

**Camanachd Association Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022**  
**Time: 6pm - Conference Call - Teams**  
**Minutes of Meeting**

<b>Attending</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	<b>Conflict of Interests Declared</b>
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. 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) Sport Scotland		NA
12. Derek Keir (DK) CEO		NA
13. Lisa MacColl (LM) WCA	Apologies	WCA, Aberdour
14. Karen Williamson WCA (deputy)		WCA, Glengarry

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome
2. Conflicts of interest/code of conduct
3. Bereavements
4. Bught Park regeneration update
5. Mattes Arising
6. Helmet waivers
7. Finance update
8. Caman makers guild update
9. Competitions
10. Youth/WCA
11. Officials/referees
12. Schools update
13. Risk register

**1. Welcome**

**2. Conflicts of interest:**

None

**Code of conduct:**

All signed

**3. Bereavements**

**Donald Skinner**

Oban Camanachd, Glasgow Skye, Glasgow Mid Argyll, President Camanachd Association, Chieftain Camanachd Association, Macaulay Association, Glasgow Celtic Society.

**Norrie Matheson**

Kinlochshiel and Lochcarron

**Alan MacGregor**

Newtonmore

**Hugh MacIntyre**

Kilmallie

**Kenny McNiven**

Glasgow Mid Argyll (was mentioned at the January meeting but missed from the minutes).

**4.1-Bught Park update:**

**Malcolm Macleod Highland Council**

- Successful in levelling up bid. One of 8 local authorities in securing funding in the first round.  
[REDACTED]
- Project board first meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April
- Stakeholders will have the opportunity to feedback on footprint of new design of the building which will be comparative to the Canal Park rugby facility

**4.2 Timeline:**

- Consultation events held in June as part of the planning process, and to gain public and stakeholder views
- Plans to be ready to be submitted by September 2022
- Government guidance expect the money to be spent and delivered by March 2025
- How the build will affect the usage for Inverness Shinty club and other events such as the Camanachd Cup to be determined
- Calendar [REDACTED] events to be drawn up – Torvean carpark will help with local concerns

### 5.1 Matters arising:

- DP to provide a personal history for the website.
- School Shinty packs to be pushed back until all squared up. KD and JF to set up meeting with Education before schools break for summer, in order to get things moving in the new school term
- Culture; tourist ambassador project. Shinty trails to be more localised. SM & Hugh Dan MacLennan to begin work on Camans, Castles and Clans project.
- GAA – DK had a positive conversation on shinty hurling planning for international to return in 2023.
- BM spoke to the GAA President Larry McCarthy at the 125 celebrations of the GAA in Britain. He is keen for an ongoing liaison with shinty. There are also opportunities for liaison with the GAA in Glasgow.
- A new Womens Development Officer (Part Time) post will be recruited when funding is finalized with sportscotland to focus on growth in the womens' game. Panel paper to go to the SportScotland Board, funding to be approved. Panel meeting will be in April.
- Staff Wellbeing meeting with SAMH did not happen due to SAMH being cyber attacked and having technical issues. DK has a rescheduled meeting arranged for mid-May.
- Aaron MacLeod to update Board on the Caman-makers Guild at the March meeting.
- Yearbook update – currently being proofed, Neil G Paterson has been approached to fill in missing images.
- DK has met with the Minister for Sport to explore a focused project on mental health in Fort William, next steps to consult with the development team, and further information will be shared with the board – Gain the Advantage.
- DK confirmed CA approach to UK Anti-Doping has been approved and they are satisfied we are compliant with standards.

### Minutes of Previous Board Meeting

Proposed – BM

Seconded - WM

### 6.1 Helmets:

- DK gave an overview on this, detailing that it impacts all, and there is a duty of care for safety, and there is a strong leadership responsibility that rests with the CA Board to protect the health and safety of participants. DK advised this is an area of our game we need to modernise particularly with a long break from training and practice due to COVID. Further modernising our rules on helmets will bring our standards up to modern standards however our governance means we need to do this with our clubs.
- DK recommended a removal of the opt out option at the AGM.
  - Supply/delivery of helmets discussed. Should not be a barrier to impact the decision.
  - Bauer (helmet providers across Europe for Ice Hockey). Off the shelf and delivered quickly, however the current insurance certificate is for Ice Hockey, so would require a separate one for shinty.
  - DK currently looking in to the tax rate associated with what is being imported, as is currently around £10 per helmet.
  - KD questioned whether there can be subsidies for the clubs at ordering point as an incentive. Discussion over whether a bulk discount could be negotiated.
  - Board discussed whether a non-compliant helmet (helmet without faceguard) is better than no helmet at all
- Positive education/promotion/presentation to keep people on board/article for clubs to reiterate to younger players
- SB reported that consultation of the clubs is positive. This topic has been pushed internally by the Head of medicine at the institute of sport
  - Concussion guidelines; Camanachd signed up
- WCA position: no discussions as yet.

- **ACTION – DK to action a proposal for 2022 AGM for helmets to be mandatory for the start of 2023 with no waivers.**
- DK to field any immediate questions from the press: “proposal will be going forward to the AGM, no details as yet”

### **7.1 Finance Update:**

- Not much of a change to sales, an increase of £5k in income from referees
- Increase of membership fees of £4k to adult memberships
- Invoices to players still outstanding

- Competition income has gone down from £44k to £29k, budget for international has been removed
- Grant income has increased, [REDACTED], with an increased Sport Scotland grant by £13k. Growth grant moved into donations [REDACTED]
- Sponsorship and donations have dropped [REDACTED]
- Total income [REDACTED]

### **7.2 Expenditure:**

- Services to clubs increased; £5k has been added in for this. No change in cost of sales coaching or development
- Development costs increased from [REDACTED]; development camps have increased expenditure
- Competitions have reduced costs [REDACTED]
- Budget for approving a new helmet range includes formal testing; [REDACTED]
- No change to admin expenses [REDACTED]
- Total expenditure – increase [REDACTED]

### **8.1 Caman Makers Guild:**

- The Caman Makers Guild to meet in April. The guild to discuss how they see the CA being able to support.

### **9.1 Competitions:**

- BM reported that a good start had been made to the season with few games having to be postponed for reasons other than Covid 19. The Board agreed that good progress had been made.

### **10.1 Youth:**

- The Board are looking forward to the start of the youth season. The disability festival is set to take place in April and are hopeful for increased engagement off the back of Ronald & the Development Teams work.

### **10.2 WCA:**

- The WCA noted that there were more COVID call-offs in the fixtures than expected.

### **11.1 Officials:**

- LB reported a positive pre-season workshop with referees and the CRA were represented
- Discussed how to protect referees from derogatory comments during matches, clubs to be responsible and sanctioned accordingly.
- **Body cameras on referees to be explored and put in place on those willing (LB to liaise with Astie Cameron).**
- Referees have a responsibility to check that helmets are visibly compliant, and if not, a waiver needs to be marked clearly on team lines so CA can check.

- Discussed the recruitment of new officials. LB suggested additional funding for a development officer with sole focus on official recruitment/training. Stressed that whilst this is ambitious, we need to do something different in order to protect the game.

### **11.2 Volunteering & Schools:**

- KD reported on the volunteering courses ran from Jan to March, where uptake was low, raising the question of what we can do to encourage more uptake.
- Suggestion that we could move more offline than online emerging from covid (zoom exhaustion).
- Schools of shinty; Plockton has become a School of Shinty.

[REDACTED]

- LB, KD and Ronald Ross met to discuss some of the funding for schools of shinty hope to target the central belt. Ronald and Roddy Young have already done work in Bishopbriggs who have signed up.
- KD: school resources pack to be evolved so is primary and secondary school relevant - to be a pick up and go resource.

### **AOCB:**

- Risk register was reviewed: DK to pick out one point to be picked out each month from the risk register
- Investments; paper out mid-April.
- Go Membership Individual Portal going well, Glenurquhart have communicated that they are pleased with the new functionality, and it meets their capacity issues.