

Annual Report



**CAMANACHD
ASSOCIATION**
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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the 2022 Annual Report, which details the significant steps our sport has taken as we continue to recover from COVID. The 2022 annual report has a new look and feel with the aim being to provide a clearer and more concise summary of the achievements of the shinty community.

When we planned for the 2022 season, we were still unsure how the global pandemic would impact the fixtures but a largely benign summer offset COVID cancellations and we remain on track to complete the season by the end of November. Given their support throughout the pandemic it was imperative that we deliver a full season for our main sponsor, MOWI, and I am delighted this has been achieved.

As you work through the report, I trust you will recognise the scale of achievements in the past twelve months. Our core task is to manage the fixtures and as noted above we have delivered a full season with over 700 matches including 11 senior finals with the climax being a sold-out Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Final and the innovative Final Fling concert that followed. This finally went ahead at the third time of asking so my thanks to Kingussie Camanachd, the Association staff and the Board of Directors for their patience.

Throughout this period one of our main priorities has been to support our clubs and we will continue to do so as we face the challenge of rising living costs. We have provided local support to increase opportunities for women and girls, enhanced access to participate in grass roots festivals and secured funding for new posts in Skye and for Women and Girls. Our work on the redevelopment of the Bught Park changing facilities, in conjunction with Inverness Shinty Club and the Highland Council, has resulted in £7.1 million pound investment with work scheduled to complete by the end of 2025.

Throughout the year we also supported member clubs with initiatives to enhance inclusion, to educate their coaches, to grow the support network for clubs, to protect the craft of caman making, to improve the profile of our sport and provide support to ensure the development of shinty facilities across the country. Indeed, look out for major announcements in the coming weeks about our sport's heritage and to support a wider range of clubs on member welfare.

I'll sign off by thanking all the volunteers across our communities, the players and officials who participate and the staff and directors that help us govern our incredible sport.

Steven MacKenzie

WOMEN AND GIRLS

GIRL ONLY COMPETITIONS

6 girl only competitions were organised with over 200 girls taking part.

NEW DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

We secured funding to recruit the sport's first Women & Girls Development Officer with a focus on creating opportunities for girls to play shinty.

RESIDENTIAL CAMP

132 teenagers attended the residential shinty camps this year. 46 were girls - providing access to high level coaching and the opportunity to make friends for life.

COMPETITIONS

SENIOR FIXTURES

This year we organised 669 adult fixtures including recruiting and deploying officials to each of these games.

SOLD OUT CAMANACHD CUP FINAL

The 2022 Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Final in Kingussie sold out - becoming the first final to do so with 3,000 tickets sold.

YOUTH PARTICIPATION

183 teams (non distinct) participated in over 22 association organised events for school and club shinty including new communities such as Nairn..

CAMANS & SAFETY



NEW HELMETS

Collaboration with the Sports Technology Institute at Loughborough University allowed the Camanachd Association to carry out independent testing and approve a new range of shinty helmets for use in shinty.

CAMAN MAKING

3 new caman makers joined the Caman Makers Guild this year. Our work in this area stimulated new approaches to meeting demand in Caman Making.

Our partnership with UHI has given new and traditional caman makers access to workshops,, expert support and equipment free of charge to aid them with their craft.



SUPPORT NETWORK FOR SHINTY

NEW POSTS

Secured funding through sportscotland and Bòrd na Gàidhlig for two new part time development officer posts - in addition we have supported Fort William and Strathspey with successful Direct club investment applications for local posts.

SCHOOL OF SHINTY

10 Schools of Shinty have been established to deliver more time on task during school time and deepening the connection between schools and shinty.

FUNDING FOR CLUBS

We have supported successful grant applications of over £20,000 from Awards for all as well as £5000 from the MOWI Youth Development Fund supporting 11 clubs.

FACILITIES

BUGHT PARK REDEVELOPMENT

In partnership, we have secured £7.1M funding for the renovation and development of Bought Park changing facilities. Work is underway to finalise plans for the development which includes hospitality space and a shinty exhibition to be completed by 2025.

CENTRAL SCOTLAND

The Association has provided support to GMA in their bid to sustain a home for shinty in Glasgow, similarly we have worked with Uddingston to secure shinty facilities at Strathclyde University.



WELLBEING



Working with the Scottish Association of Mental Health our staff have embarked on a route map to enhanced wellbeing and we have piloted the "Gain the Advantage" programme in Fort William to support with community wellbeing bringing together a wide range of partners to support Mentally Healthy Communities. Additionally, we have worked closely with Mikeysline, Samaritans and Scottish Sports Chaplaincy across 11 clubs.

INCLUSION RURAL AREAS

Coach education and two Youth Events for Lewis Camanachd were organised as well as easter camps and coach support mentoring volunteers in Tain, Ullapool, Appin, Dalmally, Tiree and a variety of other locations.

DISABILITY FESTIVAL

The residential Disability Festival returned this year with 6 schools training and bringing 75 children and young people to take part in Shinty. Furthermore the association has supported a number of participation opportunities across each region.

EDUCATION BIGGEST COHORT OF SHINTY AMBASSADORS

Engaged and trained 14 schools in the Shinty Ambassador Programme. 100% of the ambassadors said they found the training "extremely worthwhile".

COACH EDUCATION

83 new coaches were trained across 7 Foundation Coaching Courses as well as 44 teachers across the country attending CPD sessions so that clubs and schools can deliver top quality coaching.

BIGGEST RECRUITMENT OF NEW MATCH OFFICIALS

6 officiating courses for 36 new referees - resulted in 48 officials being deployed throughout the course of 2022.



STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS

Our sport continues to face significant challenges including

- Continued recovery from world wide pandemic
- War in Ukraine and environmental responsibility
- Cost of living crisis including cost of fuel, materials and energy
- Continued challenges of rural participation and inclusion
- Mental Health and wellbeing across communities
- Heavy reliance on individual volunteers

We will continue to use our resources to meet the needs of our members and will do this strategically through the game changing priorities identified in our strategy

GAME CHANGERS

- Support for the inclusion, safety and wellbeing in our sport
- Delivering Competitions and opportunities in the shinty participation pathway
- Growing girls and womens shinty
- Enhancing the support network for shinty
- Building capability through coach, official and volunteer education
- Champion the need for modern shinty facilities
- Support the provision of camans and safety equipment for shinty
- Continue to support the promotion of shinty

PROFILE

- 240 news articles published on shinty.com
- 35 hours of content on the new Half Swing Podcast
- 3300 tickets sold online
- 17 press calls in addition to weekly press releases with results giving our sport the coverage it deserves
- 7 live matches on BBC channels plus over half a million views on youtube
- Continued growth across social media channels
- Delivering support to the redevelopment of the Bught Park by 2025 including the redevelopment of ten changing facilities and maximising the valued heritage and tradition of shinty through the delivery of a new shinty exhibition in 2025 telling a story of shinty.



**SCOTLAND'S
COMMUNITY SPORT**



KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

ORGANISATION

- Supported and managed safeguarding and disciplinary support and standards for our sport. Managed 12 sensitive disciplinary cases plus supported investigations to protect the wellbeing of young people and adults throughout the year. This is a sensitive and time consuming area of governance that is provided as support for clubs but can often go unnoticed until it is required.
- Provided training to board and staff and renewed our Equality Action plan.
- The Camanachd Association will complete our bi-annual independent audit with KPMG later in December this year in line with our strategic objectives.

COMPETITION

- Delivered a full calendar of competitive shinty for adults and youth teams
- Supported delivery of 6 new grassroots festivals for primary participants plus 6 girl only events.
- Provided a performance pathway for U17 participants and negotiated a proposed return to international shinty in 2023 for adults
- Supported participation across a number of new clubs including Uddingston at a senior level, Cruachanside, Strachur/Dunoon, Nairn and East Lothian competed at a Junior level on the back of support from CA staff.

LEADERSHIP

- We have developed our digital platform for coach and official education via the new Scottish Certificate for coach and officiating education courses. Delivering this online makes our courses more accessible to rural participants.
- 26 volunteers attended training for volunteers in clubs
- Training for newly qualified teachers at UHI was postponed and rescheduled for March 2023
- 36 new referees were recruited and trained
- The Caman Makers Guild has supported provision of support to caman makers and stimulated new caman makers
- Our board have reviewed an updated equality action plan, navigated the challenges of the pandemic and returning our sport.
- Our board have also approved new helmet and faceguards including a clear visor

SUPPORT

- Our new partnership with the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) has added significant value with newly qualifying teachers at UHI in 2022 planned to receive an introduction to shinty before the end of their first year. We have also started discussions with teacher training institutions in the Central Belt.
- Delivery of 10 schools of shinty designed to enhance the support network for local clubs.
- Planning has started for the provision of a pilot programme in girls and women's shinty to stimulate continued growth via schools of shinty.
- Pilot programmes have started in Fort William to support emotional and mental wellbeing



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GROWTH

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2021	2022
Adult Male	1300	1330	1408	1437	1306	1332	1341	1440
Youth Male	1150	1200	1078	1157	1220 *	1375 *	1056	1202
Adult Female	200	224	399	423	394	480	351	362
Youth Female	100	122	267	337	528 *	450 *	367	390
Totals	2750	2876	3152	3354	3448	3637	3115	3394



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Participation in the senior leagues increased from 52 teams in 2019 to 54 in 2022 with Strachur joining forces with Dunoon and playing as Strachur – Dunoon and Uddingston entering the leagues for the first time.

New clubs starting were supported in a variety of ways including East Lothian, Stirling, Perth, Nairn and Uddingston with a wide variety of taster sessions and support being provided to existing and new shinty playing communities.

**Includes school participants*

2021 FINANCE



The Camanachd Association's 2021 Annual Accounts report a turnover of £474,481, an increase of £121,662 from 2020 and a surplus for the year of £44,938 up from £16,440 in 2020. The associations reserves have increased to £217,790 as at the 31st December 2021.

2021 was the year of recovery from the COVID Pandemic with Cup Finals and League competitions making a welcome comeback.

We were very fortunate to have continued support from our main sponsors Mowi in 2021. Tulloch Homes continued their support for the Camanachd Cup which was able to go ahead in 2021. Tulloch Homes have also agreed to extend their sponsorship to 2023. Similarly, Mowi provided another year of incredible support in 2021 with a compromised league season. Cottages.com who also kindly supported us through the COVID Pandemic and agreed to carry forward their sponsorship of the MacTavish Cup to 2021 which was able to go ahead. Alvanne Aluminium Group Ltd sponsored the Balliemore Cup in 2021 which has now been taken over by Ferguson Transport and Shipping. Highland Industrial Supplies were the sponsors the Sutherland Cup which was carried over from 2020 to 2021. The Business Club continued in 2021 and was also carried over from 2020.

The 2021 Annual Accounts show our Grant funding increased by £26,874 from the figure in 2020. **sportscotland** continuing to be our largest contributor and we have a funding package secured in principle through to 2025.

Sponsorship income increased in 2021 due to increased activity by £14,451, with much of the sponsorship carried over from the previous year of the pandemic where there was postponement of all our competitions and leagues in 2020.

Membership income increased to £24,984 in 2021 an increase of £9694 from 2020. This is still considerably lower than the 2019 figure of £42,165 however we expect this to return to normal levels in 2022. Some clubs entered a reduced number of players and others decided not to enter in 2021 due to the uncertainty of further restrictions and rural communities' safety.

Total expenditure in 2021 was £373,596 in comparison to 2020 figure of £320,124. With the CA making significant savings in rent and reduced travel costs due to most meetings taking place virtually. Salaries reduced by 16,311 due primarily to staff and job retention scheme grant in 2020.

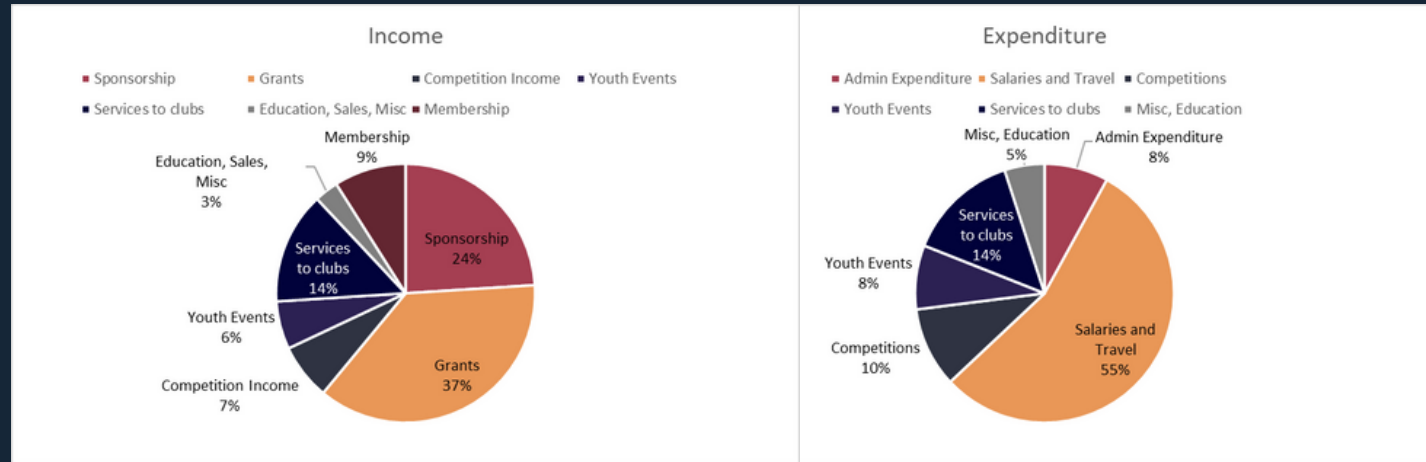
Income

2021 saw 52% of our income from grants and a further 25% of income from sponsors all sourced and managed by our staff team. A further 3% income was sourced from income from competitions whilst 11% of our income was money in and out for insurance and services to clubs. Full details are within our annual accounts.



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2022 FORECASTED FINANCE



- CA have worked with 16 corporate partners this year contributing to 24% of total income
- 37% of our funding is secured through grants and funding applications by CA Staff
- 7% of funding is secured through ticket sales for major finals
- 9% of income is secured through membership fees
- 14% of income is our insurance services for clubs which goes straight back out again to the insurers.
- Our estimated income for 2022 is £643,661 with expenditure expected to reach £622,305



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COMPETITIONS

Kingussie defeated Lovat by three goals to one to win the 2022 Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup in front of their own supporters at The Dell, Kingussie. Shinty's BIG day out - The Camanachd Cup Final returned to Kingussie for the 1st time since 1999 and was watched by a capacity crowd of 3,000 spectators, it was broadcast live on BBC Scotland and Radio Nan Gaidheal. Kingussie Goalkeeper Rory MacGregor won the Albert Smith Medal for Man of the Match.

The 2022 Artemis Macaulay Cup Final in Oban was the first Cup Final to be played on a Sunday and attracted a larger than usual audience, it proved to be an exciting game, with Kingussie defeating Oban Camanachd by three goals to two in a thrilling match with the destiny of the trophy in doubt until the final whistle. The final was broadcast live on BBC ALBA.

Kingussie defeated Caberfeidh by five goals to two to win the Cottages.com MacTavish Cup at Bught Park, Inverness in a match which was broadcast live on BBC ALBA. The Glasgow Celtic Society Cup Final was also broadcast live on BBC ALBA and was won by Glasgow Mid Argyll who defeated Kyles Athletic with the only goal of the game in the first Senior Cup Final to be played at Yoker.

The Ferguson Transport & Shipping Balliemore Cup Final was held at An Aird, Fort William where Beaully defeated Inveraray by five goals to one.

The Highland Industrial Supplies Sutherland Cup Final was won by Newtonmore who defeated Lovat by three goals to two after extra time at Blairbeg, Drumnadrochit.

The inaugural Single Team Club Competition was won by Col Glen who were victorious over Glengarry by two goals to one in an exciting Final at The Playing Field, Taynuilt.

Glasgow Mid Argyll defeated Kilmory by two goals to nil in the MKM Building Supplies (Oban) Bullough Cup at Taynuilt. Newtonmore completed a cup double over Lovat winning the Strathdearn Cup by seven goals to one at the Smith Park, Inveraranie.

South defeated the North by three goals to one to win the Caol Cup, the annual North v South match, which was played at Canal Park, Caol.



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COMPETITIONS

The Women's Cup Finals Day took place at The Eilan, Newtonmore. Badenoch triumphed in the Mowi Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup defeating Skye by six goals to three whilst Kinlochshiel won the Mowi Challenge Cup by four goals to nil against Lovat. The Finals Day was once again an excellent occasion, with a large crowd and some exciting shinty being played. The Mowi Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup was again broadcast live on BBC ALBA.

Participation in the senior leagues increased from 53 teams in 2019 to 54 in 2022 with Strachur joining forces with Dunoon and playing as Strachur – Dunoon and Uddingston entering the leagues for the first time. The Mowi Premiership comprised ten teams, with eight teams in the Mowi National Div, there were eleven teams in Mowi North Div 1 and nine teams in Mowi North Div 2, Mowi South Div 1 had eight teams the same as in Mowi South Div 2.

Until 22nd Oct In total there have been 669 senior fixtures scheduled in 2022, compared to 610 in 2019. A further 23 have still to take place. 29 fixtures were unfulfilled due to team raising difficulties, up from 21 in 2019. 99 fixtures were postponed and rescheduled compared to 92 in 2018, of that 99, 63 were due to unplayable fields and 13 due to bereavement, a further 13 were walkovers. Kingussie retained The Mowi Premiership. Both Kilmallie and Fort William, having finished in the bottom two positions of the Mowi Premiership, are relegated and both will play in the Mowi National Division in 2023. Skye won the Mowi National Division on the final day of the season, they will be joined by Beaully in the Mowi Premiership in 2023.

Mowi North Div 1 has not been won yet either, Newtonmore are level on points with Inverness, Newtonmore have three games to play whilst Inverness only have one to play. Col Glen won Mowi South Div 1 and if Newtonmore win Mowi North Div 1 Col Glen will play in the Mowi National Division in 2023 with Aberdour replacing them in Mowi South Div 1. If Inverness win Mowi North Div 1 they will face Col Glen in a Play Off for a place in the 2023 Mowi National Division. Beaully won Mowi North Div 2 and are promoted to play in Mowi North Div 1 in 2023 with Caberfeidh, who finished bottom of Mowi North Div 1 replacing them. Bute won Mowi South Div 2 dropping 4 points.



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LOTTERY FUNDED