

Camanachd Association Board Meeting
Wednesday 24th November 2021
Time: 6pm - Conference Call - Teams

Minute of Meeting

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)		Skye Camanachd Club
4. Burton Morrison (BM) (Competitions)		GMA
5. Willie MacDonald (WM) (Youth)		Fort William
6. Lyndsay Bradley (LB) (Officials)		Ardnamurchan and WCA
7. Roddy McCuish (RM) (Communications & Facilities South)	Apologies	Macaulay Association
8. Kirsty Deans (KD) (Volunteering & Safeguarding)		Badenoch Ladies
9. John MacKenzie (JM) (Chieftain)		Newtonmore CC and Shinty Memories
10. Richard Gall (RG) (Vice Chief)		Fort William
11. Sarah Birrell (SB) sportscotland		NA
12. Derek Keir (DK) CEO		NA
13. Lisa MacColl (LM) WCA	Apologies	WCA, Aberdour
14. Karen Williamson WCA		WCA, Glengarry

1. Welcome

- a. SM welcomed all to the meeting
- b. No new conflicts of interest were noted
- c. Everyone had signed the code of conduct.
- d. Minutes of last meeting were proposed by BM and seconded by KD as an accurate record of the meeting.
- e. Bereavements - The board wish to note their condolences on the bereavement of Chris Robinson (Newtonmore), Duncan MacVicar (Kyles), Iain Chisholm (Newtonmore), Alistair Tyronney (Lovat), Alex Campbell (Kilmory), Billy MacKinnon (Skye), Dougie MacDougall (Kingussie), John MacKenzie (Lochcarron)

- f. Matters Arising from previous minute (these were not reviewed but have been listed for the January Board Meeting)
- i. Honorary Blue criteria for UHI has been proposed (SM and KD picking up early January before UHI Partnership meeting early February).
 - ii. DP to provide Aarron Macleod with a personal history portfolio for website. Carried forward from previous minute.
 - iii. 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.
 - iv. DK and SM to pick up AGM arrangements and explore off season equality workshop for board. Chris Gibbons – Board meeting in January 2022 was agreed
 - v. Proposal for Schools of shinty being prepared for Nicky Grant in January JF and KD
 - vi. Development has started for a support pack for teaching staff in Schools of shinty KD.
 - vii. Katie Drain to share calendar of opportunities up to May 2022 with board on or before the next board meeting
 - viii. Roddy McCuish to set up sub group to meet to discuss Heritage and Shinty Trail

2. Return to Shinty Update and Staffing

DK

- DK provided update on continued capacity challenges due to staff availability
- Recruitment progressing for the Regional Development Officer posts in A&B and Central
- JM asked if we should prioritise NDM position – DK agreed however that post is not being vacated until mid -January and we are awaiting funding confirmation from sportscotland that will inform the NDM post.

3. Director Reports

a. Finance

DP

- i. Forecasted Surplus – Board confirmed importance of holding on to appropriate reserves as we are living through difficult times. It is prudent to have reserves in place and appropriate that we invest in the game in line with our strategy.
- ii. Context - Some spend has not been possible in 2021 due to club, staff and volunteer capacity to deliver certain projects due to COVID 19. A grant from sportscotland and reduced capacity meant that certain planned events were not delivered which has contributed to a forecasted surplus in 2021. Staff have done well to deliver projects in budget at a difficult time where continued challenges exist.
- iii. Reserves - Board concluded it was important to protect viability by having reserves to cover 6 months of costs and a surplus fund for any extreme circumstances. Recommendation - Any surplus this year should be utilised in line with strategy to have a sustained impact on support for clubs.
- iv. Across all areas of finance we are not back to 2019 levels but have made significant steps forward in 2021. Administration expenses have reduced significantly over the past few years thanks to staff efforts.
- v. Pilot Scheme for Glenurquhart Membership Scheme needs to be agreed in the next two weeks if it is to move forward. Deborah MacPherson and Aarron MacLeod to feedback to DP on Membership recommendations for 2022
- vi. Board recommend (with no objections) repayment of 50% of sportscotland loan this year with a view to repaying remaining amount in 2022 on the provision that there are no further COVID or operational challenges in 2022. DK to action.

4. Competitions

Adult

- i. Competition season was a very good effort and BM recognised the burden it placed on staff in such quick succession. As a result we couldn't do the same again. We are planning for a return to a normal shinty season from March 2022 but will be prepared to make any amendments.
- ii. Clubs to be invited for season 2022 as soon as possible to prepare fixtures (BM)
- iii. JF - competitions have been exceptionally well delivered.
- iv. SM - Mowi made this year possible and we must focus on a return to league competition in 2022
- v. **Recommendation 1** – Key Dates for season 2022 are endorsed . Agreed unanimously.
- vi. DK to contact GAA in regards to potential international in 2022.

Youth

WM

- vii. MacQuisten Cup – Planned final being prepared by Les Kinvig.
- viii. U14 Development League final has been cancelled due to COVID.
- ix. MacTavish Juvenile Cup Final should go ahead in Beauly on 27th November 2021.

5. WCA

- i. KW advised that some WCA leagues went well, other leagues didn't progress due to COVID.
- ii. Club meeting early December to consult with clubs – SM invited WCA to keep CA up to date on progress and return to shinty in 2022.

6. Officials

LB

- i. LB [REDACTED].
- ii. UHI Referee courses taking place.

7. Marketing and Facilities

JF

- i. Online environmentally friendly ticket promotion and booking in advance should be celebrated in advance of finals
- ii. Cash sales at gate still to be planned but only lightly promoted in the days leading up to the game.
- iii. Recommendation - Internet Policy Endorsed

8. Volunteering and Anti-Doping Regulations

KD

- i. UHI - KD to prepare University Blues framework with UHI to consider services to clubs
- ii. KD to share mid-January for UHI meeting in February
- iii. 94% of UKAD Assurance framework has been approved (6% waiting to be approved) – KD thanks to Graham Cormack for his work on this
- iv. Ambassador Weekend was a huge success – 24 Ambassadors attended Oban and Inverness events
- v. Clubs have asked for some time before training is delivered
- vi. School of Shinty is progressing and meeting with Nicky Grant will be arranged in new year.
- vii. Four all girls teams participated in Kiltarlity
- viii. Chris Gibbons confirmed by board to attend January board meeting. DK to arrange.

9. AOCB

- i. SM announced BM as his Vice President and asked for the Board approval. This was agreed unanimously. BM honoured and privileged to be asked and looking forward to it and providing SM as much support as he can. JM – Gentleman seriously worthy of the position and wishes all full success.

- ii. Strategy discussion took place to review current strategy including review of performance indicators. No objections were made against direction of performance indicators but they required fine tuning to allow for tracking of performance. One notable factor to highlight further was to support the development and evolution of the sport whilst protecting its core values and unique skills.