



CAMANACHD  
ASSOCIATION  
COMANN NA CAMANACHD

THE GOVERNING  
BODY FOR SHINTY

## **Minutes of the 2020 Camanachd Association Annual General Meeting 7.30pm, Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November Online - Microsoft Teams**

### **1. Opening Address.**

President, Keith Loades, welcomed everyone to the AGM and thanked all for attending, he apologised for being unable to meet in person due to the restrictions in place, in what has been a very difficult year for everyone.

The President introduced the Directors: - Steven MacKenzie, John Finlayson, Lyndsay Bradley, Burton Morrison, Willie MacDonald, Roddy McCuish, Kirsty Deans and Ross Brown and Vice Chieftain Richard Gall as well as staff members Derek Keir, Graham Cormack, Astie Cameron, Ronald Ross, Katie Drain, Deborah MacPherson, Paul MacArthur and Aarron MacLeod.

The President highlighted the need to record the meeting for purposes of minute taking. There were no objections to this.

Apologies were received from Camanachd Association Chieftain, John Mackenzie, who is currently in hospital recovering from an operation.

### **2. Bereavements.**

The President acknowledge the passing of many shinty stalwarts since the 2019 Annual General Meeting.

Donnie MacDougall, Glenorchy • Ronnie MacKintosh, Lochaber & Fort William • Billy Nimmo, CRA & Falkirk • Jon Gallacher, Glasgow • Jenny MacDonald, Caberfeidh • Louis Stewart, Inverness • Billy Tulloch, Caberfeidh • George MacDonald • Willie MacDonald, Beaully • Hector Millen, Lochaber • Donald Clark, Inveraray • Alastair Milne, Beaully • Davie Simpson, Strathglass & Aberdeen University • Dougie Cameron, Taynult • Peter Munro, Lochcarron • Kenny MacLeod, Strachur • Catherine Cameron, Glengarry • Dougald (Dougie) MacCallum – Taynult • Bobby Neild, Kingussie • Ann Cowan, Glenorchy • Davie MacMillan, Inverness • Tony Cohen, Inverness • Roddy Carswell, Kyles Athletic • Charlie Kennedy, Boleskine • Angus Nicholson, Skye • Donald Nicholson, Oban Lorn • Past President Duncan Cameron, Glasgow • Mary Ann Henton, Lovat • Jimmy Cameron, Fort William • Alistair “Ham” MacKenzie, Lochcarron • John MacRitchie, Lovat • John Alick Morrison, Beaully • John Sloggie, Past President of the Camanachd Referees Association, • Donald “Donsie” MacLean, Lovat, • John MacMillan, Glasgow Highland & Tayforth • Kenny Pearson, Oban Celtic • Tommy Wade, Kingussie • Angus Ferguson, Glasgow Mid Argyll • Sandy Ralph, Newtonmore • Flora MacPherson, Strachur • Neil Clark, Fort William • John

MacLellan, Kilmallie • John Duncanson, Grampian TV • Charlie Black, Kyles Athletic • Ian Stewart, Lovat.

**3. Noted Attendances & Absences.**

Astie Cameron conducted the Roll Call.

Voting strength – 42 (including Proxy Votes)

Special Resolution Requirement 32 votes.

Ordinary Resolution Requirement 22 votes.

**4. Appointment of Tellers.**

Astie Cameron and Graham Cormack were appointed tellers with Paul MacArthur recording the minutes of the meeting.

**5. Minutes of 2019 Annual General Meeting.**

The Minutes of the 2019 Annual General meeting had been circulated and the President asked for amendments. Since there were no amendments, the President asked for the minutes to be adopted.

Proposed: Richard Gall, Fort William Shinty Club.

Seconded: Davie Hamilton, Macaulay Association.

**6. Matters Arising.**

No matters arising.

**7. Resolutions:**

**Special Resolutions relating to Byelaw 1**

- Derek Keir advised on the voting procedure to be followed and intimated that a 75% majority (32 votes) was required for Special Resolutions to pass.
- Where an amendment has been received it will be taken first. If it is passed then the original proposed resolution fails. If the amendment fails then the original proposal is taken. If the original proposal fails then the status quo prevails.
- The member who makes the proposal will speak on the reasoning for the proposal first followed by the member who has made the amended proposal, thereafter voting members may ask relevant questions. The member who makes the original proposal will be given the chance to respond to the discussions.
- Aarron Macleod explained how the Slido voting system works, and carried out a test run with the group before opening the first vote of the evening.

**1. To approve the Special Resolution in relation to the Byelaws - The replacement of: he with he/she, him with him/her, his with his/her and himself with himself/herself.**

The President advised that this amendment was in recognition of and compliance with Equality Standards.

**The vote was 41 For. 0 Against. 1 Abstained / Non-response. - Proposal carried.**

**2. To approve the Amended Special Resolution in relation to Byelaw 1.4.4 Players Equipment – Helmets from Glasgow Mid Argyll Shinty Club (GMA).**

Dougie Luke, Glasgow Mid Argyll Shinty Club (GMA) and Garry MacKintosh, Glenurquhart Shinty Club (GUSC), were both given the opportunity to explain their respective positions regarding their proposed special resolutions on helmets.

**The vote was 29 For. 9 Against. 4 Abstained / Non-response. - Proposal not carried.**

**3. To approve the Special Resolution in relation to Byelaw 1.4.4 Players Equipment – Helmets from Glenurquhart Shinty Club.**

**The vote was 37 For. 3 Against. 2 Abstained / Non-response. - Proposal carried.**

Helmets with Face Guard will be compulsory with immediate effect. Players must wear an approved helmet or have signed an “Opt Out Waiver” which will be held on the Camanachd Association Membership platform. A new waiver must be signed annually, the waiver option will cease on from 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2030.

**Ordinary Resolutions**

- Derek Keir advised on the voting procedure to be followed and intimated that a majority of the voting members (22) was required for Ordinary Resolutions. Where an amendment has been received it will be taken first, if it is passed then the original proposed resolution fails. If the amendment fails then the original proposal is taken. If the original proposal fails then the status quo prevails.
- 4. To approve the Amended Ordinary Resolution from Glasgow Mid Argyll (GMA) in relation to “Abolition of Free Saturdays and Introduction of Two-Week Break”.**
- Dougie Luke, (GMA) and Russell Jones, Kingussie Camanachd Club (KCC), were each given the opportunity to explain their clubs respective position regarding their proposal. KCC proposed abolishing Free Saturdays for teams playing in the Premiership and National Division and these teams having a two week break in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> week in July, teams in Area Leagues would still have the option of taking a Free Saturday. The Amended proposal submitted by GMA would see the Free Saturday replaced by a two week break for all teams.
  - Vice President, Steven MacKenzie spoke in his capacity as Competitions Director, advising on the Camanachd Association views on the proposed changes. Highlighting the complex nature of scheduling fixtures, Steven explained that the board had set up a Short-Term Working Group which was tasked with trying to reduce fixture congestion. The outcome of which was a plan to change league sizes and structure, which was rejected by the clubs prior to the AGM. Steven noted that some research on the 2019 campaign

suggested that Newtonmore and Kingussie would have had one extra week in their respective seasons, had this proposal been in place in 2019.

- Alistair MacIntyre, Kilmallie, raised concerns over the proposal, stating that he believed that the two proposed weeks in July were likely to be two of the best weeks in the year, where Shinty players were unlikely to want to take holidays. He also asked the President to clarify that 14 days' notice period which has to be given to clubs regarding a change of fixture. This was clarified by the President and explained by Astie Cameron.
- Elaine Cameron, Glengarry, asked GMA and KCC whether or not they had consulted their playing members before proposing the amendments, and raised concerns that Glengarry would have team raising difficulties, should this be implemented, due to the nature of employment within their club.
- Niven MacVicar, Col Glen, asked for clarity whether the proposed two-week break would supplement the current provision of a "Free Week". The President clarified that the proposal would be instead of the "Free Week".
- Norman MacArthur, Newtonmore, advised that Newtonmore are in support of the proposed changes, and highlighted that he felt that there is a "serious problem" regards fixtures and over run of the season. He acknowledged that the proposal may need some work, but urged the clubs and CA to take notice and look at this issue moving forward.
- Charles Young from Strathspey asked if the CA had carried out an analysis of up to three years - worth of fixtures, to give an indication of how future seasons might pan out. Steven MacKenzie said that a one-year analysis was done, on the 2019 season. He felt that if the proposal was to go through, then the season would almost definitely be prolonged.
- Russell Jones was offered a chance to respond to the points raised, he reiterated that he felt that face to face communication between clubs would be more beneficial than surveys, when consulting on these types of matters. He requested a meeting in the new year.

**The vote was 12 For. 24 Against. 6 Abstained / Non-response. - Proposal not carried.**

- 5. To approve the Ordinary Resolution from Kingussie Camanachd Club (KCC) in relation to "Abolition of Free Saturdays and Introduction of Two-Week Break".**

**The vote was 11 For. 22 Against. 9 Abstained / Non-response. - Proposal not carried.**

- 6. To approve the Ordinary Resolution from Kingussie Camanachd Club (KCC) in relation to Byelaw 3.8.2 – Replays in the Camanachd Cup.**

Russell Jones briefly explained the club's position in relation to replays in the early rounds of the Camanachd Cup. As all other cup ties are played to a finish, and in the interest of aiding fixture congestion KCC are proposing this change.

**The vote was 24 For. 15 Against. 3 Abstained / Non-response. - Proposal carried.**

**7. To approve the Ordinary Resolution from Kingussie Camanachd Club (KCC) in relation to Byelaw 3.2.1 - Postponement of a Scheduled Match due to Bereavement.**

Russell Jones outlined the reasoning behind the proposal.

**The vote was 24 For. 15 Against. 3 Abstained / Non-response. - Proposal carried.**

**The President, in recognition of the complexities of the above motions thanked everyone for their patience and contributions to the above.**

**8. Byelaws Report.**

Derek Keir (DK), Chief Executive Officer presented the Byelaws Report and stated that the report had been circulated with the AGM paperwork. No questions raised.

**9. 2020 Annual Report.**

The President, stated that the since the Annual Report had been distributed with the AGM paperwork the Board were happy to answer any questions from the floor. No questions received.

**10. 2019 Annual Accounts.**

The President offered a snapshot of the 2019 accounts, based on the full accounts, which are included in the AGM paperwork.

Turnover for year to 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2019	£614,568 increase of £10,121
Surplus for the year to 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2019	£26,910 increase of £5,454
Company Reserves as at 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2019	£156,412.

Attention brought to the fact that due to Covid-19, 2020 has been a very difficult year financially for the Camanachd Association. At the early stages of the pandemic the forecasted losses for the year stood at circa £130k. However, with savings made, support from sponsors, furlough payments and Grant funding received the losses now forecasted stand at £30k. It is hoped that further improvements may be possible.

Mention was made that the Covid crisis has highlighted the importance of having significant reserves to draw on, and that we are over reliant on sponsors.

The need for the staff to work from home, has meant that we have given up the lease on the CA office.

**11. Annual Subscriptions, Registration Fees and Levies for:**

Derek Keir spoke about the current position on subscriptions, explaining the need for the CA being more sustainable and less reliant on our brilliant sponsors. Highlighting how competitive Shinty is compared to other sports, in terms of cost for subscriptions.

**The vote was 31 For. 7 Against. 4 Abstained / Non-response. - Proposal carried.**

In Summary the Membership fees for 2021 will be:

Adult Membership	£25
Student Membership	£21
Youth Membership	£8

**12. Election of Directors, President:**

Donald Stewart, Camanachd Referees Association, asked if the Camanachd Association had been able to access any funding due to Covid. Derek Keir confirmed the Association were able to access the Business Furlough Grant which meant that 3 members of staff had been on Furlough, during the year, in addition we were able to access the Business Support Grant. Donald then asked how much money had been taken in to the Camanachd Association from sponsorship in the last 3 years. In response Derek Keir highlighted the healthy position of the Camanachd Association regards this matter, stating that approximately 1/3 of our income was from sponsors, which was in the region of £160K, Derek acknowledged the contribution from John Finlayson in achieving this. Derek further advised that during a meeting with Sportscotland they stated that the Camanachd Association have more Corporate Partners than most sports.

The following were duly elected.

- a. John Finlayson (Director Nomination) 41 votes
- b. Kirsty Deans (Director Nomination) 41 votes
- c. Steven MacKenzie (President Nomination) 41 votes

**13. Appointment of Members of Honour & Honorary Patrons.**

Keith Loades, President, advised that Mr Charlie MacKay had been proposed as a Patron and invited Burton Morrison to outline the reasoning behind this. Burton explained that Charlie MacKay was the brother of Donald MacKay, who had been a prolific photographer of shinty matches for many years. Charlie has catalogued and donated over 30 years' worth of photographs which were taken by his brother to the Camanachd Association.

**14. Date of the next Annual General Meeting:**

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Keith Loades closed the meeting, and thanked everyone for what was a great turnout for our first online AGM.

He reflected on his time as President, in particular the last year, which has been a difficult one, due to Covid –19, and expressed how much he will miss the role. He passed on to the incoming President, Steven MacKenzie to say a few words.

Steven MacKenzie spoke about Keith Loades tenure as President, mentioning some particular highlights, and thanking him very much for everything he has done for Shinty. He also made special mention and thanks to Keith's wife, Katherine, for her relentless and on – going support. Steven expressed how much he was looking forward to the up - coming challenges of the Presidential role, highlighting the strength of the current board. Thanking Keith Loades for his contribution as President, he also mentioned the new Presidential Lapel Medal which was donated by Keith Loades and advised that the medal will be passed on from President to President in future.

The new President informed members that Keith, having been requested by his good friend and former President of the Association, Ken Thomson, to find a suitable use for his silver mounted Caman has had it displayed in a handcrafted wooden case made by local craftsman Roddy MacLennan. The Caman will be held and displayed in the Highland Folk Museum in Newtonmore and will bear the names of all Presidents of the Camanachd Association since the time Ken was in Office.

Steven MacKenzie handed over to the Vice – Chieftain, Richard Gall to speak on behalf of Chieftain, John Mackenzie. Richard paid tribute to Keith Loades and extended congratulations to Steven MacKenzie as incoming President. He wished Keith Loades a happy retirement, and extended warmest wishes to all in Shinty.

Outgoing President, Keith Loades closed the meeting by thanking Richard Gall and Steven MacKenzie for their kind words, and those in attendance for making the first ever online AGM a success. He wished everyone good health.