

shinty yearbook

review of 2012





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The President Observes

(for the second time)

My second season as President has also been enjoyable with several memorable achievements and occasions. I will take the liberty of mentioning just three of them. For the second time in my term of office the Camanachd Cup Final gave us a match to remember. The televised Final from Oban this year was a terrific advertisement for our game and brought plaudits from near and far afield. Newtonmore's third Premier title in a row was an outstanding achievement bearing in mind the increasingly competitive nature of The Orion Premier League, thanks in no little way to a developing Lovat team and newly promoted Kinlochshiel. Norman MacArthur's successor has a hard act to follow!

The WCA Finals at Strachur gets my third honourable mention. A well organised day with excellent entertainment from two exciting matches. The ladies game has come a long way in a relatively short time and is making an important contribution to our participation targets.

Any disappointing aspects? Yes. Shinty is managed by a modest complement of staff supported by very committed volunteers. I would like to see all available resources being used to develop our game but I am increasingly aware of the opportunity lost when they have to be diverted to deal with avoidable mistakes and misdemeanours on and off the field of play. We all have an obligation, as individuals and clubs to try and eliminate this negative use of our resources.

Bliadhna Mhath Ùr dhuibh uile!
With best wishes to all for season 2013.



The editor writes...

It was the year shinty went Olympic, and ballistic, in equal measure. But let's not be negative eh? Classic Camanachd cup final; age-defying performances and thrilling denouements; swathes of shinty on TV and the usual off-field debacles which served to keep shinty where it usually wants to be, but for all the wrong reasons; and the seniors got humped in Ireland.

Let's get the gripes out of the way. The Sutherland Cup fiasco was a tragedy for Newtonmore, an embarrassment for the Association, whose competition management appeared clearly flawed. And then the other one, the broken cup. And no, we are not going to reprint it. They recovered well, as did Newtonmore, who stuck their hands up. None of it should be forgotten, but let's move on.

Let's hear it for the women and the likes of Strachur who came together to produce an exemplary women's finals day. Strachurmore could well be a major venue for years to come now.

Throughout the land it would appear that there are the burning embers of a revival and renaissance amongst the younger end of the time-frame. Nippers everywhere with helmets, camans and parents in tow. It's a great sight at weekends in the most unlikely of places, throughout the year.

But we need more top level action in places like Oban which has in the MacAulay Association a great vehicle which produces an outstanding final and a great series of young people's events.

We need a venue in Glasgow. We should be hollering the heights about the renewal and start of sponsorship deals from Scottish Hydro to Orion to AJP Parcels and the continuing presence of Aberdeen Considine and Artemis – and the BBC and BBC ALBA are the best TV broadcasters of shinty ever. I would say that, would I not?

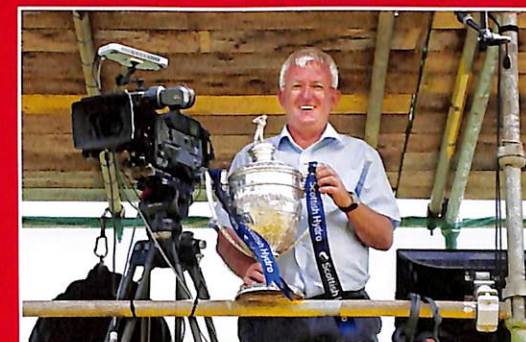
My grateful thanks to all the Editors, reporters papers who have contributed to the Yearbook (including Skye's excellent website), knowingly and otherwise, and let's hear it in particular from my friends behind the lens, Tina Marshall, John MacTavish, Steve Tunstall, Willie Urquhart and Neil G Paterson and others. Heroes all and producing masterful works.

It was a great year 2012. Let's have another one, but only one series of internationals please. No home and away. One-off games are tops. Sort out the reconstruction ASAP and don't take a step backwards.

But keep a look over our shoulders and help me get a national archive for shinty set up. That's my New Year resolution.

Congratulations to everyone and all clubs and organisations who were winners. To those who didn't and stepped out of line – get a grip!

Bliadhna Mhath Ùr dhuibh uile!



#Shinty Girl goes gold



Invergarry's very own Eilidh Davies, or #shintygirl to give her the full twitter persona, has finally made it onto page 3, winning the Gold Medal at this year's Royal National Mod in Dunoon.

Eilidh is well known throughout the shinty world having worked on a wide range of shinty-related programmes in Gaelic and English for television and through her work as a journalist with various newspapers, notably the Press and Journal and Highland News.

For Eilidh the medal was a "dream come true" and vindicated her decision to carry on competing after missing out on qualifying for the Mòd Gold Medal Final last year. Eilidh said: "When I failed to make the final last year I was really disappointed especially as I had made the final on two previous occasions. I had reached a turning point where I needed to decide whether to stop competing or up my game. I am over the moon that I kept on going."

Dunoon has been a lucky venue for Eilidh who won the Silver Pendant here in 2000.



Lady Eloise Fraser presented the Lovat cup in January 2012, cousin of the young laird.



New Year, new start for Lovat

LOVAT retained the Lovat Cup with a deserved 3-1 victory over traditional rivals Beaulie at Balgate in their annual clash. It was the perfect start for new Lovat manager Alan MacRae, who was in control of the senior side for the first time since taking over the reins in the close season from both James Gallagher and John MacRitchie. MacRae, however, could not read too much into the result in a match played in dreadful conditions both overhead and underfoot. No normal shinty match would have gone ahead in such atrocious weather, but this is no normal shinty match and the players, match officials and around 700 or so hardy spectators braved the elements that had seen most other sport in the area cancelled. Balgate had a light dusting of snow from an overnight fall, but with snow falling throughout the match, actually seeing the standard white shinty ball became a problem and a variety of coloured balls were used with varying degrees of success. Lovat began the match on the front foot and, as holders, needed only a draw to retain the trophy. With just eight minutes on the clock, Lovat danger man Greg Matheson survived an illegal tackle from Beaulie's Dougie Bain to keep his balance before firing home from close range. Referee Graeme Cameron had already awarded a penalty, however, and much to Lovat's annoyance he struck off the goal and insisted on the spot hit. There was an almost audible sigh of relief from Beaulie when James Macpherson's strike from the spot was easily saved by goalkeeper Martin Davidson. Beaulie responded well to this let off and began to assert control with Barrie MacDonald in the half forward position becoming an increasing threat. Veteran striker Jamie MacLennan found space on the edge of the Lovat penalty area, but his fiercely hit shot struck Lovat defender Tom Smith on the face, preventing an almost certain goal. Beaulie continued to enjoy the bulk of possession and Lovat goalkeeper Stuart MacDonald was easily the busier of the two custodians. The Green and Whites paid the penalty for not capitalising on their possession when in a rare breakaway in the 22nd minute, Lovat forced a free hit just outside the penalty area. In a neat move, the ball was worked to an unmarked Matheson and he blasted a fine strike high into the Beaulie net from 20 yards. The goal was against the run of play, but there were signs that Lovat were beginning to get a foothold in midfield with Lorne MacKay and Ryan Ferguson starting to dictate matters. Despite this, Beaulie were far from out of it and efforts by Jack MacDonald and Conor Ross caused anxious moments in the Lovat defence. The match's pivotal moment possibly came shortly after the interval when a Barrie MacDonald strike looked to be going in at the post, but his namesake in the Lovat goal reacted to pull off a terrific save. Buoyed by this, Lovat's confidence began to grow and in the 55th minute they doubled their lead with Matheson scoring from close range. Beaulie almost visibly wilted at this setback as the realisation that they now needed to score three goals to wrest the trophy from Lovat hands began to dawn as conditions worsened. Beaulie were struggling to clear their lines as Lovat continued to press forward and in the 72nd minute, Euan Ferguson finished off a free hit move with a searing shot beyond Davidson. With just three minutes remaining, however, Beaulie got themselves on the scoresheet, Jack MacDonald rounding off a fine move to fire home a consolation for the visitors, but there was no doubt that Lovat ended as worthy winners.



The real way to celebrate New Year...

Bliadhna Mhath Ùr!!!!!! The MacFarlanes have the way of it : old New Year or New New Year : it's New year every day in Glenfinnan! (pic courtesy the Oban Times)



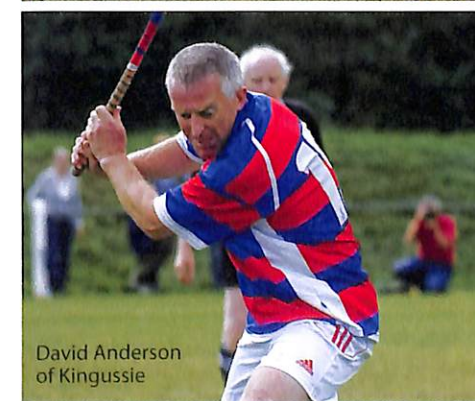
Kingussie Win 2012 Newtonmore Veterans' Sixes

26 August 2012

Kingussie won the 2012 Newtonmore Veterans' Sixes at the Eilan on Sunday 26 August 2012. A total of eight teams and a large crowd gathered for the competition which was aimed at over 45 year-olds. Newtonmore and Lovat qualified for the semi-finals from one group at the expense of Kilmallie and Kingussie B. Kingussie A and Fort William made it through from the other group which also included Lochaber and Beaulie. Kingussie beat Lovat 2-1 in their semi-final. Newtonmore beat Fort William 1-0 in the second semi-final in a tie which saw referee John Henderson red card Newtonmore's David Balharry and Iain "Smami" Smith from Fort William. This set up an all-Badenoch final which was refereed by John Sloggie. Sandy Sellar put More ahead but Davie Anderson made it 1-1. Kingussie first team manager Russell Jones put his side ahead and Davie Anderson went on to score two more to compete his hat-trick and seal a 4-1 victory. Davie Anderson was also named Player of the Tournament. There were a few amusing incidents throughout the day including John Sloggie picking up fellow referee Deek Cameron (Fort William) for a foul shy. Also, Newtonmore first team manager Norman MacArthur played a game in goals wearing a Kingussie strip after coming second in a weight loss bet with Kingussie's Dallas Young. Thanks to Neil G Paterson for providing the picture as evidence. See more of Neil's shinty pictures by clicking on the following link <http://www.neilgpaterson.com/f75954492>. The Newtonmore Veterans' Sixes, organised by Newtonmore's Paul MacArthur, was played in great weather and was enjoyed by all who were there. It seems sure to become a regular event in the future.



Kingussie winners of Newtonmore veterans' sixes



David Anderson of Kingussie



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Kevin Martin's walkabout

What a game, bringing an end - for me anyway - to a great season. Four different winners of the Grand Slam cups, a close league table, and high-scoring cup finals.

I had set myself the target this year of getting round all the Premier League grounds - in the end I've managed only six, plus another three lower league grounds. It has been tremendous fun, much more enjoyable than the football which had become a bit tired for me. My main impressions summarised by these awards:

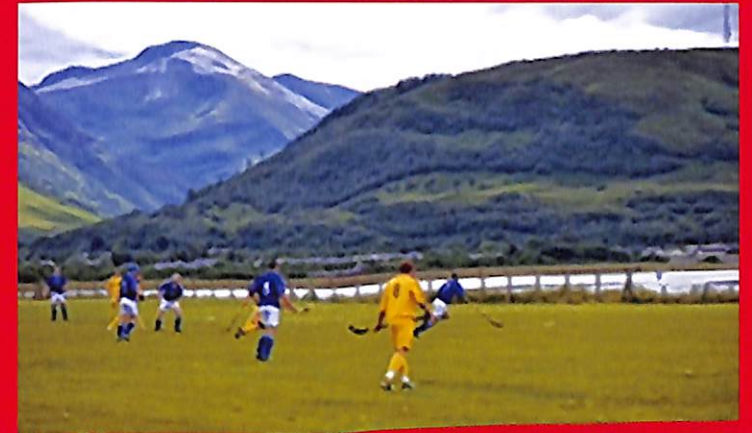
GAME OF THE SEASON - honourable mentions of course to the Cup Final and Newtonmore v Kinlochshiel games, which were both high scoring and thoroughly entertaining. My favourite game however was at Spean Bridge in the MacAulay Cup - Lochaber 4 Kingussie 6. Lochaber came very close to an upset with a thrilling second half comeback, and some cracking goals. They got some measure of revenge the following week in the MacTavish Cup. I am assuming they are going to be promoted this year, although Skye clearly pushing them close - I think they will be a cracking addition to the Premier League next season.

MOST WELCOMING CLUB - this goes to Newtonmore, and in particular the people who stand at the clubhouse. I was in there for no more than five minutes and I was getting introduced to people. They were very keen to know if I was following the game, explaining some of the intricacies of the rules and the tactics to me. Lovely people all round.

FOUR SEASONS IN ONE DAY AWARD - the opening league game at Fort William, played on the Black Parks. We had snow, we had hail, we had rain, we had wind, then we had sunshine creating steam as it burnt off all the rain. Then it got so-so cold. All the while the park being circled by a mountain rescue helicopter. I had planned to head over to the Fort William FC game when the shinty finished, as I could have caught the second half there. No chance - I virtually ran back to the town centre and dived into the closest pub to reanimate my fingers and toes.

THE CHARMED EXISTENCE AWARD - picture a routine Camanachd Cup win for Inveraray at home against Strathglass in the sunshine. There is a wee laddy no more than three years old playing at the side of the pitch with his Caman. Every time the ball came off the pitch it bounced over his head, flashed past him, rolled through his legs etc etc. He was like a magnet to that ball! Even when he was walked round the pitch the ball suddenly started flying off on that side of the pitch in a fairly direct trajectory towards his head. I was terrified for this poor chap, worried what impact a shinty ball would have on a developing cranium at speed. The locals were oblivious. I'm clearly a softie!

BEST GRUB AWARD - the sausage rolls at Newtonmore were nice, and the spitroast at Oban was wonderful - but my burger at Spean Bridge was in a different league altogether! I had travelled up by train and went for a short - but hilly - walk through the glen and up to the Commando. Got myself back into town with enough time to choose between food or pint, I chose pint,



gambling that there would be some sort of food awaiting me at the ground. I chose wisely - that cow did not die in vain! If the crowd had been big enough to hide my gluttony, I would have went back for a second burger - it was that good!

NOAH AND HIS ARK - I only missed one planned game due to the weather, which was remarkable after that summer of biblical rain. Never got to Strachur for the Celtic final, perhaps next year!

BEST USE OF A TENT - Inverness for the MacTavish final. It rained that day, a lot, there was a beer tent selling Black Isle's finest. I enjoyed that tent!

BEST ATMOSPHERE - those Buckfast swilling guys with their tops-off on the hill at Oban on Saturday made a fair din, did they not? During the pitch invasion at the end, enjoyed the sight of some "robust" woman getting stuck on the perimeter hoardings as well as she realised she couldn't climb fences like she used to. Honourable mention here to the fans who came over to Newtonmore with Kinlochshiel - they know how to back their team.

THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY - Glenurquhart. It's the longest trip for me, and I never quite got the confidence in our weather to commit to travelling up there. Maybe next year! (Kyles and Kinlochshiel too.)

BONUS PRIZE - I did not get bitten by a midgie once! (Although they came for us at Kilmallie!)

So that is it, the new season starts in March I presume - with the internationals in October, which I can't make unfortunately. I'll be keeping an eye out on the fixture list so that I can plan my next few trips - and in the meantime, back to the junior football probably, which doesn't promise anything like as much fun as my shinty trips!

Angus MacVicar joins Camanachd Association Board

The Camanachd Association confirmed earlier this year that Angus MacVicar was being co-opted to the Board as Director without Portfolio.

Born in Glasgow to Island parents, Angus has always had an interest in sport. With over 30 years in the prison service he is acutely aware of the benefits and importance of sport in our society. As a volunteer in his first sport of rugby, he has considerable experience of coaching and administration. He was the founder President of the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) Rugby Football Association.

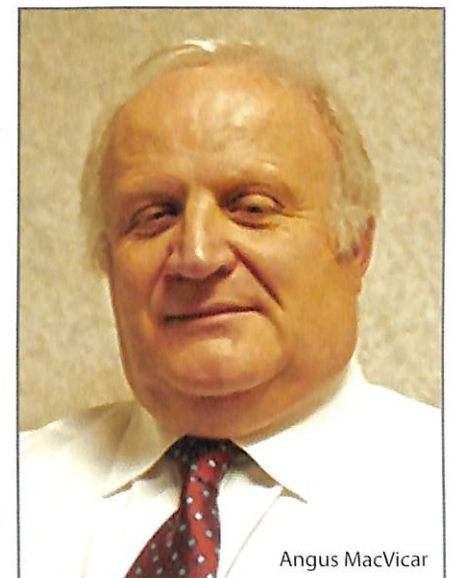
After several years in SPS HQ in Edinburgh working on policy development, Angus was appointed Governor of HM Prison, Inverness. He also serves as a member of the Highland Alcohol and Drugs Partnership. Since arriving in Inverness he has taken a keen interest in shinty and in particular, Glenurquhart Shinty Club.

Speaking on Angus's appointment, CA President Archie Robertson said: "I am confident that Angus

will bring additional skills to our Board and significant experience which will benefit the management of our sport. We look forward to working with him."

Two Camanachd Association Directors were re-elected at the Camanachd Association Annual General Meeting in Fort William on Friday 27 April. Richard Gall and Charles Young were both re-elected unopposed. There was a presentation for Iain MacPhee as his tenure as Director had come to an end. The motion to have a designated technical area for managers and substitutes at televised cup semi-finals and finals was passed. However, a move to reduce the voting threshold for passing motions from its current 75% did not find favour.

Also at the AGM, Alan Bell, who has great association with both Glenurquhart and Aberdeen University, was rewarded for his outstanding dedication to the sport of shinty when he was named a Camanachd Association Member of Honour.



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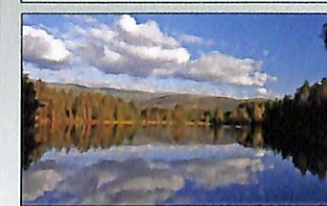
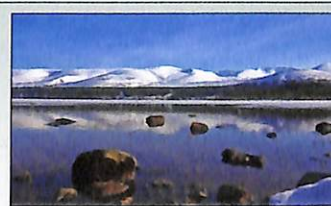
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Home celebrations for ColmCille5

Skye Camanachd and Michael Breathnach reached the final of Iomain Chòlmhille a Coig following the shinty and hurling semi-finals at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree on Saturday 7 April 2012. Skye Camanachd beat Alba 5-1 in the shinty semi-final. Michael Breathnach edged out Fir Ulah in the in the hurling semi-final with a (1-7) 10-4 (0-4) victory in front of an enthusiastic crowd. This was believed to be the first full hurling match to be played in the Highlands and it certainly captured the imagination. Alba and Fir Ulah contested third place and the Scots came out on top after an entertaining clash. Alba were the better side in the first half although Fir Ulah came back strongly in the second period.

Skye Camanachd (4-5) 17
Michael Breathnach 14 (2-8)

Skye Camanachd beat Michael Breathnach by just three points in a thrilling final to win Iomain Chòlmhille a Coig at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree on Saturday 7 April.

Skye started the final without Stewart Grant who broke a finger in the semi-final win over Alba. Michael Breathnach were without the injured Finton O'Tuathail.

Skye captain Iain Nicolson won the toss and played with the wind in the first half. Skye's Darryl Macintosh had the first attempt on target in the opening minute but Michael Breathnach countered and struck the opening point through Carthach Ban Breathnach just 60 seconds later.

Iain Nicolson tested Michael Breathnach keeper Diarmid O'Ceallaigh on 5 minutes but the keeper cleared the danger.

Skye had a lot of the early pressure and they were finding the Pairc nan Laoch breeze difficult to judge and several balls forward drifted out of play. Referee John Angus Gillies awarded the home side a free hit for a kick by Jack Mac Giolla Bhride on 18 minutes. This gave Skye the chance to open their

Morrison exchanged passes with John Angus MacInnes before releasing Iain Nicolson one-on-one with keeper O'Ceallaigh. To the delight of the home support, Nicolson slotted the ball home to put Skye (2-4) 10-8 (1-5) in front.

Skye were again caught out by another quick dead ball from the side of the park and Oisen O'Ceallaigh fired over to reduce Skye's advantage to a single point. The game continued to swing from end to end and 12 minutes into the second half, another Darryl Macintosh free-hit found Iain Nicolson with two hurlers marking him. Nicolson had two attempts before shooting home on his back-hand to extend Skye's lead to (3-4) 13-9 (1-6).

Iain Nicolson got on the end of a ball from Kerr Gibb but keeper O'Ceallaigh stopped him completing his hat-trick of goals.

Gearoid O'Finneadha knocked another point over the bar for Michael Breathnach who were clearly determined not to let this game run away from them. The Irish were clearly finding Iain Nicolson a handful and full back Colm "Cabra" O'Cuiv caught the Skye forward with one late challenge.

There didn't seem to be much of a shooting opportunity when Iain Nicolson collected the ball 20 yards from goal mid-way through the second half but he lifted a great back-hand shot into the roof of the net for his third goal of the game. This gave Skye what proved to be a crucial (4-4) 16-10 (1-7) lead.

Skye keeper Aonghas MacDonald flattened Gearoid O'Finneadha as the Irishman was about to shoot goal-wards 19 minutes into the second period. Antaine O'Finneadha took the free but a very brave challenge from Skye's Ally "Spod" MacLeod prevented any Irish points. However the challenge came at a cost as MacLeod required treatment from Skye medic Dr Wilson Banks and was later admitted to hospital with concussion and what was later confirmed to be three fractures to his hand.

Antaine O'Finneadha pulled another point back for Michael Breathnach to reduce the deficit to 5 points. Aonghas MacDonald then made a fantastic save from a great Sean Denvir drive 8 minutes from time as the ball was creeping in under the bar. A massive goalmouth scramble ensued but the Skye defence withstood the physical onslaught to clear the danger.

Cain O'Griallais won the ball in midfield and his shot from distance deceived Aonghas MacDonald and crept into the net at the keeper's right post to cut



account and Iain Nicolson made no mistake as he put the dead ball between the posts from 25 yards for two points.

Iain Nicolson put another ball over the bar for another point a couple of minutes later so Skye led (0-3) 3-1 (0-1).

A brave diving save from Skye keeper Aonghas MacDonald denied Padraic Mac Giolla Bhride on 22 minutes. Antaine O'Finneadha put the ball between the posts to reduce Skye's advantage to a single point two minutes later however. Jack Latton was then penalised for a challenge on 27 minutes and Antaine O'Finneadha flicked the free from 55 yards into the air and put it over the bar to square the game at (0-3) 3-3 (0-3).

The Irish took the lead when they caught the Skye defence napping with a quick free on the right which allowed Adrian O'Tuathail to put the ball over the bar. However, with seconds remaining Iain Morrison put a ball from the right over the bar to square the game (0-4) 4-4 (0-4) at the break.

Ally MacDonald forced a save from Diarmid O'Ceallaigh in the opening minute of the half when he was played in by John Angus MacInnes. However just seconds later, Ally MacDonald fired low into the net when he got on the end of an Iain Morrison cross from the right. This was the first goal of the game and it gave Skye a (1-4) 7-4 (0-4) lead.

Just 4 minutes into the second half, Padraic Mac Giolla Bhride burst through the Skye defence and with David Grant and Ally "Spod" MacLeod in hot pursuit, he shot low past Aonghas MacDonald into the net to put the Irish a point in front (1-4) 7-8 (1-5).

However Skye found the back of the net with their next attack and Iain Morrison was at the centre of the move as he won possession in midfield.

Skye's lead to (4-4) 16-14 (2-8).

The game was now on a knife-edge with 4 minutes plus injury time remaining. Skye pressed for the next couple of minutes but the Irish defence stayed firm until Iain Nicolson took his personal tally to twelve points with a shot over the bar which sealed a (4-5) 17-14 (2-8) victory. There was a late scare for the Islanders when a Padraic Mac Giolla Bhride effort came off the frame of the goal.

The final whistle sparked celebrations for the home support following a thoroughly entertaining match. Skye captain Iain Nicolson was presented with the Quaich by event organiser Eoghan Stewart. Skye's Iain Nicolson put in a man of the match performance with David Grant, John Moir and keeper Aonghas MacDonald also excellent for the Islanders.

Michael Breathnach were well served by Adrian O'Tuathail and Antaine O'Finneadha and Padraic Mac Giolla Bhride.

Scorers:

Skye Camanachd Iain Nicolson (3-3); Ally MacDonald (1-0); Iain Morrison (0-2)

Michael Breathnach: Carthach Ban Breathnach (0-1); Antaine O'Finneadha (0-3); Adrian O'Tuathail (0-1); Oisen O'Ceallaigh (0-2); Padraic Mac Giolla Bhride (1-0); Gearoid O'Finneadha (0-1); Cain O'Griallais (1-0)

Caman download The Caman!

CAMAN have released their debut single, The Caman, for download in the hope it scales the Scottish charts and becomes a shinty anthem!

The band, made up of Scotland goalkeeper and Glenurquhart Shinty Club captain, Stuart "Smack" MacKintosh and Newtonmore-based musician, Davy Holt, joined forces in early 2012 and are already building a solid reputation across Scotland.

The pair, who wrote the song together, performed it live at the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final in Oban, on the field at half-time.

You can download The Caman on iTunes or at www.cdbaby.com - 10p from every download will go towards the development of youth shinty.

Caman's debut album will be released in Spring 2013.



Iomain nam feachd – historic armed forces match.

SCOTS Camanachd lost out to the Irish Defence Force in "Iomain Nam Feachd - Armed Forces Shinty/Hurling" at the Bught Park, Inverness on Saturday 28 April.

The Scots eventually went down 24-4 against a strong Irish side and Head Coach Fraser MacKenzie said, "The game went well enough but there was a gulf of difference in terms of experience. However our lads led the game after the first 15 minutes though two frees from Oban Camanachd's Chris Munro and James Dunn from Bute. The Irish came right into the game 10 minutes before half time and they got themselves in front despite some good goalkeeping from Ian Munro from Skye Camanachd."

The SCOTS trailed 12-4 at half time and MacKenzie acknowledged that his side had a tough time in the second half. "The wind picked up in the second half," said MacKenzie. "That had a telling effect on the game but the Irish were much stronger than us in the second half and deserved their win."

Skye Camanachd medic Dr Wilson Banks was on duty on the touchline and MacKenzie said that he had a busy afternoon. "It was a physical encounter with Lochcarron's Michael Copper and Euan Graham needing hospital treatment for stitches as did one of the Irish lads who broke his collar bone."

MacKenzie picked out Andrew Fraser from Strathglass, James Dunn from Bute, Chris Munro from Oban Camanachd and Skye Camanachd's Ian Munro as having played very well for the Scots, as did Caberfeidh's Arran Devine.

MacKenzie has high hopes for this fixture in the future. "It was good to get the first game played and get a commitment to the fixture going forward. Robert Stoddart did a power of work to make the fixture happen and it looks like something can be done to make it a future fixture as well."



Scottish Hydro extend shinty sponsorship to 2014



The Camanachd Association was delighted to confirm in March that Scottish Hydro has signed a three year extension to their shinty sponsorship of the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Competition and various youth activities.

The renewal represents an investment of more than £150,000 over the next three years. As well as the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup, the sponsorship will also cover the Scottish Hydro Youth Development Camp for Under 17 players and the Scottish Hydro Youth Development Fund. The Fund, which was introduced in 2011, aims to support member clubs who wish to increase youth participation by providing a grant award in support of new or enhanced club initiatives that will deliver sustainable growth in the number of young people playing shinty.



Jonny Petrie, Sponsorship Manager of Scottish Hydro, spoke of his delight at Scottish Hydro maintaining their financial commitment and support of shinty and the Camanachd Association. He said, "We are very proud to be associated with the game of shinty. By extending our sponsorship of the Camanachd Cup, and supporting both the Youth Development Camp for Under 17 players and the Youth Development Fund, we are reaching out to players at various stages in their journey through this great sport."

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Caithness edge out Sutherland in game of two halves.

Caithness played Sutherland marked the contribution to shinty of Wester Ross stalwart Kenny "Nostie" Macleod with an historic clash of the camans for the Kenny 'Nostie' Macleod Memorial Cup.

The match was held in memory of Reverend Kenny 'Nostie' Macleod of Thurso Free Church, who died aged 52, in April of this year.

It is the first time the shinty teams from the two neighbouring counties have faced each other since the 2010 Mod Cup when Caithness emerged victorious.

Well known in the north, Kenny was minister at Thurso Free Church. He also took the midweek meetings at Helmsdale. He was a lifelong enthusiast of the game of shinty and in his earlier years played for Kinlochshiel, Lochcarron and Aberdeen University shinty clubs.

He established Thurso Junior Shinty Club in 2006, with the help of his wife Marianna, and two years later he co-founded Naver Athletic, the first senior shinty team in the Far North since the Dounreay team of the 1960s.

His greatest success came at the 2010 Mod Cup when he captained the Caithness team to victory at Bignold Park in Wick.

Heavy showers and wind in the morning gave some concern to the organisers of the event, but as the day progressed conditions steadily improved.

The game got off to an exciting start when after five minutes Kenny's niece, Katie Booth, who plays for Aberdour Camanachd, pounced on a Sutherland goalkeeping error and put the home side into the lead.

Sutherland responded quickly when one minute later Donald 'Dodie' Mackay sent a twenty yard shot into the back of the Caithness net. Minutes after that, Jamie Macleod ran in to score from close range and give the visitors the advantage.

The Sutherland lead was consolidated eight minutes later when Oliver Taveras sent a low thirty yard shot past the Caithness keeper Ruairaidh Stewart.

Only two more minutes passed when Sutherland struck again - keeper Stewart didn't manage to clear his lines and Kyle Clark took the initiative and increased the Sutherland lead to 4-1.

It was only a quarter of the way through the game and the spectators, although enjoying the thrills of a goal packed match, were beginning to fear that the home side were going to be at the receiving end of a drubbing.

Caithness dug in though, and on the 37 minutes, a deflected 25 yard shot from Lovat player, Duncan Davidson, got past Sutherland goalie, Mark Macdonald. Four minutes later Seb Sandedeki found himself wide of the Sutherland defence with an open goal and made no mistake in guiding it across the line.

Annoyed that their lead had been eroded, Sutherland had the last say in the first half when Luke Bruce's thirty yard shot from the right wing soared into the Caithness goal. Half-time, and it was 5-3 for the visitors.

If the first half belonged to Sutherland, the second half belonged to Caithness. Sutherland should have increased their lead after the 57th minute when they were awarded a penalty. The biggest hitter on the pitch, defender Iain Allison, was beckoned forward from defence to do the honours, but hit wide of the Caithness goal.

Caithness started piling on the pressure. A former Kinlochshiel colleague of Kenny's, Stewart Macrae, showed his class in stifling Sutherland forays and getting the ball forward to his attack line. The home side's pressure finally paid off when on the 72nd minute Duncan Davidson brought his goal tally for the afternoon to two, with a fifteen yard shot from the right hand side.

Caithness then played their trump card and brought on another Kinlochshiel veteran, friend of Kenny's, Donald 'Doe' Macrae. Some 58-years young [he will be indeed, ED.], dressed in jeans, not wearing appropriate footwear, the Sutherland defence must have thought there was nothing to worry about how wrong they were!

With the lightness of feet of a teenager, Doe created a merry dance in the Sutherland goal area and in the space of three minutes scored two goals and put his old friend's side into the lead for the first time. Unfortunately for Doe, he had to leave the field due to injury when he took the full force of a flying ball in the face - thankfully no serious damage was done to the ball.

In the final ten minutes Sutherland retook the initiative in an attempt to bring the game to extra time, but Caithness held out to clinch the inaugural Kenny 'Nostie' Cup.

Shortly after the final whistle, Kenny's wife Marianna presented medals to the winners and the runners up. Caithness captain Euan Scott and Kenny and Marianna's daughter Isobel together lifted the trophy.

It was a wonderful afternoon of sport and entertainment for all those involved, and the verdict from the Sutherland players and supporters ... disappointed to lose to their neighbours for the second time, but considering the occasion it was appropriate that Caithness won.



AJG Parcels Celtic Society Cup Final at Strachur

Inveraray 14
Taynuilt 0

Inveraray added to their remarkable record in the AJP Parcels Celtic Society Cup with a 14-0 rout of challengers Taynuilt in the rearranged final at Strachur.

An enthusiastic crowd of around 500 - remarkable considering the match had been postponed due to torrential rain the previous Saturday - gathered among the Cowal hills to watch Taynuilt's first venture into a senior final against a premiership side that has come to think of the Celtic Cup as its own over the past decade.

Russell MacKinlay scored four and three players claimed hat-tricks as the Premiership side won the trophy for the 10th time since 2000. MacKinlay, MacPherson and Chris Crawford all scored in the first quarter of the south area championship cup final, which was postponed the previous week due to rain, MacKinlay getting another just before half-time.

A second-half goal rush included three in just six minutes from Ruairidh Graham. MacKinlay increased his tally to four and Euan McMurdo and MacPherson also notched three-goal hauls against the South Division 1 side.

The only years in the sequence when Inveraray have lost out are 2005 and 2011, and the scoreline even dwarfs Kingussie's 12-1 Camanachd Cup final victory against Newtonmore in 1997.

Specific mention must also be made of Inveraray's MacPherson brothers, Gary and Graham, who each secured a thirteenth medal apiece - a record medal haul for the competition. This was the first major event, never mind the first major shinty final for the new

Strachurmore venue. The Glasgow Celtic Society, sponsors and local organisers deserve huge praise for a great event. Strachur have shown many other bigger clubs just what can be done and their successful hosting of the Celtic Society Final and the just as successful women's finals day was a credit to all concerned.

As for Taynuilt - they should take heart from much of their performance and a great deal of pride in reaching the final.



Match referee Duncan Kerr and TV commentator Hugh Dan MacLennan had to wade across the Strachurmore pitch to postpone the first attempt at the Celtic Society Final. Ironically the weather picked up on the day, but with events across the country washed out, the final had to wait for another day.



AJG Parcels deliver on Celtic Society Cup

The Highlands and Islands' leading collection and delivery company AJG Parcels this year made its first shinty delivery by sponsoring the game's oldest tournament, the Glasgow Celtic Society Cup. AJG Parcels, whose HQ is in Inverness, has 20 vans operating in Argyll, and have struck a two year sponsorship deal with the Glasgow Celtic Society, whose competition began in 1879, 17 years before the Camanachd Cup was first played for. The competition has been rebranded as the AJG Parcels Celtic Society Cup.



2012 Marine Harvest Shinty Award Winners

The winners of the 2012 Marine Harvest Shinty Awards were announced in October at an awards ceremony in Inverness celebrating shinty's great performances throughout the year.



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- Fair Play Award 1 Team Club – Col Glen Shinty Club
- Fair Play Award 2 Team Club – Aberdour Shinty Club
- Under 14 Player of the Year – Danny Kelly, Lovat
- Under 17 Player of the Year – Arran MacPhee, Fort William
- Under 21 Player of the Year – Greg Matheson, Lovat
- Marine Harvest Youth Coach of the Year – Ian Hay, Oban Camanachd
- Donella Crawford Award for Youth & Schools – Angus Thorburn, Aberdour (Picture 1)
- Women's Camanachd Association Marine Harvest Volunteer of the Year – Marion Gillies (Picture 5)
- Women's Camanachd Association Marine Harvest Team of the Year – Cowal and Bute
- William Paterson Salver Volunteer of the Year – George Stewart (Picture 2)
- Marine Harvest North Division 3 Coach of The Year – Ian Petrie, Beaulieu
- Marine Harvest South Division 2 Coach of The Year – Tony Howlett, Lochside Rovers
- Marine Harvest North Division 2 Coach of The Year – Victor Smith, Fort William
- Marine Harvest South Division 1 Coach of The Year – George Hay, Glasgow Mid Argyll
- Marine Harvest North Division 1 Coach of The Year – Michael Delaney, Lochaber
- Marine Harvest Award – Premiership Coach of The Year – James Perlich & Norman MacDonald, Kyles Athletic (Picture 4)
- Marine Harvest North Division 3 Player of The Year – Lewis Smith, Boleskine
- Marine Harvest South Division 2 Player of The Year – Chris MacMillan, Lochside Rovers
- Marine Harvest North Division 2 Player of The Year – Savio Genini, Kingussie
- Marine Harvest South Division 1 Player of The Year – Daniel Cameron, Oban Camanachd
- Marine Harvest North Division 1 Player of The Year – Shaun Nicolson, Lochaber
- Marine Harvest Award – Premiership Player of The Year – Steven MacDonald, Newtonmore (Picture 3)
- Emerging Referee of the Year – Lachie Wood, Lochgilphead
- The Johnny "Ach" MacRae Quach – Referee of the Year – Graham Cameron, Caol
- Marine Harvest Coach of the Year – James Perlich & Norman MacDonald, Kyles Athletic (Picture 4)
- Marine Harvest Player of the Year – Norman Campbell, Newtonmore (Picture 6)
- Marine Harvest Club of the Year – Lochaber Camanachd



ORION propels Premier league onwards and upwards

Players from across shinty's Orion Group Premiership gathered in Fort William early in February for the Premiership launch and a first glimpse of the brand new Orion Group Premiership trophy.

The trophy was revealed following an announcement that Scotland's leading man power supplier, The Orion Group, would be the title sponsor of shinty's top league for seasons 2012 and 2013.

Established by Chairman Alan Savage in 1987, Orion has grown from a small employment agency supplying the Highland rig construction yards to a global leader in providing manpower to the engineering industry. 2012 saw Orion celebrate its 25th anniversary.

Season 2012 also saw the introduction of two Orion Group Premiership Derby Days to coincide with the May and August bank holiday weekends where local rivals such as Kingussie and Newtonmore, Kilmallie and Fort William, Lovat and Glenurquhart and Bute and Kyles Athletic took to the field ensuring visitors to each area were guaranteed top-class shinty action.



GROUP PHOTO FROM L-R: Kilmallie's John Stewart, Kinlochshiel's Paul Macrae, Kingussie's Craig Dawson, Lovat's Calum Cruden, Fort William's Bryan Simpson and Glenurquhart's Stuart Mackintosh.

Glenurquhart plummet to special 10k (with no repairs needed!)



Glen Urquhart Shinty Club celebrated the most successful season in the club's history by raising almost £10,000 from Scotland's first charity team bungee jump.

Fraser MacKenzie and Drew McNeil's men landed the Artemis MacAulay Cup in Oban this season - the first trophy in the club's 127 year history. To cap it off, the Drumnadrochit players leapt 40 metres from the Highland Fling Bungee platform in Killiecrankie to raise money for a charity close to their hearts.

Annie MacKenzie, mother of team boss Fraser, passed away last Christmas from cancer but was cared for by Highland Hospice, the charity the Glen players raised the incredible sum. Boss MacKenzie, who himself completed the 50mph plummet, said it was an exhilarating way for the side to bond after a watershed season.

"It was really good to do the jump after such an important season for the club. To win the trophy was special because it was long overdue and we will take a lot of belief from it going into the 2013 season," said the former sky-diver.

"The team at Highland Fling Bungee were brilliant and everyone did the jump. As a sports manager, I would recommend other teams to use Highland Fling Bungee as a bonding tool. The team that leaps together, wins together."

Three-in-a-row for departing Brick

Newtonmore became three-in-a-row champions after a 2-0 win against Glenurquhart in their final match of the season clinched the 2012 Orion Premiership title.

It was the perfect send off for manager Norman MacArthur in his last game in charge.

'More needed a point to deny Kyles Athletic's outside chance of snatching it the following week. Danny MacRae settled the Badenoch side's nerves with an eleventh-minute strike. Chris Sellar doubled their advantage nine minutes later.

More manager MacArthur had urged his players to ensure that there would be no nail-biting for a further seven days and demanded a win at Blairbeg. He got what he wanted and celebrated his departure from his post as manager with the best possible finish. He had consistently maintained that the league trophy was his main priority and throughout the season Newtonmore ground out results which saw them safely home, despite not always playing to their full potential.

It was fitting, however, that MacArthur, who nearly split his breeks jumping around in celebration, got one of their best performances when it mattered most.



shinty yearbook | review of 2012

Lochaber strike silver

A CONVINCING 5-1 victory for Lochaber ended Beaulys' Ballimore Cup dreams at sunny Castle Leod, Strathpeffer, at Caberfeidh's splendid new facility.

Along with the supporting excellence of the new changing room and club facilities, Caberfeidh's pitch has rarely looked better and for the best part of the first half the final lived up to its reputation for producing drama and first class entertainment.

In a devastating 10 minute spell either side of the interval, however, Lochaber struck three times to finish the match as a contest.

The match started at a frantic pace and Lochaber almost caught Beaulys cold with a sweeping attack in the first minute that ended when Beaulys goalkeeper MacKay Murray produced a sharp save to clear the danger.

It was to be the first of many interventions by the Beaulys player who went onto to produce a man of the match performance with a series of outstanding saves.

Eventually, Beaulys settled and with Conor Cormack outstanding at half back, they began to press forward.

In the 10th minute, the Lochaber defence failed to clear their lines and Beaulys worked the ball across field to Jack MacDonald who finished confidently from 20 yards.

Beaulys continued to threaten, but the Lochaber back four stood firm and slowly the Spean Bridge side began to exert pressure of their own — a move that paid dividends with 30 minutes gone.

Lochaber danger man Sean Nicholson pounced on hesitancy in the Beaulys defence and he struck from close range to restore parity.

Lochaber continued to look the more likely as Beaulys' defence came under increasing pressure and with just two minutes of the half remaining substitute Stuart Callison converted from the edge of the box to give his side a crucial half-time advantage.

The second half had barely started when Ben Delaney weaved his way through a slumbering Beaulys rearward to put his side in complete control. Beaulys' hopes were then completely dashed just three minutes later when Delaney fired home after good lead up play from Nicholson.

Lochaber relaxed their grip on the match after that, but Callison sealed Beaulys' fate with his second just after the hour mark. To their credit Beaulys battled to the end, but by now the destination of the cup had been decided.

Camanachd Association President Archie Robertson presented the trophy to Lochaber captain Hughie Innes, the first Lochaber player to lift the intermediate prize since 1994.



Beaulys Double up for 2012

It is 101 years since the Strathdearn Cup was introduced into the sport and Beaulys have lifted the beautiful little trophy a commendable six times. In its modern guise the competition decides the North of Scotland Junior Champions a title the green and whites have not held since 1956.

The 1950s enshrined one of the most successful eras in the history of the club with four Strathdearn triumphs and three in the Sir William Sutherland competition.

In 1957 the club reverted to senior status and in the intervening years success at the junior level has been elusive to say the least. So, the 2012 triumph is extra special to the club as it represents the first time that a reserve side from the club has won a counting knock-out competition.

After winning a bye in the first round, when it was time for the second round in early May the team were enjoying 100% record in North Division Three but coach Iain Petrie knew that Lochaber from Division Two would be a step up in quality and present a formidable test for his young side.

A hat-trick from Martin Davidson underpinned a 5-3 win with Lochaber scoring three times late on to disturb a serene passage to the quarter-finals.

Events elsewhere, however, in retrospect played a significant part in Beaulys' ultimate triumph. Skye's shock 3-2 win over Newtonmore had eliminated the holders in the first round and then they produced another fine performance with a 3-1 win over Kingussie, one of the favourites in round two.

After Beaulys had disposed of Kilmallie 2-1 in a desperately tight quarter final they lined up against the islanders who had won through to the semi-final after beating Lovat in a penalty shoot-out.

On paper, Skye were short-odds favourites to reach the final but predictably perhaps after their heroics in the earlier rounds they failed to reproduce their best form and were beaten 3-1 by Beaulys with a Martin Davidson strike and a double from youngster Calum Morrison easing the village side through to their first Strathdearn final since the mid 90s.

On the other side of the draw Fort William had focussed their energies on the Strathdearn Cup where their performances were in direct contrast to their Division Two league form, struggling in the lower half of the table. But strong victories over Lochbroom, Boleskine, Kinlochshiel and Glenurquhart took them through to the final.

They then were clear favourites but on a dire day at Invergarry Beaulys defied the odds to carve out a well merited 3-1 victory.

Scott Knox took advantage of hesitancy in the Beaulys defence to hit the opener in 19th minute but against the wind in the second half Beaulys battled back with Conor Ross equalising just after the interval and a double from Sean Stewart sealing the victory.

Fort William chairman and Camanachd Association's Competitions Director Richard Gall set aside his allegiances and in a gracious presentation handed over the trophy to Beaulys captain Scott Maclean.

That was a special moment for the Maclean family for it was Scott's grandfather Ronald "Rox" Maclean who had captained the 1956 side to Beaulys' last Strathdearn Cup success.

Several members of the 1956 side were present to watch Beaulys' fine win but with the rain now reaching biblical proportions no one could tell if it was tears or west coast rain streaming down their faces as the players celebrated.

The 2012 side has brought great honour to the club and while the veterans and experienced players in the side carried them to a league and cup double the contribution of the eight or so teenagers in the side was immense.

The side went onto to win the North Division Three title and next season their learning curve will steepen considerably. But whatever they go on to achieve in the sport few are likely to forget the winning feeling experienced on that wet September day at Craigard Park.



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MacTavish Juvenile Cup final

Kinlochshiel U17 4 Skye Camanachd U17 2

Kinlochshiel U17 lifted the MacTavish Juvenile Cup when they beat Skye Camanachd U17 4-2 at the Bught Park, Inverness on Saturday 16 June 2012.

The match took place ahead of the Co-operative MacTavish Cup Final between Lochaber and Newtonmore. The game started in fine weather but the rain which was to fall for the rest of the afternoon set-in around midway through the game.

Kinlochshiel coach Ross MacMillan, who filled-in in the absence of Murdo Fraser, was without Josh Holden who has a broken wrist. Skye coach Davie MacVicar was boosted by Jack Latton's returned to the side after recovering from a dislocated shoulder.

Skye attacked from the throw up and Chris MacLennan saw an attempt on goal fly wide of the target. However 'Shiel took the lead on 2 minutes with their first attack of the game and it was Aedan MacRae who got on the end of a flowing move to sweep the ball into the net.

The goal seemed to rattle Skye and Islanders keeper Raymond Gillies was forced to make a couple of good saves, one in particular with his foot, to stop 'Shiel increasing their advantage. Skye settled and both Angie Grant and Will Cowie both sent efforts past the post.

Robin Murray, who plays his shinty for Lochcarron, continued to threaten from the left of midfield and he collected the ball unmarked on 17 minutes and cut inside before coming within inches of making it 2-0.

However a minute later the final was level. Angie Grant played a high ball into the danger-area and full forward Will Cowie produced an over-head flick which saw the ball loop over Kinlochshiel keeper Hugh MacRae into the net to make it one each.

Skye were lifted by the goal but they went on to enjoy a period of pressure and on 27 minutes, Will Cowie cut-in on goal but keeper Hugh MacRae deflected the ball for a corner to leave the sides level at the end of the first 40 minutes.

Skye almost made the perfect start to the second half when Will Cowie turned his marker and homed in on goal. His shot beat on-rushing keeper Hugh MacRae but agonisingly for Skye, it came back off the face of the post and was cleared by the 'Shiel defence.

Kinlochshiel regained the lead on 53 minutes when Robin Smith forced the ball over the line following a goal-mouth scramble to make it 2-1. They went



further ahead on 57 minutes when Oliver MacRae turned a cross from the right into the net to make it 3-1.

'Shiel increased their advantage further a couple of minutes later when a Robin Smith snap-shot flew past Raymond Gillies to make it 4-1.

Referee Graham MacMillan awarded Skye a penalty on 74 minutes after consultation with his goal judge who had spotted a push inside the area. Will Cowie gave Hugh MacRae no chance from the spot with a well struck penalty to make it 4-2.

Skye tried desperately to get a third goal but time ran out and it was Kinlochshiel captain Conall Fraser who climbed the Bught Park steps to be presented with the MacTavish Juvenile Cup.

Kinlochshiel's Robin Smith was deservedly named man of the match and he follows the likes of Michael Rodger, Connor Cormack, Stevie Stewart, Ben Delaney, Brennan MacDonald and Jordan Murchison in collected the Sandy MacKay medal.

Best for Skye were defender Iain MacLeod, who has been turning in some impressive performances at full back and two-goal Will Cowie, although Skye failed to get the ball to their full forward often enough. DJ Gilpin also deserves a mention for some good hitting from midfield.

Six-goal thrillers Strathspey – positive and energetic

Strathspey Camanachd started their inaugural senior season with a positive and energetic start, but one that highlighted the inexperience of the majority of the squad. Despite losing the first four games, respectable score-lines were held against Strathglass and Kilmallie, however Boleskine and Beaulieu punished the Spey-siders' inexperience with big wins. Strathspey Camanachd got their first point away to Lochcarron and were unlucky not to get the win, raising club morale greatly. The following game saw the Spey men take on last year's new boys Lewis Camanachd at home, in what became a 12 goal thriller. Despite Strathspey Camanachd leading throughout the game, and for the majority of it by 3 goals, injury time and a freak snow storm assisted the Lewis comeback with the goal that levelled the scores coming in the 93rd minute. Despite the anguish of the Spey men they had attained their second point and learnt a valuable lesson to play the 90 minutes. The following two games saw the Spey men closely compete and loose by only one goal to both Inverness and Lochbroom, the latter scoring the winner in the final minute of the game. Following on from this unlucky form, Caberfeidh punished the Spey men and beat them with a 3 goal lead.



At the half way point Strathspey Camanachd had gained experience and morale from inspiring performances, alongside some unlucky scorelines and harsh defeats. Their first return fixture was against bottom of the table rivals

Lewis, and after their previous encounter the Spey men came out determined to gain their first ever three points. It was another hair-raising encounter between the two-sides, but Strathspey managed to hold onto a 2-1 lead, and they finally secured their first win. Morale was high after the Lewis game, and the Spey men went to Caberfeidh up for the challenge, which led to Strathspey causing their first big upset in the league by defeating Caberfeidh at home 3-2. This lead onto the third victory in a row for Strathspey when they won a hard fought encounter against Strathglass, 4-2. However the Strathglass game resulted in injuries for Lawrence Belleni, Keith Callum and Andrew Hay who had both been important squad members of the three game winning streak. Despite this the Strathspey's next game saw them give Boleskine a close game only losing in the final 5 minutes against a team that had punished their inexperience earlier in the season greatly. The following game saw a depleted Strath Cam side take on league leaders Beaulieu away, and get punished heavily, losing 11-2. Following on from this Strath Cam managed to regain some respect and morale back by beating Inverness 2-1 at home for their first home victory, which propelled the club to 7th above Strathglass, Lewis and Inverness. The next two games saw strong Lochcarron and Lochbroom sides defeat Strathspey, and the Spey men were left with one game to complete to fulfil their first ever season. The last game was away to Kilmallie, and despite taking a depleted side they managed to defeat Kilmallie 3-1, to the disbelief of both sides. This was a fantastic end to the season and meant Strathspey Camanachd safely secured 7th position in North division 3.

To conclude, although Strathspey had some respectable early performances, the experienced they had gained by the time they reached the second half of the season allowed them to secure victories, even against strong sides such as Kilmallie and Caberfeidh. The club achieved more than we had aimed to in the first season, and were delighted to finish the season in seventh by four clear points, sitting above Lewis, Strathglass and Inverness in North division 3.

"Congratulations to Strathspey and all the other new, development sides for their great efforts during 2012."

Shinty finds new home in Mabe!

A GROUP of archaeologists are digging deep to bring shinty back to Cornwall with the formation of a new club. Almost a century since the Scottish Gaelic sport was at its most popular in the county, the game is ready to make a comeback.

The Cornwall Shinty Club is the inspiration of Matt Mossop, an archaeologist who discovered the sport during his time at St Andrew's University in Scotland. Shinty remains hugely popular north of the border, with the 'St Andrew's Sixes' traditionally one of the biggest events in the shinty calendar.

Club treasurer Craig Holt said: "Most people will not know that this game was one of the most popular games in Cornwall until the 1920s when it almost died out. It is rarely played there now. Our aim is to revive the sport, give as many people the opportunity to play shinty and have a positive impact on Cornish culture once more."

Holt is a relative newcomer to the sport, after he and other fellow archaeology students at Truro & Penwith College were introduced to shinty by Mossop. The rest, as they say, is history.

The fledgling club has now struck up a strong relationship with London Camanachd. But, while there is a competitive element, the club is keen to hear from new players even if they have never picked up a stick before.

Holt said: "Many of us only started playing in January, but we're hoping to gain the qualifications to introduce more people to the sport."

"It's not all about the club, it's about bringing the sport to grassroots level, and giving communities the opportunity to give it a go."

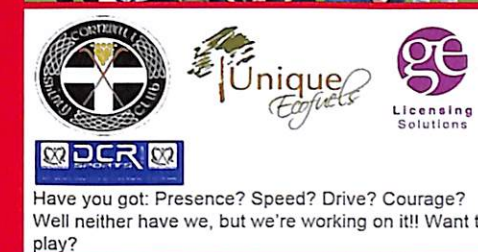
The club is very grateful for all the support and encouragement from local businesses and shinty players from across the world.

They have received letters from California to the Island of Uist (Scotland), locally securing sponsorship from Archaeological Consultancy Limited (AC Ltd) and Mabe Post Office, while refreshments after practice are provided by the New Inn in Mabe and the Thirsty Scholar in Penryn. The club are currently looking for more sponsorship to help make this revival possible.

The Cornwall Shinty Club trains every Thursday at Cunningham Park, Mabe, from 5.15pm and anyone is welcome to attend.

Shinty derives from the Irish game of hurling, but down the years it has developed its own rules and features.

For more information on the Cornwall Shinty Club visit www.cornwallshintyclub.tk



The Shinty Yearbook welcomes the return to the fray of London and Northallerton in England and also Cornwall shinty club. Hopefully we will continue to read of their exploits in the media and on-line - and in more Yearbooks to come.

London a labour of Love

By Neil Drysdale

Scots have exported many of their own specialities to the wider world, and anybody who can flog the deep-fried Mars Bar to Americans and Australians surely deserves a gong. However, the fast, frantic and occasionally furious pursuit of shinty has proved a harder sell to those beyond the Scottish diaspora.

As Graham Love, the captain of London Camanachd, said almost wistfully: "It's a sport which thrives in small communities. So trying to spread the gospel in urban areas - in England - can be a pretty difficult business."

None the less, Love's passion remains unabated and this weekend, he and his colleagues will launch the London Shinty Festival, a three-team, six-a-side tournament, featuring his group of Exiles, the Scots Camanachd, the majority of whom are part of the Armed Forces, and the Cornwall Shinty Club, who have developed from humble origins into a thriving organisation during the last few years. It can be safely predicted that the crowds will hardly require Olympic-style security, and everybody involved seemed remarkably keen to downplay expectations, but there again, this is new territory for Love.

After all, we are talking about the first recorded shinty competition to be held in England since the early 1990s and the first with two Southern-based sides in the last 70 years. Hence the gentle prodding of the participants in the build-up to the proceedings, which will happen at Greenford GAA club in the west of the city.

"We have a reasonable-sized pool of players, and the Cornish group have made genuine progress since they came into being [and are increasing their numbers with the assistance of Truro College] but we have to take small steps, and we are realistic that shinty has a reputation for being a really tough pastime," said Love. "You'll find people who catch a game telling you: 'That looks brilliant', but then they will add: 'I don't fancy being on the wrong end of a swing of that stick.' But those who give it a chance tend to end up liking it and all we are asking is that people come to us with an open mind."

"I have heard some remarks to the effect that there are so many Scots in London that it is a bit surprising there isn't more of a shinty presence. But the fact is that the majority of those from Scotland come from the cities and that is different from hailing from Newtonmore or Kingussie."

Some might retort that flogging snow to the Inuits might be simpler than converting the Home Counties set to such a distinctive Scottish sphere. But, in the present climate, there may never be a better moment to persuade those in England's capital to join the caman herd.

London Shinty Festival 2012 – Feis Iomain Lunnainn 2012

The sports pages of the world's press have been focused on London all summer, starting with a British finalist at Wimbledon, through the spectacular successes of the Olympics and finally the surprise hit, the Paralympics. But one event escaped the notice of almost all media outlets, bar The Herald and The West Highland Free Press.

On Saturday 22nd September, London Camanachd hosted the London Shinty Festival. Initially proposed to be a rematch of the earlier drawn game between London and Cornwall in April, the event attracted the interest of SCOTS Camanachd Captain Robert Stoddart, and the idea of a three team tournament was born.

The venue chosen was Pairc Tir Chonnail, a large GAA ground in West London that has hosted London Camanachd games before, including the exiles' previous foray into the Bullough Cup: a 1-0 victory over The Highlanders.

The morning session took the form a three-team round robin six-a-side tournament; opened by Cornwall and the SCOTS. The hosts were unable to open their tournament, as a number of players were late. This was met with understandable amusement from the Cornwall side, no strangers to travel after managing the 1,200 mile round trip for their debut tournament in St. Andrews a few months previously.

Justifying their tag of favourites, the SCOTS strolled to an easy win over the West Country outfit, MacGregor scoring a hatrick, and Euan Cooper adding another to make it 4-0 to the military side. Hoping that Cornwall's efforts had tired the SCOTS, a fresh London side entered the fray, but the result was a further SCOTS triumph. Cooper and MacGregor were again on the scoresheet for The SCOTS, before Gavin Park pulled a late goal back for the Londoners. It wasn't enough, and with two wins out of two, The SCOTS won the round robin tournament.

The final small-sided match between London and Cornwall saw the capital side pick up the pace and they never looked back after Captain Graham Love opened the scoring with a twenty yard drive. Park added a hatrick, and the London goalkeeper Pete Smith was given 5 minutes at full forward to complete the scoring with a fifth for London.

The afternoon session saw Cornwall and The SCOTS combine to take on London. The more experienced SCOTS players helped the mixed team race into a two goal lead, with Cornwall Captain Mossop and the SCOTS' MacGregor netting. Cornwall player Annan Birkett, on loan to the capital, pulled one back for London, before former Aberdeen University teammates Alan MacDonald and Graham Love combined for the London Captain to equalise. Love returned the favour a few minutes later as MacDonald put London 3-2 up at the break.

Cornwall and SCOTS dominated the possession during the second half, but stout defending and slack finishing saw London retain their lead until a dramatic last minute equaliser from Mossop levelled the tie at 3-3.

The generous donation of a couple of cases of Deuchars from Caledonian Brewery helped start the after-match celebrations and talk soon turned to hopes of an expanded event next year.

London Camanachd wish to thank hosts Tir Chonnail Gaels CLG, Caledonian Brewery, and club sponsors Choice Insight Ltd. for their help in hosting the event.

Kyles triumph in Classic Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final

Inveraray....5 Kyles Athletic....6 (H.T. 4-2)

Match report courtesy Keith Mackenzie (trying to hide the fact he's a Kyles man) and the West Highland Free Press

A travelling fairground had pitched up outside Oban's Mossfield Park, but the rollercoaster was to be found in the adjacent field where Kyles Athletic edged an epic Camanachd Cup final with a 6-5 victory against Argyllshire rivals Inveraray. Roddy MacDonald struck four goals in a man-of-the-match winning display as Kyles recovered from 4-2, and then 5-3 down to complete a memorable

clearance and MacDonald did the rest, riding two challenges before sliding in another composed finish.

That calmness wasn't being replicated in the Kyles defence and Inveraray would take full advantage as they struck three goals in nine minutes. Inveraray's mobile forwards Crawford, Garry MacPherson and MacKinlay were clearly in the mood and a ponderous Kyles rearguard was breached in the 20th minute. MacPherson took advantage of the space afforded to him to bullet home from 20 yards. Two minutes later the lively Crawford nipped in after a David MacPherson hit-in to fire Inveraray ahead.

And the goal-glut continued in the 29th minute when MacKinlay outmanoeuvred Calum Millar with two deft touches to push the Royal Burgh side further in front.

With the wind at their backs Inveraray poured forward in search of more goals, but Kyles keeper Kenny MacDonald, 50 years young, swatted away a MacKinlay volley to deny the striker his hat-trick. Just before half time the veteran custodian made another vital save, this time to get his stick behind a rasper from Euan McMurdo. Not to be outdone Graham MacPherson, at 40 a relative youngster when compared to his opposite number, denied Thomas Whyte a third for Kyles just before half time.

Odd as it sounds after hitting four first half goals but Inveraray might have felt a slight tinge of regret at failing to score more by the interval.

comeback in front of some 3,000 spectators. It's the 21st time the famous old trophy will be adorned with blue, white and red ribbons [that's enough Keith - ED], although Saturday's triumph ended the Tighnabruach side's 18 year wait to lift the sport's most sought-after prize. And as with last year's final, when Newtonmore shattered a 25 year hoodoo, the manner of victory could hardly have been more dramatic.

You would have to go back to 1980, when Kyles were victors against Newtonmore — to find a final decided by a similarly high-scoring margin. The pace of Saturday's first all South final since 1983 was simply relentless, as the two sides lived up to their pre-match billing as teams committed to open and attacking shinty.

Kyles had the first sight of goal when wing centre Robbie MacLeod fired wide after exchanging passes with David Zavaroni. But it was Inveraray who settled quicker, forcing two corners in quick succession before making the breakthrough in the seventh minute. A slip from Kyles defender Rupert Williamson after a Stuart Robertson hit-in allowed Chris Crawford to scamper clear on the right and from his cut back Russell MacKinlay was alert to stab home on the volley.

It was a clear signal of Inveraray's attacking intent, but Kyles responded and Roddy MacDonald flicked inches wide after a raking Duncan Kerr pass. The same pair would combine to better effect in the 12th minute, as Kyles levelled from a goal Inveraray's veteran keeper Graham MacPherson will want to forget. His fresh air swipe after another looping effort from Kerr presented MacDonald with the chance and from five yards he stretched his long limbs to turn the ball home.

If he struggled with the opener there was little MacPherson could do seven minutes later as Kyles took the lead following a devastating breakaway move. John Whyte flicked on Donald Irvine's thumping

They could, and perhaps should, have been further in front and given the open nature of the game a two goal deficit never looked insurmountable.

So it proved as Kyles, turning with the wind at their backs, gained a foothold in the match when MacPherson unceremoniously up ended Kerr inside the area. The resultant penalty from MacLeod wasn't the cleanest, but a wicked kick off the surface was enough to carry the ball beyond the Inveraray keeper. Kyles looked to have the bit between their teeth but Inveraray regrouped, and another piece of brilliance from the outstanding Garry MacPherson restored the two-goal lead after 54 minutes. Crawford's clever reserve pass sent MacPherson clear and from the right wing he swept a searing drive into the far corner of MacDonald's net.

Kyles needed a quick response, and once more they got it when Fraser



Man-of-the-match
Roddy MacDonald

MacDonald, the oldest outfield player at 42, blasted home a beauty from wide on the left.

The goal was to signal a Kyles onslaught which would last until virtually the closing moments of the match. Within five minutes the teams were level, as the increasingly influential Fraser MacDonald teed up namesake Roddy to lash into the roof of the net to complete his hat-trick.

Incredibly, there was still close to half an hour to play but the tide had swung the way of Kyles, and their vocal travelling support sensed it as the decibel levels on Mossfield's hill grew ever louder.

In a bid to stem the flow of pressure Inveraray replaced wing centres Stuart Robertson and David MacPherson with Andrew McMurdo and Ruairidh Graham. But Graham would last barely two minutes before pulling a muscle, and MacPherson would return for the closing 20 minutes. In the meantime Kyles brought on Ewan Campbell for John Whyte in their search for a winner.

The outcome would be settled 12 minutes from time and it was no surprise to see Roddy MacDonald, who had driven on his team's attack superbly, grab the all-important goal. His near post finish was typically unerring, and with that the Kyles supporters were sent into raptures.

The blue and white hordes were nearly silenced as in a final twist Crawford saw his deflected shot cannon back off the post before being hacked to safety.

The fulfilment of a boyhood dream was how man-of-the-match MacDonald would sum it up after the final whistle, as he collected his first winner's medal alongside his goal keeping father, who was claiming his third. They are now the first father and son to have won the Albert Smith medal — another footnote in a historic day for the entire Kyles Athletic club.

For Inveraray, there was only crushing disappointment. What could be a last hurrah for a fine generation of players ended in cruel defeat. But the fact a game as compelling and as competitive as this one produced only one yellow card tells its own story. Both sets of players can take huge pride from their contribution to a 90 minutes which showcased everything good about the sport.





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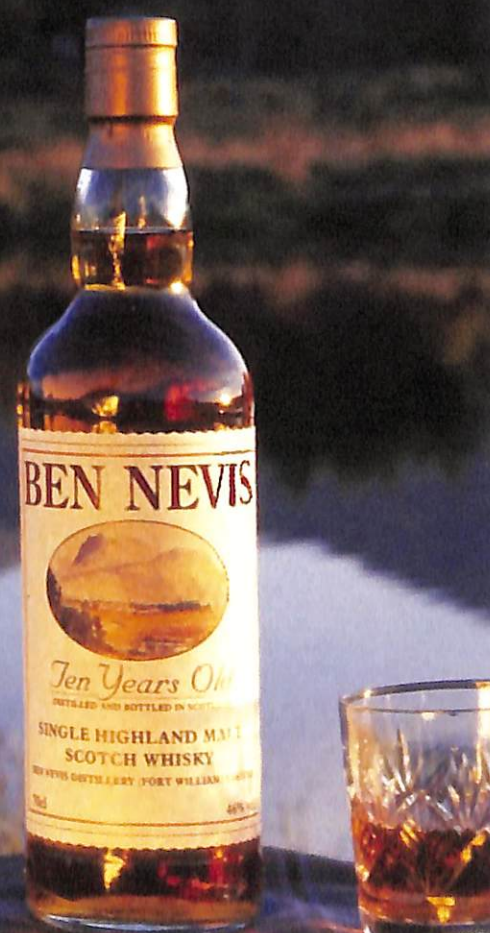


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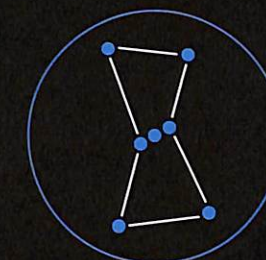
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Artemis Macaulay Cup Final

Oban Camanachd 0 Glenurquhart 6

They were dancing in the Glen... (which is presumably when the cup got broken).

Glenurquhart beat Oban Camanachd 6-0 at Mossfield Park, Oban to win the Artemis Macaulay Cup Final on Saturday 18 August 2012. The final is traditionally played at Mossfield which gave Oban Camanachd home advantage and, with Glenurquhart taking a big travelling support, a large crowd gathered in anticipation. Oban Camanachd co-managers Gussie Campbell and Peter McCuish had the experienced Gareth Evans back from suspension and he started in defence.

Work commitments meant both Andrew Corrigan and James MacPherson missed the Glen's 3-1 win over Lovat last weekend but co-managers Fraser MacKenzie and Drew McNeil had both back for this one although MacPherson started on the bench. Billy Urquhart suffered cup final disappointment as he was ruled out through injury.

Glen played into the wind in the first half on what was a warm Oban day and the sides spent the opening minutes testing each other out. However Glenurquhart took a 6 minute lead when Ruairidh Cameron collected a poor clearance from the Oban defence and sent an unstoppable drive into the roof of the net to make it 1-0.

They came close to increasing their advantage when a long ball from right midfield from Arran MacDonald dropped just over the Oban Camanachd crossbar. Oban, prompted by Scott MacMillan in midfield, pressed hard without really troubling Glen keeper Stuart MacKintosh. The closest they came was an Aiden MacIntyre shot which flashed across goal on 20 minutes.

Disaster struck for the hosts on 24 minutes when the Glen extended their lead. Good play from Eddie Tembo, sporting a special haircut ("tongue" it was referred to on TV) for the day, won possession in his own half. He played a long ball forward which Oban failed to deal with and David Smart slipped the ball to Neale Reid in space and the Scotland U21 cap let the ball run before adjusting his stance and sending a glorious drive into the top left postage stamp corner of Dunning's net. Oban Camanachd trailed 2-0 and their keeper could hardly be blamed for conceding from two magnificent strikes.

The Glen went 3-0 up with a goal out of nothing on 37 minutes. Ruairidh Cameron collected a loose Oban Camanachd shy from the right, around 40

yards from goal, and he looked up and sent a swerving shot into top right hand corner of the Oban net. It was a great strike which, if anything, was even better than the opening two goals. A rocket from the Glen.

The last action of the first half was a great effort from Scott MacMillan which rose just over the bar. Robert Dunning saved well from Liam Girvan after 52 minutes.

Oban were in danger of being over-run and Dunning made a fantastic save when former Inverness player Fraser Heath turned his man and fired a net-bound shot only to see the Oban keeper turn the ball away.



The fourth goal was only minutes away though as Neale Reid collected a Liam Girvan cross and his snap-shot flew past Dunning into the net to make it 4-0 with 59 minutes played. Glenurquhart made a double substitution with James MacPherson coming on for Liam Girvan and David MacLennan replacing Arran MacDonald. A great run from Fraser Heath saw him cross from the left but the cross was just too far ahead of James MacPherson.

A superb Robert Dunning double save denied David Smart and Lewis MacLennan with 15 minutes remaining. A James MacPherson shot flashed across goal after a good run from Neale Reid as Glen continued to dominate.

Oban's Andrew MacCuish became the first player to be booked on 80 minutes when he tripped Fraser Heath after the Scotland U17 player made a lung-busting run from midfield.

James MacMillan was next to be booked a couple of minutes later for complaining about a free-hit decision and throwing the ball at referee David Mitchell. It was a display of petulance which could easily have seen him red carded.

Oban seemed to lose concentration and former Fraser Heath took advantage on 83 minutes. He lost his marker and pushed forward to fire into the net off keeper Dunning from a free-hit on the left to make it 5-0. Lewis MacLennan then capped a fine victory when he burst forward on 87 minutes to get on the end of a long ball and he beat Dunning from a tight angle to make it 6-0.

Scott MacMillan was yellow carded for lashing out at David MacLennan a minute from time. However there was still time for Andrew MacCuish to rap a shot off the Glen crossbar during injury time.

Glenurquhart were more than worthy winners and it was fitting that the final whistle blew when Stuart MacKintosh hit a goal-hit as the keeper's next duty was to step forward to become the first Glen captain to lift their first major senior trophy in the club's proud 127 year history.



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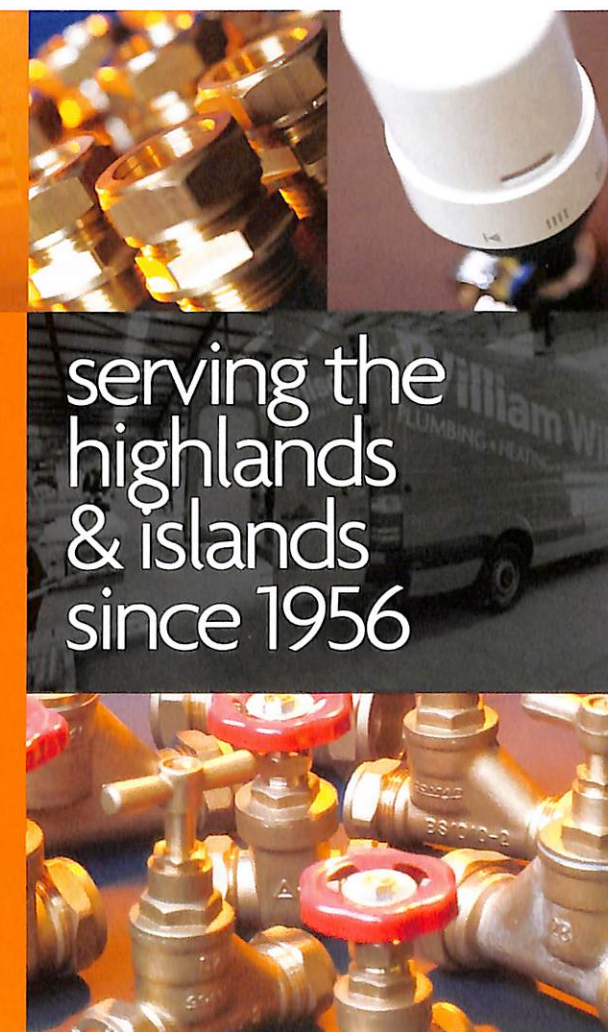
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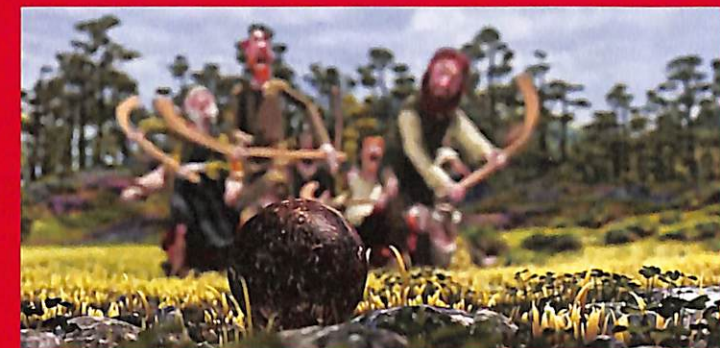
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NCC being Brave!

In 2011 a small crew from California's Pixar studios attended the Pleasanton Scottish Games in the San Francisco Bay Area to film material for use in their then-upcoming release Brave. For those not yet inundated with Disney adverts, Brave is an animated feature set in medieval(ish) Scotland, where an archery-obsessed young lady (Julie Fowlis sings beautifully so there's another shinty connection!) navigates her way through Scottish-inflected folk tales and family hijinks.

It so happened that Northern California Camanachd was staging a small shinty tournament as part of the Pleasanton Highland Games, one of the largest Scottish gatherings in North America. The Pixar crew became aware of the sport and even asked the club to stage a "shinty charge" for filming. This material made its way into the film as part of a brief Highland Games montage, which also included other Scottish sports and competitions that were being presented in Pleasanton.

Fast forward to June 2012. With the release date rapidly approaching, Pixar staged a wrap party in nearby Calistoga, in California's famous wine country. The event was huge, featuring plentiful food & drink, as well as a chance for attendees to enjoy various Scottish activities. Our club was invited to present a shinty booth so that the Pixar staff could try their hand at hitting a shinty ball. So, with creative use of outdoor carpeting and a couple of golf practice nets, we brought a taste of shinty to the party. This was a fancy dress affair - many men were getting into the spirit by wearing a kilt for the first time, and everyone was dressed to the nines, maybe even the tens.



It was absolutely fantastic to see so many folks picking up a caman, especially women in formal evening wear and high heels! Though shinty was only on screen for a few seconds, we are hoping that the fact that it was included in Brave will help our club and US Camanachd spread the word about the sport here across the pond.

Michael "Brave" Bentley

Not chilly for June



It was a perfect Bay Area day, sunny and clear, temperatures in the 70s and a cool breeze blowing. Northern California Camanachd (NCC) had put the call out to its members, Lucky2BHere needs your support, and there is shinty to be played... and the call was answered.

Lucky2BHere is a Skye-based registered charity established in 2007 to raise funds to provide emergency lifesaving equipment such as defibrillators in rural areas of Scotland. The aim is to reduce response times, thereby saving lives, by making equipment and training more widely available. Founder Ross Cowie's long-time involvement with Skye Camanachd, and Skye Camanachd's connection to Northern California Camanachd, led to the staging of a benefit shinty match in Burlingame.

Two teams took the field for the Lucky2BHere Sixes, one in the bright orange NCC Decade shirts, the other in white Lucky2BHere (L2BH) shirts. The format was six-a-side with each team having two rolling subs. The Californians made a few tweaks to the normal format, though the rules of play were those endorsed by the Camanachd Association, so in a sideways nod to ice hockey the match was divided into three 15-minute periods, rather than two halves.

Spectators included friends and former players, as well as dozens of families waiting for competitions at the swim meet being held at the pool adjacent to the shinty pitch. There was a festive atmosphere with colourful shade tents along the fence line, and as the match began you could see lawn chairs being turned to face the pitch.

The first period found the teams settling in and feeling each other out. The L2BH Lucky Sods produced more chances, but could not manage the finishing touch. The Decadians (so called because they were wearing the Decade shirt) only managed one real threat but made it count - a penetrating run from midfield by Max McKay Taylor which resulted in a rocket shot past the keeper's head, and the Decadians were one up at the first break.

In the second period the Lucky Sods reversed their fortunes, putting pressure on the orange goal and creating quality opportunities. Scores came from Jim Buatti, a dramatic off-balance shot, and Morgan Jones, who lacerated a ball in from an impossible angle. The Decadians could not manage an equalizer, but did put a couple of sizzling shots over the top of the bar and past the posts. A 2-1 score set up the dramatic final period.

The "third half" provided real fireworks with five goals scored between the two sides, and referee Michael Bentley fulfilled his weekly quota of running as the action raged

from end to end. The scoring opened with Decadian Seth Ford bouncing the ball off keeper Walt Worthge's stick after a harried drive into the D. Jim Buatti put the Sods back in front with his second goal of the match just before Max McKay Taylor equalized with his own second tally. The race for the finish line was on as time wound down, and when Bob Moynihan hit the back of the net from 15 yards out it looked like the Decadians would go home winners. But that was not to be as Colleen McAvoy flipped in the fifth goal of the period and sent the match to extra time.

The ten minutes of extra time also saw plenty of drama. The Lucky Sods struck first, putting relentless pressure on the orange goal and forcing keeper Elheran Francis, who had performed some third period heroics by racing out along the end line to snuff out a Sods attack, into an unlucky own goal. But within a few moments the Decadians had pulled even again, this time off of Seth Ford's second score. With a draw at the close of extra time, there was nothing left but penalty shots.

In a second California twist on the match structure, all seven players on each team were to take a penalty, instead of the usual five. This was partially to give everyone the experience of taking a penalty shot, but also to reward the players for coming out to support this special event. In the end few shots tested the keeper's ability, although the converted penalties for each side were well struck. At the end of seven rounds the Lucky Sods had pulled out a hard fought victory, winning on penalties 3 - 1.

At the end of the afternoon a great time was had by all and \$1000 was raised for Lucky2BHere. Is there a better way to spend a Sunday afternoon in Northern California? This correspondent, for one, thinks not!



Marine Harvest International

Seniors First test

A six-point defeat in the first international at the Bught, Park Inverness meant that Scotland travelled to Ireland still with a chance of overturning the deficit.

Late five-point goals from Kevin Bartlett of Caberfeidh and Neil MacDonald of Lochaber gives Drew McNeil's men confidence for the second leg in Ennis, County Clare. They were hoping Irish star Patrick Horgan of Cork would be less prolific on home soil with the Irish forward hitting a remarkable 22 points in Inverness, including a hat-trick of goals.

"Patrick Horgan was special," admitted national coach Drew McNeil afterwards. "This is only half time in the tie, though, and we still have a chance. We have to go out now and give it our best shot." Unlike recent years, Ireland's hurlers were quickest out of the blocks and Horgan began to exert authority immediately in front of a 2,000-strong crowd.



In the first two minutes, he had knocked a one-point strike over the uprights and outfoxed the Scottish defence to flip the ball over Stuart MacKintosh and into the net for a goal. Kevin Bartlett, a high scoring performer from 2011, kept the Scots in contention with a two point strike from the ground but Horgan hit another two single points before claiming goal number two.

Once again, he managed to find a channel behind the Scotland defence on the right touchline and performed a drop-hit into the net with his hurl. It was Bartlett who again kept Scotland in touch with two points and this was repeated by new cap Steven MacDonald of Newtonmore. Any hope of respite, though, was short lived and Horgan added two more single strikes before half-time. Dooley carved out another and the scoreline stood at 16-6 to Ireland at the break.

Scotland manager McNeil re-shaped his side at the interval and captain Norman Campbell was deployed in a more familiar central defensive role. The home defence looked more compact and Bartlett added to his impressive tally in 51 minutes with a two-point hit over the bar.

Dooley kept Ireland ticking over with a single point before Niall 'Rhino' MacPhee of Fort William got in on the act with a one point hit through the posts. Just as the home side may have made headway, Horgan was at it again. First he hit a single point which was followed by a point from team mate Neil McManus.

Then he took another point and a goal that may have knocked the spirit out of a lesser team. Nevertheless, Scotland stuck to the task and got their reward when Bartlett drilled a powerful shot into the net with minutes left to play. There was a collective sigh of relief when Neil MacDonald's launched effort managed to find its way into the net with virtually the final hit.

The series remained alive. All eyes now focussed on Ennis and the second Test.

Senior Shinty/Hurling International Series Decider

Ireland 8-11 (51pts) Scotland 4-3 (23pts)

Scotland's hopes of securing the 2012 Shinty/Hurling series trophy were extinguished at Cusack Park in Ennis as John Meyler's Irish hurlers offered a lesson in finishing. The Scots travelled to County Clare hopeful that they could overturn the 6 point deficit from leg one in Inverness and the 3-1 series lead held by the green and whites.

Despite a dream start, when Caberfeidh's Kevin Bartlett struck a point over the uprights in only 10 seconds, Scotland fell well short on a day where Ireland displayed their class. The 51-23 final scoreline and the 6-2 series conclusion left the Scots with many questions to ponder.

Nevertheless, manager Drew McNeil believes Scotland's Shinty clubs will ultimately benefit from what was, otherwise, a testing afternoon. He said:

"We had quite a few chances early in the game but the ball would not settle or we couldn't get a short swing and the Irish smothered us a bit. That is a very good Irish team, though. There was so much class and so much pace. We had to go for it because, when they got their goals early, you can't chip away with frees and single points, you must go for goals."

"I just hope the players go back to their clubs and take something from this. It shows what can happen if players work and train harder because that was a high standard of play. Ireland set a benchmark and it is good for our guys to learn, not just from good Shinty players, but also to take things from the game of hurling."

Bartlett was a stand-out in the Highland capital in leg one and he did his growing reputation little harm with another excellent display. His point over the bar early on may have set Scotland up to eat into Ireland's lead but things did not turn out that way.

Ireland's ability to run with the ball stuck to their hurls proved testing for Scotland's defenders. As a result, Ireland managed to net five 5-point goals in the first half through Patrick Maher, Shane Dooley (3 goals) and Brendan Murtagh.

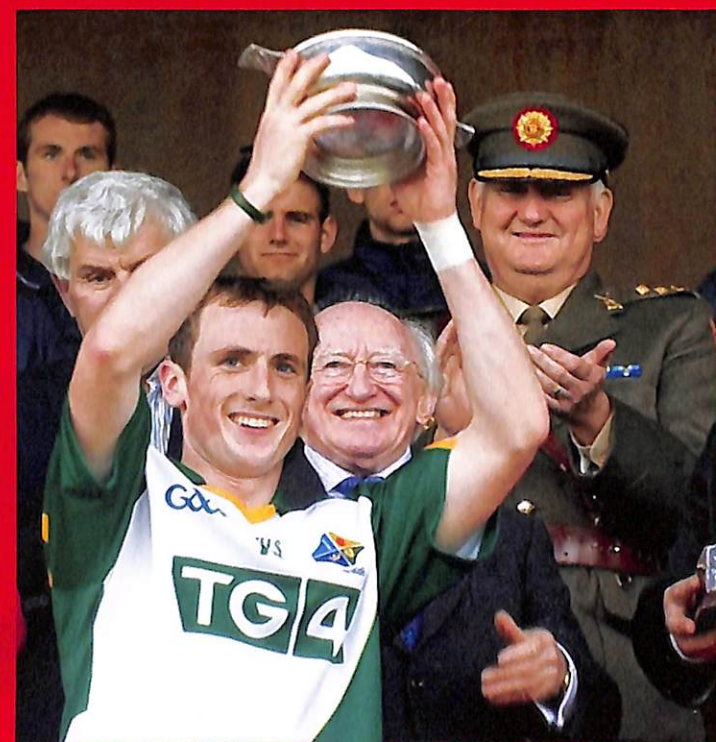
Dooley was identified by the Scots as chief danger man and he proved that on a prolific afternoon. Ireland also scored in the first half through strikes over the posts from Seamus Callanan of Tipperary (4 points) and Murtagh (2 points).

Scotland briefly rallied before half time. Bartlett, who saw his five point effort saved on the line, managed to hit a single point over the posts. Then Finlay MacRae of Kinlochshiel found a way to Ireland's net from a direct hit. At half-time it was 31-7 to Ireland and Scotland could have little complaint.

Like Inverness, the second half was better for the dark blues. Bartlett was again impressive, finding space on the left to flash two goals into the corner of the Irish rigging. Kinlochshiel's Keith MacRae also found the scoring touch with a point over the bar and an injury time goal.

But Ireland maintained their tempo. Second half goals came from Barry McFall, Murtagh and Callanan. Dooley's hitting was clinical and he took a further 3 points. Paudie Reilly (1) and Murtagh (1), completed their roll call of marksmen.

Scotland can only hope for better in 2013.



Under 21s

Ireland 3-8 (23pts) Scotland 2-9 (19pts)

A late Irish charge denied Ronald Ross a debut victory as Scotland U-21 Shinty boss last night as the Scots fell 23-19 to Ireland's hurlers in Gurteen, County Clare. The Kingussie legend looked to have master-minded a Scottish victory in his first international since succeeding Donnie Martin, with the dark blue youngsters leading until late into the second period.



However, Ireland rallied in the final ten minutes under the floodlights to deny the Scots a much needed win in this international U-21 challenge.

Nevertheless Ross will be satisfied the young Scots have

begun to bridge the gap which has existed between the two nations recently at this level. Prior to this fixture at the home of the St Josephs Doora Barefield club, the Scots had never experienced a tie played under lights. The only preparation they had was an evening knock-around at a flood-lit rugby club in Inverness. Despite this, they produced an excellent first half with a five-point goal from Lochaber's Ben Delaney and double-point strikes over the uprights from Lovat's Greg Matheson and Kinlochshiel's John MacRae.

Ireland were never far behind and Tony Kelly of Clare hit a five-point goal for the hosts.

After the first 40 minutes, the Scots were 9-8 to the good and things were looking rosy for Ross' men. Greg Matheson, who had a prolific campaign for the Premiership's surprise package, Lovat, proved his goals are not restricted to domestic games.

Following the turn-around, Matheson added a five-point goal, two double-point strikes and an individual conversion over the bar. Ultimately, it wasn't enough for Scotland. As the game wore on, the Irish found their rhythm and pressed the Scots back. Their game-changing late goal came from the hurley of Seavna Morris of Meath as they ran out 23-19 winners. Scotland gave an excellent account of themselves but just fell short.



Scotland Women Claim Victory in Ennis

Ireland 5-6 (21) Scotland 1-2 (5)

Goals from Jane Nicol (2), Laura Gallagher, Lorna MacRae and captain Katie Drain saw Scotland complete a comprehensive 5-6 (21) to 1-2 (5) victory over an all-Clare Ireland side in the Camogie/Shinty International.

The visitors led by 1-4 to 0-0 at the break and would push 21 ahead before Ireland would finally score in the dying minutes when two AnneMarie Fitzgerald frees were followed by a Teresa Roseingrave goal. Before the game the Scottish women were delighted to have the honour of meeting Irish President Michael D Higgins and Camogie President Aileen Lawlor.

The Scotland women showed strength and dominance from the very start as a dynamic and skilled forward line consistently caused problems for the Irish defence. Niamh Donnelly of Aberdour did an excellent job of carrying the ball up the left wing whilst the Irish back line could not contend with the skill and power of Badenoch & Strathspey top goal scorer, Jane Nicol. The Scottish midfield worked as a unit controlling the centre line and continuously feeding excellent balls through to the forwards and whilst the score might suggest that the Scottish defence were seldom challenged; they also supplied excellent passes right up the field and pushed forward to support the midfield.



The Scottish scoring was consistent and of a great standard, the forward line continuously bolstering the score with points both over the bar and goals finding the back of the net. Special mention to Niamh Donnelly and Lorna MacRae (of Skye) for recording points on their international debuts and to Captain Katie Drain for leading from the front with her own haul of points including a penalty.

Whilst Scotland claimed a comprehensive victory, their Irish opposition persistently challenged them during the match and showed frequent glimpses of their undoubtedly high level of skill which secured each player a place on the representative team. There is no doubt that given more experience of the combined rules game the Irish would have been even more dangerous, as reflected in their flurry of points in the closing stages of the game.

However on this occasion it was the Scotland women who claimed victory and following the final whistle and jubilant celebrations from the winning



team, supporters and coaching staff, Captain Katie Drain of Glasgow Mid Argyll was presented the Cup by Aileen Lawlor, President of the Camogie Association. Following the match Coaches Sarah Corrigan and Laura MacKay awarded their Player of the Match to Katy Smith of Aberdour for an excellent performance in midfield. The Squad subsequently travelled to Cusack Park to support the senior men and then attended an evening function where they were presented with their medals and treated to a wonderful meal and live music.

The Women's Camanachd Association would like to congratulate the Scotland Women's Team on their victory in Ennis and for doing a great job of representing their country on Irish soil. Special thanks to Sarah Corrigan and Laura MacKay for all of their efforts in preparing the girls for the match and guiding them to victory on the day. It was great to see James Gallacher & family make the trip to Ennis to support the team that his company JIG Groundworks has so generously sponsored this year and further thanks to all of the individual sponsors who funded each player on the team.

It was an honour for the Scotland Women's Team to be invited to play an Irish representative Camogie side on such an important day for Clare Camogie with the official opening of the Fr. Mc Namamra pitch in Ennis; a brilliant facility for the County. The Scottish women were made so very welcome in Ennis and are very grateful for the hospitality and kindness shown during their visit. We look forward to meeting everybody again in the future and returning the hospitality in Scotland.



Results Marine Harvest Shinty Hurling International

First test, Bught Park Inverness

Scotland 2-9 (19) - Ireland 3-10 Pts (25)

Kevin Bartlett 1 - 6

Neil MacDonald 1 - 0

Steven MacDonald 0 - 2

Neil MacPhee 0 - 1

Patrick Horgan 3 - 7

Tommy Walsh 0 - 1

Shane Dooley 0 - 1

Neil MacManus 0 - 1

Under 21 Shinty Hurling International

Ennis, County Clare

Ireland 3-8 (23pts) Scotland 2-9 (19pts) (Greg Matheson 1-6 Ben Delaney 1-0, John MacRae 0-2, James Dunn 0-1)

Womens Shinty Camogie Match

Clare 1-2 (5pts) Scotland 5-6 (21pts)

(Scotland scorers: Niamh Donnelly 0-1, Lorna MacRae 1-0, Jeanette MacGregor 0-2, Jane Nicol 2-1, Laura Gallagher 1-0, Katie Drain 1-2; Ireland - Teresa Roseingrave 1-0 and Anne Marie Fitzgerald 0-2)

Senior International Second Test

Ireland 8-11 (51pts)

Shane Dooley 3-3

Patrick Maher 1-0

Barry MacFall 1-1

Brendan Murtagh 2-3

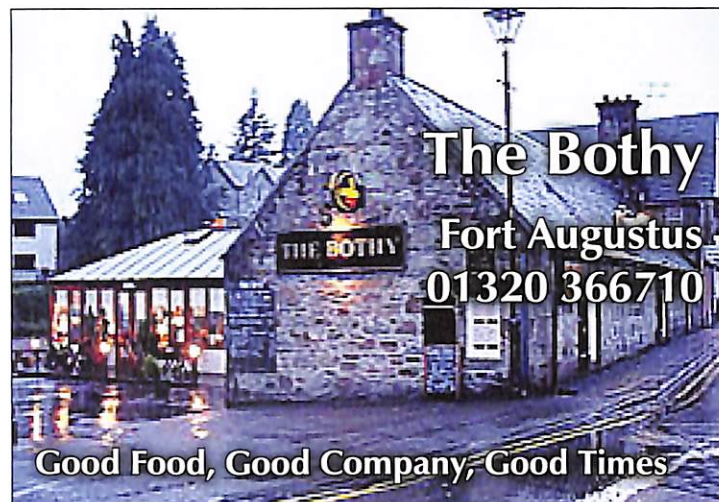
Seamus Callanan 1-4

Scotland 4-3 (23pts)

Kevin Bartlett 2-2

Keith MacRae 1-1

Finlay MacRae 1-0



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Obituaries

Once again the Shinty Yearbook marks the passing of a number of supporters and friends of the game whose loss is sorely felt throughout the shinty community. It has not always been possible to source tributes for everyone we would like to have included and for any obvious omissions, our sincere apologies. It is simply not possible to be aware of everyone who has passed away. The Yearbook would wish to hear from anyone involved with the game who would want to record tributes to worthy friends in future issues. I am grateful to everyone and to the newspapers and websites which recorded the passing of the friends we have lost.

Kenny “Nostie” MacLeod, Thurso

The funeral of Kenny “Nostie” MacLeod took place at Thurso Free Church on Friday 27th April, thereafter to Thurso Cemetery. Kenny passed away on Thursday 19th April after a long illness. Kenny was a former Kinlochshiel, Lochcarron and Aberdeen University player as well as being instrumental in the formation of Navar Shinty Club who competed in cup matches in recent years. Although his ministerial charge in Thurso was far from the shinty heartlands of the west and central Highlands, this did not hold him back from an active involvement in the sport. In 2006 he established Thurso Junior Shinty club in an effort to bring the game to the young people of Thurso and the surrounding area. In 2008 he was a co-founder of ‘Naver Athletic’, the first senior shinty team in Caithness and Sutherland since the Dounreay team of the 1960s. However, it was at the Mod Cup of 2010 where he experienced his greatest success in far north shinty when he captained the victorious Caithness team to victory over Sutherland. The memorial match held on Saturday 29th September was a re-run of the Mod Cup match between Caithness and Sutherland. [See page 13 for a memorial match organised to mark his passing]

Alex Mcleod MA, Maryburgh

Alex McLeod, who for his latter years had resided at Birch Drive, Maryburgh died peacefully at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, on September 29, 2012, aged 85 years. He was the distinguished former Head Teacher of Caol Primary School for 30 years, a dearly loved husband of 59 years of Mary, much loved dad of Callum and Graham, much loved grandpa of Liam, Lucy, Jason, Kirsty and Emma, son of the late Mr and Mrs John McLeod (Peterhead). With his roots on the East Coast, and something of a shinty sceptic when he arrived in Caol, in the heady days when Kilmallie were winning the Camanachd Cup, he was soon converted. Many fine shinty players and footballers passed through the school, Donald Park and Duncan Shearer to name two, not to mention a Shinty yearbook Editor who took Mr McLeod through his Gaelic O-grade after his retirement to Conon. A gifted linguist (German and Russian mainly with a dash of Latin thrown in) and an outstanding educationalist as well as a gentleman whose kindness knew no bounds, Alex McLeod and his supremely gifted fellow teachers Mrs Henderson, Mrs MacLeod, Miss Chalmers, Miss Sinclair and Mrs Cassells were in charge of a school which was at the heart of a rapidly changing community due to the arrival of the Pulp and Paper Mill. Their school was re-built, the old wooden edifice knocked down and a blaize pitch installed to graze everyone's knees. Mr McLeod's transformation into shinty coach allowed him to see two of his own sons go on to play the game with distinction and his grandson Liam is now BBC Scotland' football commentator. An academic of the old school, he might not have been all that enamoured to see his efforts produce sporting

distinction rather than written and arithmetic ability. However, he would have been proud nonetheless. A Memorial service was held on Thursday, October 4, in Ferintosh Parish Church, Conon Bridge. The funeral service on Tuesday, October 9, in The Baptist Church, King Street, Peterhead, thereafter to the Grange Cemetery.

Roddie MacLeod, Caberfeidh

Roddie MacLeod, the Chieftain of Caberfeidh Shinty Club passed away on Tuesday 21st Feb at Redwoods Care Home, Alness, at the age of 89 years. His funeral service will be held in the Free Church of Scotland, Strathpeffer at 11am on Monday 27th February with interment thereafter at Fodderty Cemetery. Roddie played his first game for Caberfeidh Shinty Club's 1st Team in 1939 and played his last game, in goals, in the early 1970s. He served for 19 years as Secretary of the Club during the 1950s and 1960s and was President of the Club from 1974 to 1980. He was appointed Chieftain of the Club in 1996. Roddie was also Secretary of the Ross-shire Camanachd Association from 1951 to 1997, a remarkable period of 46 years, and thereafter was appointed Honorary President. He was also a patron of the Camanachd Association.

Jack Martin, Bute

Jack Martin's funeral took place on Tuesday 24th April at the United Church, Rothesay, thereafter to Kingarth Cemetery.

Jimmy Johansen, Lovat (and Newtonmore)

Inside the man that most folk knew growling and shouting at the side of shinty pitches, Jimmy the most amazing, generous, kind, loving, stubborn, wonderful man.... Devoted to his own three children, he also became stepfather to me, my brother and sister, and loving husband to my mother, Sandra. With Jimmy, what you saw, was very much what you got. When I first met him, he was dedicated to Lovat Shinty Club, a former player he was now the tightest Club Bearer known to man, not a Caman would be handed out unless he had kindlers with grip and bends in, handed back in return. Never shy of telling anyone his opinion of their playing ability or reffing ability, shinty was probably the only thing I and Jimmy locked horns over, and I am sure many others could say the same thing. He loved his shinty, though there were times you would be forgiven for thinking otherwise, but he loved sitting and chewing over the old days with others of his generation. In the last few years, though he had been ill, he tried to carry on life as

normal, despite needing Oxygen and occasionally a concoction of medicines that would knock out a horse, by now, Jimmy followed Newtonmore Camanachd Club. As a bus driver, he took the teams or their supporters to many of their recent triumphs. He loved his Saturdays away with the boys, and since he has passed I have heard many stories which just sum up his brash intolerant hilarious ways, in one case, let's just say, only a fool would try and get between Jimmy's bus and his mission of getting the lads back to the Balavil with Silverware. On 22nd September, Jimmy did his last trip driving Newtonmore first team to Drum, Norman MacArthur had asked him personally, as he knew it was his last trip and wanted Jimmy on the bus. That would be the day the lads would pick up the Premier League Trophy. While chatting to him before the game, he told me how as usual when he got to the Balavil that morning he had got his full Scottish Breakfast, and as I was leaving he told me how proud he was to be driving the bus that was carrying the lads back to 'more that evening. To be honest, I don't think he could have had a finer send off from shinty, and for that, Mum, myself and the rest of the family thank Newtonmore. Jimmy passed away on 20th October in Raigmore Hospital; to the end he fought the emphysema that had blighted his life for almost a decade. In fact a couple of days before he died, he had told Corrine Clark (sister of Michael), that just for her dedicated care of him as his respiratory Nurse, he would support Kingussie one day, and all who knew him, will know that speaks volumes for the care he received from Corrine, though in saying that, he also told Brick he would have at least one more season at The Eilan. So what else is left to say, except, Thanks Jimmy & sleep well Dad. For all that you were, Husband, Father, Step-father, Grandfather, RAF serviceman, Lorry Driver, Bus Driver, Sugar Plum Fairy, Shinty supporter, referee, player, grumpy old git, character extraordinaire, Lovat fan, Newtonmore fan, you're going to be missed far and wide and by many, not least for the player critiques, and it's safe to say, that at the Lovat Cup this coming New Year, there will be a great big silent gap on the Lovat side-line, that will never be filled. Tina

Belle Ross, Kingussie and Newtonmore

The whole of the shinty community was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Belle Ross, wife of Ian Ross and mother of Ronald and Ian. Belle, daughter of Minto Sellar, was born and brought up in Newtonmore but lived most of her married life in Kingussie. A most hospitable and welcoming friend to everyone who visited the family home, Belle was a significant part of a family which has made an awesome mark on the modern era of shinty. No doubt the combination of Newtonmore, Sellar and Ross genes is responsible for the lasting legacy which has seen the Ross name light up the fields of the north for the best part of 50 years, one way or another. It was a sad irony that in the days after Belle died, there was to be a meeting of Kingussie and Newtonmore at the Dell to contest a cup final. While the background was to be hugely controversial there was a tremendous sense of symbolism about the match and the way here passing was marked before the game. It was to the family's great credit that Ronald and Ian and their father Iain attended, as she would have wished. A large attendance at the funeral, which took place on Tuesday 31st July at Kingussie Parish Church thereafter to the Banchor Cemetery, Newtonmore, was testimony to the affection with which Belle was held by all. Our deepest sympathy is extended to her family and friends.

Diane Mhoireasdan, Diane Morrison, Leòdhas

Bu mhath le gach duine ceangailte ri Camanachd Leòdhais a chur an cèill cho duilich sa a tha sinn as dèidh cluinntinn mu dheidhinn bàs Diane Mhoireasdain aig aois 25. Bhiodh Diane tric aig cliathaich na pàirce ann an Siabost a' cur taic ris an sgioba agus bha sinn taingeil airson an taic sin. Bidh i ga h-ionndrainn gu mòr agus tha ar smuaintean agus ar n-ùrnaighean leis an teaghlach Mhoireasdanach aig an àm dhuilich seo. All connected with Camanachd Leòdhais would like to express our profound sadness at hearing of the untimely death of Diane Morrison at the age of 25. Diane was a regular fixture at home games supporting the team and we were always grateful for her support. She will be greatly missed and our thoughts and prayers are with the Morrison family at this difficult time. 'Gus am bris an là agus an teich na sgailean'

Ian “Parrot” MacMillan, Oban

Ian “Parrott” MacMillan, died suddenly on Wednesday 5th September. Ian played shinty for Oban Lorn before joining Oban Camanachd with whom he had a long association in many roles. He served as a committee member, he was also manager of Lochside Rovers when they won the Sutherland Cup in 1997 before taking over as manager of Oban Camanachd.

Ian was a regular attendee at matches in Oban and would often be heard passing on his advice to the officials. The funeral took place at Oban Parish Church, Soroba Road on Tuesday 11th September, thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery

Malcolm “Caley” MacLean, Glen Bernisdale & Glasgow

Everyone at Skye Camanachd and in the wider shinty community of the big city of Glasgow was saddened to hear of the passing of Malcolm MacLean. Malcolm MacLean, or “Cally Làban” as he was known, came from Glen Bernisdale before moving to Glasgow. He was a member of the famous Skye Camanachd team which won the 1950 Sutherland Cup when they beat Newtonmore 5-4 in Beauly on 1 April 1950 to lift the junior trophy for the first time. He played in the team along-side his brother Alasdair and current Skye Camanachd President Billy MacKinnon. Like many Skye men of his age, Malcolm moved to Glasgow a year later to pursue his career but shinty continued to be an important part of his life and he went on to play for both Glasgow Skye and Glasgow Inverness. He was present at An Aird, Fort William on 2 June 1990 to watch his son Andy MacLean play wing centre as Skye Camanachd beat Newtonmore 4-1 to win the Camanachd Cup. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Andy and the rest of the family. Malcolm MacLean's funeral service was held in the Beauly Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland, Balblair on Thursday 30 August 2012 and thereafter to Wardlaw Cemetery, Kirkhill.

Hector MacRae, Inverlochry, Fort William

The funeral of Hector MacRae took place at Duncansburgh MacIntosh Parish Church on Thursday 20th September, thereafter to Kilmallie Cemetery. Hector passed away on Saturday 15th Septembe,r after a long illness. Heckie was a former Fort William player as well as past President of the club. For many years he coached Inverlochry Primary School with over half the Fort William team which won the Camanachd Cup in Glasgow in 1992 having been introduced to shinty by Heckie and Bruce Tulloch at Inverlochry Primary School.

Allistair (Ally) Turner, Kyles Athletic

Former Kyles Athletic player, Allistair (Ally) Turner, passed away on Tuesday 4th December following a long illness. Arguably Ally's finest moment came when, as a teenager, he played in the 1956 Camanachd Cup final as a teenager in a team of Kyles legends, and some of the greatest players in the club's history. Ally, who played for Kyles Athletic in the 1950s and 1960s, was the oldest of six brothers, one of whom is Jock, the current Chief of the Camanachd Association. Ally, a joiner, was one of the last in Tighnabruaich to be called up for National Service. He is survived by his wife Jean and daughter Alison and his grandchildren. The funeral will take place in London, where he had lived for much of his life, on Friday 14th December. Our thoughts are with his family at this time.

Alistair Turner (Tumshie), Kyles and Glasgow

It is with much regret that we record the passing of Alistair Turner, known affectionately to his many friends as “Tumshie”. A very talented shinty player, he was rightly proud of his roots in the Kyles of Bute and the achievements of Kyles Athletic, his first club. He was a member of Glasgow Mid Argyll for over 50 years and his loyalty to and support for the club remained throughout that time. Alistair was particularly pleased to be asked to present the Glasgow Celtic Society Cup last year to Kyles Athletic on the 50th anniversary of he himself receiving the cup as winning captain of G.M.A. He will be remembered as a gentleman by all who knew him, but most of all as a good and kindly family man. A minute's silence was held to mark Alistair's passing at the Camanachd Cup Semi Final between Kyles and Newtonmore at Mossfield Park. A church service was held on Wed 15th Aug at 10.30am at Westerton Fairlie Memorial Parish Church, Bearsden. The funeral service was held on Thurs 16th Aug at Kyles Parish Church, Kames, and thereafter to the Tighnabruaich Cemetery, Millhouse.

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Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup – Final

Glenurquhart 0 Kingussie 2

Kingussie won the 2012 Aberdein Sutherland Cup Final with a 2-0 victory over Glenurquhart at Braeview Park. That is what the record books and the engraving will show. But it's not even half the story.

This was the rescheduled final after Newtonmore had the cup taken from them for fielding an ineligible player in both the semi-final against Glenurquhart and the televised final against Kingussie. Those Glen and Kingussie players who had amassed five first team appearances since the semi-final stage were allowed to play. Glenurquhart's Ewan Menzies and Kingussie's Hamish Anderson benefited from this decision. However Kingussie's Rory Fraser will feel hard done by. He was eligible to play in the original final but was not allowed to take part in the second game because of suspension.

This was a physical encounter and the Glen created a couple of early openings and Kingussie had keeper Russell Menzies to thank that the game remained goalless. Kingussie were given a great chance to go in front when referee Graham MacMillan awarded them a penalty on 17 minutes. Young wing forward Savio Genini stepped up to beat Glen keeper Cameron MacLennan from the spot to put Kingussie 1-0 ahead. Veteran Michael Clark added a second just 3 minutes later to put the Kings 2-0 up and they took this lead into the break.



Kingussie's Rory MacGregor had the chance to make it 3-0 when Savio Genini played him in but he was unable to get a shot on target. Glenurquhart's cause wasn't helped when they had Calum Smith red-carded. Smith clashed with Greg MacRae in the middle of the park and the Glen midfielder's reaction left referee MacMillan no alternative but to give him his marching orders.

In the end, Kingussie's two goal advantage was for enough for Michael Falconer's side to retain the trophy they won under Norman Dickson's stewardship in Aberdeen last year.

Kingussie were well served by their more experienced players Michael Clark, John Gibson and Greg MacRae who guided the young boys along. Kingussie captain Greg MacRae was presented with the Sutherland Cup by Camanachd Association President Archie Robertson and he also received the presentation caman. Referee Graham MacMillan was assisted by goal judges Willie MacRae and Russell Ross and fourth official Daniel MacRae.

Newtonmore had admitted that they had made an honest mistake by fielding and illegal player in their semi-final against Glenurquhart and again against Kingussie in the 'final'. No one disputed that an honest mistake was made and it seemed to take an eternity for the authorities to make a ruling.

What is most unfortunate of all is that the original match for the trophy at the Dell in front of the TV cameras was a great advert for the Sutherland Cup. Unfortunately, it will be remembered for all the wrong reasons which are an unfortunate tragedy for the Newtonmore management team who had put everything into their championship match.



Aberdour & Lochaber Are Winners On Women's Cup Final Day

By Colin Cameron - The Dunoon Observer and Argyllshire Standard.

Aberdour and Lochaber were the winners following an exciting day's shinty action on Women's Cup Final Day at Strachur on Saturday 8 September 2012. The event, hosted by Cowal and Bute Ladies, started with some well-attended junior shinty sessions. Then came the main events

Marine Harvest Challenge Cup Final Strathglass 4 Lochaber 5

A late goal from Rebecca Stafford gave Lochaber the Marine Harvest Challenge Cup as they edged out Strathglass by the odd goal in nine. The sides were level at four goals apiece after a fairly even first half. Hazel Hunter grabbed a hat-trick whilst Laura Fraser got the other for Strathglass. A Kirsty MacDonald brace and strikes from Kathleen Cameron and Laura MacIntyre countered for Lochaber.

However, Lochaber dominated the second half but they found it difficult to get past an excellent Strathglass back line.

The winner came late in the game and it was Lochaber's Rebecca Stafford, playing in only her second shinty match, who struck the fatal blow to take the trophy to Spean Bridge.

Lochaber's Missy Cameron was named player of the match.

Valerie Fraser Cup Final Glengarry 3 Aberdour 4

Glengarry were pre-match favourites to continue their three-year winning streak however Aberdour were equally determined to avenge their 4-0 loss in the 2011 competition. This led to a hugely exciting match as a sizeable crowd gathered at the new Strachurmore sports facilities.

Underdogs Aberdour started well, putting the Glengarry defence under constant pressure from corners and free-hits.

The Fife team's Niamh Donnelly opened the scoring on 15 minutes with a powerful shot that gave the keeper no chance to save.

Glengarry fought back to level the game before the end of the first half after a well-taken shy was picked up by Laura Gallagher and bundled into the goal along with herself, the Aberdour keeper and fullback.

With it all square at half-time, Aberdour were quick to take a second half lead when Bernie Elliott-Bowman rounded her player and slipped the ball past the 'Garry keeper.

Minutes later, Niamh Donnelly extended the lead to 3-1 with a well-placed ball into the bottom corner of the goal.

Aberdour were gaining momentum at this point and it looked like they could have run away with it.

However Glengarry didn't give up easily, and managed to pull a goal back thanks to a superbly taken shot by Annie Butterworth.

With the clock in the first minute of injury time, it looked like the cup was heading eastward to Fife. However a break from Glengarry and another snapshot from Annie Butterworth levelled the game and sent the yellow and green supporters through the roof.

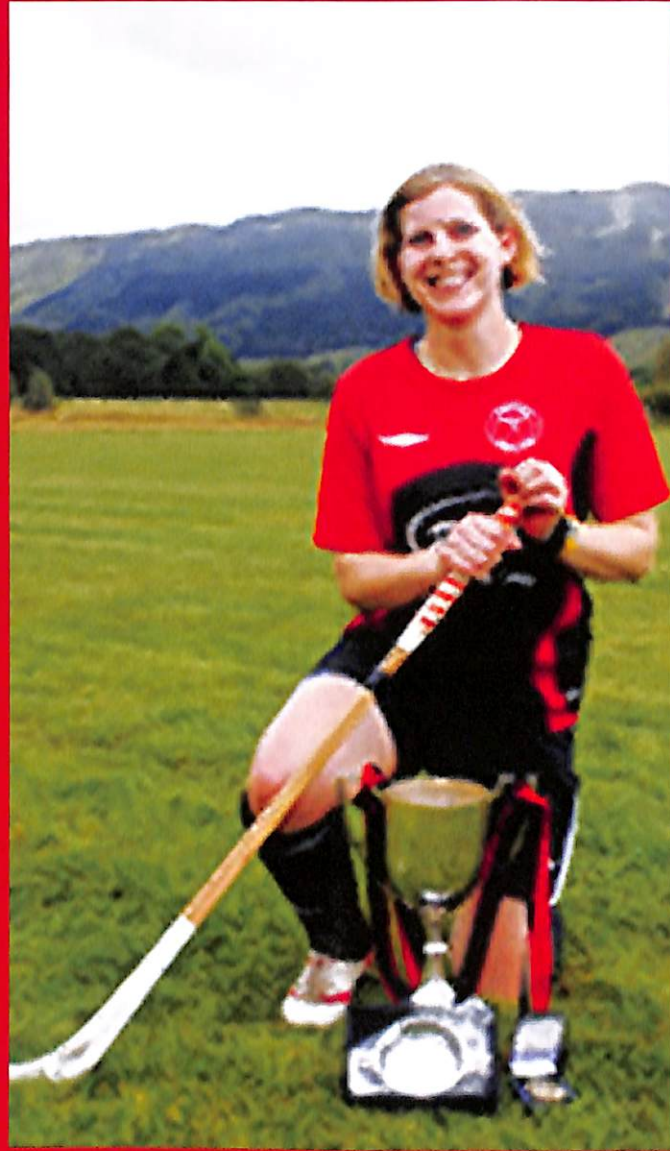
With the threat of extra time looming both teams knew they had to make every move count. Referee Dunkie Kerr restarted the game and Niamh Donnelly won the ball from the restart and played it up-field to Katy Smith. Smith outpaced her marker to knock the ball forward to Katie Booth. Booth kept her composure and sealed a famous victory with a superb strike to take the trophy home to Aberdour for the first time.

Aberdour's Jenny Durkin proudly received the winning captain's black caman and lifted the Valerie Fraser Cup in front of an ecstatic crowd of travelling supporters.

There was double joy as Aberdour's Katy Smith was selected as player of the match after an impressive midfield performance.

Glengarry were presented with the Marine Harvest National Division 1 trophy and medals to finish their season.

Glengarry's Laura Gallagher was also presented with the Shield for National Division 1 Player of the Year 2011.



Blue ribband day for Kilmallie

IT WAS a real blue ribbon day in Caol on a very fine Saturday in October as Kilmallie Shinty Club celebrated the official opening of its new clubhouse at Canal Parks.

And pride of place went to the Kilmallie side who brought home the Camanachd Cup for the first and only time in the club's history, in 1964.

In bright autumn sunshine, John MacIsaac, Dougie MacLachlan, Derek Fraser, Alastair MacIntyre, Hughie MacIntyre, Frank Sweeney and John Murphy cut the ribbon with special Kilmallie-blue scissors, to loud acclaim.



Leodhas 0 Baile Ùr an t-Sleibh 7

Latha mòr gaothach aig Siabost ach bha e grianach bho àm gu h-àm is bha deagh chluiche ri fhaicinn. Feumaidh tu cuimhneachadh gun robh sinn an aghaidh fìor dheagh sgioba 's iad làn de dh'èolas air cupannan a bhuannachadh. Mìle taing dhan Bhaile Ùr airson tighinn a-nall. Chì sinn a-rithist sibh.

Good day for shinty in Lewis, better for Mr Callum Stewart who nabbed a double hat-trick as Newtonmore beat na Leòdhasaich 7-0. His brother Neil got the final goal of the afternoon.

Apart from the goals, and the struggle against the constant strong wind in the first half in particular, we showed up well and hopefully we can take many of the positives in terms of hitting, tackling and general attitude forward into the new season then we can make some good progress this year.

Thanks to the Gob for reffing and thanks to all who helped contribute to a great day, especially those who bought a raffle ticket and also Scramble, Balla and Tonkin for the coaching at the Primary School.

http://www.flickr.com/photos/coinneach_murray/sets/72157629372762389/



Newtonmore ease out Lochaber to lift Co-operative MacTavish Cup

Newtonmore picked up the MacTavish Cup after a comfortable 5-1 win over Lochaber at Bught Park in Inverness, clinching the trophy for a remarkable 39th time.

This was Lochaber's first appearance in a major final since they were established over 50 years ago, so they had a great support travel up with them from Spean Bridge to Bught Park, Inverness, as did their opponents, Newtonmore.

Unfortunately for the debutantes, the Badenoch giants got off to a dream start with Glen MacKintosh scoring in the 1st minute of play. Chris Sellar followed up with another for Newtonmore in the 14th minute, but Lochaber managed to hold off any further attack until the break.

Newtonmore started the second half as they had in the first and scored with a second strike from Chris Sellar. Lochaber pulled one back in the 60th minute through Shaun Nicolson before Newtonmore Captain, John MacKenzie (pictured), made it 4-1 ten minutes later. Newtonmore's Danny MacRae who had returned from injury, completed the scoring with a fifth strike just before full time.

John MacKenzie was then presented with the trophy by Co-operative Board Member, Stuart Ramsay, in front of around 1,200 fans.

Newtonmore's win meant they held three of shinty's major prizes, having won the Premiership and Camanachd Cup the previous season.



League Tables 2012

Orion Group Premiership		Pld	W	T	L	GF	GA	Pts
1	Newtonmore	18	14	2	2	54	22	30
2	Kyles Athletic	18	12	3	3	48	31	27
3	Lovat	18	9	4	5	39	29	22
4	Fort William	18	8	3	7	36	34	19
5	Inveraray	18	8	2	8	37	34	18
6	Glenurquhart	18	8	2	8	32	39	18
7	Kingussie	18	7	3	8	40	39	17
8	Kinlochshiel	18	6	4	8	43	42	16
9	Kilmallie	18	3	2	13	28	49	8
10	Bute	18	0	5	13	11	49	5

Marine Harvest North Division 1		Pld	W	T	L	GF	GA	Pts
1	Lochaber	18	16	2	0	87	16	34
2	Skye	18	12	3	3	44	24	27
3	Caberfeidh	18	8	3	7	51	39	19
4	Beauly	18	9	1	8	40	40	19
5	Inverness	18	5	2	11	29	57	12
6	Lochcarron	18	4	3	11	24	50	11
7	Strathglass	18	1	2	15	23	72	4

Marine Harvest North Division 2		Pld	W	T	L	GF	GA	Pts
1	Newtonmore	18	14	1	3	76	20	29
2	Kinlochshiel	18	9	5	4	36	40	23
3	Skye	18	10	2	6	42	32	22
4	Glenurquhart	18	8	4	6	37	33	20
5	Fort William	18	8	0	10	33	36	16
5	Kingussie	18	5	6	7	42	45	16
7	Lovat	18	7	1	10	37	47	15
8	Glengarry	18	7	1	10	31	42	15
9	Aberdeen Uni	18	6	3	9	37	39	13
10	Lochaber	18	3	3	12	39	76	9

Aberdeen University were docked two points for failing to fulfil a fixture against Glenurquhart on Saturday 22nd September.

Marine Harvest North Division 3		Pld	W	T	L	GF	GA	Pts
1	Beauly	18	15	2	1	102	21	32
2	Boleskine	18	12	3	3	73	40	27
3	Lochbroom	18	12	2	4	57	29	26
4	Kilmallie	18	10	3	5	73	41	23
5	Lochcarron	18	9	1	8	46	46	19
6	Caberfeidh	18	9	0	9	51	47	18
7	Strathspey	18	5	2	11	39	71	12
8	Lewis Camanachd	18	3	2	13	26	69	8
9	Strathglass	18	3	2	13	27	79	8
10	Inverness	18	3	1	14	20	71	7

Marine Harvest South Division 1		Pld	W	T	L	GF	GA	Pts
1	Oban Camanachd	14	13	1	0	66	11	27
2	Glasgow Mid Argyll	14	10	0	4	40	17	20
3	Glenorchy	14	10	0	4	31	18	20
4	Taynuilt	14	4	5	5	28	33	13
5	Oban Celtic	14	5	1	8	26	38	11
6	Strachur	14	3	3	8	19	30	9
7	Kilmory	14	3	2	9	23	43	8
8	Aberdour	14	2	0	12	11	54	4

Marine Harvest South Division 2		Pld	W	T	L	GF	GA	Pts
1	Lochside Rovers	18	17	0	1	98	27	34
2	Kyles Athletic	18	13	0	5	75	29	26
3	Ballachulish	18	9	4	5	39	30	22
4	Tayforth	18	9	1	8	49	48	19
5	Col Glen	18	7	3	8	41	52	17
6	Bute	18	7	2	9	47	47	16
7	Inveraray	18	6	3	9	46	52	15
8	Aberdour	18	5	2	11	35	64	12
9	Ardnamurchan	18	5	1	12	44	49	11
10	Glasgow Mid Argyll	18	4	0	14	19	95	8



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