

Camanachd Association Board Meeting
 Wednesday 31st March 2021
 Time: 6pm
 Conference Call - Teams

Minute of Meeting

1. Welcome

President welcomed all to the meeting.

a. Attending	Apologies	Conflict of Interests Declared
1. Steven MacKenzie (SM) President		Beaully and Aberdeen University
2. Daniel Palombo (DP) (Treasurer)		Inverness Shinty Club
3. John Finlayson (JF) (Communications & Facilities - North)	Apologies	Skye Camanachd Club
4. Burton Morrison (BM) (Competitions)		GMA
5. Ross Brown (RB) (Equality)		Lochcarron
6. Willie MacDonald (WM) (Youth)	Apologies	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)		Fort William
12. Sarah Birrell (SB) sportscotland		NA
13. Derek Keir (DK) CEO		NA
14. Karen Williamson (KW) WCA		WCA, Glengarry

2. Matters Arising

- a. Minutes of last meeting were proposed by RB and seconded by KD as an accurate record of the meeting.
- b. The board wish to note their condolences on the bereavement of Alfie Fraser (Boleskine) Alastair Alexander (BBC) , Dougie Macintyre Senior (Oban Camanachd), Margaret MacIntyre (Kilmallie)
- c. Matters Arising

- i. DK has forwarded invite to Mairi Gougeon MSP for Sport and will share facilities plan with Kate Forbes when the time is right following COVID and Budget.
- ii. DK (Astie Cameron lead for A&B) to arrange date for catch up with [REDACTED] organisations in A&B (Supported by RM)
- iii. Aarron MacLeod (previously Paul MacArthur) to write up article on the purchasing of Macron Strips by the WCA
- iv. Board have requested that the DK continue to formalise partnership with University of Highlands. DK to share proposal.
- v. DP to provide Aarron Macleod with a personal history portfolio for website.
- vi. JM confirmed progress has been made on the Shinty Memories partnership with the CA.
- vii. 125th Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Whisky – RB confirmed that Russell Jones is exploring for Kingussie. RB will keep board updated with progress.
- viii. Safeguarding – Four courses proposed to support clubs in returning to shinty. KD to confirm dates with Ronald Ross
- ix. RB – Confirmed he will explore with portfolio group how we might further enhance the profile of equality and inclusion via club accreditation.
- x. BM highlighted the article on shinty.com about Paul Anderson and noted Aarron MacLeod had made contact with him. Ronald Ross to follow up with Aberdeen University who have established links with Aboyne Academy as Paul Anderson has two children in Aboyne Academy.

3. COVID 19 Update

- a. DK provided update on COVID 19 including return to adult contact participation from the 17th May. Optimistic about progress however mindful that participation is going to be impacted if travel restrictions do not evolve both in terms of sharing transport and cross authority fixtures. There is also still no access to changing facilities which will impact the experience when distance has been travelled particularly on wet days so welcome the work of the Competitions Committee and staff to stay close to the capacity of clubs as they look to complete fixtures. Promoting flexibility will be key to maximising participation for all.

4. Board Reports

- a. SM thanked all directors for work on the board reports and advised that the KPI presentation is available in the CA dropbox folder. It may help connect board reports to tangible KPIs for the year. Additionally, DK recommended that reports should reflect the national picture at a high level including any progress, challenges and any recommendations for board. Additionally, this should relate to the operational plan targets for the year. Some of the areas of work cut across a wide range of staff. The committee role is to collate the knowledge and present the national picture to assist the board in supporting and providing direction. ALL

5. Competitions – BM provided overview sharing optimism to deliver all competitions but practically this will depend on circumstances. Draft Fixtures will be reviewed then shared soon after 20th April. The Competitions Committee are keen to be flexible and supportive to all clubs and have worked to find a balance between competition and trying to maintain regionalised fixtures. League games will be rescheduled if for any reason they are cancelled. SM requested clarity on how many times a match can be rescheduled due to the time

constraints on the season. BM was forthright in promoting understanding to all clubs but equally committed to being up front about the rules of competition. Fixtures will include a minimum of two midweek fixtures.

- a. Dates proposed for 2021 Cup Finals - Approved
 - i. RB asked for clarity on TV. DK advised we are waiting on BBC and Alba coming back to us. Likely there will be clashes due to the change in dates taking some of our finals into the traditional football season which MG Alba also cover.
- b. Recommendation regarding postponed matches.
 - i. In theory this was approved however further clarity was asked for to ensure we can provide a consistent response and clarity from the outset for clubs whilst trying to be flexible. BM advised this would be easier for League matches but Cup matches would have to be time limited in advance of next round. BM to confirm
- c. Recommendation that the 2023 Camanachd Cup Final be played at Bught Park - Approved
 - i. Board requested that the 2021 Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup final venue is to be finalized before the 28th April in relation to hosting spectators or not. Any request to postpone the venue until next year would need to be received by the 28th April. DK advised Astie Cameron would advise on our timeline and pick up with Kingussie.
 - ii. RM offered Oban as venue for 2021 THCC final if Kingussie needs to be postponed.
- d. Release of abbreviated leagues proposal to clubs (fixtures to be confirmed next month). BM confirmed leagues can be shared pending competitions committee confirmation to Astie Cameron.
 - i. SB to pick up with Scottish government to explore increase in maximum bubble sizes for shinty starting. We require a minimum of 30 playing participants plus 2 coaches plus first aider plus referee, 2 x goal judges and a covid coordinator as the current maximum bubble only allows for 30 including coaches and first aiders which would mean a maximum of one sub which isn't practical.
- e. SM noted that Garry MacKintosh from Glenurquhart Shinty Club had been in touch suggesting that the number of substitutes per game be increased for season 2021 only to increase participation. SM asked BM to consider this at the Competitions Committee. BM said he would but noted that transport issues may give home teams a considerable advantage.

6. Finance Report

- a. A small surplus is expected from our 2020 accounts due to a review in our VAT and Corporation Tax position which wasn't possible before year end
- b. DP advised we are in a good financial position to support and help clubs restart shinty. DP advised we are in a good place to make the proposed provision of support for clubs.
- c. DK thanked sportscotland for continued support with the COVID Grant.
- d. DP confirmed that 2020 Accounts will be ready in draft for May 2021.

7. Officials

- a. Graham Cormack has set up three official's groups (Rules, Training and Recruitment)
- b. LB presented Paul MacArthur's findings from the Officials questionnaire.
 - i. PM meeting LB 1st April including CRA representative.
- c. Really positive engagement with referees and with eight proposals we will gain feedback from referees.
- d. No indications on any concerns about participating but everyone has been positive to date from the working groups. LB advised that we need to be mindful that like everyone else there is a potential impact if referees need to isolate or have COVID related absences.
- e. JM requested that the Shinty Memories Lanyards are presented to referees and profiled. JM to confirm with LB who has the lanyards.
- f. Board confirmed the work that Graham Cormack and Paul MacArthur have put into the referee work is hugely appreciated.

- g. SM asked LB to refine and prioritise the Officials recommendations for further discussion at Board. LB to action.

8. To approve (BIS)

- a. Board approved the recommendation that the existing Player Suspensions from 2019 are to be suspended and added to any further suspension that is incurred in Season 2021. – Approved
- b. Board approved the recommendation that no additional points deduction is to take place in Season 2021 having already been deducted in 2020. – Approved
- c. Board turn down the recommendation that Sin Bins be trialed in the Abbreviated Leagues in 2021 due to the considerable change already being considered by all.
 - i. SM sighted a needed for enhanced consultation with referees due to previous concerns that were raised.
 - ii. LB suggested Sin Bins could be trialed in youth games.
 - iii. BM sees logic with abbreviated leagues suggestion albeit with reservations in trialing when we are trying to get back to shinty - any trial should have end point with a focused proposal at AGM
 - iv. RM – We should only trial things when we are on a sure footing and after shinty is back
 - v. RB – This year isn't the time to do it – Proposal to trial at youth game for 2022 makes sense
 - vi. Proposal not approved – however LB was requested to take the proposal to the officials committee for potential deployment in youth game at a future date.
- d. Board approved the recommendation that the extended sentences from the BiS/ Disciplinary Sanctions that were not concluded in 2020 are to be carried forward to 2021 – Approved.
- e. Board requested further clarity but approved the recommendation that Cut-off date for Player Transfer's to be approved be changed to 1st Sep for this year only – Approved (Subject to 20% rule – Astie Cameron to advise)
- f. Board agree, approve and celebrate setting up a “Youth Forum” to resolve complaints regarding Youth Players. (RB delighted with this concept and recommended potential volunteer for the forum from Lochcarron who is a Judge on the Children's panel – RB to advise on contact details for [REDACTED] – Approved
- g. Board have requested more clarity on the proposal to fine clubs £50 for players who are in breach of Byelaw 1.4.4 – Helmets.
 - 1. More clarity required on how it is to be applied. DK
 - 2. SM suggested it be written up in a similar way to the byelaw for playing an ineligible player.

9. Youth Committee celebrated progress on DCI –

- a. DCI – SB to connect sportscotland lead for DCI to Astie Cameron to enhance understanding of national process as we embark on a similar programme.

10. Marketing and Communication - Website

- a. DK provided short update on the tight timeline around funding for website and the short procurement that took place online. Aarron Macleod did an incredible job with application and funding was confirmed albeit we had to commit spend within a very short timescale in order to access funding therefor it has been challenging to consult all partners during such a quick turnaround. A short procurement process was undertaken on the website and a provider was identified based on their vision for the project. Work is now underway with a primary focus to present a shinty website that is visually reflective of our sport from the past, present and the future and we will present shinty.com with a focus on all participants.

11. Coaching, Development, Equality and Inclusion – Ross Brown

- a. Graham Cormack organising follow up workshop with Chris Gibbons for later in the year or early next season. RB to confirm date.

- b. Some work is underway to identify demographics on club committees and internal Camanachd committees. Coaching and Development Working Group will review feedback and develop proposals to promote diversity work on our committees. RB to feedback at next meeting

12. Volunteering - Kirsty Deans

- a. Ambassadors promoting club shinty opportunities due to circumstances. DK supported this and the continuation of this connection to maximise support for clubs even when schools do get back to normal operating.
- b. School of Shinty Accreditation (Bronze Silver Gold) will be picked up by KD and JF and Nicky Grant (Education Highland Council) when the current COVID challenges have subsided.
- c. Key area of work in the coming weeks is that Katie Drain will be surveying clubs on whole committee training that is required to better understand how and what the CA can provide/ connect to support club volunteers - KD

13. Women's Camanachd Association - Karen Williamson

- a. Club meeting coming up to finalise plans with consideration for the circumstances
- b. Clubs want 4–6-week pre-season but this has still to be confirmed.
- c. All clubs have confirmed participation to date and nobody has highlighted risk to returning. Focus is on participation rather than competition.
- d. KW confirmed scale of fundraiser for MacMillan Cancer was incredible and thanked those involved for support

14. AOCB

- a. Carbon Fibre – SM advised the report states it hasn't completed all the tests. Graham Cormack to submit full report when complete via Coaching working group with recommendation.
- b. JM commends board and staff for the work that is taking place in such difficult times. Well done to all involved. SM celebrated Caman Connection and thoroughly recommended to all. RB recommended the board consider support for Caman Connection going forward.
- c. SB advised as per investment process all sports coming to the end of their agreement will be invited in September/ October to review current investment impact and propose future investment from sportscotland