.

MCCUE & PORTER AND LITTLEJOHN TOURNAMENT SUCCESS...



Wednesday the 15th of March saw the return of the Littlejohn and McCue & Porter Tournaments as Universities across Scotland met at St Andrews to battle it out the respective Cups. The day turned out to be a great success for University Shinty with competitive action throughout all stages of the day.

In the McCue and Porter, Edinburgh topped the table in the group stage with 10 points after winning 3 games and drawing 1. It was then Strathclyde who squeezed into second place after also winning 3 of their games but suffering 1 loss. Both teams progressed straight into the final which allowed the 3rd and 4th play off to commence.

Glasgow and St Andrews battled it out in the decider to clinch 3rd spot, and contrary to the group stage it was St Andrews who came out on top with a narrow 1-0 win being enough for them to finish 3rd on the day.

This then led onto the final where the stage was set for a fantastic game, and that was exactly what transpired! Both teams showed outrageous skill and courage during the 15 minute each-way final. The game was wide open going end to end as both keepers were tested numerous times, it took until the 14th minute of the first half to find the breakthrough as Abi Stoddart picked up the ball and slotted it past the Strathclyde keeper to give Edinburgh a 1-0 lead going into the second half. This is how the game would end as Strathclyde were unable to respond during the second half as the game continued to be a tight contest. The referee blew the full time whistle and it was Edinburgh who came out victorious!

Within the Littlejohn Tournament, it was the same outcome within the group stage as Edinburgh topped the table with 10

points and Strathclyde finished a close second with 9 points. Again both these teams progressed into the final leaving Glasgow and Aberdeen to fight for the 3rd spot on the day. Nothing could separate the teams in the playoff as both defences came out on top in what was still an entertaining 0-0 draw. It took penalties for a winner to be decided, and it was close throughout with both keepers making some fantastic saves. Aberdeen would eventually clinch the 3rd spot after converting their last 2 penalties to make the final score 0-0 (Aberdeen win 2-0 on penalties).

In the final game of the day Edinburgh and Strathclyde once again battled it out to be named the winner of the Littlejohn Tournament. The game started very stiff, with both teams allowing little to no chances. It took until the 14th minute of the first half to find the breakthrough, which came through the way of a penalty. Strathclyde's Dan MacDonald was brought down in the box which gave Captain Scott MacVicar the chance to convert the penalty, which he did in style making it 1-0 just before the half.

Both teams regrouped and came out swinging in the second half, which was in line with everything that had come before. Edinburgh created some chances to get back into the game, but they were caught on the break as Dan Macdonald took the matter into his own hands by slotting home Strathclyde's second after a beautiful solo run. Edinburgh scored a last-minute consolation as Gregor Macgregor forced a mistake from the Strath keeper, but a consolation was all it was as the referee blew to signify the end of a great final.

Congratulations to both teams on their respective wins and to all the teams that attended for making it a day to remember for student shinty!





ENGLISH SHINTY ASSOCIATION

With generous sponsorship from Abbott Risk Consulting, English Shinty Association celebrated their 10th Anniversary Year with more shinty you could shake a caman at. With ESA entering both the Bullough Cup containing an historic fi st senior home match and the WCA Challenge Cup. A second international v Alba, a cracking Easter Tour which included matches v Edinburgh University, a fi st England v Fife clash and England's historic fi st win v Scottish Universities Mixed Select, in a fun contest, kindly supported by the Camanachd Association with Mead Camans kindly providing the trophies. Sat 20th May saw ESA host Tayforth, themselves celebrating their 50th year, to play ESA's historic fi st home fixture of a remarkable 10-year history. The Bulloch Cup, clash proved worth the wait, with ESA proving too much for a strong Tayforth side in a fantastically tight contest, with ESA reaching the semi-finals of the Bullough Cup for another landmark fi st. A massive thank you to all concerned but especially Tayforth and Davie Mitchell our referee, for enabling us to celebrate our anniversary years with our historic fi st home game. Unfortunately, this was not to be ESA's year, but it was a big boost in what we do and as a team what we are trying to achieve when going forward. In September we arranged our second international ever against Alba. Thanks to the efforts of Eòghan Stiùbhart, the game was fought over the English Camanachd Cup donated by the English Family. Despite the heavy defeat much fun was had, and we look forward to our next game against Alba. Alba vs England Picture from Iain Cochrane MacRath

ESA also hosts two leagues through the year. The fi st was the end of the 2022-2023 South West Shinty League which is a 6's league hosted through the winter involving multiple clubs in Cornwall and Bristol Camanachd. Bristol Camanachd picked up the fi st silverware of the season as they won the Southwest Shinty League for the 3rd time in a row. The current Southwest Shinty League season has seen the return of Devon Shinty Club with Falmouth Camanachd leading the charge. All eyes will be on Bristol to see if they can retain it for an historic 4th time.

ESA also hosted the English Shinty League. The senior league in England. The season is made up of each team hosting their own tournament, a game against each team that alternates home and away each season. Due to meeting up multiple times in the year this creates community for those that love the game. However, this doesn't take anything away from the competitive nature of the league.

London and Cornwall both took two tournaments each. Bristol stepped up coming 2nd in all but one tournament. The league was decided at the final tournament in Cornwall in October when Cornwall won their tournament to win the league. The fi st game as part of the current revival of shinty in England saw London and Cornwall travel to Bristol to play in a game sponsored by Shinty Shop. The game in 2012 ended 1-1. In 2023 shinty in England has evolved to each senior club hosting their own tournament rather than a central tournament by ESA. So, to our 10th anniversary and Shinty Shop for their support over the years we hosted the final ver Shinty Shop Challenge Cup in Bristol. London Camanachd won the trophy on the day. As we enter our next decade, we will continue to do what we do best. Provide social opportunities for shinty players in England to meet and play the game they love.

Season Review by Bristol Camanachd

Bristol Camanachd once again entered the Southwest 6s League as the reigning champions, having won the last two on the trot, and were in imperious form throughout the season. They won every regular game bar one and claimed their third league win in as many seasons. David Brown became the fi st Bristol player to win the Caman D'Or with his 18 goals seeing him clear of the rest. The Pirates had their best English Shinty League yet, finishing as runners up at Bristol 6s, Oxford 6s, London Shinty Festival and the Shinty Shop Challenge Cup whilst also recording a fine 10-1 league win over Oxford.

Season Review by Cornwall Shinty Club

With Jack Asher 6s, 3 teams in the SWSL and many players central to the ESA squad, it's been a busy year for the Cornish generously supported by Finn M'Coul's. A strong start to the ESL Campaign saw them winning the Bristol 6s and securing Abbott Risk Consulting ESA and CA funding to role out regular secondary school coaching, culminating with over 1000 pupils experiencing their fi st shinty tournament. A thrilling home match at the International Shinty Festival saw London back in contention just. Oxford 6s, Stithians Show and a cracking tour saw Cornwall also playing Warrington, Stirling, Strachur, Skye and Strathglass generously supported by The Old Inn, Skye. A vital third spot at the London Festival seeing off St Andrews University and Oxford in a three-way penalty shoot out and key away win to Oxford set up an almighty show-down at Lowender Peran Festival to decide



the league on the final day of the ESL. Cornwall came from 1 point behind to win the Lowender 6s and clinch their first ESL outright title in what has been a fantastic year.

Final Shinty Shop Challenge Cup. London walked away victors.

Season Review by London Camanachd

London started off its year coming third in the Bristol tournament, the team put in a good shift but this was not to be our day. London hosted Oxford and then took away trips to Cornwall and Bristol in the league games. The trip to Cornwall along side the sea shanty festival made for a very good Weekend. London took victory in the Oxford tournament and the London shinty festival. This put us in a good place for the English league. London won the shinty shop trophy so confidence was at a high. A second trip to Cornwall for the year meant it was right down to the end. London losing out and finishing in second place meant the English league was not to be. To hear Cornish shouts for joy as they won truly showed how much it meant to them. But London will be back for the 2024 season and the aim is to retake the English title.



Season Review by Oxford Shinty Club

Oxford began the 2023 season with an influx of new players, with several Scots having moved to the county for work and study. The year's priority was to improve our results in the ESA tournaments and by the end of the season the team had put in decent performances in the London Shinty festival and Lowender Peran. Our highlight of the year was our own tournament in June, with two teams entering and racking up a plethora of goals, although missing out in the end with the silverware.

We rounded out the season with a joint training session with members of St Declan's GAA, where both teams putting members up to play training games of compromise, pure shinty and pure hurling rules. 2024 is Oxford's 10th year anniversary as a club, presenting a unique opportunity to fundraise for the club's long-term future, as well celebrating the past ten years with a larger sixes tournament on 22nd June, with further anniversary details posted on our social media.





TOMNACROSS WIN CORRIE CONSTRUCTION MACKAY CUP

Saturday 10th June 2023 saw the Corrie Construction Mackay Cup Final take place at Bught Park, Inverness as the curtain raiser and the first of three Shinty Finals that day. The final was contested between Rockfield Primary School and Tomnacross Primary School.

Both schools had come through the group stages of this competition having played, and beaten schools from up and down the country and it was fantastic to be able to welcome all the players, coaches and 200+ crowd of supporters to Bught Park for the occasion.

The game, officiated by Donald MacLeod, started with Tomnacross, quickest off the mark with a goal inside the first 3 minutes, a break in play allowed Dougal Strang a yard of space and he fired the ball into the back of the net to give the Kiltarlity school the lead. Less than 5 minutes later Tomnacross found more space, courtesy of some nice play by Tyler Cain in midfield opening up the attack, it was Strang again who got the goal with a nice strike past the Rockfield keeper.

Rockfield didn't let their heads go down and started gaining possession in the midfield line which allowed their forwards the opportunity to get one back. It wasn't until 20 minutes into the first half that their goal came, a clean shot by one of the Rockfield forwards was judged to have been kicked by the Tomnacross keeper. Daniel Duffy kept his cool and sailed the resulting penalty into the back of the net to half the deficit Tomnacross just seemed more determined from the restart and it only took them 2 minutes to gain a goal back and restore their 2 goal lead on the 22nd minute of the game. A nice touch and finish by Archie Bell this time after some tireless work from the Tyler Cain in the midfield to continue to offer his forwards opportunities to score.

The rest of the first half was very even with both teams putting some nice passages of play together but no more scoring. The squads I'm sure were glad to hear the half time whistle, take on

some water and regroup, given that temperatures were now up around the 20 degree mark it was tiring work for these young players.

The second half again started off very evenly with Tyler Cain shining for the Tomnacross team and Daniel Duffy for the Rockfield squad. Some positional changes after the second half water break saw Tomnacross have perhaps their best chances of the game with long range hitting from Strang who was now playing in defence, Cain now had the opportunity to push forward and rounded off his strong performance with a very well taken goal from long range that sailed past the Rockfield keeper giving the Tomnacross side a 4-1 lead going into the final 8 minutes.

Rockfield however, never gave up and continued to push forward, always looking dangerous on the attack. This never give up attitude was rewarded when, with 4 minutes to play after some impressive passing Fraser Pollock managed to push the ball through the crowd of Tomnacross defenders and find the back of the net, making the score 4-2.

The final whistle came minutes later to draw a close to a fantastic display of shinty from both school teams in very hot conditions. We were delighted to have Catherine-Anne MacGregor and her family there to present the Anne Cameron player of the match quail to Tyler Cain from Tomnacross for his determined performance.

Alan Ewing from Corrie Construction was on hand to conduct the presentations to both sets of players and coaches and was able to hand over the Corrie Construction MacKay Cup to Tomnacross Captain Matthew Ogston for 2023.

Thanks went to both sets of players, coaches and parents for their support before during and after the event. To referee Donald MacLeod and his team of officials and to the sponsors Corrie Construction for their continued support of this event.



CA CUP 2023

The CA Cup took place on Saturday November the 18th at Peterson Park in Yoker, Glasgow. Kilmallie Shinty Club took on Kyles Athletic in this year's final. On what could prove to be a very wet day Dougie Luke had the park in great condition for both sides.

Kilmallie progressed to the final by getting past Glengarry, Caberfeidh, and Kinlochshiel before edging out a strong Kingussie side on penalties in the semi-final. Kyles made the final by bettering Bute, Aberdour and then overcoming Oban Celtic in the semi-final to reach the final. Graham Fisher from Bute was the man in charge of officiating with GMA supplying goal judges for the game.

The game got underway in the wet conditions with both teams trying to stamp their mark on proceedings with the game remaining largely in the middle of the park. It was after 6 minutes in when Chase Watson found space to fire Kilmallie in front. Kilmallie continued to push and on 12 minutes they doubled their lead through Charley Kennedy. 16 minutes in Chase Watson doubled his tally to secure a great opening quarter of the game.

It wasn't all Kilmallie's way though and through Cairn Crowe, who was excellent throughout for Kyles trying to push them up the field in his battle with the equally impressive Harry Stewart, they continued to push to get back in the game. Sorley Kerr had the best of these chances and a great run from him led to him narrowly putting the ball past the post under pressure from the defender.

Despite the pressure from Kyles it would be Kilmallie who would extend their advantage right before half time through Charley Kennedy who also doubled her tally for the day. Graham Fisher blew the half time whistle with Kilmallie holding a 4-0 advantage.

The 2nd half began as competitively as the 1st half ended until on 40 minutes Chase Watson completed his hattrick with another excellent finish from 25 yards into the bottom corner of the net.

Kilmallie added further goals through Chase Watson who got his 4th of the afternoon, Charley Kennedy who completed her hattrick and strikes from Michael Stuart and Taylor Cameron to secure a 9-0 victory in testing conditions.

Kilmallie were strong throughout with many strong performances throughout the team which gave them the advantage over a young Kyles Athletic side. Kyles fought until the very end of the game and with only 2 players leaving their squad for next season will be hopeful at another shot at reaching the final next year.

Archie Robertson came along to do the presentation and once Kyles captain Olly McVicar led his side up for their medals with James Perlich and Thomas Whyte collecting their medals as part of their efforts in coaching. Kilmallie then collected their medals with John Stewart and Alan Ewing collecting the coaching medals for their side before captain Harry Stewart lifted the CA Cup for Kilmallie.

The Camanachd Association would like to thank Dougie Luke who helped have the pitch, the players who braved the elements to put on a very entertaining game. The coaches and the parents who gave their time and efforts to make the occasion worthwhile as well as to the GMA ladies who put on food and hot beverages for the players and spectators. Without the work of these volunteers the sport of shinty would not nearly be as successful as it is.

SHINTY FANS CHOOSE THEIR MOWI TEAM OF THE SEASON

Shinty is, at its heart, a team game and it is well known that “no squealing prima donnas will get adulation here”. However, it is also important to recognise the standout players and after the success of the Mowi Team of the Season in 2023 the format has been expanded with 4 teams voted on.

In order to narrow down the vast pool of talent, every Mowi Premiership/WCA National/WCA Div 2/National Captain was asked to name their own team of the season, which was not allowed to contain any players from their club. From that, the most popular names in each position were then put to a Twitter poll with victorious players making the team.

It was clear that the shinty community were engaged in the discussion with just shy of 20,000 votes cast. You can see the four teams below!



FORT WILLIAM LIFT THE 2023 LONDON SHIELD

The 2023 London Shield final between Fort William and Glenurquhart took place at the Dell, Kingussie on Saturday 30th September. Fort William and Glenurquhart reached this year's final having won home and away semi-finals against Skye and Beaulieu respectively.



The 2023 London Shield final between Fort William and Glenurquhart took place at the Dell, Kingussie on Saturday 30th September. Fort William and Glenurquhart reached this year's final having won home and away semi-finals against Skye and Beaulieu respectively.

The final started with Fort William on top and after a few early half chances they took the lead on 17 minutes with a low shot from distance from wing forward Innes Whyte. The goal seemed to spur Glenurquhart into life and they started to come more into the game and created a number of half chances without really testing Fort William Goalkeeper Owen O'Hagen. The Fort William defence was well marshalled by Arran Steven at fullback and Ewen Campbell at Half-back limited the Glenurquhart forwards to very few chances throughout the game.

The second goal in the game was always going to be crucial and it was Fort William who got it on 32 minutes with a well taken goal from the impressive Archie Mackinnon. A minute later it was 3-0 with Archie Mackinnon scoring his second of the game, rifling a backhand strike high into the roof of the net from a tight angle giving Glenurquhart goalkeeper Shalom Brown no chance.

The second half was evenly contested with chances at both ends but Fort William always looked the more likely to add to their lead and it was Jack Kearney on 50 minutes with an excellent strike from the edge of the box firing high into the net to leave the final score Fort William 4 Glenurquhart 0. The Douglas Mackintosh Memorial Medal – presented to the player of the match and this year's winner was Glenurquhart's captain Sam Burnett who had an outstanding

game at the heart of the Glenurquhart defence. Chieftain of the Camanachd Association John Mackenzie presented the medal on behalf of the Mackintosh family.

A big thank you to both teams and coaches, match referee Callum Girvan, Kingussie Camanachd Club for the use of their excellent facilities and the Duke of Gordon for providing the post-match meal.





SHINTY MEMORIES SCOTLAND



Shinty Memories Scotland (SMS) is renewing its appeal for support as it continues its recovery after the COVID pandemic. Like other areas of shinty, SMS is still having to meet some very significant challenges and a key difficulty is finding two or three individuals to help set up and run groups.

There are encouraging signs though, with new groups being planned in the south in Bute and Inveraray, where the local group is being woven into a fantastic five-year development plan, and the continuing success of groups in Lovat and Beaulieu provides models for further progress.

Covid placed a great strain on the groups and our national resources. However, SMS has organised the digitisation of the Shinty Yearbooks which will be an invaluable resource and a substantial number of videos taken by the late Kenny McColl at the Aviemore Sixes will also be used to entertain groups in the network. Further exciting digitisation projects are planned.

We need more support now than ever, and the scale of the challenge we face continues to escalate. However, it remains our intention to grow and expand the network of groups currently in place under the umbrella of Shinty Memories Scotland, for example in key areas such as Glasgow, Skye and Lochaber. The national group was formed to support the network using the sport's archives and other resources to help people with dementia and living with other issues such as depression and loneliness. The work is also contributing towards the Camanachd Association's new Heritage Committee's activities and will have a key role to play in the new exhibition space at the Bught Park – Shinty's story – Sgeul na Camanachd. Shinty Memories Groups are open to anyone and when they are set up, they are supplied with sets of cards and other materials prepared from various archives using images of players, trophies, pitches and badges. Activities such as quizzes and fundraising veterans' matches can also be organised.

The Badenoch Shinty Memories Group continues its collaboration with the Highland Folk Museum as a model of developments in other areas such as Inveraray, Oban and Lochaber. Fund-raising efforts continue principally through the annual golf championship taking place once again in August, at Kingussie this time. The 2022 event on Perth was won by a group of bandits from Skye Camanachd and the 2023 edition at Newtonmore also saw the trophy return to the island!

There are few clubs or families who are not aware of people who are living with the challenges of mental health issues such as dementia. Shinty Memories Groups can provide sets of resources to be used to help people improve their recall, communication skills, self-esteem and confidence. A handbook is available to help with the operation of groups. Shinty images can be digitised for use of the project and safe return to owners. If you would like to know more about helping with Shinty Memory Groups, make a donation to help with costs, or can supply materials for memory boxes, please contact:

John MacKenzie
07795 544 189
shintymemories@gmail.com

David MacMaster
07599 247306
shintymemories@gmail.com

Hugh Dan MacLennan
07515 287040
shintymemories@gmail.com



MACBEAN CUP SUCCESS FOR KINGUSSIE HIGH SCHOOL

The MacBean Cup for S1/2 secondary school pupils took place on Wednesday 26th April in the Badenoch Area across 3 pitches, Kingussie High School, The Market Stance and the Eilan, Newtonmore. A brilliant response saw 11 schools entering from across Scotland.

The schools were split into two groups for the first round of the competition with the top two teams from each group then progressing through to the semi-finals. In group one, where the games took place at the Eilan, Glasgow Gaelic School cruised through the group stages, not conceding a goal, playing some excellent shinty on the way. They were joined by Oban High School, who had a sole defeat against the Gaelic School.

In group two it was Kingussie who strode to victory over the 5 other teams in the group, scoring 6 in each game and only conceding one. It was tight for second place with all other 5 teams finishing on the same points. A quick goal difference count meant Dingwall Academy joined them in the semi-final stage.

Glasgow Gaelic school then went on to play Dingwall in the first of the semi-finals in what was a very close and competitive game with some entertaining shinty being played by both schools. The game was looking like it was heading to extra time with no goals scored, but with pretty much the last hit of the game the Glasgow side managed to find an inch of space in the Dingwall defence and slot a powerful strike into the bottom corner to take them through to the final.

In the second semi-final Kingussie, who had been outstanding all day didn't let their form slip at all. The impressive Oban High School defence managed to hold off the Kingussie attack for the first five minutes before Kingussie's first goal came. Kingussie kept the pressure on and despite some valiant defending by OHS the Kingussie forward line was just too strong, scoring another few goals and progressing to play Glasgow Gaelic School in the final. The final was an exciting game with Kingussie and Glasgow not having played each other in the group both teams were stepping into unknown territory. Glasgow Gaelic school showed some impressive defending and resilience but Kingussie began to take hold of the game and do what they had been doing the entire day. Some exceptional link up play saw their forward line score some goals that senior teams would be delighted with and they ran out comfortable winners in the end.

Congratulations to Kingussie High School who got to take the MacBean Cup back to their school for 2023, and commiserations too Glasgow Gaelic School who gave a fantastic account of themselves and should be very proud of their runners up medals.

Thanks go to all players/teachers/coaches for attending as well as to Kingussie HS, Kingussie Camanachd Club and Newtonmore Camanachd Club for setting up the days pitches and for the use of the changing facilities for all the teams. Thanks also go to; Kyle Clark, Ross Haig, Iain Fraser and Jamie Buchan who volunteered their time to officiate the days games.



SHINTY SUPERFAN – JEYA CALDER

HNM's Andrew Henderson caught up with Inverness' Jeya Calder as part of the shinty superfan series.



There are not many roles at Inverness Shinty Club that Jeya Calder does not have a hand in. First getting involved when son Finlay picked up a caman, Calder sits on the board of trustees after getting involved as the club's videographer, and on a match day she can usually be found making cups of tea for spectators at the Bught. Add in creating social media content, being a supporter herself and even at times becoming a makeshift ambulance driver when injuries occur, and it is a wonder that she has any time to enjoy herself. Calder's passion for shinty, and in particular Inverness, certainly cannot be questioned with the amount of time she commits herself to for its benefit.

It is an easy choice to make, though, with the community that has been built up around the club – on and off the pitch. "When I think back, sport has been a golden thread throughout my own childhood," Calder recalled.

"I grew up at the side of bowling greens with my grandparents and parents, and then at school you had legends like Colin Baillie and Peggy Mackintosh as your PE teachers. They were very influential.

"When you were young, you were part of a sports club – and there's a sport for everyone, whether it's as an individual or a team. When I look at our club now – and you can apply this to any sport – it's much more than just playing that game. It's a way of learning to be a part of something outwith your family, and grow as a person. You're mixing with people of all different ages and making friendship, just being a part of a wider community dealing with winning and losing.

"Shinty is fantastic, because it's got a position that's suited for everyone. It's a mistake to think that unless you're winning a big cup, shinty doesn't matter – it's just as important for every club, no matter what league you're in.

"Every single person who picks up a shinty stick has that passion for it. I look at Inverness and there are some players in there who have the talent to play with any of the Premiership teams, but they chose to stick with Inverness and help this club progress.

"One of the quotes that always stuck with me was 'yes, I could win medals, but what would it mean if I wasn't winning it with my friends'. He had joined the club as part of a group of boys, and now they're men. That's what I love about Inverness, if you're a part of the club as a player you take your grandparents, your friends, your dogs along with you. A number of years ago Inverness created a trophy for volunteer of the year, and I was the first person to get it – I was mortified! I accepted it on behalf of all the volunteers it takes to run a club. Inverness is the sort of club that is a real community. We have always been that, that's what I love about it."

IMPACTING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

The idea of community can mean many different things at a sports club. As Calder knows first-hand, it can simply be being the parent that shepherds a car-full of children around to matches. However, recent years have proven the importance of clubs looking outwards too, and trying to reach and affect people in the local area.

That is something that projects like Shinty Memories – which Inverness are making efforts to become more involved in – try to put at the forefront, and the club have done their fair share of hard work to help their community too.

"When Covid came, the Loch Ness Country House hotels did hampers, and we got the players together to do leaflet drops and work with the local community council," Calder explained. On our strips we have the Archie Foundation Highland mouse on our sleeve, which just shows it's a key part of who we are and our future plans. We're proud to have that on our kit, and people always ask about it.

"We have a lot of fun in Inverness, and our mascot is called Billy Bught. He has appeared in so many places, and we recently caused chaos at the blood donation unit at Raigmore Hospital because Billy came along with some of our players and members to actually give blood. What we were trying to do was say that if you're part of a group, blood stocks are low, so come along." "We caused absolute chaos. We've got a really good relationship with the Inverness donor centre, because they've got a brilliant marketing director there, and her husband is actually the goalie for Newtonmore so she totally understands the shinty mentality.



"In the hospital, you can't take pictures or anything. It's all done properly that you have to have consent forms, but Billy Bught suddenly started doing the macarena and we put it on Instagram. It's had way over 1000 views already. We try to recognise and connect the previous generations with our youth today, and getting our youth to understand that they wouldn't be where they are today if it wasn't for our old legends. We had a brilliant old guy called Denis Swanson, and in hail, rain or shine he would get himself to the Bught. It would always make our day.

"He died at the end of 2021, but when he turned 95 we got all the kids to make homemade cards for him and a couple of younger kids to play the bagpipes when we delivered them. "It was so lovely, and his family chose the shinty club for donations at his funeral, and he was buried in his shinty jumper, but for Denis and so many people like him shinty is a love that has lasted all their lives. There are people like him scattered all across the Highlands and Islands."

PRESERVING CULTURE

While football is the undisputed number one sport in the vast majority of the country, some areas in the Highlands buck the trend by being traditional shinty areas. When people visit those areas, then, some of the most authentic things they can do is take in shinty in person. The significance of shinty to the Highlands is not lost on those involved, either, as Calder believes the sport helps commercially outside of the game itself.

"It's legacy of our culture, arts and heritage," she reasoned. "Actually, there's a real link towards economic development as well. If you take the whole Outlander phenomenon, that's absolutely grown. An interesting chat I had not long ago was about the huge link between welcoming tourists and giving them an authentic Scottish experience.

"There's a boutique hotel beside Eden Court, and it's run by a guy who's trying to find shinty sticks for his guesthouse, because he has created a beautiful little reading room honouring golf and shinty. He has displays of golf clubs, but he's struggling to get shinty sticks, and he has them beside books on why they're both important. Shinty is a real and authentic tourist experience. It's something that is living and vibrant, and it celebrates our culture.

"Gaelic is our heritage here, and it's a massive business, but the most important thing is that it's real. You don't pay any money to come along to a shinty match if it's not in the Premiership. There might be a collection put around that goes towards reinvesting back into the club, but how great is it

that the loads of tourists that come to Inverness can watch a shinty match?

"They've never seen anything like it, and they're talking to real, local people, so economically there's a market there but it's also genuine. Our heritage and our culture is really important. If you look back at any sport, that's what it does – it's a way of life for people. You see the old pictures, and that will never go away. The authenticity of sport, offering it to people in the Highlands and all the economic reasons, it's part of the fabric of the Highlands."

A BRIGHT FUTURE

Because of the work of Calder alongside countless others behind the scenes, the future is exciting for Inverness Shinty Club. They have made a point of investing in youth, and as a result can now boast the largest set up in the country in terms of sheer numbers. It is a far cry from when Calder was growing up, where shinty was not an option for young girls at all.

"At that stage, girls' shinty wasn't as developed," Calder added.

"I was a fearsome hockey player, but I kept getting in trouble for lifting my stick up, so I would have been grand in shinty. Teams now have gone from strength to strength in Inverness. It started with just a few mams thinking they could do something, and they have been phenomenally successful. It's great to see the work that has been happening with girls' shinty. That's down to having really good coaches and people who are dedicated to making Inverness Shinty Club a better place.

"We've got Drew McNeil, who is kind of the boss. You talk about legends, and he's won it all and done it all. What I respect about him most is that he works harder than any other person in the club. He would hate being singled out, because his ethos is about what we're achieving collectively. It's all about creating these player pathways into the club, and the rest will follow. Over the last five or six years, our numbers have just kept on increasing, and really you have to start getting into the schools and bringing them up – and have a direction they can go in.

"We're absolutely on the right path, and we've got the largest number of kids playing shinty in Scotland. It will come for us, we just have to be patient and keep doing what we know works.

"There are a lot of folk who are hidden behind the scenes, but they are absolutely vital. I'm part of a whole chain of volunteers who are just trying their best. We've got so many coaches as well, and I think there is a role at Inverness Shinty Club for absolutely everyone. You meet the best of people. I see the time our older players spend nurturing the younger players, and helping them become the best they can be, and we are absolutely going in the right direction.

"We just have to keep the belief. We see the success with youth teams, and that will come through in a few years' time – it already is coming through now. There's nothing better than homegrown talent, so we just have to keep united and I absolutely believe Inverness can get where we want to go."



SOIRBHEACHAS IOMAIN AIG MÒD PHÀISLIG - PAISLEY MÒD SEES SHINTY SUCCESS



Bha latha iongantach aig a' Mhòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail 's Cupannan Camanachd a' Chomuinn Ghàidhealaich gan ruith ann an Rinn Friù mar phàirt de Mhòd Phàislig 2023.

Le Dr Uisdean D' MacIlleinnein mar a' chiad Cheann-cinnidh Camanachd aig a' Mhòd, chaidh an latha a chur gu dol le Geall-dùhlain Ghlaschu do sgiobaidhean òigridh B7 is fodha. 'S e Caolas Bhòid a rinn an gnothach an aghaidh Gàidheil Ghlaschu, Obar Dobhair agus Rionnagan Phàislig. Bha Oifear Leasachaidh Chomann na Camanachd Roddy Young a' cumail taic.

'S e Sgìre Ghlaschu a thog Geall-dùhlain LearnGaelic an aghaidh sgioba Gàidhlig na h-Alba ann an geam bhoireannach a chunnaic dusan air gach taobh. Bhuannaich Glaschu 3-2 le tadhal bho Seonag NicNeacail agus Eimar Ní Gabhainn, le Annag NicDhòmhnaill agus Ceana Nic an Tòisich a' sgoradh do dh'Alba. 'S e Donna NicCoinnich aig Alba (Camanachd

an Eilein) a choisinn Duais an t-Sàr-chluicheadair Iomain Cholmcille.

Bha naoinear sgòrairean fa leth ann an geam a chrìochnaich 5-4 airson Geall-dùhlain na h-Aghaidh Mhòire ann am farpais nam fear. 'S e Srath Chura - Dùn Omhain a ghlèidh an duais an aghaidh Oilthigh Ghlaschu, agus 17 bliadhna as dèidh dha tadhal a chuir a choisinn Cupa a' Mhòd do Shrath Chura mu dheireadh, fhuair Steaphan MacUilleim Duais an t-Sàr-chluicheadair Iomain Cholmcille.

Mu dheireadh fhuair Uisdean tiodhlacan agus moladh mar a' chiad cheann-cinnidh bho Iomain Cholmcille agus Comataidh Mhòd Phàislig. Bha trì farpais air leth gan cur air dòigh ann an compàirteachas eadar Iomain Cholmcille, Comann na Camanachd, An Comunn Gàidhealach, OneRen agus Comhairle Shiorrachd Rinn Friù. Air ath-chuairteachadh bho Shrath Ghlais, tha seat tadhail a-nis aig Comhairle Shiorrachd Rinn Friù mar dhileab.



There was a splendid day of shinty to open the Royal National Mòd with the Mòd Shinty Cups hosted in Renfrew as part of Mòd Phàislig.

With Dr. Hugh Dan MacLennan as the inaugural Mòd Shinty Chieftain, the day got going with the Glasgow Trophy for P7 and under. It was Kyles Athletic who raised the trophy, fighting off Glasgow Gaels, Aberdour and Paisley Allstars. This section was supported by Roddy Young, Camanachd Association development officer.

It was Glaschu, the Glasgow Area Select, who lifted the LearnGaelic Trophy against Alba, the Gaelic speakers select in a 12 a-side women's game. Joan Nicolson and Eimear Gavan gave Glaschu a 3-2 victory with Annie Macdonald (Ardnamurchan) and Kenna Mackintosh (Inverness) replying for Alba. Alba and

Skye Camanachd's Donna MacKenzie was player of the match.

There were 9 individual scorers in a scintillating Aviemore Trophy match that Strachur-Dunoon won 5-4 v Glasgow University. 17 years after scoring the winning goal to claim the trophy for Strachur, Steven Wilson rolled back the years to win the Iomain Cholmcille player of the match. Finally, Hugh Dan as inaugural chieftain was presented with a range of gifts and tributes from Iomain Cholmcille and the local Mòd committee.

Three excellent competitions were held thanks to excellent partnership between Iomain Cholmcille, the Camanachd Association, An Comunn Gàidhealaach, OneRen and Renfrewshire Council. Recycled from Strathglass, Renfrewshire Council now have a permanent set of goals as a legacy of the event.



THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Camanachd Association would like to thank all those who contributed to the articles and photographs in the production of this 2023 edition of the Shinty Yearbook. Special thanks are extended to Neil G Paterson who provided most of the images for the yearbook.

The bulk of the articles in the Yearbook were written by Aarron Duncan-MacLeod however, the Camanachd Association Staff and Alasdair Bruce are also gratefully thanked for their efforts in its completion.

We also extend our thanks for copy provided by, Andrew Henderson, Katie Drain, Craig Lee Hoult, Karen Williamson, Steven MacKenzie, Cameron Middleton, Dr Hugh Dan MacLennan, Eoghan Stewart and Scottish Student Sport. As

mentioned, Neil Paterson took the bulk of the photographs but thanks must also go to Paul Paterson, Kevin McGlynn, Stephen Lawson, Iain Cochrane, Andrew Sinclair, Graham Bell, Katie Drain, Donald Cameron, Iain Ferguson & Fiona Young who also provided pictures.

The editor's gratitude must also be extended to Cameron Middleton, Steven MacKenzie and Astie Cameron for proofreading the yearbook and to everyone who made 2023 a year worth writing about.

The Shinty Yearbook was edited by Aarron Duncan-MacLeod with the layout being undertaken by our friends at Lateral North.



MOWI AWARDS 2023

The 2023 Mowi Awards took place at Highland Cinema, Fort William in November. The Mowi Awards aim to recognise the extraordinary effort of players, teams, officials and volunteers throughout the 2023 season.



Fair Play Award: Ardnamurchan Camanachd
(Collected by Shona Ritchie & Jacob Green - presented by Dougie Hunter)



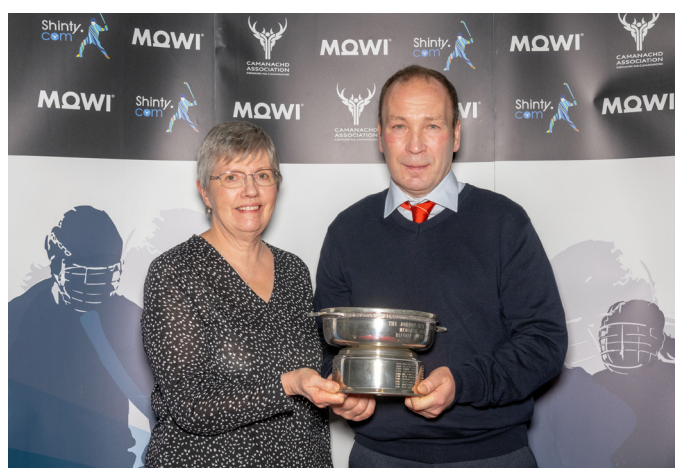
Fair Play Award: Uddingston Shinty Club
(Uddingston Ambassadors - presented by Dougie Hunter)



Fair Play Award: Bute Shinty Club
(Collected by Barry Martin presented by Dougie Hunter)



Emerging Referee of the Year: Jamie MacPherson
(presented by Dougie Hunter)



Referee of the Year: Des McNulty
(Presented by Alison MacRae)



Donella Crawford Award for Youth & Schools:
Graeme Mitchell (Collected by Burton Morrison - presented by Angus Gilmour)



Gary Innes Award: School of The Year - Youth Development:
Tomnacrois (Fiona Urquhart & Roxanne Main)



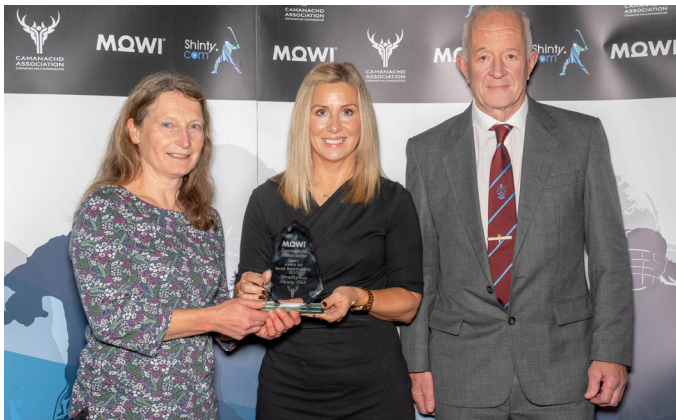
Gary Innes Award: Club of The Year - Youth Development:
Inveraray Shinty Club (Derek Robertson & Andrew McMurdo)



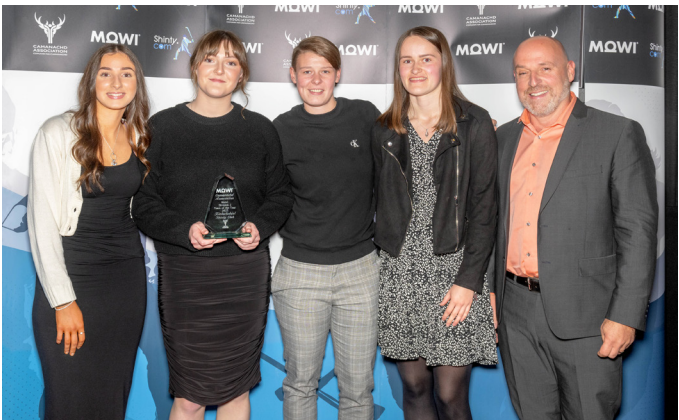
Award for Innovation: Beaulie Shinty Club
(Collected by Aarron Duncan-MacLeod - presented by Jayne MacKay)



Media Award: Norman Strachan
(Collected by John MacKenzie - presented by Jayne MacKay)



Social Responsibility Award: Strathglass Shinty Club
(Collected by Roddie MacLennan & Sheena MacKenzie - presented by Jayne MacKay)



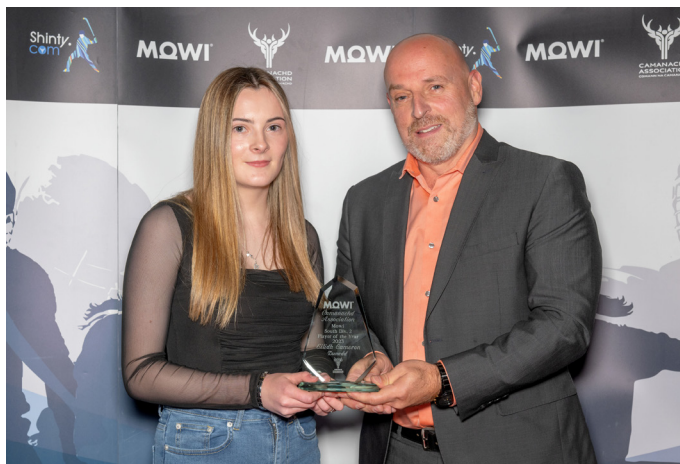
WCA Div 2 Team of the Year: Kinlochshiel Shinty Club
(Maree MacKenzie, Effie MacLean, Lorna MacRae & Alaina MacLennan - presented by Ian Roberts)



WCA National Div Team of the Year: Badenoch
(Collected by Zoe Reid & Rhona Stewart - presented by Ian Roberts)



WCA North Div 2 Player of the Year:
Lorna MacRae, Kinlochshiel (presented by Ian Roberts)



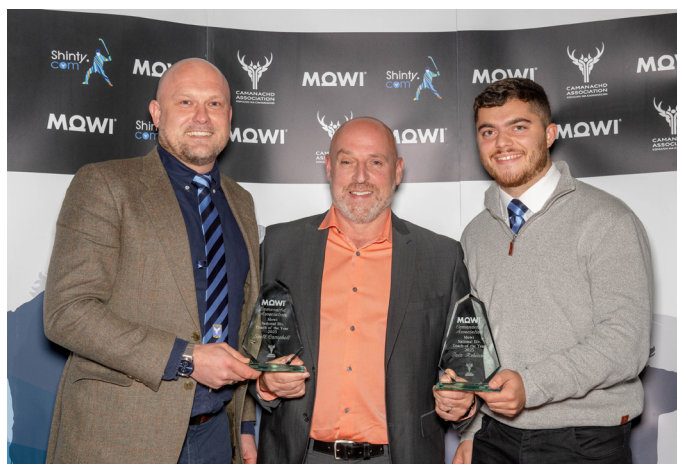
WCA South Div 2 Player of the Year:
Eilidh Cameron, Dunadd (presented by Ian Roberts)



WCA National Div Player of the Year:
Caitlin MacLean, Skye (presented by Ian Roberts)



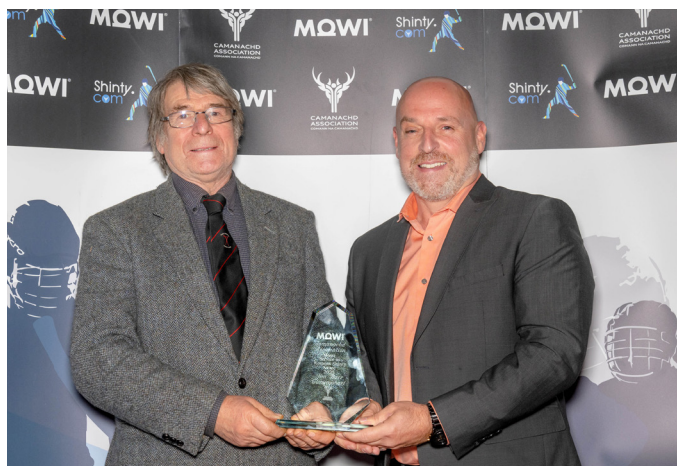
WCA Div 2 Coach of the Year:
Andrew MacKenzie, Kinlochshiel (presented by Ian Roberts)



WCA National Div Coach of the Year:
Scott Campbell & Ian Robinson, Badenoch



WCA Club Development Award: Strathspey Camanachd
(Collected by Fiona & Thea Stronach)



WCA Service to Womens Shinty: Jim Barr, Glenurquhart
(presented by Ian Roberts)



WCA Service to Womens Shinty: Scott Campbell Badenoch
(presented by Ian Roberts)



Volunteer of the Year: Dougie Luke
(Collected by Burton Morrison – presented by Debs MacKenzie)



Mowi Youth Coach of the Year:
Sean MacQuarrie, Newtonmore



Mowi Coach of The Year North Area Leagues:
Duncan MacIntyre, Lewis



Mowi Coach of The Year South Area Leagues:
James Craig, Bute



Mowi Under 14 Player of the Year:
Joe Coyle, Newtonmore (Collected by Norman Campbell)



Mowi Under 17 Player of the Year:
Matthew Sloss, Oban Camanachd



Mowi Player of The Year North Area Leagues:
Glen MacKintosh, Newtonmore



Mowi Player of The Year South Area Leagues:
Ryan Craig, Bute



Community Club of the Year:
Kilmory/Dunadd Shinty Club (Collected by Angus Gilmour)



Mowi Coach of The Year Premiership & National Division:
Ally Ferguson, Lochaber



Mowi Player of The Year Premiership & National Division:
Robert Mabon, Kingussie



DOUBLE DELIGHT FOR THE NORTH...

The North Under-17's and Under-14's defeated their South rivals in two very competitive and close encounters at An-Aird, Fort William on Sunday 1st October. All the teams were well supported on a sunny afternoon in Lochaber where the cream of Scotland's shinty talent was on display. The U-14 Fraser MacPhee Memorial Cup was once again won by the North of Scotland by 8 goals to 1 but the match was a lot closer than the score line suggests. Beaul's Louie MacIennan got the North off to a great start with an early goal, and that was quickly followed by a well taken goal from Jacob Bain. The South responded well and made it 2:1 when a long ball was played into the heart of the North defence, taking a deflection of a North player and found its way into the roof of the net giving Hayden Taylor Ramsay no chance in the North goals.

Caberfeidh's Ali Taylor quickly restored the North 2 goal advance on 29 minutes reacting quicker to a loose ball in the box to flick past the excellent South goalkeeper Mark Hewitt. 5 minutes later the classy Joe Coyle got on the scoresheet with a backhand strike from the edge of the box, to bring the half-time score to 4:1 to the North.

The second half started with the South on the attack driven on by the impressive Zac Menzies but it was the North that got the next goal from the stylish and clinical Louie MacIennan. Further second half goals came from Ali Taylor, Toby Thain and James Coyle bringing the final score to 8-1. Rosemary MacPhee presented the trophy to the winning North captain Jacob who had an excellent game at Full-Centre.

The U-17 match was a classic encounter with both teams giving their all from the first to the last minute. The South took an early lead on 11 minutes through a goal from the impressive Euan Campbell of Oban Celtic. Minutes later the same player forced an excellent save from North Goalkeeper Calum MacMillan. The North responded with a wonderful goal from distance from Shane O'Rua on 25 minutes. With chances at both ends it was the North who took the lead just before half-time through the excellent Shane O'Rua.

The second 40 minutes was played at a frantic pace with play raging from end to end and chances going a begging at both ends. The North got the all-important next goal on 68 minutes and what a goal it was. That man Shane O'Rua received the ball with his back to goal and on the turn his first-time volley found the back of the net. The South responded and Mathew Sloss was unlucky not to find his name on the scoresheet. The last goal of the game was scored by wing-centre Tristen Ross, who got on the end of a cross ball to expertly flick the ball past the South goalkeeper to bring the final score to 4:1 to the North. Credit must go to both sets of players for producing such an enthralling encounter. Rosemary MacPhee presented the cup to the North captain Seonaidh Macleod.

Special thanks to the MacPhee Family for their continued sponsorship of the U14 and U17 Youth representative matches, Fort William Shinty Club for the use of their excellent facilities and the referees and match officials.

DONALD GRANT MBE 1938-2023

It was with great sadness that the world of Shinty, received the news that Donald Grant MBE had passed away on 22nd August, 2023. He was aged 84, and will be missed by everyone.

It was with great sadness that the world of Shinty, received the news that Donald Grant MBE had passed away on 22nd August, 2023. He was aged 84, and will be missed by everyone.

It is not an exaggeration to say that he is the single most significant character in the history of Kingussie Camanachd Club. He led the Kingussie Club for decades, and set standards on and off the pitch that the rest of us can only try and follow. When it came to training techniques and a modern approach to playing shinty, he blazed a trail that no one could match and by the 1980s he had led Kingussie to the top of the sport.

Donnie was brought up at Meadowside near Kincaig and his first shinty success came in 1949 when he was part of Kingussie's Primary School winning MacKay Cup Team. He went on to set records for the number of shinty medals he won at Kingussie High School.

By 1961 he had reached Kingussie First Team and was part of the 1961 Camanachd Cup winning team. He scored a goal in the 2-1 win over Oban Celtic in the final and there is a well recorded photograph of the ball hitting the back of the net as Donnie turns away to celebrate. By 1963 he was captain of Kingussie First Team and again reached a Camanachd Cup Final only to lose to Oban Celtic in Glasgow.

He was an electrician by trade and spent the years from 1969 to 1976 living in Inverness. His attention turned to football where he developed into a fine player with Nairn County playing in the Highland League. In 1976 he returned to live in Kingussie and took on running Kingussie First Team. He set about building the Shinty Club and introduced training techniques that he had learned at Nairn County. He also created a team spirit and insisted on players attending training. His approach was revolutionary for shinty, and success wasn't long in coming. He played until 1984 and over the following years he also held every position at Kingussie Camanachd Club. His shinty knowledge also took him to the position of Scotland International Shinty Manager.

His last match for Kingussie was in the 1984 Grand-Slam year when he played full-back at the age of 45. To end his playing career in a Grand-Slam season was a fitting end to one of the best players to have ever played for the Club. He had everything as a player; the skills, the fitness, the bravery, the technique, the tactics, and he could score goals. Amongst his long list of accomplishments are; holding office as President of Kingussie Camanachd Club and also as President of the Camanachd Association. He was also proud of being awarded in 1994 an MBE in the Queen's honours list.

Donnie married Janice in 1960 and they had three children; Noreen, Ross, and Donald. When he retired from work, he spent some time travelling including a trip to Canada with Janice, where they visited the township of Badenoch near Toronto.



During his retirement Donnie made significant developments locally that are part of his incredible legacy. He started the Kingussie Community Development Company and coordinated the building of the Hydro Scheme on the River Gynack, a sustainable project that continues to provide funding for Kingussie organisations every year.

He also started a Badenoch-wide group called Badenoch Shinty Memories Group, which continues to go from strength to strength. He also spent a number of years as Chairperson of Kingussie & Vicinity Community Council. In 1996, he coordinated the building of the Shinty Clubhouse at the Market Stance, Kingussie.

Camanachd Association Chieftain, John MacKenzie said: "Without doubt Donnie Grant was one of the giants of our game in the second half of the 20th century and his impact on shinty in Kingussie and beyond has not yet been fully acknowledged. Only the passage of time will do that. He was a fantastic player, administrator and leader of men, and this was no more so seen than in how he transformed shinty in many respects with modern ways of coaching and match preparation. He met every challenge he faced with remarkable fortitude and we will miss his twinkling eye at meetings and his sound advice when helping us understand how he was dealing with his health issues. He was a remarkable man in all the areas of life he involved himself with, whether that was professionally before he retired at Holland House the electrical supply company, in shinty as his MBE and a string of other awards testified, and in his work with various community projects locally after he "retired". We will all miss him terribly."





OBITUARIES

Iain Cameron (Glasgow Mid Argyll)

Iain developed his shinty skills in Ballachulish. When he moved to Glasgow in the late 1950's, he teamed up with his brother Duncan playing for GMA. He was recognised as a very skilful and intelligent player but unfortunately his career was curtailed by a serious eye injury. His passion for shinty however was undiminished and he quickly became involved in the administrative side of the game. For the next forty years he was to play significant roles with GMA, the Glasgow Celtic Society and the Camanachd Association. Iain was Chairman of the CA Coaching Committee and was the author of an article which appeared in the 1974-75 Shinty Yearbook, entitled "Coaching - An Investment in the Future" which makes really interesting reading fifty years on. More recently Iain was one of the main drivers of initiatives by the Glasgow Celtic Society which included the introduction of rolling subs, now adopted by the CA as an integral part of our game.

Alan Crawford (Glasgow Mid Argyll)

Alan developed his shinty skills in Strachur but when work took him to Glasgow, he joined GMA. Small in stature he may have been, but he proved to be a very good goal scorer and is well remembered for the decisive 4th goal in the 1973 Camanachd Cup Final, still the only occasion GMA has lifted the Trophy.

Tim Devine (Aberdeen University)

Born in Duniry, Co. Galway, Tim passed away tragically at 34 years. An architecture student at Robert Gordon University, he represented Scotland in the University shinty-hurling International. A formidable wing-back for Aberdeen Uni Camanachd 2012-2014, before graduating to work internationally. A powerful man both on and off the field, A dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

Alice Edgar (Col-Glen)

After a long period in a care home, Alice Edgar sadly passed away on 29th July 2023. Alice was the wife of David and spent many years on the Col-Glen Committee as secretary also running the ever-popular Col-Glen Sixes which were held annually with teams coming from all over Scotland to play. Her whole life was spent fund raising, washing strips and toiling away in the background. It was very much a family affair as her 3 sons played for the team.

David Edgar (Col Glen)

Following 2 years in a care home, David Edgar sadly passed away on 8th February 2023. He was brought up in Tighnabruaich but moved to Colintrave working as a shepherd on a local farm. At this time there was no Col-Glen team and with the support of other interested people they restarted a new Col-Glen team. David was instrumental in introducing shinty into the local primary school. He carried on with this training for many years which helped create the backbone of the adult team.

Donnie Fraser (Beaully)

Beaully Shinty Club Chieftain, Donnie Fraser, sadly passed away on Friday 22nd September 2023 at the age of 87. An accomplished player he was part of the successful Beaully junior teams of the 1950s and was still playing in the MacGillivray Senior League winning team of 1972-73. After hanging up his caman, Donnie went on to establish himself as a well-respected referee, dedicated committee man and was instrumental in Beaully's "Shinty balls from a shinty club" commercial venture.

Johnnie Gillies (Col Glen)

Johnnie along with brothers Peter and Duncan was the youngest of the three brothers born and brought up in the Glen. Johnnie played for and enjoyed success with the Col Glen team for many years, and was a well-known figure within the local Shinty community. Johnnie was buried in Kilmodan cemetery along with his wife Lexie who passed away in Feb 1999. Johnnie was also a well-known member of the local Farming community spending over 30 years as manager at Otter Estate in Kilfinan.

Malcolm Grant (Ballachulish)

Malcolm served the club all his life starting in the primary team and moving to the senior team in the mid 70's where he was a regular for over 30 years. He also served as Captain, Manager, Youth Coach, Committee Member and latterly Malcolm would uplift the half time collection at the Jubilee. Perhaps Malcolm's greatest achievement was captaining the team in the 1980-81 season when the Club won the Bullough Cup and the Munro Shield.

John Alick MacColl (Beaully)

Former referee and member of the well-known MacColl shinty family, Beaully Shinty Club were saddened to hear the loss of John Alex MacColl, aged 90 years, on 7th April 2023. He is survived by his wife Jean, and sons John and Ewen. Both surviving boys, along with their brother, the late Hamish, all donned the green-and-white for the club.

Alastair MacIntyre (Kilmallie)

Alastair was known to almost everyone throughout the Scottish shinty community. A Kilmallie man through and through, amongst many other things, he was goal-keeper in the 1964 Kilmallie team that won the Camanachd cup beating Inverary by 4 goals to 1 at the old King George V field in Port William (a stone throw away from St Mary's as it happens). He went on to serve the wider shinty world as the first actual employee of the Camanachd Association in the role of secretary and then executive officer of the Association until his retirement in 2003.

Jetta MacKay (Beaully)

In what has been a difficult year for Beaully Shinty Club the club were saddened to hear of the passing of Jetta MacKay in her 100th year on 8th August 2023. From a well-known shinty family she was the wife of former Beaully President, the late Peter MacKay, and survived by her children Anne, Joan and David (Davie the Coalman).

Calum MacKintosh (Kingussie)

Calum MacKintosh was born in March 2004 and attended Carrbridge Primary School and Grantown Grammar School. His mum Ann is a teacher at Grantown Grammar and his dad Iain a teacher at Kingussie High School. Cal's determination and character shone through in all parts of his life. He joined Kingussie Camanachd Club as an under-14 player and progressed to being a regular First Team player during the 2023 season. The highlight of his playing career was winning the Camanachd Cup in September 2023. He passed away on 18th November 2023 aged 19. His tragic death rocked the entire Badenoch & Strathspey community.

Martin "Toad" MacLean (Beaully)

Shinty will be the poorer with the passing of former Beaully and Lochbroom player Martin "Toad" MacLean on 30th September 2023 at the age of 60. Father to current Beaully players Scott, Marci and Finlay and their siblings Louise, Morgan and Joe. A well-known and popular referee he officiated at the 2023 MacTavish Cup Final. A man with many strings to his bow he was a respected joiner on building sites across the North and was well known in shooting and freemasonry circles.

Kirsteen MacLennan (nee Menzies) (Beaully)

Beaully Shinty Club lost another dedicated supporter when Kirsteen MacLennan passed away on 6th October 2023 at the age of 49. The wife of former stalwart, Jamie "Stork" MacLennan, and mother to current players, Finlay "Stork" and Hector, Kirsteen was a vocal presence on the touchline. She was a talented singer in her own right, winning the silver pendant and later the gold medal at the Royal National Mod, and was also a significant figure in the world of Gaelic choral music.

Stevie "Toast" McIntosh (Beaully)

Former player and Braeview Park regular Stevie "Toast" McIntosh will be sorely missed on the Beaully sideline after passing away on 25th August 2023 at the age of 55. Although he donned the green and white for the Beaully second team Stevie's real talents lay on the golf course where he was a well-known figure on the amateur circuit.

Charlie Nielson (Aberdour)

Charlie performed an integral role in the development of women's shinty, memorably coaching Aberdour Shinty Club to victory in the 2012 Valerie Fraser Women's Camanachd Cup final. A tremendously motivated and enthusiastic character, his passion for shinty shone through in every team he took with his 100% commitment and dedication. When Charlie was on the touchline, you knew – and if you listen carefully, you'll still hear him now.



CENTENARY AWARD



The Mowi Centenary Award was 1st awarded in 1993 to mark the Centenary of the Camanachd Association. It was to be awarded to a person who had given outstanding service to the sport.

The latest winner is someone who has devoted a huge amount of time to shinty over a number of years both professionally and in a voluntary capacity.

Known to many simply as “the voice of shinty” Dr Hugh Dan MacLennan has, over an illustrious career, become an authority on Scotland’s community sport. 2023 marks the end of his commentary career as he decided to hang up his microphone after 40 years.

Hugh Dan has helped the Camanachd Association in a number of unofficial ways for many years, however, he also spent time as a Director and Vice President of the organisation. More recently, he has devoted more of his time by sitting on the CA’s Heritage Committee - working to develop Shinty’s Story at soon to be renovated Bught Park.

In addition to his literature on the sport (see Shinty! & ‘Not an Orchid’) Hugh Dan has been extremely generous with his time and knowledge whenever the Association was in need. Hugh Dan becomes the eleventh recipient of the Mowi Centenary Award and a very deserving one:

PREVIOUS WINNERS

1993 - 1996	Tom MacKenzie , Inverness
1996 - 1999	Jack Richmond , Newtonmore
1999 - 2002	Jack Asher , Glasgow
2002 - 2005	Douglas MacKintosh , Newtonmore
2005 - 2008	Mary-Ann Henton , Lovat
2008 - 2011	Donnie MacNiven , Glasgow
2011 - 2014	Willie MacDonald , Ballachulish
2014 - 2017	Davie Hamilton , Oban
2017 - 2020	Donald Skinner , Glasgow
2020 - 2023	Ian MacPhee , Ballachulish

SHINTY WORLD ESSAY COMPETITION BRINGS THE BEST OUT OF YOUNG AUTHORS

Alan MacPherson of Tanera Camans & Shinty World ran a Primary School essay competition in Autumn 2023 with participants asked to write A brief history on your school and school shinty team plus an essay on which could be about: A significant his orical story of shinty in their local area; a lifetime achievement of a shinty great; A significant un old story of shinty; Shinty in the eyes of a lifelong volunteer. There was an outstanding response and we are delighted to carry the 1st 2nd and 3rd place entries in the 2023 Shinty Yearbook.

The winning schools also received equipment from Shinty World including Tanera Camans and Play shinty balls!

1st Place - Maura Mackenzie: (Lochcarron Primary)

My name is Maura Mackenzie. I am in Primary 7 in Lochcarron Primary School. I am writing this essay on behalf of Lochcarron School /Lochcarron Camanachd. I have asked people in the village for information about the School/Club and have interviewed my Papa Tommy "Jeck" Mackenzie, my uncle Kenny"Jeck" Mackenzie, Roddy "Butcher" MacIennan, Simon Mackenzie, my Dad Ian "Jeck" Mackenzie, Kenny "Duffy" Murray, Kenny Ross, Peter Mackenzie and my brother Owen. Thank you to them for helping me. Thankyou also to Mrs Cathy Ross, ex Headteacher in Lochcarron Primary, for her help with some stories from her school shinty days.

Lochcarron Primary School was built in 1876. It had 170 pupils. This school was replaced in 1937 by the school that i go to today. Shinty was played in school a lot after the club was founded. Sport is a very important part of the school. Mrs Cathy Ross, who was Headteacher for many years, was a great encouragement to any child who wished to take part in sports. Shinty was one of these sports. Lochcarron Primary School has always been very proud of their sporting achievements. In 1992/1993 they did themselves proud winning no less than 7 sporting trophies - including shinty trophies.The Club and school continue to work together to make sure we always have shinty teams representing Lochcarron Primary School.



Peter Mackenzie with the 7 sports trophies won ny Lochcarron Primary in 1992/93.

Peter continues to play and support Lochcarron Camanachd today. Lochcarron Camanachd was established in 1883 and is one of the oldest clubs in the West Highlands. There is not much information to be found about the fi st teams and games that were played after Club was formed. However after the 1st World War a much more organised team was formed. One of the founding members was my Great Grandfather Alasdair"Jeck" Mackenzie who was only 19 years of age. His shinty career was interrupted by the 2nd World War but he continued to play and eventually hung up his boots in 1947.

When the club was formed they played their games at Kelso or Tullich, depending on what field as available for that season. The boys in the village would practice in school during the day. In the evening they would practice on the grass at the west end of the village opposite Meadowbank Cottage (there is now a house on the land). The team moved to the Battery Park as this area had been designated for the shinty pitch. When this area was being extended the club played over in Attadale. All the players started playing shinty in Primary School and one of their favourite competitions was the Strathpeffer 6s which our school still plays in every year.

There have been a number of coaches over the years. Willie "Wad" Mackenzie, Donald MacIennan, Alick "Dash" Mackenzie,



Duncan MacIennan, Charlie Stewart, Tilly, Kenny "Jeck" Mackenzie, Mrs Cathy Ross, David "Ham" Mackenzie, Alasdair "Gaitor" Mackenzie, Fraser Mackenzie, Bob Munro, Anne MacCuish, Laura Mackay, Ian "Jeck" Mackenzie, Peter Mackenzie, Lachlan Dean Morrice and Crisdean Finlayson to name but a few.

In the early years there was not much organised training. Boys just practised on the grass and were told by a Wednesday if they were in the team for Saturday. Over the years this has changed to a more structured training session doing fitness and games.

The club has always played in blue and white strips. Blue top, white shorts and blue socks. Players used to take home their own strips to clean but over the years this has changed and we now send them to Lynda at the laundrette each week. In the early years the players made their own sticks using birch, ash and holly. They had to make sure the stick had a curve in it. In 1958 sticks were sold in MacPhersons Store in Inverness for 33 shillings which is about £3.30 and a shinty ball cost 15 shillings or £1.50. Many players used John Sloggie sticks over the years. Nowadays Tanera Camans are the main sticks used along with Mead Camans.

Over the years most of players, 90%/95% were from Lochcarron although some boys from Skye played for Lochcarron before they had a team of their own. Today around 70% players are from Lochcarron. Players have joined us from Lochbroom which disbanded and we have players playing for us from Strathpeffer and Skye. These players have helped us keep our team going through difficult time

The team played in the Junior League until the early 70s when they then entered the Senior League. Over the years there have been highs and lows. From 1927 the team went undefeated for 5 years. The teams played for the Harrow, Conchra, Skeabost and Strathdearn Cups. The Strathdearn is still played for today. Lochcarron won this Cup in 2016 beating Glenurquhart 4-1 in the final. After years of playing in the top leagues the team has dropped down to the lower leagues to try and regroup and keep our Club running. We live in a small village and we depend on people from the village to keep playing or those who leave to travel home every week to play. Its not always easy to get a team out every week. But we will keep going.

During my interviews I asked about the highs and lows in their shinty careers. The highs for Tommy/Kenny were drawing 6-6 with Newtonmore. Newtonmore were the top team in shinty at the time and were winning leagues and all cups! Simon Mackenzie recalls scoring a goal in the Strathdearn Cup Final which Lochcarron won. Ian Jecks highs were playing for Scotland, selected as Scottish Player of the Year and captaining the team when they won league and cup double. Peter Mackenzie highs were playing for Scotland and promotion to the Premier League. Both Ian and Peter have special memories of playing for Scotland in Croke Park, Ian remembers the atmosphere playing in front of 80,000 fans. Kenny Ross felt privileged to captain a winning Balliemore Cup team. He also took great pride in the team coming up from Division 3 all the way up to the Premier League. Roddy "Butcher" MacIennan was playing for Scotland. Kenny Murray loved representing his village by playing the best sport about. Roddy, Kenny (Duff) and Ian all have special memories of watching their sons play and playing on the pitch with them. Owen's special moment is playing for Lochcarron seniors alongside his Dad.

Everyone thought the changes over the years have been good. Substitutions are a good thing, shinguards and helmets and attitudes to training are all for the better. The introduction of girls/ladies shinty has been the biggest change and one of the best. Lochcarron would love to have their own ladies team one day. We run an all girls competition every year involving all the primary schools in the area and we play for the Dewar Shield. It is a very popular competition.

Lochcarron has had many families involved since shinty began here. We have the Mackay "Burrens" - Daniel Mackay plays in our present team, the Mackenzies "Jecks" - Ian, Owen, Maura and Connie all playing today, the Stewarts - Matthew Young playing for GMA today. We also have Sam Stubbs and Laura Mackay (Burrens) and Lexie & Poppy Mackenzie (Jecks) playing for other clubs.

My last question was who they thought was the best player ever in Lochcarron. Lots of names - Murdo "Burren" Mackay, Willie "Dula" Mackenzie, Ronnie Ross, Alan "Ham" Mackenzie, Kenny Ross, Ian "Jeck" Mackenzie, Chris "Russell" Mackenzie, Andrew Slaughter, Gordy Mackay, David "Ham" Mackenzie, Darren Coyle and for his years of playing and is still playing now Gregor Cushnie. But the name that kept coming up was Calum "Jacky" Mackenzie pictured below.

Calum "Jacky" Mackenzie (right) possibly Lochcarron's best ever player..

I have included some photos of our past and present teams and photos I have taken of medals and camans belonging to my Papa Tommy and Roddy "Butcher". Also two funny stories from Roddy "Butcher". Thankyou to everyone who helped me get information to write this essay. I have enjoyed finding out about my Club and hearing lots of stories. Hope you enjoy reading it.





Lohcarron Shinty Team 1971

Back L-R: Jimmy Cushnie, Willie Mackenzie (Dula), Roddy MacIennan (Butcher), Calum Mackenzie (Jacky), Keny Mackenzie (Jeck), Hughie Matheson, Alasdair Mackenzie (Ham) Front Row L-R: Monty Maclean (Livet), Kennack Cameron, Tommy Mackenzie (Jeck), Kenny MacAskill, Iain Matheson, Ronnie Ross



Some of our future shinty stars
Nan MacRae Cup Winners 2023 - Lochcarron Primary School

In 1970, in the Dewar Cup Final , Lochcarron v Lovat, the score was 3-3 with 1 minute to go. Sandy Ham broke through for a certain goal. He was brought down in a heap and a penalty was duly awarded. I can still see Jerry MacIennan, the Lovat fullback, pleading his innocence, stick in one hand and 6" strip of Sandy's jersey in the other. Justice was done, Sandy scored and the game was won!

The Day we lost our Pudding

Our Lochcarron school sporting days consisted of two shinty teams being picked every Monday morning and these teams would play each other for the week. Every interval and after school the marathon game would continue. The score on Friday was sometimes 40-34, like cricket!

Calam Jackie scored a cracker of a goal one day and the ball continued through the canteen window and landed with some glass smack in the centre of a bowl of Annak's (the cook's) freshly made custard.

The game continued after much ado but the custard was abandoned!

Roddy 'Butcher'



Collection of medals from Tommy "Jeck" Mackenzie (my Papa)



The present Lochcarron Team
Lochcarron Camanachd - North Division Winners 2023

2nd Place – Ellie Mae: (St Columba's Primary)

History of St Columba's Primary School

St Columba's Primary School originally opened on the 27th August 1946. St Columba's later moved to Oban Primary Campus alongside Rockfield Primary School. The current car park used to house old St Columba's Primary School. The schools have separate teaching areas but share a gym hall, multi-use dining hall, administration office and playground. The school currently has a roll of 180 pupils from primary 1-7. There are currently 23 staff including additional support assistants, classroom assistants and clerical assistants. The school is a Roman Catholic school and serves the catholic population of Oban and beyond there is also many other faiths in our school.

History of St Columba's Primary School Shinty Team

St Columba's Shinty Club was formed in 1981/1982 after some pupils most notably, Donald MacVicar "moons" asked the school secretary Mrs Cameron to start a shinty team. The Oban Celtic manager Duncan (who was Mrs Cameron's Husband) came on board. St Columba's Shinty team was successful in the 80s 90s and 00s and won multiple Mackay cups, national and local six aside tournaments along the way.

The team stopped for a couple of years, and at the end of the 90s was restarted in 2000 by Andrew MacMillan and Alec MacVicar (a former pupil) Alec and Andy coached the team for 14 years until the School lost the team again for a few years until its current resurgence.

Towards the end/middle to the end of Alec and Andy running the team, St Columba's also won a few girls tournaments. The school produced many top Shinty players who competed and then followed on to win all of the top prizes and Shinty. Many players both male and female have also represented Scotland at youth and senior levels.

1996 Camanachd Cup Final

Are you interested in Shinty? What is Shinty? Where did it start? Well, I'm about to tell you. Shinty is a team sport. Played with a stick and a ball and it started developing as a sport in Scotland. These competitive matches used to take place on special festival days such as New Year's Day or Christmas Day. At that time there were no written rules. Living in Oban Argyle Shinty is a very well-known sport and there are 3 Shinty teams in Oban like: Oban Camanachd Shinty club, Celtic Oban Shinty club and Saint Columba's Shinty club. Looking at historical events, the Oban Scottish cup final 1996 is a good and well known one. The Oban Camanachd Shinty team have only won it three times in 100 years.

Shinty has brought more people together in our community because people that don't usually go to games or watch sport watch the Shinty. Shinty is very important to the community and Scotland because it first started here and it is especially popular in the Scottish Highlands.

On the day, they were ready but nervous when they arrived they got off the bus and walked into the stadium they got ready – strips, studded shoes and put their game faces on.

They made their way onto the pitch extremely nervous, but they knew they were ready. All around them were filled chairs, big scoreboard, everyone cheering they knew this was going to be an intense game.

The game had started the ref blew the whistle and they all raced across the pitch to get an early lead with many chances to score. Kingussie had the early lead. Within only 30 minutes, Ronald Ross and Ally Borthwick had made it 2-0 to Kingussie. The nerves were bouncing up and down, round and round, side to side in the manager's stomach, he was nervous! But on the other hand, the players weren't nervous at all, they were ready to win.

Everyone was excited when whoosh, that was a goal to them then minutes later another goal it was 2-2, the atmosphere was – intense, hopeful, anxious and excited!

Then the AMAZING!!! last goal was scored with teamwork from Dougie MacIntyre he managed to collect the ball in the midfield. Then passed it to David Maccuish, who did a great pass to Gavin Blainey. Gavin finally passed it to Gordon MacIntyre (who is Robert MacIntyre's uncle) he then fired the ball home. It was truly amazing! Only seven weeks before he had lost an eye in a match.

Kingussie tried hard to beat them but the ref blew the whistle and Camanachd were crowned the champions. Now they had their win in the bag, the Camanachd team joined Kingussie boys for a final reception at Inverness townhouse before getting on the bus to go back. A minute before midnight, all the supporters, fans and pipe band congratulated them when they were at the bealach riagh.



3rd Place – Callum: (Tighnabruaich Primary) **My Dad is Coach P (James Perlich)**

My Dad started coaching Kyles in 2005. It will be 19 years this summer.

Coach P isn't a shinty player and has never claimed to be. This is what makes his story so unique and interesting. Coach P was a professional rugby player at the age of 18. Playing for Edinburgh Rievers and then Newcastle Falcons at U21 level. Coach P also represented Scotland at Under 18, 19 and 21 levels. Coach P's coaching background was in high performance fitness training and player performance. Norman Macdonald, Coach P's best friend was the Kyles 1st Team Manager in 2005 and asked Coach P to help with some fitness training for the squad. That's where it all started for him, and he's been helping the players and teams of Kyles do their best since.

Coach P took training every Monday and Wednesday for the Kyles Seniors and Juniors from 2005 until 2018. During this time, he also helped coach the team alongside Norman Macdonald, the Kyles 1st Team Manager. He also drove the team bus to all the away games. He has lots of stories which he says I can't repeat. The team named the bus 'White Gold' and it was great craic going to and from games.

Between Coach P and Norman, they won several major trophies. Including 1 Scottish Cup (reached 4 finals and 3 runs up), 3 Macaulay Cups, 8 Celtic Cups, The Balliemore Cup and National Coaches of the Year in 2012. Coach P won National Coach of the year again in 2017.

Coach P took the position of 1st Team manager in 2017 where he famously beat Newtonmore 7-4 in the Macaulay Final in Oban, Mossfield Park. Coach P's favourite playing ground. Coach P has also been involved with all Scotland representative teams, including the Scotland Senior men's and woman's teams.

Coach P now takes the Kyles youth. Coaching P1 – S6 kids who play for Kyles. The kids are doing well and have won quite a few competitions. These include the South of Scotland 6's, Dalmally 6's, the Shinty World Cup, the MOD cup, indoor primary national finals, under 14's national finals and the Camanachd Association National Primary School Cup Final in 2023 with our under 12 squad.

Coach P does NOT like losing and believes winning is very important. Even when Kyles win you'll find Coach P not that happy.... He's just always looking to the next game or training session and thinking how they can get better after their last performance. Coach P is my Dad and I'm very lucky he's involved in my shinty growing up in Tighnabruaich and playing for Kyles Athletic. Hopefully I can also win lots of trophies when I play for the Kyles 1st team.

I am very proud coach P is my dad.

SPORT FOR LIFE

Our vision is an active Scotland where everyone benefits from sport.

In an active Scotland we will all find ways to be physically active every day. Keeping moving at home and at work. Taking an active approach to getting around. Choosing to be active in our leisure time.

An active Scotland is one where people are encouraged to take part in sport at all levels, meeting fewer barriers and feeling more included.

sportforlife.org.uk

#SportForLife

