



shinty

yearbook | review of 2014



SHINTY

MORE THAN A GAME!

shinty.



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The 2014 review of the shinty year takes on a new look and has been produced by the Camanachd Association in partnership with Scottish Provincial Press. The publication is available free to Camanachd Association members and available to purchase by non-members. The publication aims to provide a review of the 2014 shinty season and an insight into the administration and development of the sport. There are details of what has been done by the various officers working on behalf of the Association

and some of the collaborative projects with which we have been involved. Once again, shinty has delivered a dramatic season with top class competition across the board. 2014 has marked another significant year in our progress and development as a relatively new organisation meeting some of the challenges which face all sports and also some which are, unique to ourselves.

Co-ordination of the content of this year's review has been managed by Dr Hugh Dan MacLennan.

Shinty2015

My expectation for shinty during 2015 is that we will actively progress the new three year Strategic Plan on behalf of the shinty community. It was encouraging that, during the consultation process, a desire was expressed by our members for more league fixtures because the leagues are the bedrock of participation and the means by which young players progress and develop a lifelong commitment to the game.

My hope is that we do much more talking during 2015 about games that were played and enjoyed as opposed to games that were not played for whatever reason. The key to completing a now challenging fixture schedule lies squarely with participating clubs in a spirit of mutual cooperation.

My aspirations echo the vision expressed in the Strategic Plan namely that shinty becomes recognised as Scotland's most iconic team sport and that we consistently display skill, sportsmanship and respect at all levels of the game.

Jim Barr, CA President

Jim Barr was officially elected Camanachd Association President at the Camanachd Association AGM in the West End Hotel, Fort William on Friday 28 November 2014. Jim takes over from outgoing President Archie Robertson who was almost four years at the helm.

In recognition and thanks for his years of service, Archie received a silver-mounted black caman from Association Chieftain Jock Turner, presented on behalf of the Camanachd Association members and wider shinty community. (Right)

Charles Young and Ted MacDonald were re-elected as Directors at the AGM, whilst Keith Loades was also elected in his role as a Director, having been co-opted earlier in the year.



REFLECTIONS OF THE PAST PRESIDENT

The honour of being President has been enjoyable, albeit with challenges. I have been fortunate to preside over a period of relative calm, perhaps with a couple of blips, but am indebted to fellow Directors, Chief Operating Officer Torquil MacLeod, his staff, and the shinty community for their support.

My term has seen numerous highlights and some great events. I will mention just three of many things that gave me satisfaction. On a personal level, as an old Lovat man, I enjoyed their re-emergence as a team capable of lifting trophies, but only time will tell if they can seize the opportunity to again lift the ultimate prize. The continuing and rapid development of women's shinty is a major plus for our game with many of the sceptics now recognising the skills on display. Any time spent at a youth tournament, especially indoor and often in non-traditional areas, leaves you in no doubt as to the enthusiasm and support of parents who see value in their children playing shinty.

Any disappointments? Yes, I regret that we have seen no progress towards an all-weather facility that can accommodate a senior shinty match. While grass will always remain the preferred surface, I am sure there is a place and a need for one or two such facilities. As we expect a higher standard of playing surface in an increasingly erratic climate, an all-weather facility could be the difference between leagues being completed on schedule or not. Such a facility, with floodlights, in one of our high rainfall areas, probably within a larger community development, would be transformational for our game.

The enjoyment from playing shinty cannot be bettered in sport. We have much to be proud of with our community based amateur sport supported by an army of committed volunteers, but as society changes and more pressure is put on resources, not least time, shinty will require to adapt. This is already happening and I am in no doubt that shinty will take the correct steps to ensure a successful future.

Archie Robertson

2014 - Another good year for shinty

FINANCE

The Camanachd Association's 2013 Annual Accounts reported turnover of £574,999 and a surplus of £12,625. Last year's Annual Report stated that the financial target for the 2013 Annual Accounts was to achieve turnover to £585,000 whilst maintaining the nominated reserves and deliver a surplus of £10,000. The Association is pleased to have achieved its financial targets and continued the recent high levels of expenditure on the promotion and development of shinty.

Total expenditure for 2013 was £561,460, an increase of £25,023 on the previous year. It was anticipated that expenditure on Development would increase significantly in 2013, reaching circa £68,000, however, activity planned for late 2013 was subsequently rescheduled to early 2014 and the associated income/expenditure therefore carried forward into the 2014 financial year and Accounts.

The Camanachd Association's nominated company reserves figure has been increased to £80,000 in 2013, which still leaves the Association with surplus funds of £18,522 available to be utilised.

COMPETITIONS

Following reorganisation of the senior competition structure, the 2014 season saw the re-introduction of the Marine Harvest National Division and a reduction in the number of teams in the Premiership to eight. All other leagues also comprised of eight teams apart from Marine Harvest North Division 3 which only had six teams. Plate competitions were introduced in the area Cup competitions for teams knocked out of the Cup in the first round.

In total there were 615 scheduled adult fixtures in 2014, a slight reduction on 621 in 2013. Of these, 31 fixtures were unfulfilled due to team raising difficulties, an increase from 23 in 2013. 78 fixtures were postponed, of which 56 were due to unplayable fields and 17 for bereavement. This compared with 42 postponements in 2013. The final league fixture of the season was played on Saturday 8th November.

There are separate reports on a number of our main finals later in these pages. The winners of our other finals are very worthy of congratulation. Kyles Athletic won the Bullough Cup Final defeating Inveraray by six goals to three in an exciting encounter played at Strachurmore. The Strathdearn Cup was won by Newtonmore at Spean Bridge. In the Bullough Plate competition Glenorchy defeated Aberdour at The Winterton. Beaulieu defeated Lovat in the Strathdearn Plate Final at Castle Leod.



The draw for Round 1 of the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup was made in Glasgow on the eve of a performance of "Shinty's Heroes" at Celtic Connections. The draw was made by musician Phil Cunningham and Celtic Connections' Director Donald Shaw of Tainuilt, along with CA President Archie Robertson.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

2014 has been another challenging but successful year for youth shinty that has seen positive progress across many aspects of the game. We have introduced new programmes across the country that have delivered increased participation opportunities for youngsters in the club and school environment, and are pleased to see the continued increase in Camanachd Association youth membership, up from 1265 in 2013 to over 1300 in 2014.

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

SPONSORSHIP & GRANT FUNDING

sportscotland is the single largest funder of the Camanachd Association, providing a total grant of £154,500 in 2014, a slight increase on the previous year. This funding contributes directly to staff costs and provides additional resource for agreed Development and Coaching activity. We are grateful for sportscotland's continued support of shinty and look forward to developing the relationship further under the new Strategic Plan 2015-2017.

SSE Scottish Hydro and Marine Harvest (Scotland) remain the Association's principal commercial sponsors, investing over £100,000 in 2014. The sport has benefitted enormously from the support of these two partners over many years and the Association works hard to ensure they receive the required return on their investment.

The Camanachd Association was delighted to welcome RBS on board as title sponsor of the 2014 MacTavish Cup competition and the community Shintyforce initiative. The RBS Shintyforce initiative was launched early in 2014 to provide additional financial and volunteer support for community shinty clubs across Scotland. Nearly half the registered clubs benefitted from this additional investment and we hope to see the initiative develop further in 2015.



The Quarter-final draw for shinty's most sought after prize, The Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup, was made on 2nd June at Commonwealth House, Glasgow by Camanachd Association President, Archie Robertson, and David Grevemberg (left), Chief Executive of Glasgow 2014.

The Camanachd Association was also delighted to announce a new two-year partnership with Gilmour Sports, one of the UK's leading field hockey retailers. Representing an investment in excess of £20,000, the relationship sees Gilmour Sports appointed as Official Kit Supplier to the Camanachd Association, providing clothing and equipment to four National Shinty Squads and CA Development staff, plus a number of youth events and initiatives.

The Orion Group extended their successful sponsorship of the shinty's Premiership at the end of 2013 to include the 2014 playing season. The current agreement is now complete and we take this opportunity to thank Orion Group for their support of shinty over the last three years.

Aberdeen Considine extended their longstanding sponsorship for the Sutherland Cup competition for a further year and we are grateful for their continued support. This year's Final was held at The Eilan in Newtonmore between Kyles Athletic and Fort William, with Kyles lifting the trophy on the day. The match was broadcast live by BBC Alba.

A number of businesses invested in smaller sponsorships throughout the year including Highland Industrial Supplies (HIS), Ferguson Transport & Shipping, Macrae & Dick, Loch Ness Gifts, The Gellions and Highland Office Equipment, all of whom play an important role in the continued development of our game. The Association is also very grateful to the individual player sponsors who helped fund this year's Shinty/Hurling and Camogie Internationals.

In addition to funding from sportscotland, the Camanachd Association received over £70,000 grant aid in 2014 from a wide range of organisations, these include: Inverness Common Good Fund, Highland and Argyll & Bute Councils, EventScotland, Colmcille, Scottish Disability Sport and the Food Standards Agency.

MEDIA

As in 2013, shinty benefitted from nine televised matches this year. BBC Scotland broadcast three matches: Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final, Artemis Macaulay Cup Final and the Marine Harvest Shinty/Hurling International. The Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final also received live commentary on Radio Scotland and Radio nan Gàidheal, and was live online via the BBC Scotland website. BBC Alba also maintained their coverage of shinty by televising six games, including a delayed transmission of the 2nd Test in the Shinty/Hurling International from Newry. This is further enhanced by weekly coverage for shinty on Radio Scotland and Radio nan Gàidheal throughout the season, plus coverage on a number of important local radio stations, e.g. Cuillin FM, Oban FM and Moray Firth Radio.

In addition to broadcast coverage, national and local printed media reporting also provides a vital platform for shinty. We gratefully acknowledge the effort and support of all journalists, photographers and editors who provide shinty coverage within their publications.

Norman Strachan and his team continued to film a number of shinty matches throughout the year for the Association's YouTube channel, which has now received over 277,000 views, an increase from 200,000 in 2013. The shinty community is extremely grateful to Norman and his team.

ONLINE

The Camanachd Association's website (www.shinty.com) provides the principal communication tool for the Association, reaching thousands of members and supporters, providing them with direct access to a wide range of relevant information and resources. The associated mobile site enhances the core website by providing an increasing number of users with fast, simple access to results, fixtures, league tables and news stories in a format compatible with mobile/handheld devices, e.g. smartphones. The total number of visits to the website and mobile site in 2014 was well in excess of 300,000.

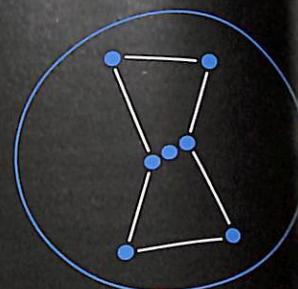
The Association's official social network channels also provide an important communication platform, reaching over 4,600 Facebook and 3,000 Twitter followers. All of our online channels are available internationally and are regularly accessed from countries across the world, including: USA, Canada, Australia and France.



The draw for the second round of The Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup was made by Association President Archie Robertson and former Scotland internationalist and Glenorchy player Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow OBE, now CEO of the charity Mary's Meals which he founded.



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SHINTY plans for the future



2011-14 HIGHLIGHTS

Since the restructuring of the Camanachd Association to a company limited by guarantee the necessity to plan further ahead and conditions of funding from Sport Scotland have meant that in addition to monitoring the company's financial and operational performance on a year to year basis, the Association reviews the overall direction of the sport every three years. This coincides with the term of the President of the Association.

The previous strategy for the Camanachd Association ran its course until the end of 2014 and some examples of the progress made in this time are:

- Stabilised governance of the sport with clear focus and leadership.
- Increased membership in line with target.
- Entire refresh of Camanachd Association Coaching Qualifications:
 - o Foundation
 - o UKCC Level 1
 - o UKCC Level 2
- Significant growth in Camanachd Association turnover and profitability, resulting in more being spent on coaching and development, as well as the target being met for healthy company reserves.
- Significant growth in profile and support for shinty thanks to renewed and enhanced broadcast agreements with BBC Scotland and BBC Alba, plus improved relationships and coverage within print and online media. Over 100,000 people tuned in to coverage of the 2011 Camanachd Cup Final across live tv, radio and online broadcasts. The 2014 Camanachd Cup Final attracted in excess of 5,000 spectators, the largest shinty crowd in recent years.

DELIVERING THE STRATEGY 2015-2017

Jim Barr of Glenurquhart, who was a Vice-President of the board of the Camanachd Association was confirmed as President for the next three-year term and voted into office at the AGM on

the 28th of November 2014. As Jim and several of the existing Board will be charged with delivering the strategic plan for 2015-17, they have been integral to its planning and development.

VISION

Shinty: Scotland's most iconic team sport.

Skill, Sportsmanship & Respect

The skill, sportsmanship and mutual respect of shinty's players, clubs and communities will inspire people across generations, from every walk of life, to make Scotland's most iconic team sport their lifelong passion.

MISSION

The mission of the Camanachd Association as set out in its articles of association is:

To foster, encourage, promote and develop the sport and to uphold the rules of play of shinty for the time being in force.

The following Strategic Aims will drive the work of the Camanachd Association in the next three years.

1. **EFFECTIVE ORGANISATION**
Encourage and empower the people of shinty to contribute to the governing body ensuring it is working for the sport
2. **CLUBS, PEOPLE & PLACES**
Develop and increase the skills and infrastructure of the people and places our game needs to thrive
3. **PARTNERSHIPS**
Develop our partnerships with other organisations and associations who share our vision
4. **YOUTH PATHWAYS**
Optimise a youth calendar, promoting frequent competition, with appropriate age categories and sensitive to schooling commitments
5. **COMPETITION SCHEDULING**
Prepare, administer and review an annual competitive calendar that promotes excellence at the pinnacle and inclusion at the grass roots
6. **SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS**
Pursue a business development strategy for the sport of diversifying income streams whilst seeking to add value and grow the partnership with existing sponsors and investors

2014 Lovat Cup

Beauly 1 Lovat 4

Beauly took to the park as underdogs for their annual clash with local rivals Lovat in the traditional New Year Lovat Cup shinty challenge.

Both teams had commenced pre-season training ahead of this eagerly-awaited derby and with local pride very much in the minds of both camps, they had prepared well for the 111th event with the Lovat Cup at stake.

Lovat cruised to a 4-1 win to erase the memory of Beauly's shock 2-1 victory in 2013, the first time since 2007 that the Green and Whites had emerged victorious.



Lovat's under-21 international striker Greg Matheson, like he did in four previous Lovat Cup duels, played a big part by netting twice, claiming his third double in four Lovat Cup duels since 2011 to take his personal Lovat Cup goal tally to seven.

Also on target for a rampant Lovat were Ryan Ferguson and another prolific internationalist Kevin Bartlett. Beauly's sole response came through Calum Morrison.

Northern California Camanachd beached

How life is lived on the other side.

It just isn't the same is it? New year's day shinty in California at the start of what was to be a memorable year for NCC

2014 eventually saw Northern California Camanachd (NCC) travel to Scotland for a return to the St. Andrews Sixes, where the team acquitted themselves reasonably well, scoring the only goal from the run of play against the eventual tournament winners. NCC also played an international match against the English Shinty Association team, a side that featured both new players and Scots now living in the greater London area. Before the St. Andrews weekend NCC undertook an evening training session at the Dell with Kingussie coaches Dallas Young and Davie Anderson, and despite the result of the international,

benefitted greatly from their coaching, as well as the tips shared by the Kingussie players themselves. How fantastic that a bunch of "crazy Californians" (their own description!) were able to share the pitch with the side that won the Camanachd Cup!

Back home NCC made appearances at several Highland Games, presenting an information tent and playing demonstration matches. The team's big annual event, as in previous years, was the end of summer Pleasanton Scottish Games. Playing sixes for two days in the 90F/30C+ temperatures is always a challenge, but it is great to be involved with one of the biggest Highland Games outside of Scotland. And an extra bonus, the NCC team won the Michael Kosman Memorial Cup!

2014 League Tables

ORION GROUP PREMIERSHIP

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals For	Goals Against	Points
Newtonmore	14	10	2	2	37	17	22
Lovat	14	7	5	2	32	20	19
Glenurquhart	14	7	4	3	25	16	18
Kingussie	14	7	2	5	31	29	16
Kyles Athletic*	14	6	4	4	25	20	14
Inveraray	14	3	4	7	18	29	10
Kinlochshiel	14	2	3	9	21	34	7
Lochaber	14	1	2	11	18	42	4

* Kyles Athletic deducted 2 points for failing to fulfil a fixture.

MARINE HARVEST NATIONAL DIVISION

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals For	Goals Against	Points
Fort William	14	12	2	0	72	10	26
Oban Camanachd	14	11	1	2	46	14	23
Kilmallie	14	10	1	3	54	22	21
Beauly	14	7	1	6	37	29	15
Caberfeidh	14	5	1	8	31	39	11
Glasgow Mid Argyll	14	4	0	10	25	47	8
Glenorchy	14	2	1	11	12	57	5
Bute*	14	1	1	12	8	67	1

* Bute deducted 2 points for failing to fulfil a fixture

MARINE HARVEST NORTH DIVISION 1

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals For	Goals Against	Points
Skye	14	13	1	0	53	7	27
Newtonmore	14	9	1	4	42	16	19
Strathglass	14	7	1	6	38	32	15
Beauly	14	6	2	6	31	36	14
Glenurquhart	14	5	3	6	28	33	13
Kingussie*	14	5	1	8	35	48	9
Lovat	14	4	0	10	30	48	8
Inverness	14	1	3	10	21	58	5

* Kingussie deducted 2 points for failing to fulfil a fixture

MARINE HARVEST NORTH DIVISION 2

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals For	Goals Against	Points
Fort William	14	11	1	2	55	20	23
Lochcarron	14	8	2	4	38	46	18
Glengarry	14	8	1	5	25	31	17
Lochaber	14	6	1	7	50	39	13
Kinlochshiel*	14	5	3	6	27	33	11
Boleskine	14	5	0	9	29	48	10
Skye	14	4	1	9	38	35	9
Aberdeen Uni	14	3	3	8	29	39	9

* Kinlochshiel deducted 2 points for failing to fulfil a fixture

MARINE HARVEST NORTH DIVISION 3

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals For	Goals Against	Points
Caberfeidh	14	10	2	2	52	17	22
Lewis	14	6	2	6	29	30	14
Strathspey**	14	6	1	7	28	44	11
Kilmallie*	14	6	3	5	51	28	14
Lochbroom***	14	4	4	6	19	36	9
Inverness	14	3	2	9	24	48	8

* Kilmallie deducted 1 point for failing to fulfil a fixture

** Strathspey deducted 2 points for failing to fulfil 2 fixtures

*** Lochbroom deducted 3 points for failing to fulfil 3 fixtures

MARINE HARVEST SOUTH DIVISION 1

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals For	Goals Against	Points
Ballachulish	14	9	5	0	39	15	23
Kyles Athletic	14	8	4	2	47	19	20
Oban Celtic	14	6	4	4	20	27	16
Aberdour	14	6	3	5	32	31	15
Lochside Rovers	14	6	3	5	32	34	15
Strachur	14	3	3	8	18	33	9
Taynuilt	14	2	4	8	32	46	8
Kilmory	14	2	2	10	16	31	6

Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup – Kyles Athletic

AJG Parcels Celtic Society Cup – Kyles Athletic

Artemis Macaulay Cup – Newtonmore

Balliemore Cup – Skye

Bullough Cup – Kyles Athletic

Bullough Plate – Glenorchy

RBS MacTavish Cup – Lovat

RBS MacTavish Plate – Fort William

Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup – Kingussie

Strathdearn Cup – Newtonmore

Strathdearn Plate – Beauly

South of Scotland Plate – Aberdour

ORION GROUP PREMIERSHIP SPONSORSHIP

The 2014 League season got off to a flying start when the Camanachd Association announced that Orion Group had extended their sponsorship of shinty's Premiership until the end of 2014.

Orion Group began their sponsorship of shinty's top league in 2012 when the company was celebrating its 25th year of operation and following two thrilling seasons, both clinched by Newtonmore, they agreed to extend their involvement for another year.

Newtonmore and Lovat dominated the top of the table for most of 2013 however just four points separated the rest which set the scene nicely for exciting ties in 2014.

Orion Group's Head of Marketing & Communications, Scott Burns-Smith, said: "Orion are delighted to be sponsoring the Premiership for 2014. As a company operating not only in Scotland but across various locations internationally, sponsoring such sporting associations and projects within different

cultural communities are part of our organisation's ethos and we are pleased to offer our support to the Camanachd Association for the 3rd consecutive year."

Camanachd Association President, Archie Robertson, said: "The Camanachd Association is delighted Orion Group has extended their sponsorship of the Premiership. The Orion Group Premiership showcases the best of shinty so it is fitting that the pairing with such a prestigious and successful Scottish company continues."



League Changes in 2014 Shinty Season

The 2014 shinty season marked the start of what had been a controversial league structure where the Orion Group Premiership was reduced to eight teams and a new national second tier was introduced.

Ballachulish and Glenorchy fielded second teams in the South. Strathglass withdrew their second team from the North leagues but their reserves played in the cup competitions.

Kincraig had been working hard to re-introduce their club into the league but were not quite ready for the 2014 shinty season.

Each league was made up of eight teams, with the exception of Marine Harvest North Division 3 which had only six sides.

The season started on Saturday 1 March 2014 and the final placings for the respective leagues are detailed on page 9.

MARINE HARVEST DELIVER NEW TROPHIES FOR 2014 SEASON

The 2014 season saw the launch of two National Divisions, the men's Marine Harvest National Division and the women's Marine Harvest National Division Two, and pre-season the Camanachd Association took delivery of the brand new trophies from Marine Harvest.

The Marine Harvest National Division was introduced following an extensive consultation process during 2012 and 2013 which sought to address some issues within senior shinty including lack of development in the South and the season continually over-running. The teams competing in the new league were Beaulie, Bute, Caberfeidh, Fort William, Glasgow Mid Argyll, Glenorchy, Kilmallie and Oban Camanachd.

The women's game went through a similar process and following open discussions with their clubs voted unanimously to remove the two regional leagues which sat below their existing national league and replace them with one additional national league. Two larger leagues were formed to increase the number of games, enhance competition for the established sides and provide a wider opportunity for progression for developing teams.

Camanachd Association President, Archie Robertson, said: "The Marine Harvest National Division is an exciting addition to senior shinty's competition structure and to the Marine Harvest sponsorship which is now entering its 26th year. It will go some way to alleviating the problems faced by our sport and with such a strong calibre of teams from the North and South involved, I



National Division Winners 2014 – Fort William

am sure we are in for some exciting encounters including a Fort William v Kilmallie derby."

Women's Camanachd Association President, Lisa Norman, said: "Our key targets were to create more games for all, enabling clubs to provide regular playing opportunities, and in turn keep momentum going throughout the season. By providing regular competitive games we can raise the profile of women's shinty and in turn grow our game. I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all teams the very best in 2014 and also to thank Marine Harvest for their continued support of women's shinty."

Marine Harvest's Alan Sutherland said: "We are delighted to support the new Marine Harvest National Division for both senior and women's shinty. A lot of work has gone into establishing this new format and Marine Harvest is fully supportive of the outcome which we hope will continue to raise the profile of shinty even further."

Premiership to revert to 10 teams for 2015

Following extensive consultation about the way the 2014 season had operated it was apparent that several clubs felt dissatisfaction that there had been too few fixtures in 2014.

A joint proposal was subsequently received from Newtonmore and Kingussie, with support from a number of other clubs, and put to the CA AGM. This proposal sought to revert to a 10-team Premier league for season 2015, while keeping the National Division at eight because of a lack of sides capable of playing at that level. Members overwhelmingly voted for the change, meaning that Lochaber, who finished bottom of the Premiership, were spared from relegation. The decision was also good news for Oban Camanachd, who are promoted along with Marine Harvest National Division title winners Fort William.

The lower North and South area leagues were also expanded to give further playing opportunities at that level too. Glenurquhart's Jim Barr, who was confirmed as the next Association President to succeed Archie Robertson, said: "There was a general strength of feeling that we needed more league shinty. We would have loved to have 10 teams in every league in the set-up but the good thing is that we have managed to reinstate the 10-team Premier and we've got the commitment to the 8-team National League. It would be great if it was also 10 teams and quite a few people voiced that opinion, but we just don't currently have the strength in depth of teams capable of playing at that level."

Premier League (10)

Newtonmore, Lovat, Glenurquhart, Kyles Athletic, Kingussie, Inveraray, Kinlochshiel, Lochaber, Fort William, Oban Camanachd

Marine Harvest National Division (8)

Kilmallie, Beaulie, Caberfeidh, Glasgow Mid Argyll, Glenorchy, Bute, Skye Camanachd, Ballachulish

Marine Harvest North Division 1 (10)

Newtonmore (2), Strathglass, Glenurquhart (2), Beaulie (2) Kingussie (2), Lovat (2), Fort William (2), Inverness, Glengarry, Lochcarron

The outcome does also indicate that initial doubts over a National division have now largely been dispelled after its very successful 2014 season.

The league reconstruction proposal ahead of the start of the 2015 shinty season was approved at the Camanachd Association AGM in Fort William on 28 November 2014. The proposal, which was presented as an Ordinary Resolution and therefore required a minimum support in excess of 50%, was overwhelmingly voted in by 25 votes in favour, just one club voting against and two abstentions.

The new agreement proposed the following league structure which was subject to the appropriate applications being received after the New Year:

- Premier League – 10 teams
- Marine Harvest National Division – 8 teams
- Marine Harvest North Division 1 – 10 teams
- Marine Harvest South Division 1 – 8 teams
- Marine North Division 2 – 11 teams
- Marine Harvest South Division 2 – 7 teams

Promotion and relegation between the Premier league and the Marine Harvest National Division would be one down - one up automatically, with the introduction of play-offs between the ninth placed top division team and second place from the league below.

Teams have been placed in proposed leagues for the 2015 shinty season, based on their final position at the end of the 2014 season as follows:

Marine Harvest South Division 1 (8)

Kyles Athletic (2), Oban Celtic, Aberdour, Lochside Rovers, Strachur, Taynult, Kilmory, Inveraray (2)

Marine Harvest North Division 2 (11)

Lochaber (2), Kinlochshiel (2), Boleskine, Skye Camanachd (2), Aberdeen University, Caberfeidh (2), Kilmallie (2), Lewis Camanachd, Strathspey Camanachd, Lochbroom, Inverness (2)

Marine Harvest South Division 2 (7)

Tayforth, Glasgow Mid Argyll (2), Col Glen, Bute (2), Ballachulish (2), Glenorchy (2), Aberdour (2)

'MORE THE MERRIER AFTER FIFTH PREMIERSHIP TITLE IN A ROW

The 2014 Orion Group Premiership was again very exciting with Newtonmore clinching the title in their last league game, winning 3-0 at Inveraray to retain the trophy for the fifth year in a row. Camanachd Association Club & Volunteer Director, Charles Young, presented the 2014 Orion Premiership trophy to Newtonmore captain Scott Chisholm as The Eilan side finished their season with two of the sport's four Grand Slam trophies.

The destination of the Marine Harvest National Division Trophy was decided in the last match of the season when Fort William completed their league programme undefeated with a win against Oban Camanachd at Mossfield on Saturday 8 November. The other leagues were equally exciting with Skye winning Marine Harvest North Division 1 and Ballachulish winning Marine Harvest South Division 1. Skye defeated Ballachulish by five goals to nil in the Division 1 play-off match to decide promotion to the Marine Harvest National Division in 2015. Fort William won Marine Harvest North Division 2, Inveraray won Marine Harvest South Division 2 and Caberfeidh won Marine Harvest North Division 3.

LOVAT'S hopes of winning the Orion Premiership title ended when reigning champions Newtonmore won their final match of the season. After finishing as the bridesmaid for the second year in succession, Lovat captain Stuart MacDonald urged his

team-mates to regroup over the winter break as he is convinced Lovat have the talent to halt Newtonmore's ambition for a sixth successive title success. He said: "It is very disappointing, but credit to Newtonmore - they ground out the results when they needed to. The lads knew we had only a slim chance of taking it to the last game but that is gone now and we have to learn the lessons from the last two campaigns. On the plus side, we took three points from Newtonmore which shows what we can do. Coming so close two years running has given us a taster and we are determined to go one better next season. Winning the league shows your ambition as a squad and we have to set our sights on mounting a serious challenge in 2015."

At the other end of the table, Lochaber failed in their bid to take the season through to the bitter end as they crashed to a 5-1 defeat in their crucial relegation match away to Kyles Athletic. A win for the Spean Bridge side would have pulled them level with Kinlochshiel, leaving the Wester Ross side to face Kyles in what would have been a nervy 90 minutes. Lochaber therefore drop down into the Marine Harvest National Division for 2015 but the question of who would replace them was not be answered until much later when Fort William and Oban Camanachd met in a winner takes all clash at Mossfield. Fort were eventually to come out on top.

Lovat win 2014 RBS MacTavish Cup

Lovat 5 Glen Urquhart 1



The RBS MacTavish Cup was back in the hands of Lovat after they eased past Glen Urquhart 5-1 to lift the silver bowl in June.

Glen Urquhart had won the earlier league encounter between the sides and so went into the final with some confidence. However, Alan MacRae's men started the well-attended final at Bught Park, Inverness on the front foot and with a high tempo. They never let up during the 90 minutes and, on the day, Glen Urquhart didn't have the tools to nullify their sparkling forward line. "We have developed a certain style of play in the last year and it works well for us," said a smiling Alan MacRae afterwards, as the team prepared to head back along the road to Kiltarlity with the silverware.

Although the final started with a reshuffle when Drew Howie was forced off the field in two minutes, Lovat got their noses in front early and stayed there. Greg Matheson, who was also carrying a strain pre-match, cantered away from the Glen defenders and unleashed a shot which whistled into the net. Lorne MacKay, who would later enjoy the fruits of his labour, could have made it 2-0 but lifted the ball over the bar. At this stage, Glen were still very much in the reckoning and Lewis MacLennan hit a backhand effort just wide of Stuart MacDonald's posts. In 23 minutes, goal scorer Matheson succumbed to a hamstring injury and although he would later return for a short spell before half-time, his final was essentially over.

Lovat were 2-0 up in 27 minutes when Kevin Bartlett followed up a rebound and slotted the ball home. Graeme MacMillan then made it 3-0 before the interval, getting ahead of a cluster of Glen jerseys to launch an effort high into the net. As is often the case for Lovat, keeper Stuart MacDonald made a fine one-handed stop shortly after the interval, which prevented Glen from getting a foothold in the final. From then on, Lovat were able to build and Lorne MacKay was alert to convert a

loose ball in 63 minutes. Any resistance the red and blacks could muster was killed off at that point but they did give their large and faithful travelling support something to cheer. Lewis MacLennan, one of their stand-outs, managed to turn quickly and launched a shot past MacDonald. It was always going to take something special to beat the Lovat keeper, who was raising aloft the trophy in the Bught Park grandstand six minutes later.

In the intervening moments, Lorne MacKay capped a fine personal display with his second of the afternoon; controlling a neat free-hit and thumping it into the net to make it 5-1. "It was great to score two goals but it is all about the team," said MacKay afterwards. "That's back-to-back MacTavish Cups so I think that is the sign of a good side."

Lovat full centre Ryan Ferguson was named Man of the Match after dominating the middle of the park throughout the game.

Kingussie played Newtonmore in the RBS MacTavish Juvenile Final at Bught Park on the main field prior to the Senior Final. A thrilling match was eventually concluded with a thrilling 3-1 win for Newtonmore over their local rivals. The Tulloch Trophy Final took place on the outside field prior to the Senior Final and saw Portree Primary School defeat Kyles 2-1.

Fort William win RBS MacTavish Plate

Congratulations to Fort William Shinty Club on winning the inaugural RBS MacTavish Plate competition 2-1 against Skye Camanachd after extra-time. Both Fort William's goals were scored by Gordie MacKinnon (33, 95); Skye's goal was scored by Jordan Murchison (77). The match was played at a sunny Craigard Field, Invergarry.

GONGS HERALD CLASH OF GREAT RIVALS

Even before Saturday's RBS MacTavish shinty final begins, both teams, Lovat and Glenurquhart, have had something to celebrate because both had long-serving officials recognised in the Birthday Honours List. Alan Bell receives the MBE for services to Drumnadrochit, his local community, including 35 years as Chairman of Glenurquhart. And Mary Ann Henton gets the British Empire Medal for over 40 years of service to the game, both through Lovat and the Camanachd Association's Disciplinary Committee amongst other official roles.

As it happens I have known them both for a very long time and am absolutely delighted that these thoroughly deserved awards have come their way.

I got to know Alan in the mid-80s, through both shinty and athletics and indeed his son Jamie was an international performer in both sports. Back when BBC Highland ran a live Friday teatime programme and there was still winter shinty, it was Islay native Alan, then head of History at Nairn Academy, that I would phone to determine the chances of Glen's game at Blairbeg Park going ahead. The absolutely definitive, informed answer I could always rely on, and his inevitably incisive and revealing insights into the game in general, told me that this was a man who ran a very efficient club. And so it transpired over the years, with successes like Glenurquhart's 1988 Camanachd Cup final appearance and 2012 MacAulay Cup success.

I have known Mary Ann for a good deal longer even than that. When I was a schoolboy with a summer job in the Inland Revenue, there was this extrovert blonde in the corner of the office who somehow seemed to run the place. And the same extrovert blonde still somehow seems to run Lovat's finances just as she used to run the Disciplinary Committee - with humour, total commitment and a lot of hard work. At Balglate on Saturday, I interviewed Mary Ann briefly while she was doing what she seems to have done since St Columba brought shinty over from Ireland - going round with the bag collecting donations to the club from the crowd. As it happens this was not our first encounter through the BBC since around 30 years ago, unbeknown to her, the sound effects I recorded at the Inverness Sixes were of Mary Ann's thrilling exhortations of the Lovat team. She was said to have got one heck of a surprise when it all went out on air on the Monday.

So here we have two long and highly deserving shinty recipients of these honours and many people within and outwith the game are delighted for them. However, one will inevitably be happier than the other come full time at the Bught.

With grateful thanks to Charles Bannerman who wrote the above before play commenced in the 2014 RBS MacTavish Cup Final.

AJG Parcels Celtic Society Cup Final Kyles Athletic 6 Inveraray 2

Kyles Athletic twice came from behind to retain the AJG Parcels Celtic Society Cup with a 6-2 win over Inveraray in their BBC ALBA televised throw-up at Old Anniesland, Glasgow.

Kyles welcomed back David Zavaroni who served a one match ban for a points accumulation when the Tighnabruach side beat Glasgow Mid Argyll in the Artemis Macaulay Cup quarter finals the previous weekend. Inveraray's Douglas Dando missed the big day as he was on holiday.

Inveraray went ahead on 6 minutes when a David Robertson free-hit was deflected into the path of Euan McMurdo and he fired an unstoppable shot into the top right corner of Kenny MacDonald's net. It was a terrific strike and a great start to the match. Kyles levelled on 13 minutes when Roddy MacDonald collected a ball at the edge of the circle which was played inside from the right by Roberto Zavaroni and MacDonald turned away from two defenders before flicking the ball into the net to make it 1-1. Inveraray went back in front on 21 minutes when Euan McMurdo controlled a defensive clearance following an Ally MacDonald hit-in before crashing the ball high into the net to make it 2-1.

Kyles then squared the final for a second time 5 minutes before the break. Robbie MacLeod won possession down the Kyles left and he sent a great ball into the goal area. Thomas Whyte tried to get on the end of it but he was brought down at the edge of the penalty area. Whyte played a rehearsed free-hit short to Dunkie Kerr who lost his marker and darted through the centre of the Inveraray defence before slotting the ball low into the net to make it 2-2.

The game was swinging from end-to-end but it was Kyles who

shinty yearbook | review of 2014

edged themselves in front on 62 minutes. The Tighnabruach side were awarded a disputed free-hit at the edge of the box and when Inveraray were unable to clear the ball, Roddy MacDonald found Thomas Whyte in front of goal and he blasted a shot into the roof of the net to make it 3-2. Kyles extended their advantage on 73 minutes. Roddy MacDonald collected a Grant Irvine ball from the right and he held off a challenge from John Kennedy before tucking the ball past the on-rushing Graham MacPherson to make it 4-2.

Kyles, who had taken Roddy MacDonald back to midfield, went for the kill and they made it 5-2 on 76 minutes. Thomas Whyte closed down an attempted clearance from Andrew McMurdo before pushing the ball into space and tucking it low into the bottom right corner of the net. Kyles captain Thomas Whyte completed his hat-trick to make it 6-2 on 81 minutes when he ran onto a Colin MacDonald pass and he swept the ball past Graham MacPherson, who raced from goal to narrow the angle, with the ball spinning into the net off the left post.

Hat-trick hero Thomas Whyte was selected as BBC ALBA's man of the match by Stewart MacKenzie who joined Hugh Dan MacLennan in the TV commentary box. Euan McMurdo and John Kennedy deserve mention for Inveraray whilst Kyles' trio Dunkie Kerr, David Zavaroni and Robbie MacLeod controlled the midfield for most of the game. Kyles Athletic captain Thomas Whyte was presented with the AJG Parcels Glasgow Celtic Society Cup by AJG Parcels Operations Director Fraser MacLean.

[STOP PRESS: the 2015 Celtic Society Cup final has now been scheduled for Taynuilt.]

Balliemore triumph starts big series of matches for Skye

Skye Camanachd 3 Ballachulish 2

Skye Camanachd won the Balliemore Cup for the second time on Saturday 12 July when they beat Ballachulish 3-2 after extra time at the Sports Field, Taynuilt.



Skye boss John MacLeod was without powerhouse Kenny Campbell who suffered a broken finger in the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup quarter-final win over Kilmallie but he still travelled with the squad. Ballachulish player/manager Donald Wilson welcomed keeper and captain David MacPhee back into the fold after missing the team's previous two outings through suspension. However, there was Cup Final disappointment for Mark Wilson who missed out as he served a one match ban for accumulated disciplinary points.

Skye took the lead after just five minutes when Shockie MacLennan gathered possession from Will Cowie and tucked the ball into the corner of the net.

Ballachulish keeper David MacPhee made a magnificent save, turning away a Danny Morrison rocket-shot just under his crossbar. Ballachulish came much more into the game in the second half and they deservedly equalised through Alan Clark who had started in defence. With no further scoring, referee Lachie Wood took the final into extra-time.

Danny Morrison put Skye back in front when he slotted the ball low through a couple of defenders and past keeper MacPhee. Ballachulish's second equaliser had a touch of fortune about it. The heavy rain was making for difficult playing conditions and a miss-hit goal hit on 108 minutes fell straight to Alan Clark and he made no mistake dispatching the ball into the net to the delight of the home support. With just three minutes remaining and penalties looking likely, Jordan Murchison gathered the ball following a Skye move down the right and he dribbled the ball across goal before playing it low into the net to make it 3-2.

Skye Captain Gilleasbuig MacDonald and the injured Kenny Campbell both went up to receive the Balliemore Cup from Camanachd Association President Archie Robertson.

It was a sign of what was to come as Skye went on to lift the Marine Harvest North Division 1 title with their eleventh league win in succession when they defeated Glenurquhart 4-0 at Portree in September. Having completed their league programme without defeat, they then went on to defeat Ballachulish to clinch their place in the Marine Harvest National Division in a play-off at Drumnadrochit.

Improved facilities welcomed

The standard of facilities remains a key issue within shinty and will become an increasing priority in the years ahead. Development and update of the Camanachd Association's Facilities Strategy is continuing.

Recent progress in key areas within the shinty community is warmly welcomed and congratulations are due to Taynuilt on the opening of their new clubhouse in 2014. The old New Year had barely been wrung out when Taynuilt celebrated the unveiling of their brand new sports pavilion at the playing fields. The group were delighted with the outcome, which will provide another quality shinty venue in the South, with the project completed in time and on budget. One of the club's great ambitions was that, as well as hosting Taynuilt's league and cup fixtures, they would be able to host other shinty events throughout the season. That wish was soon fulfilled when they hosted the 2014 Balliemore Cup Final between Skye and Ballachulish.

Congratulations also to Glenorchy on the completion of their new changing rooms and Kinlochshiel on the commencement of work to build a new pitch and clubhouse. Work to create a new shinty pitch began at Reraig, near Kyle of Lochalsh, in September 2014.

The purchase of 8 acres of land, just east of Balmacara Hotel and funding from Sportscotland and Highland Council, amounting to £200,000, together with generous legacies from Mr. John Clamp, Ardelve and Mr. Leslie Rush, Harrogate, have helped to make the project realistic and financially viable.

Keith Loades, chairman of Kinlochshiel Shinty Club Ltd said: "We have been overwhelmed by the support from the local community for this development and we are particularly grateful to Mrs. Katherine Grant, whose husband, Peter Grant, was president of the club for many years; and John Clamp of Ardelve and Leslie Rush of Harrogate, who both remembered Kinlochshiel in their estates. Their generosity enabled the club to contribute its share of funding to the total project cost."

Phase II of the Kinlochshiel development comprises a sports pavilion with changing rooms, kitchen and committee facilities.

The Association is also monitoring the progress of the new National Performance Centre for Sport at Heriot Watt University, Highlife Highland's review of the pitches for the Inverness area and Argyll & Bute Council's plans for development of the new Oban High School.

Kyles Athletic Win Bullough Cup Final

Congratulations to Kyles Athletic who won the 2014 Bullough Cup Final with an exciting 6-3 victory over Inveraray at Strachur on Saturday 16th August. For Kyles Athletic, Roddy MacColl and Innes MacDonald each scored twice, with Gordon Whyte and David Martin getting the others. Inveraray's scorers were Neil Shaw, Fraser Watt and Andrew Sinclair. The match referee was John MacGregor of Taynuilt.



Glenorchy Win Bullough Plate Final

Congratulations to Glenorchy for winning the inaugural Bullough Plate Final with a hard fought 4-2 victory over Aberdour, played at a rainy Winterton in Inveraray on Saturday 16th August.

Goal scorers:

Glenorchy: Scott MacIntyre, Iain Livingston, Martin MacKillop (2).
Aberdour: Kevin Latimer, Tom Abbott
Match referee - Ewan MacDonald.
Team photo courtesy John Fullerton.



Beauly win Strathearn Plate Final

2014 Strathearn Plate - Saturday 6th September

Beauly's reserve side won the Strathearn Cup plate competition with a 3-0 triumph over Lovat in an entertaining game at Castle Leod.

Ross Forbes opened the scoring with a spectacular 25-yard strike, before Sandy Elrick was on hand to double the Greens' advantage. Player-manager Stephen MacLean settled the tie when he converted from 20 yards with three minutes remaining.

The trophy and medals were presented by David MacMaster of Caberfeidh Shinty Club.

Match referee was Calum Girvan.

Photo courtesy of Tina Marshall.



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Newtonmore Win Artemis Macaulay Cup

Kyles Athletic 1
Newtonmore 2

Newtonmore won their first Artemis Macaulay Cup since 1986 when they beat Kyles Athletic 2-1 after extra-time at Mossfield, Oban on Saturday 23 August.

Whilst Kyles were Artemis Macaulay Cup holders, Newtonmore had last won the tournament 28 years previously in 1986 when they beat Kyles Athletic 5-3. Their next appearance in the final was in 2008 and their lack of success in this competition was a huge incentive to the current squad.

Newtonmore soon started to win the middle of the park and they broke the deadlock on 16 minutes when Calum Stewart touched the ball to his strike partner Danny MacRae and the bounce of the ball from MacRae's low shot beat Kenny MacDonald to make it 1-0. Newtonmore continued to press and Danny MacRae blasted a shot inches wide of the top corner of the net whilst Glen MacKintosh also went close.

There was an unusual scene just on 40 minutes when referee Derek Cameron blew for half time with 5 minutes of the first half still remaining. However fourth official Colin MacDonald pointed out the error and the players got back into their positions to play out the remainder of the half.

The pattern of play continued with Newtonmore in the ascendancy but they couldn't trouble Kenny MacDonald and it remained 1-0 when the break eventually did come around.

Fraser MacKintosh made his return from a broken ankle at the restart with Calum Stewart coming off. Kyles now had the breeze at their backs and a Roberto Zavaroni ball into the D caused panic in the 'More defence after 49 minutes but Michael Ritchie got the ball away before any damage was done.

Kyles then began to look a much different prospect and they levelled on 53 minutes when Thomas Whyte did well down the right side of the park and when 'More failed to clear their lines from his cross, Dunkie Kerr took advantage to crack the ball low into the net to make it 1-1.

Michael Ritchie made a superb save with his foot from a Roddy MacDonald snap-shot on 67 minutes and the keeper cleared his lines. Dunkie Kerr blazed the ball over on 75 minutes when a



one-handed Roddy MacDonald flick found him in space at the back post. It was a miss that would prove costly for Kyles.

Danny MacRae found Glen MacKintosh with just a couple of minutes remaining but Kenny MacDonald again saved, this time with his hand. There was still time for Kenny MacDonald to save with his feet from Danny MacRae before referee Derek Cameron took the final into an extra-time period after almost 7 minutes of added time.

Newtonmore went back in front on 114 minutes. Captain Scott Chisholm played a long, dangerous ball into the Kyles goal area and the Tighnabruach men were unable to clear the danger and a Glen MacKintosh challenge on Iain MacDonald made just enough space for Fraser MacKintosh to crash the ball low into the corner of the net to make it 2-1.

Kyles threw everyone forward and forced a couple of late corners on the left but, with Kyles' Cameron Keith making a late appearance, Newtonmore stayed strong to win their first Macaulay Cup since 1986. Newtonmore won the inaugural Macaulay Cup in 1947 and this was only their tenth win in the competition, but it is one they will savour and it is one that completed a "Grand Slam" medal collection for several of their players.

Newtonmore captain Scott Chisholm raised the Macaulay Cup aloft and the first piece of a league and cup double attempt was completed for the men from the Eilan.

Match Referee – Derek Cameron (who asked for a new watch for his Christmas).

Kyles Athletic win Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup

Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup Final
Fort William 2 Kyles Athletic 4



2014 cup specialists Kyles Athletic added the Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup to the Bullough Cup won earlier in the season with a 4-2 extra-time win over Kyles Athletic at the Eilan, Newtonmore on Saturday 30 August.

There was a minute's silence at the start of the match to mark four sad bereavements in the shinty world - Gary Wells, Fort William; Ewen Cameron Ormiston, Newtonmore; Jackie Henton, Lovat and Donnie McNiven, Glasgow Mid Argyll.

Fort William boss Lachie MacDonald gave the vastly experienced Duncan Rodger the task of marking Kyles' danger-man and player/manager Roddy MacColl, who had scored in every round of this year's competition, notching seven goals in the process.

It was a wet and windy day and both teams took time to adapt to the conditions. Graham Campbell had a 9th minute chance for Fort William but Kyles' keeper John Whyte saved his shot from the edge of the circle. Kyles went in front on 15 minutes when Matthew MacColl got on the end of a free-hit and he put the ball high into the net with a first time shot.

It stayed that way until the interval and Fort William pressed hard for a leveller in the second half. Kyles' keeper John Whyte made a good double save from Peter Wood on 68 minutes. It looked as if a Fort William goal was coming and they pushed Duncan Rodger into attack on 82 minutes. It was a move that paid immediate dividends when he got onto the end of a Peter Wood hit-in from the right and he placed the ball into the net to make it 1-1 with 6 minutes remaining.



Referee Ron Kennedy took the final into an extra-time period and Kyles went back in front within a minute of the restart when Gordon Whyte collected a quick free-hit from Innes MacDonald wide on the Kyles left and his speculative bouncing effort deceived Fort keeper Ricky Fraser and nestled in the net to make it 2-1.

Duncan Rodger passed up a couple of chances to level and Kyles brought Roddy MacColl back to full back to try and snuff out his threat. Kyles weathered a period of Fort William pressure before extending their lead when Matthew MacColl collected the ball in space in front of goal and he made no mistake to make it 3-1 with 100 minutes played. Kyles were counter-attacking well and they went 4-1 up on 112 minutes when 15 year old Scott MacDonald ran onto a defence-splitting Matthew MacColl pass and MacDonald finished in style, crashing the ball into the roof of the net.

Kyles now had one hand on the cup and although a Bobby MacMillan cross from the right was deflected into his own net by Christopher Blair, with a couple of minutes remaining, Kyles saw out the rest of the game to win 4-2. Kyles' defender Christopher Moss was named BBC Alba Man of the Match. Kyles captain Christopher Blair was presented with the silver mounted caman and the Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup.

It wasn't all bad for Fort William on the day as Lochaber's win over Lochcarron meant they were crowned Marine Harvest North Division 2 champions.

Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup Final Skye Ladies 2, Glasgow Mid Argyll 3

By Lisa Falconer

The 2014 Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup Final proved a classic, as last year's finalists Glasgow Mid Argyll edged new-comers Skye Ladies at Strachur.

Both sides went into the game with full squads, although GMA went in with the slight advantage, having recorded a comfortable defeat over Skye earlier in the season. Skye, however, have had a great season in their first year in the National League, finishing second overall.

The city side was quicker out of the blocks, the strength and experience of their centre line, Kirsten Munro, Alana McGarrie and Kirsty Gray, making an immediate impact on the young Skye side and creating scoring chances. Skye's defence was well organised and managed to weather the early onslaught before GMA's Alana McGarrie made a superb solo run from midfield to fire a shot into the roof of the net from a tight angle and open the scoring.

GMA's lead was to be short lived, however, with the islanders drawing level just two minutes later. A Lorna Macrae effort was saved by GMA keeper Steph Keenan, but she was unable to clear her lines quickly enough and Caitlin MacLean was able to close her down and tap the ball over the line.

From then on the game became very close, with both teams having chances to increase their lead. Lorna Macrae had an open

shot in front of goals which she sent sailing over the bar, while GMA's Joan Nicolson - originally from Uig - thought she had put her side ahead again after slipping the ball past Skye keeper Sarah Corrigan only for the effort to be ruled offside.

Moments later however and Nicolson had her goal, giving GMA the lead going into the break. On the restart Skye made some changes, with wing centre Ilana Paterson going into goals while Corrigan went to full centre, joining Isabelle Law and Helen Lamond, and Emma Gordon moved from the centre line into Skye's defence.

These changes would bolster Skye, but it was GMA who scored next when Nicolson turned her marker to hit a low drive into the bottom corner and make it 3-1. Skye kept fighting, however, and took control in the middle of the park, creating plenty of chances. Their hard work was rewarded with ten minutes remaining when from a corner Law dropped the ball onto the penalty spot for Macrae to hit on the bounce and into the net, making it 3-2 and setting up a nervy finish.

The remainder of play was all Skye, but the islanders couldn't find a way past GMA keeper Keenan, who made two particularly fine saves to help the city side hold out and secure the victory. On a day when all the Skye girls could take enormous pride from their efforts, Sarah Corrigan was named player of the match for an excellent performance, both in goals and outfield.



2014 Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup Final
Photograph by John Fullerton

Kingussie Win 2014 Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final

On Saturday 13th September, Kingussie won the 107th Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final ending an eight year wait to get their hands on shinty's most famous trophy. The size of the crowd, at over 5000 (highest in recent history), proved how much the game's showcase had captured the interest of supporters and neutrals alike. And Bught Park in Inverness, bathed in sunshine, provided the perfect backdrop to a colourful occasion which meant so much to both communities and their two sets of players. In the end, a sparkling 90 minutes of attacking shinty lived up to the pre-match billing and both teams offered up an encounter which was a tremendous advert for the sport.

Cup finals, ultimately, are about goals and, on the day, Kingussie took the chances that came their way to run out 4-0 victors. Glen Urquhart will no doubt reflect on the opportunities which bypassed them, especially with the scores at 1-0. However, having tasted the action at the highest level, Billy MacLean and David Menzies' men will look to re-group for another tilt at the major honours in 2015.



Kingussie 4 Glen Urquhart 0

'You can't win anything with kids' is a statement that will haunt a certain retired football pundit for the rest of his days. The irony is of course the team he was talking about didn't win anything with kids alone but a mixture of very talented kids and very good seasoned players.

Kingussie won the 2014 Camanachd Cup with the same potent mix and the celebrations which blasted Kingussie for days thereafter showed just how much it meant to the whole community. The welcome home for the team at The Cross on Cup Final night was overwhelming and the players who got off the bus, whether 16 or 40 years old, shed a few tears as they held the famous trophy aloft and Kingussie's own John Dallas, the figure on top of the cup, returned home for the 23rd time since 1896.

The early exchanges were fairly even but as the first half wore on Kingussie looked more likely to break the deadlock and Savio Genini was first to threaten, flashing a shot across goals from a smartly taken free hit move. That proved to be a sighter for the gamekeeper and in 21 minutes Savio ran on to a perfectly weighted pass from Ronald Ross and showed tremendous composure to take a touch in front of Glen goalie Macintosh and despatch it behind him.

The second was set up by Fraser Munro and Thomas Borthwick but the finish was all about Ronald as he rode tackles and big swings from Glenurquhart defenders to fire home from the edge of the box.



The expected second half onslaught from Glen didn't materialise and Kingussie were beginning to look comfortable. The aforementioned experienced players of John Gibson and Garry Munro were controlling the midfield and the powerful defence of James Hutchison, Barrie Dallas, Lee Bain and Louis Munro were mopping up anything Glen could throw at them. On the odd occasion they did get through Craig Dawson was more than equal to the task.

Then in 68 minutes the kids really did have their moment as, remarkably, Kingussie's under-17 team forward line combined to score a stunning goal. 16-year old James Falconer, who had replaced Rory McGregor minutes earlier, weaved his way past three Glen defenders before unleashing a backhand drive from the edge of the box. Macintosh made an instinctive save with his hand but the ball fell to 17-year old Savio who smashed it home.

The final 20 minutes of the match were fairly comfortable as Glen looked a beaten team and Kingussie continued to use the wide open spaces of the Bught to great effect. Thomas Borthwick (almost a veteran now at 21) had an outstanding match at centre-forward and did everything but score, forcing some great saves from Macintosh.

The incomparable and seemingly ageless Ronald Ross slotted home number four from another well worked free hit and it was all over bar the shouting, although there was plenty of that as captain James Maclean (who just happens to work for the competition sponsors) received the trophy from Scottish Hydro's Sarah Niblock and Ronald received The Albert Smith medal for a record fourth time.

The celebrations had begun and would run on for three days and nights as memories of near misses and painful defeats over the last few years were replaced with a feeling of optimism for the future. This was reinforced on Sunday when the Kingussie U-14s team joined the celebrations at The Silverford Hotel after winning the Donnie Maclean 6s at Spean Bridge against some very strong opposition and doing so in some style, only conceding one goal in the competition. Several 1st team players visited the weekly Primary School training session on the Monday evening and the children enjoyed getting their picture taken with the Camanachd Cup winners and with the trophy itself. On Tuesday John Gibson and James Maclean, 2006 and 2014 winning captains, visited Kingussie and Alvie Primary schools with the cup, their medals and the captain's silver mounted caman.

With thanks to Kingussie Camanachd website



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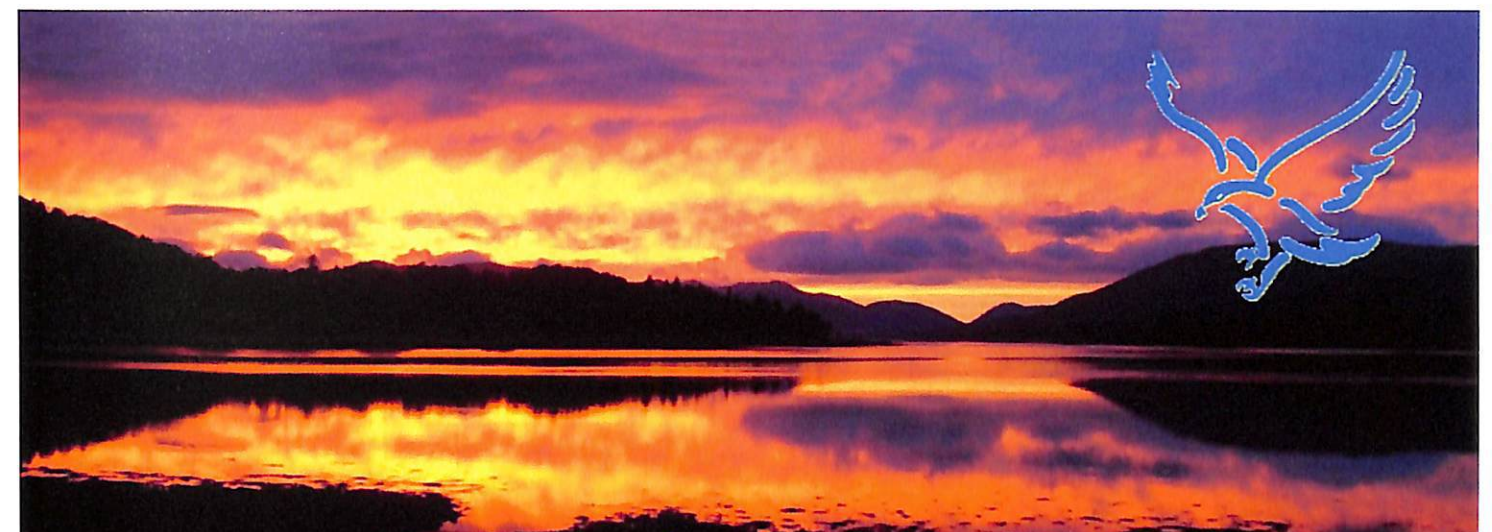
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South Under-21s triumph over North rivals

Congratulations to the South U21 Squad for a convincing 3-1 win over their North rivals at An Aird, Fort William on Saturday 20th September.

THE SQUADS WERE:

North Under 21 Squad

Callum MacDonald (Lochaber)
Shane Gillies (Kilmallie)
Michael MacKenzie (Lovat)
Fraser Heath (Glenurquhart)
Blair Morrison (Caberfeidh)
Michael Russell (Newtonmore)
Darren Hanlon (Kingussie)
Jack Dignan (Lochaber)
Oliver MacRae (Kinlochshiel)
Lewis Tawse (Lovat)
Graeme MacMillan (Lovat)
Donald Nixon (Kinlochshiel)
Ewan Menzies (Glenurquhart)
Martin Munro (Kilmallie)
Greg Matheson (Lovat)
Callum Stewart (Newtonmore)
Jordan Fraser (Kinlochshiel)
Arran MacPhee (Fort William)
Stuart Callison (Lochaber)
COACH: Alan MacRae (Lovat)

South Under 21 Squad

Ewan Harrison (Col Glen)
Innes MacDonald (Kyles Athletic)
Cameron McCue (Aberdour)
Christopher Blair (Kyles Athletic)
Daniel Madej (Oban Celtic)
Zac Coley (Kyles Athletic)
Fraser MacNicol (Inveraray)
Finlay MacMillan (Glasgow Mid Argyll)
Iain Wilson (Strachur)
Cameron Keith (Kyles Athletic)
Ali MacDonald (Inveraray)
Malcolm Clark (Oban Camanachd)
Craig Anderson (Glasgow Mid Argyll)
Lewis MacNicol (Inveraray)
John McNulty (Glenorchy)
Craig Taylor (Kilmory)
Angus Thorburn (Aberdour)
COACH: Alan MacKechnie (Glenorchy)



Goal scorers: SOUTH – Craig Anderson 32 (pen), Angus Thorburn 44, Iain Wilson 89. NORTH – Stuart Callison 40

Scots Camanachd celebrate

The 2014 shinty season marked the 20th anniversary of the reintroduction of shinty into the Armed Forces where the game has a long and honourable tradition. SCOTS Camanachd Club secretary Robert Stoddart commented on how far the club has come since Fraser MacKenzie resurrected shinty in the Armed Forces in 1994.

"The club is on its third name in 20 years and is now drawn from the Navy and Royal Marines, Army and RAF unlike the solely Army team which Fraser formed in 1994. In order to celebrate the 20th anniversary it is hoped that the club will host a six a side tournament and travel to Ireland for a shinty/hurling rematch with the Irish Defence Force.

Shinty continues to flourish in the Armed Forces in challenging circumstances. Planning is ongoing for the creation of a Development Squad that will give access to shinty for members of the Armed Forces that have previously never played the sport."

If any members of the Armed Forces wish to play or try shinty they should contact the club secretary by e mail: robertstoddart@hotmail.com.

Soldiers from Scots Camanachd also took part in the series of "Shinty's Heroes" shows held in 2014 at Celtic Connections and Blas 2014 to mark the impact of World War I on the shinty-playing communities. The club is particularly keen to recruit more players from the Navy and Royal Marines.

Ian Munro, Scots Camanachd receives Commendation

Ian Munro, a former Skye player, recently received a certificate of commendation for his contribution to the Armed Forces Shinty team, Scots Camanachd.

Ian was a very worthy recipient due not only for his playing contribution but also for his prodigious fundraising efforts to assist in supporting the side. Ian was the Skipper of the side last year, one of their most successful seasons in a number of years, reaching the Sutherland Cup quarter finals and the Semi-final of the Bullough Cup. Ian is the first recipient of the commendation.



Shinty/Hurling Internationals

The 2014 Senior Men's Shinty/Hurling International Series between Scotland and Ireland was again played on a Home and Away basis. In the 1st Test Marine Harvest Shinty/Hurling International at Bught Park on Saturday 18th October, Scotland enjoyed a thrilling victory over defeated Ireland by 3 goals and 14 points (23) to Ireland's 2 goals and 8 points (14). This rare win gave Scotland a three points to one lead in the Series as both teams got a bonus point for goals scored and Scotland got two points for the victory.

In his first year as National Senior Squad Manager, Ronald Ross's side played second fiddle after the break as Ireland, buoyed on by a strong home support, powered to victory, with Price, Cork's Conor Lehane and captain and goalkeeper Eoin Reilly from Laois in superb form.

The victory was a successful sign-off for Ireland manager Michael Walshe who was stepping down after the Series.



The 2nd Test Hurling/Shinty International was played the following Saturday, 25th October, at Pairc Esler in Newry, County Down. Ireland came back strongly and triumphed over the Scots by 2 goals and 18 points (24) to Scotland's 8 points. This result clinched the Series for the Irish by a narrow four Series Points to three. Ireland's Eoin Price was named Man of the Match.

Price bagged 2-05, including a decisive 72nd minute goal, as Ireland retained the trophy. Ireland recorded 13 first-half wides, and not more than two points separated the sides in the opening 33 minutes, until Price's first goal handed the hosts a 1-06 to 0-04 interval lead.

Scotland scores were rare in the second half, with Kevin Bartlett just delivering just two two-pointer frees in the closing 40 minutes.

Ireland scorers: E Price 2-5, C Lehane 0-7, D McNerney, J McCusker 0-2 each, L McLoughlin, C McCann 0-1 each.

Scotland scorers: K Bartlett 0-6, F MacKintosh 0-2.

Ireland: E Reilly: D McNerney, D English, N McAuley, M Whelan, L McLoughlin, D O'Connell, J Egan, M Burke, P Divilly, P Maher, E Price; C Lehane, S Nolan. Subs: P Dermody, C McCann, J McCusker, B Murphy, D Kettle.

Scotland: Stuart McDonald, Steven McDonald, J MacRae; C Cormack, F MacRae, J McDonald, C Millar, P McArthur, J Barr; L Munro, L Mackay, R McDonald, F MacKintosh, K Bartlett. Subs: G Innes, G Irvine, S Nicholson, S Morrison, C Cruden.

Referee: C Browne (Galway).



From top anti-clockwise, the victorious Scottish women at Pairc Esler; action from the Bught Park, and an interested visitor to the reception at Inverness Town House was the First Minister Alex Salmond MSP.

Scotland pulled off an historic win defeating Ireland in the Under 21 International which preceded the Senior match in Newry. Scotland U21s scored 4 goals and 9 points (21) to Ireland's 7 points. This had all the buffs reaching for the record-books to confirm that this was the first time the Scotland U21s have won in Ireland.

Ireland U-21 (0-7) 7-21 (4-9) Scotland U-21

Scotland U21s recorded their first victory on Irish soil with a 21-7 win which was a debut success for new Scots U21 boss Garry Reid.

An opening point from Seanda Morey and a Greg Matheson goal gave Scotland an early 3-1 lead. A Lewis Tawse goal and four more points from Greg Matheson left the Scots 10-1 to the good.

An Arran MacPhee goal and two more points from Greg Matheson increased Scotland's tally and with Aidan Morrissey notching a point for Ireland; the score stood at 15-2. Morrissey pulled another goal back for Ireland to make it 15-3 only for Arran MacPhee to put the ball over the bar to make it 16-3. Greg Matheson added another two-pointer which made it 18-3.

A late Ireland rally saw Gerry Keegan pull two single points back and Thomas Casey add another to make it 18-6. However a Greg Matheson goal, which took his tally to an impressive 14 points, made it 21-6.

Although Ireland's Gerry Keegan got another point, Scotland were convincing winners. There was a clean sheet in goal for Scotland goalie Innes MacDonald, just as he did for the Scotland U17s against Dublin U17 a couple of years earlier. Scotland's Zac Coley was named Man of the Match.

On the same day, Scotland's Senior Women also played at Pairc Esler and defeated a County Down select by 4 goals and 2 points (14) to 1 goal and 6 points (9) to retain the Country v County Challenge Cup.

Co. Down Ladies (1-6) 9-14 (4-2) Scotland Ladies

This encounter was a step-up in opposition for the Scots following last year's win over Dublin and the eventual victory was a second triumph in his second year in charge for Scotland boss Stuart Reid.

The Scots got off to a blistering start and Katie Drain struck twice in the opening 6 minutes to put the visitors 6-0 ahead. Ireland pulled a point back on 9 minutes through Catherine McGourty. Scotland went for goals and Lisa Norman MacColl found the back of the net to make it 9-1 and the visitors took this lead into the half-time break.

Lorna MacRae put the ball over the bar for the first point of the second half to extend Scotland's lead to 10-1. The Scots were dominant and Kirsty MacDonald got a debut goal to make it 13-1.

Ireland were not going to roll over though and Colleen Clark scored the home side's first goal which made it 13-4. Play swung to the other end and an Irish point from Catherine McGourty point and one in return from Katy Smith made it 14-5.

Ireland again battled back and they added four more points with Catherine McGourty taking her tally to (0-5) and Niamh Mallon getting the other but Scotland stayed in front to win.

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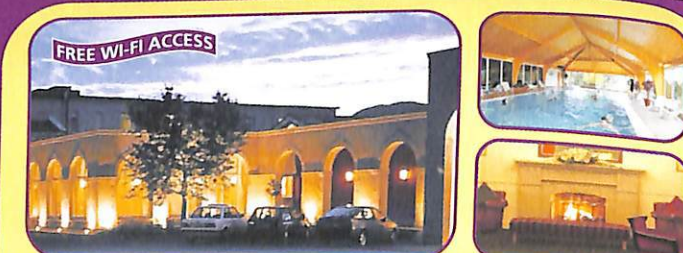
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Youth Player Development

A comprehensive programme of youth League and Cup competition provided the structure for youth involvement in 2014 and there was a very encouraging increase in the number of teams taking part in all CA League and Cup competitions during 2014. The aim is to provide an organised and structured programme of activity that provides an effective pathway for the engagement and development of young people in the sport.

68 young players attended the annual five-day Scottish Hydro National Player Development Camp at Strathallan School in Perthshire. The players had a week of intensive coaching with the focus on the physical, technical, tactical and psychological aspects of the game. The Development Camp continues to provide a key stage in the development pathway for young players.

The 2014 Scottish Hydro U17 National Squad travelled to Ireland in July for a successful three-day shinty/hurling tour that saw them narrowly lose their first

match 16-17 to a powerful Wexford County team. However, the team recovered from their disappointment to defeat a very strong Dublin Development Squad in their final game of the tour.

In conjunction with the Women's Camanachd Association, supported by Marine Harvest, a WCA National Development Camp for girls took place at Strathallan, Perthshire over the weekend of 5th & 6th July. The camp brought together more than 40 players of all abilities, backgrounds and ages for two days of top level coaching. As with the boy's camp, the women's camp provides an important element in the continued development of the women's game.

10 clubs were awarded funding from the £5000 Scottish Hydro Youth Development Fund. The fund aims to support member clubs who wish to increase youth participation by providing a grant of £500 in support of new and enhanced club initiatives that will deliver sustainable growth in the number of young people playing shinty.

Following a series of regional qualifiers across the country, the 2014 National First Shinty Festival was held in Fort William at the start of March. The event attracts the best young players from across Scotland, with 26 teams and over 200 children taking part on the day.

The National Disability Festival continues to be another of the highlights in the youth calendar. The two day Festival was held in April for the fifth year at the MacDonald Resort in Aviemore and the event continues to attract schools from across Scotland with 70 children taking part this year.

The Camanachd Association in partnership with Glasgow Life and local volunteer coaches ran five "Come & Try Shinty" stations during the Commonwealth Games at the Glasgow Green Live Site. This was an excellent opportunity to showcase shinty with an estimated 20,000 people attending the Live Site each day.

Kilmallie, winners of the Tulloch Development Trophy on the day of the Camanachd Cup Final



Kingussie win Wade Cup on home patch

The Schools Camanachd Association held The Wade Cup at The Dell, Kingussie on Wednesday 19th November.

This competition is for U16s and teams from Lochaber, Kingussie, Glenurquhart, Portree High Schools and Charleston Academy took part. A round robin league was played out in 15 minute matches. The overall standard of play was high and the competition was played in a very sporting manner throughout, credit is due to all players and their coaches.

Kingussie finished top of the league with Lochaber just a point behind so both qualified to contest the final.

The final began at a roaring pace with end to end play. Both defenses held firm and at half time there was no scoring. A minute after the restart however Kingussie's Iain Robinson fired in a speculative shot which foxed the Lochaber keeper and trickled in just inside his left post. The game continued at a hectic pace but despite their best efforts, Lochaber couldn't find the net and Kingussie had goalkeeper Robert Shiells and full back Iain Richardson to thank for some great saves and goal line clearances. Robinson's solitary strike proved to be enough to keep the trophy in Badenoch.

The cup and medals were presented by Mr. Tommy Wade who donated the trophy for schools competition in the 1970s.

The Schools Camanachd Association would like to thank Kingussie Camanachd Club for hosting the event, also Ronald Ross and Russell Jones from the Camanachd Association for refereeing and Lovat Shinty Club for the donation of match balls.

A footnote to the final report is that Tommy Wade made his debut for Kingussie 1st team in 1938. He served with the RAF in the second world war as a gunner on a Lancaster Bomber, and was credited with restarting shinty in Kingussie after the war although he was not allowed to play for the club! Due to shortage of players, Kingussie fielded only a junior team for a few years after the war and the CA decreed at the time that anyone who had played senior shinty before the war couldn't play junior shinty again. Because of this Tommy played for Inverness for a couple of seasons and played in the only Inverness team to win the Camanachd Cup to date in 1952. When Kingussie returned to the senior ranks, Tommy returned to play for his hometown club and when he finished playing, became coach and was in charge of the Camanachd Cup winning team in 1961, Kingussie's first Camanachd Cup win for 40 years.



Picture shows Lochaber and Kingussie High School teams with Mr. Tommy Wade after the final.

North U14 Indoor 5 a sides 2014

The North indoor 5-a-sides were played at Dalfaber Sports Hall Aviemore on Saturday 22nd February. Eight teams contested a round robin league of 5 minute games before the knock out stages.

The league section was dominated by an impressive Skye team who were undefeated in all seven matches scoring an incredible 32 goals and only conceding 2. Glenurquhart were also in strong form only dropping 3 points to finish runners up and Kingussie and Fort William filled the other two semi-final slots in third and fourth respectively. Beaully improved with every game they played to finish fifth ahead of Inverness and Newtonmore edged out Caberfeidh for seventh.

The first semi pitched Fort William against Skye and most people would probably have expected a win for the islanders

after their impressive league form but Fort had other ideas and finished the match strongly to run out 3-2 winners. Kingussie beat Glenurquhart 4-1 in the other semi to book their place in the final.

The final was an amazing match which ebbed and flowed and Kingussie probably thought they had it won when they were 4 - 2 ahead with a minute left to play but Fort wouldn't give up and they scored two goals in 30 seconds to send the game into a 'golden goal' extra time period. Fifteen seconds after the restart Ruairidh Anderson sent an unstoppable shot in to the top corner of the Fort net to win the trophy for Kingussie.

As always the indoor tournament was an exciting start to the U14 season and thanks are due to all the coaches and parents who took teams to the event.

Marine Harvest London Shield Final

Kingussie U17s won the Marine Harvest London Shield at The Dell for the first time since 1991 after a fantastic match against their old rivals Newtonmore. The teams could not be separated during 80 minutes of regulation time and 20 minutes of extra time still failed to produce a winner and so the match went to a penalty shoot-out.

Kingussie were quickest out the blocks when Savio Genini was sharp to react to a loose ball in the box and opened the scoring in the first minute. Within five minutes this was cancelled out by Iain Robinson after good work on the right from Craig Macleod. Genini restored Kingussie's advantage only for Robinson to equalise again. Newtonmore then went ahead for the first time when Robinson completed his hat trick and it looked like things would stay that way until half time but Roddy Young squared things up with virtually the last hit of the half.

The large crowd was being entertained with some fantastic shinty with no quarter asked or given. A goal feast looked on the cards for the second half but the teams were so evenly matched they cancelled each other out for the second period. Referee Innes Wood blew for full time with no further scoring and the ensuing extra time period followed the same pattern, with goalkeepers Calum Grover and Robert Shiells equal to anything that got past their respective defences.

A penalty shoot-out was the only way to decide a winner but in truth neither side deserved to lose what had been a fantastic shinty match.

Savio Genini, Calum Grant and Owen Reid goals together with Robert Shiells' saves were enough for Kingussie to win the shoot-out 3-2. Camanachd Association Youth Director, Calum Duff, presented the trophy to Kingussie captain Savio Genini and medals to all the players.



Portree Primary Win Mackay Cup

Kyles 0 Portree 5

Kyles and Portree Primary teams met in the MacKay Cup Final at The Dell, Kingussie on Saturday 12th June, having won their respective one day tournaments held at Strachur and Fort William. The match was ably refereed by David Mitchell.

Portree started strongly and quickly dominated the play, with the Kyles defence digging in and holding off a series of attacks while still managing to create some counter forays towards the Portree goal. However it was Taylor Matheson who found the net on the 20 minute mark for Portree. Three minutes later Abby MacLean made it 2-0 and Holly MacLean compounded Kyles' misery with a third 2 minutes later.

The second half saw Kyles with more of the play but they were repeatedly denied by the Portree keeper who pulled off a series of fine saves in quick succession.

Portree continued to press and their efforts paid off when Daniel MacDonald scored number 4, with Gilleasbuig MacDonald completing the scoring 5 minutes from time.

The cup and medals were presented by Iain Ross of Kingussie, who was able to show the teams his own MacKay Cup medal which he won on the first occasion the cup was played for as an open competition in 1949. The Anne Cameron Memorial Quaich was awarded to Portree captain Ross Gordon.

The Schools' Camanachd Association would like to thank Kingussie club for hosting the final, referee David Mitchell and also John MacIntosh for piping the teams on to the park.



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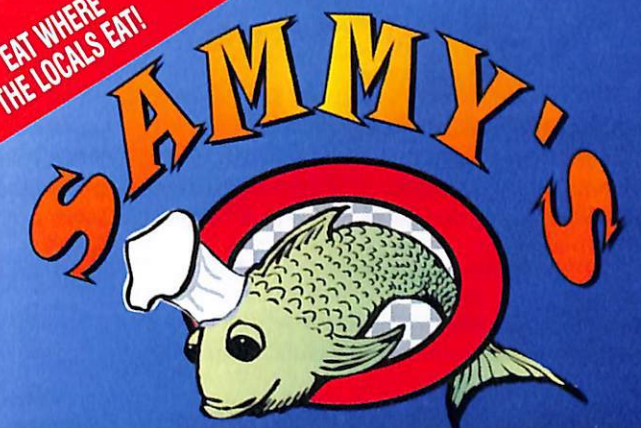


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WCA ROUND-UP

2014 was a busy and exciting year with a new league structure piloted, thanks to support from Marine Harvest, and continued to prove the growth and support for women's shinty

The Facebook page was again a great way to promote the women's game. This has featured reports on matches, club events, representative games and university games.



Women's Camanachd Association Marine Harvest National Division 2 Team of the Year - Lorn Ladies, Alison MacVicar and Amanda MacKenzie with Alan Sutherland, MD of Marine Harvest Scotland

• DEVELOPMENT SESSION

The money received from sponsors such as Marine Harvest and Peter Gow has again made a lot possible. The open sessions as part of the International sessions were very well received. These combined with the excellent Development Camp in July, brought forward coaches as well as an noticeable skill level in players.

The Camp was held at Strathallan with great attendance and good fun had by all. It was an excellent venue with great facilities that we would look to use again. Thank you to everyone who helped organise, run and attended the events.

• CUPS

The WCA saw more great developments in the Valerie Fraser Cup this year with Lochaber again making the semi-finals and Skye progressing to the finals where they gave Glasgow Mid Argyll a very hard fought game. This proves the progress made by Skye and the people behind the scenes driving them forward.

Both cups were played for in Strachur which again proved to be a great venue and good publicity was seen in the area for the event and for women's shinty. Thanks again to Strachur & District Shinty Club and Strachur Development Committee, who always make us feel so welcome and prepare the park so well. Our best wishes to Donald (Donut) MacDonald from Strachur who was present to watch the games.

The Valerie Fraser Cup was played for by Glasgow Mid Argyll and Skye, with GMA winning a very emotional game. GMA marked the passing of Donnie McNiven the previous week with a minute's applause. Donnie was a huge supporter of women's shinty and the WCA send his regards to their family and friends.

The Challenge Cup was played for by Strathglass and Lovat, this was another great game played end to end, with Strathglass coming out eventual winners. Congratulations to both teams.

Thanks also to the CA for their presence and help on the day at the event.

• LEAGUES

While there were teething problems with fixtures and neutral venues, the leagues were all eventually finalised. It was great to see so many teams playing so many games making rescheduling very difficult for Yvonne and the Committee due to a packed fixtures calendar, but all in all, this is a good problem to have and the WCA will endeavour to work towards making 2015 more fluid.

A huge thank you to all the referees and groundsmen of the Neutral Venues for all their help.

The final winners of each league:

National Division 1: Glasgow Mid Argyll, Runners up Skye

National Division 2: Glasgow Mid Argyll, Runners up Lorne Ladies.

GMA claim yet another title in 2014 season

Glasgow Mid Argyll topped off their most successful season ever with their second team overcoming Dunadd at Peterson Park, with a 7-0 win to clinch the Marine Harvest National Division Two title.

The score could have been higher as the Glasgow team dominated the game, but unusually their forwards were not quite on consistent shooting form despite managing to score 7 goals. In the first half, Joan Nicolson bagged herself a hat-trick; one from a penalty, then another two in open play.

The second half saw Elaine McGarrie move from defence to forward, and with her first touch, Elaine chipped the ball into the top corner for the goal of the game. Dunadd did fight back, and had a couple of opportunities to pull themselves back into the game. However, despite their best efforts, the Glasgow's keeper Steph Keenan did extremely well to keep a clean sheet. McGarrie went on to score three more goals after this to finish the game, and Glasgow's superb season.

In the 2014 season Glasgow claimed both the Marine Harvest National Divisions 1 & 2, along with the Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup. Huge congratulations to them and their coaches!



Women's Camanachd Association Marine Harvest National Division 1 Player of the Year 2014 - Niamh Donnelly, Aberdour with Alan Sutherland, MD of Marine Harvest Scotland

• INTER DISTRICTS

We would like to thank the Macaulay Association for their continued support of the North v South games which were again a great day in Oban. The organisation and hospitality shown the Association is always greatly received. We also received some new strip sponsors to complement the event. Superdrug provided well needed new strips for the senior teams and I think all will agree they looked great on the day. Thanks to Superdrug for their support.

The U18 squads used the strips donated several years ago by Michael Dunstaffnage.

• INTERNATIONAL



Women's Camanachd Association Marine Harvest National Division 2 Player of the Year 2014 - Katie Urquhart, Lovat with Alan Sutherland, MD of Marine Harvest Scotland

The International this year was played in Newry, Co Down and the Women's team were again victorious. Congratulations to all the Scotland girls for getting selected to represent their country and I thank them for all their hard work and effort in the run up to the match. We secured strip sponsorship again

through Loch Ness Gifts, training kit sponsorship with Gellions in Inverness, and sold over 700 raffle tickets along with players getting individual sponsorships. These sponsorship deals are key in making this event happen and we certainly could not do it without them.

Again a big thanks goes to the Head Coach Stuart Reid, Scott Campbell, Eoghan Stewart and Brian Slattery, who again went above and beyond in organising and selecting a team this year. This year I know selecting a team was even more difficult for them but highlights the returns on their effort. Stuart also included additional workshops for the girls to attend on pre match preparation which added to the session greatly. He again secured the main strip sponsor (Loch Ness Gifts Shop). Thanks again for providing this crucial part in the women's player pathway.

Marine Harvest WCA National Division 1 Team of the Year - Skye Ladies.



Marine Harvest Volunteer of the Year - Sarah Corigall (Skye)

• AWARDS

This was the third year that we have been involved in the Marine Harvest awards. This year we expanded the number of categories and presented player of the year awards also. Congratulations to winners.

Marine Harvest Volunteer of the Year - Sarah Corigall (Skye)

Marine Harvest National Division 1 Team of the Year - Skye for progress made in this league

Marine Harvest National Division 2 Team of the Year - Lorn Ladies for progress made in this league

Marine Harvest National Division 1 Player of the Year - Niamh Donnelly (Aberdour)

Marine Harvest National Division 2 Players of the Year - Katie Urquhart (Lovat) and Morgan Redpath (Strathglass)

We would like to thank Marine Harvest again for their continued generosity and hope to continue this in the future.

Yvonne has managed a difficult league and cup fixtures schedule and the WCA will miss her expertise in this area as she steps down. We thank her for all her time and dedication to women's shinty.

Behind the scenes I am very much indebted again to Marion Gillies. Marion has worked so hard in organising and chasing all the crucial administration needed this year as well as keeping us all right. She also secured several crucial sponsorship deals with the Gellions and Superdrug. Credit for the success of our PR campaigns must go to Jenny and Sarah, who have been devoted to WCA marketing and Promotion again.

Thank you to all the committee members, your time and effort is very much appreciated.

Also a huge thanks to the photographers and Willie Montgomery for his videoing of the Finals.

Finally I would like to thank all the teams and players for their support, 2015 looks to be an exciting season.

Lisa Norman-MacColl
President WCA



Scotland University Men Secure Ulster Triumph

The Scottish Universities men's team were 37-7 winners against Ulster University in their Shinty/Hurling meeting at the Ulster University campus, Jordanstown, on Saturday 25 January 2014.

Scotland Head Coach George Hay was assisted on the trip by Newtonmore's Paul MacArthur and their squad included Scotland U21 internationals Finlay MacMillan from Glasgow Mid Argyll, Newtonmore's Michael Russell and keeper Robert Dunning from Oban Camanachd. There were also places for Kingussie pair Louis Munro and Hamish Anderson and Cameron Keith from Kyles Athletic.

The historic decision to take both the men's and women's squads to Ireland for the first time in the ten year series was made by George Hay and Women's coach Fiona Mathie. They wanted to build on the successful Shinty / Hurling series of games between the Scottish University shinty teams and their British University hurling opposition.

The Scots faced an Ulster University squad which included players of both county and senior club standard. The match was played in difficult weather conditions and both sides had to contend with the bitter cold and the rain.

The Scot's tactics of short passing movements, combined with a four man midfield of Innes Macmillan, Louis Munro, Ross Balharry and Conal Mulholland, gave them the platform to break into the Irish defence and finish off fine lead-up play by scoring some spectacular goals. Kingussie's Hamish Anderson from Edinburgh Napier started the scoring after just 20 seconds following a move involving three Scots players.

The Scots' midfield was dominant throughout the game, breaking up the Irish attacks and closing down their attempts over the bar, whilst the Scots' defence was resolute in their tackling and man marking.

The Scots, captained by Lochcarron's Finlay Stark from the University of Strathclyde, continued to add to their tally with Ulster limited to rare scoring opportunities. Lochaber's Conor Sweeney from Heriot-Watt University was the visitors' top scorer with eleven points whilst Finlay Stark was just a point behind with ten points.

The match was played in fine spirit with the Ulster team battling to the end and the final score was Scotland University (8-13) 37-7 (2-1) Ulster University.

It is hoped that that there will be a return match in Scotland in 2015 and the victorious Scotland squad returned home on Sunday 26 January 2014.

SCOTLAND SCORERS:

Hamish Anderson (1-0); Conor Sweeney (3-2); Finlay Stark (1-7); Nick Lavin (1-0); Louis Munro (2-0); Ross Balharry (0-2); Mark Fraser (0-1); Conal Mulholland (0-1)

SCOTLAND UNIVERSITY MEN'S SQUAD:

Adam McMaster - University of Edinburgh

Brendan McLoone - University of Glasgow

Cameron Keith - Caledonian University

Conal Mulholland - University of Glasgow

Conor Sweeney - Heriot-Watt University

Guy Berg - University of Edinburgh

Mark Fraser - University of Aberdeen

Finlay MacMillan - University of Strathclyde (captain)

Finlay Stark - University of Edinburgh

Frank Ryan - Robert Gordon University

Andrew Grace - University of Glasgow

Hamish Anderson - Edinburgh Napier

Innes MacMillan - University of Glasgow

Jamie Cruickshank - Aberdeen University

Louis Munro - University of Strathclyde

Michael Russell - Heriot Watt University

Robert Dunning - University of Glasgow

Ross Balharry - Heriot Watt University

Ryan Harrison - University of Strathclyde

Nick Lavin - City of Glasgow College

On Tour with the ESA

The English Shinty Association completed a successful tour of Scotland which started on Wednesday 23 July 2014. The tour saw the ESA travel 4,000 miles and use 35 players over a total of 27 games.

The ESA stopped off in Manchester on their journey North where they drew 4-4 with NW England. The hosts will feel they should have won the game having missed two penalties but ESA showed great battling qualities to come from two goals down with only 10 minutes remaining to earn a draw.

Pipers Hamish Young and Hamish McGregor were a feature of the tour and the next stop was Glenfinnan – 700 miles away – where ESA lost 7-5 to Glenfinnan on Thursday 24 July 2014. This was an exciting encounter and there was a debut for Gary Smith in the ESA goal. However, the visitors suffered a blow as top scorer Jacob Harrell, who was given the man of the match award, broke his hand.

ESA then faced Aberdour at noon at Silver Sands in the Bullough Plate semi-finals on Saturday 26 July. Brian Toal put Aberdour ahead on 29 minutes but the tie remained in the balance until 4 minutes from time when Kevin Latimer made it 2-0. The English side enjoyed more than their fair share of pressure during the game but they were unable to find the back of the net.

It was a journey to the Highland Capital next for the following day's Annual Inverness Sixes. This meant the first competitive

matches for the CSM ladies who took part in the Alistair Gow Shield Women's Competition which was eventually won by Glasgow Mid Argyll Ladies.

The ESA men's side competed in the Jubilee Shield where they performed well with ex-Kingussie player Malcolm Wink excellent at full back. They lost 2-1 to eventual winners Broncos 2-1, drew 1-1 with Boleskine and beat Caithness to record their first victory in the tournament.

A visit to Glenurquhart Shinty Club followed on Monday 28 July. Glen fitness coach Gavin Heath delivered an intense training session and a skills practice including blocking and shy taking took place thereafter. The evening was rounded off with a 17-a-side practice match.

Lochcarron welcomed the ESA to Battery Park on the evening of Saturday 2 August. Lochcarron fielded a mixture of players in the match and they ran out comfortable winners. The star of the show was Lochcarron's 10 year old Sam Stubbs who scored five times.

For further details about ESA activity, get in touch with graham.love.05@aberdeen.ac.uk (London Camanachd) or mmossop@archaeologicalconsultancy.com or visit the relevant facebook pages for [londoncamanachd](https://www.facebook.com/londoncamanachd), [cornwallshintyclub](https://www.facebook.com/cornwallshintyclub) or [englishshintyassociation](https://www.facebook.com/englishshintyassociation).

From the Copacabana to the Camanachd Cup Final

An historic set of bagpipes, which have been played on the Brazilian beaches at Copacabana and the Grand Canyon, having survived the rigours of the First World War, was centre-stage as shinty came to the fore in 2014 at the tenth Blas Festival and Scotland's second national Homecoming celebration.

In the week of the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final, when the culmination of Blas 2014 and shinty's showpiece game joined together in Inverness, three shows highlighting the importance of shinty to Highland communities and Gaels world-wide, as well as the impact of the First World War on Highland communities, were performed in shinty-playing areas. The first of the "Home and Away" Glòir nan Caman shows was in Tighnabruich, home of Kyles Athletic, on September 10. This was followed the next evening in Inverinate in Wester Ross and finally on the Friday night, the evening before the Camanachd Cup Final, Eden Court in Inverness was the venue. Hugh Dan MacLennan presented the shows and the 2014 musical director was Megan Henderson. Joining the cast were the piping Mac Gillivrays of Calrossie, Gary Innes, Allan Henderson, Linda Macleod and Calum Alex MacMillan.

Hugh Dan MacLennan said: "We tailored the events to the various locations, highlighting heroes from each, and bringing the connections



Picture by Kevin Campbell

between music, song, shinty and the First World War together. It's a remarkable story that a set of bagpipes can survive the rigours of the Great War and then end up being played on the beaches of Brazil during a Pope's visit. And then show up in Tighnabruich where the rendition of "Home to the Kyles" led by the inimitable Kerr Crawford, who was on crutches at the time, will forever live in the memory."

Home and Away also featured the story of the MacGillivray Cup, one of shinty's most prized trophies, originally donated for play in the 1920s by one of Duncan MacGillivray's

relations. Hugh Dan added: "The MacGillivray story gives us an ideal opportunity to link the importance of shinty to Highland Communities during the First World War with some of our most famous songs and stories. We also reflected on how important shinty appears to have been to the Highland diaspora world-wide as they retained their memories of home, particularly at the New Year and that was singularly important in 2014 and it being a Homecoming Year for Scotland."

NB: As we go to press it is worth noting that further shows are planned for 2015 in Portree on May 15, in Stornoway at HebCelt Fest in July and again in Blas 2015 in Beaulieu in September.

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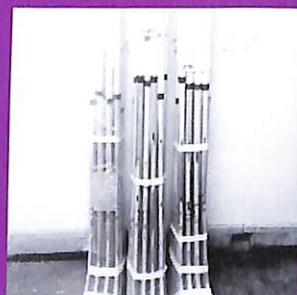
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Kyles Athletic win Artemis Macaulay Sixes

Kyles Athletic's young stars of the future emerged victorious in the 2014 Artemis Macaulay Association primary school six-a-side championships at Mossfield Park in Oban on Saturday 7th June.

The six Kyles stalwarts played every minute of every game and that included a dramatic session of extra time and penalties against Park school from Oban before getting their hands on the Cumming Memorial trophy.

Thirty-five teams took part in the sun-bathed Oban arena (in the morning at least!). However, by the time the afternoon had seen its course and the group matches were completed, the semi-finals and final were played in torrential rain.

Kyles were one of the teams to top their group and they then disposed of Inverlochty at the semi-final stage. Park, meanwhile, had taken an altogether tougher route to the later stages, edging through to the final on penalties after a goal-less semi-final match against Taynuilt.

And so Kyles eventually emerged as the winners although there was some consolation for Park when Ross Campbell was named as the Best Male Player in the tournament and Ellie MacInnes, who had been playing for Park Sparks in the development section, was named the Best Female Player.

The Alastair Campbell shield, for teams of primary five ages and under was won by Inverlochty Braxi Boys, who also needed penalties to get past Beaully and Ord.

The final of the development competition for the Peter English Trophy was won by Rothesay who were comfortable winners over the Eilean boys by 3-0.

David Hamilton, secretary of the Macaulay Association, who are again to be commended on delivering another outstanding tournament said: "Everything ran very smoothly and we were very fortunate to get the majority of our games played before the rain started. Our thanks go to the sponsors Artemis who gave every team a set of training bibs – the referees, players and all the coaches, as well as the Macaulay Association's great band of helpers.

The prizes were presented by Graham Mitchell of Artemis Fund Managers.



Ross Campbell and Ellie MacInnes, the Players of the Tournament.



Kyles the champions with legends Dan MacRae (right) and Kerr Crawford (left).



Rothesay, Peter English Trophy winners.

Shinty Memories starter packs launched at 2014 AJG Parcels Celtic Society Cup Final

A collaborative partnership between shinty's Governing Body, the Camanachd Association and Alzheimer Scotland in which the sport's archives and other resources are being used to help people with dementia took a major step forward at the Celtic Society Cup Final with the launch of a set of Shinty Memories cards to be used in local community groups.

Sets of 100 cards are being prepared from the archives using images of players, trophies, pitches and badges. They are laminated and an accompanying booklet in English and Gaelic is being produced which will include clues to assist recall. It is hoped that over time, there will be further sets for use in Shinty Memories groups.

The cards were launched at a pre-match function at the AJG Parcels Celtic Society Cup Final between Inveraray and Kyles Athletic at Old Anniesland on Saturday 28th June. Volunteers from Alzheimer Scotland were on hand to explain how the Shinty Memories project is being set up and to distribute leaflets with further information.



Hugh Dan MacLennan, who is coordinating the production of the shinty material for the cards said: "We are grateful to the Directors of the Celtic Society that they have enabled us to launch this element of the Shinty Memories project at the Celtic Society Cup Final. There can be few clubs or families who are not aware of people who have to meet the challenges of dealing with dementia. Sport has a great deal it can contribute to making this more manageable and I am delighted that shinty is making its own contribution to that. I am also pleased to see how people have taken to the Shinty Memories presence online and how that activity in itself is helping people recall the sport's great past."

Memories Shinty Club, the first online virtual shinty club, has been established with its own Facebook and Twitter presence which have been extremely successful. The shinty page has more "likes" than the corresponding sites for football and rugby.

Modelled on the previously trialled and very successful project involving football, the plan is to build sets of resources to be used to help people with dementia improve their recall, communication skills, self-esteem and confidence. The project team offer training to support local groups.

The Shinty Memories project is based at Hampden Park in Glasgow and managed by Michael White of Alzheimer Scotland. He said: "It was noticed that men with memory problems had an impressive recall of sports from their younger days and that images triggered off these memories. So far, we have developed football, rugby, golf and shinty."

Memories Shinty Club is run by trained volunteers and each group is supported by local fundraising or sponsorship. Sessions usually last between 60 minutes and 80 minutes and there is always a break at "half time" for refreshments. Teas and coffees are provided. A trained volunteer will lead the shinty session and a professional with specific knowledge of memory problems is always part of the team.

The Memories Shinty Club is being supported by a number of current and former players and officials, including John MacKenzie (Scotland and Newtonmore). He said: "The shinty community knows of many people who have dementia. We have so much we can contribute by talking to people and triggering memories through our photographs and memorabilia. Sharing our memories is so important."

Volunteers are always welcome and donations can be made through the Alzheimer Scotland website at www.alzscot.org

For further information:
Memories Shinty Club, Alzheimer Scotland,
c/o Hampden Park, Glasgow
G42 9BA Tel: 0141 410 1062
e-mail: mwhite@alzscot.org
Facebook: Memories Shinty Club
Twitter: @memoriesc



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Chaidh Iomain Cholmcille a chluich ann an Glaschu anns an t-Samhain 2014. 'S e seo a' chiad uair a chaidh an fharpais iomain airson luchd-labhairt cànan nan Gàidheal eadar Alba agus Èireann a chluich sa bhaile. Chaidh co-fharpais òigridh sa mhadainn a bhuannachadh le Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu.

Ann an gèam nan inbheach, bha làmh-an-uachdair aig na h-Albannaich anns a' chiad leth agus chaidh iad trì puing air thoiseach le Alasdair MacLaomainn a' fosgladh an sgòradh le puing tarsainn, agus an uairsin Gilleasbuig MacDhòmhnaill a' cur dà phuing tarsainn bho shaor-bhuille on làr.

Beag air bheag thàinig Fir Uladh air ais dhanghèam, agus an dèidh puing fhaighinn, fhuair iad a' chiad thadhal dhen ghèam tro Frankie O Ceallaigh airson a dhol air thoiseach.

Fhreagair Alba le tadhal bho Lawrence MacNeacail Bellini o Shràth Spè. Fhuair Fir Uladh puing an dèidh sin airson an gèam a thoirt gu ceann aig leth-ùine le na sgòraichean aig sia puing an urra.

Gun dithis de na cluicheadairean as cudromaiche ann an meadhan na pàirce, bha e doirbh do dh'Alba greim fhaighinn air a' ghèam.

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COACHING

The CA continues to work with a range of partners, including member Clubs & Associations, sportscotland, sportscoachUK, Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA), Skill Development Scotland and Local Authorities, to support the recruitment and development of coaches at all levels throughout the sport. All activity is based around the Association's annual Coaching Action Plan and guided by the Strategic Plan (2011-14).

10 Foundation coaching courses were held in 2014 up to the AGM, reaching 80 coaches across the country with an overall aspiration of reaching more than 90 coaches in total by the end of the year. This is in line with previous years and exceeds the target figure of 80. It is important to note that the vast majority of coaches qualified in 2014 have taken up a coaching position with a local school or club and are directly contributing towards the further development of our sport.

Following the successful United Kingdom Coaching Certificate (UKCC) accreditation of the CA Level 1 course in 2012 and the new UKCC Level 2 course in 2013, it is great to report that both courses have been reviewed and re-credited by sportscoachUK this year. In addition, the Level 2 course has been externally verified by the Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA).

This process is a guarantee that Camanachd Association courses are on a par, if not better than, with any other sport in the UK. The finalised UKCC Level 2 coaching resource materials have been well received and were highly commended by sportscoachUK and SQA.

Five UKCC Level 1 Courses (two up on 2013) were delivered in 2014 to 30 candidates. This was the target set for the year. An initial UKCC Level 2 course for CA Coach Educators and National Squad Coaches was held at the end of 2013 and 12 candidates completed the full assessment process early this year. A second UKCC Level 2 course was started this month with 4 candidates and a further course was planned for the beginning of 2014. The target is to have a minimum of 15 coaches participating at this level by the beginning

of next season. The assistance of clubs in encouraging their Coaches/Managers to be appropriately skilled and qualified is crucial.

The CA encourages all clubs and schools to support their coaches in their development. Quality coaching will increase participation and performance.

A series of Continuous Personal Development (CPD) workshops was again promoted and delivered during 2014. Topics included Team Dynamic, Nutrition/Hydration for Shinty and Preparation for Competition. The last two workshops were run in association with the Women's Camanachd Association National Squad and were well attended. Additional development workshops provided by other partners, e.g. First Aid and Child Protection, were also promoted throughout the year.

The CA is very close to announcing the inclusion, and launch, of shinty on the www.igameplanner.com website. Coaches will be able to go online and develop or copy practices and session plans. The website will also be used as part of the Coach Education courses to assist coaches in gathering information for assessments.

The Association continues to be extremely grateful for the support of 12 volunteer Coach Educators who support CA staff in the delivery of coach training packages across the county throughout the year. Association staff and Coach Educators benefit from an ongoing programme of development opportunities provided by a range of national agencies, including sportscotland, to ensure they can deliver a high standard of training for all those involved in the sport.

Finally, development of the coaching database continues to improve communication with coaches and provides an important vehicle for the Association to target relevant training opportunities at individuals. Reminders were sent to all coaches with qualifications due to lapse in 2014 and 29 have so far come forward for re-validation.

MATCH OFFICIALS

As ever, the recruitment and development of match officials remains a priority for shinty. Although progress has been made, the CA recognises that the situation remains critical and requires the support of all member Clubs & Associations to help increase and develop the number of officials regularly active within the game.

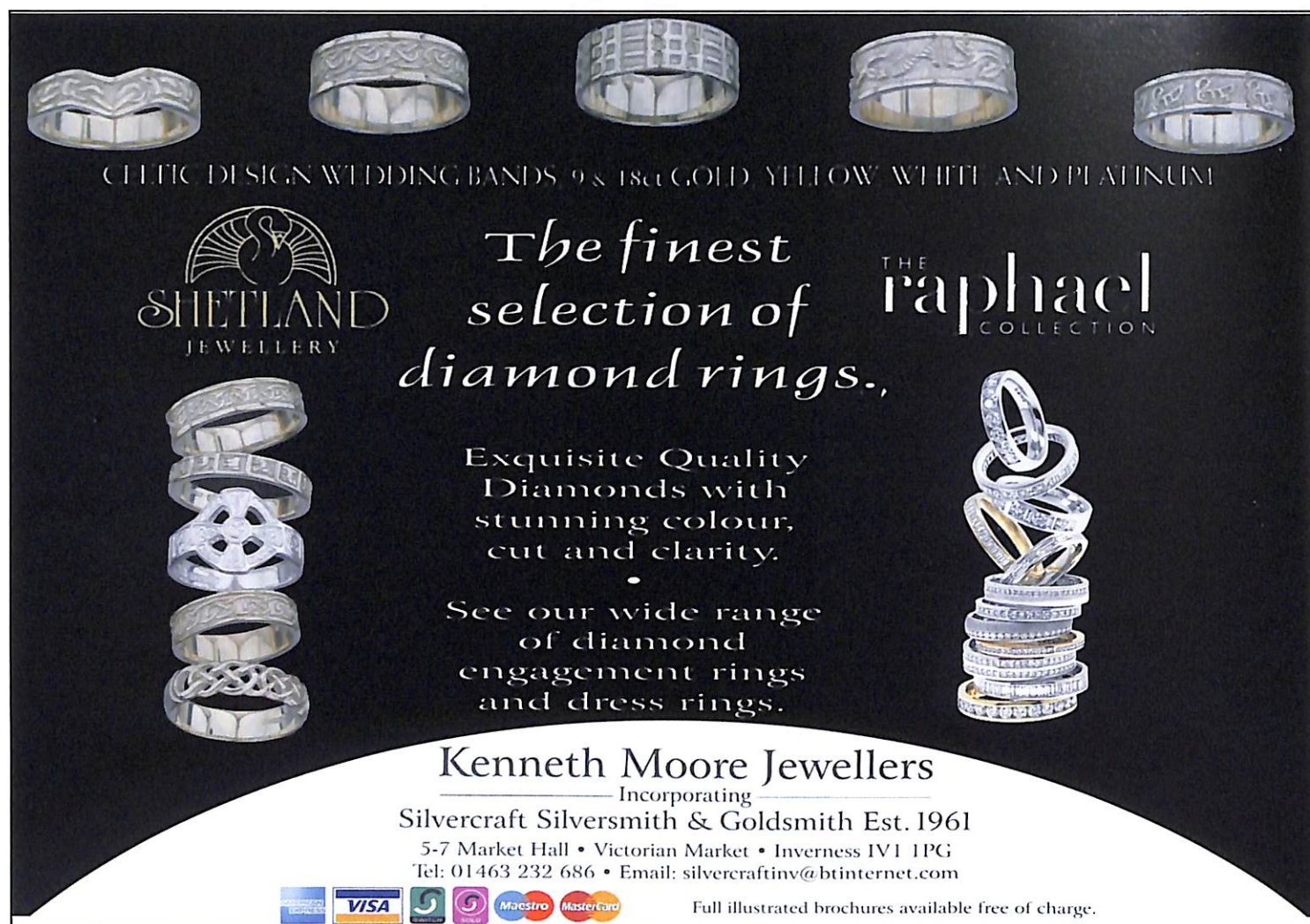
A total of 36 referees were allocated to senior games during 2014 which was a reduction of two on 2013. Of the 36 allocated referees, only 31 were available on a regular basis throughout the season. The grading of referees in 2014 was as follows: 12 Grade One, 14 Grade Two and 10 Grade Three. Seven new or returning referees were introduced at senior level during 2014, plus a further 12 introduced at youth/university level. Five referees who had previously officiated in 2013 did not participate in 2014 due to injury or work/family commitments.



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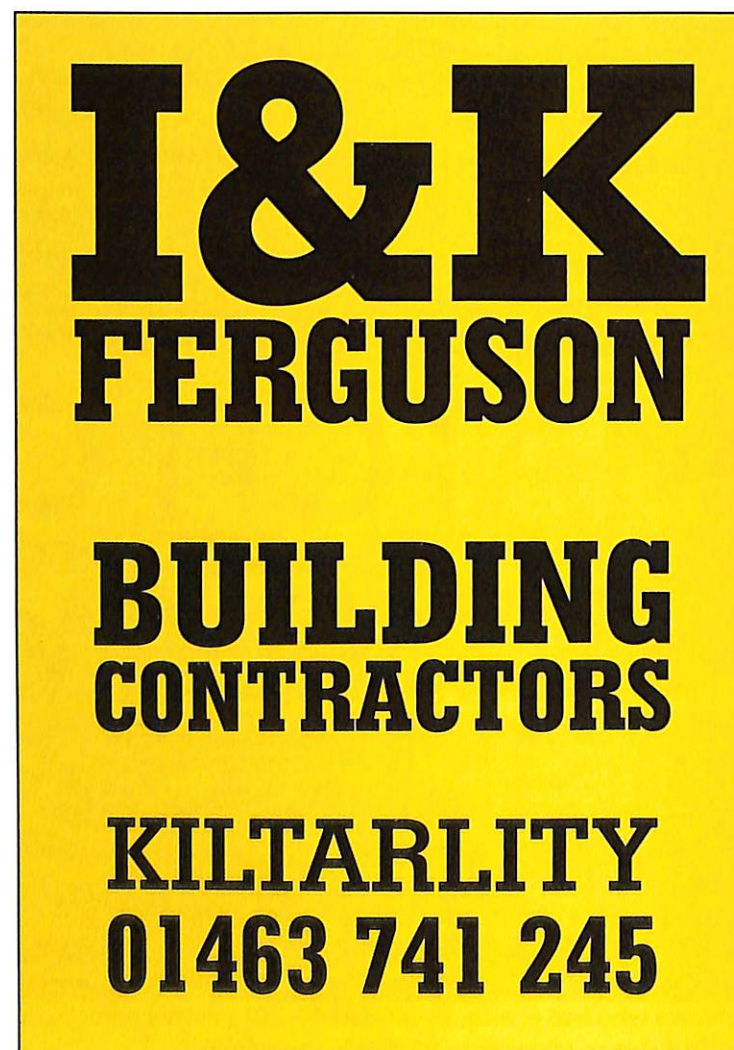
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HEARTSTART

Heartstart Camanachd, the Camanachd Association's Emergency Life Support (ELS) training team was set up in partnership with the Skye based charity Lucky2BHere in 2013 with the aim of providing ELS training for all Shinty Clubs and to encourage clubs to have their own Automated External Defibrillator's (AED's) at pitch side during games.

The high profile case of Bolton Wanderer's football player Fabrice Muamba, who suffered a cardiac arrest at White Hart Lane a few seasons ago and whose life was subsequently saved by what he described as 'fabulous First Aid', brought to the attention of the nation the need for everyone to have basic First Aid skills.

Heartstart Camanachd's Russell Jones said: "The Muamba incident unfolded in front of a live television audience of millions. 40,000 people in the stadium (including a leading cardiologist who ran on to help) and in North London, only a couple of miles from one of the best chest hospitals in the world. Contrast that scenario to a shinty pitch in the Highlands or Argyll with a handful of spectators, many miles from the nearest hospital and sometimes nearest ambulance, (which may already be in use) and you begin to see why it is so important for shinty players, coaches and spectators to have knowledge of E.L.S. and for shinty clubs to have their own defibrillators."



The defibrillators are supplied by Skye based charity Lucky2BHere that was founded by Skye Camanachd's 1990 Camanachd Cup winning manager Ross Cowie. Ross suffered a sudden cardiac arrest in the Skye Camanachd clubhouse six years ago. It was only the lucky chance that an ambulance was passing the road end when it received the 999 alert saved his life. During his recovery Ross decided to do all he could to have more AEDs readily available and more people trained to use them. From small beginnings in Skye, Lucky2BHere have now supplied AEDs all over the Highlands and Islands, Shetland Isles and many parts of the Central Belt.

Kingussie and Newtonmore were the first shinty clubs to undertake ELS training with Heartstart Camanachd. Since then Glenurquhart, Kinlochshiel, Lochaber, Fort William, Beaulie, Strathglass and Aberdeen Univ. have all completed training evenings and contributed to their own 'defibs'.

If you or your club would like more information about Heartstart Camanachd or L2BH please contact Russell.jones@shinty.com, graham.cormack@shinty.com or euan.mcmurdo@shinty.com.

Shinty for children – safe, healthy and happy

It is recognised that, in a number of clubs, the many responsibilities of keeping a club going are often in the hands of a few people. The Camanachd Association's child protection procedures are not intended to add to the burden of those few people. They aim to bring clarity to the task of ensuring that children and young people can enjoy shinty. They are intended to be an aid to helping recruit people (paid or unpaid) into the sport of shinty to help member clubs carry out their duties to safeguard the wellbeing of children, making shinty a safe, healthy and happy option for children and young people.

The Camanachd Association is currently operating in line with government legislation in respect of its implementation of its Child Safeguarding policies. The CA complies with the Minimum Operating Requirements set down by sportscotland as part of its Fit for Purpose audit of Scottish governing bodies of sport.

The Protection of Vulnerable Groups Scotland Act 2007, (implemented in 2011) is now established as the process by which SGBs and clubs can check the criminal background of an individual who is recruited to carry out regulated work on behalf of the SGB or an affiliated club.

The PVG Scheme replaced the previous disclosure arrangements (Protection of Children Scotland Act) for people who work with vulnerable groups. For the majority of sports clubs/sports organisation/SGBs the PVG Scheme will relate to their work with children and young people.

The CA is registered with Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services, the body appointed by Disclosure Scotland to support organisations in the Voluntary Sector. The CA is a qualifying voluntary organisation and works with VSDS to support the PVG processes of itself and its Clubs.

The CA, in conjunction with Children 1st held a Child Protection workshop aimed at updating and informing club Child Protection Officers. The course covered legal duties of clubs, their roles and responsibilities and practical policies and procedures needed. An impressive 19 clubs attended the three-hour workshop. The CA will continue to seek out training opportunities for all adults involved in regulated work with children within the sport, e.g. Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Sport. Anyone taking on the role of a Child Protection Officer is strongly recommended to attend an In Safe Course organised through the Safeguarding in Sport Service.

Key points for clubs to remember:

- The Camanachd Association requires that any member of staff or volunteer who carries out regulated work on behalf of the Camanachd Association is a member of the PVG scheme. This will be done in line with the protocols laid down by Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services.
- By virtue of their membership of the Camanachd Association, all affiliated Associations and Clubs are held to adopt the Camanachd Association Child Protection Policy and Procedures. These procedures apply throughout the sport of shinty.
- The Camanachd Association will continue to work closely with the Safeguarding in Sport Service and Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services to ensure the sport and its affiliated associations and clubs are kept up to date with best practice in the implementation of sSafeguarding policies and procedures.

An up to date version of these procedures will be maintained on the Association's website, at www.shinty.com.

Marine Harvest Awards

The 2014 Marine Harvest National Shinty Awards Winners were presented at a ceremony and dinner in the Kingsmills Hotel, Inverness on Friday 17 October, the evening prior to the 2014 International match against Ireland at the Bught Park. The awards were presented by Marine Harvest's Managing Director, Alan Sutherland and a number of other notable guests.



*Marine Harvest Coach of the Year 2014 – Davie Anderson & Russell Jones, Kingussie Camanachd Shinty Club

After a somewhat hesitant and inauspicious beginning, persistency with a bold policy of playing the new generation of players being nurtured at the Dell, saw David Anderson and Russell Jones selected as joint Coaches of the Year. They persevered with an audacious policy of mixing youth and experience and they were rewarded with the ultimate triumph, winning the 2014 Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup at Inverness. They received a silver mounted caman and £250 for their club.

*Marine Harvest Player of the Year 2014 – Steven MacDonald, Newtonmore Camanachd Club



A model of consistency with great vision and determination as his hallmarks, Steven MacDonald was selected as the National Player of the Year. Hugely influential in Newtonmore's push for a fifth Premiership league title in a row, Steven excelled in a number of roles throughout the year, which saw him win the league and the Macaulay Cup. His versatility was key to supporting the club's effort and he received a silver mounted caman and £250 for his club.



*Marine Harvest Club of the Year 2014 – Skye Camanachd

On a number of fronts, this was an outstanding year for Skye Camanachd.

The list of trophies and awards at a variety of age levels and also in the women's section made them outstanding candidates for

one of the game's top awards. They went through their league programme undefeated and won a play-off to reach National League Division One. John Angus Morrison accepted the award on their behalf.

*Marine Harvest Centenary Award (for outstanding contribution to shinty, awarded every 3 years) – Davie Hamilton, Oban.



David Hamilton is the latest recipient of one of shinty's most distinguished awards. He has spent decades working with young players in the Oban area in particular and has been prominent in a number of administrative roles, principally the Macaulay Association and Oban Celtic Shinty Club. Few shinty events in Oban, particularly with reference to major matches and sixes competitions, have taken place without David's input. His commitment to shinty from his playing days with Oban Celtic through to a massive contribution to the development of the game with the Macaulay and Camanachd Associations make him a very worthy winner.

League Coaches & Player Awards



*Marine Harvest Award – Orion Premiership Coach of the Year 2014 – Paul John MacKintosh, Newtonmore, accepted on his behalf by Iain MacKintosh.

Marine Harvest – National Division Coach of the Year 2014 – Gus Campbell, Oban Camanachd

*Marine Harvest South Division 1 Coach of the Year 2014 – Roddy MacColl, Kyles Athletic



Marine Harvest North Division 1 Coach of the Year 2014 – John MacLeod, Skye

Marine Harvest South Division 2 Coach of the Year 2014 – Ruairaidh Graham, Inveraray

Marine Harvest North Division 2 Coach of the Year 2014 – Peter Wood & Lachie MacDonald, Fort William

Marine Harvest North Division 3 Coach of the Year 2014 – Iain Sinclair, Lewis

Marine Harvest Award – Orion Premiership Player of the Year 2014 – Stuart MacDonald, Lovat

Marine Harvest National Division Player of the Year 2014 – Daniel Cameron, Oban Camanachd

Marine Harvest South Division 1 Player of the Year 2014 – Innes MacDonald, Kyles Athletic

Marine Harvest North Division 1 Player of the Year 2014 – Steven Morrison, Skye

Marine Harvest South Division 2 Player of the Year 2014 – Fraser Watt, Inveraray

Marine Harvest North Division 2 Player of the Year 2014 – Peter Wood, Fort William

Marine Harvest North Division 3 Player of the Year 2014 – Andy Hay, Strathspey

Women's Awards

*Women's Camanachd Association Marine Harvest Volunteer of the Year 2014 – Sarah Corrigan, Skye Ladies

Women's Camanachd Association Marine Harvest National Division 2 Team of the Year 2014 – Lorn Ladies

*Women's Camanachd Association Marine Harvest National Division 1 Team of the Year 2014 – Skye Ladies

Women's Camanachd Association Marine Harvest National Division 2 Player of the Year 2014 – Morgan Redpath, Strathglass & Katie Urquhart, Lovat

*Women's Camanachd Association Marine Harvest National Division 1 Player of the Year 2014 – Niamh Donnelly, Aberdour



Youth Awards

Marine Harvest Youth Coach of the Year – John MacLeod, Skye Camanachd

Under 14 Player of the Year – John Gillies, Skye



* Under 17 Player of the Year – Savio Genini, Kingussie

Under 21 Player of the Year – Fraser Heath, Glenurquhart

Donella Crawford Award for Youth & Schools – Ewen MacColl, Beaully

Volunteer

William Paterson Silver Volunteer of the Year 2014 – George Hay, Glasgow Mid Argyll

Referees

*The Johnny "Ach" MacRae Quaich Referee of the Year 2014 – Innes Wood, Fort William



*Emerging Referee of the Year 2014 – Andy MacLean, Kirkhill

Fair Play

*Fair Play Award 1 Team Club – Lewis Camanachd, accepted by Eoghann Stewart who was, ironically, the only Lewis player booked in 2014!

Fair Play Award 2 Team Club – Aberdour



Media

*Media Award 2014 – Cuillin FM

Awarded to Skye's intrepid broadcasters who are known to go to great lengths to offer coverage of the island team.

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SIXES

Inverness Sixes

Inverness Shinty Club held their 6 a Sides Tournament on Sunday 27th July 2014, at Bught Park, Inverness.

No less than 8 teams and 224 players contested the 3 main competitions, with The Alastair Gow Shield the prize for the winning women's team and the Ken Ross Trophy for the Under 14s. A number of new teams competing included Oban Celtic at Under 14s level and Skye in Women.

RESULTS:

Ken Ross Trophy - Under 14s (5 teams)

Kingussie 3-0 Oban Celtic

Scott Mossman, Oban Celtic - Murdo MacLean Player of the Tournament (Under 14s)

Alistair Gow Shield for Women (10 teams)

Glasgow Mid Argyll (GMA) 3-2 Strathspey and Badenoch

Rachel McCafferty, GMA - Murdo MacLean Player of the Tournament (Women)

Jubilee Shield (13 teams)

The Broncos 1-0 Caberfeidh

Kyle Macdonald, Broncos - Murdo MacLean Player of the Tournament (Men)

Rosedean Shield for Early Exit Teams

Edinburgh University 1-0 Inverness-Shire

Inverness Shinty Club would like to thank all the teams taking part and the officiating Referees - Neil Ferguson, Calum Girvan, Evan MacRae, Jock Mathieson and Archie Ritchie.

'More win 31st Joe Toal sixes

Newtonmore won the 2014 Joe Toal Sixes at Spean Bridge on Sunday 20 July 2014, defeating Spean Utd 3-0 in the final. The goals came from captain Scott Chisholm and a Paul MacArthur brace.

The winning Newtonmore side was: Michael Ritchie, Andy MacKintosh, Michael Russell, Paul MacArthur, Evan Menzies, Calum Stewart, Scott Chisholm, Ally MacRae.

This was the 31st Anniversary of the tournament and ten teams took part. Joe Toal died suddenly when playing for Lochaber Camanachd against Fort William in 1982. He was aged just 22. Lochaber Camanachd have since held a sixes tournament in honour of his memory and dedication to the club. Joe's mother Molly, a great supporter of the tournament sadly died this year (see Obituaries). She will be greatly missed.

Fort William adapt best to monsoon at Jock Paul MacKintosh Veterans Sixes

Fort William won the 2014 annual Jock Paul MacKintosh Veterans Sixes which took place at the Eilan on Sunday 17 August 2014.

The monsoon conditions failed to inhibit the veterans who served up some entertaining and exciting games with some silky skills being shown off.

Ten teams were split into two sections with Glasgow Mid Argyll, Inveraray, Kingussie, Lochaber & The Referees in one section and Caberfeidh, Fort William, Kilmallie, Lovat and Newtonmore in the second group.

This tournament always throws up some amusing moments and this year was no different. Lovat boss Allan MacRae turned a couple of heads when he appeared in a Newtonmore strip and came on as a substitute to score the winning goal in a 1-0 victory over Lovat and Camanachd Association referee Innes Wood was sent off by former ref John Henderson whilst playing for the Referees' Team!

Lochaber made it through to meet Fort William in the final, which was refereed by John Sloggie. It was played in heavy rain but that didn't deter the supporters who had been treated to an entertaining afternoon's shinty. Fort William eventually beat Lochaber 2-1 with two superb goals to lift the trophy. Fort William's John MacLeod was named Player of the Tournament.

Boleskine Lift 2014 Mod Cup

Boleskine won the 2014 Mod Cup with a 4-2 victory over Inverness at the Bught Park outside pitch on Saturday 11 October 2014.

It was a last match in charge for Inverness boss Allan MacLeod with his co-manager Innes Simpson standing down earlier in the week due to work commitments.

Inverness went in front on 13 minutes when a well struck rasping shot from Keith Nicholson on the right flew into the net to make it 1-0. Donnie Forbes levelled on 22 minutes and then Inverness had chances to get back in front but Craig Pirrie in the Boleskine goal was equal to their efforts.

Boleskine went in front on 29 minutes when Steven Cameron surged forward from midfield and he got his second and Boleskine's third on 69 minutes.

Inverness were given the chance to reduce the deficit on 76 minutes when referee Calum Girvan awarded them a penalty.



Dougie Rankin stepped up to convert from the spot to make it 3-2. In the final minute Ewan Fraser scored to make it 4-2 in Boleskine's favour.

Boleskine's Ewan Fraser was named man of the match before captain Matthew Ross was presented with the Mod Cup.

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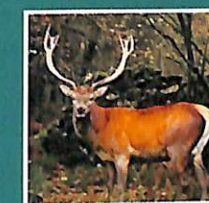
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In Memoriam

Once again shinty appears to have been dealt several heavy blows across the playing community and amongst the ranks of supporters. Every effort has been made to include all those who have passed away, but it is inevitable and regrettable that one or two may have been lost due to the passage of time and pressures of space.

Peter Cameron, Ballachulish and Appin

Peter Cameron was born in 1923 and spent most of his working life in the Appin area as a hill shepherd which kept him very fit and wiry. He was a stalwart of the Appin Shinty Club and won many medals with them including a runners-up medal for the Sutherland Cup in 1954. Later Peter joined Ballachulish and played until he was about 49/50, as he and his eldest son Dugie played in the same team. Peter passed away in Raigmore Hospital Inverness on 24 March in his 91st year and was cremated in Inverness, his ashes to be scattered in his beloved homeland of Appin.

Donald W. Campbell, Lovat

Donald W. Campbell of Lovat Shinty Club passed away on Sunday 22nd June. Donnie, who spent most of his working life in a senior administrative capacity within the Health Service in the Highlands, was a member of the very successful Lovat team of the early 1950s which won every competition for which it was entered. He also served the game in an administrative capacity, as the last secretary of the MacTavish Camanachd Association prior to the amalgamation which formed the North of Scotland Shinty Association in 1960. He was eventually its President.

His funeral service was held in St Mary's Catholic Church, Beaulieu on Friday 27th June with interment at Glenconvinth Cemetery, Kiltarlity. Former Lovat players formed a guard of honour as the hearse left the church.

Robert Campbell, Beaulieu

The shinty community was saddened to learn of the death of Robert Campbell at the age of 67 following a long illness.

Robert shone at both shinty and football and eventually became active behind the scenes at the Beaulieu club serving on the committee and as team manager. He took up refereeing and he became one of the top grade one referees in the sport. He was also a noted football referee.

Robert's funeral took place at the Church of Scotland in Beaulieu on Friday 3rd October.

Larry Forgrieve, Oban Celtic

Larry Forgrieve, who was one of the best known individuals on the Oban shinty scene in his generation, died peacefully on Saturday 5th April. Larry was a member of the respected Oban Celtic team for three decades and won Camanachd Cup Medals in 1949, 1954 and 1960. He also refereed the 1967 Camanachd Cup Final between Newtonmore and Inveraray.

The funeral took place from Oban Parish Church, where Larry was an elder, on Thursday 10th April, thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery.

Scott Goldie, Oban Camanachd

The funeral of Scott Goldie, who played for Oban Camanachd Under 14's and Under 17's, was held on Tuesday 22nd April at Oban Parish Church.

Alexander 'Sandy' Gunn, Lovat, Caberfeidh and Kinlochshiel

Alexander 'Sandy' Gunn, Blairninch, Strathpeffer passed away on Sunday 27th July at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness aged 74.

Sandy was a native of Kiltarlity and initially played for Lovat, and later, in the 1960s and 1970s, during his service with Ross and Sutherland Constabulary, played for both Caberfeidh and Kinlochshiel. He is survived by his wife Maureen and their son and two daughters.

Sandy's funeral service was held on Wednesday 6th August in Dingwall Free Church with interment thereafter at Fodderty Cemetery, Strathpeffer.

Jackie Henton, Lovat

Jackie Henton died suddenly on Friday 22 August. Jackie had a long connection with Lovat Shinty Club, 30 years as a player and following his retirement he was second team manager. He also managed the successful North Under-21 Grampian Cup winning team of 1984.

Jackie started his playing career at wing forward then took over in goals from the great Tommy 'The Glebe' Fraser. He then went on to establish himself as one of the outstanding goalkeepers of his generation.

Jackie is survived by Mary-Ann who, in 2014, was awarded the BEM for her services to shinty and in particular to Lovat Shinty Club. Jackie's funeral service was held on Saturday 30 August at Kiltarlity Church of Scotland.

Duncan MacKay, Inveraray

Duncan MacKay died on 14 April 2012. He was a shinty player of the old school, technically gifted and as hard as nails, but above all clean and fair, holding his own in any company. He was renowned in particular for his skills at blocking opponents' challenges and served the Inveraray club with distinction as a player, a committee member and a loyal supporter. He appeared in two Camanachd Cup Finals for Inveraray in the 1960s and only retired in the 1980s. Duncan was also an accomplished dance music player on his beloved accordion and always in demand at functions far and wide. The large crowd at his funeral service at Cardross Crematorium was testimony to the affection with which he was held by the shinty community.

Apologies for the oversight and technical issues which led to this tribute to Duncan taking so long to appear.

Sheila MacKenzie, Glenfarg

Sheila MacKenzie, wife of Donnie MacKenzie of Glenfarg, former Director of the Camanachd Association and well known for his Lochaber connections, died on 31 December 2014 at Perth Royal Infirmary.

Sheila was a frequent attender at shinty occasions after she met Donnie through a shared interest in helping others in Inverness. They had married in September 2013, and moved to Glenfarg in December 1990.

Michael MacLean, Kinlochshiel

Michael MacLean died peacefully on Thursday 10 April in Inverness after a short illness. Michael, who lived in Galway, Ireland, was an outstanding player in the late Sorley MacLean's successful Plockton High School teams in the early 1960s. He then played for Kinlochshiel for a number of years before leaving the area.

A celebration of his life took place on Thursday April 17 in Moray Crematorium, Broadley, Buckie.

Tommy MacPherson, Newtonmore

Sir Tommy Macpherson KL CBE TD DL, who died peacefully at home in Newtonmore on 6th November aged 94 had been the most decorated living soldier in the British Army with three military crosses, three CROIX DE Guerrero, a Legion d'honneur and a papal knighthood to his name.

The Macpherson family has had a historic close association with Newtonmore Camanachd Club. Sir Tommy maintained a keen interest in the sport throughout his life. Tommy was also President of London Camanachd when the club reformed in the 1980s.

Newtonmore Camanachd Club provided a shinty guard of honour at this funeral at St Brides, Newtonmore, on Friday November 14.

Derick (Chers) Matheson, Kiltarlity

The funeral of Roderick (Chers) Matheson of Kiltarlity was held on Saturday, 18 October, in Kiltarlity Church of Scotland, followed by interment in the churchyard. Derick passed away peacefully at home with his family round him on Wednesday 8 October.

Derick was a former player and committee member of Lovat Shinty Club and also played for Inverness for a short time. He is survived by his wife Suzi and children Emma, Alexander, Fergus and Abby.

Donald J MacNiven, Glasgow Mid Argyll.

Donnie learned to play shinty in Tighnabruaich before moving to Glasgow in the early 1950s. He made his playing debut for GMA in 1955 and was a major figure in the club, being captain winning the Celtic Cup in 1959. His qualities as team manager were rewarded in 1973 with victory in the Camanachd Cup.

Donnie coached Scotland in the 1970s and was an Executive Committee member of the CA, and a Director of the Glasgow Celtic Society amongst other posts. Passionate and progressive in all matters shinty, he was a champion of the development of women's shinty.

In 2009 Donnie was presented with the Marine Harvest Centenary award for outstanding contribution to shinty, and in 2013 was made a Member of Honour of the Camanachd Association.

Donnie's funeral service was held on Friday 5 September at Clydebank Crematorium, Clydebank.

John Farquhar Munro, Glenshiel and Kintail

John Farquhar Munro, who died in 2014 aged 79, always had a wonderful sparkle in his eye, and no doubt his temperament was instrumental in his performance in three sessions of the Scottish Parliament. A former shinty player, he was always supportive of efforts to promote the game and a frequent attender at Kirkton, Kinlochshiel.

John Farquhar Munro is survived by his wife Celia, daughter and son Shanae and Paddy, five grandchildren and two great grandchildren, brother Winkie, and sisters Mary and Christine.

Memoriams continued on next page

In Memoriam

Kenneth Murray, Shawbost, Camanachd Leòdhais

Everybody at Camanachd Leòdhais would like to express our great sorrow at the passing of Kenneth M Murray of Shawbost, to his wife, Annette Murray, club chairman, and Michael and Scott MacLeod, two of his nephews who play for the club, as well as Coinneach's family and friends.

Coinneach was a great supporter of Lewis Camanachd, particularly in his role as photographer. He was a great supporter of Lewis playing home games in Shawbost.

Coinneach also contributed to securing funding for the club, but he was also involved in many other groups.

Gus am bris an là, agus an teich na sgàilean

Fois shiorraidh dha.

Tom Nicolson, Kyles Athletic

Another shinty legend has sadly passed away and with the immense loss of Tommy Nicolson of Millhouse and Kyles, one of the finest players of the modern era, just past his 75th birthday, after a lengthy illness. A seven-times Camanachd Cup winner "wee Tommy" left his mark on the game in more ways than can be noted here. This was a giant of the game, no doubt about it.

His first great impact on the game when he scored all three goals for Kyles in the 1962 Camanachd Cup Final. His playing career ended in the 70s. Tommy's passing is a huge loss to shinty and his immediate family circle - daughter Lorna and son Neil, brothers Bobby and Ian and dearest wife Maggie.

His funeral was held on Friday 12th December in Kyles Parish Church, Kames, Tighnabruaich.

Cameron Ormiston, Newtonmore

Cameron Ormiston passed away peacefully in Raigmore Hospital Inverness on Friday, 29 August. Born in Banchor Farmhouse in Newtonmore in 1929, he claimed his prowess at shinty came about because his mother walked him through the goalposts on the Eilan shinty pitch the night before he was born.

He captained the team eventually, and was well known on the Highland Games circuit competing in light and heavy events as well as hill races and wrestling.

The family were always associated with the Balavil Arms Hotel, where they helped start the first ski school in Scotland in 1948 and pioneered pony trekking. His real passion was his Highland ponies, closely followed by Highland cattle - traditions that his sons have all kept going.

His funeral service was held on Friday 12th September in Newtonmore.

Billy Ross, Skye

Billy Ross attended home matches in Portree over many, many years as well as making trips to support the team on the road.

He wasn't well enough to attend the 2014 Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Semi-Final between Skye and Glenurquhart at An Aird but always said that he would make it if Skye got to the final. Billy's funeral took place in Struan on Friday 29 August 2014 when a large crowd gathered to pay their respects.

David Skinner, Glasgow University and Stornoway

David Skinner, the former vet in Stornoway and former captain of Glasgow University Shinty Club died aged 90 on June 7th 2014.

David was a distinguished, highly regarded and very popular individual all over the Western Isles through his work with livestock and other animals. He never lost touch with his shinty roots and regularly enquired after the exploits of his University team. While in his period of ill health, David's family kept a picture of the University club on the wall for David to see and he seemed to have his eye on it.

David was a cousin of Donald Skinner, former Chief of the Camanachd Association. The well-known Provost Skinner of Oban was an uncle of David's.

Molly Toal, Spean Bridge

The funeral of Molly Toal of Spean Bridge took place at St Margaret's RC Church in Roy Bridge on Saturday, 24th May, thereafter to Cille Choirill Cemetery.

The sympathy of the whole shinty community is extended to Anne, Gordon and the other members of the Toal family. Molly was well known in shinty circles and notably was often on hand to present the trophy at Lochaber Camanachd's Joseph Toal Sixes, a competition which was set up in memory of her late son whose loss at such a young age in the early 1980s. She, too, will be sadly missed by all who knew her and benefitted from her wit, wisdom and kindness.

Gary Wells, Fort William

Former Fort William and Scotland Under 21 goalkeeper Gary Wells died tragically on Tuesday 19th August. His funeral took place on Tuesday 26th August at Duncansburgh-MacIntosh Parish Church, Fort William, thereafter to Glen Nevis Cemetery.

Bob Wylie, Oban Celtic

Bob Wylie, long-serving committee member of Oban Celtic, passed away on Monday 18 August after a short illness.

The funeral took place on Saturday 23rd August from St Columba's Cathedral, thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery.

Thanks and acknowledgements

The Camanachd Association works in partnership with a wide range of relevant organisations to support the promotion of shinty and help us reach new and wider audiences. This proved particularly successful in 2014 when we partnered the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final with the Blas Festival, Masters World Championships and Eden Court Theatre as part of Highland Homecoming. We also partnered the Marine Harvest Shinty/Hurling International with the Royal National Mod, Fèisean nan Gàidheal and Colmcille, again as part of Highland Homecoming. Both these initiatives delivered increased audiences and profile for the respective events. We were also pleased to partner with Glasgow 2014 for a display of Scottish Sporting Trophies at Scotland House and a 'Come & Try Shinty' experience at Glasgow Green during the period of the Commonwealth Games, again raising profile for the sport and engaging many thousands of people.

The funding from sponsors and grant providers significantly enhances and extends the Association's support for the promotion and development of shinty and we gratefully acknowledge all those who have contributed over the past year.

Positive media coverage of shinty provides a vital means of promotion for the sport, informing and engaging existing and new audiences. The Association is indebted to BBC Scotland television, Radio Scotland, Radio nan Gàidheal, and BBC Alba for their coverage along with coverage on a number of important local radio stations, e.g. Cullin FM, Oban FM and Moray Firth Radio. We would also like to thank clubs for maintaining up to date and interesting websites.

We are pleased to have maintained regular profile for the sport in several national newspapers throughout the season, with the Press & Journal providing a notable and welcome increase in its coverage of shinty. Many local papers also provide excellent coverage of the sport, a reflection of the important role shinty plays in the life of communities across Scotland. We gratefully acknowledge the effort and support of all journalists, photographers and editors who provide shinty coverage within their publications including this one.



Photograph by John McNaught

EVERYONE WINS



Shinty is fast, physically demanding and skilful - but most importantly it's fun.

Whether you're participating, volunteering or spectating, it's enjoyable, exciting and sociable.

By supporting the Camanachd Association as it aims to progress its development and coaching plans, **sportscotland** is helping to ensure there are more and better opportunities for people to get involved in the sport.

Not only is shinty good for your health, confidence and wellbeing, it also helps to bring communities together across Scotland. So we're all winners.