



Minutes of the 2024 Camanachd Association Annual General Meeting 7.30pm, Friday 29th November Hybrid – In-Person & Online

1. Opening Address and Welcome

President, Burton Morrison, welcomed everyone to the AGM and thanked all for attending in person and online. The President highlights the need to record the meeting for purposes of minute taking. There were no objections to this.

The President introduced the Top Table and other Board Members present:

Richard Gall (Vice Chieftain), Ruari Davidson (CEO), Burton Morrison (President), Lynsey Bradley (Director), John MacKenzie (Chieftain), Willie MacDonald, Roddy McCuish, John MacRitchie and Kevin Thain.

a. Roll call and appointment of Tellers

The President announced appointment of Tellers of CA staff:

- Astie Cameron & Will Cowie (In-House Tellers)
- Aarron MacLeod (Online Voting)
- Katie Drain (Online Chat and Discussion on Microsoft Teams)
- Alaina MacLennan (Recording Minutes)
- Vega Hui Ouyang (In-House Microphone)

The President thanked the CA staff for their hard work and efforts throughout the year.

b. Noted Attendance & Absences

The President noted apologies received from Board Director Graeme MacDiarmid.

The President asked the room if there were any more apologies: Astie Cameron mentioned apologies for Ronald Ross (National Development Manager) and David MacMaster.

Astie Cameron completed the Roll Call.

Voting Strength: 33 (14 in person, 11 Online, 8 Proxy)

Astie Cameron noted that Special Resolutions needed 75% approval **(25)**.

c. Bereavements

- **David Mitchell**, Edinburgh Tayforth, Camanachd Referees

- **Ewen Cameron**, Glengarry Shinty Club
- **Derek Fraser**, Kilmallie Shinty Club
- **Murdo Macdonald**, Fort William Shinty Club, Camanachd Referee
- **Mrs MacRae**, Achmore, Newtonmore Shinty Club
- **Willie Walker**, Glengarry Shinty Club
- **June Pearson**, Oban Celtic
- **Hugh MacMaster**, Tayforth and Kilmallie
- **Donald Kennedy**, Newtonmore Shinty Club
- **John Boyd**, Oban Camanachd, Glasgow Mid Argyll, Glasgow Celtic Society
- **Stuart Anderson**, Newtonmore Shinty Club
- **Fergie MacDonald** MBE, Acharacle
- **Anne Mary Wharton** (Nee Paterson), Beaully Shinty Club
- **Don MacVicar** Snr, Oban
- **Iain MacLean**, Strathglass, Beaully, Newtonmore
- **Christopher Surtees**, Glenurquhart Shinty Club
- **Donald “Pussy” MacDonald**, Caberfeidh Shinty Club
- **Ian “Sparrow” MacDonald**, Caberfeidh Shinty Club
- **Andy Davidson**, Caberfeidh and Beaully
- **Sheila Fraser**, Newtonmore Shinty Club
- **Donald (Dodo) MacDonald**, Caberfeidh Shinty Club
- **Mary MacDonald** (Mary Drum), Kyles Athletic
- **Finlay MacRae**, Lovat Shinty Club
- **Douglas Reid**, Kilmorack
- **Ross Cowie**, Skye Camanachd
- **Ruaridh MacKay**, Inverness Shinty Club
- **John Andrews**, Lochaber Shinty Club
- **Alan MacKinnon**, Lovat Shinty Club
- **Dorothy MacPherson**, Strontian

The President asked if there was anyone else to add. None were added.

The President acknowledged the passing of many shinty stalwarts since the 2023 Annual General Meeting that all contributed to shinty over the years.

2. Approval of the Minutes of 2022 AGM

The Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting were circulated in advance to the clubs and associations and the President asked for any amendments. There were no amendments, therefore the President asked for the minutes to be adopted.

Proposed: Steven MacKenzie (Beaully)

Seconded: Davie Hamilton (Oban Celtic)

a. Matters Arising

No Matters Arising from the 2023 Annual General Meeting.

3. Reports (For Information)

a. Summary of the 2023 Annual Report

The Summary of the 2023 Annual Report was circulated in advance of the AGM to all clubs and associations. The President asked if there were any questions or matters arising. There were no questions in-house or online.

b. Helmets

The President passed over to Ruari Davidson (CEO). Ruari highlighted the importance of helmets and provided an overview of the helmet proposal.

Proposal 1: *All players must wear a compliant helmet in training and games from 2027.*

Ruari provided clarification on the proposal that it only applies to the mandatory wearing of helmets (the shell), rather than faceguards.

Ruari highlighted the Camanachd Associations duty of care to ensure that player welfare is of the highest standard, so that everyone can participate in shinty as safely as possible. He noted that through this rule change, the Association, clubs and members can move towards the mandatory wearing of compliant helmets and faceguards by 2030.

The President then further noted the importance of wearing helmets and that this proposal provides a logical and suitable step for the Camanachd Association in ensuring that there is full compliance of helmet and faceguard wearing by 2030.

The President acknowledged the views of players that have come through their shinty careers without wearing helmets and noted the concerns from clubs, of losing players prematurely. He highlighted that this proposal is a sensible and pragmatic step in ensuring the safety of players and addressed the responsibility that the Camanachd Association and clubs have for all players. In addition, he noted that this proposal will provide players with two full seasons to get used to playing with a compliant helmet within training and games.

The President asked if there were any questions. No questions arising in person or online.

Vote

	In Favour
In-House	13
Proxy	5
Online	6
Total	24

24 – Vote does not Pass, did not meet resolution.

4. Byelaws Report

Astie Cameron gave a comprehensive Byelaw Report.

The Change to Byelaw 1.4.4 was agreed at the 2023 AGM.

The other Byelaws were agreed by the Board of Directors and these changes were confirmed to all clubs prior to the commencement of the 2024 season.

Byelaw 1.4.4 Players Equipment – Helmets – Amendment Approved at 2023 AGM.

Any person under the age of 25 in/or training for Camanachd Association competitions must wear a compliant helmet and faceguard.

Subsequent to the 2023 AGM a Postal Vote was held regarding the Faceguard on the Bauer IMS 5.0 Helmet which was approved.

Byelaw 3.5.3 Scheduled Cup Fixtures –

Clarification on failure to play a cup scheduled fixture, the tie is awarded to the team not responsible for the failure.

Byelaw 3.8.1 Cup Competitions – Semi Finals –

Clarification on venue for first named team as decided by the competition draw, with exception of National Competitions.

Byelaw 3.8.1 Cup Competitions – Extra Time –

Clarification that extra time is of 30 minutes duration.

Byelaw 3.10.1. c) National Cup Competitions – The Sir William Sutherland Cup –

Clarification that a player is ineligible to play if he/she has played five or more first team matches in the Premiership or National Divisions; or five or more matches for a first team or single team in North Division 1 or South Division 1. A player under the age of 17 on the 1st January of the year of competition will be exempt from this rule.

Byelaw 3.10.2. a) Area Cup Competitions – Glasgow Celtic Society Cup –

The competition shall be conducted on the basis of an open draw throughout, with draws for all the rounds up to the final being made prior to the start of the season, unless agreed otherwise by the Glasgow Celtic Society and the Chief Executive Officer.

Byelaw 3.10.2. b) Area Cup Competitions – The MacTavish Cup –

The competition shall be conducted on the basis of an open draw throughout, with draws for all the rounds up to the final being made prior to the start of the season, unless otherwise agreed by the Chief Executive Officer.

Byelaw 3.10.2. c) Area Cup Competitions – Bullough Cup –

Brought in line with the Eligibility of the Sir William Sutherland Cup.

Byelaw 3.10.2. d) Area Cup Competitions – Strathdearn Cup –

Brought in line with the Eligibility of the Sir William Sutherland Cup.

5. Annual Subscriptions, Registration Fees and Levies for 2025:

The President highlighted that there are no changes to the Membership Fees, Competitions Entry Fees, Club Insurance Fees, Player Transfer Fees or Referee Match Fees. A vote was conducted to accept the proposal of no change to fees.

Vote

	In Favour
In-House	14
Proxy	7
Online	8
Total	29

29 – Vote Carried

6. Independent Financial Examiner

The President noted that it was intended to put the Independent Financial Examiner out to tender, however, over the course of the year the opportunity passed. The Camanachd Association have asked Azets to continue for a further year as Independent Financial Examiner and at the next AGM an Independent Financial Examiner would need to be reappointed.

7. Annual Accounts

The President advised that Alister MacKinnon, Finance Director was unable to be with us but was going to join the meeting online, unfortunately the connection failed.

8. Election of Directors

The President explained that Alan Clark and Lyndsay Bradley are stepping down as Board Directors. The President provided a background on the election of directors and explained that under the Articles of Association, eight directors can be elected, one of whom can be coopted by Board throughout the course of the year.

The President formally noted the Camanachd Associations appreciation to Alan Clark's considerable contribution as Board Director over the course of the year. The President also noted that this AGM formally marks the end of Lyndsay Bradleys second term as Director and therefore is obliged to step down.

There are two vacancies of Directors, however the president noted that no new applicants came forward. Alister MacKinnon was co-opted onto Board as Financial Director this past year and the Camanachd Association would like to elect him as Finance Director as per the Articles of Association.

The President formally addressed the clubs to encourage any member within the Association, who would be willing and prepared to devote their time to support the administration of shinty to approach the President, CEO or any member of Board.

Vote – Alister MacKinnon

	In Favour
In-House	14
Proxy	7
Online	9
Total	30

30– Vote Carried

9. Appointment of Members of Honour and Honorary Patrons

There are no proposed Members of Honour and Honorary Patrons for consideration this year.

10. Date of next Annual General Meeting

The President confirmed that the next AGM could be held any day in the last week of November 2025 but would most likely be Friday 28th November 2025. The Board would confirm in due course.

11. Annual Accounts

The President handed over to Alister MacKinnon (Finance Director) to provide a report on the Annual Accounts ending 31st December 2023. He noted that the 2023 Finance Report had been circulated to all clubs prior to the AGM.

Alister highlighted that the Camanachd Association was in a healthy position, with retained earnings carried forward (after tax) of £264.732.

He noted that for this current year, this trend is continuing.

He continued to thank and highlighted how grateful the Camanachd Association board are to all Staff and the Finance Committee for their continued efforts and work to develop and finance shinty.

Alister also formally thanked Daniel Palombo (Previous Finance Director) for his support and work on preparing the accounts.

Alister highlighted the increase in income and expenditure in relation to the USA Camp and development costs. He noted that for future, prior to camps being held, the finance committee would sit down with staff to work out costs in relation to VAT and other expenditure aspects.

He concluded his report and ask for any questions. No questions were raised.

12. Closing

The President gave thanks to Lyndsay Bradley for her outstanding contribution to the Camanachd Association over the last six years and asked John MacKenzie (Chieftain) to make a presentation showing our token of thanks.

The President Formally closed the AGM and thanks everyone for attending.

13. Plenary Session

New CEO, Ruari Davidson, opened the plenary session with an introduction to himself and highlighted his plans, approach and aspirations within his new role.

The CEO then lead an open discussion from the room and online. Some examples from the discussion are:

- Steven MacKenzie (Past President & Chair of Heritage Committee) and Aarron MacLeod provided a detailed update on the funding for the Shinty Stories Project. It is requested that all clubs engage with the shinty Stories so all clubs can be represented within the exhibition.
- Iain MacLean (Caberfeidh) – asked what measures the Camanachd Association are going to put into place regarding Referee Emergency Contacts.
- Andy Watt (Inverary) – asked what early response and prevention the Camanachd Association are going to put in place in relation to Referee health.
- Russell Jones (Kingussie) – Commented that all fixtures should be fulfilled, especially in premiership to respect sponsorship.
- Bruno Berardelli (Lochaber) – asked if a summer break within the season could be considered.
- Russell Jones (Kingussie) – Suggestion to have a band on the Camanachd Cup Trophy Replica to show the previous history of the competition.

The President closed the meeting.