

Camanachd Association Board Meeting
Wednesday 26th May 2021
Time: 6pm - Conference Call - Teams

Minute of Meeting

1. Welcome

President welcomed all to the meeting.

Attending	Apologies	Conflict of Interests Declared
1. Steven MacKenzie (SM) President		Beaully and Aberdeen University
2. Daniel Palombo (DP) (Treasurer)	Apologies	Inverness Shinty Club
3. John Finlayson (JF) (Communications & Facilities - North)		Skye Camanachd Club
4. Burton Morrison (BM) (Competitions)		GMA
5. Ross Brown (RB) (Equality)		Lochcarron
6. Willie MacDonald (WM) (Youth)		Fort William
7. Lyndsey Bradley (LB) (Officials)		Ardnamurchan and WCA
8. Roddy McCuish (RM) (Communications & Facilities South)		Macaulay Association
9. Kirsty Deans (KD) (Volunteering & Safeguarding)		Badenoch Ladies
10. John MacKenzie (JM) (Chieftain)		Newtonmore CC and Shinty Memories
11. Richard Gall (RG) (Vice Chief)	Apologies	Fort William
12. Sarah Birrell (SB) sportscotland	Apologies	NA
13. Derek Keir (DK) CEO		NA
14. Lisa McColl (LM) WCA		WCA, Aberdour

2. Matters Arising

- a. Minutes of last meeting were proposed by RB and seconded by WM as an accurate record of the meeting.
- b. Bereavements - The board wish to note their condolences on the bereavement of Norman Mackenzie (Ballachulish) Ian Jackson (Ballachulish), Jim Pearson (Oban Celtic), Bob Munro (Lochcarron), Bill Dey (Kingussie) and Una Henry (Aberdour)
- c. Matters Arising

- i. Astie Cameron (lead for A&B) to arrange date for catch up w/c 31st May with [REDACTED] organisations in A&B (Supported by RM)
- ii. Aarron MacLeod to write up article on the purchasing of Macron Strips by the WCA. Carried forward from previous.
- iii. Honorary Blue criteria for UHI has been proposed (RB and KD to review selection criteria with portfolio group – make recommendation to DK for UHI)
- iv. DP to provide Aarron Macleod with a personal history portfolio for website. Carried forward from previous minute.
- v. 125th Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Whisky – John Robertson has approached Speyside for quote
- vi. Safeguarding – Four Child Wellbeing and Protection in Sport courses have been planned to support clubs in returning to shinty. The third course is planned for Sunday 6th June.
- vii. Board Papers – SM thanked all for reports. Portfolio group reports to be sent to DK a minimum of two weeks before board.
- viii. Competitions committee considered substitutions, but committee didn't approve based on distance of travel and transport guidance making it unfair advantage for home teams.
- ix. Davie MacMaster dropping Shinty Memories Lanyards to Astie to distribute to officials for photo and press Aarron Macleod to follow up with web article to profile.
- x. LB advised that per board recommendation Officiating committee considered Sin Bins to manage on field behaviour instantly with a trial in Youth Games – Committee considered this to be a bit too much too soon this year with all that has taken place with COVID. LB to pick up when things calm down.
- xi. DK to explore off season equality workshop for board. Chris Gibbons – Equality Network will be approached to identify a date.
- xii. SM and DK to pick up on away day opportunities for staff and board off season.
- xiii. RB - Club Development Committee to review carbon fibre report once complete and make recommendation to board
- xiv. BM confirmed that Paul Anderson has made contact to explore development opportunities with Ronald Ross

1. Return to Shinty

a. Competitions

BM

- i. **Rules for Competition** – Committee promoting flexibility with fixtures where possible. Anticipating COVID related problems a summary of new rules from interim paper was provided and has been sent to clubs. BM requested that Astie Cameron works with Aarron Macleod to provide simplified and positive promotion of governance for competitions to be sensitively shared through CA channels to advise policy on managing fixtures for 2021. SM and board thanks BM, Astie Cameron and wider committee for their work on preparing fixtures.
- ii. Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup 2021 – DK provided update on proposed locations for the next three finals. Board unanimously supports THCC final to take place in Oban in 2021, Kingussie in 2022 and to Inverness in 2023. Board also request that any funds raised through car parking go to Oban School of Shinty. Astie Cameron to send proposal to chair of area committee to formalise THCC in Oban – Committee meeting on 9th June.
- iii. BM to liaise with Competitions Committee regarding informal query from [REDACTED] about pulling THCC final forward toward summer.
- iv. DK discussed fall out and financial impact from article in P&J regarding incorrect details about the 2021 THCC final with the Editor of P&J. Aarron Macleod to follow up with P&J Sports Editor
- v. TV coverage for 2021. MG Alba have detailed their commitment to shinty and asked for time to firm up capacity for 2021. DK to relay to Macaulay and Glasgow Celtic Society regarding TV situation.

b. Youth

WM

- i. **U14s and U17s** games for youths starting but some games have been postponed due to the difficulty of travel.
- ii. **DCi Post recommended** – WM confirmed that Direct Club Investment (DCi) has had significant impact on capacity and reach in Fort William schools. DCi has also been secured for Strathspey

c. Officials

LB

- i. LB confirmed 6 new officials have registered interest in officiating as a step in the right direction
- ii. UHI have agreed to run the referee course for students annually – Paul Macarthur to add dates to be added as events in website
- iii. Lack of post-match support has been highlighted so Officials Working Group exploring support options such as WhatsApp groups or similar.
- iv. Aarron has continued to promote officials and this will continue through the year
- v. SM welcomed momentum around officials and recommended Aarron Macleod recruits some official for the half swing podcast.
- vi. RB as a current official thanked LB and Paul Macarthur for support and there is a feeling of a culture shift with support.

REMINDER ACTION FOR DEVELOPMENT TEAM – KD advised Track and trace protocols don't ease off at all. Although bubbles are up to 50 and potentially growing if we progress in levels – if you can limit the numbers, you should – Graham Cormack to prepare messaging to promote minimum numbers where possible.

d. WCA Update

LM (or substitute)

- i. 2nd phase consultation with clubs had representation from every club to agree league structure for 2021. League groupings were established over 2 consultations with just one club not returning. Sunday 27th June is the planned start date (Katie Drain / Aarron Macleod to liaise with WCA to profile). First draft fixtures are now with WCA committee with four leagues plus 3 development leagues playing every second Sunday. Some leagues playing home and away whilst

central belt leagues are focusing on round robin fixtures but focused on flexibility and social return to shinty.

- ii. LM advised that the Women's Valerie Fraser takes place on the first weekend in September each year although that won't be the case this year due to circumstances. (Saturday 3rd September)
- iii. DK thanked LM and WCA volunteers for the tremendous work taking place to restart women's shinty.

2. Director Reports

a. Finance - DK provided overview of finance report.

b. Comms & Facilities

JF / RM

- i. Half Swing Podcast – RM and JF suggested connecting podcast to local Radio stations (Oban Radio, Radio Skye) – RM and JF
- ii. JF welcomed feedback from Mowi and requested that we extend the feedback process during launch of new website. Congrats to Aarron Macleod for his work on the website. Coverage is also very positive.
- iii. Disclaimer to be clear that it is a CA commissioned podcast but the CA does not endorse all the opinions that are shared. Board encourages discussion of topical issues to stimulate debate but podcast needs to be proofed before publication. Podcast to be shared across identified directors and management staff with recognition of the short turnaround time. **JF WM and RM** recommended guests for the Half Swing podcast
- iv. The new Website will be launched in the coming days and has been well received so far.
- v. Bught Park Feasibility Recommendations **JF**
Report finalised and going in front of City of Inverness committee. JF sending copy of the paper and link to review. UK levelling up fund is being applied for via Highlife and Highland Council. Graham Cormack to present update at next board meeting. JF confirmed that lobbying councillors for support will be important part of process in coming weeks.

c. Development & Equality

RB

- i. A lot of development work is taking place to support restart both directly with clubs but also via workshops for coaches and clubs. Some coach education has also restarted
- ii. Shinty sticks are in short supply - RB portfolio group to consider carbon fibre sticks and update on Caman Making project at the next board meeting
- iii. Ronald Ross and Aarron Macleod to prepare promotion of the DCi post in Fort William.
- iv. DK advised the CA will be recruiting into A and B but acknowledged the impact of DCi is something that should be considered as we review our strategic plan in the coming months

d. Volunteering

KD

- i. Proposal for Schools of shinty being prepared for Nicky Grant pre summer with up to date information. Plockton (Katie Drain to liaise with Keith) and Charleston aren't far away. Development has started for a support pack for teaching staff in Schools of shinty.
- ii. Ambassadors – Senior pupils busy with exams at present however Katie Drain has concluded the survey of volunteers and we have considered the feedback to highlight what courses we can provide. Katie Drain to share calendar of opportunities up to May 2022 with board on or before the next board meeting
- iii. Further Child Protection Course taking place on the 6th June. DK advised there is now a short webinar on child protection for board members.
- iv. Mowi Fund closed last week with 9 applications to be considered by panel. Ronald Ross to liaise with Aarron Macleod to ensure promotion of individual awards

- v. UK Anti-Doping - KD to pick up conversation with Graham Cormack

3. The Future

DK / SM

- a. Strategic Working Group will meet on 9th June. All portfolio groups to prepare portfolio consultation with club members in your next portfolio group meeting between 28th June – 12th July. DK will provide an introduction and SWOT process slides for each portfolio consultation taking place. Feedback to be captured and returned to DK. JF highlighted that new strategy needs to focus on recovery and capacity needs to be central to the strategy
 - b. Kickstart
 - i. 4 posts confirmed (Only 3 have been advertised) subject to recruitment and due to start in Oban, Uddingston, Nairn and Alness
 - ii. Additionally, FT post in A&B is now being recruited
 - c. Culture, Heritage & Marketing Sub-committee
 - i. DK/ SM shared Shinty Trail concept to connect tourism with our sport. LB advised Gaelic Culture, heritage and schools could be very engaged in this. Sub group to meet again and share summary document with Highland Council for Bught Park Project and Board.
4. **AOCB**
- a. SM thanked RM for visiting past vice Chieftain Alex McNaughton. RM advised Alex McNaughton extended thanks to all and offered support for anything he can do
 - b. Supply of Sticks WM to contact Graham Cormack for list of stick makers
 - c. Competitions committee meeting early in the season to address any issues and review governance for 2021 (mid to late June)
5. JM commended staff and board for the scale of work taking place
6. SM thanked all for attendance and closed the meeting.