BALLIEMORE CUP FINAL 2026



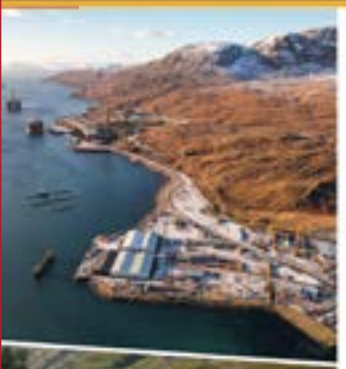
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President's Welcome

On behalf of the Camanachd Association, I would like to extend to you all a warm welcome to the Ferguson Transport and Shipping Balliemore Cup Final, the National Intermediate Championship. Once again we are very grateful to the title sponsors, under Group Managing Director, Ally Ferguson, for the support they continue to give to shinty, and this competition in particular.

Today's finalists, Lovat and Kilmallie bring a very long history of competitive shinty to the game with both clubs enjoying periods of success at the highest level throughout their existence. Lovat are appearing in this particular final for the first time whilst Kilmallie lifted the trophy as recently as 2018. Both teams have a mixture of experienced players and promising youngsters in their line-ups and play a similar style of shinty. If both teams can reach the levels of shinty they are capable of playing at, spectators can look forward to a thrilling encounter, witnessing a display of fast open shinty with good caman skills interspersed with physical challenges, played in a competitive but disciplined manner.

Again, the Association is grateful to Lochaber Camanachd Club for hosting this final, and to all the volunteers who assisted in the preparation of the pitch and the facilities. Spean Bridge has witnessed many great shinty occasions over the years and we hope that today's match will follow that tradition.

I would like to extend my best wishes to both teams, and also to match referee Alec MacVicar and his team of officials, as we look forward to an exciting encounter which demonstrates all that is good in shinty.

Burton Morrison
President Camanachd Association / Ceann-suidhe, Comann na Camanachd

Sponsor's Welcome



Ferguson Transport & Shipping is an integrated logistics company supplying to local, national, and international companies in the aquaculture, forestry, aluminium, energy, and renewables sectors. We welcome everyone to today's Balliemore Cup final.

Shinty is played in all the areas throughout Scotland where we supply our services and employ a good number of our 150 staff, in particular the Highlands and Islands. Our distribution network is throughout the UK but invariably starts and finishes in the Highlands.

Today's game is between local team Kilmallie Shinty Club and one of the north's very successful teams in recent years; Lovat Shinty Club where they have contested many Camanachd Cup finals. Both teams are in transition, and we expect an extremely competitive match where everything will be left out on the field of play.

Kilmallie progressed to the final by seeing off last year's finalists Inveraray in the semi-final 2-1 at Taynuilt, managed by ex-senior international player, Liam MacDonald. With Lovat beating their local rivals Beauly 2-0, managed by ex-Skye camanachd player Iain Nicolson, two very experienced individuals in the game managing both teams. Lovat will be looking to uphold their favourites badge, going by league standings, and it's their first time playing in the Intermediate Scottish Cup final.

With both teams in good form, it is all to play for on the day - may the best team win. We hope everyone enjoys this show case final which we are, as always, delighted to support!

Ally Ferguson
Director
Ferguson Transport & Shipping

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SHINTY'S STORY SGEUL NA CAMANACHD

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A MESSAGE FROM KILMALLIE

We are delighted to reach the final of the Balliemore Cup. It's a few years since our last appearance in a cup final and we know that we'll have to be at our best to defeat Lovat today. They have re-adjusted well to relegation and are pushing on all fronts to return to the Premier League at the first time of asking.

Our Team today has several exciting young players with a crucial sprinkling of experience. After a slow start, our team has gelled under the coaching of our young management team of Liam MacDonald and Shane Gillies and are playing an exciting brand of Shinty. The evidence is growing that we are on the right path to return to the Premiership if we continue to improve. The fact that Liam and Shane have a full squad to choose from is testament to the work of Dr John Wallace in looking after the inevitable injuries throughout the season. The chance to play in a cup final is always a thrill and today will be the first taste of a senior final for a number of players. I'm sure that they will give a good account of themselves against opponents who have been at the top the game for the last decade.

Getting a team out on the park is never easy and I'd like to pay tribute to our hard-working board of directors, coaches and volunteers. Our long-standing sponsors Bowman Transport also play a vital role in allowing the club to flourish. To see the team play in a final is a great reward for the essential behind the scenes work that allows our players to perform.

Cup finals don't happen by themselves and on behalf of the club I'd like to thank Lochaber Camanachd, Ferguson Transport and the Camanachd Association for the first-class facility and event that hopefully will allow the teams to demonstrate the best of our sport. The officials too deserve a mention, they are critical to delivering an exciting product on the park. Good luck to all and may the best team win.

John Morrison
President
Kilmallie Shinty Club

PLAYER PROFILES
KILMALLIE

1. Alexander MacNiven, 20, University Student
Calm under pressure and blessed with sharp reflexes which was crucial in the penalty shootout in the Quarter Final that got us here. He is a great shot stopper and very good at commanding his defence from the back. Alex's most recent performances have been incredible in the league at this point in the season. He has learnt from the best.... in the keeper he took the role over from, not his old man.

2. Robbie MacFadyen, 36, Joiner
Robbie thrives on the physical side of the game. Whether contesting aerial balls, making crucial interceptions or throwing himself into last-ditch challenges. A very committed defender and fearless in a tackle, Robbie has earned a reputation as a player who never gives less than 100 percent every time he steps onto the field.

3. Aidan Love, 21, Joiner
Aidan's hard work off the pitch has put himself in strong contention in the first team squad this season, usually sitting in Full Centre, he plays a crucial role in controlling the flow of the game, bringing strength, determination to one of the most demanding positions on the field.

4. Cam Clark, 24, Splicer
A player who has worked very hard this season, deserving his place in our squad. A dedicated defender with a positive attitude, he brings reliability, energy and a willingness to put everything on the line every time he steps onto the field.

5. Innes Blackhall, 28, Apprentice Electrician
Every successful team has a player who sets the standard, and for Kilmallie that is our captain and Scottish Internationalist, Innes Blackhall. Innes has become the heartbeat of the side, and can play in any position whether steadying the defence, driving the midfield or leading the attack, he adapts effortlessly. Whatever role he is asked to play, he delivers with skill, intelligence and complete commitment.

6. Jay MacLeod, 28, Joiner
Vice-captain of our club, Jay has become one of the team's most important and influential players, he provides energy, leadership and consistency. Known for his ability to cover huge areas of the pitch, he is a player who never stops working. From tracking back to support the defence to driving forward and creating opportunities in attack, he plays a vital role in linking every part of the team together.

7. Calum MacDougall, 26 Hydro Electrician
Shaggy has become one of Kilmallie's most exciting attacking players, bringing a powerful combination of strength, pace and skill to the forward line. A player who can change the course of a game in an instant, he has developed a reputation as a constant threat to opposition defences. Shaggy can produce moments of real magic.

8. Matt MacDonald, 39, Hydro Electric Engineer
Known as one of the happiest characters in the dressing room, Matt's smile is never far away. A very positive guy to have in the squad but once the game starts you then see a different side of Matt. Fearless, constantly on the forwards back, never shies away from a challenge and consistently puts the team's needs ahead of his own.

9. Seumas MacFarlane, 19, University Student
Seumas' game has come on a lot this year, playing in at wing back/half back he's been solid. Athletic, strong and fiercely competitive, he brings intensity to every match and never backs down from a challenge. His physical presence is one of his greatest assets.

10. Lewis Birrell, 34, Apprentice Joiner
Apprentice joiner but way beyond his years on the field. Birrell is a constant threat going forward, he has developed a reputation for finding the net when it matters most. With an eye for goal and an instinct for arriving in the right place at the right time, he seems to always get himself on the scoresheet.

11. Sam MacRae, 19, Farm Technician
Sam is a very hand working young lad who plays at wing centre. He brings energy, commitment every time he pulls on the Kilmallie shirt. One of the fittest players at the club, Sam's stamina allows him to cover huge areas of the pitch and maintain a high work rate throughout every training session and match.

12. Shane O'Rua, 19, Glenfinnan Community Ambassador
Shane has established himself as one of the clubs most dangerous attacking players, leading the line with confidence, determination and a natural instinct for finding the net. As our top scorer he never gives defenders an easy shift. Shane has built his reputation on his hunger and desire to compete for every ball.

14. Ben MacKinnon, 21, Plumbing & Heating Engineer
Ben is a player with a great eye for goal, he has the ability to make a big contribution whenever he gets the opportunity to push forward. Known for his clean striking of the ball, Ben has the technique and confidence to create danger from distance.

15. Coby Fyfe, 16, Apprentice Painter
As one of the youngest players in the squad, Coby represents the exciting future of the club. A forward with a determined mindset and an eagerness to improve, he has already shown the qualities needed to develop into an important player for Kilmallie. He never shies away from the physical demands of senior shinty and is prepared to battle for every ball.

17. Mason Keenan, 16, School Student
Mason is another one of the youngest in the squad and has shown a lot of signs of how good a player he can be. A dynamic wing centre, Mason combines pace, determination and an exceptional attitude. His speed is one of his greatest strengths. Covering huge areas of the pitch with ease, he is equally effective supporting the defence as he is driving attacks forward.

19. Archie MacNiven, 19, BSW Sawmill Operator
Archie has quickly made himself one of Kilmallie's brightest young talents. A forward with pace, fitness and an outstanding work ethic. Constantly stretching opposition defences with intelligent runs and relentless movement, he creates space for both himself and his teammates. Archie's excellent fitness allows him to maintain that intensity throughout the game, also coming that bit deeper when we need him. He never makes it easy for defenders and doesn't give them a moment to settle.

22. Martin Stewart, 38, BSW Sawmill Team Leader
Marty is a player who represents the heart of Kilmallie. As the longest-serving member of the team, His experience, loyalty and commitment have made him a hugely respected figure within the squad. A forward with a proven eye for goal, he has built a reputation for producing moments of real quality going forward. He has a special ability to pick his spot, usually leaving the keeper with no chance. Marty is also a player who will play wherever is needed and give 110%.

John Wallace, Doctor
Every successful team relies on more than just the players on the field, and for Kilmallie, John Wallace is an invaluable part of the set-up. As the team's first aider, The Doc plays a vital role in ensuring players are looked after, prepared and supported every time they are on the pitch. Known for his calmness, professionalism and quick response, John is always first on the scene when help is needed, whether be a small knock or more serious. His dedication to the role is noted throughout Shinty, this shown as he is first aider for the Scotland Senior Team.

Manager - Liam MacDonald
Assistant Manager - Shane Gillies

PLAYER OF THE MATCH

The player of the match award for today's Ferguson Transport and Shipping Balliemore Cup Final is presented in the memory of Captain Archibald Macra Chisholm of Glassburn. Captain Chisholm was the founding father and first President of Strathglass Shinty Club in 1879. He then went on to produce the "Rules and Regulations for the Game of Shinty" in 1880 which is universally recognised as the first formal rules of the sport.

Instrumental in the formation of the Camanachd Association, Captain Chisholm also served as the first Chief from 1893 until his death in 1897.

As well as his affinity with shinty, Captain Chisholm, a native Gaelic speaker, was one of the first members of the Inverness Gaelic Society. He was also known as an accomplished musician and was a member of the renowned Highland Society of London.



The player of the match award is presented by Strathglass Shinty Club in Captain Chisholm's memory.

President of Strathglass Shinty Club, Roddie MacLennan said; "As a club we are delighted to work with the Camanachd Association to present this award in memory of Captain Chisholm. We feel it is a fitting way to honour and recognise the important contribution he made to the sport of shinty, the Camanachd Association and importantly to our own club."

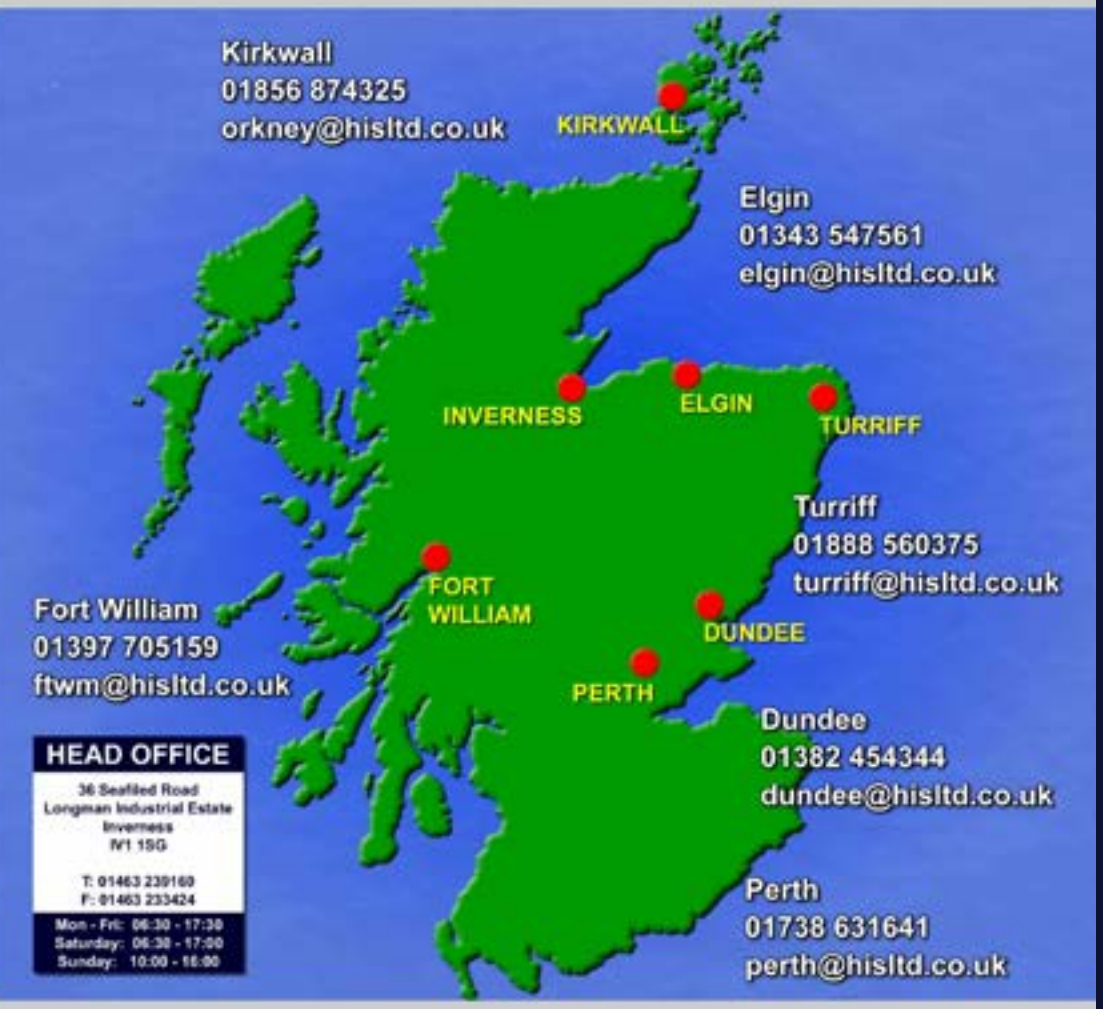
The player of the match award was introduced for the first time in 2022, winners are detailed below:

2022: Ryan MacKay (Beauly)
2023: Jack Dignan (Lochaber)
2024: Andrew Morrison (GMA)
2025: Max Campbell (Lochaber)



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A MESSAGE FROM LOVAT

Lovat Shinty Club are delighted to be competing in the Ferguson Transport & Shipping Balliemore Cup Final, this will be the club's first ever appearance in the final.

The Club is in a period of transition after the retirement of some senior players. The first team coach, Iain Nicolson has done a fantastic job introducing several younger players as he rebuilds a new team. We have competed well this year, unbeaten in the league and are now competing in today's final.

I would like to congratulate Kilmallie on reaching the final. On the way to the final, they have produced some great performances beating both Glenurquhart and Inveraray. We will need to be at our best and look to keep their free scoring forward line quiet if we are to run out as winners today.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all our sponsors & supporters without who's continued support we would not be where we are today.

Both clubs should be congratulated in reaching today's final and will look forward to playing at Spean Bridge, a park where we have always performed well on. The large expanse and excellent surface will suit both teams style of shinty. I am sure both teams will produce a game worthy of the occasion.

John MacRitchie
President
Lovat Shinty Club

PLAYER PROFILES
LOVAT

1 – Ronan MacMillan, 28, Facilities Manager
Ronan's second full season with the senior team. He is a dependable goalkeeper with quick reactions, a calm head under pressure, and a strong long hitter of the ball.

2 – Angus Mearns, 20, Civil Engineer
Angus is an energetic midfielder who covers every blade of grass. Comfortable on the ball and always looking to drive the team forward, his work rate is second to none.

3 – Thomas Fraser, 32, Alarm Engineer
Thomas is a dependable defender with plenty of experience. Calm under pressure and strong in the challenge, he's someone the team can always rely on.

4 – Joe Embleton, 22, Plumber
Joe is a no-nonsense defender who thrives in the physical side of the game. Strong in the air and fearless in the tackle, he makes life difficult for any forward.

5 – Chris Johnson, 29, Forestry Contractor
Chris is a strong-running midfielder who enjoys the physical side of the game. His determination and relentless work ethic make him a difficult opponent to play against.

6 – Danny Kelly, 28, Plumber
Danny is a hardworking midfielder who never stops running. Tough in the tackle and always available for a pass, he provides the engine room for the side.

7 – Craig Mainland, 34, College Lecturer
Craig is a tough, reliable defender who rarely shirks a challenge. He is an intelligent player and reads the game well. His tireless energy and pace proves a difficult task for any forward in the game.

8 – Craig Mackinnon, 16, Joiner
Craig is an exciting young midfielder with plenty of energy. His pace and willingness to run up and down the park make him a real handful, and his confidence continues to grow.

9 – Sergio Thomson, 20, Pipe Fitter
Sergio is a lively forward with plenty of pace and enthusiasm. His direct style keeps opposition defences on their toes.

10 – Dario Marshall, 17, Student
Dario is a talented young forward who plays with confidence. Quick, skilful, and always looking to create chances, he has an exciting future ahead of him.

11 – Martin Mainland, 34, Marketing
Martin is an experienced defender who reads the game brilliantly. Strong in the tackle and rarely caught out of position, his composure helps steady the back line.

12 – Marc MacLachlan, 34, Roofer
Our captain who leads from the front with experience and determination. Marc is a very clever forward with an eye for goal and a vocal leader who always sets the standard for the team.

13 – Graeme MacMillan, 32, OHL Surveyor
Graeme is a powerful forward who is always a threat around goal. Strong on the ball and difficult to dispossess, he brings plenty of experience to the attack.

14 – Ali White, 18, Farm Worker
Ali is a strong and athletic defender. Still developing his game, his determination and commitment are already major assets.

15 – Ashie Mearns, 16, Student
Ashie is a promising young defender with plenty of enthusiasm. Keen to learn and never afraid to get stuck in, he has all the attributes to become a top player.

16 – Brodie Campbell-West, 16, Student
Brodie is an enthusiastic young midfielder with plenty of potential. Always eager to get involved, he brings energy, commitment, and a positive attitude every time he pulls on the jersey.

17 – Jaidon Campbell, 21, Alarm Engineer
Jaidon is a versatile midfielder who works hard in every phase of the game. Full of energy and never afraid to put in a tackle, he's a valuable member of the squad.

Manager: Iain Nicolson

THE TEAMS

KILMALLIE SHINTY CLUB

1) Alexander MacNiven
2) Robbie MacFadyen
3) Aidan Love
4) Cam Clark
5) Innes Blackhall
6) Jay MacLeod
7) Calum MacDougall
8) Matt MacDonald
9) Seumas MacFarlane
10) Lewis Birrell
11) Sam MacRae
12) Shane O'Rua
14) Ben MacKinnon
15) Coby Fyfe
17) Mason Keenan
19) Archie MacNiven
22) Martin Stewart

Manager: Liam MacDonald
Assistant Manager: Shane Gillies
Team Doctor: John Wallace

LOVAT SHINTY CLUB

1) Ronan MacMillan
2) Angus Mearns
3) Thomas Fraser
4) Joe Embleton
5) Chris Johnson
6) Danny Kelly
7) Craig Mainland
8) Craig Mackinnon
9) Sergio Thomson
10) Dario Marshall
11) Martin Mainland
12) Marc MacLachlan
13) Graeme MacMillan
14) Ali White
15) Ashie Mearns
16) Brodie Campbell-West
17) Jaidon Campbell

Manager: Iain Nicolson

Referee: Alec MacVicar
Goal Judges: Billy MacLeod, Iain Kennedy

RULES

If the scores are level after 90 minutes, extra time of 15 minutes each way will be played. If the scores are level after extra time, a penalty play off will determine the winners.

At full time, the trophy, medals and Silver Mounted Caman will be presented by Ally Ferguson from Sponsors Ferguson Transport & Shipping.

ROAD TO THE FINAL

Kilmallie recieved a 1st round bye

Kilmallie 4-4 Glenurquhart
Calum MacDougall 1 (34') Martin Stewart 1 (78 (P)'
Shane O'Rua 2 (34', 100')
Alfie MacLeod 1 (44'), Fraser Heath 3 (47', 66', 108')
Kilmallie won 4-3 on penalties

Inveraray 1-3 **Kilmallie**
Ross Montgomery 1 (11')
Martin Stewart 1 (52'), Shane O'Rua 1 (70')

Lovat 10-0 Aberdour
Lewis Tawse 1 (53'), Marc MacLachlan 2 (62', 70')
Danny Kelly 1 (90'), Graeme MacMillan 5 (9', 14', 30', 48', 56'), Sergio Thomson 1 (59')

Lovat P-P Oban Celtic
Walkover to Lovat

Lovat 2-0 Beauly
Graeme MacMillan 1 (73'), Sergio Thomson 1 (78')

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2026 SEASON

KEY DATES

13th June

W M Donald MacTavish Cup

Winners: Kingussie

20th June

Glasgow Celtic Society Cup

Winners: Oban Camanachd

1st August

Bullough Cup Final

Lochside Rovers vs Kilmory Taynuilt

1st August

Cheftain's Cup Final

Glengarry vs Lewis

Bught Park

8th & 15th August

Tulloch Homes

Camanachd Cup Semi Finals

Kingussie vs Skye / Newtonmore vs Oban Camanachd

Bught Park / Taynuilt

16th August

WCA Premier Cup & Single Team Cup Final

Badenoch vs Kinlochshiel / Glenurquhart vs Dunadd

An Aird, Fort William

22nd August

MKM Building Supplies

Macaulay Cup Final

Mossfield Stadium, Oban

29th August

Strathdearn Cup Final

Kingussie II vs Newtonmore II

Venue TBC

5th September

MOWI

WCA Finals Day

The Eilan, Newtonmore

12th September

Highland Industrial Supplies

Sutherland Cup Final

Blairbeg Park, Drumnadrochit

19th September

Tulloch Homes

Camanachd Cup Final

Mossfield Stadium, Oban

24th October



MOWI

SHINTY/HURLING INTERNATIONAL

Venue TBC

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THE BALLIEMORE CUP

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1989 Glengarry
1990 Glenurquhart
1991 Glenurquhart
1992 Kilmallie
1993 Kilmallie
1994 Lochaber
1995 Caberfeidh
1996 Caberfeidh
1997 Caberfeidh
1998 Caberfeidh
1999 Lochcarron
2000 Caberfeidh
2001 Inveraray
2002 Lochcarron
2003 Strathglass
2004 Bute
2005 Kyles Athletic
2006 Bute
2007 Kinlochshiel
2008 Skye Camanachd
2009 Strathglass
2010 Kinlochshiel
2011 Bute
2012 Lochaber
2013 Bute
2014 Skye Camanachd
2015 Beauly
2016 Kilmallie
2017 Fort William
2018 Kilmallie
2019 Fort William
2020 No Competition
2021 Skye Camanachd
2022 Beauly
2023 Lochaber
2024 Glasgow Mid-Argyll
2025 Lochaber

Today's match is being filmed and will be available to view on the official Camanachd Association YouTube Channel.

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SHINTY QUIZ

Think you know your Shinty? Put your skills to the test with our quiz! Answers at the bottom of the page.

1) True or False: The final has been won on penalties 5 times

2) 3 teams have won the cup 5 times - name them

3) Which teams will compete the Chieftain's Cup Final next Saturday?

4) Who are the furthest north mainland team in shinty?

5) Prior to today, how many senior cup finals have Lovat been in since 2020?

6) 3 players in today's final were capped for Scotland last year - name them

7) Which club did Lovat manager Iain Nicolson spend the majority of his playing career at?

8) Who will captain the Scotland under 17 side this year?

9) Two players playing today were on the Ireland tour last year - name them

1) True 2) Bute, Caberfeidh, Lochaber 3) Glengarry vs Lewis 4) Caberfeidh 5) 3 6) Craig Mainland, Danny Kelly, Innes Blackhall 7) Skye 8) Matthew Sloss 9) Shane O'Rua and Seumas MacFarlane

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TOP SCORERS

SHANE O'RUA	10	GRAEME MACMILLAN	19
MARTIN STEWART	6	MARC MACLACHLAN	16
CALUM MACDOUGALL	4	LEWIS TAWSE	10

GOAL DIFFERENCE

26	1	27
65	38	27

FERGUSON
TRANSPORT & SHIPPING
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	WON	DRAWN	LOST
	5	1	5

MINS SCORED

0-15	4
15-30	5
30-45	6
45-60	4
60-75	2
79-90	6

LAST 4

2-3	2-1	2-1	4-4 (P)

AVERAGE AGE 24.9

	WON	DRAWN	LOST
	11	1	3

MINS SCORED

0-15	5
15-30	3
30-45	5
45-60	4
60-75	3
79-90	6

LAST 4

3-2	7-3	10-0	2-0

AVERAGE AGE 24.5

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Est. 1959









MARINE SERVICES

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O&M for aquaculture

Offshore renewables support

Oil & Gas Rig support

Diving support & surveying work

General cargo movements







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