

SHINTY CENTENARY YEARBOOK



**CELEBRATING THE CENTENARY
OF THE CAMANACHD ASSOCIATION**

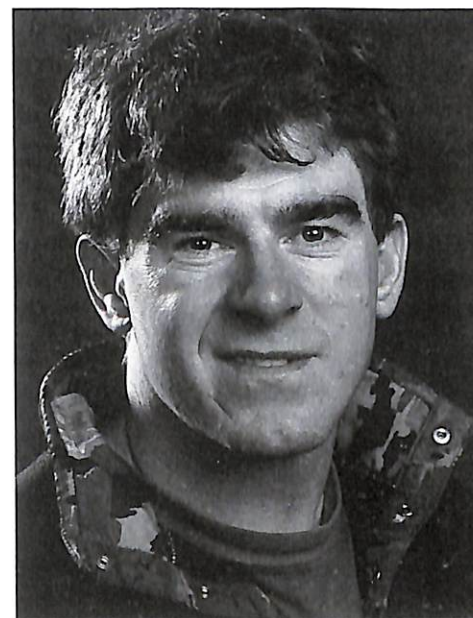
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Photographs: The Yearbook is once again indebted to the hard-working photographers who go to great lengths to assist the Committee in the production of this volume. The Committee would once again like to thank Ewen Weatherspoon, Ken MacPherson, Donald Mackay, Coll MacDougall, Kevin MacGlynn (making his debut) and above all, Gordon Gillespie of Inverness.



Gordon Gillespie has quite simply had an outstanding year, culminating in his Scottish Sports Photographer of the Year Award. He also won the 1993 Marine Harvest Shinty Photographer of the Year Award and we suspect there are many more to come. Congratulations, Gordon, and thanks for the front cover photograph, taken at the international match between Scotland and Ireland.

The Shinty Yearbook is an independently run publication produced annually, entirely on a voluntary basis. It is open to anyone to offer material for publication, and an Annual General Meeting is held to discuss material, presentation and content etc, usually after the Camanachd Association's AGM. Committee members are delighted to discuss enquiries relating to material for inclusion in the book, and the earlier the notice given the better. The Committee also appreciates feedback relating to its publications and will endeavour to take reasonable suggestions aboard. The committee would like more feedback than it ordinarily gets. The views expressed in the Yearbook are not necessarily those of the Committee or its individual members.

Your continued support of the Yearbook is very much appreciated. Our future depends on you. Please ensure that your friends buy one!

Wanted: EDITOR

Must be patient, diligent, and oblivious to criticism. An ability to understand other people's failure to meet deadlines is an undoubted asset, as is the ability to read in the dark. Most of the editor's work is done in the most lonely of circumstances. It is rewarding, but certainly not in the financial sense. There is no salary and expenses are minimal. Your mental and physical state will deteriorate in relation to the time in the post. Apart from the above, the post has much to commend it.

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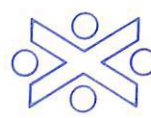
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Editorial

1993 has been a momentous year for the Camanachd Association and those involved with the centenary celebrations have to be congratulated for their efforts - the exhibition, the book and all the other events have been worthy of the highest praise. And the players who won for Scotland such a hugely significant victory at the Bught Park are also to be congratulated.

As the game moves into its second centenary, however, there is no room for complacency. The centenary celebrations are all very well, but they are worthless if they are not used as a springboard for the future. Shinty is still, it has to be said, dependent on the efforts of too few individuals. Those people involved with clubs, and particularly the smallest ones, know this only too well.

There are a number of disturbing aspects to the game which need to be addressed immediately, perhaps none more so than the effects of the divisive "them and us" attitude which has re-surfaced - drawing lines between the north and south areas. If people in the south feel they have to be left behind in any way, or are missing out, there are ways and means of redressing the balance. Carping criticism and the burying of heads in sand is

not the way forward. Nor is any sense of smugness in the north.

There are still too many people involved in the game who take decisions on the basis of their club's colours first and foremost, without any heed for the consequences for the game as a whole. It is an attitude which has held shinty back in many respects for a long time.

There are significant improvements taking place throughout the game at venues such as Oban, Newtonmore, Lochaber, Skye and Kinlochshiel, to name but a few. There are still some clubs though who prefer to hide behind the convenient facade of lack of finance. This is, in the current climate, not a valid response to criticism.

There is money available, and now perhaps more so than ever, as the Highlands and Islands reap the benefit of Objective One funding from Europe. Newtonmore have illustrated dramatically how less traditional sources of funding may be developed. Their example has to be followed, and quickly.

Shinty has many other problems - lack of discipline is still evident amongst clubs and players; the refereeing crisis is perhaps one of the most damaging of all at the moment. And there is the spectre of a court case which has hung over shinty for

some eighteen months now. The delay in resolving that matter for the sake of all the individuals concerned and the sport in general, is a matter of grave concern.

But one should not be overly depressed though examining the current state of rugby in the aftermath of Scotland's record defeat, the trials and tribulations at Celtic, Hearts and Caledonian Thistle in Inverness and the desperate state of English football. *We shouldn't gloat.* Cold comfort it may be, but others' misfortunes must not be seized on as an excuse for our own failings.

Shinty is still arguing about many of the recommendations of the shinty Forum twenty years ago. *That is not good enough.* What is needed is a collective will to take the game forward, warts and all, so that in another one hundred years' time, our successors can say, "the foundations for continuing success were laid in centenary year."

This Yearbook is dedicated to the memory of the many great people who have contributed to the history of shinty in the last one hundred years. It is every much intended as a celebration of the last one hundred years as an exhortation for continued success for the next hundred.

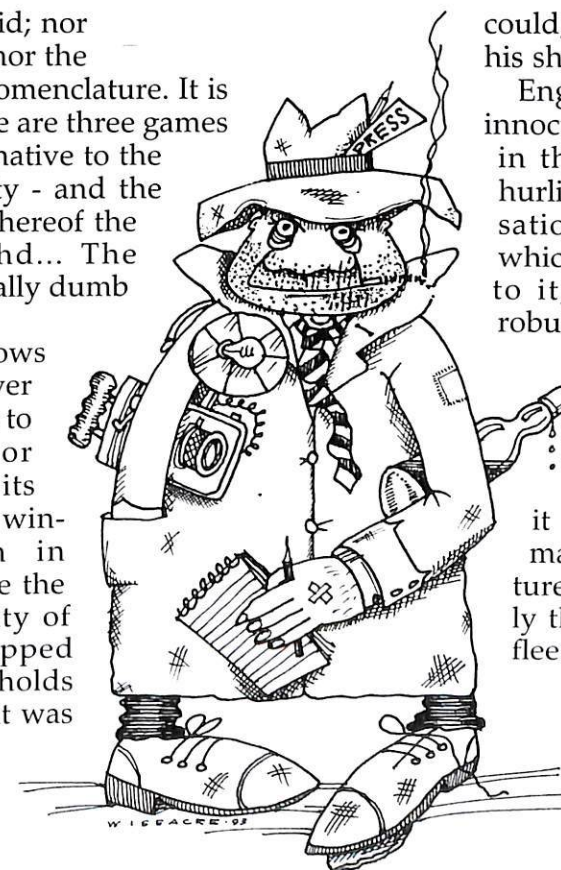
Camanachd is not an orchid; nor is it a biological eccentricity, nor the latest freak of pathological nomenclature. It is a recreation. In Scotland there are three games which can best claim to be native to the soil - golf, curling and shinty - and the greatest of these is shinty, whereof the Gaelic name is camanachd... The Badminton Library is practically dumb on the subject of shinty.

Mr Andrew Lang, who knows the North fairly well, has never been once observed to allude to the game; and a caman, or shinty-club, could conceal its identity in a London shop window for months. Even in Scotland, until you get above the Isle of Bute and the fair city of Perth, camanachd has dropped into oblivion, and football holds the field. Yet fifty years ago it was the craze of Caledonian youth, and practically the only recreation whereat he

could, with athletic abandon, bark his shins and black his eyes.

England, today, has an innocent, innocuous apology for camanachd in the game of hockey, and the hurling clubs of the Gaelic organisations in Ireland play a game, which in a measure, approximates to it; but shinty - real shinty, robust, rollicking, three-star shinty, so to speak - is becoming yearly more limited in the area of its popularity, and even in the comparatively small field into which it is being crowded, it is losing many of the more striking features which made it pre-eminent - the outdoor sport of the fiery, fleet-footed Celt....

from
The Globe 1893



PENALTY SURVEY

Is practice the only answer?

There has been discussion for some time now as to whether the penalty hit (from 20 yards) is sufficiently fair compensation to the innocent team and sufficient of a penalty to the guilty team, for an offence committed within the penalty area. Is the average penalty conversion rate high enough to discourage serious offences incurred by the defence within the penalty area? Should the penalty distance of 20 yards be reduced and, if so, by how much?

The Shinty Yearbook Committee decided to conduct a survey among the clubs to establish the opinions of committee members, players and supporters on the above matters. Peter English did the sums and produced the following conclusions.

In March 1993, a questionnaire was sent out to all 39 clubs listed in the 1992-93 Camanachd Association Annual and responses were obtained from 22 (56 per cent) of these, 21 questionnaires were completed.

The returns covered a total of 357 games (259 first team and 98 second team). Of the 93 penalties awarded (61 in first team and 32 in second team games) 40 were converted - a conversion rate of 43 per cent with no difference between first and second team games - and 26 penalty attempts were

saved by the goalkeeper. Thus 71 per cent of penalty hits were on target with 27 (or 29 per cent) going past the post or over the bar.

Clubs considered the conversion rate of penalties, averaging close to 60 per cent, to be fair despite much variation around that figure. However, all the clubs responding were dissatisfied with the existing conversion rate from penalties, agreeing that a higher conversion rate could be achieved by players engaging in more penalty-taking practice, while 4 clubs considered that the penalty distance should be shortened to improve conversion rate. Notably, no clubs felt that the penalty taking distance should be increased.

While 17 clubs thought the penalty spot should remain at 20 yards, 4 clubs considered it should be reduced to 19 yards (one club), 18 yards (2 clubs) and 17 yards (one club) at senior level. However, 12 clubs considered that there was a case for reducing the penalty distance at juvenile level and even more clubs (15 out of 19 or 79%) felt it should be reduced at Primary (under-12) level.

Other comments by clubs included the suggestion that a similar question-

naire be sent out at the start of the season to encourage them to record accurate details of penalties; that there could be a risk of injury to goalkeepers if the penalty distance was shortened; whereas one club suggested enlarging the penalty area to increase the number of penalties awarded.

It was suggested by one club that penalty shoot-outs in cup-ties should not be applied to decide the game but that a further 30 minutes of play should take place after full-time and if there was still no winning side, 'sudden death' should operate until the next goal is scored.

It was pointed out by one very successful club that their players rarely practice penalty-taking, but as Glasgow University pointed out their total lack of penalty hits awarded to them is due to the fairness of sportsmanship of shinty in the South!

Consideration of the goalkeeper surrounded the potential of real increased risk of injury if there was a reduction in the penalty hit distance but this concern did not extend to Juvenile and Primary shinty where some young players can give the ball a fair wallop!

SHINTY YEARBOOK

PENALTY TAKING COMPETITION

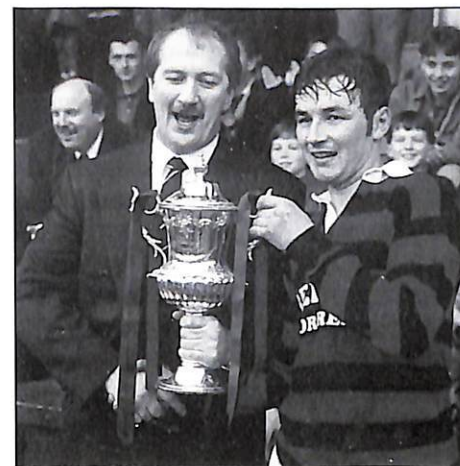
It is clear that the actual penalty conversion rate in shinty falls far short of what clubs consider to be a fair conversion rate. Clubs completing the questionnaire in this survey also consider that the best way to improve the conversion rate is more and more practice by the penalty takers.

In view of these responses, the Shinty Yearbook Committee has decided to launch a competition to

reward the clubs and the players who achieve the highest penalty conversion rate. The competition will be based on the returns received from clubs based on their carefully compiled records. The awards will be the form of a 'Certificate of Merit for Performance in Penalty Taking' and several such Certificates may be awarded each year to the most successful clubs and individual players.

It is hoped that this competition will stimulate clubs and individual players to place much more emphasis than hitherto on penalty-taking practice. It may also contribute in some small way to improving the art of penalty taking and the rather sorry record of penalty conversion rates in recent years.

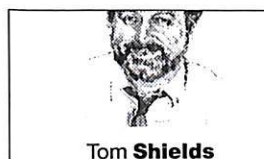
W I N N E R S



Oban Camanachd's Dave McCuish receives the 1993 Keyline MacAulay Cup from sponsors' representative John McEachen. It was Camanachd's first win in the final since 1957.



above: Kilmallie, winners of the 1993 Balliemore Cup.



Tom Shields

Tough opponent

SHINTY is a tough game and the players do not come any tougher than Dave Thomson, fearsome defender with Kingussie. Dave came on to the park for Saturday's game against Newtonmore with a broken nose. It would be a brave person who would break Dave's nose, so it may not be too surprising to hear that the injury had been inflicted by a sheep. Dave was trying to round up some of the beasts in a barn when one stuck the head on him. The sheep is now in the freezer - a fate which has not yet befallen any of Mr Thomson's shinty opponents. As far as we know.

Dave Thomson of Kingussie, who crowned a magnificent career with every trophy bar the MacAulay Cup.



below: Sandy Ralph of Newtonmore receives the veterans' centenary Challenge Bowl from Mrs Edith Russell, having defeated Kyles 1-0 at the Eilan.



above: Caberfeidh's young stars of the future; first winners of the Ken MacMaster Cup for the under-14 national championship (1992-93). Ken MacMaster (centre rear) presented the trophy.



above: John Smyllie of Inveraray receiving the Royal National Mod Cup from An Comunn Gàidhealach's vice-President Duncan Ferguson. 1993 was the first time shinty had been played in Airdrie for 100 years.

PLAYING OUR PART

Marine Harvest's salmon farming and processing facilities help support communities throughout the West Highlands. And our staff are heavily involved in community life.

In sponsoring the Marine Harvest National Shinty League, our aim is to make a positive contribution to the game at local and national levels, and to ensure its continuing growth.

Being dedicated to quality in our own activities, it is natural for us to recognise quality both in playing shinty and in portraying its skills and excitement to a wide public. That's why we make the annual awards for the shinty player, reporter and photographer of the year.

As it begins its second century, we wish the Camanachd Association and all its clubs continuing good health and success.

MARINE HARVEST



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Facsimile: 031-336 1199.

Marine Harvest awards

Shinty clubs are once again vying for the Marine Harvest Club of the month awards, presented to teams for the best performances on the field during the season. Eight awards are made each season, with the first prize winners receiving a cheque for £100 and the Runners-up £50.

Winners in 1992-3 were:					
September	First Prize Skye	Runners-up Glasgow Mid Argyll	April	Kingussie (second team)	Edinburgh University
October	Oban Celtic	Ballachulish	May	Kingussie	Oban Camanachd
November	No awards		Winners in the 1993-4 season:		
December/January	Kyles Athletic	Aberdeen University	September	Oban Camanachd	Lochbroom
February	Fort William	(equal) Lochaber/ Ballachulish	October:	Lochaber	Strachur
March	Oban Camanachd	Beaully	The Yearbook went to press before any other awards were made		



Tom Mackenzie OBE, MM, JP, was the first recipient of the Marine Harvest Centenary Award. The specially commissioned award will be presented by the Camanachd Association to an individual deemed to have made an outstanding contribution to shinty.

The award was presented at a reception held in Balavil House, then home of Sir Tommy MacPherson to launch the events celebrating the Association's centenary. Looking on Ken Thomson, President, Camanachd Association (left)

The award is the latest of many made to Tom, a Freeman of Inverness and former Chief and President of the Camanachd Association.



above: The Marine Harvest Awards ceremony, held in Eden Court Theatre. Photographer of the Year Gordon Gillespie accepting his award.



left: The fastest man in shinty - Ruairaidh Graham of Kilmory (left) receives the Marine Harvest Centenary Quaich as winner of the special sprint competition from Craig Selkirk of Marine Harvest.

below: The Marine Harvest centenary Award



The Marine Harvest Award winners, with distinguished guests at the Eden Court ceremony

Left to right: David Chappell, Sports Editor, The Times; Donald MacDonald (Strachur) Player of the Year; Angus Morgan, Commercial Director Marine Harvest; Gordon Gillespie (Inverness), Photographer of the Year; Ken Thomson, President, Camanachd Association; Roger Hutchinson, West Highland Free Press (Reporter of the Year)



An Intriguing web of wayward strands . . .

"Camanachd is not an orchid; nor is it a new biological eccentricity, nor the latest freak of pathological nomenclature. It is a recreation. In Scotland there are three games which can best claim to be native to the soil - golf, curling and shinty and the greatest of these is shinty, whereof the Gaelic name is camanachd...."

From The Globe, 1893

Shinty - or camanachd as it is traditionally known in the Gaelic-speaking West Highlands - is an ancient game. Introduced to North-West Scotland along with Christianity and the Gaelic language nearly two thousand years ago by Irish missionaries (St Columba is said to have arrived on these shores as a result of some shenanigans at an Irish hurling match), the game can safely lay claim to being Scotland's national sport.

There is no doubt that shinty was popular at various stages virtually nationwide. It is to be found from the wind-swept rocks of St Kilda to the more hospitable and gentler plains of the Borders. Indeed, it is claimed that golf was born out of shinty players practising, alone or in pairs, the art of driving the ball with the caman, or stick.

The game is also to be found on a much wider plain - the world-wide stage with exiles taking shinty to the furthest flung corners of the globe - from South America to the war-ravaged wastes of Europe through two world wars, to the two dozen camain issued to the battalions of the Lovat Scouts during the Boer War, to the Maritime region of Canada, where the game was re-introduced in 1991 by a party of players from the Kingussie and Skye Clubs.

Shinty, as with many other aspects of Highland heritage and the Gaelic language in particular, has been frequently threatened, both by Statute and under the influence of other movements in society. That the game has survived the combined assaults of Royal edicts against popular and "uncontrollable" games, as well as the Sabbatarianism which followed the Reformation and outlawed the playing of sports on the day of rest, not to mention the rapid erosion of the Highland way of

camamhill, see camomhill.
camman, -ain, pl. -ain (& camanan). Club for playing shinty, burley, or golf. Not a cricket-bat, as given in some dictionaries, as caman must have a curve in it. 2(DU) see cam.
BK, 4.
—achd, s.f. Shinty, hurley, golf.

Camán, -áin, pl. id., m., a bend; a stick with a crooked head; a hurley for ball-playing; c. baile, id. (B.).

shinty shin'ti, shinny shin'i, ns. a game like hockey, of Scottish origin, played by teams of 12: the slim curved club (the caman, also shin'ty-stick) or leather-covered cork ball (or substitute) used therein. [Perh. from Gael. sinteag, a bound, pace.]

iomain, pr.pt. ág iomain, v.a. Urge, drive slowly as cattle. 2 Toss, whirl, roll. 3 Conduet. 4** Drive anything forward on the ground, kick forward, as a football. 5 Play as a shinty football, or any driving game. Iomainidh iad, they shall drive; 'gan i. 'sa chumh, driving them backward in battle; am bheil thu dol a dh' iomain? are you going to play? olad ean iomain? what game? a dh' i. ohman, am ball iomain, or am ball iomainach, shinty. iomain, -e & -each, -ean, s.f. Driving, act of driving or urging. 2 Drove of black cattle. 3 Tossing, act of tossing. 4 Whirling, rolling. 5† Crowd. 6** Drove of sheep. 7** Sounder of swine. Ag i—, pr.pt. of iomain. Gach i. leatha léin, each drove by itself; a' leatunn nan iomaine, following the drows; lorg-iomain or slat-iomain, an ox-goad; is leoir a tha thu a' gabhail iomain, you are being driven back badly.
iomain-cuain, a. Driven by the storm.

life as described by historians such as Jim Hunter and Roger Hutchison in his excellent history of the game *Camanachd*, (Mainstream, 1989) is a tribute to the people involved in the setting up of the organisation which drew this intriguing web of wayward strands together one hundred years ago - the Camanachd Association, shinty's ruling body.

A series of hugely interesting and memorable exhibitions matches 100 years ago were the immediate catalyst leading to the formation of the Association which has seen the game develop from a series of loosely organised (and sometimes barely organised) clubs and structures, into an efficiently run and progressive organisation (although it has had its moments of farce and crisis!) with some forty clubs competing on a regular basis. Shinty now commands national media attention and significant sums of sponsorship, both from commercial organisations such as The Glenmorangie Distillery Company, the sponsors of the game's premier competition the Camanachd Cup, multi national fish-farmers Marine Harvest who sponsor the national leagues, and local authorities such as Highland Regional Council who have made significant investments in funds to enable clubs to improve their facilities.

Shinty in its organised form has come a long way since it fought to survive in the Glens of the Highlands and much further afield, in public parks as far from its main heartland as Wimbledon, Manchester, Cottonopolis and even in Grampian Region where the Aberdeen North of Spey Club appears to have been one of the earliest formed, in the 1840's.

The Highlands of Scotland were, and still are, the heartland of shinty, though there was feverish activity in shinty terms on both sides of the border, in a fantasy world of Celtic twilight.

It was usual in the Highlands, however, to have the principal games of shinty at New Year or Old New Year. In these con-

tests, often between two districts or parishes, there was no limit to the numbers taking part with players arriving and departing at will, and often play continued from the forenoon until darkness fell.

In many districts, the game died out however towards the middle of last century, but tended to continue in places such as Badenoch, Lochaber and Strathglass where interest never waned and the annual "cluidh-ball" was kept up, ever into the present century.

The modern, organised form of shinty therefore is only to be found from the mid to later 19th century. By this time there had been a considerable drift of Highlanders into the towns and cities of the south and clubs began to be formed as a means of retaining territorial identity, as well as for social reasons.

By the end of the century, greater mobility, mainly due to improved means of transport, helped to make shinty more popular and gradually games began to be organised between clubs located at considerable distances apart. Gradually the local rivalries began to be replaced with a more competitive, ambitious atmosphere.

The earliest mention of an organised club (an exception, as it was in existence in the first half of the 19th century), seems to be that in the Inverness Courier of January 11, 1849, where it is reported that the members of the North of Spey Shinty Club, Aberdeen met on the links on January 1st "for conducting the long established Celtic game". The players were divided into two sides and hail keepers (goal keepers) appointed.

Their coats were then taken off and the ball thrown up, the play continuing for nearly two hours. Those wearing "red signals" were the winners. In the afternoon, led by a piper, the whole company proceeded to the North of Scotland Hotel for a repast, after which Mr Sutherland, who was chairman, complimented the club on the orderly manner in which the contest was played. The various shinty reports in

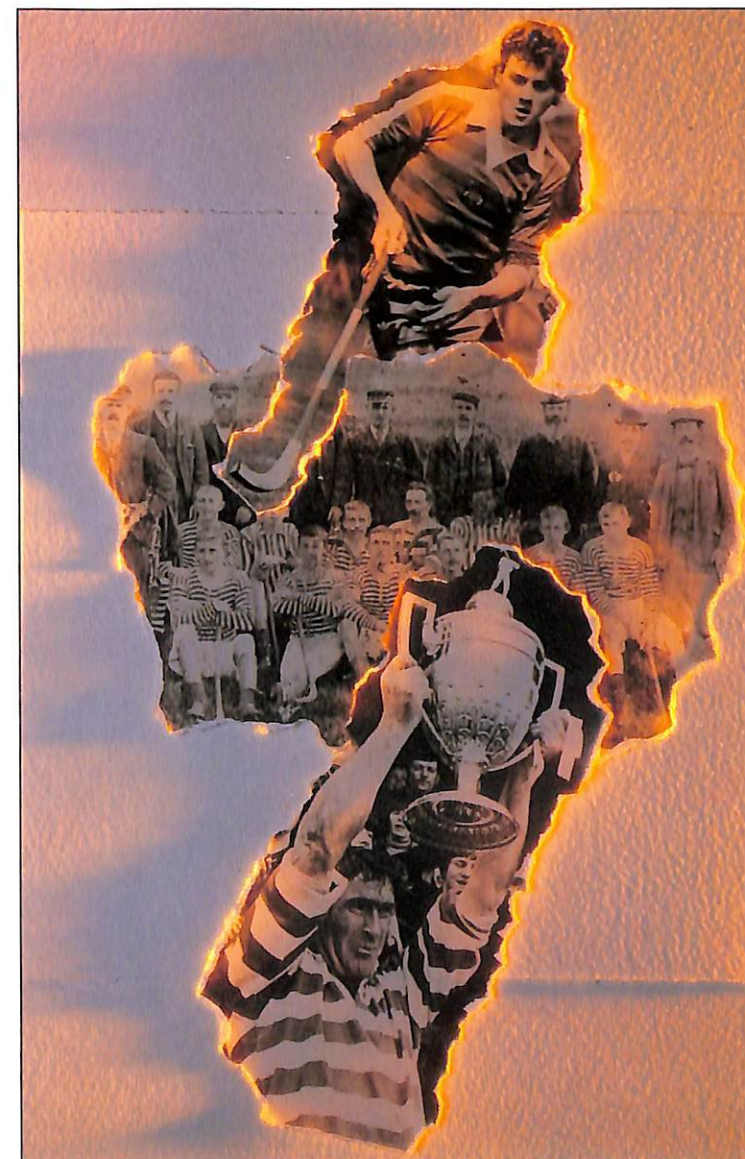
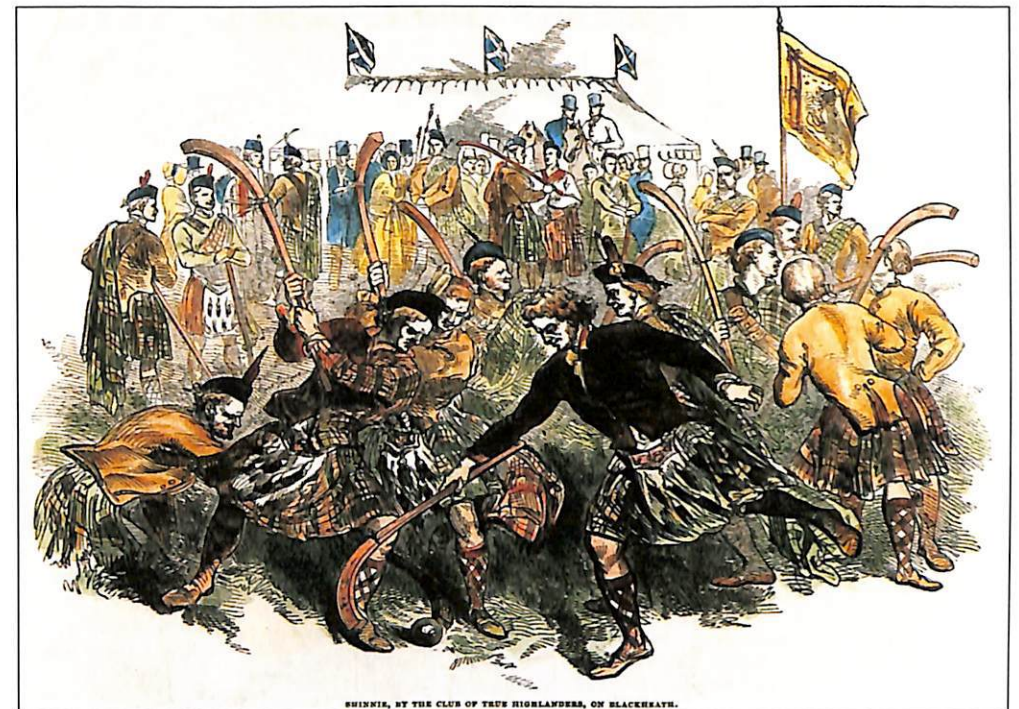
the *Highlander* newspaper between 1874 and 1881 indicate that the earliest clubs were outwith the Highlands in Edinburgh, Glasgow, London and even in Manchester and Bolton. An account is also given of a game in Birmingham in connection with the Celtic Society in that city in December, 1878.

The oldest club then in existence was the one in Edinburgh "Cuideachd Chamanachd Dhun-Eideann". On January 1st 1874, the annual game was held in the Queen's Park, the day being as boisterous as on the occasion of the clubs' first match with the 93rd Regiment (The Sutherland Highlanders) two years before.

It was a club rule to play on New Year's day, however bad the weather. The players began to assemble at noon and the time was called at 3pm. The Chief, MacDonnell of Morar, was present along with honorary members including Sheriff Nicolson and D.MacKenzie, Advocate. "A great and enthusiastic crowd thronged the park".

Shinty is being dragged, often kicking and screaming, into the 21st century. Developments such as Team Sport

The Club of True Highlanders at play on Blackheath Common, London, in the early 19th Century



Scotland's initiatives sees shinty once again making inroads into many of the urban areas where, 100 years ago, it was played with gusto.

Shinty, is at a cross-roads, or more accurately stuck at a roundabout. The game's dilemma is whether to promote the ancient sport of the Gael as a modern, vibrant game, or to preserve it as a quaint aspect of Highland culture. It has, after all, survived the ravages of two World Wars and the many economic disasters which have beset the Highlands - decisions taken by executives of multinational oil companies in the US, or Admirals of their navy to sail for home. The falling birth-rate and school closures are but another historical affliction to have assailed the sport.

It should not, however, be beyond the wit and wisdom of the administrators who have inherited the responsibility of running what is regarded, quite rightly in my view, by its participants as the greatest game in the world. For life-force and continuing success however, the game must continue to aspire to skill and spectacle at the highest level. If these remain as the guiding inspiration of its administrators and truly amateur participants, then shinty will maintain the traditions which were founded many thousands of years ago and have stood the test of time. It will also remain one of Scotland's truly national assets.

H. D. MacLennan

Ewen Weatherspoon's evocative portrayal of the centenary of the Camanachd Association which won the prize as best picture in a special competition held in conjunction with the production of the Association's centenary volume *Shinty*!

Rabbie's trip around the shinty country—accompanied by 'A Lad frae the Kyle'

Last night I dreamed a pleasant dream - it thrilled me to the core,
I dreamed our National Bard had come again tae Scotia's shore,
I rubbed my eyes of sleepiness then sat upright in bed
and shouted out "Guid grief, it's Rab but lang syne ye've been dead".
But Rabbie sang in cheerful voice "Ah've just a quick trip hame
And ah've always been enraptured wi' oor grand old Highland game.

Noo, in ma day ah held the ploo among the fields o' Ayr,
I was always keen on shinty but I'm oot o' touch yince mair,
So I've come doon frae up abune tae ask some help frae you,
Tae tak' me roon ye'r Hielan folks and introduce a few
Oor transport will be Tam's mare Meg, oor track lies up the West
So just climb up ahint me and forget the "breathing test".

I really felt quite honoured as we rode on thro' the night,
The COL-GLEN team were training at the Clachan by flood light,
And near the Creggans at Strachur Rab says "noo, who's tae blame -
There's the "Manager" and "Mister Niall" still struggling tae get hame"
But as I explained tae Rabbie shinty training's no sae silly,
especially up at "Louis" - coached by Donald and wee Billy.

I wondered as we galloped on the road going round Loch Fyne
Aboot the INVERARAY welcome Burns received in lang lang syne
His "Hielan" pride and hunger" scrawl about the Ducal Town,
I tell him things are different noo - Argyll won't raise a frown.
The folks have a "Blythe-spirit" noo - MacKay aye keeps the heid,
Hamish Stewart he has used the "loaf" - Milanda's shinty "breed".

Whilst climbing up t'wards Claddich Hill poor Meg was getting slow.
We rested by the monument tae that weel kent Neil Munro.
Then heading thro' Lochawe side - to the right stands Donnchadh Bàn
We come into Dalmally where they're working on a plan,
GLENORCHY play on Market Field - Jack Kennedy keeps on raving
Tommy Gibson's taking monkey gland and MacDougall's started shaving.

Thro' the lovely Pass of Brander, doon the Bonnie Corran Brae,
We reached a shinty strong-hold there by Bonnie Oban Bay.
There's CAMANACHD in red and black, the CELTIC white and green
And Cooper says "Ye'll squeeze an orange - but LORNE are tangerine!"
Jock Douglas says "this is the law", Duncan Cameron says "Don't try"
But Slater says "you can't decide 'till you consult G.Y."

I introduced oor Rabbie tae some men who'd made their mark -
Some stalwarts who with caman skill had graced old Mossfield Park -
Turnbull, Currie, MacIntyre, Millar, Dougie, Mick,
MacInnes, Watt, MacCallum - hardy handlers of the stick.
Says Rab I met nae lasses here wi' a' this shinty whirl,
I says "ye widna stand a chance we Larry and Lachie Birrell.

Then back we went tae Connel Bridge and cantered o'er free,
Next stop was BALLACHULISH and that spot - the Jubilee.
relived memories of some battles wi' the lads who worked the slate -
the hardy boys in red and blue were very hard tae bate,
McLachlan, Dalston, Donnie Rose, as hard as their ain quarry,
Carmichael, Hugh Buchanan, and that hard man Seedy Lawrie.

The ferry's off - the Brig's no built - oor Meg could care no less,
She sprouted wings and wi' mighty leap came doon in INVERNESS.
Then galloped on up tae the FORT and MacMillan heard oor wrath,
We didn't see a shinty match but had tae tak' a bath
He says we play at Claggan noo - oor Council did the planning
Oor civic heads are a' the big shots - oor Provost is a "Canon".

Then we headed tae KILMALLIE land tae Corpach, Banavie,
And there I introduced the Bard tae oor Chief - Walter P. -
Resplendent in his Cameron kilt he's loast a lot o' weight,
His interest in Scout movement noo is surely oot a' date.
The youngsters there within his care with caman skill afire
Teenagers Derek, Fatty and the "babe" - Shep MacIntyre.

Then on we went right thro' the night and Meg wis fairly fleein,
We waved tae Donald Kennedy as we approached the SPEAN.
Tae Fort Augustus, Invergarry where oor game's been on the wane
But I think there'll be a revival here after that summer game.
We cantered o'er the hill tae Cluanie on twisted roads sae narrow
And reached the home o' KINLOCHSHIEL - a nice place Balmacara.

A late licence there in Kintail Lodge we had a dram or two,
And there I met a Fraser - a wee full back - Ian Dubh.
He said "The team's been scoring goals for that we have a "Grant",
My son is with me in the team so what more could I want.
The shinty talent's glistening right along the Ross-shire roads.
Success just breeds encouragement, well, just ask Albert Loades!

Noo time wis scarce - we left oor freens and galloped on tae Kyle,
We caught the ferry o'er tae SKYE tae bletcher for a while,
The shinty scene is "Taylor-made" and Hume still has his fling,
While Col. Jock MacDonald says "In Skye I'm still the King".
But in this age of Aquarius emerges one new star -
The MacDonald clan has gifted Skye a fella called D.R.

It's back tae Kyle and up the coast tae country side sae barren,
Fae Kishorn and Drambuie tae that stronghold called LOCHCARRON,
It's there we met the Doctor - he wis fairly in a frenzy.
He wis trying tae transplant the heid of Calum of Mackenzie,
While in MacLennan's butcher's shop the folks had caused a rammy,
For Tex had sawed a sheep's heid all bedecked wi' Calum's tammy.

Now on we rode thro' the night tae Strathpeffer on the way,
At Castle Leod the call wis "Toss thine antlers CABERFEIDH".
MacMaster says the "Skye Blues" were the best you've ever seen.
By the time we got to BEAULY, Campbell says the colour's green,
For Dingwall rocks and LOVAT Rocks we treat them with disdain
The only rocks that interest us, is Ronnie "Rox" MacLean.

And right on to Kiltarlity we went right to Balgale,
When Colin spied oor old freen Rab he says "Ye've met yer fate",
There's Murdo here a mainstay up in Glen Affric Hotel,
Johnnie Gordon, Tommy Fraser noo are doing really well.
But this women's liberation noo are working oot a plan -
The Lovat team is now controlled - by one called Mary Anne.

Frae there it's up to Kerrow Brae, where Meg just proved her class,
Where Jimmac showed his colours of the Glen up at STRATHGLASS,
And over tae GLEN URQUHART Danny Shewglie's daein swell.
He has tae keep a Dolly bird, as well as Alan Bell.
For Jan and Alan's come frae islay - they're in the SNP scene
They've even chased the "English" man a' the way tae Aberdeen.

Away doon there along Loch Ness tae the Bught Park sae weel kent,
We met up wi' MacPherson and MacKenzie - President,
Noo Willie's back in training noo since he gave up at the school
But Tommy's noo back on the rails - he's got tae work tae rule
And Duncan's taken o'er the team - it does nae gie them solace.
He's handcuffed them tae their shinty sticks - the Manager frae the Polis.

So back we rode thro' East Loch Ness - oor mare wid take some catchin,
Until we came tae Foyers toon and fell in wi' Willie Batchen,
This lad wha runs the shinty scene thro Highland climes sae braw
He's got tae watch BOLESKINE and the ither teams and a'.
Then back we rode tae Inverness and went tae the A9.
Tae this new team o'er at KINCRAIG - Donnie Ross is lookin' fine.

And then on towards KINGUSSIE where the shinty's going swell.
MacGregor had his gathering wi' the stalwarts o' the Dell,
Jimmie Murchie's noo stopped poachin' while "Rossie" had a transplant,
Kingussie noo have changed a "fuse" and Donnie's had a Grant.
But Rab says tae me "the red and blue will surely make their mark -
But I fancy their wee Secretary - Mrs Gillian Clark".

We rode on tae the Eilan tae that stronghold NEWTONMORE
We met Ally and Gaby Fraser - blue and white men tae the core.
Jack Richmond's shinty Forum, Johnnie Campbell, Kenny Smith,
Fraser, Stewart, Ralph, MacKenzie - those names are no a myth,
But I said tae Rab "here meet Jock Paul" - they had a right good bletcher -
Sae weel they might because we know they started the game the gether.

So o'er the Lecht we cantered thro' the countryside sae green,
Twa teams support the shinty in the toon o' Aiberdeen,
There are Englishmen and Irishmen competing for their "blues",
Even Lewismen and Sgiathanachs and Australian "Kangaroos",
A conglomerate of nations ye could ca' it a real "Hotch Potch" -
Why even Peter English has tae prove that he is Scotch.

Then we headed for ST ANDREWS tae oor exiled Heilan folks,
We were asked tae form a six-a-side by thet "Sassenach" Gerry Stokes.
Then on we went to TAYFORTH thro' country road and lane,
Tae meet up wi' that Irishman - the charming Hugh O'Kane.
And we'd have made "Auld Reekie" tae meet up wi' the creeds,
Or even tae Northallerton - but Richard Tulloch wis in Leeds.

So back we rode tae Glasgow and oor Meg fair galloped on,
It wis there we met MacInnes, Donald Skinner, Iain Cameron,
All the boys frae Glesca Uni' and the Polis Force and a'
Jack Asher even took oor names while Lachie gied a "Blaw".
There wis Beaton, Bobby Nicolson, I says "Trouble is afoot"
So with Harvey Smith salutation, we steered oor steed tae BUTE.

While on the Isle oor Rabbie says tae me, "This is nae braggin,
I couldnae noo contest the skill o' that yin Escacraggan".
John MacDonald, Jimmy Duncan and Jock Hunter - they mean Bute.
Why then even Billy Crawford has come on as substitute.
It's grand tae see oor grand old game being fostered in the Isles.
But time was really precious as we headed for the KYLES.

So it's back tae Tighnabruaich - that place I hold so dear.
I showed tae Rab the Scottish Cup that we had won last year.
We have wee Tam and Chic Jamieson and big Barney for the fray,
But noo we have the Vice Chief of the Caman - D. MacRae.
Rab says tae me "I've heard yer talk about yer caman wiles,
But after a' I've seen the night, I've got tae think on Kyles".

Noo after all oor travels right thro' Scotland thro' the night
I awakened in the morning in a really sorry plight,
My body pained with saddle sores - I couldnae shake a leg,
Tae think that I'd toured Scotland on the back of oor mare Meg!
The wife just shook me in the bed and said that's Burns away
And I realised I'd got tae rise and start another day.

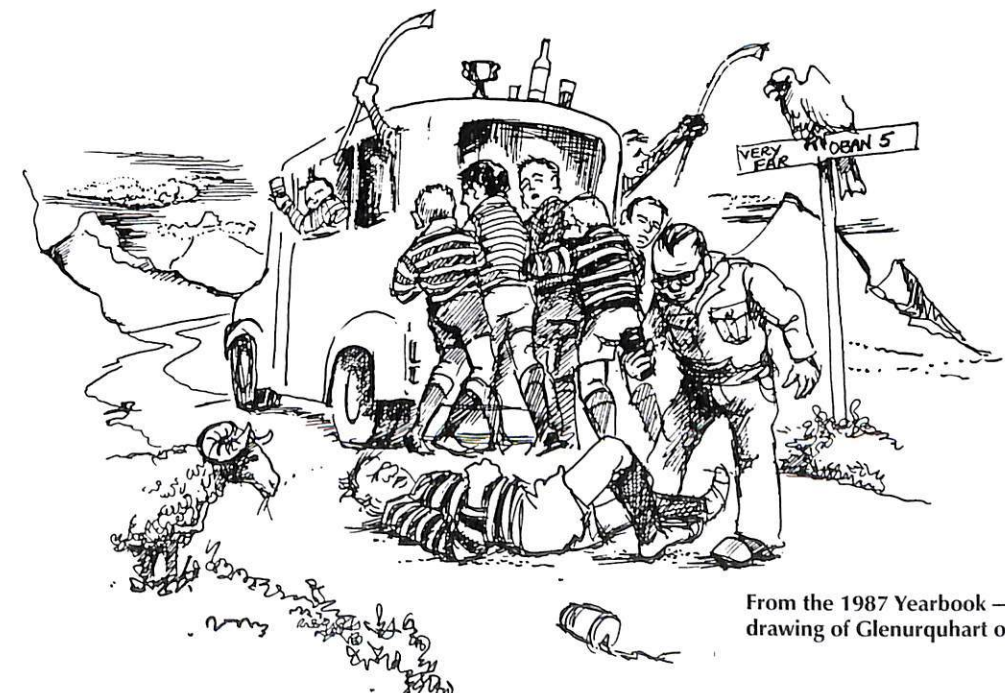
Rabbie's companion on this epic journey, first published in the 1974-75 Shinty Yearbook, was anonymous - principally, it is understood, for fear of recriminations by the "polis" on various sensitive issues such as excessive loading of Old Meg, creating sacarcities of Stag's Breath at their various ports of call, overstepping the 300 mile maximum journey on a mare allowed by the Ministry of Transport etc.

Rab's companion was, however, a native of Tighnabruaich who gave outstanding and skilled service to the Kyles team over a long period - latterly as a goalkeeper after his epic journey on Meg had greatly hampered his mobility as an outfield player. The gentleman was at the time a staunch member of the Kyles committee and a Vice President of the Camanachd Association.

HOW THE PUNTERS SAW IT...



Reproduced from the Glasgow Herald by kind permission of Jimmy Turnbull.



From the 1987 Yearbook — Ian Stevenson's drawing of Glenurquhart on their travels.

OBAN CAMANACHD TAKE THE MACAULAY CUP HOME AFTER 35 YEARS



Oban Camanachd's first MacAulay cup win since 1957 - a dramatic triumph in an historic year for the club.

Action from the dramatic Keyline MacAulay Cup Final which Oban Camanachd won 2-0 against Kingussie



The MacAulay Cup went home to Oban for the first time since 1957 when Oban Celtic last retained it there. But on this occasion it was their local rivals, Camanachd, who were the victors on a heavy pitch which they used to full advantage against Kingussie, the holders. Two years ago Oban almost had it in their grasp when they met Fort William in the final but lost on the seventeenth penalty.

There was to be no dramatic 'shoot out' on this occasion. The two goals which gave them victory were safely behind Andrew Borthwick before half-time and John MacGregor, their keeper, ably assisted by Gordon MacIntyre, Andrew Pearson and Nonnie MacInnes denied all that Dave Thomson and his colleagues could produce. Strange to say the influence of Fort William was there but this time entirely in Oban's favour. The two pun-

ishing ties with the Lochaber side had drained the Badenoch club considerably and the normally reliable Dave Anderson was off-form - so much so that when he subsequently threw a ball of paper at the fire in the lounge of a local hotel he missed the fireplace entirely.

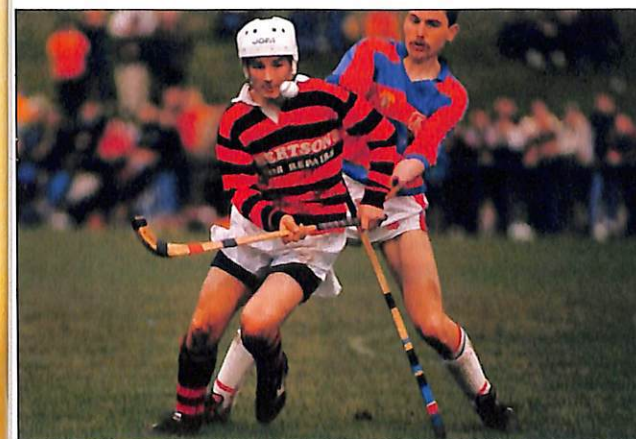
Kingussie attacked ferociously initially, forcing eleven corners without success. Anderson, Michael Clark and Ally Borthwick tested MacGregor but didn't really trouble him. Oban found that the tactic of teasing Michael Thain and Thomson on the break with weaving runs was productive and an entry to testing Andrew Borthwick.

It was from such a move that Steven Jamieson latched on to a poor clearance, flicked the ball to Dougie MacIntyre who dispatched it unerringly into the back of the net. Scarcely had play restarted when Oban were back in front of the Kingussie goal. They forced to corners in quick succession and David McCuish, their inspirational captain, lofted the second one ever so gently over the unbalanced Borthwick.

These two strikes were sufficient. Kingussie tried their best to penetrate Oban's defence thereafter and outwit MacGregor. Eck Sutherland fed good balls to an anxious attack, but all too often they were returned with interest by Nonnie MacInnes who, like MacGregor, gave the first of a number of outstanding performances which earned him on this occasion the Keyline Award as the outstanding player of the final and would later bring him the Albert Smith Medal in the Camanachd Cup final.

John MacEachen, the Scottish Sales Manager for Keyline Building Services, sponsors of the competition, presented the trophy - gifted by Mrs Fiona MacAulay a former editor of The Oban Times - to David McCuish along with the precious silver-mounted caman and entertained the teams and the guests of the MacAulay Association to generous hospitality at MacTavish's Kitchen.

Coll MacDougall



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MAJOR TAKES STICK - Highlands and Islands Enterprise ran into a storm when they presented the Prime Minister (heavily disguised as the Yearbook Editor) with a silver mounted caman. Perhaps now that he has one though, he will remove VAT from the price of sticks. We are still waiting.

BOGGED DOWN - Most embarrassed player of the year was Newtonmore's Andrew MacBean, who got completely bogged down at Dalmally. He's not safe to be let near a toilet, particularly when he should have been elsewhere - like helping Newtonmore in the sixes. (Cartoon by Chris)



Newtonmore Camanachd celebrate their centenary in front of their magnificent new club-house at the Eilean, opened on August 21, 1993.

"Newtonmore"

Lovers of Camanachd, look towards Badenoch,
Watch the lads donned in Red, White and Blue,
Go on the field to play, camanas to wield, till they
bring the Cup back to the shores of Craigdhu.

Chorus

They are the Scottish champions,
Gallant Newtonmore,
And when they play at Camanachd,
Keep your eye on Johnnie Cattenach,
And by Jove - you're bound to see him score,
For he learned to play by the banks of Spey,
In Bonny Newtonmore.

Twice though they qualified, Kyle's aims nullified,
The Cup was transported to Bute's rugged shore,
Yet restless it slumbered, it's days there were numbered,
It sighed for Badenoch, its loved home of yore.

Chorus

Argyll-shire was cheering when Furnace appearing,
Tried to oust the boys from Craigdhu,
But playing with science, their password "Defiance",
They ousted Loch Fyne by five goals to two.

Chorus

From Book of Remembrance — John 'Kaid' Maclean

Perfect Grace and Carriage

"Camanachd calls for gifts physical and mental, of no mean order. Naturally it is no pastime for weaklings or degenerates; nor is it an exercise wherein the slow-witted or dullards will be found to shine. It makes demands on stamina, on soundness of mind and limb, on brain as well as muscle, on prowess, on manliness and courage, for which in few other games will be a parallel be found...."

A finished caman-wielder must, therefore, be a first-class athlete. Ability to deal lightening strokes on the ball at so many angles on the ground, in the air, whilst speeding over the turf, as well as whilst stationary; the free play of each and every muscle; the easy poise of the body on fleet yet steady feet - these are some of the qualities that one looks for in a first-class player, and these are the qualities which make such a one a picture of force and strength, but also of perfect grace and carriage."

On the shinty-field no social distinctions have ever obtained; from the chief to the lowest clansman each and all have vied in generous contention. "On the turf, as under the turf, all men are equal."

Rev J Ninian MacDonald OSB, 1932



Dave Anderson of Kingussie (left) with the Albert Smith Memorial Medal Winner Ali MacKintosh of Glenurquhart in pursuit in the 1988 Camanachd Cup Final at Inverness.

Nuair a bha Cù Chulainn na bhalach....

SGATHACH - THE WARRIOR QUEEN

"We'll have a game of shinty, was the first thing she said, next time I saw her. Then she picked up a caman, with its bent end of hard flat edges, that she had hooked into her belt, and a hard wooden ball from a pocket in the front of her dress. I thought, this is a waste of time. I'm supposed to be here to learn the arts of war, and she's going to play a game. But I didn't say anything to her - after all we didn't have teams, so how could we play a game like shinty? Then she gave a shriek of a whistle that nearly tore the inside of my ear out! And suddenly we were surrounded by sturdy men with camans in their hands. Choose your team, she said. I'll be watching how you play. A good player will make a good warrior.

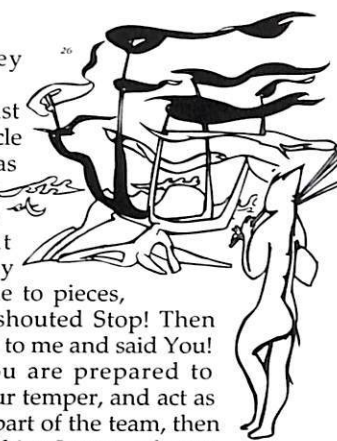
Sgathach threw her caman to me, then before I had caught it, she threw the wooden ball, as hard as she could, at me. I was so

angry with her for wasting my time with this silly game, that I swung my caman at the ball with all my might, striking it so hard that it hit the hillside behind her castle like a bullet and churned its way through the belly of the rock, leaving a tail of flaming hot dust behind it. Later, I heard it came out the other side of the hill with such force that it killed three shepherds and a miller grinding his corn before curving into the sea in a great cloud of steam. Aoife, the queen of the other side was so angry she declared war on Sgathach. I don't know though. Aoife liked to fight. Sgathach was brave, but she thought fighting was silly, unless you had a really good reason to fight.

I do know that I was nearly in a fight - a really big fight, with all the other warriors. They were furious. They surrounded me with their camans like raised swords - and sud-

denly they became swords. Just as that circle of steel was about to slice down out of the sky and cut me to pieces, Sgathach shouted Stop! Then she turned to me and said You! Unless you are prepared to control your temper, and act as if you are part of the team, then there is nothing I can teach you.

(From Sgathach the Warrior Queen, by Aonghas MacNeacail. Published by Balmain Books. Illustrated by Simon Fraser of Shinty! fame.



Nuair a bha Cù Chulainn na bhalach agus e ag iomain air slèibhtean na h-Eireann, sbeag a bha fhios aige gum biodh buidheann de cheud neach eadar luchd-ciùil, dannsairean agus cluicheadairean na camanachd a' tighinn le plèin a dh'Inbhirnis son dà gheam eadar-nàiseanta.

Chan e a-mhàin sin ach bha, airson a'chiad turas riamh, buidheann de chluicheadairean òga fo aois dà bhliadhna deug a Baile Ath Chliath, a thàinig a chluich an aghaidh sgioba de dh'òigridh a chinn a tuath.

Cha b'ann an diugh neo an dè a thòisich ceangalan spòrs thairis air a'Chuan Eireannach. Gu dearbh nach ann an luib troimhe-chèile aig geam camanachd a chaidh naomh Colum Cille a chath a mach a Eireann mìle is coig ceud bliadhna air ais.

Sin eachdraidh na cùise, ach se an rud air nach eil cus dhaoine ag amas, nach e rud ùr sam bith a th'ann riochdairean an dà ghèam a bhith a' tighinn còmhla. Ach chan eil ach ceud bliadhna bhon thòisich na ceangalan eachdraidheil a' tighinn beò gu ìre mhòir sam bith.

Sann ann an ochd ceud deug, ceithir fichead sa seachd deug a chaidh na ceangalan a chur air stèidh bhunaiteach, a thàinig gu ìre ann an 1993 le ceud neach a' tighinn air plèin a dh'Inbhirnis.

Sa bhliadhna sin, chluich sgioba camanachd Chòmhdhail an aghaidh Baile Ath Chliath aig Parkhead ann an Glaschu. Rinn Còmhdhail a'chùis a h-aon deug gu dha. Agus ann an Lunainn, aig Pàirc Stamford Bridge, far am bheil sgioba ball-coise Chelsea a'cluich san latha th'ann, bha sgioba camanachd Lunainn agus sgioba a Eireann co-ionnan, 4-4. Chaidh Còmhdhail a Bhail' Ath Chliath dà mhios an deidh sin, ach cha deach gèam a chluich eadar Albannaich agus Eireannaich a rithist airson deich bliadhna fichead.

Sann sa bhliadhna naoi ceud deug, fichead sa ceithir a bheòthach eibhleagan nan ceangal a bha Colum Cille gun fhiosda dha fhèin air cur thuige. Chaidh cuireadh a thoirt do sgioba a Alba a dhol a null gu Aonachd Tailteann. Agus a measg nan laoch a Alba a chluich air beulaibh ceithir mìle deug Eireannach, nach robh sdòcha buileach a' tuigsinn dè bha iad a'faicinn, bha seòid a Earra-Ghaidheal - Clann IcNeacail, agus Sgiathanach, Cailean MacCalmain. Agus an rèiteire - Iain "Kaid" MacIlleain.

Agus de thachair? Bhuinnig Alba dha gu h-aon. Se cnag na cuise ged tha nach do bhuinnig sgioba a Alba riamh bhon latha sin aig prìomh ìre nan cluicheadair. Carson? Mas freagair sinn sin, 's dh'fhiach sùil a thoirt air staid a'ghèam Eireannaich san latha th'ann. Tha ceud cluicheadair Eireannach ri camanachd son a h-uile fear ann an Alba. Aig a'phrìomh gheam aca ann an 1993, bha trì fichead sa ceithir mìle gu leth neach an làthair. Agus thug an geam a steach corr is muillion not.

Agus sann le leithid sin de dh'airgead a tha Comunn Luthchleas Gael (An GAA) air tòiseachadh a'leasachadh a'phàirc aca ann am Baile Ath Chliath aig cosgais ceud is coig muillion not. Agus nuair a bhios a'phàirc ùr deiseil, bithidh suidheachain innte airson trì fichead sa ceithir mìle neach.

Ciamar a rèisd a chaidh aig na h-Eireannaich air tighinn chun na h-ìre sin taobh staigh ceithir fichead bliadhna, agus camanachd na h-Alba fhathast a'sporghail san dorchadas, le dìreach dà fhichead buidheann?

Innsidh an GAA dhut gu bheil seachd mìle, da cheud, leth cheud sa h-aon buidheann òigridh a'cluich geamanan Gàidhlig. S'ao-coltach an dà ghèam ma tha, agus a-nis air ais chun na ceist - carson?

Tha am freagairt, saoilidh mi, ann an co-dhunadh a rinn Comunn na Camanachd fhèin trì fichead bliadhna air ais. Dìreach nuair a bha na ceangalan ag ath-bheòthachadh a rithist, chaidh innse do dh'ard urrachan a'ghèam, nach robh còir aca a bhith a'daingneachadh nan ceangal ri muinntir na h-Eireann. Chaidh an GAA a chomharrachadh mar bhuidhinn a bha an aghaidh Breatainn. Thàinig am fios a nuas bho gu h-àrd - agus gu math àrd tha e ri thuigsinn - nach bu chòir a chòrr gnìothach a ghabhail ri Eireann. Agus gheill Comunn na Camanachd. Co-dhunadh cho luideach, 'sdòcha, sa rinn iad riamh. Agus bha daor cheannach aca air.

Cha robh a chòrr guth gu bhith air gu faisg air fichead bliadhna air ais. San eadar-ama, chaidh camanachd na h-Eireann air feadh an t-saoghail, agus chaidh an gèam a chur air bun-stèidh cho laidir ri spòrs nàiseanta sam bith.

Agus bha Comunn na Camanachd fhathast a'sporghail san dorchadas agus crìochan a'ghèam a sior theannachadh. Ach fichead bliadhna air ais, chaidh na h-èimhlean ath-bheòthachadh aig ìre eadar-nàiseanta a rithist. Se an rud a fhuair muinntir na h-Alba a mach nach cumadh iad ceann a mhaide ri na h-Eireannaich ged tha, agus nach b'fhiach iad a bhith ris.

Ach chaidh na geamanan ath-bheòthachadh a rithist aig ìre aois bliadhna air fhichead coig bliadhna air ais, agus ann an 1993, bha de mhisneachd aig muinntir Alba na chuireadh iad geam aig àrd-ìre eadar-nàiseanta air dòigh a rithist.

Agus mar a tha fhios againn a nis, rinn Alba a'chùis. Ged a b'fhada a bha an latha ri thighinn, smath a b'fhiach e feitheamh!

Uisdean MacIllInnein



Na h-Eireannaich aig port-adhair Inbhirnis agus riochdairean Chomunn na Camanachd. (Agus leòghann!)



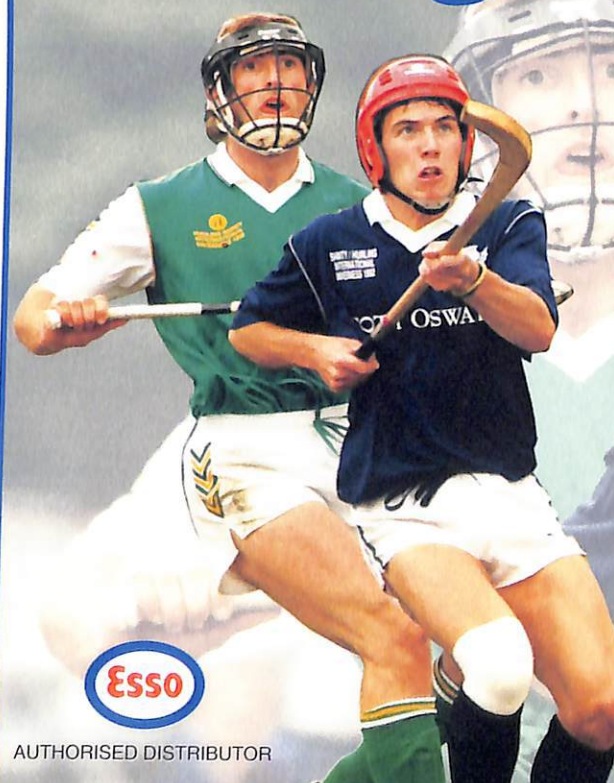
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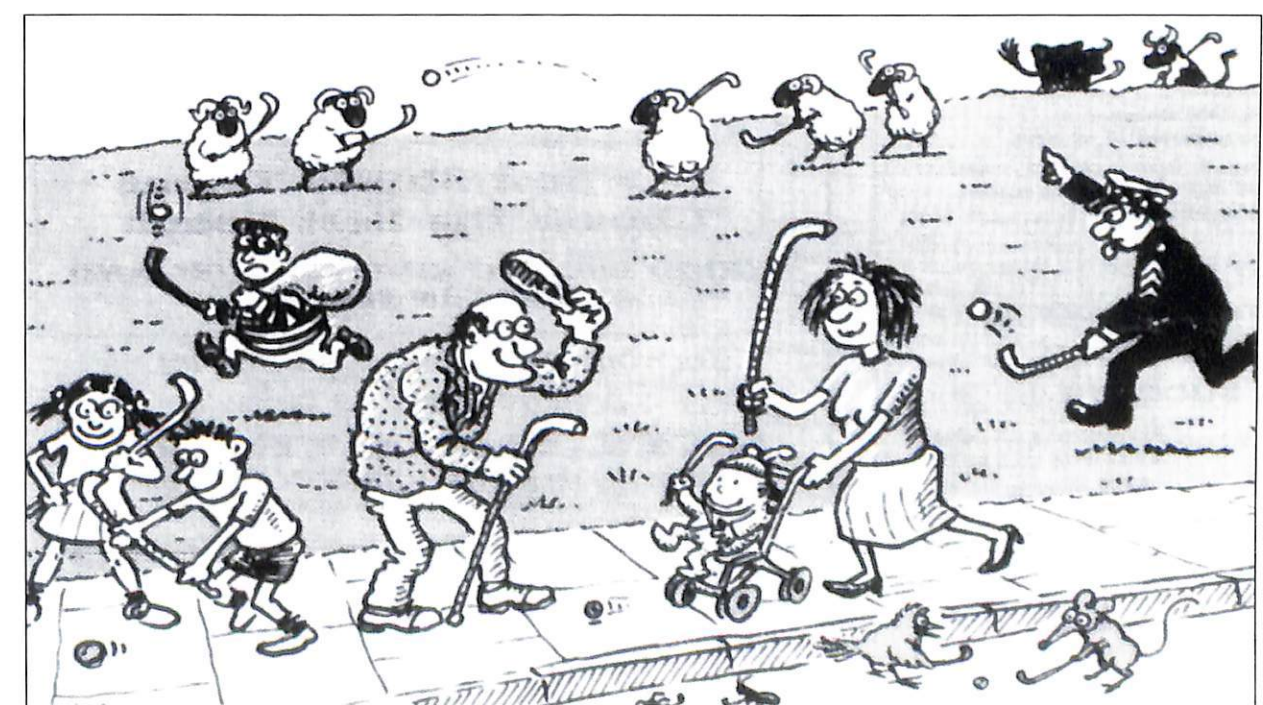
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The title page of the Littlejohn Album, held in Aberdeen University Library. The album details the background to the donation of the famous vase for play between University shinty teams.



The Presentation scroll given by Kingussie Camanachd to John Campbell, first Secretary of the Camanachd Association. It has been returned to the Club by the Campbell family.



A Labour of Love

It all started simply enough. "Come out to the house so that we can talk about the Association's book", John Willie Campbell said to me one cold dark November evening nearly two years ago.

And so I set off to Gorthleck, little knowing that I was eventually to embark on what was to be probably the most significant challenge of my professional career and one which would eventually provide me with a remarkable insight into the history of the finest game in the world.

"We have to write a 400-page book," he said "packed with colour pictures, three hundred pictures all together; all the statistics about the competitions, a bibliography, the Rules, all that. And there has to be a section on each club as well". "Fine", I said. "Who's we?"

The "we" John Willie then outlined was the eminent scholar and historian Hugh Barron of Inverness, Jack Richmond of the Camanachd Association whose personal archive of the game ranks second to none; Coll MacDougall of The Times and "yourself"!

The problem, as John Willie saw it, was that someone had to pull it all together. "And you have a computer, so it'll be no bother". That was when it dawned on me. It looked as if I was going to write the thing.

Now designing anything by committee is a dangerous thing, fraught with all sorts of difficulties, but the Camanachd Association in their wisdom had decided on a formula for a magnificent volume which had to be written for their centenary and that was that. "When's it to be ready?", I asked. "It'll have to be ready for the centenary celebrations in April '93," he replied. "You're kidding," I said.

But he wasn't and off we set on what was to be a marvellously enriching, but often frustrating, and very near impossible

odyssey which was to achieve, in the end, I believe a remarkable production in the circumstances.

Dangerous it may be to dream up the formula for a book for by committee, it is just as difficult to write it thus. Having co-operated on a number of other shinty productions with Hugh Barron and John Willie, there was, however, little trepidation in setting off down this path.

Working with a publisher was to be something I hadn't done before however. "We can't do this without a publisher," I said, "because it's too big. We need someone to handle the origination and the type-setting - all that. Writing is no problem."

"We haven't got one," came the reply. We soon did, however, and a remarkable relationship between Simon and Sarah Fraser of Balnain Books in Nairn and the Camanachd Association, through the Centenary Committee chaired by Donnie Grant and myself as author, began.

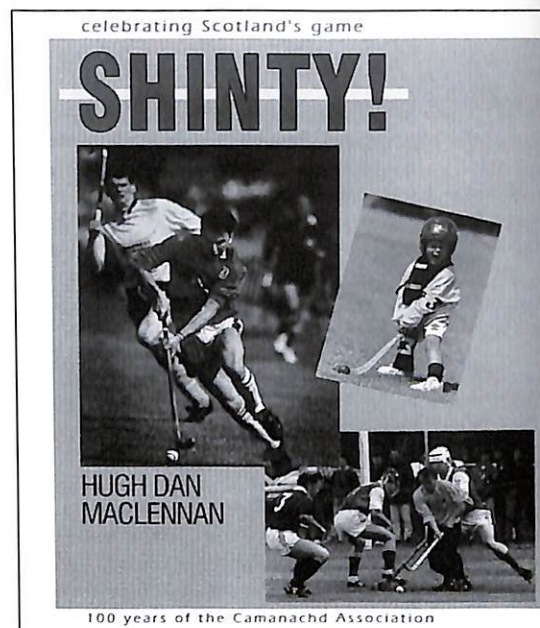
An apparently endless series of meetings was arranged to decide how the impossible could be achieved. A 400-page book is a big book. It weighs a kilo for a start. And where was all the information from all the clubs going to come from. And who on earth would print it in the time we had. For goodness sake, what on earth would the thing cost?

That last question, in fact, was to be the crucial pivot on which the whole operation swung. The book itself was a huge undertaking for anyone in terms of pulling it together.

The final figure costed for the book's production was a substantial five figure sum. It was going to cost a lot of money. It would have cost a lot more if Simon Fraser

had not done a remarkable job paring down costs, arguing with suppliers, doing deals and generally throwing himself into the project with a remarkable commitment.

The Camanachd Association and shinty aficionados world-wide should remain indebted to Simon and Sarah for their efforts in this escapade. Without them and the Wing King Tong Co. Ltd. of Hong Kong, 'Shinty' would never have seen the light of day.



It is a simple fact that the production of this volume would not have been achievable had the book been completed in the country. It was only (perhaps sadly, but inevitably) by shipping the whole job Hong Kong that the project could, in the end, be completed at a cost the Association could afford.

So there we had it. The plan was ready. The publishers had been found, but the book was a huge problem. The centenary celebrations may have been nearly two years away at the time, but the book, particularly because it was to be completed in Hong Kong, would have to be written in November 1992. And that was just twelve months away.

"It can't be done," I said. And I kept saying it. But no-one listened, and may be that is just as well.

Our first task as an editorial committee was to sit down and work out how we could get round the formula which had been dreamed up by the wise men of the Executive. Six chapters were eventually shaped we agreed on, with appendices Rules, Bibliography, the works. "We show them", we said. "We'll get it done it kills us."

Well, it very nearly did. Willie Batche who generally has no difficulty getting blood out of a stone and has talked the hind legs off three donkeys by breakfast was enlisted to chivy the clubs along the compilation of the potted histories. Two pages each we would allow them. That's 76 pages taken care of straight away. Sounds simple, doesn't it?

The problem was that when the questionnaire was issued, asking for it to be completed and returned by April, we knew we hadn't got a snowball's chance of having them all back in time.

And this was the most frustrating part of the project. In fact, it very nearly took to its knees and prevented the publication ever having been completed. I have at the point to place on record my own and the

continued page 2

BALLACHULISH - ON THE UP AGAIN - CELEBRATE AN HONOURABLE CENTENARY by Iain J. Brown

"Have you seen the Ballachulish Have you seen the boys in red, They're the greatest team in shinty, From A to B to Z....."

Since their formation one hundred years ago, Ballachulish Camanachd has produced teams that have competed consistently at the highest levels of our game and conversely, have gone through periods of decline when the community has had no shinty team to represent it.

The club was formed by the amalgamation of two village sides: East and West Laroach. The "Oban Times" records that:

"The young men of Ballachulish met in the Drill Hall of the Mechanic's Institute on Tuesday evening, in the 10th curt., when it was decided to form a shinty club to be called 'Ballachulish Shinty Club'. The office bearers appointed were: Patroness: Mrs. Stuart of Dalness; Hon. President: Mr John Gilmour of Kinlochbeg; Vice-Presidents: Dr. Campbell of Craighannoch, Dr Farquharson, Ballachulish and Mr Currie, the Ballachulish Hotel; Hon. Captain and Referee: Mr. Roberts, St. John's School; Acting Captain: Mr Dugald MacMillan, Loan Fern; Secretary: Mr John MacLachlan, East Laroach; Treasurer: Mr John Gemmill, West Laroach. Handsome subscriptions have been received from: Mrs Stuart, Mr Gilmour, Dr Campbell, Dr Farquharson, Mrs Stewart, Brecklett, Mr Grant, The Stores. The Club will play Oban at Oban on February, 19"

This produced one of the strongest and most successful teams of the time and, indeed, that this small community has known.

If we consider that the neighbouring village of Glencoe continued to have their own team after the formation of Ballachulish Camanachd, we can begin to understand the level of commitment to the game and its importance to the community.

In the last years of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the current one, the club was recognised as the undoubted masters of the game and for that reason the area became known as the cradle of shinty. It is always said that great shinty players are born not created - a belief that has been confirmed throughout the years in Ballachulish where certain players seemed to be born with the added advantage of having their own camans in their hands.



The Ballachulish Camanachd Cup winning team of 1899 at Perth (Courtesy of Willie MacDonald, Park Road, Ballachulish)

The first twenty years were to prove to be the club's most successful period, bringing the Camanachd Cup back to the village on no less than four occasions: 1899, 1901, 1911 and 1912. When we consider that there are only four clubs: Newtonmore, Kyles Athletic, Kingussie and Oban Celtic who have won the sport's most prestigious award more often, we have to realise what an outstanding achievement such consistency was for such a small community.

These successes would, undoubtedly, have continued for a long time but for the outbreak of the first Great War in 1914. Although Ballachulish reached the Camanachd Cup semi-final in 1920 - losing narrowly to the ultimate winners: Kyles Athletic - they could not return to their pre-war winning ways and, unfortunately, the game entered a period of decline in the village.

It could be said that the lost years and lives of the war were the reason for the disinterest in the game, but it seems to have had more to do with the resurgence of the old animosities between the east and west ends of the village. To try to re-unite the warring factions, a match was arranged between them, but far from achieving its purpose it seems to have widened the gulf. For nearly twenty years interest in the sport was almost non-existent, but time and new blood helped to heal the divisions and a new team did emerge in the late thirties.

Unfortunately, this renaissance came shortly before the world was to be plunged into war once again, but the MacTavish Cup was brought back triumphantly in 1938 after the defeat of the more-fancied Caberfeidh. However, on 3 September, 1939 Britain found herself at war and Ballachulish was denied what promised to be another golden era.

Although the conflict took its toll there was still a nucleus of experienced players to re-form the club after the end of hostilities and a truly great Ballachulish team emerged to reach their first Camanachd Cup final for more than a decade. Although they lost 4 - 2 to Newtonmore, their great rivals, many of the players in the side reckoned it was one of the greatest games of shinty ever played. Although they failed to take the major award they got some revenge and a great deal of satisfaction from defeating Newtonmore 2-0 in the final of the MacTavish Cup.

These 'greats' went on to give the club and the village a sterling service of a number of years when they won Dunn, Sutherland and MacTavish Cups. But, there were not young men of talent and commitment to follow them and the club entered a period of severe decline in the fifties. Eventually, efforts to revive interest in the game - including a challenge match between Kyles Athletic and Glasgow Mid-Argyll, the South's dominant teams - did not prove to be worthwhile.

By the mid sixties a team had been brought together which brought credit to the club and allowed the village to be proud of it again. Between 1965 and 1971 they reached no fewer than five Sutherland Cup finals, although they were victorious only once: defeating Skye 2 - 0 at the Bught Park in 1971.

But the last two decades have not been so successful, only sporadic victories in the junior game having been achieved. This can be put down to: disinterest, lack of dedication, poor discipline and the ending of quarrying within the village. It can also be said that the loss of key players to larger, more successful clubs and to the many varied interest of modern living have also been detrimental.

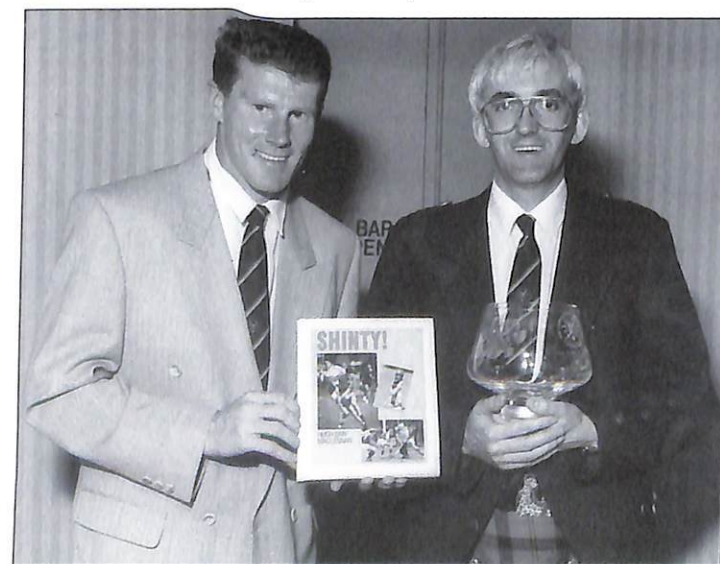
A century ago we had a thriving slate quarry in the village which provided employment for an adequate supply of strong, fit, young men for three teams in the area. Now that quarrying has gone there are just enough young men to provide the basis for just one team and not too many of them able to make the commitment necessary to bring the major awards back to the area.

The change in travel methods has also made for greater mobility of those who might have otherwise stayed in the village and has also brought to the community new families who are not interested in shinty. Where, today, would we find the commitment of players, such as those from Glencoe, who at the turn of the century turned out to play against Renton in the Vale of Leven and set off ON FOOT to make their way home? Such dedication would not be considered today.

However, Ballachulish is still here and is showing signs of rising again. In the season just ended, we have taken the South Division 2 League Championship, the South Qualifying Cup, the Bullough Cup and reached the semi-final of the Glasgow Celtic Society Cup, raising a few eyebrows and taking the scalps of several senior clubs on the way. It is said that success breeds success and this appears to be the case for, once again, on the Jubilee Park is the fashionable game to be played on a Saturday afternoon. As the Ballachulish Shinty song states: "the greatest game of shinty is played on the Jubilee Park ...". Through the dedication of the current team and the very active committee we believe we can start to sing that song again with great justification.

BALLACHULISH ROLL OF HONOUR

Camanachd Cup	Winners: 1899, 1901, 1911, 1912 Runners-up: 1902, 1948
MacTavish Cup	Winners: 1938, 1948, 1952
Celtic Society Cup	Winners: 1952
Sutherland Cup	Winners: 1949, 1971 Runners - up: 1965, 1968, 1969, 1970
Dunn Senior Cup	Winners: 1948, 1949
Strathdearn Cup	Winners: 1971
Bullough Cup	Winners: 1906, 1907, 1908, 1920, 1924, 1968, 1980, 1981, 1991, 1993
MacGillivray Jnr, League Cup	Winners: 1968, 1971
South Qualifying Cup	Winners: 1992, 1993
Marine Harvest League Division 2 (South)	Champions: 1982-83, 1990-91, 1992-93
Marine Harvest League Division 4 (South)	Champions: 1984-85



Shinty! was officially launched at the Camanachd Cup Final in Fort William by Aberdeen FC's Duncan Shearer, himself a former exponent of the ancient and noble game

Centenary Celebrations

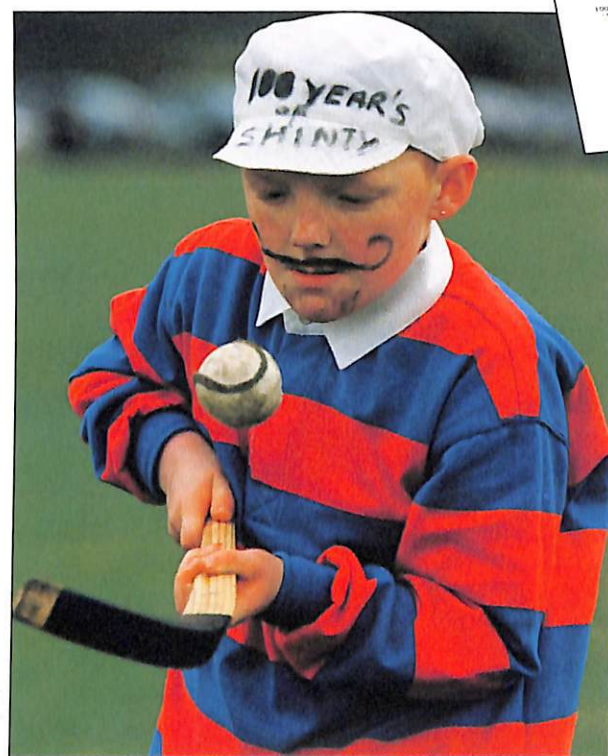


The teams... Glasgow Cowal and Kingussie.



The Throw-up - 90-year old Alec MacGregor who played for Badenoch and Drumguish in the 20's and 30's got the action under way.

Would they have worn the jewellery 100 years ago?



Kingussie's ladies style.



As 100 years ago, the Cowal players arrived by train and the assembled company were piped to the field.

Kingussie players



There was a book: launched on April 3rd.

And it all finished off in Edinburgh Castle with a special reception hosted in the Great hall by Minister of Sport Sir Hector Munro (centre left).



There was Dinner as well....

Tom MacKenzie was honoured for his contribution to shinty.



Highland region's vice-convenor Peter Peacock handed over the first instalment of a £100,000 commitment by the Region to improved facilities.



Camanachd silverware: just some of the trophies which graced the exhibition.



The Executive met in the Victoria Hall, as they did 100 years ago.



The torchlight procession at Newtonmore.



The action was fast and furious, just as it was 100 years ago.

The travelling exhibition detailing the history of Camanachd was one of the highlights of the year. The Camanachd Association is indebted to the huge number of people who helped in so many ways to make the exhibition a success. It will be a definite asset to the Hall of Sport in Newtonmore.

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From the Outside Looking In

Coming from an athletics background, I can perhaps be forgiven for harbouring severe reservations about the sport of shinty from an early age. I certainly had reason enough to be apprehensive about the game, given my earliest experiences of it. Firstly, I was appalled at the age of 13 to hear that my friend's Physics teacher, a Mr. J. W. Campbell, had actually had his nose broken playing the game. And after I joined Inverness Harriers, we could never quite understand why the shinty club always seemed to think that the Bught was THEIR patch. Finally, and possibly most profoundly ...I went to school with Kenny Thomson.

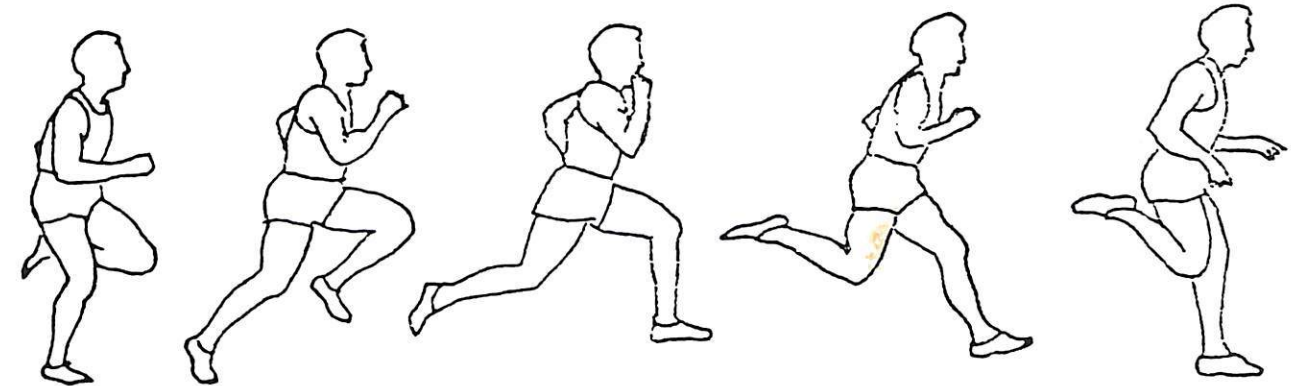
It was therefore with great misgivings in the mid-eighties that I discovered that part and parcel of the function of BBC Highland's Sports Reporter was no small degree of immersion in this mysterious game of ball, stick and infinite ferocity. And I was soon to discover that the mere breaking of noses on the field was as the blinking of an eye compared with the off the field verbal confrontations which seem to give the game its uniquely Highland flavour. "Shinty row", or more usually, "ANOTHER shinty row" were phrases which were soon to be incorporated into my growing vocabulary of journalese.

Coming to terms with the game's facts and figures was no great hardship to someone of a reasonably statistical frame of

mind. However a feel for the spirit of the game (and I refer to its invisible, intangible ethos, not to Glenmorangie) was going to be rather more difficult.....or so I thought. That was going to require people.

I need not, however, have worried - as a complete outsider to the game I have never ceased to be amazed at the welcoming attitude of those who have spent a lifetime in it. The barriers which could so easily have been there quite simply were not. Firstly, the press Corps ...Hugh Dan, John Willie, G.Y., Coll MacDougall and the rest, with their years of experience, could not have been more helpful to the ignorant runner thrust into their midst. Equally helpful have been the Association officials and office bearers of clubs all over the country, whose courtesy has in no way been affected by the inevitably controversial nature of some queries. And at the game's social functions, I have never failed to be made as welcome as anyone else. Embarking on the pursuit of sports journalism has inevitably meant a plethora of new experiences and contacts over the last several years. Inevitably these have been made from the perspective of the outsider coming in, and never has that outsider been made to feel as welcome as in his introduction to the fellowship of the caman.

Charles Bannerman



A VIEW FROM HEAVEN

Having managed to walk through the Pearly gates, Ken Thomson, Donnie Grant and Alister MacIntyre were sitting beamed live on satellite TV from the Bught Park, Inverness.

The coverage included highlights of the 1993 Camanachd Cup Final between Kingussie and Oban Camanachd, and then concentrated on the Bi-centenary Cup Final between Inverness and Glasgow Camanachd. Neither team had prevented Kyles winning their first ever national league final that year, but the two sides were evenly matched and a close contest was anticipated.

Donald Skinner arrived on the same cloud, offered everyone a (small) Glenmorangie and asked for predictions. Two of them reckoned that Glasgow would win and the other two went for Inverness.

The TV pictures showed that the 20,000-seater stadium was full to capacity. The sun was shining, the pitch immaculate and the Camanachd Association Pipe Band resplendent in their regalia as they led out the teams.

The match started with some strong tackling. "Brian Davis would never have allowed that," reckoned Alister. By half-time the score was 2-2. "The crowd are getting their money's worth today. I believe they've reduced the admission to £100," said Donald.

Some fine goals in the second half saw the full-time score finish at 4-4. The home support was vociferous. Their shinty team

was doing them proud and it was a welcome break from the continuing argument about Thistle merging with Caley.

By the end of extra time the score was 6-6 and it meant that a replay would be required in Glasgow on the following Saturday. There had been no bookings, no injuries and none of the synthetic camans had broken. The ball, in fact, was still in good enough condition to use in the replay.

"Two strong teams," said Donnie. "Do you reckon that Team Sport Scotland in the 1990's helped to produce these teams?" asked Ken. They all thought it was a possibility.

The Canadian TV presenter summed up and then cut to the adverts. "You wouldn't hear Hugh Dan speaking like that," commented Alister. "What has happened to him anyway?" asked Donnie. "The last I heard of him he was working on the film of Shinty II - The Sequel."

Meanwhile Willie Batchen floated past. "Good game today lads, but they'll need more referees for next season," he shouted. They knew he was right. Some things never change.

Suddenly John Paterson appeared out of a very big cloud. "Who let you up here?" they joked in unison. He took it the right way. "There's no keeping me down," he replied "and what about all that dangerous swinging today then, you would think you would have stamped it out by now?"

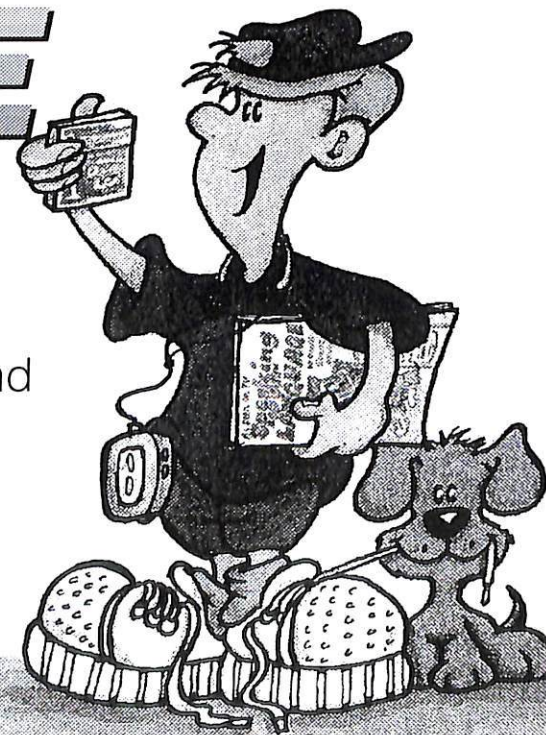
They all agreed and met up again a week later for the replay.

John Robertson
Kingussie

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Under-12 challenge

Shinty/hurling contact between schools in Scotland and Ireland has continued at various intervals since 1971 when Oban High School went to Dublin to play against Blessed Oliver Plunkett's hurlers. In the last three years, the exchange have become properly structured with visits arranged between Scotland and Ireland by Donnella Crawford, the President of the Schools' Camanachd Association.

Appropriately, as part of this year's Irish International party, representative schoolboy hurlers joined the action, to take on a team from the North of Scotland at the Bught Park, on the morning of the Internationals.

The north team, which included Kelly Sandford of Tomnacross, the first girl to gain representative honours in the sport, eventually won 3-1 in a highly entertaining match watched by a large crowd.



North of Scotland Under-12s



Dublin



Action from the under-12 match



Stephen Cameron of Tomnacross, the Scots' man of the match.



Ciaran Quigley, the Irish man of the match



Young Lions run out of Highland Fuel

It all looked good for Scotland's under-21s when Ronald Ross bored through the Irish defence in just 45 seconds to open the scoring. But Eamon Scallon - the Irish captain restored parity a few minutes later.

The game swung both ways and was evenly contested until half-time, but then the Irish took command.

An injury to Scots' mid-field powerhouse James Clark swung the game in the Irish' favour and in the end they lasted the pace better, the Scots having to play for ten minutes a man down. Three goals in the last fifteen minutes saw Irish eyes smiling.



Scotland



Ireland



Action from the Highland Fuels under-21 international.



Left
Man of the match Gerry MacGuire of Tipperary receiving the sàr-chluicheadair award from Comunn na Gàidhlig Director Allan Campbell.



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UNDER 16 DEVELOPMENT CAMP



Meikle's Belmont Centre was the venue from July 5 to 9, 1993 for the under-16 player development camp, sponsored by BP, in association with Team Sport Scotland and the Camanachd Association, which attracted 33 boys from Strathpeffer to Bute, Oban to Motherwell. Assisted by coaches Ronald Ross, Leslie Dewart and David Bell, and physiotherapist, Marie Watson, the camp was directed by Team Sport Scotland Shinty Co-ordinator, Alan McMillan, who explained how the event was organised:

"Earlier in the year each area coaching committee nominated four players aged under-16 to get a place at the camp. The cost to each player was £61 which covered accommodation and all meals plus the coaching - in addition, each player took away a sweat-shirt, T-shirt and a set of shin guards. In some cases the clubs paid the fee, some youngsters paid for themselves, some had district council grants and others were part-funded by clubs and grants. The aim of the camp was to raise the level of the players' performance, through skills sessions and small-sided games, and increase their knowledge of the sport. Lots of the boys didn't understand the rules, weren't sure what equipment to get or how to treat any injuries they might receive, so we held information sessions on these topics. We weren't trying to change their game, just give them more options - a good hitter may not be a good tackler, so with more coaching in the skills they're not so good at, we'd hope to make them better all-round players."

HOW IT WORKED

Each day took a different format. On Monday the coaches concentrated on hitting; on Tuesday the group practised stopping, followed by a

round of small-sided games; Wednesday focused on tackling, blocking and clecking, Thursday was positional play and set pieces and on Friday the boys played actual games. Games were held all week in the form of a league, plus an ongoing penalty competition. By Friday, each player had comments from the coaches written on their camp programme, so that the coaches at their home clubs could see how they'd fared and would have something to work on.

HOW WAS IT FOR YOU?

"The camp's been useful for the better players who are top in their clubs - for one week they're not a big fish in a small pond any more. It's also good for the younger ones, who are maybe not so good, to get a chance of quality coaching as they might be neglected at their own clubs, where the concentration is on the better players who are wanted for the higher levels teams." David Bell, Coach

"I thought the camp would be good fun and would make my game a lot better - and it has." George, 15

"This camp's been a great experience for me and it's been good to see the kids improve. Some are the best players of their age in Scotland, some aren't, but they've worked really well together." Ronald Ross, Coach

"Some of the things we've done I knew already but with being able to practice more I've got better." Duncan, 15

"I've been involved with other camps but at this one there's been a better relationship with the players. The boys have put in a lot of practice and I can see a big improvement in their game over the week because of the amount they're getting to play each day. They've been going out in their own time, too and hitting shinty balls about - it's quite amazing how

keen they
are." Les
Dewart,
Coach

"I always
play in goal
but it's been
good
because
they've let me play other positions."
Neil, 14

"I thought the camp was extremely successful and everything I'd wanted it to be, both as a coach and a player. I can honestly say it's been the high point of my job so far, to spend this week with so many youngsters so into shinty." Alan McMillan, Team Sport Scotland

NEXT YEAR

"I think it would be good to have more camps. The secret is to get as many coaches as possible involved which spreads the burden of organisation." David Bell, Coach

"I firmly believe that player development camps are the way ahead for raising the standards of shinty and giving our young players a great experience of the game. In 1994 we plan to offer two camps to players, similar to the one held at Meikle. However, we would like to increase participation numbers from 35 to 60 or 70. We feel this is a realistic venture by Team Sport Scotland and the Camanachd Association but needs the support of coaches willing to give up one or two weeks of their time to help." Alan McMillan.

"There should be more of these camps - the kids have thoroughly enjoyed it and it's a good idea that they get to know players in other teams. Some of the boys are very good players for their age - better than some seniors I've seen - and, hopefully, they'll have the chance to play at international level some day." Marie Watson, Physiotherapist

"I'll definitely come back if they have another one of these camps." Patrick, 15

For further information on shinty camps or any other aspect of Team Sport Scotland, please contact:

Alan MacMillan, Team Sport Scotland Shinty Co-ordinator, Division of PESOE, Jordanhill College, 76 Southbae Drive, Glasgow, G13 1PP. (041 950 3426)



Don't miss Hugh Dan MacLennan every week



**THE
HERALD**

Don't miss an issue



There have been many great Camanachd Cup Finals; many Finals which produced great play and incidents of great moment. But none can have been as contentious as the 1911 Final between Ballachulish and Newtonmore at Inverness.

Newtonmore won the game 3-2 but after a protest by Ballachulish, the game was replayed at Lochaber. Ballachulish won the second game 3-1 and the decision to have a replay still rankles at the Eilan.

These photographs, previously unpublished, have been forwarded by Mr Murdo W. Bethune. Mr Bethune's father Donald

took his two sons Alick and Murdo with him to see the replay, which had obviously aroused a great deal of interest. Mr Bethune is the figure to the left of the photograph in plus-fours. Murdo Bethune, now residing in Bothwell, Glasgow is beside him and Alick is further down the line with other boys.

Mr Bethune senior resided at Clune, Tomatin at the time of the photograph and later moved to Stratherrick and Inverness. We are indebted to Mr Bethune for providing us with this most interesting set of photographs.



WHO ARE THEY?

This photograph has been passed to John Crawford in an attempt to solve a mystery. The question is quite simply 'Who are they?' It's believed the players may be from Inveraray. Anyone who may have any information about the players' identity should contact John Crawford or any Yearbook committee member.

Glenmorangie Indoor Sixes

Kingussie once again proved themselves masters of the indoor game when they won both the main championship and the Friday night knock-out at the Glenmorangie indoor championships at Aviemore. It was the second successive year Kingussie had won the competition - the fifteenth and possibly last championship. In Dave Anderson they had by far the best player on view.



The Kingussie team which won the Centenary Sixes on the Friday evening.



Michael Clark, Kingussie's victorious skipper with the Glenmorangie Indoor Trophy.



Willie Ritchie of Tomnacross, the Boys' tournament Player of the Tournament.



Kingussie, Glenmorangie Indoor Six-a-side champions, 1993.



Dave Anderson receives the player of the tournament award from Pete Cullen of Glenmorangie.



Ewen Campbell of St Columba's (Oban) receives the Aviemore Mountain Resort Trophy from Don Lawson, the Resort's Chief Executive. St Columba's defeated Tomnacross 3-2 in a thrilling final.

Kingussie's magic ton.....

A magnificent run of 107 games without defeat - spanning some five years, finally came to a halt in the Strathdearn Cup Final of 1993 when Newtonmore inflicted defeat on their traditional rivals Kingussie 2-1 on penalties.

The hundredth match in the unprecedented sequence was the 5-0 victory over Boleskine in Division Three of the Marine Harvest league. At that point Kingussie had scored 633 goals, conceding 93. They had won 95 matches and drawn five.

The last victory they achieved was the 10-0 defeat of Beaulay on April 17, 1993. This gave a total of 681 goals for and 97 against; Kingussie had won a remarkable 102 matches and drawn five. The full list of the famous 100 matches is reproduced here as a tribute to a remarkable sequence of games.

Season 1987-88

1 14.05.1988 Div 3 Kingussie 2 Skye 2

Season 1988-89

2	10.09.88	Div 3	Kingussie 9	Glenurquhart 3
3	17.09.88	Div 3	Inverness 0	Kingussie 15
4	01.10.88	Div 3	Kingussie 5	Newtonmore 2
5	08.10.88	Div 3	Beaulay 1	Kingussie 5
6	15.10.88	Div 3	Kingussie 2	Skye 1
7	22.10.88	Div 3	Lochaber 0	Kingussie 7
8	29.10.88	S/dearn 1	Kingussie 5	Glenurquhart 1
9	05.11.88	Div 3	Fort William 0	Kingussie 2
10	12.11.88	Sutherland 1	Kingussie 5	Kinlochshiel 0
11	19.11.88	Div 3	Kingussie 6	Fort William 1
12	26.11.88	Div 3	Glenurquhart 0	Kingussie 5
13	03.12.88	S/dearn 2	Kingussie 9	Inverness 0
14	10.12.88	Div 3	Kingussie 5	Beaulay 0
15	07.01.1989	Div 3	Kingussie 8	Lochaber 0
16	21.01.89	Sutherland 2	Aberdeen Univ 0	Kingussie 9
17	28.01.89	Div 3	Newtonmore 2	Kingussie 2
18	11.02.89	S/dearn Semi	Kingussie 11	Kinlochshiel 1
19	04.03.89	Sutherland 3	Kingussie 4	Beaulay 1
20	01.04.89	S/dearn Final	Kingussie 5	Beaulay 1
21	08.04.89	Sutherland semi	Kingussie 6	Fort William 2
22	15.04.89	Sutherland-Final	Kingussie 6	Lochside Rovers 1

Season 1989-90

23	02.09.89	Div 3	Loval 0	Kingussie 3
24	09.09.89	Div 3	Glenurquhart 2	Kingussie 4
25	16.09.89	Div 3	Skye 2	Kingussie 2
26	30.09.89	Div 3	Kingussie 5	Beaulay 0
27	07.10.89	Div 3	Fort William 1	Kingussie 7
28	21.10.89	Div 3	Newtonmore 0	Kingussie 6
29	28.10.89	Div 3	Kingussie 5	Skye 1
30	04.11.89	S/dearn 1	Kingussie 6	Caberfeidh 2
31	28.11.89	Div 3	Kingussie 8	Loval 0
32	06.01.1990	S/dearn 2	Boleskine 3	Kingussie 4
33	13.01.90	Sutherland 2	Kingussie 8	Strathglass 0
34	24.02.90	Div 3	Beaulay 2	Kingussie 4
35	17.03.90	Div 3	Kingussie 5	Fort William 2
36	31.03.90	Sutherland 3	Kingussie 9	Boleskine 0
37	07.04.90	Div 3	Kingussie 8	Newtonmore 2
38	28.04.90	Sutherland Semi	Kingussie 6	Fort William 2
39	05.05.90	S/dearn Semi	Kingussie 2	Fort William 1(aet)
40	12.05.90	Sutherland Final	Kingussie 4	Lochside Rovers 0
41	19.05.90	S/dearn Final	Kingussie 4	Skye 1
42	23.05.90	Div 3	Kingussie 4	Glenurquhart 0

Season 1990-91

43	08.09.90	Div 3	Kingussie 2	Fort William 1
44	15.09.90	Div 3	Caberfeidh 1	Kingussie 11
45	22.09.90	Div 3	Kingussie 4	Newtonmore 2
46	06.10.90	Duv 3	Loval 1	Kingussie 10
47	13.10.90	Div 3	Kingussie 11	Glenurquhart 2
48	20.10.90	Div 3	Skye 1	Kingussie 4

49	03.11.90	S/dearn 1	Kingussie 4	Skye 1
50	10.11.90	Sutherland 1	Inverness 0	Kingussie 8
51	24.11.90	S/dearn 2	Kingussie 8	Lochaber 0
52	01.12.90	Sutherland 2	Caberfeidh 1	Kingussie 10
53	15.12.90	Div 3	Fort William 0	Kingussie 12
54	22.12.90	Div 3	Kingussie 1	Caberfeidh 0
55	02.03.91	Sutherland 3	Kingussie 10	Skye 0
56	09.03.91	Sutherland Semi	Kingussie 7	Glenurquhart 1
57	16.03.91	Div 3	Newtonmore 1	Kingussie 13
58	23.03.91	Div 3	Kingussie 11	Loval 1
59	30.03.91	Sutherland Final	Kingussie 13	Inveraray 1
60	06.04.91	Div 3	Kingussie 5	Skye 0
61	13.04.91	Div 3	Beaulay 0	Kingussie 6
62	20.04.91	S/dearn Semi	Kingussie 8	Caberfeidh 0
63	27.04.91	S/dearn Final	Kingussie 6	Newtonmore 1
64	04.05.91	Div 3	Kingussie 4	Beaulay 1
65	22.06.91	Div 3	Glenurquhart 1	Kingussie 6

Season 1991-92

66	07.09.91	Div 3	Caberfeidh 0	Kingussie 12
67	14.09.91	Div 3	Kingussie 8	Boleskine 1
68	21.09.91	Div 3	Glenurquhart 0	Kingussie 5
69	28.09.91	Div 3	Kingussie 8	Fort William 0
70	12.10.91	Div 3	Kingussie 7	Skye 1
71	26.10.91	Div 3	Beaulay 1	Kingussie 4
72	02.11.91	Sutherland 1	Fort William 2	Kingussie 10
73	09.11.91	Div 3	Kingussie 2	Newtonmore 1
74	07.12.91	Sutherland 2	Skye 0	Kingussie 3
75	28.12.91	Div 3	Kingussie 10	Glenurquhart 1
76	11.01.92	Div 3	Boleskine 1	Kingussie 3
77	18.01.92	Sutherland 3	Caberfeidh 0	Kingussie 7
78	25.01.92	S/dearn 1	Glengarry 0	Kingussie 8
79	08.02.92	Sutherland Semi	Kingussie 8	Kilmallie 0
80	22.02.92	Div 3	Kingussie 12	Beaulay 0
82	04.04.92	Sutherland Final	Kingussie 5	Glasgow Mid Argyll 3
83	11.04.92	S/dearn Semi	Kingussie 7	Fort William 1
84	25.04.92	Div 3	Newtonmore 1	Kingussie 5
85	16.05.92	S/dearn Final	Kingussie 6	Skye 3 (aet)
86	13.06.92	Div 3	Skye 0	Kingussie 4
87	20.06.92	Div 3	Fort William 1	Kingussie 1

Season 1992-93

88	05.09.92	Div 3	Lochaber 2	Kingussie 6
89	12.09.92	Div 3	Boleskine 2	Kingussie 5
90	19.09.92	Div 3	Fort William 4	Kingussie 4
91	26.09.92	Div 3	Newtonmore 2	Kingussie 5
92	10.10.92	Div 3	Skye 1	Kingussie 4
93	17.10.92	Div 3	Glenurquhart 1	Kingussie 7
94	24.10.92	Div 3	Kingussie 5	Beaulay 0
95	31.10.92	S/dearn 1	Glengarry 1	Kingussie 7
96	07.11.92	Sutherland 1	Inverness 2	Kingussie 5
97	21.11.92	Sutherland 2	Loval 2	Kingussie 6
98	28.11.92	S/dearn 2	Kingussie 6	Lochcarron 0
99	30.01.93	Sutherland 3	Edinburgh Univ 0	Kingussie 4
100	06.02.93	Div 3	Kingussie 5	Boleskine 0

OBAN CAMANACHD - IT'S SEVEN IN A ROW

The eighty-ninth final for the Glasgow Celtic Society Cup was to have taken place at Bishopbriggs on Saturday 15th May and to have been the last shinty match played at the ground of the ungenerous Alan Glen's Rugby Club. Monsoon conditions on the previous evening and throughout the morning of that day led to its postponement and eventual transfer to Oban's Mossfield Park a month later where Oban Camanachd and Oban Celtic played out an entertaining, if somewhat one-sided, final on a warm summer's evening before the largest crowd to have seen a Glasgow Celtic Society Cup final for many years.

The two sides had opened their cup final clashes eight months earlier when Oban Camanachd acquired the Royal National Mod Cup for the first time and gave every indication that the team nurtured by Dunny Niven would be a force to be reckoned with.

The pundits believed they would slip up in this one as they had seen Kingussie defeat their dream of a 'full-house' of all the valuable silver and especially that of regaining the Glenmorangie Camanachd Cup after more than half a century. Reaction must set in, they argued, and the oldest trophy would stay in Oban but in the hands of Alan MacInnes, the Celtic captain, rather than in those of David McCuish, his Camanachd counterpart.

As so often, they were wrong: the south league champions were never stretched. Steven Jamieson was left unmarked twice and twice he gave Scott Buchanan little opportunity to make a save. Dougie MacVicar and McCuish showed how easy it was to add a goal apiece to make the half-time score 4 - 0. Oban Celtic did rally thereafter, but there was far too little cohesive play to make a real impact and far too little accuracy near goal.

Only Brian MacCallum got the better of John MacGregor before Fraser Inglis restored the four goal difference to emphasise Camanachd's superiority.

Gair MacKay, West Highland Regional Manager of the Bank of Scotland, sponsors of the competition, presented the trophy to David McCuish and his keepsake quai - a poor imitation of the fine presentation camans which the Society presented in earlier times.

Jack Asher, the Society's president and Iain Cameron, its secretary, welcomed the players and guests to reception in the Columba Hotel where John Rawcliffe, the general manager and his staff provided an excellent supper in record time and the subsequent speeches were completed in similar fashion.

Col MacDougall



Lochaber Camanachd Sutherland Cup Winners 1965. Lochaber are on top again and a New Year lead North Division Two with an unbeaten record.

"O Muster my lads for the shinnie..."

O! muster, my lads, for the shinnie,
Come, rush like waves of the sea;
Come, sweep as the winds from the heavens,
Nor these than the Gael more free.

Let national fervour inspire you,
As bounding you march to the heath;
O! think of your ancestors' glory,
Who smiled at the triumph of death.
O! muster, my lads....

The heather blooms sweet on the mountain,
The thistle waves proud in the vale,
Where hover the ghosts of your fathers -
The brave Caledonian Gael.
O! muster, my lads.....

To witness their progeny summon'd,
And joyously view their combine;
With camacks to play at the shinnie,
The pastime and sport of Langsyne.
O! muster, my lads....

How fine is the muscular action -
So highly conducive to health -
O! Hygeia's glances are sweeter
than all the caresses of wealth.
O! muster, my lads...

'Tis worthy the soul of true heroes
In exercise such to contend;
Promoting their wealth and their vigour,
Their sacred rights to defend.
O! muster, my lads....

Then cast off your plaids, lads, and to it,
And when you've gained three times the 'hail',
March straight to the barn or the bothy,
Your sweethearts and wives to regail.
O! muster, my lads....

For Logan has tapp'd you Scots whisky,
And Lossie broached you good ale,
And Currie has made a Scots' haggis,
And Menzies prime savoury kale.
O! muster, my lads....

I've purchased some cheese in Glen Muidart,
Which Gallie has fetch'd in a sack;
Though great and astounding the distance,
He carried it all on his back.
O! muster, my lads.....

On, that ye may feast at the shinnie,
And thank the Great Giver with awe;
And ere ye arise from the table,
Let harmony animate all.
O! muster, my lads....

Then dance to the tune of the bagpipes,
Quick reading till panting for breath;
And may you all meet the next season,
As happy again at Blackheath.
O! muster my lads....

(The above song was composed by David MacDonald, an Inverness bard of the 19th century who published his works in 1838 under title of "The Mountain Heath". This song was sung on June 22, 1836, by Mr J. Warren on Blackheath, London, while David pursued his earlier calling as a baker in the great city at the time. The words are set to the Gaelic air "ag iomain na gamhna.") - from Transactions of the Gaelic Society of Inverness, Vol XXX, page 39-41.

The Thistle Club Shinnie Medal

A unique silver medal - thought to have been manufactured around 1840, could perhaps yet feature among artefacts being gathered by the Camanachd Association for the Hall of Sport in Newtonmore.

The medal surfaced at a sale organised by Christies in Edinburgh in November, but a joint bid by the Association and Highland Regional Council to secure the medal failed. It was bought by a "mystery north collector", according to press reports.

The Yearbook editor has made contact with the buyer, who has given an assurance that the medal will not be lost to the game, and that it will remain in the Highlands.

Its history is shrouded in secrecy. It first came to the notice of shinty followers at the Camanachd Isle cup match on Islay two years ago, when the gentleman who owned the medal, a Mr MacDonald of Glasgow, with Islay connections, showed it to Donald Woodrow of Kintyre Camanachd.

After some discussion with the Camanachd Association, the medal returned to Mr MacDonald's possession, not to be heard of again until it appeared in a catalogue of silver being sold by Christies in Edinburgh in November. It was sold there to the "mystery buyer", for a sum well in excess of what it might have been sold for, if the chance had been taken two years ago.

The best guess as to the medal's history is, according to Jack Richmond the Association guru in these matters, that it was made as a President's match from the Highland Exiles' Office in London, and that it was presented at a game, of the kind played at Blakheath, London in the 1840's or thereabouts.

Such "one-off" medals were often not hall-marked, according to silver experts at the Royal Museums of Scotland. Its style suggests that it was moulded, rather than hand-crafted.

The medal, which Jack describes as "quite special", is just one of the fascinating links with the past which has surfaced in centenary year and it is comforting to know that the link will continue to exist, albeit shrouded in mystery.





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The Littlejohn Album

There are few shinty trophies as attractive and with such an interesting history as the Littlejohn Challenge Vase, played for by the Universities. Relatively few people, in fact, have seen the magnificent cup, and its appearance in the Association's travelling exhibition added much to a hugely impressive collection of silverware.

Even fewer people have seen the Littlejohn Album which accompanied the trophy when donated to Aberdeen University By Mr Alexander Littlejohn of Invercharron. It is a beautifully produced piece and ornate

piece of work (see also page 21) - hand-worked monograms on fine vellum - and it is normally kept under lock and key in the vaults of the University.

A copy is held however by the Gaelic Society of Inverness in the Public Library, Farraline Park, Inverness.

(See also page 61)



Roger Hutchinson
on Sport

shinty players of Aberdeen University (shinty had been played in an organised form at Aberdeen University since at least 1861).

In 1905 Alexander Littlejohn approached the Aberdeen University Athletic Club and offered them a "challenge vase" to be used "particularly for continuing the interest in the Ancient Celtic Game of Shinty".

The AUAC naturally accepted this stockbroker's friendly offer, but when the trophy arrived they were stunned.

It was a sensational piece of work. The Littlejohn Vase was modelled in silver on a fourth-century BC sculpted container, an Etruscan vase, which had been found in 1770 in a lake at Pontinello, Italy (and which is now, I am told, in the Burrell Collection, Glasgow).

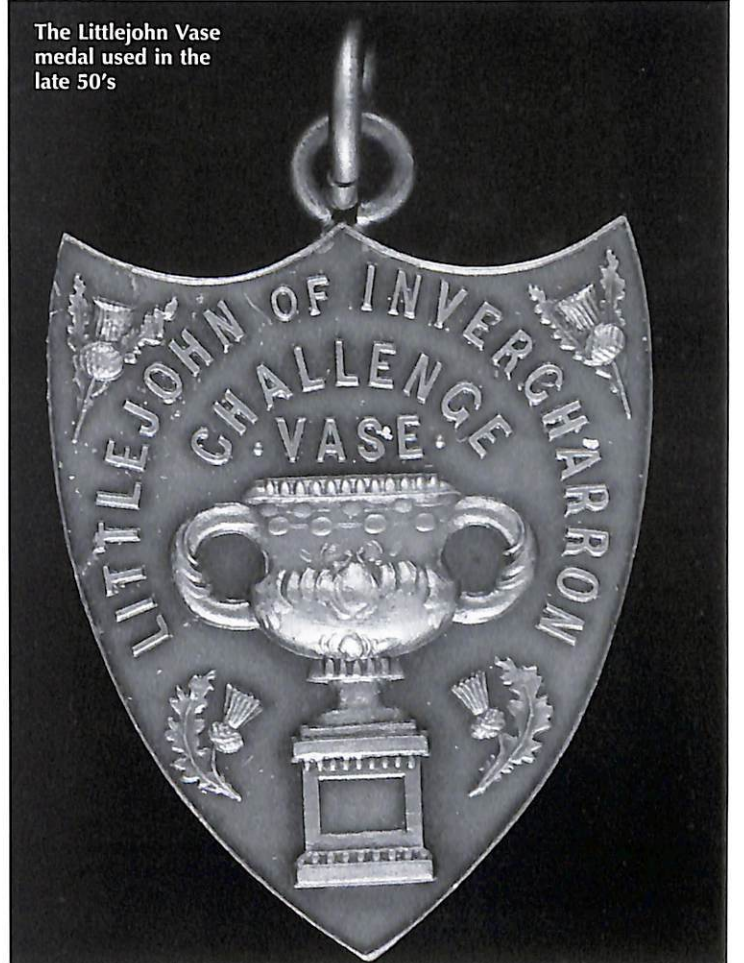
Aberdeen's new trophy was — as any captain who has since held it aloft will attest — an amazing, ornamental quack set upon a stately plinth. It was accompanied by a leather-bound volume, adorned with gold leaf and tartan inset, which outlined in medieval calligraphy the history of the game of shinty, and articles of the deed of gift. This remarkable manuscript remains under lock and key in the Queen Mother library, Aberdeen.

But the cup itself was taken into the light of day. Generously, the students of Aberdeen decided that they could not keep such a spectacle to themselves, and so they opened a competition between the three Scottish university shinty teams in 1906.

Glasgow won the Littlejohn Vase in that first year, and since then it has passed around the campuses, accumulating a hoard of great stories and some fine displays of shinty. Some of the greatest shinty players in Scotland have held the Littlejohn Vase, and some of the worst. It has made riotous journeys from north to south and south to north passed through the unsteady hands of many a jubilant young man, and yet remained intact. It is a remarkable trophy.

And I don't know who presently holds it. Why? Will somebody please tell me.

The Littlejohn Vase medal used in the late 50's



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Unit 2, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William.

Who won the Littlejohn Vase this year? I ask because a couple of telephone calls to usually reliable informants could not enlighten me.

The result of this venerable contest was not reported, that I noticed, in the local or in the national press. Why is the Littlejohn Vase competition so ignored?

I suspect, because it is played for by students, outwith the immediate auspices of the Camanch Association. But the Littlejohn Vase is one of the oldest shinty trophies available (and is therefore, by definition, one of the oldest sports trophies in Scotland). And it has a fascinating history.

Alexander Littlejohn was a Londoner of Scottish origins who made a small fortune in the City at the end of the 19th century.

He used some of his money to buy the Invercharron Estate in Easter Ross (and thenceforward called himself Littlejohn of Invercharron) and a good deal of the rest of his fortune in pursuing a fascination with classical civilisations.

He appears to have submerged himself in the study of four such civilisations — the Greeks, Romans, Etruscans . . . and the Celts. It was undoubtedly his interest in the latter which made him take notice of the



From the West Highland Free Press, June 14, 1991.



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Knockie

The South-West wind was softly blowing
The sky above was painted blue
The Highland cattle were gently lowing
The mountains looked a crimson hue

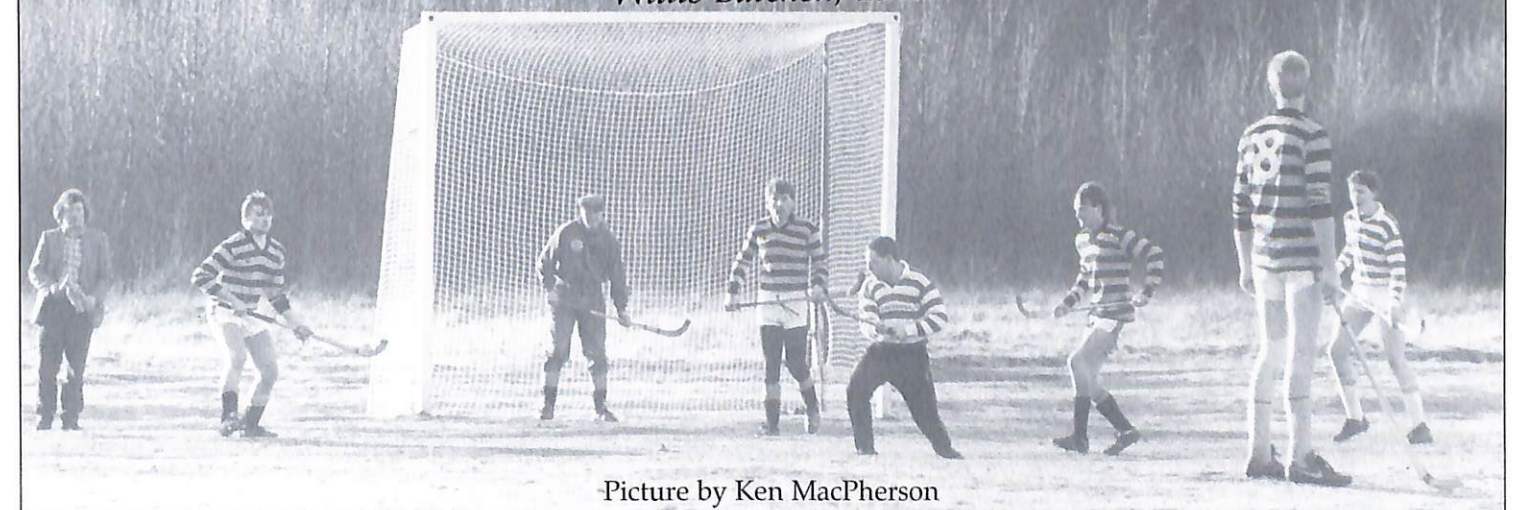
The silver birch its grandeur showing
Whose autumn tints are burnished gold
The mountain streams were swiftly flowing
Loch Knockie lay beneath me rolled

With rugged rocks and valleys green
With heath and birch and heather
No lovelier sight was ever seen
In bright or stormy weather.

Across the slopes of rocky bens
The deer in herds do roam
While deep in mossy shady glens
The stately monarchs make their homes.

The sun was sinking in the West
On Knockie streaked its parting rays
The thrush was singing at its best
"Oh" dreams and memories of sweet days.

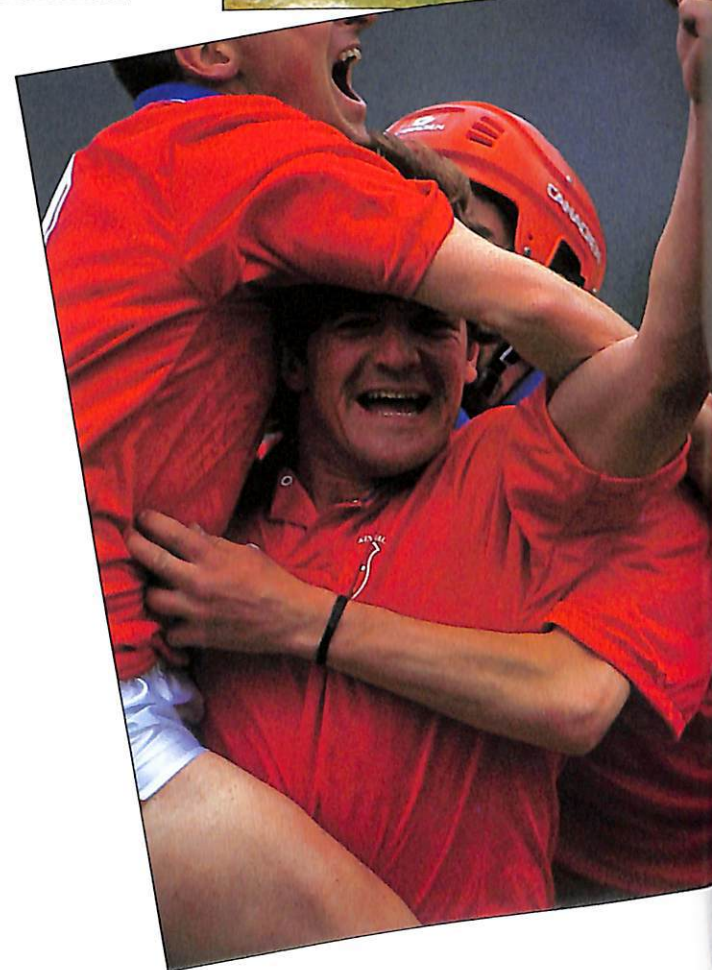
Willie Batchen, 1942



Picture by Ken MacPherson

GLENMORANGIE CAMNACHD CUP FINAL 1993

Kingussie 4 — Oban Camanachd 0



Early days



The earliest known picture of play, Perth, 1899.



One of the rare oil paintings of a shinty players hangs in Oban's Corran Halls. It is of Bunty MacGregor-Whyte, the younger son of Duncan MacGregor-Whyte the artist. Bunty, the favourite son, was killed in World War One, on active service with the Navy.



John MacDonald of Keppoch, officiating at the 1899 Camanachd Cup Semi-Final, held at Keppoch. Kingussie versus Caberfeidh (Alec Falconer, Kingussie, left).

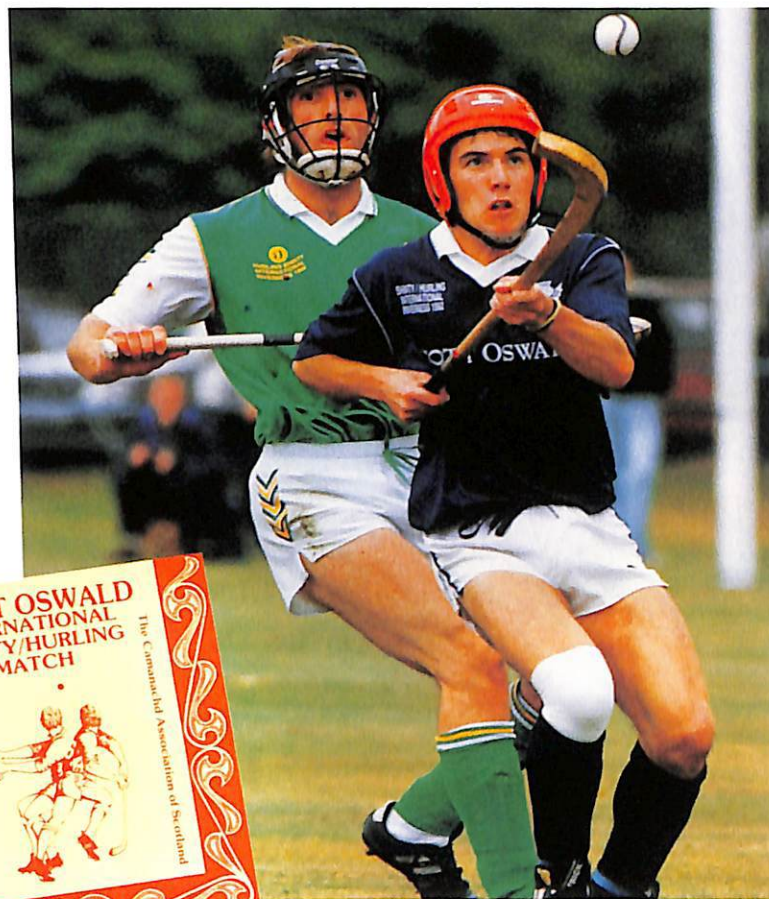
NORTH v SOUTH



The victorious South team who won the Grampian Cup at Cannich for the first time in five years.



North won the senior representative match at Oban, winning the Caol Cup.



Brian Corcoran (Ireland, rear) v Ali Borthwick at the Bugt Park, 1992.



They met their match...



Fort William's Graeme MacMillan met his in Tina Tulloch, now converted from being Lovat supporter (lucky lady!)



Glenorchy's Keith MacIntyre and Nicola MacLeod, unsure whether she'll be a golf or shinty widow.



Iain Hay of Oban Celtic and Doreen Edwards



The Scots have been switched-on to it for years



The way it was . . .



An early final at Mossfield Park, Oban - the 1920's.



**CAMANACHD
ASSOCIATION
CENTENARY
1893 — 1993**

The special logo for the Camanachd Association's centenary designed by Cara Thomson of Kingussie High School.



The Aviemore Indoor Six-a-side competition, one of shinty's most popular events. 1993 was it's fifteenth year.

The way it is . . .



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THE MUSEUM OF HIGHLAND SPORT

The Museum of Highland Sport is scheduled to open in June 1994 as part of the Phase 1 development of the Highland Folk Park in Newtonmore. It will eventually form part of the reception complex of the Park, which will take the physical form of an 18th century Coaching Inn, with the Museum of Sport being on one wing of the courtyard. Apart from an ancillary toilet block, the Museum of Sport is the first part of the complex to be built.

The Highland Folk Park is a multi-million pound venture by Highland Regional Council's Museums' Service, designed to provide a European-class educational and interpretive experience for the 21st century. Within the 80 acres of the Park, visitors will be encouraged to explore and discover aspects of Highland culture by means of historical reconstructions, demonstrations, hands-on experiences and formal displays. The Park will attempt to explore man's relationship to the Highland landscape from pre-historic times to the present day.

The Museum of Highland Sport is one of the formal display mechanisms - one of the more familiar approaches to history which visitors to the Park will encounter. Within it will be told the story of traditional sports, and their relationship to the society from which they developed.

Shinty, as one of the earliest recorded "sports" (or Celtic battle-training) will have a well-deserved primacy within the museum. The decision to build the Museum of Highland Sport as part of the first phase development (which includes a working croft c.1900) is directly linked to the centenary celebrations of the Camanachd Association. The new building is seen as one more element in the not insubstantial support for the Association, shown by the Library and Leisure Services Department of Highland Regional Council in 1993, a momentous year.

The Centenary Exhibition which has toured so successfully during the year, will form the core of the first exhibition in the new Museum. It is intended that one of the two exhibition galleries will be devoted to Shinty and its relationship to other sports - golf, Highland Games etc.

Other sports which will be included in the Museum are Curling, early winter Sports in the Highlands, early Ba' Games, and so forth. It is not intended that the displays be static, but will allow for on-going research and development.

The Museum will, of course, provide a safe repository for memorabilia from the sports, Shinty included, and I am happy to hear from anyone wishing to contribute material to the Museum.

Ross Noble MA, FSA Scot.
Regional Curator



SCHOOL SHINTY IN THE LORN AREA

Two of the Schools Camanachd finals were held in Oban during 1993: The Wade Cup at Ganavan in March and the MacBean Cup at Mossfield in May. In the Wade Final, although Lochgilphead High were trailing behind Lochaber High at half-time, they flourished in the second half to end up the winners. The same two schools met in the MacBean Final but this time, it was Lochaber High who were the winners. The Oban High School boys were disappointed not to have reached that final, especially as the MacAulay Association provided an excellent reception after the game.

The final of the Bank of Scotland Competition for Primary Schools was held as usual on the morning of the Glenmorangie Camanachd Cup Final. This final was declared by several of the spectators to be the best primary school game they had seen for years. It was an exciting game ending in a 2 - 1 victory for St. Columba's (Oban) over Tomnacross with St. Columba's goals being scored by Daniel MacIntyre and his younger brother Liam and that of

Tomnacross by their captain, Steven Cameron.

The MacKay and MacPherson Cup Finals took place at An Aird a fortnight later. There had been problems with the MacKay Cup fixtures owing to one or two schools being three weeks or more late in playing their fixtures. As a result, St. Columba's had to play no less than four games in the week of the final. Hopefully, action can be taken to prevent this occurring in the future. The contestants in the MacKay Cup Final were the same as in the Bank of Scotland Final but this time Tomnacross were the winners. The MacPherson Final between Oban High and Kingussie High was a close game. The score stood at 5 - 5 with three minutes to go when Kingussie scored the winning goal.

Oban primary schools were successful in several six-a-side competitions with Rockfield winning the George Cup at Ballachulish and the Dunbeg Sixes, and St. Columba's and Park being winners and runners up at the Taynuilt Sixes thus winning selection for the Aviemore Indoor Sixes in

October which were then won by St Columba's, who defeated Tomnacross in a dramatic and highly entertaining final.

Shinty is also active in many of the schools outside the town. In May, Mrs. Marie Ross, new Chairperson for the Lorn Area Coaching Committee, aided by several other helpers, took a contingent composed of young players from Lochnell, Dunbeg and Taynuilt to the Team Sports Festival in Perth.

The local clubs have promised extra support for shinty at Oban High School for the coming session as Mark McShane who was the teacher in charge of shinty there is leaving to take up a post in Tobermory. Some of the Oban High boys took part in the Under 14 national championship in Glasgow in October.

In conclusion, I should mention that eight primary schools along with Oban High School took part at Mossfield Park in the evening of the Schools Camanachd "Play Shinty" day on Monday, 21st June to celebrate the Camanachd Association Centenary.

Greig Anderson



It was the wettest Final ever — at Claggan Park, Fort William 1973. Glasgow Mid Argyll 4 Kingussie 2.

SHINTY'S CINDERELLA

by Rev Roddy Macleod

Here is a question for a Christmas sports quiz - Who is more unpopular than a shinty referee?

Answer - no, not a football Referee, but a shinty Goal Judge!

The Goal Judge is often the Cinderella of a shinty field - however little resemblance to the fairy tale heroine that official may possess in physical appearance. Although the Rules of camanachd state quite clearly, "Two Goal Judges shall be appointed," how often in the past have you witnessed a match, particularly in the lower leagues, where play has been allowed to proceed with neither Goal Judge nor Linesman available?

But despite the fact that the impression is sometimes given that the services of a Goal Judge are not entirely necessary, yet he (or she) can have a crucial role to play in a game.

Just think about the duties of the Goal Judge, as laid down in the Rules of Play. First and foremost, it is the Goal Judge's responsibility to indicate to the Referee when a goal has been scored. The Goal Judge's decision in this regard can make all the difference to the outcome of a contest. He has to determine whether the ball actually crossed the line, or if the goalkeeper stopped it in time. That goal, given or disallowed, could settle a league championship or decide which team wins the Camanachd Cup.

Secondly, the shinty Goal Judge is expected to indicate "when the ball is out of play over the bye-line and whether a bye-hit or a corner should be awarded." Again the Judge's decision can alter the whole course of a game and influence the destination of a cup or league championship. The Goal Judge is usually in a better position than the Referee to discern whether the ball took a deflection off a defender before crossing the bye-line. The resultant corner hit could lead to a match-winning or cup-winning goal.

Thirdly, and very importantly, one

of the Goal Judge's duties is to indicate to the Referee "when an attacking player is off-side." The Goal Judge is strategically placed to see whether an attacking caman has strayed into the Ten Yards Area a second before the arrival of the ball, although his decision does not always meet with the approval of players and spectators.

The general statement in the Rule Book about the duties of Goal Judges seems to point to the responsible nature of their position. "They shall assist the Referee to control the game in accordance with the Rules."

Just how important a Goal Judge can be in assisting the Referee in upholding the Rules of the game may be illustrated by an incident from the annals of the competitive clashes between Furnace and local arch-rivals, Inveraray.

In a match played in the years between the Wars, the ball went over the side-line and was immediately kicked into play by one of the spectators. The Inveraray player who connected with the ball scored. The Referee blew for a goal. The Furnace players were incensed. They surrounded the Referee. But the official was adamant - it had been a goal. Some of the Furnace team insisted that the Referee consult the Goal Judge who had been better placed to see what had happened. But their protestations were in vain. Eventually, one of the Furnace players grabbed the Referee by the hand and dragged him to where the Goal Judge stood. The Goal Judge (reluctantly, perhaps!) confirmed that the ball had gone inches over the side-line. The Referee changed his original decision and stroked off the Inveraray "goal". (In the event Inveraray went on to win the match by scoring legitimate goals. One wonders how kindly a modern Disciplinary Committee would have viewed the actions of the player who quite literally took

the law into his own hands!)

In an ideal shinty world, no game would commence without two neutral Goal Judges officiating, whether in the top league or the lowest division. Because one decision by a Goal Judge can alter the outcome of a game, it would be desirable that in all cases they can be regarded as non-partisan, having no connection with either of the teams on the field.

Because a shinty pitch is so vast in comparison to a football field, and because Referees, whatever else we may accuse them of with reference to their vision, do not have eyes in the back of their heads, the assistance of the Goal Judges can be crucial. As the regulations remind us, "Goal Judges, when neutral, shall draw the Referee's attention to any breach of the Rules of Play of which they become aware if they consider that the Referee may not have seen it." (The necessary addition of the words WHEN NEUTRAL considerably waters down this provision in the Rules.)

Having been dragooned from time to time into officiating as a Goal Judge (in most cases because I was one of two spectators present at a Fourth Division game in the depths of Winter), I feel the status of the Goal Judge should receive more acknowledgement. Ideally, no shinty match should commence without two Goal Judges (and at least two Linesmen) being in position. The absence of such officials can lead to disagreements over the Referee's decisions, and places an unfair additional burden on Referees. There is a need to recruit more Goal Judges and to provide them with some basic training as to their duties. It might even lead to some of them joining the ranks of that other target of the displeasure of players and spectators - the much maligned but indispensable Shinty Referee.

W J Cameron League Cup Final (North of Scotland Under-17's)

Caberfeidh 1 Fort William 12

The final goal of this under 17 North League Cup Final was worthy of the Camanachd Cup itself.

Fort William's Andy Reid produced a breathtaking volley which crashed past Cabers keeper MacKenzie and brought Andy's personal tally to seven goals to cap an outstanding evening's work.

The game had started very differently, however. It was Caberfeidh who had taken the lead in the 15th minute, from the penalty spot after Fort full-back, Steven Milne, had been penalised for heading the ball. At this stage the two teams were evenly matched - Jamie MacDonald (Centre), Angus MacKay (Full-back) and Grant MacKenzie (Goalkeeper) doing particularly well for Caberfeidh and matching excellent individual performances from Mark Scobbie (Centre), Graham Cairns (Wing) and Neil Robertson (Centre-back).

Fort equalised shortly after this setback and went ahead in the 25th minute when Wayne Watson set up Andy Reid's first of the evening.

The match was finely balanced when the teams turned but a devastating 12 minute spell saw Fort William net four goals and Caberfeidh's resolve broken. Reid was involved in all four, scoring three and latching on to a thoughtful cross ball by Scobbie to set up Scott MacDonald for the other.

As the Strathpeffer boys lost heart Reid added 3 more. John MacDonald (2), and Thomas MacPherson the rest. Given the competitiveness of the first half it was a disappointing final result for Caberfeidh who had been overwhelmed only in the latter stages.

This marks Fort William's first win in the competition since 1972 when the team contained formidable talents like Joe Toal, Joe MacMillan and Hugh Dan MacLennan. Players of that team went on to represent Scotland at full international level and there is no reason to doubt that players from these two talented will not emulate that.

Teams :-

Caberfeidh : Grant MacKenzie, Angus MacKay, Donald Bain, Jamie Stewart, Kevin Cameron, Ian Lonnen, Jamie MacDonald, Lee Nicol, Michael Rhoden, Derrick MacLennan, Wayne Grant, Gavin Cumming, Alexander MacGeorge, Sandy MacDonald, Gary MacLennan, Stuart Scally.

Fort William : Gary Wells, Steven Milne, Colin Nolan, Neil Robertson, Martin Anderson, Graham Cairns, Mark Scobbie, Russell Allan, Scott MacDonald, Wayne Watson, John MacDonald, Andy Reid, Thomas Ferguson, Calum Cameron.

Referee ; J. A. Mac Coll

SCHOOLS CELEBRATE CAMANACHD CENTENARY

Monday 21st June 1993 was the day chosen by the School's Association to have a "DAY OF SHINTY" to celebrate the Centenary of the Camanachd Association. Schools were left to decide how they would celebrate. Each pupil who took part in the day was presented with a certificate.

Fodderty Primary organised a six-a-side competition which produced good shinty. On Skye, Uig Primary got together with two other schools to hold their competitions. Lochaber School had over 70 pupils taking part in their celebration and at Kinlochleven, Willie Lawrie had 30 pupils involved. Jane Fisher at Banavie organised a competition for the very young players and they all thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

The Oban area schools met in Shore Street and the players (in their strips) paraded behind the Oban Pipe Band up to Mossfield Park where they have several pitches and played continuous shinty. The marching schools carried school banners. A large crowd turned out to watch and give their support.

At Lochgilphead Primary the boys and girls of P5, P6 and P7 took part in an afternoon of shinty skills. This proved a very popular event thanks to the help of 9 secondary school shinty players who acted as coaches and "testers". Lochgilphead High School usually have a clan shinty competition each year but this year they decided to have 2 teams from each of the 4 clans. This competition was played in the Sports Centre.

Blantyre High School players, coached by John MacFarlane, also took part in the celebration. Schools were even taking part in the celebration south of the Border. Andrew Clough of Chipping Campden, Oxfordshire had 12 primary schools taking part in his competition. They had a wonderful day. Well done Andrew!

The day was a great success. The boys and girls in our schools are the future of our great game and we wish the Camanachd Association all the best for the next hundred years. We, in the Schools Camanachd Association, will continue to encourage the playing of shinty. It is part of our great heritage, after all.

Donella Crawford
President

RESULTS

1992 - 93

Secondary

Wade Cup (under 16 years)

Winners - Lochgilphead High School
Runners Up - Lochaber high School

MacPherson Cup (under 14 years)

Winners - Kingussie High School
Runners Up - Oban High School

MacBean Cup (under 13 years)

Winners - Lochaber high School
Runners Up - Lochgilphead High School

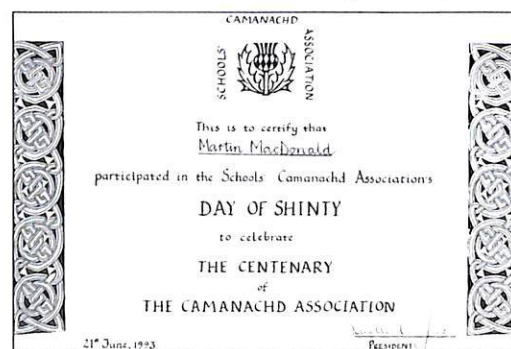
Primary

Bank of Scotland

Winners - St. Columba's Primary School, Oban
Runners Up - Tomnacross Primary School

MacKay Cup

Winners - Tomnacross Primary School
Runners Up - St. Columba's Primary School, Oban



PAST SHINTY FINALS by Eric Ross Birkett

My first was the 1936 one - and it nearly wasn't. Before knowing the date, a cousin and I had arranged to visit Wembley for the international football match against England. Great was our disgust on learning that the Camanachd Cup Final would be on the same day. Great was our delight on learning that the game at Oban resulted in a 2 - 2 draw and that we would manage to see the replay a week later at Spean Bridge - not the present fine pitch half-a-mile east of the village, but on a level patch of the golf course, a mile up the brae to the north, towards where the Commando Memorial now stands.

We lived in Edinburgh then, and on the Friday afternoon we motored up to Abriachan, above the western shore of Loch Ness. "Maighstir Sgoil", Robert Denoon from Glen Urquhart, had been a friend at Edinburgh University in the 1920s, when he collected four awards, prizes, trophies - whichever word you like. These were, in ascending order of importance, a broken nose, a Shinty "Blue", an MA degree, and a wife. Other contemporaries were :- Willie MacPherson (Dalwhinnie), who later became Secretary of the Camanachd Association for twenty years, Donald "Bull" MacPherson (Kingussie), a veterinary surgeon who spent many years in Africa, Calum MacQueen (Inverness); an expert goalkeeper who refereed the 1934 Cup Final, Jack Sinclair (Dingwall), Roderick Scott (Cannich), Charlie MacKintosh (Ralia, near Newtonmore), Lachlan MacKinnon (Breacais, near Skye) who became Gaelic master at Lochaber High School, Lachlan MacPherson Boyd (Iochdar, South Uist); another Edinburgh graduate who spent many years in Africa, John and Sam MacLean (Raasay); the latter more prominently known nowadays as "Somhairle Mac Gill Eain", greatest Gaelic poet of the 20th century, John MacKintosh Mathieson (Portree) who emigrated to New Zealand after retiring as headmaster at Nethy Bridge, George and Roddie MacKay (Strome Ferry), Kenny John Mackenzie (Plockton), Kenneth Roderick MacDonald (Inchoil, near Kinlochewe), David J. MacRae (Beaulay), Jack and Ellis Stewart (Kinlochlaggan), Sandy MacKay (Kinlochleven).

Robert's wife (Robin MacPhee, Tomatin) was friendly with several Badenoch girls, who of course wanted Speysiders to win. My understanding had been that Robert's broken nose was caused by a Kyles player, hence he would have no love for the Argyll team, but I learned later that the injury occurred in a joust with a Mid-Argyll half-back. As an Invernessian, I support any club from my county against outsiders!

So we set off on the Saturday morning, looking forward to a game of good shinty,

with the Inverness-shire team victorious. To make a pleasant day's outing, we went via Slochd Uhhic and Laggan, returning via Fort Augustus (from which, 36 years later, RAD was to retire, after being headmaster at three schools in the county). An early mishap was a puncture near Aviemore; we could not afford time to give it mended, so continued without a spare, fervently hoping no further trouble would assail us. Our luck held, contrary to that of some Skye friends who had come to see the game. On our way back, we saw them getting their car out of a ditch near Invergarry. Fortunately, the local policeman was not investigating, or there might have been trouble for Captain Charlie Campbell of Broadford Piers Hotel, for letting his daughter drive without a licence. (If Gladys recalls this, she'll take my boots off!)

The Match - when Kyles and Newtonmore were in top form, they provided a first class display of excellent shinty. This day was no exception. We had two splendid 12s, who delighted the spectators with caman-work of a very high order. I am sorry not to be able to name twenty-three of the players; I do recollect a near-by "fan" continually singing the praises of "Suie" MacDonald, who was (I think) Newtonmore's left back.

For ninety minutes, play swung from end to end, with tremendous vigour, as the skilful attacks assailed the equally skilful defences. Half-time arrived with the score still 0-0, and the contest continued, hammer and tongs. Argyll enthusiasts shouted for Kyles; Inverness-shire adherents cheered on Newtonmore. Around us, Badenoch people, who had never seen me before, wondered who on earth was this foreigner vociferously bawling "Newtonmore", with a prolonged final syllable.

As the second half wore on, and another draw seemed quite on the cards, it looked to me that Kyles were, by a shade, very slightly ahead in stick-work. Not sufficiently, however, to penetrate a rock-like Newtonmore defence, and in the final quarter-hour, it seemed that the Tighnabruach lads were tiring, whereas the Badenoch boys continued, full steam ahead. Excitement was intense; the crowd yelled itself hoarse, stripes hammered all-blues; Kyles forwards occasionally broke away to threaten a snap goal; Speysiders resumed their tremendous onslaught.

And then it happened, four minutes from the end of this epic struggle. A Newtonmore forward at last found a crack in the hitherto-impregnable Kyles defence, and although the Argyll team continued to play with undiminished skill, the Inverness-shire rear-guard remembered the slogan of Clan Grant - "Stand Fast". They stood fast.

Final score : Newtonmore 1, Kyles Athletic 0



The remarkable Eric Ross Birkett aka EROSCA, who has contributed a number of interesting -articles to Yearbooks in the last few years. Now 88, Eric set off on a world tour last winter, but is more often to be found travelling the pitches of the Highlands taking in shinty matches.

SHINTY FINAL 1934

Give ear, o lords and ladies gay,
To this, my humble sporting lay.
A rousing Camanachd display
You'll see, when Kyles and Cabers play.
Seventh April is the day,
Inveraray is the way;
Toss thine antlers, Caberfeidh.
Calum MacQueen is referee;
An E.U. shinty Blue is he,
Who knows the game like ABC.
He rules each match with firm decree;
Determined aye fair play to see,
No back-chat will permitted be.
Toss thine antlers, Caberfeidh.
Eight times champions are Kyles,
'gainst teams of many different styles.
No club on mainland or in Isles
Knows more of Shinty's subtle wiles;
Shall Cabers come one-sixty miles
And beat them - Tighnabruach smiles!
Toss thine antlers, Caberfeidh.

Though Nicolson at last have gone
(Most worthy father, brother, son)
Donald MacFadyen carries on,
Of all hail-keepers Number One;
The forwards dribble, pass and run,
Then shoot with caman as with gun.
Toss thine antlers, Caberfeidh.
Many a time in days of yore,
The final tie saw Newtonmore,
With Dr. Cattanach to the fore,
Pile up the hails in mighty score,
Successive triumphs numbering four -
E'en Kyles cam boast but three, no more.
Toss thine antlers, Caberfeidh.

It seemed that history would re-tell
In 1934 as well,
For Kyles and Oban put their spell
To sound the reigning champion's knell,
But, on Kingussie's famous Dell,
The pride of Badenoch Shinty fell.
Toss thine antlers, Caberfeidh.

Let now Strathpeffer have its say -
Their second final tie today;
Four years ago, their skies were grey,
They lost, near Oban's charming bay,
Now may they bask in Sol's bright ray;
Too often K., and N. held sway.
Toss thine antlers, Caberfeidh.

Though Kyles great talent none ignore,
MacKenzie, Campbell, Cummings - more
Can carry Cabers to the fore,
And, when they hit the winning score,
A thousand yells will skyward soar,
A thousand throats will wildly roar:
"Caberfeidh!"

(E. U. = Edinburgh University)

Mystery Pic



The above picture has been discovered by Roddy MacLennan of Inverness shinty club. It is made up in the form of a postcard, but has no identification whatsoever. It may be that the group was photographed around the 1880's or thereabouts.

Can anyone shed any light on who the people are?

Anyone with any information should contact Roddy MacLennan himself or the Editor.

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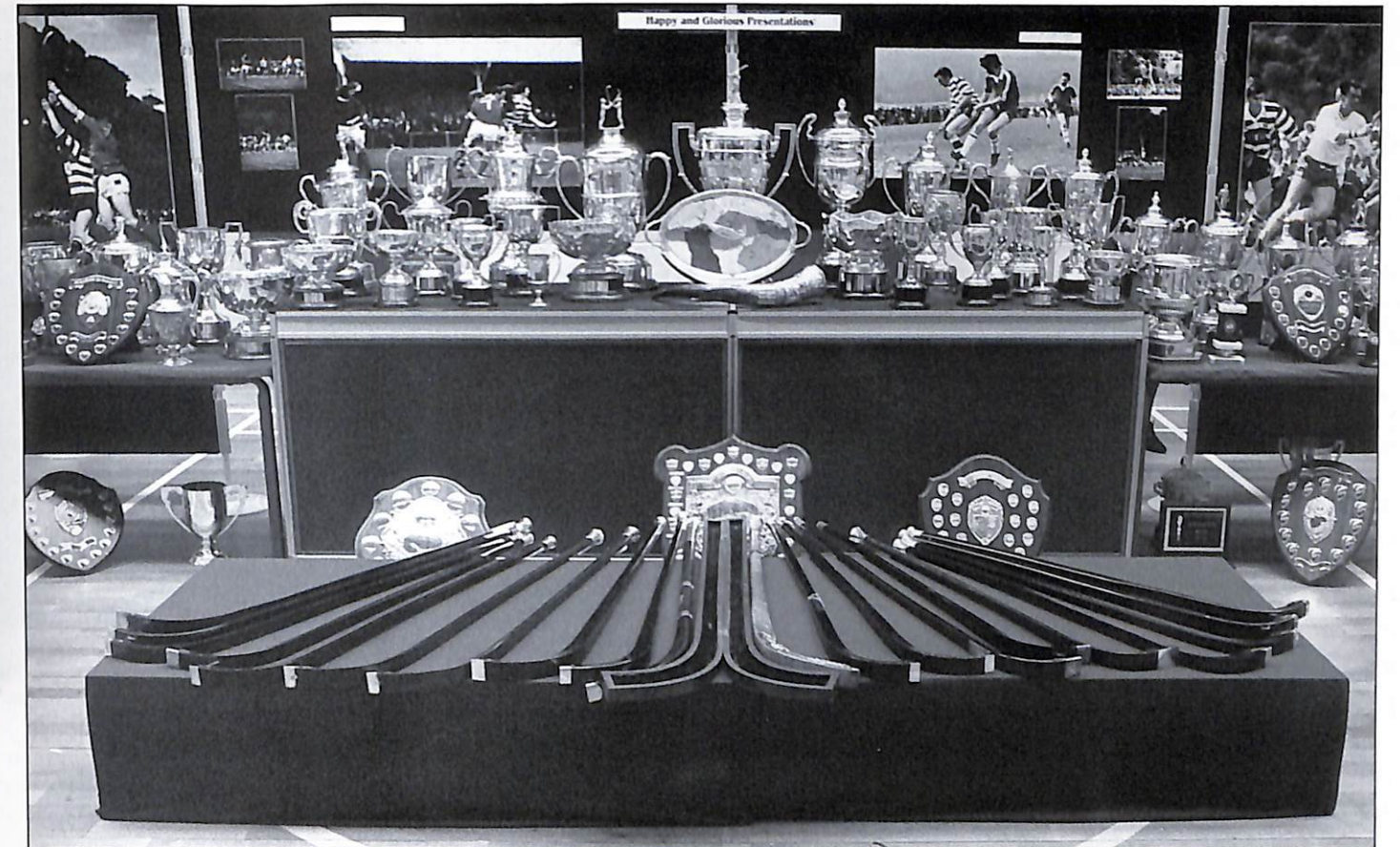
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Shinty Sport of the Gael - from the exhibition, Newtonmore, April 3, 1993.

Rules of the "Campanachd Association."

1. EACH Team shall number 16 Players, who shall be *bona-fide* Members of the Club for which they play, and no individual shall play for more than one Club during one season.

2. The field of play shall not be less than 200 yards long by 150 yards broad, nor more than 300 yards long by 200 yards broad. In Cup Matches the maximum obtainables must be played.

3. The Hails shall be 12 feet wide and 10 feet high, attached by a fixed cross bar above.

4. The time allowed for playing a game shall be one hour and a half, with an interval of five minutes at half-time. Teams to change sides after each Hail is scored, but if no Hail is scored by half-time, ends shall be changed, and no further change to take place.

5. Nothing but Hails shall count.

6. When both Teams are ready, the Referee, standing in mid-field, shall throw the ball straight in the air, between two opposing players.

7. No player shall use his hands or club to hold or push his opponent, neither shall he trip, hack, jump at, or throw him by the use of his leg or club. A set blow will be given as a penalty for every foul granted by the Referee, but a Hail from such blow will not count.

8. Rough or unruly play will not be tolerated, and any player observed wilfully infringing any of the Rules shall be expelled the field of play, and shall not be replaced by a fresh man.

9. A player disabling an opponent must retire from the game, unless the Referee declares the man so disabled to be in fault.

10. When the ball is sent from the field of play through the Hail-posts and under the cross-bar

connecting them, the Hail is won, even should it graze the posts or bar, or be sent through by one of the defending side.

11. The ball may be stopped by the hand, but if caught must be immediately dropped. No player shall be allowed to run with or throw the ball.

12. The ball to be played with shall consist of cork and worsted with a covering of leather, and shall measure 7½ to 8 inches in circumference.

13. When the ball passes the side lines, the player first reaching it must bring it within the line, and if no opponent challenges him, can take a set blow, but if challenged he must take 16 yards within the line, and drop it between himself and his opponent.

14. When the ball passes the Hails without scoring, the Hail-keeper has the option of sending the ball afield with either hand or club.

15. Players are prohibited from playing with spikes in their shoes, and no iron plates or metal of any kind shall be allowed on the clubs.

16. If the ball be sent from the field of play past the Hails on either side by a player of the defending side, it shall be taken back 15 yards in front of the point at which it was sent out of play, and thrown up by the Referee between two opposing players.

17. When the ball is thrown in the air, as provided for in Rules 6 and 7, the two players shall stand with crossed clubs, and no other player allowed within 5 yards till the ball is hit.

18. Each competing Club to choose two Umpires and between them one Referee for each Match.

19. At the commencement of the game, and after each Hail is scored, the players shall take the places allotted to them by their respective Captains.

20. Except in a scrimmage, no opponent shall be allowed to stand within 5 yards of the Hails unless the ball be in play in front.

21. No person admitted to the field of play during the course of a Match except the Referee, Umpires, and a club-bearer for each Team.

Early Rules of 100 years ago.

AN GEARASDAN - THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS

With impeccable timing, Fort William Shinty Club entered its Centenary Year as Scottish Champions - holders of the Glenmorangie Camanachd Cup for the first time in the Club's 100 year history. That imposing piece of silverware had a pride of place in the trophy cabinet of the clubhouse at An Aird when Centenary Year was launched with the official opening, on 9th January 1993, of the new facility.

Formed in February 1893 Fort William Shinty Club has had its share of ups and downs since, even going into abeyance on more than one occasion. Shinty had been played in the area long before 1893, however, with matches being recorded as early as 1835. In those days shinty was strong indeed, crofting communities like Blarmafalach, just above Fort William, being able to field an entire team where now Iain MacColl is the sole shinty player. Those were the days, too, when the crofting township of Carnoch, at the head of Loch Nevis, could field an entire team although now the glen is empty and the houses are reduced to low walls of granite boulders.

Always having to vie with a strong football interest in the town, Fort William Shinty Club made little impact on the shinty world until 1934 when, under the name of Nether Lochaber, the Sir William

Sutherland Cup was won. Captain on that day and winner of the silver mounted caman was Donald Cameron, father of Astie who won his own silver-mounted caman when leading Fort William to its first senior cup win, the Keyline MacAulay Cup in 1991.

Either side of the Second World War hiatus Fort William was active and the Oban Times reports of the period record the exploits of Neil Cameron, Alex Reece and Ginger Wilson. In 1946, The Oban Times reported that "Fort William Shinty Club desires to acknowledge with thanks the following subscriptions.....Albert Smith £5; Victor Smith 5/-;....."

The Albert Smith Medal, struck in his memory, is awarded to the player of the match in each Camanachd Cup Final. The Smith influence on Fort William Shinty Club activities continues through Albert's grandson Victor, namesake of his father the juvenile subscription in 1946, who is such an influence and entertaining player in the Fort attack.

Fort William has exercised the minds of shinty's hierarchy over the years and continues to express an opinion when the club feels the game could be improved. In 1939 the report of the Camanachd Association notes that there was "....a debate about the suitability of the Fort William ground (then Victoria Park,

where Lochaber Leisure Centre now sits) for the Camanachd Cup final." Support was offered by Sir Stewart MacPherson who thought Victoria Park became "a bonnie wee thing".

Another AGM in 1950 discussed an attempt to get Fort William as a location for Council meetings (which) met with little enthusiasm. Changed days now, with not only the AGM meeting in the Fort, but also most meetings of the Executive Council and its Committees, and the Camanachd Cup Final a regular visitor to one of the best venues in the game.

The Club's rise to its present eminence started in the mid-1980s with a number of influences combining to take the club forward. A more professional approach to training and coaching was taken, with the specific ambition of reaching the top flight within ten years. An exciting crop of teenagers burst onto the scene including Dereck Cameron, Ali Clark, Graeme MacMillan and Dougie Gibson, strengthened by the addition of new players who took their game seriously - Scott and Drew MacNeil, Neil Sutherland and Willie MacDonald, the club captain in season 1993-94. The move to An Aird from Claggan Park allowed the club to develop an excellent home to perform on and suddenly the committee had the ingredients they needed to fulfil their potential and achieve the success which their dedication had deserved.

After a number of Camanachd Cup semi-final appearances, and reaching the final of the MacTavish Cup, Fort William made the breakthrough in 1991 by winning their first senior trophy, the Keyline MacAulay Cup. To do so they had to overcome Kingussie at the semi-final stage, a match which was arguably the most significant in the club's history up to that point. Despite going behind twice, Fort William struck back to overcome their rivals 5-3 in a thrilling match, to break the psychological barrier of facing the best on a big stage.

This enabled Fort William to go a stage further a year later, matching Kingussie in the Glenmorangie Camanachd Cup Final at Old Anniesland, taking the trophy thanks to Dereck Cameron's early goal. Fort William shinty club starts its second centenary as proud owners of a magnificent club-house, containing lounge bar,



(Clockwise from top)

Fort William's first senior trophy - the Keyline MacAulay cup in 1991

Continued success — Ronnie Macleod accepts the Jo Toal memorial trophy from Mrs Molly Toal after beating Newtonmore in the 1993 final at Spean Bridge.

Albert Smith after whom the player of the match award in the Camanachd Cup Final is named and whose grandson Victor is one of the most influential players in Fort William's current team. Albert is pictured here with his wife Annie (Carmichael).

kitchen and dance floor. It is much admired by all who visit it.

The committee continues to work as hard as ever to ensure maximum success on the field of play. The Robertson family offer the best example of the level of commitment given by unsung heroes in the background. Margaret is Club Secretary and one of the "Pie and Beans Team" who handle all the club-house catering; Donnie is Fixtures Secretary handling all the games involving teams at all levels from under-14 to Division One: son Ian drew the plans for the club-house and is tireless as steward; son number two Adam captained the Scottish under-21 squad against Ireland this year and son number three Neil played in Fort William's MacTavish juvenile cup winning team and is on the verge of breaking through into the first team squad.

Fort William shinty club is fortunate in having such commitment throughout its committee. No club can be successful without it. The necessary attitude was summed up in a report in the Oban Times of April 4, 1893: "A crowded (Fort William) Town hall gave a warm welcome to Mr A J MacDonald, Tirnidrish, who chaired a concert to raise money for the local shinty clubs. In his remarks Mr MacDonald recommended to every mother to give her son a shinty stick on reaching eight years of age."

Fort William enters its 101st year confidently, knowing that the targets set in 1985 are on course to be achieved. Centenary year has seen the emergence of a similar flush of excellent talent to that of 1985 and Andy Reid, Neil Robertson, Innes Wood, Yan Valentine are the Deeks of the future.

Sandy Slater



Fort William and Lochaber players with officials after the opening of the new clubhouse at An Aird.

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FORT WILLIAM SHINTY CLUB - Camanachd Cup Winners 1992

Yearbook Winners



The 1993 Yearbook award winners:
Andrew Dunn (Edinburgh University) -
Tom Mackenzie Trophy; Darroch Lyon
(Strachur) - Mary and Kenneth
Campbell Cup; Iain McPhie (Kincaig)
- Peter English Cup.

The Littlejohn Vase (left) and the Strathcona Cup. The cup was a trophy presented to the University Company of the Gordon Highlanders in 1901 by Lord Strathcona who held the office of Lord Rector at the time. It was presented for a competition in shooting, drill and general efficiency.



ALBA CAMANACHD BUILD BRIDGES

by Donnella Crawford

On Friday 27th May, eight boys accompanied by Anita Sinclair, Donella Crawford and Jim Morrison set off from Lochgilphead Primary School to travel to Glasgow Airport where they met up with John MacFarlane and eight boys from Blantyre High School. "Alba Camanachd" was ready to board the "Aer Lingus" flight to Ireland.

On arrival at Dublin Airport we were met by officials of "Cumann nam Bunscol Ath Cliath". It was lovely to be able to renew our friendships with Aidan Sweeney, Tom Fitzpatrick, Jerry Grogan, Seòsamh O'Driscoll and Tom and Ann Ryan.

Our party were lead through to the VIP lounge (courtesy of a parent of a boy on the previous exchange) where we met host parents and boys from the various Dublin Primary Schools. Aidan Sweeney went over the programme for the weekend and then we all went to the homes of our hosts.

At 8.30am on the Saturday morning, we all met up at the Dublinia Exhibition where we were transported back in time to Medieval Dublin. From there, we went to the Mansion House to meet the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Alderman Gay Mitchell. This was a great honour to be received at the Mansion House and in this, the Centenary of the Camanachd Association, we were pleased to be able to present the Lord Mayor with a copy of Hugh Dan MacLennan's book "Shinty!"

Trinity College was next on our itinerary to view the Book of Kells. The boys were very impressed by the Library of Trinity College, as were the adults.

A bus journey took us out to St. Patrick's College where a lovely lunch awaited us. Then it was time for the games. "Alba Camanachd" donned their 'MacLeod' sponsored tops and joined the team from "Cumann nam Bunscol" to march behind the young pipe band. The Scottish boys played an 8-a-side shinty game to show their skills. This was followed by an 8-a-side hurling game. The boys were fascinated with each other's skill. All the boys then took the field to play a 16-a-side game to compromise rules shinty/hurling. This was a very good game in spite of the rain which by this time had started. The Dublin boys emerged winners. Both teams were a credit to their schools and to themselves in a very sporting contest.

Several boys and parents who had been involved in the first exchange came along to the game to renew acquaintances. This proved to us yet again the benefit of participating in this sporting/cultural exchange.

After the game, Aidan Sweeney presented the Glasgow Celtic Society Friendship Quaich to Kenneth MacFarlane, captain of "Alba Camanachd" to take back to Scotland. The boys then exchanged gifts. Camanachd Centenary caps were given to the Dublin boys along with copies of the 92-93 Shinty Yearbook and the poster with shinty colours of teams. The Dublin teachers each received a copy of "Shinty!". "Alba Camanachd" boys were each given a commemorative medal and hurling posters while the Scottish teachers were presented with green leather wallets with the GAA badge.

Saturday evening the boys spent with the host families and the adults were entertained to dinner at the Orwell Lodge Hotel by our Dublin colleagues.

On Sunday morning we all met up in the city and boarded a bus which took us into the Wicklow Mountains to an old monastic settlement at Glendalough. There was an air of peace and tranquility there.

Then it was back to Dublin to the famous Croke Park. There certainly was no quiet there. A junior hurling match was in progress when we arrived and we were able to see the speed and skill of this game at adult level. When this game finished Kilkenny and Offaly took to the field to play the semi-final of the 'Leinster Association', one of the rounds leading to the 'All-Ireland Final'. Imagine our delight when the boys were taken from their seats to a room where they changed into their playing gear. They then had the privilege of walking on to Croke Park behind the Artaine Boys Band. It's the ambition of all hurlers to march onto Croke Park

behind that particular band. Once on the pitch played two 8-a-side shinty/hurling games across the pitch. What a thrill! The boys, Dublin and Scots, gave a good account of themselves in front of the 13,000 crowd. We were most grateful to the 'Leinster Association' for granting us this honour. A whole page of that day's programme was even devoted to our visit. John MacFarlane was as thrilled as the boys. He was one of the referees for the games!

The boys did a variety of things with the host families and we're sure the Dublin boys will have as enjoyable a time with our families when they come to Scotland next year.

We would recommend the taking part in these cultural exchanges. many friendships are made and bridges built. Well worth the effort!!

CUMANN NA BUNSCOL ATH CLIATH: Sean Keating, Michael Reddy, Dylan Martin, David Hughes, Michael Burns, Philip Ryan, Eamonn McInerney, Conal Kearey, Colin O'Gorman, Jimmy Doran, Eoin Kelly, Padrig Harrington, Donagh O'Dwyer, Conor O'Reilly, Kevin Devine, Donncha O'Rian

ALBA CAMANACHD: David Buchanan, Allan Hatton, Stewart MacKenzie, Fraser Mackie, Scott Beaton, Andrew MacKay, Gary Gilmour, John Gordon Mair, Ross McArthur, Peter Hay, Scott Hutton, Stuart Galloway, Ross Gilroy, Graham Steven, Kenneth MacFarlane, David Litster.



Alba Camanachd v Cumann na Bunscol Ath cliath

GREATS

"Now whenever shinty is played
We who are left can surely relate
We knew and admired a shinty great"
(Tom MacDonald)



Two Great Chieftains - Jock Paul MacIntosh of Newtonmore and Celly Paterson of Kyles lead their teams onto the re-furbished Eilan, 1979.



"That's my dad....." Ross Grant (left) of Kingussie and Donnie, Oban, 1984.



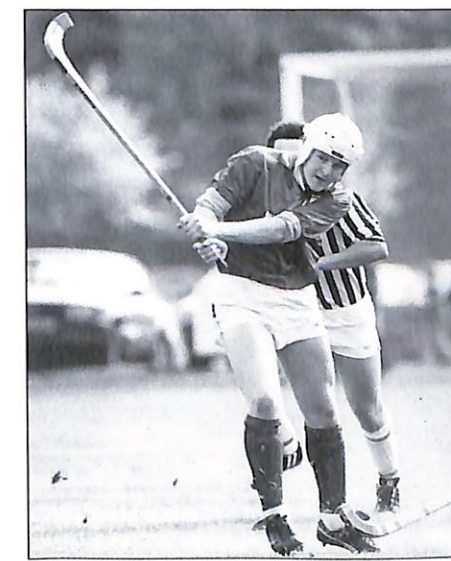
Ken MacMaster (Caberfeidh, second right) in the Camanachd Cup Final, 1934. John Olding (Kyles, second left) blocks Cabers' keeper Tommy Hossack.



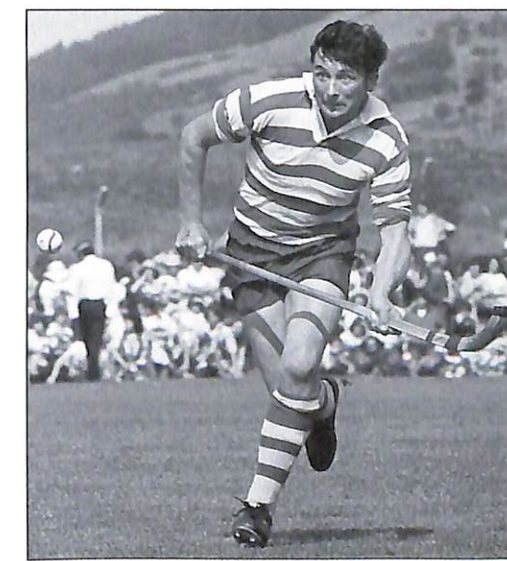
David Anderson, Kingussie and captain of Scotland in 1993's famous victory over Ireland.



John Fraser, Newtonmore



Kevin Thain, Kingussie. Marine Harvest National Player of the Year, 1991



John Mackenzie, Newtonmore in Donald MacKay's award-winning picture

Famous Teams



Above Caberfeidh 1934.

Below Furnace 1923



Newtonmore 1907



Kyles 1976

Famous Triumphs



Skye Camanachd's famous win in 1990

Fort William's first ever Camanachd Cup victory, at Old Anniesland, 1992.



Skye Camanachd - first winners of the MacTavish Cup, in 1898.

Kilmallie's most famous day - Camanachd Cup Final 1964 at Fort William, defeating Inveraray 4-1.



Glasgow Mid Argyll won the Camanachd Cup for the first time ever at Fort William in 1973 - the wettest Final ever!

Oban Celtic Shinty Club—Senior Team
Season 1962-63

Scottish Camanachd Cup

Gordon Gray Memorial Shield

MacAulay Cup

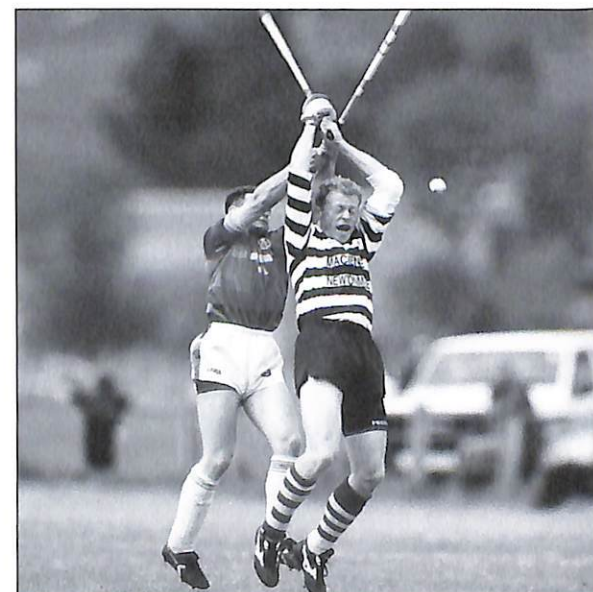
Kennedy Six-a-side Cup

Newtonmore end 34-year wait

Newtonmore needed two bites at the cherry, the first Glenmorangie Sutherland Cup Final having been abandoned at Inveraray in appalling weather conditions. The replay though was played in perfect weather and on the lush turf of the Eilan.

Kingussie were bidding for their fifth successive win, but failed to live up to expectations. Newtonmore, playing on their home pitch, took their chances well and emerged 3-1 winners.

At the end of the match Peter Cullen of Glenmorangie presented Andrew Kennedy with the Sir William Sutherland Cup. Looking on is Camanachd Association Past President Douglas MacKintosh.



PERSONALITY PARADE



above and clockwise:

Wille MacPherson, Inverness - secretary of the Camanachd Association, 1935-62.

Captain Chisholm of Glassburn, First Chief of the Camanachd Association, 1893 - 1898

The legendary **Dave "Tarzan" Ritchie**, holder of twelve Camanachd Cup medals.

Peter Cullen of Glenmorangie, who holds the world record for telling the "Jesus MacGillivray" joke.

Willie Batchen of Foyers, secretary of the Association for thirteen years.

Ashie MacRae of Lovat in the fifties with a haul of silverware and a very big smile!

John C. Dallas, Kingussie - President, Camanachd Association, 1934-1937. The figure on the Camanachd Association Challenge Trophy lid is modelled on Mr Dallas.



TIME RUNS OUT FOR FORT WILLIAM AS KINGUSSIE LIFT MacTavish CUP

Fort William 1 Kingussie 2 (after extra time)

Young Fort defender, Adam Robertson, celebrated his 21st birthday on Cup Final day and if he did not get a present of a winner's medal at least he had the consolation of being one of the best players on show. His colleagues in defence were also in inspired form, and had to be to prevent Kingussie's attack running riot.

Further forward, however, Fort William made no impression on an excellent Kingussie defence and it was always likely that one flash of brilliance would win the game.

The first half was a dull affair, with both sides effectively cancelling each other out. A strong wind interfered with the flow of the game and players afterwards complained that the ball was larger and heavier than usual. This turned out to be the announced re-introduction of the legal-sized ball which is bigger than the ball normally in use last season.

Nevertheless, play raged from end-to-end and if there were few of the finer skills at least there was passion and excitement in each goal mouth.

The game exploded into life when Fort's Dougie Gibson scored five minutes

into the second half. Picking up a loose ball out on the right wing, he broke the deadlock with a rising 30-yarder into the roof on the net. Kingussie struck back immediately with Dallas Young rounding keeper MacMillan only to see MacNeil clearing the ball off the line.

John Wood replaced Derek Cameron with half an hour to go as Fort William sought to increase the lead and Woodie impressed with his strong running and tackling. Kingussie sent on Michael Clark for David Borthwick as the Badenoch side tried to prise Fort open from a deeper position.

The equaliser, however, when it came in the 74th minute, was something of a freak, a corner by Dallas Young swirling in the wind and glancing off MacMillan's stick into the Fort net. This set the stage for a pulsating finish and within two minutes, Victor Smith had scraped the Kingussie bar with a long-range effort and Ronald Ross had sent a rocket past the post at the other end.

The end of normal time came with Kingussie in the ascendancy and the Fort William defence making last ditch interceptions and tackles.

With the first period of extra time drawing to a close, the irrepressible Dave Anderson once again sealed the victory for his team with a flash of brilliance, pouncing on a loose ball to send a half-volley into the corner of the net. Time ran out with almost the entire Fort William team camped in the opposing defence, and Kingussie captain, Dave Thomson earning himself a booking in his determination to let no-one past.

Teams :

Fort William : G. MacMillan (Captain), A. Cameron, S. MacNeil, D. MacNeil, A. Robertson, W. MacDonald, J. Clerk, A. Clark (I. Smith), D. Cameron (J. Wood), D. Gibson, V. Smith, A. Ferguson.

Substitutes - N. Sutherland, I. Rodger.

Kingussie : Andrew Borthwick, M. Thain, D. Thomson (Captain), S. Borthwick, E. Grant, D. Borthwick (M. Clark), E. Sutherland, A. Dallas, R. Ross, D. Anderson, Ali Borthwick, D. Young. Substitute - J. Gow.

Referee - J. Henderson (Caol), goal judges - R. MacLeod (Fort William), W. MacLachlan (Spean Bridge).



Kingussie captain Dave Thomson who became well practised at accepting trophies before the season was out, with the Bank of Scotland MacTavish Cup.



BANK OF SCOTLAND MacTavish Cup Final

Bught Park, Inverness
Saturday 17th April 1993
Throw-Up: 2.30 p.m.



Fort William v Kingussie

Admission £2.50 - Senior Citizens £1; Children 50p - Stand £1

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A FRIEND FOR LIFE

Fort William set for Irish invasion - Yearbook Editor in comeback shock!

STRONGER sporting links look set to be forged between the hurling fraternity in Northern Ireland and the shinty world following Fort William's sojourn to Antrim in August, 1992.

The Fort spent two days and three long nights at the area's Heart of the Glens festival, meeting Antrim hurling champions Ruari Og in a special challenge match which was one of the festival highlights.

The Irish, as is there wont, were streets ahead in the hospitality league, and secured an early advantage for the match by sending the Fort party, players and all, on a visit to the Bushmills Distillery on the morning of the game.

While over-indulgence was threatened but not a fault, the audacious move paid dividends in the end, and the hurlers — who have dominated the game in Antrim at County level for the last decade — stayed the pace better, winning 5-2 in the end with two of their counters coming in the last 10 minutes.

A valuable contribution by the Shinty Yearbook Editor making his



Fort William, who tackled the might of Ruari Og and some of the biggest midgies seen in Ulster. The pathetic figure five from the left in the rear is the Yearbook Editor.

come-back after an absence of some years, ensured that the winning margin was kept to a minimum.

With only half of their first team on display, and with the Irish having several guest players from the County team on their side, Fort emerged from

the match with great credit. Outstanding in midfield were club captain Willie MacDonald and James Clark, who no doubt benefited from the tough challenges and heavy conditions in terms of their preparation for the following internationals against the Irish.

Both excelled throughout the match and earned high praise from the Irish who were undoubtedly impressed by the Scottish stick-work.

In Terence "Sambo" MacNaughton, Ruari Og had perhaps the outstanding player on view. A former under-21 Internationalist and an Irish All-star, MacNaughton had performed heroically in the Antrim county side the previous week when they lost the All-Ireland hurling Semi-Final. MacNaughton played that match with a broken finger and was using a new glove which has been produced to combat hand injuries against Fort William for the first time.

Fort William's participation at the Glens festival was the first shinty match played in the area for over 50 years and it could lead to the strengthening of ties between the two codes.

Historically shinty clubs have headed South for their meetings with the Irish, apart from strong links forged between Queen's University,



Willie MacDonald, Fort William's captain (left) and Doigie Gibson (right) getting to grips with the superbly athletic Terence "Sambo" MacNaughton



Feis nan Gleann 50 years ago. Fort William in fact re-introduced shinty to the Feis.

Belfast, in the early years of the century and later in the fifties.

One interested observer at the match was in fact Andrew MacCallum, of Belfast, who had been involved in the matches earlier in the century as a referee. A sprightly 76, he

was still impressed with the quality of play produced by the shinty players, saying the main difference appeared to be that they were now fitter and faster.

With the coast of Antrim being only 11 miles from the Mull of Kintyre, Fort

William's visit is set to awaken interest in both codes.

Ruari Og president Donald Kearney said: "Our area already has strong links with Kintyre through sailing and the lifeboat crews and even when there have been strikes here or in Scotland, we have helped each other out shipping everything from bread to concrete back and fore. It seems to make very good sense now to develop the links we have made on the hurling field and we will certainly be organising a return visit to Fort William, probably next June.

"We will also be looking at the possibility of linking up with some of the Argyll teams such as Kintyre at Junior level. There has long been a feeling that we have been on the fringes of the Scottish links with clubs paying so much attention to the South of Ireland and the GAA, our ruling body, have always encouraged that.

"We now want to have a slice of the action and our meeting with Fort William proved that we can produce a tremendous contest with both teams playing at their peaks."

Fort Captain Willie MacDonald with Donald Kearney, Ruari Og's President and "Mr Fixit" in Cushendall.



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THE CAMAN MAKER

(The Oban Times, 15th June 1946 by D.S.M.D.)



"He was an old hand at it, as I could see at a glance from the expert way he handled the slender bit of ash wood, dressing it and then tying the end in a graceful curve. As he straightened up from his task, the craftsman's eyes twinkled and he said, 'It's coming along nicely.' He produced his pipe, seated himself comfortably on a bench before his white-washed cottage and told me something about the making of a caman - or camain, if you prefer the plural.

He was old and his name known wherever shinty is played as one of the best caman makers in the West Highlands. His clubs are in demand from all the greatest teams and, as he said, he could not possibly hope to meet the demand. In his early days, he had been a famous player, many times leading his team to victory at Oban and Inveraray, at Ballachulish, Fort William and Kingussie - all dour, hard fought battles. Afterwards, he turned to making the sticks and to watching and advising succeeding generations of players.

"Throughout the years, his interest in the game deepened, and his dexterity in caman-making increased prodigiously until he was the creator of some of the finest sticks to be seen anywhere in the Highlands, and made some surprisingly lovely show and presentation models.

Artist at Work

Yet, though his clubs were, and are so popular, he never made any money at it. He reckoned by the time he had searched the woods for a suitable tree, taken it home, split it, and put it through all the slow and necessary processes to make a first class caman (the old man would not produce anything else) his earnings worked out at a half-penny an hour.

"But what is money?", the old man said, "I make camain for the love of them, I have made them all my life." There is the true artist at work, creating an article for the sheer joy of producing something beautiful, something of value.

Now, the majority of shinty clubs are mass-produced, cut out of blocks of wood by a circular saw or other means of necessity, hurriedly dressed and sent out in numbers. Their life is short, they are generally brittle in play and crack up easily, often for no apparent reason. The real caman is different. Carefully made by hand throughout, it is scrupulously and as finely made as a work of art, as indeed it is in its own way. The old man told me that in his estimation the best wood is ash and that is the wood he uses almost invariably. And, the best wood is from a tree growing in a secluded, sunless spot.



John Sloggie of Achadhluachrach, a modern caman maker

Carving the Caman

When a tree is cut it is split into four or six lengths called 'splits'. Each split is roughly dressed and placed in a deep tin or wooden box to which steam is admitted. After twenty or thirty minutes steaming the splits are pliable and ready to be placed in a frame, and slowly bent at one end.

This bending process is critical for a good deal of the club's appeal depends on the degree of curvature - a stick is judged by its curve and bought accordingly. Some teams like the curve at approximately right angles, some prefer it slightly straighter. As the caman-maker works to order most of the time, he knows to a fraction just the right curve to give.

After the preliminary bending the split is tied with wire in its curved position and allowed to dry. In a few days it is again dressed and retied with wire. The process is repeated as many times as is necessary, each dressing reducing the split nearer and nearer the required thickness. If there is the slightest bend in the shaft or 'cas' it must be steamed over again and straightened out. Again, much depends on proper drying, as if the wood is not thoroughly dried it sometimes happens that a wetting will cause the curve to straighten out. The last process is to treat the caman with varnish and bind the top with thin leather or strong tape to give a good grip.

The Finished Article

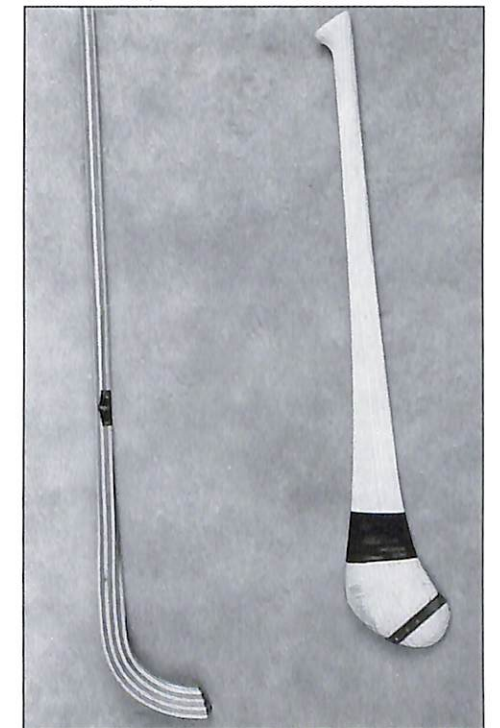
All shinty clubs must conform to a certain shape, that is the curved part - or 'bas' as it is called in Gaelic - must be triangular in shape, both sides sloping inwards to meet the top of the 'bas' and the bottom flat to meet both of the sloping sides at the bottom edges. No nails or metal of any kind are allowed to be used in the making of the caman, and the edges are slightly rounded to reduce the possibility of an injury to an opponent. The head of the stick must pass through a ring two and a half inches in diameter.

The old caman-maker said different teams favoured different sticks; some teams, such as those whose styles embody long hitting prefer a heavier, broader club that the team that favours short passing movements.

He showed me a finished caman. The grain ran from one to end through the curve. In inferior sticks, mostly hickory, the grain is often irregular, and frequently splits when the caman gets a hard knock.

When I left the old man he was preparing to steam splits of ash wood. "Next season," he said, "you'll see these sticks in play in many parts of Argyll and Inverness-shire, and maybe even they'll have a big part in helping to win the Scottish Camanachd Cup - well, now I wouldn't be knowing who the winners will be yet!"

His eyes twinkled and he knew that I knew which team he hoped would carry off the honour."



Modern camain

GLENMORANGIE INTERNATIONAL

Scotland 6 Ireland 4



The Scottish shinty squad's performance against Ireland at the Bught Park in August will go down as one of the best ever in any shinty setting. It was, quite simply, an outstanding achievement. The perfect result in a perfect setting with the Bught Park at its best and a large, partisan, if sometimes subdued, Scots' support.

The 6-4 win was a superb tactical triumph for coach Donnie Grant and his back-up, with the team, as a unit, raising its game to unprecedented heights.

Make no mistake, this was a well-won victory against a side of the highest quality. A handful of the Irish players had just come from the All-Ireland Final in front of a crowd of nearly 70,000. The Bught Park may have lacked some of that atmosphere to which they are accustomed and they may have been taking victory for granted.

But they were out-played, and comprehensively so. There were few moments in the match when the Scots looked like losing their grip. In defence, veteran Dave Thomson, Michael Thain and goalkeeper John MacGregor were outstanding. The mid-field produced an astonishing performance with a work-rate which would have graced any sporting occasion.

Up front captain Dave Anderson, as ever, leading by example, was outstanding and Victor Smith quite simply played his best game for a long time. There were, simply, no failures and Rory Fraser's elegant performance in the first half in particular won him the solid silver medal as *sàr-chluicheadair* - man of the match. It is no reflection on anyone else that Fraser won the award, anyone one of the Scots could have justifiably been given the medal.

But the job is only half done according to coach Donnie Grant. He said: "The real



challenge now is to go to Dublin and win there in front of a crowd of say 20,000. That's where our only other victory was in 1924, and it's a challenge for both ourselves and the Irish to produce a contest over there, the likes of which we have just

seen. Everyone involved deserves the highest praise, but most of all the players. I could not have asked for more and they have come up with the goods. An historic result and in our centenary year. We couldn't have asked for more."



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TEAM SPORT SCOTLAND'S CONTINUED SUCCESS

Team Sport Scotland, set up in 1991 by the Scottish Sports Council, has made a "significant impact" on school-aged sport in Scotland, according to Graeme Simmers, the Council's Chairman, speaking at a conference in Edinburgh on Friday, 30th April 1993.

"However, with a project team of just ten and a budget of £1/2 million per year, we cannot address all the important issues affecting school-aged team sport without the active involvement of governing bodies, district councils and local education authorities," added Mr. Simmers, at the first Team Sport Scotland conference, opened and addressed by Sir Hector

Monro, Scottish Office Minister with responsibility for sport.

The event, held at the Edinburgh Conference Centre, Heriot Watt University, was attended by educationalists, governing bodies of participating sports including shinty, and representatives from district and regional councils. It reviewed the effectiveness of TSS, which comprises a director (David Joy) and nine co-ordinators - netball, football, shinty, volleyball, women's football, hockey, rugby, basketball and cricket.

The conference addressed a report, undertaken by the Centre for Leisure Research, which revealed that so far,

25,000 school children have been involved in coaching sessions, camps and festivals, and, just as importantly over 4,000 parents, helpers, leaders, coaches and officials have undergone training sessions organised by TSS.

"This research confirms the positive feedback that we have had from schools, clubs, governing bodies and the community. The need for TSS was identified following a government commissioned enquiry, and the enquiry group's findings are continuing to be implemented through the TSS initiative. We are delighted and encouraged by the progress that has been made in such a short time," added Mr. Simmers.

Team Sport Scotland - Busy and Exciting

With the development of small-sided games, new training methods and adapted equipment for youngsters, 1993 has been a busy and exciting time for me as Team Sport Scotland shinty co-ordinator. Much of this progress would have been impossible without the increased volunteer support, both in organising events and coaching.

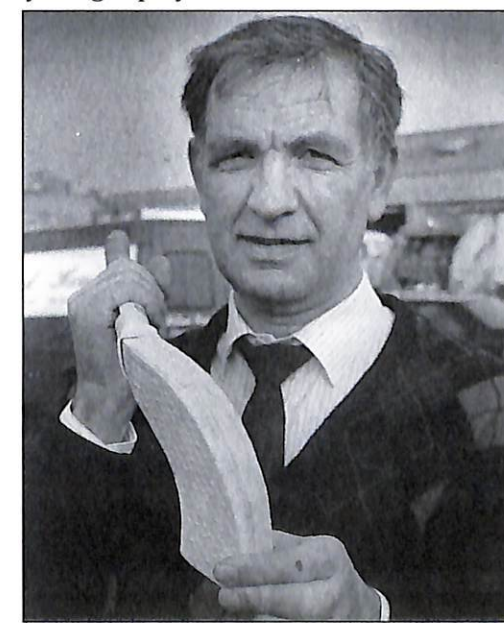
Gone are the days when a coach turned up, picked two teams from the assembled crowd, threw the ball into a throng and hoped for the best - now coaches realise how important they are in developing the game. All this, plus a growing emphasis on the fun element of shinty will, I'm sure, increase participation, keep players in the game longer and raise the level of coaching to that of other top Scottish sports.

A new interest in shinty within the country's top sports colleges has proved a welcome boost. At Moray House College in Edinburgh, all students are given a general introduction to the game and many go on to take the Grade II coaching qualification. The College also took part in the Littlejohn Vase competition this year, an entry the organisers hope will be repeated. Much of the credit for all this has to go to Rory MacDonald, who fought so hard to keep shinty within the Moray House curriculum. I wish him well on his retirement.

One of the shinty success stories of the year was the staging of the first player development camp for under-16s.

Supported by BP, in association with the Camanachd Association and Team Sport Scotland, the five-day event proved a winner for all 33 boys who took part at Belmont Centre, Meigle.

Progress has also been made in the development of First-Shinty, a mini version of the adult game, aimed at youngsters, playing to modified rules and using adapted equipment. This year a lightweight stick was introduced and work on a softer ball completed, all designed to make the game safer for younger players.



The way it's going to be.... Donnie Grant with the new plastic shinty stick developed for indoor use.

Already these new sticks and balls have been used at various festivals, coaching days and matches with favourable results as players realise their worth for use indoors and out. First-Shinty was officially launched in October and already areas like Skye and Wester Ross are seeing the game as an option during winter nights and some Glasgow secondary schools view it as a valuable addition to the curriculum.

1993 also saw a working party formed to look at various issues concerning the game at junior level. The group's work is focusing on fixtures' problems initially. In some cases children end up playing six games a week in the busy period between Easter and the summer holidays. Proposals will be made to the Camanachd Association and the Schools' Camanachd Association regarding the situation in due course.

With the Team Sport Scotland project now into the final year of its initial phase, the Scottish Office will soon be deciding whether to fund the initiative for a further term. Given the progress already made, shinty, as with the eight other sports involved, could only benefit from the further developments a continuation would afford.

I'd like to thank my colleagues who worked so hard this year to help make shinty bigger and better, and I look forward to 1994 being an even more successful year for our sport.

Alan MacMillan

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KINGUSSIE MAKE IT SEVEN IN A ROW

Kingussie lost their chance of a grand slam of all the major trophies in 1992-93 with their defeat by Oban Camanachd in the final of the Keyline MacAulay Cup. Camanachd could then only achieve the same feat by removing the Marine Harvest Silver Salver from the Kingussie trophy room for the first time since it was initiated. All together the Badenoch boys had annexed the National League title for the previous six years and were not willing to let it go without a fight, especially to a club who had shattered their dreams so early in the final series.

Kingussie did make it seven in a row, Oban claimed the 'big one' was still to come and the crowd at the Bught Park was subjected to a pretty pedestrian final in which defences triumphed and John MacGregor, Oban's keeper in particular. Without him the score could have been much greater than the 2-1 which was sufficient to give Dave Thomson his second presentation caman of the season.

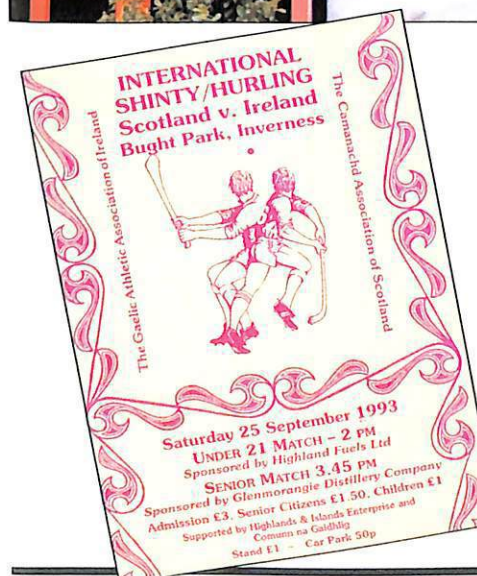
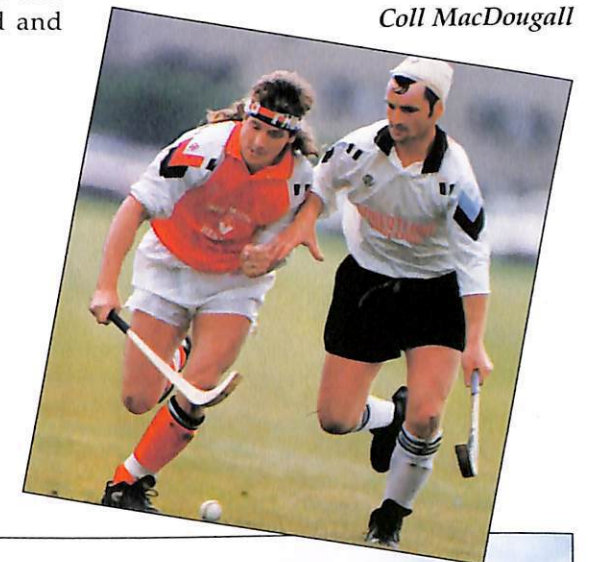
For long periods, Dave Anderson, Ronald Ross and Ally Borthwick were encamped close to the Oban goal but couldn't deceive the irrepressible MacGregor. Ally Dallas, Eck Sutherland and Michael Clark must have wondered what more they could do to feed even more accurate balls to their luckless colleagues as they took control of the mid-field and rarely allowed Oban to trouble their defence. On occasions Andrew Borthwick looked bored as he lent, unemployed, against the goalpost. It was not until the fifth minute of injury time - there had been two long stoppages for bandages to be applied to the heads of Steven Borthwick and Alex MacVicar - that Ross launched a fearsome drive from thirty yards which almost burst the net.

Oban failed to force the pace at the beginning of the second-half to get back on level terms. Instead, Dallas Young produced a copy of the Ross goal and made the salver look safe for red and

blue ribbons yet again. But McCuish and Dougie MacVicar were not to be denied. The latter, one of the few forceful players of the day from Oban, set up a diagonal passing movement which eventually found McCuish unmarked. He cracked home a volley from a very acute angle before Borthwick could react. But it was too little much too late: there was no all-out effort to get on level terms. Rather an acceptance that the grand slam had gone, but the Scottish championship was still a possibility.

Angus Morgan, the Marketing Director of Marine Harvest, returned the fish dish to Dave Thomson for the trophy cabinet and presented the captain with the traditional silver-mounted caman before he invited many of his guests from the earlier reception at Eden Court to join him and the teams for dinner at Rannoch Lodge Hotel.

Coll MacDougall



Kingussie's victorious team and captain Dave Thomson.

MORE WINNERS



Oban Camanachd's Nonnie MacInnes was man of the match in the Keyline MacAulay Cup Final and the Glenmorangie Camanachd Cup Final



Dave Thomson captain of Kingussie's winning team in the 1992 Glenmorangie Indoor six-a-side championships at Aviemore, with Lesley Young of Glenmorangie



Andrew Kennedy of Newtonmore, the first captain from there to get his hands on the Sutherland Cup for 34 years.



above: Newtonmore captain Neil Ross with the Kennedy caman, won in a challenge match against Inverness, as part of the centenary celebrations.



Duncan Kelly, Kilmallie. North Player of Year, 1992-93



Newtonmore's victorious London Shield winners (under-17). They defeated Oban Camanachd in the final at Caol.

Shinty in Laggan

by Hugh Barron, Inverness

The first part of the following article was reproduced in the 1984 Yearbook, but its second part failed to see the light of day for a number of reasons (none of which were Hugh Barron's fault!). We have decided therefore to reproduce the article in its entirety, given its huge amount of historical detail on shinty in Laggan. Our apologies to Hugh Barron for the delay in reproducing his labours, but they are worth waiting for.

It was an immemorial custom in Laggan to have a game of shinty on Old New Year's Day. The ball play as it was called ("cluìdh-bhall") was always held on the flat ground below Cluny Castle (Caisteal Chluainidh) and many took part.

There are some references to the game in local tradition. For nine years after 1746, Cluny MacPherson was in hiding in various caves in the parish, his principal refuge being the cave on the steep south side of Creag Dhubh. One Old New Year during that period he was in hiding there and, hearing the shouts of the players, had an urge to join them. This he did and was able to return to his place of concealment without being recognised by the Red coats of whom there was a party in the district for the purpose of capturing him.

Rev. Duncan MacPherson, known as "Am Ministir Mòr" because of his great strength, was minister of Laggan from 1747 to 1757 and at that time services were held in a thatched building on the flat ground known as the Eilean Dubh between Blargie (Blàraghaidh) and the Spey. Tradition says that before worship commenced, the young men used to play shinty for a time, being joined by the minister. After the service was over, play was usually resumed for another spell.

Reference to the game is made by a later minister of the parish, Rev. Donald Cameron, who held office from 1832 until 1846. As compiler in 1839 of the New Statistical Account of the parish, he uses the name by which the game at that time was often known, "Camac" (Camag) and complains that too much whisky was provided by those who gave the "cluìdh-bhall", the result being that quarrels and fighting took place. It is known that Cluny and Mr. Cameron did not agree on various matters and perhaps the generous provision of whisky at these events was the cause of their strained relationship.

The "Inverness Courier" on a number of occasions gives an account of these gatherings at Old New Year. Many play-

ers and spectators were present in 1841 and 1847 and it was the custom for all to march to the field below the castle, headed by Cluny and his piper. Mention is made in these two years of Tearlach Mòr who had led the upper district, Crathie (Craichidh) for nearly fifty years. At this time and up to about 1880 local bards used to compose Gaelic verse for the occasion and recite their compositions. A prize for the best verse was sometimes given by Cluny. Donald MacPherson (Dòmhnul a' Chnuic) Knock of Clune, Newtonmore, and John MacDonald, Crathie, were two who were engaged in this over a long period.

There were other places too in the parish, such as Glentruim, where play used to be held. Lt. Col. Ronald MacDonald, known as "Othaichear na Cùil", (the officer of Coul) who died in India in 1848 had been in the habit of sending home money for the poor of the parish and for giving a "cluìdh-bhall" at Drumgask. In 1866, there is a report of the annual play at Glentruim with the usual speeches at the end. Play lasted for one hour that year. On the birthday of the son of Sir John Ramsden of Ardverkie (Ard Mherigidh) in January 1881, play took place at Dalchully, the captains being John Cattanach, Inverpattock and Donald MacKillop, Shirramore. The New Year game at Cluny in 1882 lasted from 1pm to 4pm with sides drawn by Col. Duncan and Col. Ewen, Cluny's two oldest sons. "Captain Fitzroy (Cluny's son-in-law) led off with a 'fornart' and kept the ball spinning until the tug of war fairly commenced."

A later play at Drumgask is reported in 1883. It was given by Mr. Duncan Macpherson, Plewlands House, Edinburgh and formerly of Drumgask, the field being provided by Mr. Macdonald, farmer. The teams were of 19-a-side and were led by two old players, Angus and Charles Macpherson. (Angus was a gardener at Ardverkie and was a brother of Charles, "Tearlach Og", from Crathie.) "Mr. J. Cattanach tossed up the ball and lead off with a 'fornart'". They played for one and a half hours and the result was a tie. John Macdonald (Iain Garbh) Crathie was described by his usual sobriquet on these occasions, "Rìgh a' chluìdh - bhall", the king of the ball play. He was a noted player for many years in all these contests. Crathie was always regarded as a nursery of enthusiastic players among whom up to

this time were Calum Griogarach and Aonghas Domhnall Ruadh. Another good player was Uilleam a' Chorporail (MacIntyre) who lived on the glebe where he was employed.

The teams at Cluny in 1884 were led by Col. Duncan, Cluny's oldest son, and Captain Gordon, his third son. The play there at Old Christmas the following year marked the end of an era - it was the last appearance of Old Cluny whose death took place some days afterwards.

The mention of 'fornart' (properly "forneid") suggests that an explanation of some of the traditional Gaelic terms in the game in Badenoch should be given. The club was called "caman" or "camag", as in most northern districts. To choose sides before the start of play, a club was thrown up and "bas no cas" was called. When a hail was scored, the call was "thadhail e" (it visited) and if the ball went past, a bye, "Thuirlich e" was called. If the ball hit a post, the call was "Loisg e". When a hail was scored, the sides changed ends of the field and this was "leth-bhàir shios", followed by "leth-bhàir shuas" when the same side scored again. A hit of the ball on the ground was a "deas" and one in the air a "forneid". A stroke in the air after lifting and throwing the ball was a "fodharlag". The old wooden ball was "cnag". This gave way to the hair ball (Ball gaoisead) and it in turn was replaced by the "ball leathair", leather ball. It is generally agreed that the first occasion on which a leather ball was used was in a game at Dalchully between Badenoch and Lochaber in 1887 or 1888. One half of the game was with the old hair ball which was bigger and heavier, the other with the new type. It was said that about the period of 1885 to 1895 the best maker of a leather ball in Laggan was a local shoemaker, a Mackenzie, who was from the Beaulieu district.

The late Angus Macpherson, MBE, (1877-1976) used to tell of a game at Shirrabeg when he was about twelve years of age. It was between two teams, north and south of the Spey, under Donald MacKillop, Blargie, and James Gilbert, factor at Gallovie, respectively. Donald MacKillop will be remembered as one who did much to keep the game going in his native parish and he often provided a field and generous hospitality. James Gilbert, too, was a great enthusiast. Angus Macpherson told that on the same occasion there was a game, in which he took part as captain, between boys from

the Gergask and Kinlochlaggan districts. At that period, each player made his own birch caman from local wood. They were usually cut between Hallow e'en and Christmas and "Là buain nan caman" (the day of cutting the caman) was a great occasion for boys.

But even in Laggan there were periods when enthusiasm was on the wane. The "Northern Chronicle" in February, 1888 states that "since the death of Cluny, curling is taking the place of shinty." (Old Cluny who died in 1885 was succeeded by his son who died the following year.) The "Inverness Courier" in February, 1891 also refers to this decline in the game in Laggan and mentions a game which took place at Dail Shiorrath,

Shirrabeg, between Crathie and Glenspey, and Glenpattock and Lochlagganside. The captains were Donald MacKillop, Blargie with Charles Macpherson (Tearlach Og) as his right hand man and James Gilbert, Gallovie similarly supported by Angus Macpherson, Ardverkie. Both these Macphersons had been rival captains in the days of the Cluny games. The contest on this occasion lasted for one and a half hours and there was a change of ends at half time. Crathie scored one hail and three points, Glenpattock eight points. Donald Fraser, Coul, was the umpire. At the same time, close by, there was a game between 12 boys from Lochlaggan school and 12 from Gergask (Garbhgasg) and Garvamore schools. As Angus Macpherson left school at the age of twelve years he would not have taken part in this game.

It appears that the formation of the Kingussie and Newtonmore clubs took place about 1887 and the founding of the club in Laggan would no doubt have followed soon after. The "Inverness Courier", in March, 1892, tells that at Cluny, Laggan, with Ewan Macpherson, Balgowan, as captain, were beaten 3-1 by Newtonmore. In January 1893, there was a game at Cluny, by invitation of Cluny, with players of the Laggan, Kingussie, Newtonmore, Alvie and Insh clubs taking part. Sides were drawn by Cluny and Dr. Campbell, Creag Bhile, and there was no scoring. At the close of play, Cluny made a speech in Gaelic. The brothers Donald and James Tolmie from Balgowan, who later succeeded Donald MacKillop in the tenancy of Blargie, were prominent among the Laggan players at this period and would



Kingussie 1890's

probably have played in that game. James and Donald died in 1947 and 1955 respectively. Other great players at that time were Alec a' Phost (MacPherson) a noted athlete and Peter Kennedy (Peter Dhùghaill) shepherd at Cluny. Peter is mentioned as the hailkeeper in a game at Ruthven in which Kingussie beat Laggan 2-0. This report, in March 1893, states that there were 16 on each side and that James Gilbert, Gallovie, was umpire. "Great dash and spirit" were shown. Laggan were not as practised and did not combine so well.

Although there were now several established clubs in Badenoch and the Camanachd Association had been in existence since 1893, play in the traditional style was still being held at Cluny in 1894. On 12th January, there was a "Cluidh-bhall", given by Provost Macpherson, Kingussie and William Macdonald (Uilleam Bàn), Cluny Mains, who was local factor. Many from Kingussie and Newtonmore attended and the sides were captained by Dr. Campbell, Creag Bhile and James Gilbert, Gallovie. Dr. Campbell's team scored one hail in a very spirited game after which there was a general game with Dr. Campbell and Ewen Macpherson, road contractor, as the captains. During these contests, two pipers, Angus Ross, Cluny and Jeremiah Macpherson, Kingussie provided the music.

Some weeks afterwards, Laggan beat Alvie 1-0 at Kingussie in very stormy conditions with deep snow which made good play impossible. Mr. James Gilbert's good services to shinty were now recognised when a presentation was made to him by the united clubs in Badenoch after a game

at Ruthven in which Laggan lost by 4-1 to Kingussie. The report of this game, in March 1894, gave the duration of play as one hour with 16 on each side.

The following year in May, after an exceptionally severe winter in which the boys at Gergask School played shinty for days on end on the frozen Spey, there was another presentation. On this occasion about one hundred members and friends of the Laggan club called at Cluny Castle and presented Cluny with a silver mounted caman which was handed over by Mr James Gilbert, the Vice President, who made a speech.

The Laggan team now felt that it was ready to make an attempt at winning the Camanachd Cup and in January, 1896 beat Alvie 4-1 in the first round. A year later they visited Lochaber and defeated Roy Bridge 2-1 on field at Keppoch Farm, the scene of many games. The Roy Bridge captain was that well known enthusiast John Macdonald, distiller and the referee a Mr. Cameron, Spean Bridge. About a month later, Laggan was beaten 7-0 by Kingussie at Kingussie in the Camanachd Cup. The hailkeepers on this occasion were Peter Kennedy, Cluny and John Campbell, tailor, Kingussie.

In the absence of Cluny, the estate was represented by Provost Macpherson, Kingussie, the factor, at the annual play on 12th January 1898. Peter Kennedy, Cluny and James Tolmie, Balgowan, led the sides. In a speech after the game was over, Mr. Donald Campbell, merchant, Kingussie (son of the bard, Dòmhnall Phàil) said that he had been attending play at Cluny for 45 years under three chiefs of the Macphersons. At Blargie, in the following month, Kingussie beat

Laggan 2-0. Ewen Macpherson, Coul, was the referee and the teams were entertained by Mr. Donald MacKillop, the tenant of Blargie.

There was great rejoicing in the parish when the MacTavish Cup was won in April 1900. After a draw of 2-2, Laggan beat Inverness 3-1 in the replay at the Longman, Inverness. The referee was Thomas Fraser, Beauly. It was about 1900 when Dr. Campbell was succeeded in Laggan by Dr. Macdonald, a Glencoe man, and a keen follower of shinty. He will always be remembered in the parish because of his heroic journey, in very severe wintry conditions, to attend Joseph McCook a seriously ill patient at Benalder Cottage near the south end of Loch Ercht. The population of the parish, a very upland and scattered one with very severe winters, which was 1201 in 1841, had fallen to 917 in 1881 and in 1901 was 738. Consequently, there were not so many young men available and the raising of a team was not always an easy matter. The "Badenoch Record", which began in 1902, reported in December of that year that there was not much enthusiasm in Laggan despite the efforts of Dr. Macdonald and Mr. Gilbert. In addition, some Newtonmore men who had been assisting were not likely to be available and Angus Macpherson, the captain, the famous piper, was about to go to New York. (He was now employed by Mr. Andrew Carnegie who had been renting Cluny Castle for some years.) The team was "not likely to take part in the Camanachd Cup despite a good season last year". Play at New Year was still being kept up at Cluny in 1903. Donald Macpherson, Catlodge (known as Dòmhnall Mòr and as Dòmhnall Uilleam) and Donald Tolmie lead the sides. As no Laggan team was competing for any of the trophies, Donald Tolmie was playing for Kingussie during that season.

Something of a revival had taken place in 1904 when Laggan, by defeating Lovat by 2-1, reached the final of the Camanachd Cup, the team being - P. Macdonald, J. Campbell, J. Macdonald, D. MacDougall, E. Macdonald, L. Carver, D. Tolmie (captain), W. Mackintosh, - Fyffe, Jas. Grant, John Grant, A. Macdonald. Although beaten 4-1 at Inverness by the famous Kyles team, which included four Nicolson brothers, there was some consolation in winning the Kennedy Trophy (already held for the past two years) by beating Newtonmore 3-1. This was a silver mounted caman which had been presented some years previously by C.G. Kennedy, Newtonmore, who had at one time lived in Edinburgh. It was about 1905 when Laggan achieved a memorable victory by defeating Kingussie 3-0 in the Camanachd Cup. At Balgowan, the event

was celebrated by dancing and bonfires were lit on several hillocks.

There were two games with Kingussie in 1906. The first was a friendly at Blargie in January and in December, although there was difficulty in raising a team, they met at the Dell in the first round of the Camanachd Cup. The team on this occasion was - A. Macpherson, H. Cameron, A. Ross, T. Grant, D. MacDougall, E. Macdonald, Donald Tolmie (captain), E. Macdonald, W. Ross, A. Macdonald, A. MacKillop and R. Ross. Ewen Macdonald, who lived at Moy, at the west end of Loch Laggan, was employed on Ardverkie Estate as the foreman looking after roads and fences. Two Laggan players, James Macdonald and Duncan MacDougall played for the North against South that year.

At New Year 1907, there was play at Cluny with sides captained by Cluny and Provost Campbell, Kingussie, and the usual speeches were made at the end of the day. Dr. Macdonald represented Laggan at the Camanachd Association meeting this year and Finlay Mackintosh in 1908. There was no team for competitions in 1908-1909. The year 1912 seems to have been the last in which there was play given at Cluny at the New Year, the captains being Cluny and Dr. Macdonald. Willie Macpherson, then at Catlodge and from 1935 to 1962 the Secretary and Treasurer of the Camanachd Association, recalls seeing the play there on that occasion. It was held in a small field across the road from the factor's house and east of the Cluny steading. He remembers the veteran Tearlach Og proposing the toast at the end and being amazed at the great size of his hands. On the same field in 1912 a team of Laggan boys was beaten 11-0 by the boys of Newtonmore.

A memorable game was played in April 1921 near the Spey at Gaskbeg. In this game, between teams under 17 years, Laggan beat Newtonmore 4-0. The Laggan team as recalled by Willie Macpherson was - Roddy Maclean, Middleton, Johnny Carver, Crubenbeg, Donnie Macdonald, Glentruim, Willie Macpherson, Catlodge, Norman MacLeod, The Manse, Alex. Gillies, Laggan Bridge, Henry Cuthbert, Lagg, Donnie Robertson, Breakachy, Iain Macpherson, Laggan Bridge, Alex. Shand, The Glebe, Jimmy Carver, Crubenbeg and Jack Ross, Achmore. The Carver brothers were first class players. Jimmy was killed in the war. Red and black jerseys were worn by Laggan in these games.

Ellis Stewart who contributed much to shinty as a player and administrator spent his early days at Kinlochlaggan and remembers a New Year game in the 1920s taking place at Gallovie. It was played on a small field beside the river near the bridge.

As the scattered population of the parish continued to decline, there were seasons when it was not possible to raise a team. There is a report in 1923 of a game with Kingussie in the Campbell Cup (donated by Donald Campbell, J.P., Kingussie who had attended the "cluidh-bhall" for so many years at Cluny), for competition by junior teams in Badenoch. In 1932, along with Kinraig and the second teams of Kingussie and Newtonmore, Laggan took part in this competition, described as "The Badenoch Campbell Trophy League". In February of that year, they beat Kinraig 3-1 at Balgowan in a field near the old Free Church School.

Although some friendly games took place, the last occasion, as far as can be ascertained, in which Laggan competed for a trophy was in February 1935 when they lost to Newtonmore by 5-0 in the district final of the Sutherland Cup. The "Badenoch Record" gives the team - J. Mackintosh, A. Costello, A. Mackintosh, J. Fraser, A. Macdonald, A. Bisset, A. Grant, D. Fraser, G. Fraser, W. Maclean, J. Fraser, J. Gibson. One of these, Archie Costello, who was a grandson of Angus MacDonald (Aonghas Mòr) in Lagg, became a keeper at Ardverkie and survived the Battle of Arnhem in 1944. A. Bisset was from Gaskbeg where his father was a shepherd, J. Gibson was a keeper at Ardverkie and W. Maclean was from Middleton.

Note

Uncles of the author had taken part in the "Cluidh-bhall" in the 1880s. They lived at nearby Balgowan. One of them, Finlay Barron, composed Gaelic verses on a game at Blargie about that time. The verses later appeared in the Gaelic magazine "Gairn" no.61. The author's father, Roderick, played a few games in the Laggan team and from about 1895 to 1900 played for Edinburgh University where he distinguished himself in the Celtic class.



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COACHES DISPUTE

Organised under-14 shinty for club-related teams, other than small local leagues, has its origins in the 'teachers' dispute' of the mid-eighties when, because of the dispute, virtually no shinty was being played in secondary schools and as a result boys of secondary school age were not playing competitive shinty. Because of this situation, and in response to a suggestion from Donnie Grant, now the Camanachd Association's Coaching Convenor, at a North meeting in Inverness during season 1985-86, the North Under-14 Shield was presented for competition.

At that time, small, locally organised under-14 leagues were being run in four different areas of what is now the North Area of the Camanachd Association, and the winning teams in each of these small leagues were invited to compete, on a "knock-out" basis for the Shield in 1986 and 1987. On both these occasions the competition was won by a Fodderty team, all members of which were either pupils or former pupils of Fodderty Primary School, Strathpeffer and coached by Ken MacMaster and Duncan MacDonald, then Headmaster of the school and now better known as the Caberfeidh

Shinty Club Secretary. Kingussie were the losing finalists on each occasion. The dispute ended shortly after that and, sadly, so did the competition.

In 1988 and 1989, although, the Schools Camanachd Association competitions for secondary schools had recommenced but very few boys were involved as very few schools were participating in these competitions.

At their AGM in the season 1989/90, the North Area of the Camanachd Association agreed to revive their under-14 competition and to send an invitation to each member Club within the North Area to compete.

Fourteen clubs entered the first year of the revived competition and they were divided into league sections with section winners contesting the semi-final and final ties on a 'knock-out' basis. Fort William and Beaully contested the final that year at Drumnadrochit, with Fort William worthy winners.

As the saying goes, "the rest is history". Glengarry defeated Newtonmore in the 1991 final at Strathpeffer and Lovat won the 1992 final again at Drumnadrochit, by defeating Fort William. In each of these succeeding years, the original entry number of

fourteen teams was maintained. A similar competition has been run in the South Area over the past three seasons but unfortunately with fewer teams.

Because of the success of these competitions and because the under-14 boys had such a short season (i.e. from April to June) a proposal was made to the Executive Council of the Camanachd Association that a National Under-14 Competition should be introduced. The format of this competition was that it be played on a "knock-out" basis, with each round being played over two matches, one here and one away, with the aggregate score deciding the winner of the tie, and this would allow each team to play twice as many games. The competition was to be played in two Sections, North and South, with a national final to be played at

a neutral venue over one game. The proposal and format were agreed by the Executive Council and it was agreed that the competition should commence in August to be completed by October.

The proposer of the Competition, David MacMaster, Strathpeffer, then President of Caberfeidh Shinty Club, donated a trophy, to be called the Kenneth A. MacMaster Trophy, in honour of his father's interest in the game and in particular his interest in the coaching of boys in the game. The new trophy was inscribed "Presented in recognition of his dedication to the future of Camanachd".

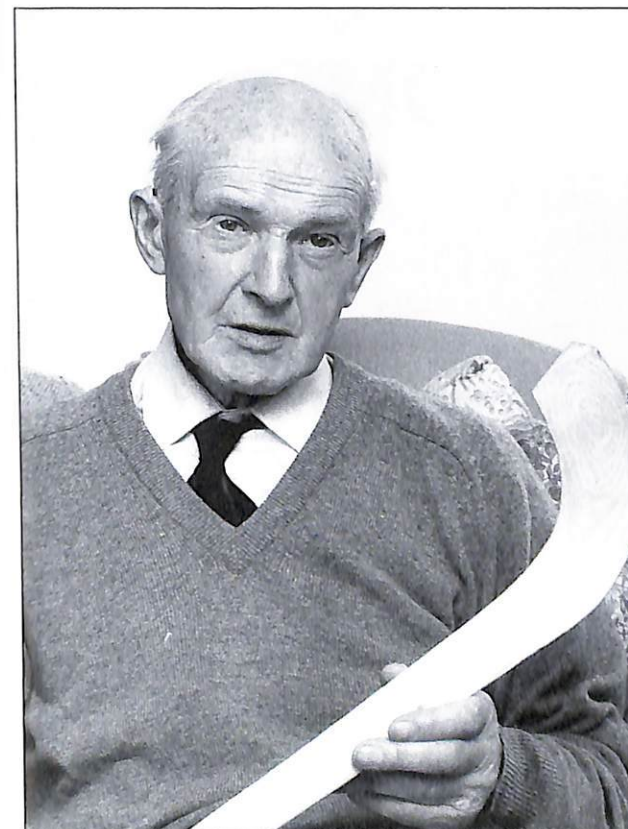
Nineteen teams entered for the competition and eventually fifteen took part, all of whom are to be congratulated on adhering to the instruction that their ties were to be completed within a given week. This resulted in the two finalists, Caberfeidh from the north and Oban Celtic from the south, being ready to play on the arranged date. Unfortunately, due to the non-availability of a suitably central venue, the final was postponed for two weeks, until Saturday, 7th November 1992, when the clubs met at Spean Bridge.

The final itself was very keenly contested with both teams having periods of dominance. Caberfeidh eventually won the match by two goals to one, thus becoming the first winners of the new trophy and also National League Champions in the Association's Centenary Season.

Since then, in the Spring of 1993, the North Under-14 League was again played in its usual format with the final on this occasion being played at Lochcarron and contested by Caberfeidh and Skye with Caberfeidh again successful by three goals to two.

The Camanachd Association is to be congratulated on its support of under-14 shinty, perhaps the most important age group in the development of shinty players. The new area competition introduced last year under the direction of Donnie Grant, and played again this year in October in Glasgow as part of the centenary celebrations gave the boys something else to aim for in their quest too become better players. Long may the Association continue their support of these boys and let us hope that the teams and competitions will go from strength to strength.

David A. MacMaster



Ken MacMaster, a legend in Caberfeidh, still with a tremendous interest in the area's young players.

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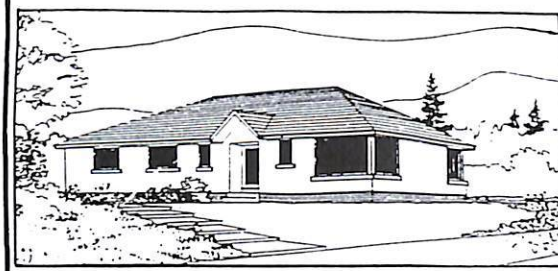
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HARRY DUNN, OBAN President, Camanachd Association 1957-60

Sone families are steeped in shinty lore, some come into it, adopt it as though they had been involved with it for generations and make an outstanding contribution to it. Harry Dunn who died in October, 1993 at the age of seventy-seven is one of the latter. He became involved through the activities of his father who had much to do with the early days of Oban Celtic. Dunn senior was a former military man, a great athlete and one who encouraged others to play games whatever their nature.

Harry Dunn junior would have been a boy of nine or ten when Oban Celtic were founded and his father agreed willingly, through the good offices of John (Lofty) MacIntyre who was his barman, to assist with the setting up of the fledgling opposition to Oban Camanachd and the benevolent dictatorship of ex-Provost Donald MacDougall Skinner. It is interesting to note that only two Oban residents have been President of the Camanachd Association: Skinner and Dunn.

Just as Dunn senior encouraged young men to keep themselves fit and play sport, so he encouraged young Harry to take up the caman and make his mark in the game. While he was not an outstanding player, he was a competent one and turned out for the first team before and after the war. But, it was the war and the

run up to the war which naturally drew his attention. As a member of the 51st Highland Division Anti-Tank Regiment T.A., he was mobilised on the outbreak of war. Older Obanites remember his wedding for it must have been the one which took the least time to arrange: 10.30a.m. details tied up, proclaimed from the steps of the Old Parish Church at noon, married at 1.00p.m. The bride was Ann MacKenzie, daughter of Aulay MacKenzie, vice-chief-tain of Oban Camanachd!

Harry Dunn had a distinguished war record, being awarded the Military Cross and the Croix De Guerre, and leaving the services with the rank of Major after taking part in the North African campaign and the Normandy landings. Back in Oban he played for Oban Celtic - the players must have had the best manicured feet of any team for Dunn had trained as a chiropodist and practiced in Oban as well as joining his father in running the Lochavullin Bar and eventually opening the Tartan Tavern. After his playing days were over he followed his father as President of Oban Celtic and became involved in the administration of the sport, eventually becoming President of the Camanachd Association. His charming but firm manner kept discipline in the Executive where, too often, there were



those who sounded off for no other purpose than to draw attention to themselves and, all too often to show up their own deficiencies.

Throughout his life, the latter years dogged by ill-health and the sudden death of his wife, Ann, and his elder son, Harry Junior, he still took a keen interest in what was happening to the local sides and enjoyed both golf and sailing as past-times.

To Aulay, his younger son, his sister, Dolly, and his grandchildren the sympathy of the shinty world is extended.

Coll Mac Dougall

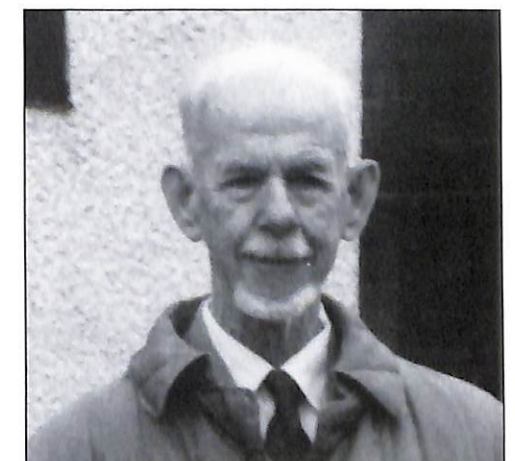
ARCHIE GILLESPIE, OBAN

Two generations of shinty players were saddened last October when Archie Gillespie, the Chieftain of Oban Camanachd died after a long illness which he bore with great fortitude. For many years he, his brother Aeneas and his sisters offered generous hospitality to visiting clubs at the Columba Hotel on Oban's North Pier. Although Archie never played for the club he was an ever-present source of advice and financial help. Along with his near neighbour Aulay MacKenzie of the Argyll Hotel, he saw to it that there was a supply of sticks at the beginning of each season and that the entire club was entertained to dinner prior to its AGM.

Prior to the Great War Archie gained experience in hotels in this country and in Europe with a view to

joining in the running of the Columba which always enjoyed the highest reputation for Highland hospitality. At the outbreak of the war he joined the Oban Battery, was taken prisoner at St. Valery, spent five years as a prisoner of war before returning to Britain and eventual demob. Thereafter he spent a number of years in London where he was involved in assisting Max Joseph in founding the Grand Metropolitan Hotel Group. In the early fifties he returned to Oban and began to play a prominent part in the life of the community.

Not only did he support Oban Camanachd vigorously and look to the welfare of visiting clubs but he involved himself in a number of other sporting clubs: sailing and curling being particular favourites.



The sympathy of all who knew this kindly, humorous man who lived much by his strong religious faith is extended to his wife, Lila, daughter, Rhoda and her husband Alan Thomas and their sons, Matthew and Colin.

Coll MacDougall

COLIN CAMPBELL, Oban



Colin Campbell, (centre) with his grandson Duncan Forgrieve (left) and Hector Campbell, Colin's nephew.

For a generation of boys who went to Rockfield Primary School and Oban High School, the death of Colin Campbell on 14th August 1993, in his ninety-first year, will bring back memories of possibly their first contact with shinty and of one of the kindest of men who fulfilled the difficult role of janitor at both schools - first at Rockfield from 1931-38 and then at Oban High from 1938-1954 - at a time when the holder of that office was much more than the caretaker of the premises. He was playground supervisor, first-aid attendant, supervisor of lines, arbiter of minor mischief, as well as boiler-house atten-

dant, running-repair specialist, comforter and friend.

In his address at the funeral service in Oban's Old Parish Church - Colin had been an elder there for more than fifty years - the Rev. Andrew Campbell spoke of Colin as the person to whom others turned when they needed to know about the history of many facets of Oban life over more than four decades. So it was that earlier this year, Ian Nicolson, the sports editor of *The Oban Times* and I spent the afternoon with Colin and John 'Lofty' MacIntyre, a founder member of Oban Celtic and a mere boy at a very spritely eighty-six!

It was an afternoon that both of us will treasure for Colin was in fine fettle, his memory as clear as a bell and stimulated by the recollections his old pal, 'Lofty'. Stories of the famous ex-Provost Donald MacDougall Skinner, grand-father of the current Chief of the Camanachd Association, poured forth, as did the cause of the founding of Oban Celtic. How sticks were made, how funds were raised, the place of women in the sport, memorable finals and the names of their favourite players all came with an attention to detail which is the prerogative of the very old. Alas, just a few days later, Colin went into hospital and subsequently into a home for the elderly where he died some weeks later.

Colin was the fourth of nine children, born in Oban's High Street in September 1902. He trained as a carpenter, played first forward for Oban Camanachd and briefly for Glasgow Mid-Argyll when he was a ship's carpenter at Fairlie, and retired from the game in 1932 without the sport's most coveted prize: a Camanachd Cup Winner's Medal.

Throughout his long career as a janitor, and many years into his retirement, he took a keen interest in the growth of young players, not least his daughter, Janette's son, Duncan Forgrieve who played with distinction for Oban Celtic and that of his own son, Colin who turned out for his old team. He was also a keen footballer and a good golfer in his younger days, keeping up an interest in these sports throughout his long life.

To his daughters, Janette and Catherine and son Colin, twelve grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren, the sympathy of the shinty world is extended.

Col MacDougall

founder member of the Royal College of General Practitioners. As a Territorial Officer in the R.A.M.C. he was required for immediate service in Belgium and France at the start of the Second World War and was evacuated at Dunkirk, returning to Europe with the Normandy Landings. After the War he became established in General Practice and Surgery in Warwickshire until he retired in 1981.

A keen athlete, Ewen Campbell represented both his University and the Army at Rugby Football which he continued playing at club level into his forties, in addition to holding the record for the sprint hurdles at St. Andrews. As a young man he played shinty for Kingussie and in his retirement was a devoted supporter of the club, rarely missing a home fixture and travelling to many of the away matches.

He is survived by his wife, Susan, and sons David and Ewen.

JT

James "Ginger" Wilson Fort William

The passing of James "Ginger" Wilson signalled the breaking of the last Ballachulish link with one of the most ingenious wartime escape stories of the last war. Over the past half-century the media has told and retold the tale of the remarkable escapade which in 1940, saw Ginger and his two companions, Sandy MacDonald and Willie Kemp, trek for six weeks to reach Spain as escaped prisoners of war. The trio, all serving with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders completely bewildered the German interpreters by speaking only in their mother tongue of Gaelic, every time they were questioned.

Recently interviewed by Ian Abernethy who told his story in 1960, Ginger - predeceased by Sandy and Willie - spoke again of their exploits. Born in Edinburgh in 1911 Ginger at two and a half was boarded out to North Ballachulish to stay with "three Gaelic speaking ladies". By the time he was old enough to attend St. Bride's Primary School in Onich he spoke no English! For ten years between 1929 and 1939 Ginger worked with the British Aluminium Company, firstly at Kinlochleven and then at Fort William.

But now to take up his own tale....."The labour Officer at the BA was also a captain in the Argylls in the BA's Territorial Army and that is how I became keen on the regiment. The day after war was declared in 1939 I was off to Dunoon to train with the Argylls at Cowal Games Park before going off to Aldershot. We had been in France in January 1940, on night recess, but when we went back there again in the early summer, at the time of Dunkirk the boot was on the other foot. The 51st Division, including us Argylls, was surrounded at St. Valery. Later a German officer, six foot seven inches tall - and a gentleman - separated our own officers from the men and started us off in a huge column on the march to prisoner of war camp in Germany."

"Everyone was working out ways of escape. And one day, well into the march, we came to a point where there was a sharp bend on the track we were following. The guards in front had rounded the corner but we were out of sight of the one behind. Sandy, 'The Blood', and Willie and I had kept together and in Gaelic, Willie hissed 'Come on, let's get out of this!' We ran, and ran, expecting to hear shouts or shots. But none came. We dived into some roddie bushes in a garden. A young fellow and his mum saw us and she screamed blue murder."

"But eventually we calmed them down and explained we had escaped from the Germans. They produced bundles of clothes for us, including dungarees (in fact I've still got the jacket to this day) and we buried our own uniforms."

"By early June we were heading for Switzerland when we arrived at a little village where the teacher and her husband - 'The Provost' - took us in, fed us and set us stay the night. We didn't know till next day that the upstairs part of their house was 'occupied' by Germans!"

"Then we headed south after a minor pointed us in the direction of the Seine. When we got to the river all the bridges had sentries. We saw a fellow out in a punt and bribed him with a bottle to take us across. But we ran into some problems on the other side and the Germans rounded us up with lots of other 'nondescripts'. Eventually we were taken to Caen Football Stadium which was used as a rehabilitation centre."

"An officer interrogated us and we told him - in Gaelic - to go to hell. I think he wanted us to show him 'Hell' on the map and we had a hell of a job keeping our faces straight. But the officer wasn't very happy with us and he singled me out, maybe because I was the smallest, and split my face with his revolver. I was more frightened that Willie, who was six feet two, would jump him."

"We spoke Gaelic among ourselves all the time we were there. At one stage eight interpreters, one after the other, had a go at trying to make us divulge our nationality. We just nattered away in the Gaelic. They then showed us a map and pointed to a place as high up as Russia as a possible hiding place they'd think we had some weird dialect from there. Anyhow they couldn't make head or tail of us and eventually they told us to allez off."

"Off we went and fetched up at one stage in Biarritz. You think it's wet in Lochaber? I've never seen such bloody rain in my life as there was in Biarritz. We actually got a lift in a German supply wagon for forty miles! And then we discovered there was a Refugee Fund in one particular village. In broken French - and Gaelic - we asked for the manager. But he was pro-German and as we had no identification he said he was obliged to arrest us. We were getting too near Spain to put up with any of that nonsense so I picked up a chair and clattered him with it. The war was over for him for a while and we locked his door and threw away the key to make sure."

"Then we stumbled, too late, on a German outpost. Their job was to round up refugees off the road and take them to forced Labour camps. And you can't argue



Ginger Wilson with Adam Robertson (left) and the Glenmorangie Camanachd Cup at the opening of the new club-house at An Aird.

with a revolver. Well, not right away, anyhow. As a few of us were being marched along the road under guard, Sandy whispered in Gaelic, 'When I kick him - you grab him!'. Willie and I did just that and the guard fired a shot that went over my head. I was deaf for a week but that, thankfully, was our last physical encounter with the Germans."

"We made it to the Bidzoa River below the Pyrenees, and there we met up with a Parisian Jew on a push bike. He was scared. 'Where you go,' he asked. 'Ballachulish, Scotland,' said we. 'I go too,' the Frenchman replied and after he threw his bike into the water he joined us as we doggy paddled across the river. Up the Pyrenees we went. All 6000 feet of them. After reaching some diagonal poles we spotted a mule boy and he pointed us towards San Sebastian. There we were shown into a Spanish army barracks and, after saying we were Yanks, they put us up for the night. That was the first time I was ever in jail! But it was magic."

"Next morning one of the soldiers actually drove us to the US Consulate. As soon as he was off we looked for the British Consulate. The consul turned out to be from Giffnock and he knew of Willie as an ex-Polis! He told us we were the first Scotsmen to make it into Spain and took us up into the hills to his own hacienda. He then got us transport to Bilbao and from there we got back to the UK aboard an iron ore boat bound for Greenock."

The consul had contacted the port authority and when we docked there was Willie's sister standing on the pier with a bottle of whisky! We finished up in Maryhill Barracks before being allowed to return on leave to Ballachulish - where we had a dram or two, I can tell you!"

By kind permission of Ian Abernethy,
West Highland News Agency

BRYAN MACDONALD, Glengarry

The death of Bryan MacDonald (Braxy) at the age of 33 years greatly shocked the people of Glengarry. Bryan, a single man, died suddenly at his home, 'Glasdair' on 11th July 1993. A keen darts, football and shinty player, he played for Glengarry at the revival in Division 4 and was their leading goal scorer in several seasons. Although several years ago he gave up the game due to work commitments, he returned two years ago where he used his experience to encourage the younger players in the team.

The sympathy of the whole shinty community of Glengarry is extended to Bryan's family.

DR. EWEN CAMPBELL, Kingussie

Ewen Campbell TD., FRCS died peacefully at Dellifour House, Kingussie on 12th October 1992. Ewen Campbell was the second son of Colonel John Campbell, Kingussie, Secretary of the Kingussie Camanachd Club who convened the first meeting of the clubs which lead to the formation of the Camanachd Association in 1893.

Ewen David Ogilvie Campbell was born in The Old Bank, Spey Street in 1911 and moved with his six brothers and sisters to Kinraig after the First World War. He was educated at Inverness Royal Academy after initial schooling in Kingussie, and then the Universities of St. Andrews and Edinburgh. He subsequently gained his Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh and was a

Donald Ban MacIntyre, Inveraray

Donald Ban MacIntyre of Inverary (85) was unique in the realm of shinty, in that he appears to have been the only shinty player ever to have won a Powderhall race. In 1930, at the age of 22, he won the Christmas half-mile at Powderhall.

Donald was a joiner to trade, and while working in Glasgow, he was taken in hand by Willie Biggar, who trained him for six months at Cathkin Park, the home of the now defunct Third Lanark Football Club, whose manager at that time was Russell Moreland. His only previous experience was racing at the local games in Inveraray.

The newspaper cutting of the time quotes, "MacIntyre, Inveraray, won the Christmas Half-mile in the style of a really good runner."

He was originally favourite for the handicap, but with the connection of MacCormick, Kirkconnel, going all out to recoup their losses incurred over the heat, when he was defeated by MacGregor of Crieff, after odds were laid on him, Donald Ban's backers were able to trade at a good price.

His sound judgement pulled him through. He kept going at a steady pace until the home straight was reached, when his long stride enabled him to overhaul his opponents. This was the first handicap he had won outside the local games at Inveraray.

A joiner to trade, Donald recalled that he was trained for the 130 yards sprint and had a handicap of 12 yards. However, after winning a heat, he was pulled back 8 yards instead of four yards and always

maintained he could have won from that distance anyway. But his trainer, Willie Biggar, was not pleased at such a big handicap and so Donald did not leave his mark. He made up for that loss with a superb win in the half-mile.

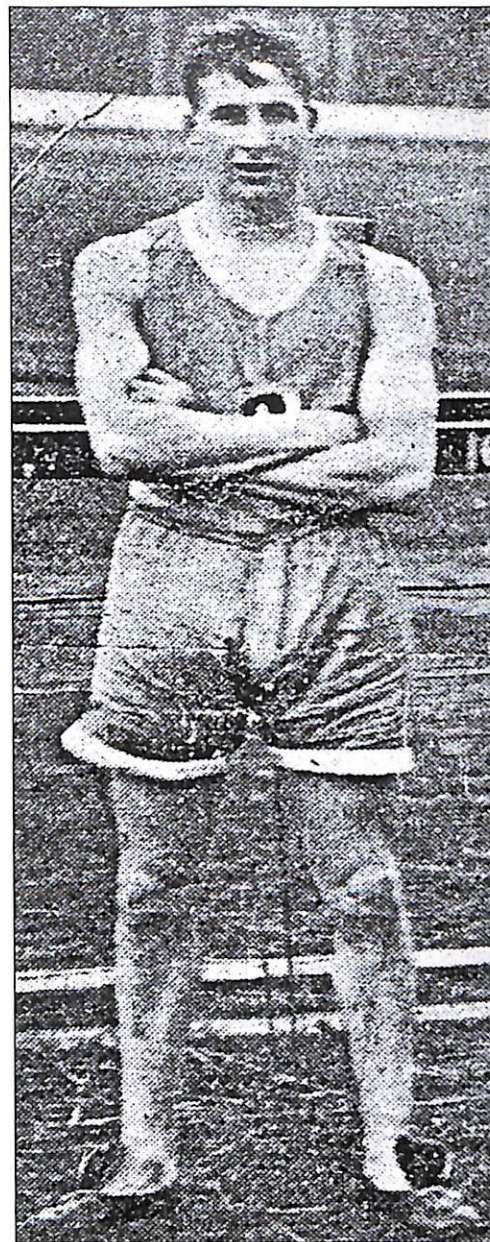
Shinty was Donald's other favourite sport. He was left wing centre for Inveraray and completed a unique sporting double when he won a Camanachd Cup Winner's medal. In 1930, he was a member of the Inveraray team, which lifted the Camanachd Cup, the last team from there to do so. In the final at Ganavan Park, Oban, they beat Caberfeidh 2-1 and Neil MacGugan notched the winning goal.

In latter years, Donald was a very successful sheep farmer in Inveraray and like all good farmers, even though retired, his talents were still in demand, for he went all over Argyllshire and the neighbouring isles judging at the local shows. As well as that, he was a regular visitor to all the major shinty games in the area, as well as the major finals.

The sympathy of whole shinty community is extended to Donald's widow Betty, his two daughters Joni and Jill and son Hugh. The large crowd which gathered to the funeral at Inveraray in November was testimony to the affection in which he was held in the local community.

JWC

D. MacIntyre, Inveraray, who won the Christmas half-mile handicap at Powderhall. Christmas 1930



Murdo MacLennan, Clydebank



Murdo MacLennan, guest of honour at the Glasgow Cup Final 1992.

At Hallowe'en 1992, the end of the Celtic year, Murdoch Donald MacLennan passed away in Clydebank very swiftly and peacefully. He was 98, a Gaelic speaker and a Scottish Nationalist who had lived a truly remarkable life.

Born and brought up in Benbecula where he had played shinty on the foreshore, he served with distinction in Gallipoli and the Balkans as a Lovat Scout - a crack shot, fine horseman and an outstanding soldier whose military experience was to stand him in good stead in his life-long career of officer in the Dunbartonshire Constabulary. He made his home in Milngavie with his dear wife Isabella who lived to be 102. His daughter Edwina pictured left with her husband Col. Bill Callahan formerly of the U. S. Marines joined Murdoch at the Sunshine Final of 1992 at Old Anniesland when of course Fort William had their glory day. It was a measure of Murdoch's sense of humour that he teased Bill frequently concerning the D-Day landings where his son-in-law was wounded that Normandy was a mere 'picnic' besides Gallipoli. He is much missed.

I.A.

SANDY CUMMING, Inverness

The shinty world lost one of its finest ambassadors with the death of Sandy Cumming on 12th June 1993.

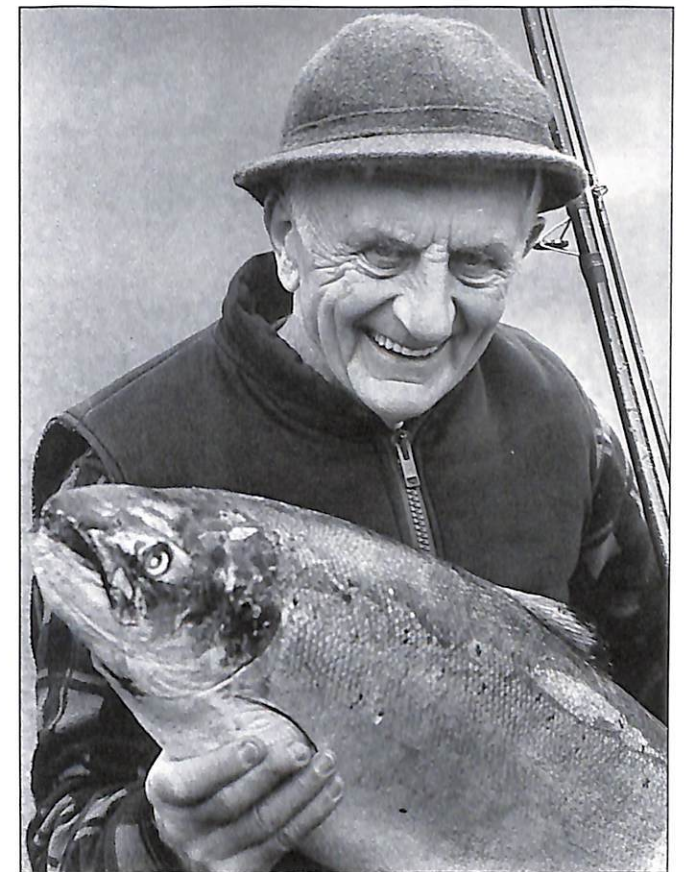
Sandy was born in Avoch and learned his shinty at Strathconon who at that time were a successful junior team having won the Sutherland Cup in 1930 and the Strathdearn Cup in 1931-32, 33. At that period he joined that great Caberfeidh team of the 30's. 1934 saw the Camanachd Cup in Ross-shire for the first time. Caberfeidh beat Kyles 3 - 0 at Inveraray. In 1939, they again beat the Kyles team 2 - 1 at Inverness. During that time, Sandy had lost three of his brothers in the team - George, Ian and Tommy.

After the Second World War, Sandy joined Inverness and the hat-trick of Camanachd medals was his when Inverness beat Oban Celtic 3 - 2 in Glasgow in 1952. Many will still recall the great semi-final that season when Inverness beat Newtonmore 3-1 at Fort William. Two of the goals that day were scored by Sandy, who at that time was over 40. On the administration side, Sandy took over as Secretary of the MacGillivray league in 1947 and after the amalgamation with the MacTavish Association acted as Secretary for the North of Scotland Association for many years, a position he

did voluntarily and well. He was also an executive member of the Camanachd Association.

Sandy had a wonderful sincere charm and great fortitude. He lived for nature and the beauty of the countryside, the grouse moors and fishing, at which he had few equals. There were few rivers or lochs of Ross-shire and Inverness-shire that he did not know. The caman went hand in hand with the fishing rod.

The large attendance at his funeral service in Ness Bank Church of which he was an elder and at Tomahurich Cemetery said it all. He was held in great affection and respect by all whose privilege it was to know him and he left behind him an example for us all to follow, by his kindness and consideration for mankind and his deep faith in his maker. He always went the extra mile.



To his family, Pat, Sheila, Sandy, Ian and Roddy, the deepest sympathy is extended.

Willie Batchen

HECTOR MACRAE, Lochalsh

Shinty lost one of its most stylish players with the untimely death on 23rd December 1992 of Hector MacRae at the age of 56. Hector's illness was diagnosed only in the Autumn of 1992 and, as might be expected from somebody of Hector's character, he bore it with great courage and grace, always reassuring the visitors to his hospital bed that he felt 'not too bad at all'.

Hector was a native of Lochalsh where his forebears can be traced back into the mists of time. He was an effervescent character, full of humour and with many natural sporting and musical talents. Some of his early post-Plockton school years were spent in Glasgow where his fine football talent was soon recognised and attracted the attention of some of the top professional clubs.

On his return to Balmacara in his mid 20s he was soon playing football for Balmacara and Plockton and shinty for Kinlochshiel. Ian and Edmund MacKenzie were among his team-mates on the football field in the Wester Ross Summer League and they well remember Hector

and other team-mates playing for Kinlochshiel in the semi-final and final stages of the shinty competitions in early summer on the Saturday afternoon and then turning out to play in Summer League football competitions in the evening.

Hector's 'kit' for all shinty and football matches not only consisted of his boots, shinguards and caman but his accordion was always an inseparable component so that, win or lose the games, there would always be rousing tunes and a great sing-song afterwards to help with the celebrations or the drowning of sorrows. No matter how late it was when they got back to Balmacara after the shinty and football matches, Hector would be looking for a home with a light still on as a location to continue a ceilidh. He was given the nickname of 'The Moth' for this reason. Latterly he had his own dance band in Aberdeen.

Hector was a key member of that great Kinlochshiel team of the late 1950's and early 60's which was very successful in Junior competitions. Hector's fine posi-

tional sense, timing and ability to deliver fine incisive passes to his forwards made a notable contribution to the fluency and success of the team.

Hector eventually came to work in Aberdeen where he was soon gracing the forward line of the Aberdeen Camanachd team. Many participants in and visitors to the series of Aberdeen Shinty Festivals will remember Hector as the 'all day' goalkeeper in the penalty taking competition. Not many players succeeded in scoring 3 out of 3, such was his agility and sureness of eye.

Hector's funeral service in Aberdeen was attended by close to 400 of his friends, including a full bus load of his old shinty, dance band, and ceilidh cronies from Lochalsh - Kintail - Glenshiel to pay their last respects to one of their very best team-mates and a great friend. In February, Hector's ashes were laid to rest in the Old Cemetery at Kirkton overlooking the shinty field which saw some of his greatest triumphs.

Hector was a great character who quickly made many fine friends wherever he went. Shinty and all its people are much the poorer for his passing. The sympathy of Hector's host of friends goes to his wife, Lottie, his sister, Anne and the whole family.

Peter English

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*"Cumaidh sinn suas an cluidh-iomain,
Cluidh is grinn' a tha fo'n ghrèin".*



This bibliography represents a comprehensive list of the primary sources used in researching the centenary of the Camanachd Association. It is by no means a complete record of all the material ever written about shinty.

Information has also been included on sources which are useful in pursuance of material on other related matters such as Highland culture in general and the Gaelic language in particular.

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ISLE OF ISLAY 049 685 344 · ISLE OF MULL 068 02 374

DUNOON 0369 4445

WHERE DEPENDABILITY BEGINS

St Columbas' Spoils



St Columbas' School, Oban with Anne Cameron, their coach, and their impressive array of trophies which made 1992-93 their best year ever.

Photo: Roy Summers

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The current issue is the 22nd Shinty Yearbook and the origins of this publication and the editors over the years are summarised below:

Founder: Peter English

Yearbook

1971	Peter English
1972-73	" "
1973-74	" "
1974-75	" "
1975-76	" "
1976-77	Douglas Lowe and Richard Tulloch
1977-78	" "
1979	Douglas Lowe, Richard Tulloch and Liz MacInnes
1980	Liz MacInnes, Richard Tulloch and Douglas Lowe
1981	Douglas Lowe, Richard McKinlay and Ken Thomson
1982	Douglas Lowe, Ken Thomson, Liz MacInnes, Richard McKinlay, John MacFarlane and Donnie MacKenzie
1983	Liz MacInnes, Douglas Lowe, Richard Tulloch and Donnie MacKenzie
1984	Douglas Lowe and Hugh Dan MacLennan
1985	Liz MacInnes and Douglas Lowe
1986	" "
1987	" "
1988	" "
1989	" "
1990	" "
1991-92	Hugh Dan MacLennan
1992-93	" "
1993-94	" "

Glenmorangie Qualifying Cup

North area

First Round
Kincaig v Glengarry
Byes: Inverness, Kinlochshiel and Lochaber

Second Round

Beaully v Lovat
Kincaig/Glengarry v Inverness
Kinlochshiel v Kilmallie
Strathglass v Lochaber

Semi-Finals

Kinlochshiel/Kilmallie v
Kincaig/Glengarry/Inverness
Strathglass/Lochaber v Beaully/Lovat

South area

First Round

Bute v Taynuilt
Glasgow University v St Andrews University
Kintyre v Edinburgh University
London v Mull

Second Round

Ballachulish v Glasgow Univ/St Andrews Univ
Kintyre/Edinburgh Univ v Oban Celtic
Strachur v Bute/Taynuilt
Tayforth v London/Mull
Ballachulish/Glasgow Univ/St Andrews

Semi-Finals

Ballachulish/Glasgow University/St Andrews Univ
v
Tayforth/London/Mull

Kintyre/Edinburgh Univ/Oban Celtic

v
Strachur/Bute/Taynuilt

Glenmorangie Balliemore Cup

First Round

Glasgow University v Mull
Inverness v Kintyre
Lochaber v Glengarry
Strachur v Kinlochshiel
Strathglass v Bute
St Andrews Univ v Edinburgh Univ
Taynuilt v Tayforth/Bye: Kilmallie

Second Round

Glasgow Univ/Mull v Strathglass/Bute
Inverness/Kintyre v Tayforth/Taynuilt
Lochaber/Glengarry v Kilmallie
St Andrews Univ/Edinburgh Univ

v
Strachur/Kinlochshiel

Semi-Finals

Glasgow Univ/Mull/Strathglass/Bute
v
Lochaber/Glengarry/Kilmallie

St Andrews Univ/Edinburgh

Univ/Strachur/Kinlochshiel

v
Inverness/Kintyre/Taynuilt/Tayforth

Final April 11, 1994

Glenmorangie Sutherland Cup

North Area

Preliminary Round

Fort William v Strathglass
Kilmallie v Lochbroom
Skye v Lochaber

First Round

Aberdeen Univ v Kincaig
Boleskine v Kilmallie/Lochbroom
Caberfeidh v Kingussie
Fort William/Strathglass v Newtonmore
Glengarry v Glenurquhart
Inverness v Lochcarron
Lovat v Kinlochshiel
Skye/Lochaber v Beaully

Second Round

Aberdeen Univ/Kincaig v Glengarry/Glenurquhart
Fort William/Strathglass/Newtonmore v
Caberfeidh/Kingussie
Inverness/Lochcarron v Skye/Lochaber/Beaully
Lovat/Kinlochshiel v Boleskine/Kilmallie/Lochbroom

Cup Draws Season 1993-94

South area

Preliminary Round

Brian Boru v Glenorchy
Kyles v Oban Celtic

First Round

Brian Boru/Glenorchy v Lochside Rovers
Strachur v Furnace
Kyles/Oban Celtic v Glengarry
Ballachulish v Glasgow Mid Argyll

Third Round : Open Draw

Final: April 2, 1994 at Newtonmore

Keyline MacAulay Cup

North area

First Round

Glenurquhart v Skye
Lovat v Caberfeidh
Kingussie v Newtonmore
Fort William v Beaully

Second Round

Fort William/Beaully v Lovat/Caberfeidh
Glenurquhart/Skye v Kingussie/Newtonmore

South area

First Round

Inveraray v Kyles
Kilmory v Glenorchy
Oban Camanachd v Glasgow Mid Argyll
Oban Celtic v Ballachulish

Second Round

Inveraray/Kyles v Oban Celtic/Balachulish
Kilmory/Glenorchy v Oban Camanachd/Glasgow
Mid Argyll

Final: April 23, 1994 at Mossfield Park, Oban

Bank of Scotland Celtic Society Cup

Preliminary Round

Oban Celtic v Kyles

First Round

Ballachulish v St Andrews University
Glasgow Mid Argyll v Inveraray
Glasgow University v Strachur
Kilmory v Bute

Oban Camanachd v Kintyre

Kyles v Glenorchy

Tayforth v Mull

Taynuilt v Edinburgh Univ

Second Round

Ballachulish/St Andrews Univ v Tayforth/Mull
Glasgow Mid Argyll/Inveraray v Oban

Celtic/Kyles/Glenorchy

Glasgow Univ/Strachur v Taynuilt/Edinburgh Univ

Kilmory/Bute v Oban Camanachd/Kintyre

Semi-Finals

Balachulish/St Andrews Univ/Tayforth/Mull

v

Glasgow University/Strachur/Taynuilt/Edinburgh Univ

Kilmory/Bute/Oban Camanachd/Kintyre

v

Glasgow Mid Argyll/Inveraray/Oban

Celtic/Kyles/Glenorchy

Final: May 21, 1994

Bank of Scotland MacTavish Cup

First Round

Beaully v Kinlochshiel
Glenurquhart v Skye
Inverness v Lochaber
Kilmallie v Kincaig
Kingussie (holders) v Glengarry

Newtonmore v Caberfeidh

Strathglass v Lovat

(Bye - Fort William)

Second Round

1 Glenurquhart/Skye v Inverness/Lochaber

2 Kilmallie/Kincaig v Fort William

3 Kingussie/Glengarry v Newtonmore/Caberfeidh

4 Strathglass/Lovat v Beaully/Kinlochshiel

Semi-Finals

1 v 3

4 v 2

Final: April 16, 1994 at the Bught Park,
Inverness.



Marine Harvest League Tables Season 1992-1993



NORTH							
Division One							
P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Kingussie	14	13	0	1	91	14	26
Fort William	14	12	0	2	55	12	24
Glenurquhart	14	8	0	6	38	40	16
Skye	14	7	1	6	32	31	15
Newtonmore	14	6	1	7	39	36	13
Caberfeidh	14	3	1	10	24	56	7
Lovat	14	3	0	11	18	52	6
Strathglass	14	2	1	11	18	74	5

Division Two							
P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Beauly	12	9	2	1	46	18	20
Kilmallie	12	8	2	2	35	14	18
Kinlochshiel	12	7	2	3	33	20	16
Inverness	12	6	0	6	32	29	12
Lochaber	12	3	2	7	32	29	8
Glengarry	12	3	2	7	20	29	8
Kincraig	12	1	0	11	10	69	2

Division Three							
P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Kingussie	14	12	2	0	82	17	26
Glenurquhart	14	7	2	5	31	46	16
Fort William	14	6	3	5	33	36	15
Newtonmore	10	5	3	2	36	20	13
Skye	13	5	2	6	28	35	12
Beauly	13	5	1	7	21	37	11
Boleskine	14	4	2	8	26	34	10
Lochaber	13	1	0	12	21	53	2

Division Four							
P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Lovat	18	14	2	2	89	20	30
Lochcarron	18	13	2	3	66	25	28
Caberfeidh	18	11	3	4	63	36	25
Aberdeen Univ	18	9	5	4	40	29	23
Kinlochshiel	18	7	4	7	36	35	18
Strathglass	18	8	0	10	47	49	16
Glengarry	18	6	3	9	33	51	15
Kilmallie	18	5	4	9	36	56	14
Inverness	18	3	2	13	36	75	8
Kincraig	18	1	1	16	25	101	3

SOUTH							
Division One							
P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Oban Camanachd	14	11	1	2	50	14	23
Kyles	14	8	4	2	38	14	20
Glenorchy	14	7	3	4	35	20	17
Glasgow Mid Argyll	14	6	4	4	30	21	16
Inveraray	14	7	1	6	31	28	15
Kilmory	14	5	2	7	23	32	12
Oban Celtic	14	2	4	8	18	37	8
Strachur	14	0	1	13	7	66	1

Division Two							
P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Ballachulish	12	11	0	1	52	9	22
Tayforth	12	10	0	2	73	24	20
Bute	12	7	0	5	33	32	14
Kintyre	12	5	0	7	14	43	10
Strathclyde Police	12	4	0	8	30	33	8
Colg Glen	12	4	0	8	29	38	8
Glasgow University	12	1	0	11	16	68	2

Division Three							
P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Glasgow Mid Argyll	12	8	3	1	40	22	19
Oban Celtic	12	7	3	2	32	24	17
Lochside Rovers	12	7	2	3	23	16	16
Appin	12	5	1	6	30	26	11
Inveraray	12	4	3	5	16	22	11
Kyles	12	3	1	8	21	32	7
Glenorchy	12	1	1	10	10	30	3

Division Four							
P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Edinburgh Univ	10	8	0	2	29	11	16
Furnace	10	7	1	2	32	11	15
Mull	10	4	1	5	15	24	10
Strachur	10	4	0	6	20	23	8
Bute	10	3	1	6	12	20	7
St Andrews Univ	10	2	1	7	14	35	5

Information supplied by the Camanachd Association

Kingussie: denied the clean sweep in 1992-93 by Oban Camanachd in the Keyline MacAulay Cup.



Oban Camanachd : 1992-93 was their most successful season in fifty years.



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