



shinty

yearbook | review of 2016



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2016 Camanachd Cup Final

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President's Foreword

My second year as President has proved to be every bit as busy and challenging as last year, but not without achievement and rewards.

Our restructured Development Team provides a strengthened platform for delivery of our annual Operations Plan. This has consolidated our Youth programme at primary school level and allowed some early re-engagement in secondary schools. The recent introduction of the Club Accreditation Scheme also provides opportunities to assist Clubs with their own development aspirations.

On the down side, Torquil MacLeod left his position as Chief Operating Officer at the end of November after six years of service. Torquil helped us improve our governance structures, enhanced the profile of shinty in the media and set new standards in the delivery of our major events. We wish him every success in his new role with Visit Scotland.

On the field, a full programme of senior league and cup shinty was completed in good time this season and the leagues were compelling to the end. It was also a year when several clubs recorded notable or historic achievements in cup & league competitions. However, it would be remiss of me not to

pick out Newtonmore as an example of Club excellence in 2016. You cannot win both the Senior and Junior League and Cup competitions without every aspect of a Club being fully committed and firing on all cylinders.

Other highlights in the year were Scotland's Senior squad delivering for Ronald Ross, an elusive outright win against their Irish Hurling counterparts at the Bught Park; an excellent Ladies Final Day at Fort William which showcased the breath-taking pace of improvement in the Women's game and the Youth U14 and U17 inter-district tournaments which demonstrated that we are blessed with a particularly talented group of players on the verge of breaking through into the senior game.

None of this would be possible without the tremendous support shinty has received from our partners and sponsors throughout the season. We are indeed grateful to them as we are to our friends in all forms of media who provide coverage often beyond our expectations.

I can look forward to season 2017 with optimism although I know there will be challenges ahead. The staff and Directors at the C.A. are committed to dealing with them in partnership with our Member Clubs and Associates to give Shinty the future it deserves.



Camanachd Association launch Shinty Business Club

September 2016 saw the launch of the Camanachd Association's Shinty Business Club, an initiative to permit companies not previously involved in sponsoring one of shinty's major events to acquire a stake in the sport.

"In the past we have focused on seeking Headline sponsors for our major competitions," says the Camanachd Associations Director of Communications Steven MacKenzie. "At the same time we have been aware that there are a number of companies - big players in their own sphere - who would want some degree of involvement with shinty though perhaps not at the level of sponsoring a major trophy like the Camanachd Cup for instance. The Shinty Business Club provides a means for them to support the development of the sport across Scotland, plus take advantage of a unique package of associated high-profile promotional and hospitality benefits. This is an exciting time for shinty, with increasing participation, profile and revenue and a clear strategy for future growth and it's encouraging that our Business Club venture has made a solid start with businesses like GS Campbell Plant Hire, Tulloch Homes, Russwood Ltd and Anderson Shaw & Gilbert already on board."

For an annual fee of £2,500 plus VAT, Business Club members receive adverts in the following publications:

Camanachd Cup Final match programme – print 1000

Shinty/Hurling International match programmes – print 1000

Members' annual Shinty Yearbook – print 3000

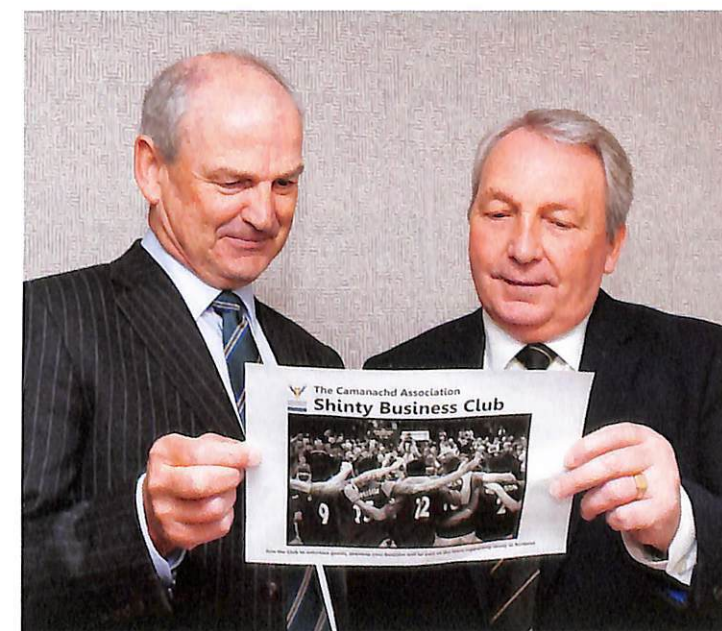
Also included in the package are:

Two six-metre pitch-side banners produced and installed at the following live televised matches: Camanachd Cup Final & Semi-finals; Shinty/Hurling International.

Twelve VIP/Hospitality match tickets split between the following matches: Camanachd Cup Final & Semi-finals, Shinty/Hurling International.

Recognition and link on the Camanachd Association website, www.shinty.com

Access to additional events and promotions including MacTavish Cup Final package, shirt sponsorship, replica kit, naming rights.



2016 Camanachd Association Corporate Summary



The Camanachd Association seeks to promote shinty to the widest possible audience throughout all parts of Scotland as an attractive, athletic and skilful team-sport. The sport has a unique and proud history rooted in communities and remains both popular and highly relevant in the current sporting environment.

The Camanachd Association's 2015 Annual Accounts report a turnover of £584,986, which is down from the record high in 2014 of £601,119 and leaves the Association with a deficit for the year of £7,921, but also with total Reserves of £124,028 at 31st December 2015.



Consequently the Association's financial target for 2015 - to increase the turnover of the previous years, deliver a reduced Surplus and maintain the 2014 Reserves figure has not been achieved. The Association is fortunate that the Reserves established over recent years remain above the minimum figure of £90,000 required by the Association and thus it is able to accommodate the loss without significant operational impact.

SportsScotland, the Scottish Government's National Agency for Sport, is still the single largest funder of the Camanachd Association. In 2016 SportsScotland invested £182,000 in the Camanachd Association, mainly to cover

key staff costs for agreed Development and Coaching activity as outlined in the Strategic Plan for Shinty 2015-2017.

In addition the Camanachd Association also received grant funding from a wide range of organisations, including: Inverness Common Good Fund, Highland Council, Argyll & Bute Council and Event Scotland.

Despite the increase in SportsScotland funding the 2015 Accounts do show that overall Grant funding has reduced by £7,945, down from £237,394 in 2014 to £229,449. This was however anticipated and largely attributable to completion of the Food Standards Agency grant in support of the HHEAPS initiative and the additional one-off grant income secured in 2014 for the Scottish Government's Homecoming initiative.

Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd is the principal sponsor of shinty. A new three-year sponsorship agreement was reached with Marine Harvest at the start 2015, extending their relationship with shinty to more than 27 years and marking the sport's biggest ever sponsorship investment. The Association works hard to ensure the company receive the required return on their investment.

Royal Bank of Scotland is the title sponsor of the MacTavish Cup competition, the community Shintyforce initiative and the National First Shinty Festival. 2016 is the third year of our relationship with the Bank, we are grateful for their support and would wish this to continue in the years to come.

The Camanachd Association's in-kind partnership with Gilmour Sports continues to add good value for the sport. 2016 is the third year of their appointment 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. We are grateful for their continued support.

We are delighted that Aberdeen Considine have maintained their longstanding title sponsorship of the Sutherland Cup competition. The Association also thanks the large number of companies that support the Association with smaller sponsorships throughout the year, including: Highland Industrial Supplies (HIS), Ferguson Transport & Shipping, Loch Ness Gifts and James Gallacher of JIG Groundworks.

To widen the range of possible sponsors for the sport, the Shinty Business Club was launched in September to offer companies a package of hospitality and promotional benefits across a range of key shinty events throughout the course of a year. Finally, each Scotland squad player (Senior, U21, Women) acquired an individual sponsor to support their participation in this year's Shinty/Hurling (Camogie) Internationals.

The 2015 Annual Accounts reported a total expenditure in 2015 of £593,849, an increase of £27,547 on the previous year.

Expenditure in particular increased on wages and staff related costs as a result of the organisation's staffing restructure in 2015, although the full impact of this will not be seen until the 2016 Annual Accounts are published. Development and Coach Education costs both increased in 2015, a reflection of increased investment and activity in this core area of work.

The Association's 2016 budget is challenging and will report a deficit in the order of £40k for the current year. This is due to the loss of commercial income associated with the Camanachd Cup. It is a situation which is being monitored closely and action is ongoing to minimise the impact on Reserves. The Board and staff are working hard to recover the position at the earliest opportunity through the introduction of new and additional commercial revenue streams, e.g. the Shinty Business Club. The 2016 Annual Accounts will confirm the detail of the current financial year and these will be completed and examined by mid-year for circulation amongst Members prior to the 2017 AGM.

In 2016 participation in the senior leagues dropped to 52 teams from 54 in 2015, as a result of Ballachulish and Glenorchy deciding not to field 2nd Teams, as well as the withdrawal of Strachur from competition. However, on a positive note, Dunoon entered Marine Harvest South Division 2 for the first time. The three team withdrawals were all due to player unavailability.

In total, 618 senior fixtures were scheduled in 2016 of which 27 fixtures were unfulfilled due to team raising difficulties, the same number as in 2015. 75 fixtures were postponed and rescheduled, compared with 89 postponements in 2015.

With the aim of effecting a general improvement in player availability the Camanachd Association's Development Team directed by **National Development Manager Graham Cormack** is focused on building strong relationships with clubs and schools within their designated regions.

The team is as follows:

Ronald Ross	Regional Development Manager
Euan McMurdo	Regional Development Officer – West
Paul MacArthur	Regional Development Officer – Central
Katie Drain	Regional Development Officer – North



Importantly a new Club Accreditation Scheme was piloted with eight clubs in the first half of the year and launched to all clubs in September 2016. Participating clubs have reported it as beneficial in providing a structure to follow that ensured all relevant elements of club development were covered in particular coaching. The Development Team are now in discussion with a number of other clubs who have expressed an interest.

Positive media coverage of shinty is a key platform for promotion of the sport and in this respect BBC Scotland continued their excellent coverage with three televised broadcasts plus regular coverage online. The 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 televised five matches live this season and the sport was further enhanced by coverage on a number of important local radio stations, e.g. Cuillin FM, Oban FM and Moray Firth Radio.

We are also pleased to have maintained a regular profile for shinty in several national newspapers, notably the Press & Journal, The National, The Herald and The Scotsman. Local papers also provide extensive coverage of the sport, with in particular, the Oban Times doubling its coverage this season with a weekly two-page spread. We gratefully acknowledge the effort and support of all journalists, photographers and editors who provide shinty coverage within their publications.

The Camanachd Association's website (www.shinty.com) is the principal communication tool for the Association, and is complemented by a mobile site for the increasing number of people accessing content with mobile/handheld devices and tablets. The Association intend a major upgrade of the website in 2017 to ensure we continue to provide members with an excellent service.

Norman Strachan and his team were able to film a number of matches throughout the year for the Association's YouTube channel. The channel has now received nearly 430,000 views, an increase of more than 20% from 350,000 in 2015.

The Association's social network channels also provide an important communication platform, with more than 6000 "likes" on Facebook and 4150 "followers" on Twitter. The Association is making increasing use of each channel to keep members informed latest developments. All of our online channels are available internationally and are regularly accessed from countries across the world, including: USA, Canada, Australia and France.

10 FACTS ABOUT GAELIC

1

GAELIC IS VERY MUCH A MODERN LANGUAGE WITH AN ANCIENT HISTORY

Gaelic is in daily use in domestic, social and professional domains in Scotland and can call on 2,000 years of rich, continuous and evolving tradition.

4

GAELIC BELONGS TO THE WHOLE OF SCOTLAND

There are currently up to 90,000 people in Scotland with an ability in Gaelic and almost 60,000 who speak it. The number of youngsters speaking Gaelic is now increasing due to the rapid growth of Gaelic-medium playgroups and schools across Scotland. Children living in 28 of 32 Scottish Local Authority areas access Gaelic-medium primary education.

8

GAELIC BILINGUALISM IS A PASSPORT TO OTHER LANGUAGES

In Scotland, with the rapid growth of cultural industries, Gaelic is in fact a more useful passport to employment than either French or German with many career opportunities opening up in broadcasting, education, and the public sector. Children educated in Gaelic-medium schools are true bilinguals and find it much easier to learn a third and fourth language.

2

GAELIC UNDERPINS SCOTTISH IDENTITY

It was after the early Gaelic speaking Scotti that Scotland was named. People across the UK, Europe and the rest of the world show an interest in the Gaelic language and culture as an intrinsic element of Scottish identity.

3

GAELIC IS A UNIQUE SELLING POINT

Scotland's Gaelic culture is a unique attraction that can add value to the country as a destination. The Gaelic language and culture is seen by visitors as something attractive and distinct about Scotland.

5

GAELIC IS INCLUSIVE

Whether you are from Cumbernauld, Carnoustie or Coatbridge then the language is as much yours as those from Castlebay, Carinish & Caithness. The linguistic and cultural backgrounds of children entering Gaelic-medium classes is diverse - some already have a degree of fluency and are exposed to the language and culture at home and in their communities; others initially have limited fluency and some only a few words and phrases and come from a variety of backgrounds.

7

GAELIC-MEDIUM EDUCATION CONFERS EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

Studies have shown that children educated through Gaelic do better, or at least are on par with their peers, in all subjects, including English. The reason is that children educated in this way view the world simultaneously through two cultural and linguistic "windows" thereby enhancing their cognitive powers and social skills.

6

THERE ARE INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN GAELIC

Between children and adults, approximately 20,000 people in Scotland are currently learning Gaelic.

10

GAELIC FUNDING IS A GOOD INVESTMENT FOR SCOTLAND'S FUTURE

Many Gaelic services, e.g: schools, learners' facilities, television programmes etc are also accessed enthusiastically by non-Gaelic speakers. Gaelic television viewing figures and sales of Gaelic music demonstrates that the Gaelic speaking community in Scotland punches 10 times above its weight. Gaelic gives good value for money!

9

GAELIC IS CULTURALLY ENRICHING

Nowadays Gaelic is a real asset. Not only does it aid access to employment, it is personally, socially and culturally enriching.



Torquil Macleod bows out from Camanachd Association HQ

Alasdair Bruce (This article comes courtesy of The Oban Times – 2016 Marine Harvest Media Award winners)

With the 2016 AGM successfully concluded, a Saturday morning lie-in might have been in order for departing Camanachd Association Chief Operating Officer Torquil MacLeod. But no! As usual he was at his desk at Camanachd HQ in Inverness, on this occasion attending to some final matters before closing this particular chapter of his career. These included issuing notes of thanks to long-term sponsors Marine Harvest, who are about to begin their 30th year of Shinty sponsorship.

"Shinty is so lucky to have Marine Harvest," says Torquil. "Their support over such a prolonged period is second to none. It's important to have a sponsor who believes in the worth of the product and Marine Harvest does just that."

Much has changed in the world of Shinty since he took over as Chief Operating Officer in April 2010, and while he has a natural reluctance to single them out, there have been many moments of magic.

"The 2015 Camanachd Cup Final in Oban was a particular highlight. It was a beautiful day and the Mossfield pitch was in great condition and what Lovat achieved that day was wonderful. It was a really special occasion."

Equally back in 2011 when Newtonmore lifted the Camanachd Cup for the first time in 25 years, I think I really understood just how much the competition meant to so many people and to their community.

The 2014 Camanachd Cup Final between Kingussie and Glenurquhart at the Bught Park, Inverness drew the biggest crowd of my tenure and there were some great celebrations afterwards.

"The Internationals also stand out. The whole scale of the GAA operation, their engagement in the fixture and the thrill of being at Croke Park are all real stand-outs. The games themselves are

fascinating spectacles and they create something which is quite different to anything else you see on a sporting field."

As for the way forward for shinty, Torquil is clear, "What shinty needs is to continue the development of the game in a positive fashion. We must continue to make the game of shinty attractive to young people. It's important to make young people buy into and commit to the sport. There is real competition out there from other sports

and activities and we have to continue to offer shinty as a positive experience. If we have organised competitions with players who are well looked after in a competitive and developing environment, then I think the sport sells itself."

When asked what has changed most since 2010, Torquil reflects, "Well I feel we have really pulled together as a sport. That's the way it should be because we have many competitors out there and shinty is too fragile a sport to fight amongst ourselves. Our fight should be with other competing sports but I can see cohesion now; we are fairly united as a sport which is something to be proud of."

Camanachd Association President Jim Barr was in no doubt as to the huge contribution Torquil has made. He said, "Torquil made significant improvements to a number of areas of the workings of the Camanachd Association particularly in the matter of Governance. He took advice from the likes

of sportscotland and then took time to understand the detail of what should be implemented so that he could educate the Board on what was required for good Governance. Our Disciplinary process is much stronger for his work.

"Torquil also enhanced the image of shinty which helps sell it to a wider audience whilst the standard of our marketing and events is higher than it has ever been. We'll miss Torquil and we wish him well in his new appointment."



Thanks and Acknowledgements

The Camanachd Association would like to thank all those who contributed the articles and photographs which went into the creation of the Shinty Year Book 2016.

Special thanks go to Alasdair Bruce @ skyecamanachd.com for providing a range of copy as did the editors of The National, the Oban Times and the Strathspey & Badenoch Herald. Further copy and help with the production of the Year Book was also provided by the C.A. staff especially Operations Manager Astie Cameron.

Neil Paterson took the bulk of the photographs but thanks must also go to Tina Marshall, Sheena Lloyd, Donald

Cameron, Iain Ferguson, John Paul Peebles, Michael Bentley, Katie Drain, Norman Strachan and Coilin Duffy who also provided pictures for the shinty.com website and the Year Book.

David Calder contributed copy as did Dave Fallows, George Hay, Eoghan Stewart, Hugh Dan MacIennan, Michael Bentley, Craig-Lee Holt and Paula Macleod. The Shinty Year Book was edited by Fraser Mackenzie who also wrote many of the articles while the layout was undertaken by Chris James, Sales Team Executive at Scottish Provincial Press Ltd.

Lovat come out tops in annual New Year clash with Beaulie



After the break however, Lovat drew level when Tawse, who had always looked good coming forward, finally managed to deceive Grant with a drive from the edge of the "D".

Lovat then missed a glorious chance to take the lead when Bartlett was awarded a penalty after a trip by wing back Ewen Campbell. He took the strike himself but again Grant improvised a marvellous save. However this was only to delay the inevitable, because from the

Camanachd Cup holders Lovat got their New Year off to an excellent start on Saturday 2nd January with a hard fought 3-2 home victory over Beaulie in the annual challenge match for the "Lovat Cup".

As expected Lovat, drawing on their Premiership experience gained from playing in the division above their National League opponents, opened strongly and were it not for the quick reflexes of Beaulie keeper Josh Grant who saved well from Lovat's international striker Kevin Bartlett and wing centre Lewis Tawse in the early stages, the visitors would have been quickly behind.

Beaulie withstood the early pressure however and moved on to take the initiative going ahead in 17 minutes when a through ball from Barrie MacDonald was chased down by youngster Robbie Brindle and his shot gave Lovat's Camanachd Cup hero keeper Stuart MacDonald no chance.

At the other end Bartlett was kept out by yet another fine stop from Grant which encouraged his fellow defenders to put in a performance that, despite the loss of wing back Kenneth MacKenzie to a broken finger, managed to keep Camanachd Cup holders on the back foot until half time.

resultant corner, Lovat full forward Greg Matheson was able to find enough space to smash the ball home from close range giving his side a 2-1 advantage going into the last quarter.

Beaulie were not totally out of it however and following a poor clearance by Lovat defender Martin Mainland, Beaulie captain David MacLean's first time effort brought the sides level once again.

That scoreline would have been enough to allow Beaulie as holders to retain the trophy had they been able to hang on for the draw but when Lovat manager John MacRitchie sent on the experienced Fraser Gallagher up front for the last ten minutes the inevitable happened. With the clock rapidly running down, the ball was played through to Gallagher who was able to turn his marker, Beaulie's 17 year old full back Andrew Morrison, and fire home the winner.

After what had been an enthralling contest in sticky "winter-shinty" conditions, all that remained for the afternoon to be complete was for Lovat captain Daniel Grieve to step forward and receive the magnificent silver cup from Lord Lovat, whose great-grandfather had first put the trophy up for competition some 112 years before.



2016 League Tables



marine harvest

MARINE HARVEST PREMIERSHIP

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals For	Goals Against	Goal Diff	Points
Newtonmore	18	16	2	0	74	15	59	34
Kyles Athletic	18	10	5	3	52	23	29	25
Oban Camanachd	18	11	3	4	35	25	10	25
Kinlochshiel	18	10	3	5	40	26	14	23
Kingussie	18	6	3	9	27	35	-8	15
Glenurquhart	18	6	3	9	26	41	-15	15
Lovat	18	7	1	10	29	45	-16	15
Lochaber	18	4	6	8	27	42	-15	14
Skye	18	2	8	8	19	38	-19	12
Fort William	18	0	2	16	15	54	-39	2

MARINE HARVEST NATIONAL DIVISION

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals For	Goals Against	Goal Diff	Points
Kilmallie	14	11	3	0	51	14	37	25
Glasgow Mid Argyll	14	9	3	2	49	18	31	21
Inveraray	14	8	3	3	43	25	18	19
Beaulie	14	7	3	4	53	26	27	17
Caberfeidh	14	6	2	6	30	29	1	14
Bute	14	1	5	8	13	37	-24	7
Inverness	14	2	2	10	27	47	-20	6
Ballachulish	14	1	1	12	11	81	-70	3

MARINE HARVEST NORTH DIVISION 1

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals For	Goals Against	Goal Diff	Points
Newtonmore	16	15	0	1	82	21	61	30
Strathglass	16	11	2	3	64	29	35	24
Kingussie	16	9	3	4	45	28	17	21
Glenurquhart	16	7	1	8	29	43	-14	15
Skye	16	6	1	9	31	38	-7	13
Beaulie	16	5	2	9	28	47	-19	12
Kinlochshiel	16	5	1	10	32	29	3	11
Fort William*	16	5	0	11	25	53	-28	8
Lovat**	16	3	2	11	19	67	-48	6

* Fort William deducted 2 points for failing to fulfill a fixture on 16th July
** Lovat deducted 2 points for failing to fulfill a fixture on 24th Sep

MARINE HARVEST SOUTH DIVISION 1

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals For	Goals Against	Goal Diff	Points
Oban Celtic	14	11	1	2	76	11	65	23
Aberdour	14	7	3	4	30	24	6	17
Lochside Rovers	14	7	2	5	40	31	9	16
Taynuilt	14	4	4	6	21	38	-17	12
Col Glen	14	4	4	6	21	39	-18	12
Kyles Athletic	14	4	3	7	28	40	-12	11
Glenorchy	14	4	2	8	14	26	-12	10
Inveraray*	14	4	3	7	21	42	-21	9

* Inveraray deducted 2 points for failing to fulfill a fixture on 2nd July

MARINE HARVEST NORTH DIVISION 2

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals For	Goals Against	Goal Diff	Points
Aberdeen University*	18	18	0	0	105	11	94	36
Lochcarron**	18	14	1	3	49	21	28	29
Caberfeidh***	18	11	3	4	60	35	25	25
Lochaber****	18	10	1	7	42	44	-2	21
Glengarry*****	18	9	1	8	43	43	0	19
Kilmallie*****	18	9	0	9	43	50	-7	18
Boleskine	18	5	2	11	24	40	-16	12
Inverness	18	3	1	14	31	65	-34	7
Lewis*****	18	3	1	14	24	66	-42	7
Strathspey	18	3	0	15	22	68	-46	6

* Aberdeen University awarded a walkover against Lochcarron on 1st Oct
** Lochcarron awarded walkovers against Inverness on 25th June & Lochaber on 8th Oct
*** Caberfeidh awarded a walkover against Kilmallie on 8th Oct
**** Glengarry awarded walkovers against Kilmallie on 6th Aug & Lochaber on 20th Aug
***** Kilmallie awarded walkovers against Boleskine on 29th Oct & Strathspey on 5th Nov
***** Lewis awarded a walkover against Boleskine on 23rd July

MARINE HARVEST SOUTH DIVISION 2

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals For	Goals Against	Goal Diff	Points
Tayforth	12	11	1	0	71	8	63	23
Kilmory*	12	10	1	1	65	7	58	21
Oban Lorn**	12	6	0	6	16	23	-7	12
Glasgow Mid Argyll	12	5	1	6	30	31	-1	11
Bute	12	3	1	8	10	46	-36	7
Aberdour***	12	3	0	10	12	36	-24	6
Dunoon	12	2	0	10	10	63	-53	4

* Kilmory awarded walkovers against Oban Lorn on 18th June, Aberdour on 6th Aug, Glasgow Mid Argyll on 20th Aug & Glasgow Mid Argyll on 3rd Sep
** Oban Lorn awarded a walkover against Bute on 16th April
*** Aberdour awarded a walkover against Bute on 23rd July

WCA MARINE HARVEST NATIONAL DIVISION 1

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals For	Goals Against	Goal Diff	Points
Skye	8	6	0	2	28	13	15	12
Glasgow Mid Argyll	8	5	0	3	27	8	19	10
Lochaber*	8	4	1	3	17	12	5	9
Badenoch & Strathspey	8	3	1	4	19	19	0	7
Aberdour	8	1	0	7	6	45	-39	2

* Lochaber awarded a walkover against Aberdour on 26th June

WCA MARINE HARVEST NORTH DIVISION 2

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals For	Goals Against	Goal Diff	Points
Lovat*	10	8	0	2	69	31	38	16
Glengarry*	10	8	0	2	64	27	37	16
Strathglass	10	6	0	4	49	24	25	12
Strathspey	10	6	0	4	39	29	10	12
Glenurquhart	10	2	0	8	30	69	-39	4
Inverness	10	0	0	10	7	78	-71	0

* Lovat defeated Glengarry 6-0 in Play-Off on 13th Nov

WCA MARINE HARVEST SOUTH DIVISION 2

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals For	Goals Against	Goal Diff	Points
Glasgow Mid Argyll*	9	7	1	1	35	8	27	15
Fort William**	10	7	0	3	19	27	-8	14
Ardnamurchan***	10	5	2	3	30	22	8	12
Dunadd	7	2	0	5	18	17	1	4
Lorn	7	2	0	5	5	13	-8	4
Cowal & Bute	7	0	1	6	6	26	-20	1

* Glasgow Mid Argyll awarded a walkover against Lorn on 21st Aug
** Fort William awarded walkovers against Cowal & Bute on 27th Mar, Lorn on 22nd May, Cowal & Bute on 26th June & against Dunadd on 21st Aug
*** Ardnamurchan awarded a walkover against Lorn on 27th Mar

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Wishing Glenurquhart Shinty Club all the best for 2017



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Newtonmore - 2016 Marine Harvest Premiership Champions.

2016 Marine Harvest Leagues Round-up

As Newtonmore powered to their seventh Marine Harvest Premiership title in a row, the real drama took place at the bottom end of the table. In the first year of the "two up two down" system of promotion and relegation, Fort William were first to fall but the scramble to avoid the drop into the National Division provided a nail biting end to the season. Eventually, Skye, after only a single season in the top division, also lost their fight for Premiership survival. National Division winners Kilmallie are promoted to the Premiership along with runners-up Glasgow Mid Argyll.

Oban Celtic, winners of South Division 1 move up to the National Division but Newtonmore reserves winners of North Division One were ineligible for promotion so second place finishers, Strathglass will accept promotion instead.

North Division 2 winners were Aberdeen University who won all their matches.

A most compelling competition came from South Division Two where Tayforth and Kilmory staged a season-long duel for the title. A 2-2 draw against their rivals in their penultimate match was enough to see Tayforth clinch the title and with it promotion.



Kilmallie - 2016 Marine Harvest National Div Champions.



Oban Celtic - 2016 Marine Harvest South Div 1 Champions.



Newtonmore - 2016 Marine Harvest North Div 1 Champions.



Skye - 2016 Marine Harvest WCA National Div 1 Champions.



Aberdeen University - 2016 Marine Harvest North Div 2 Champions.



Lovat - 2016 Marine Harvest WCA North Div 2 Champions.

In the ladies game, Skye soared to success winning the WCA National Division, finishing two points ahead of Glasgow Mid Argyll with whom they were locked in a neck and neck battle throughout the season. Third placed Lochaber were also in close pursuit throughout the season but finished one point behind GMA.

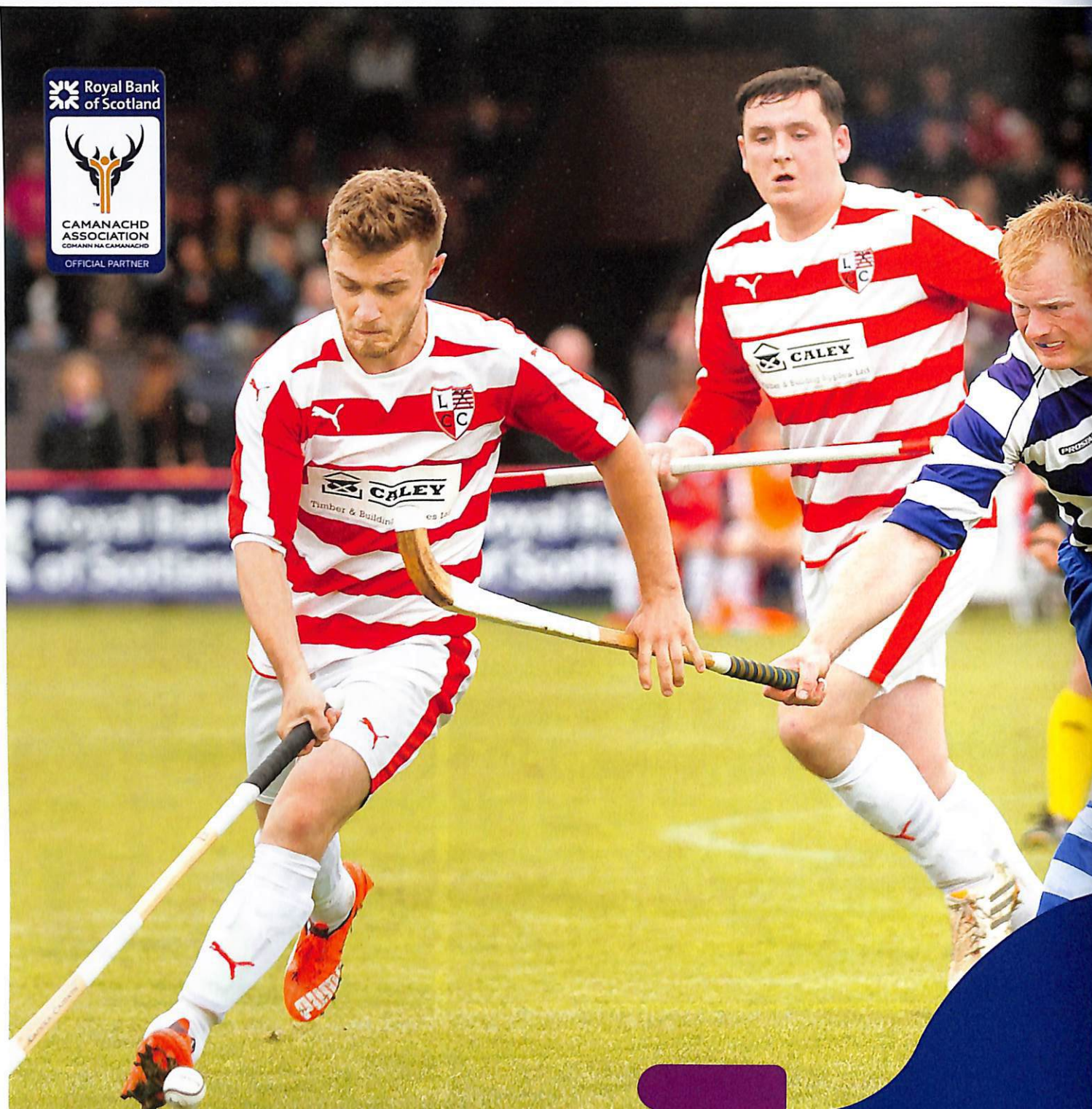
In the Area leagues, Lovat took the North title after beating runners-up Glengarry 6-0 in a play-off on 13th November. Meanwhile in the South, GMA reserves beat Fort William to the title by a single point.



Tayforth - 2016 Marine Harvest South Div 2 Champions.



Glasgow Mid Argyll - 2016 Marine Harvest WCA South Div 2 Champions.



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Newtonmore win the RBS MacTavish Cup for record 40th time



A goal with the last hit of the game from Glen MacKintosh saw Newtonmore defeat Lochaber 2-1 to win the 2016 RBS MacTavish Cup at Inverness's Bught Park. MacKintosh's injury time winner brought the trophy home to Badenoch for a record 40th time but for the veteran Newtonmore striker the feelings engendered by the win were more of relief than exultation. Over the course of what turned out to be a tighter contest than the form book predicted, MacKintosh found his best efforts thwarted. Twice he struck the woodwork and on other occasions, he was kept out only thanks to a superb performance by Lochaber goalkeeper Callum MacDonald, afterwards named man of the match as some consolation for his efforts on what was a day of disappointment for his club.

It might however have been different had the Lochaber forwards made some of their first half pressure count. They started the match positively with wing centre Shaun Nicolson driving his side forward and at times the 'More defence found themselves stretched. They coped well enough though despite defender Mike Russell finding himself in referee John Angus Gillies' book for bringing down Lochaber winger Ben Delaney when he looked through on goal. From the resulting free hit Lochaber might have gone ahead but Stuart Callison's powerful strike flew just over the bar.

Newtonmore had early chances too which they scorned. However, it fell to another Newtonmore veteran Norman Campbell to open the scoring. Recently restored to fitness after a knee operation, the former international, had been having a memorable duel of strength with Lochaber full back Lachlan Campbell with early honours going to the Lochaber man. However in the 26th minute the Newtonmore front man was able to power his way past his namesake and knock the ball low into the net for the opener.

The lead only lasted for five minutes until Lochaber responded with a superb goal of their own. Zander Ferguson dropped deep to elude his marker, picked up a short pass from Shaun Nicolson and turned to fire home a glorious equaliser.



That was a lesson to Newtonmore not to be complacent and they quickly refocused on attack but always found themselves unable to get past Lochaber keeper MacDonald who used his stick to defy MacKintosh once more and his hand to keep out an effort from Evan Menzies.

Newtonmore manger PJ MacKintosh rejigged his forward line at halftime and with his side gradually gaining dominance in the centreline Lochaber found themselves under severe pressure for much of the second period.

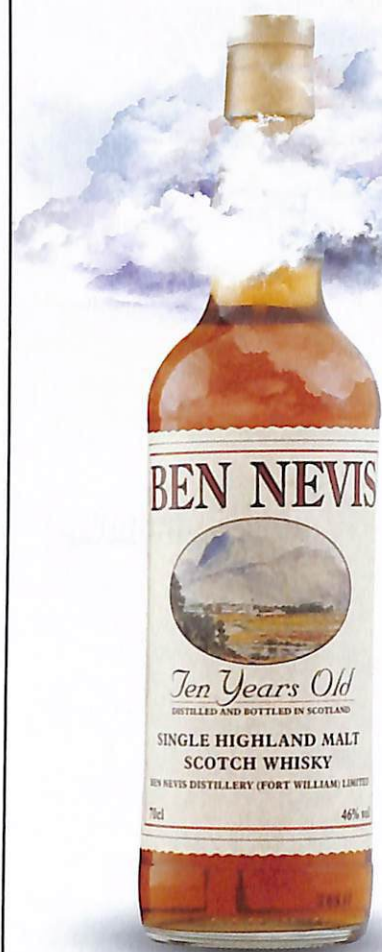
In the 53rd 'More youngster Robinson once again tested MacDonald who responded well and minutes later Campbell saw his shot flash past an upright when he might have done better.

MacDonald was emerging as a key figure as he continued to defy the Newtonmore attack but on the hour mark even he was beaten by a snapshot from MacKintosh which cannoned off the bar to safety.

Then as is always liable to happen when chances don't fall, the defending side broke out against the run of play. With the game already in injury time, three quick strikes and Lochaber were up in numbers in the Newtonmore defence but Ben Delaney's fierce shot on the turn flew over the bar.

Almost immediately the ball was returned to the Lochaber end where Campbell slipped it inside to the never say die MacKintosh. He turned twice to make space for the shot and this time, finally, managed to fire it past the despairing dive of MacDonald for the winner.





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Kyles Athletic make it four in a row in the Gregor Cameron Consultancy Celtic Society Cup Final



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Kyles Athletic lifted their first silverware of the season when they defeated Inveraray 3-1 at Taynuilt to win the Gregor Cameron Consultancy Celtic Society Cup for a record 33rd time.

Indeed this was the fourth time in a row that Kyles have picked up the Glasgow Celtic Society Cup, which, as it serves as the de facto championship of shinty's southern area, was a statistic that pleased the Kyles' coach James Perlich given it was the first time the boys in blue had managed that particular feat since 1923.

Courtesy of their standing in the Premiership, Kyles were pre-match favourites and it certainly looked that way when inside a minute winger Dunky Kerr, in his side's first attack of the afternoon, fired the opener past 'Rary's teenage goalkeeper Scott MacLachlan.

Despite the occasional attempt by Inveraray to break out youngster Fraser Watt did force an early corner Kyles maintained the pressure and before long MacLachlan was called into action to make a fine stop from Kyles' Robbie MacLeod. Further saves from MacLachlan followed as Inveraray weathered the storm, including one in particular from Kerr who found his strike was kept out by deft use of the stick from MacLachlan and inspired by his heroics Inveraray began to grow in self-belief and take the game to their opponents.

At the heart of this fight back was veteran full centre Garry MacPherson who began to link up well with full forward Allan MacDonald who used his strength to pressurise an increasingly uncomfortable Kyles' defence. Eventually something had to give and after a quick corner out on the right MacPherson dribbled the ball to the bye-line before cutting it back for young full forward Lewis Montgomery to first time it past Kyles captain John Whyte for the equaliser. Inveraray then

began to dominate play as manager Ruaraidh Graham made good use of his rolling subs to maintain the pace of the game but the second Inveraray goal refused to come.

Late in the first half referee Deek Cameron was on hand to book Inveraray's David Robertson for a foul on Kyles' full-centre Grant Irvine. This incident seemed to mark a turn in Inveraray's fortunes and just before the break a long ball forward from Kyles' full back Callum Millar was cut-back by Kerr, and winger Sandy MacKenzie pounced to restore Kyles lead with a shot from close in.

The second half was in shinty terms somewhat flat, but with Kyles having the bulk of the play Inveraray keeper MacLachlan was able to cement his claim to be man of the match with a further series of saves. In the end however even he was unable to stop Thomas Whyte scrambling the ball over the line in 83 minutes to give Kyles a third goal on what was to be for them an historic afternoon.



Kilmallie defeat Cabers to lift the Balliemore Cup

Kilmallie comfortably won their first silverware of the season in the shape of the Balliemore Cup, a trophy which they last won back in 1993. They did so on the strength of an emphatic 6-0 win at Drumnadrochit against fellow National League side Caberfeidh, and though the margin of victory did perhaps reflect the difference in quality between the sides up front, the match still retained its competitive edge.

Kilmallie did not take long to open the scoring though there was more than a bit of good fortune attached to their opening goal with the strike from wing-forward Mark Graham initially blocked by Caberfeidh keeper Ewan Pilcher before the ball was sneaked over the line in the ensuing goalmouth scramble.

Caberfeidh fought back to claim their own share of the play for most of the rest of the first half especially in midfield but their young front men were given no space to create chances by Kilmallie's experienced defenders Alan MacDonald and Peter Carmichael and keeper Shane Gillies remained untested.

A switch by Kilmallie manager Mark MacPherson then helped change the balance of play. He pulled the experienced Duncan Rodger back

to half-forward to create more variety in attack with the former internationalist able to spread balls wide with more consistency. The tactic paid off just before the break leading to a neat ball inside from winger Liam MacDonald presenting the other half of Kilmallie's Rodger duo, Michael, with enough space to turn and put his side two ahead with a fine finish. Almost immediately Kilmallie scored again when a speculative shot from distance by Graham took a wicked bounce past the despairing hand of Cabers keeper Pilcher sending Kilmallie into the half-time changing room 3-0 ahead.

Shortly after the restart Pilcher was called into action to stop a sharp strike from Duncan Rodger but Kilmallie have more than one Premier quality forward with winger Liam MacDonald one of the best in the business. Tall and able to run at pace with the ball, three times in the space of ten minutes he breached the Caberfeidh backline finding the net each time. It was a virtuoso performance from the current Scotland international whose club loyalty has meant he has had to play his shinty for the past two seasons in the sports lower division.

For Kilmallie as this victory and their end of season promotion to the Marine Harvest Premiership indicates, these dark days may be coming to coming to an end.



Newtonmore retain the Sutherland Cup with 6-0 victory over fiercest rivals Kingussie

Dave Fallows (with thanks to the Badenoch & Strathspey Herald)

Newtonmore retained the Sutherland Cup - the first double win by the Blue and Whites since 1928 - in what in the end turned out to be a one-sided game at the Dell against Kingussie on Saturday 30th July.

Both managers opted for experience in defence with the returning Cameron Binnie at full back for Newtonmore and the double pairing of Rory Fraser at full back and Ronald Ross at half back for Kingussie, and for the first twenty minutes or so defences were solid. On a superb surface, both sides displayed excellent ground skills and clean hitting out of defence seemed to promise not only a fast flowing but an evenly contested game.

In the 24th minute, however, all that changed when Newtonmore switched the focus of their attack to avoid Kingussie's centre field defensive barrier and a move down the right wing saw the ball passed inside to Duncan Gorman and his powerful shot, initially blunted by Kingussie keeper Robert Shiells, squirmed over the line for the opener. From this point onwards, Newtonmore began to pile on the pressure, with veteran Kenny Ross in midfield ensuring a plentiful supply of ball up to his forwards.

On 34 minutes a cross from the right by Darrin Fowler was partially intercepted, but the deflection took the ball to Conor Jones who blasted home More's second from distance. A minute later, Jones bagged a second when he finished powerfully from a narrow angle to send his side in at half time with a 3-0 lead.

After the interval, Kingussie began brightly forcing Newtonmore keeper John MacKenzie to make several saves from efforts by Kingussie's stars of the future, Anderson, Borthwick and Young, but it was 'More once again who nailed the next strike via a Martin Hall shot from the edge of the D.

Iain Robinson then added the fifth, leaving enough time for the on-fire Jones to complete his hat trick just before referee Archie Ritchie blew the final whistle.

This was, in the end, a substantial victory with Newtonmore's bigger, stronger and more established side eventually overwhelming a Kingussie team who never gave up, created several chances without reward and played a full part in a sporting and well-disciplined game which was a credit to the young players on both sides.



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Kinlochshiel finally get their hands on a Senior trophy

Kinlochshiel won their first ever senior shinty trophy on Saturday 3rd September 2016 with a 5-3 victory over Inveraray in the final of the Artemis Macaulay Cup at Mossfield. However for all that they have played their shinty this season in the lower ranked National Division, Inveraray competed well for much of the match, coming from behind twice before eventually losing to two goals in the last 10 minutes.

Kinlochshiel opened the stronger side taking an early lead when under pressure 'Rary defender John Kennedy was prevented from clearing his lines allowing internationalist Keith MacRae - one of three brothers in the Kinlochshiel side - to knock the ball home for the opener. 'Shiel maintained their attacking momentum over the next period but determined defending by the Inveraray defence marshalled by full back Ally Munro - plus a series of excellent stops by teenage goalkeeper Scott MacLachlan - kept the Wester Ross side at bay and allowed a sudden Inveraray foray up the other end but veteran Garry MacPherson fired his shot over the bar.

Inveraray then suffered a blow on the 15 minute mark when MacPherson had to leave the field with an eye injury and the loss of his guile in the centreline handed midfield dominance to 'Shiel for a period until the Royal Burgh side eventually managed to adjust and plug the gaps. In the meantime their defence came under further pressure with the 'Shiel midfield in particular full centre Finlay MacRae and the tireless Donald Nixon forcing play forward.

shinty yearbook | review of 2016

Teenage 'Rarykeeper MacLachlan continued his fine display with another save following an Oliver MacRae shot but he could do nothing to keep out a strike in 28 minutes by front man Jordan Fraser which brought up Shiel's second goal of the afternoon.

At that stage with Kinlochshiel in complete control few would have given much for Inveraray's chances of staging a comeback - but that's just what Inveraray did. First full forward Allan MacDonald profited from a slack clearance by 'Shiel defender Paul MacRae to fire a bouncing shot past goal keeper Scott Kennedy; then within a minute his cross-field flick sent youngster Fraser Watt clear in front of goal to smash home the equaliser.

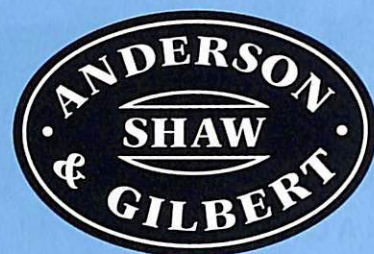
'Shiel managed to get their noses in front once again just before the half time whistle with arguably the best strike of the afternoon when Jordan Fraser was able to deceive his marker with a quick turn to fire the ball home from distance.

The Wester Ross side continued their attacking commitment after the break but once again found Inveraray keeper MacLachlan unbeatable. The youngster, who celebrated his 18th birthday on the day of the match, kept out several attempts by Jordan Fraser and various MacRaes earning himself the trophy for man of the match. Indeed when his side were awarded a penalty in the 70th minute and Fraser Watt coolly converted, MacLachlan must have wondered if his birthday present was to include something more special.

Sadly it wasn't to be. 'Shiel's superior strength and sharpness eventually paid off and strikes from first Oliver and then Keith MacRae eventually put the trophy beyond the grasp of Inveraray.

Wonderful though the win was for Kinlochshiel, spare a thought for the despair of Inveraray's Scott MacLachlan - man of the match in his first two senior finals - The Celtic and the Macaulay - and still no winner's medal. His day will surely come.





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Bullough & Strathdearn Cup Finals 2016

(Saturday 10th September was Cup Final day for reserve-level teams from both the North and South shinty districts)



Tayforth hang on to beat Kilmory in Bullough Cup Final.

Tayforth, despite a strong second half Kilmory fight-back, were just able to hang on long enough to record a 4-3 victory the 2016 Bullough Cup final at Strathmore.

Certainly the first half emphatically belonged to Tayforth who raced to an early 3-0 thanks to a Conor Sweeney double and a fine strike from Orsten Gardner. The fact that Kilmory hadn't played a competitive match since mid-July did not help their cause and it was apparent from their first half display that they were more than a little ring-rusty.

When Andy Scott then made it 4-0 for Tayforth on 36 minutes, the final outcome looked inevitable. However Kilmory regained their touch in the second half scoring three quick goals via John Strachan,

Steven Wilson and Alex Cunningham soon after the break to put themselves right back in contention.

The Argyllshire men then had a great chance to make it 4-4 when referee Ross Brown awarded them a late penalty but Cunningham's effort went past the post. Kilmory did not immediately concede however and Tayforth goalie Steven Thomson was forced to make a good save from Cunningham at the death to prevent the final going into extra-time.

In the end Tayforth were just about worth their victory though Kilmory pushed them a lot closer than they might have thought possible at the interval.

Strathdearn Cup Final Lochcarron surprise Glenurquhart with 4-1 victory at Castle Leod

Lochcarron lifted the 2016 Strathdearn Cup with a 4-1 victory over Glenurquhart at Castle Leod, Strathpeffer.

The West Coast side got off to a great start when player/manager Alan MacKay opened the scoring in 3 minutes when he turned quickly to fire the ball past an unsighted Cameron MacLennan in the Glen goal.

Glenurquhart equalised just before the break through top scorer James MacPherson who received the ball with his back to goal, held off a couple of challenges on the left before smashing a shoulder-high, back-hand shot past Lochcarron keeper Matthew Young.

Lochcarron then brought Crisdean Finlayson on at full centre to replace the injured Peter MacKenzie and though the Glen



continued to press for a time it was Finlayson's presence that was the defining factor in the game. In 69 minutes he came deep to collect the ball and the play opened up enough for him to turn and hit a shot from distance which beat MacLennan to make it 2-1.

Two minutes later Nick Dalgety scored from close-in and with just 13 minutes remaining Finlayson again punished a mistake in the Glen defence to make the final score 4-1.

Glenurquhart competed well throughout but Lochcarron, having showed them how to take their chances in front of goal, fully deserved the victory.



The Camanachd Cup returns to Badenoch once 'More

A 1-0 victory over Oban Camanachd at Fort William, thanks to the earliest of strikes from international forward Glen MacKintosh, was enough to see Newtonmore pick up the Camanachd Cup for the 31st time in the club's history. As finals go, however, few of the 3,500 spectators present at An Aird on Saturday 17th September came away from the match feeling they had witnessed a top-drawer performance by the winners - certainly not one on a par with that served up by their great sides of the past.

On reflection, however, the manner of the win, against a younger Oban side which actually finished stronger in the last quarter, is worthy of considerable respect. The key to the win - MacKintosh's telling strike aside - lay in the dominance throughout of the Newtonmore defence. Marshalled by full-back and captain Steven MacDonald, 'More's defensive line of Michael Russell, Rory Kennedy and eventual man of the match Andy MacKintosh outpaced and out tackled the Oban forwards and indeed prevented them from getting a direct shot on target until late in the second half.

By contrast, the Oban defenders were always less able to shackle their opponents, a fact aptly illustrated by MacKintosh's winning strike. A hit out from Oban keeper Gavin Stobbart fell short to 'More winger Evan Menzies and he ran at the Oban defence before slipping the ball inside to MacKintosh who quickly fired it low into the net for what eventually turned out to be with winner. Not that anyone would have bet on that being the end of the scoring especially when minutes later 'More veteran Norman Campbell coming through on the left, held off defender Gary McKerracher but stabbed his shot wide of the post.



Oban then obtained a foothold in the game thanks to the pace of midfielder Lorne Dickie which prompted his side to send long balls forward into the corners where they were chased down by teenage front man Daniel MacVicar. His pace and close control at times posed problems for full back MacDonald but though the youngster managed to fire a number of balls across into the danger area, the other Oban forwards were too tightly policed to make anything tangible out of the service. MacVicar himself did manage to put the ball in the 'More net once but the move was correctly ruled offside.



After the break, Oban might have hoped to build upon their slight midfield edge but that would be to underestimate the tactical awareness of 'More manager P J MacKintosh. Having had one change forced on him through a first half injury to forward Neil Stewart, he had the insight to bolster his centreline by introducing the pacy Drew MacDonald in place of Jamie Robinson and with Dickie now more tightly marked 'More began to push forward once again. Stobbart however is an excellent shot-stopper and pulled off several excellent saves including one rocket from MacKintosh which he blocked with his arm.

At the other end, the Oban attack faced the same problem as they had all afternoon. They were unable to break free from the Newtonmore defence and on the one occasion they did so MacCuish was brought down just outside the area but Cameron's strike from the resulting free-hit was well saved by 'More keeper Owen Fraser.

Shortly afterwards Oban defender Scott MacKillop was booked for bringing down Menzies in a similar situation and then keeper Stobbart was lucky to avoid the same fate when he blocked off Campbell.

The danger passed however and Oban went on to finish strongly but though Dickie made Fraser save with his feet from distance and Cameron might have threatened had he not failed to control a high through ball, Newtonmore always looked as if Camanachd Cup victory was their destiny.

Defender Andy MacKintosh's role in a watertight Newtonmore defence earned him the Albert Smith Medal for the man of the match and he brought a homely touch to proceedings by taking his week old daughter Marnie up on to the podium with him to receive the coveted medal which was presented to him by Mrs Rena Smith.

Shortly afterwards Newtonmore captain Steven MacDonald accepted the Camanachd Cup from Camanachd Association Vice President Jock Turner which he held aloft to the delight of the large travelling Badenoch support. It's the third time in the last six years that Shinty's most famous trophy has found its way back to Newtonmore and, given the comprehensive nature of the "Blue and White's" dominance throughout season 2016 - they also won the RBS MacTavish Cup and their 7th Marine Harvest Premiership title in a row - few will bet against them doing it again next season.



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Scotland's Senior Squad make it a hat-trick of wins at the Bught

Scotland (0-14) 14 - 5 (0-5) Ireland

A virtuoso display of precision hitting from frontman Kevin Bartlett allied to a determined defensive performance saw Scotland's shinty players defeat Ireland 14-5 in the annual Marine Harvest Shinty/Hurling International at Inverness's Bught Park on Saturday 22 October 2016. This is the third occasion in a row in which Scotland have managed a home triumph over the hurlers of the GAA but unlike previous encounters between the sides, this match failed to produce a single goal on either side with the visiting forwards in particular appearing strangely subdued throughout the contest.

Largely, this was due to the tactics drilled into his players by Scotland boss Ronald Ross which meant they fought hard to deny the Irish forwards the space to strut their stuff. Equally, the Irish backroom staff had read the same coaching manual and on very few occasions were Scotland permitted to achieve any fluency in their forward play.

The pattern of the game was fixed in the opening minute when an incautious challenge on Scotland captain John Barr by Kerry's Pat Kelly presented Bartlett with a chance to grab the opening score of the afternoon. The Lovat frontman nonchalantly knocked over his first two points from distance and though Chad Dwyer of Laois helped his side even the score by the end of the first quarter courtesy of two singles - one from a tip over the bar by Scotland keeper Stuart MacDonald and the second from open play - Ireland were never able to grasp the initiative.

Bartlett, who had his second free of the afternoon blocked by Irish keeper Eoin Reilly, restored Scotland's lead when he struck a two-pointer awarded after a foul on forward Keith MacRae and would have had another double except that a stray Irish hurl touched

the ball on the way through and the deflection turned his strike into a single pointer. Another single from Kyles Athletic's Roddy MacDonald - incidentally Scotland's only point from open play - quickly followed when he hustled the ball off Irish defender Karl Murray and fired over for a score and when full forward Shane Dooley pulled a point back, Bartlett was on hand on two further occasions to capitalise on careless Irish defending with further dead ball conversions that sent the home side into their half-time dressing room with a solid 10-3 lead.

Ireland have traditionally put in better second half performances in these encounters and when David Reidy drove the ball into the net just after the restart after MacDonald had brilliantly blocked the initial drive from Mickey Boyle it looked like it was game on. The strike was ruled offside however with the County Clare frontman clearly inside the "D" before the ball arrived and Scotland breathed again.

Though Ireland continued to press for the rest of the game - one spectacular burst took Irish keeper Eoin Reilly past the half way line with the ball balanced on his stick - the Scottish defence doggedly stuck to their task restricting the visiting forwards to relatively few chances, the majority of which they fired wide. When Ireland did eventually get through they found no way past home keeper MacDonald who especially broke Irish hearts in the 60th minute with a superb point blank stop from Dwyer.

In the end, Irish indiscipline ultimately undermined their cause presenting Bartlett with two further double pointers which he calmly converted and though the visitors managed two singles of their own from open play first from Dwyer and finally from Kerry's Mickey Boyle, it was a case of too little too late.

Not the most exciting contests in the history of this annual cross-code fixture however, but in the world of international sport, three home wins in a row is about as good as it gets.

Scotland: Stuart MacDonald (Lovat); Steven MacDonald (Newtonmore), Finlay MacRae (Kinlochshiel); Andy MacKintosh (Newtonmore), Rory Kennedy (Newtonmore), Lee Bain (Kingussie); Daniel Cameron (Oban Camanachd), John Barr (Glenurquhart), Fraser Heath (Glenurquhart); Kevin Bartlett (Lovat), Roddy MacDonald (Kyles Athletic), Thomas Borthwick (Kingussie); Glen MacKintosh (Newtonmore), Keith MacRae (Kinlochshiel); **subs** Liam MacDonald (Kilmallie), Conor Cormack (Kinlochshiel), Lorne Dickie (Oban Camanachd), Mark MacDonald (Kinlochshiel), Greg Matheson (Lovat), John MacRae (Kinlochshiel)

Head Coach - Ronald Ross

Assistant Coach - Ally Ferguson

Forwards Coach - Kevin Thain

Trainer - Neil Bowman



Scotland Under 21s outdone by slick Irish finishing



Scotland U21 (2-11) 17 - Ireland U21 30 (4-18)

Ireland U21 fought off a spirited second half comeback from their Scottish counterparts to win the Marine Harvest Shinty/Hurling international at the Inverness's Bught Park, on Saturday 22 October 2016.

From the outset Ireland were ahead, opening their account through an early two-point effort from Kerry hurler Philip Lucid who was to go on to be the dominant figure in this encounter.

Though the Scots launched an immediate response with Danny Kelly notching a two-pointer, Lucid was again on hand to put Ireland back in front with a 65 yard lift and volley after his initial attempt had been deflected for a corner. Though Scotland did have chances to come back it was Ireland who would be first to find the back of the net moments later through neat work from Kildare's Jack Sheridan.

Worse was to follow for the Scots as a superb run from Tom Fox saw him get away from marker Barry MacDonald and the Tipperary youngster smashed the ball high to the keeper's left to make it 9-2.

Lucid added another point before a two-pointer from Scotland's Craig Morrison made it 10-4. Daniel Staunton and Lucid



added further singles with Morrison reducing the gap to 12-6 with another fine two pointer though Staunton wasn't long in adding another single for the men in green.

Scotland pressed hard with Arran MacPhee twice coming close before eventually Skye's Will Cowie got on the end of a pass from Kingussie's Savio Genini to bring the Scots back within touching distance at 13-9.

It was Ireland's half though, and inter-play between Andrew Coffey and Daniel Staunton saw Coffey outpace Rory MacKeachan with the Tipperary player scoring, high to the keepers right, to make it 16-9 at the interval.

After the break Ireland further extended their lead courtesy of a Philip Lucid two pointer early in the second half. Lucid then added a single, after a fine save from Scotland keeper Scott MacLachlan conceded a corner which the Kerryman converted to make it 19-9.

Scotland needed to score next to keep the game alive and they did just that when neat play by John McNulty set up Charlie MacDonald who flicked the ball past Irish keeper Enda Rowland from close range. Soon after McNulty won a foul for the home side which Craig Morrison knocked over to make it 19-14.

Nick Dalgety then added a point from open play and when Morrison hit another two pointer the gap narrowed to 19-17. However, that was as close as Scotland would get as the Irish powered through the closing stages to clinch a convincing win.

First, Daniel Staunton held off Michael MacKenzie to score from close range and then the same player quickly followed up with a further single point. More points followed from Irish dead-ball expert Lucid but Scotland refused to give up and a fine Blair Morrison run was cheered by the home support though the Irish defence managed to clear the danger.



In the end Lucid finished the afternoon with a final a two-pointer bring his personal tally to thirteenth points and seeing Ireland safely through to retain the U21 trophy which was presented to their captain, Keith Carmody from Kerry, by Steve Bracken of sponsors Marine Harvest.

Scotland U21 from: Scott MacLachlan (Inveraray), Rory MacKeachan (Kingussie), Ewen Campbell (Beauly), Michael MacKenzie (Lovat) (captain), Euan Lloyd (Glenurquhart), Blair Morrison (Caberfeidh), Calum Grant (Kingussie), John Gillies (Skye Camanachd), Innes Blackhall (Kilmallie), Danny Kelly (Lovat), Barry MacDonald (Lochaber), Will Cowie (Skye Camanachd), Oliver MacRae (Kinlochshiel), Savio Genini (Kingussie), Arran MacPhee (Fort William), Daniel MacVicar (Oban Camanachd), Charlie MacDonald (Inverness), John McNulty (Glasgow Mid Argyll), Craig Morrison (Caberfeidh), Nick Dalgety (Lochcarron)

Head Coach – Allan MacRae

Assistant Head Coaches – Callum MacLeod & Iain McDonald

Trainer – Davie MacVey

Physio/First Aid – Lorna Forsyth

Scotland Women lose Marine Harvest Challenge to Dublin

Scotland (0-2) 2 - 12 (3-3) Dublin

After three successive wins against Irish opposition, the Scotland Women's squad faced their toughest test yet as they went down 12-2 to the Dublin Women in their Marine Harvest Shinty/Camogie challenge on the Bught Park outside pitch on Saturday 22 October 2016.

It was clear from the outset that Dublin were going to be tough opposition and early strikes over the bar from wing forwards Miriam Twomey and Alison Twomey had them 2-0 ahead with the latter's effort going in off the post.

Scotland, captained by Lochaber's Kathleen Cameron, showed that they were up for the challenge though when Jeanette MacGregor capitalised on a two-point opportunity to set the ball between the posts to square the contest.

An Orla Beagan goal gave the visitors a 5-2 the advantage at the halfway mark and though Scotland started the second half well the Dublin girls were always dangerous on the break and an early Orla Beagan shot

was well saved in the air by Scots' keeper Elizabeth MacGregor.

The game's defining moment came when play-maker Orla Beagan sent a superb high ball into the Scotland goal area. Elizabeth MacGregor darted off her line to palm the ball away but Grainne Free was quickly in on the rebound, lifting the ball high into the net to extend the visitors' advantage.

It then became clear that it just wasn't going to be Scotland's day when a Sarah O'Donovan shot from the right somehow bobbled past the Scotland backline into the net.

A final Orla Beagan point late in the match rounded off the 12-2 win but the Scots will learn much from the experience of playing a higher level of opposition than they have faced in recent years.

Dublin captain Sarah O'Donovan, an All-Star nominee in 2015, was presented with the winner's trophy by Marine Harvest's Steve Bracken, with Women's Camanachd Association President Lisa MacColl also in attendance.

Scotland from: Elizabeth McGregor (Badenoch & Strathspey), Jeanette MacGregor (Badenoch & Strathspey), Rachel McCafferty (Glasgow Mid Argyll), Laura McCafferty (Glasgow Mid Argyll), Christy Docherty (Glasgow Mid Argyll), Mairi Duncan (Lochaber), Alana McGarrie (Glasgow Mid Argyll), Christina MacDonald (Skye Camanachd), Kathryn Moultrie (Aberdour), Lorna MacRae (Skye Camanachd), Kirsty Deans (Badenoch & Strathspey), Roma Fraser (Badenoch & Strathspey), Niamh Donnelly (Aberdour), Rona Stewart (Badenoch & Strathspey), Katy Smith (Aberdour), Laura Gallagher (Lovat), Kathleen Cameron (Lochaber) (captain), Emma Gordon (Skye Camanachd), Caitlin MacLean (Skye Camanachd), Taryn Neilson (Aberdour)

Head Coach – Stuart Reid

Assistant Coaches – Scott Campbell, Katie Drain & Ross Brown

Sports Therapist – Sue Emery



Young Scotland teams lose out at Iomain Cholmcille in Ireland

(Eòghan Stewart reports on the annual international cross code contest between Scotland's Gaelic –speaking shinty players and their Irish counterparts)



The ninth Gaelic shinty festival, Iomain Cholmcille took place on the 30th July in Inverin, Galway.

Two squads, one female and one male, represented Scottish Gaelic at the event. The women played for the Corn Sgàthaich and the game started well for them with Annie MacDonald of Ardnamurchan scoring an absolute screamer in the opening minutes.

This was the second time the women have played in the competition, and against the Cois Fharraige Camogie team, Skye's international duo, Caitlin MacLean and Emma Gordon looked very comfortable. However, Scotland were a little lax in the midfield and could not add to their score before half-time.

In the second half, the Scots made changes to their defensive line and this allowed the Irish in for a couple of soft goals and then a point over the bar which put them four points ahead.

Catriona Gibb and Ciorstaidh NicLeòid's team pulled a point back through MacLean but it was too late and the match finished 7-4 to Cois Fharraige.

In the men's game for the Corn Cholmcille, the Scots played Micheál Breathnaich GAA for the first time since 2013. Calum Gibb was named Scotland captain by manager Eòghan Stewart. Scotland started reasonably for a team mostly composing players from North and South Division Two. However, the experience of the Irish playing together as a club side was a big assistance to them, as was the strong wind at their back and the Breathnaich went in ahead at half-time 13-0 up.

In the second half though, Scotland came out fighting, with Fort William's Mark Fraser claiming four points over the bar. Too many easy free hits were wasted though, and both Fraser and Inverness's Connor MacIntyre had great opportunities to score goals which would have cut the deficit even further. The Scots won the second half 4-3 for a final score of 16-4 in the hosts' favour.

Both Scotland squads had a great weekend using Scottish Gaelic, learning Irish Gaelic and learning about Irish culture. Iomain Cholmcille 10 will be held in Scotland next year. Iomain Cholmcille receives funding from Colmcille, a partnership between Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Foras na Gaeilge to strengthen links between the two languages.



Women's Shinty -we can tackle anything!

Lisa MacColl, WCA President



With 17 Women's Clubs now in competition and numbers rising, 2016 has certainly been a busy and productive year for the WCA and we are seeing growth in several areas of our sport.

This year the Association adopted a new strapline: "Women's Shinty - We Can Tackle Anything!" We plan to build on this not only to provide publicity and exposure for the WCA but also for the member Clubs.

Numbers at grassroots and youth level for female participation are at a record high and this was reflected at the ever successful National Women's Development Camp at Strathallan. The majority of the participants this year were under 18 and it's great to see these numbers coming through and enjoying a great weekend of shinty in a fantastic facility. We are delighted to have the support of Katie Drain at the CA to help us to grow and expand this camp in future. Already we have booked up for 7th - 9th July 2017.

Our development priorities are firmly focused on the provision of opportunities for lower secondary and upper primary aged girls in particular as they are key to the future of our game.

Representative opportunities are also vital in the Women's player pathway.

Early sessions have been kept open to allow all players access to coaching and development. Stuart Reid and his team along with help from the CA have provided players with access to sports science workshops and in 2017 there are plans to expand this idea by taking workshops out to local areas where all players can tap into the coaching and resources.

We have increased our skills level over the years and we now can see the goal in sight of playing the top tier in Senior Camogie opposition.

2016 also saw the WCA host the biggest and best attended cup final we have ever had with over 700 spectators present at An Aird. The event very much focused around being a family day out with a bouncy castle, climbing wall, skills courses, stalls, and food and refreshments. Fort William was an excellent choice and the WCA are indebted to the support from the Club. We

are also mindful of support received from our sponsors Marine Harvest, Peter Gow and the Macaulay Association.

Leagues

There are now 17 Women's Clubs in Scotland competing in three different Marine Harvest leagues with to date eight of these teams supporting both a 1st and 2nd/Development team.

This will increase to 20 Clubs in 2017 with the addition of Oban Lorn, the English Shinty Association and Tayforth. We expect the number of second teams to also increase in 2017.

In 2016 the Women's Development League attracted 9 teams for competition and it is hoped next year this will grow and we will include two more local area competitions based on the round robin concept.

In the National League there were only 5 teams and to make it work we had to create an All-stars team. This mostly went well giving teams more games and allowing girls in Division 2 teams to gain experience at National League level. In 2017 however the National league will include Lovat and Fort William.

The WCA looks forward to 2017 and seeing many new players involved in the game, proving that in "Women's Shinty - We Can Tackle Anything!"



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Lochaber and Lovat come out on top at Women's Cup Final day

(The biggest day of the Women's Shinty Calendar was held on Saturday 27th August at Fort William's An Aird Park)



Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup Final

Lochaber 4 Skye 2

Lochaber's lifted the Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup for the first time in their history with a 4-2 win over WCA Marine Harvest National Division 1 champions Skye. The result was hard earned but in a thrilling contest it took a superb display of finishing by Lochaber's Kirsty Delaney who hit all four of her side's goals to eventually clinch the destination of the trophy.

Lochaber opened strongly with Delaney putting them ahead in 6 minutes when she found space on the left to fire home a low shot past Skye keeper Sarah-Jane Ferguson. Other early Lochaber pressure came to nothing however and when the pendulum began to swing in Skye's favour after the first quarter, Lochaber had to rely on excellent goalkeeping from Aileen Campbell to keep out strikes from both Caitlin MacLean and Jenna Beaton.

Skye equalised in 27 minutes through Lorna MacRae only to see Delaney score her second immediately afterwards when she drove into the box to notch the strike which saw her side safely through to the half time whistle with a 2-1 lead.

After the break Skye regained the initiative but found the Lochaber goalkeeper Campbell once again playing her part with a series of fine saves including one excellent stop in the air from a MacRae drive that seemed destined for the net. Equally important for Lochaber however was the work of full-back Hannah Dougan and defender



Mairi Duncan - a recent signing from Ardnamurchan - whose mobility and strong tackling helped blunt the menace of the Skye attack.

With ten minutes remaining, a Lochaber breakaway down the left saw Delaney take advantage of an error by Skye keeper Ferguson to complete her hat-trick.

Once again Skye struck back through MacRae to make it 3-2 but with the clock running down it was Delaney who had the last word on the match. Picking up a pass from Lochaber skipper Rebecca Masson she delighted the 700 strong crowd with a finish which capped a fine individual display. That however wasn't enough to win her the award for player of the match which was presented to Lochaber goal keeper Aileen Campbell for her tremendous performance between the sticks. That says a lot about the attacking performance of the disappointed losers.

After the red and white ribbons of the Lochaber Club had been tied to the handles of the Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup, the trophy and the presentation caman were handed over to Rebecca Masson by sponsor Peter Gow of Inverness.

Marine Harvest Challenge Cup Final

Lovat 7 Strathglass 1

Earlier in the afternoon Lovat won the Marine Harvest Challenge Cup - the trophy for lower league sides - defeating Strathglass 7-1 in a somewhat one sided contest in which a hat trick from Fiona Urquhart and two goals from experienced international Laura Gallagher all within the space of 16 minutes had Strath struggling to stay in the contest. However an excellent strike from youngster Chloe MacLeod just on the half hour comprehensively beat Lovat keeper Hannah Eaton and finally got Strathglass on the scoreboard.

Lovat manager Charlie Mainland then pulled the excellent Gallagher back to the centre-line to protect his side's lead and while further



second half strikes from Nikki Grant and Fiona Urquhart emphasised the gulf between the sides Strathglass's second half performance should give Coach Laura Fraser confidence in a bright future for her side.

On the podium afterwards, four-goal Fiona Urquhart was selected for the player of the match award while Lovat captain Caroline MacLean was presented with the Marine Harvest Challenge Cup by Steve Bracken, Business Support Manager from sponsors Marine Harvest.

Youth development

Throughout 2016 the Camanachd Association's Development Team has continued to promote programmes across the country that deliver opportunities for youngsters to participate in shinty at both club and school level. Encouragingly, the number of Primary school children becoming engaged with shinty has risen and many more teams have taken part in tournaments. Examples of this are the 2016 Shinty World Cup (327 pupils/43 teams) and the 2016 Tulloch Cup (215 pupils/18 schools), with a similar pattern across many other school-based tournaments. Enabling and enthusing these new players to progress into membership of their local club is a clear focus for 2017.

Disappointingly, participation levels in Scottish schools during curriculum time continue to come under pressure. These sessions provide a crucial introduction to the sport for all pupils and are a vital link between the school and its local shinty club. Continued curricular access to shinty is something that the C.A. Development Team will continue to strive for.

In September 2016 a new Secondary school S1 Festival was held in Inverness to help maintain the link with pupils when Primary children move up to Secondary school. 11 teams took part (9 schools, nearly 100 pupils). Further festivals and similar local gatherings are planned to take place throughout the remainder of the school year.

Girls' shinty is also developing in an encouraging way. A High School Girls league was run and saw nine teams (90 girls) participate in the Finals Day at Lochaber High School. The Donella Crawford Tournament was also a success at Ardnamurchan High School.

Alongside our partnerships with local clubs and volunteers, we also continued to prioritise our relationship with Primary & Secondary schools and local Active Schools Co-ordinators to further strengthen school-club links. The Development Team engages with the School Sports Leaders programme through Coaching and Refereeing workshops and courses. Our aim is to provide a well-structured, organised and promoted programme of activity that provides an effective pathway for young people into and through the sport.

The comprehensive programme of Youth league and cup competition provides the structure for youth involvement and we are pleased



Seumas Curtis receives a Quaich from Garry Reid, in recognition of his contribution to the U17 Scottish Select's trip to Dublin over 20 years.

Photo courtesy of Neil G Paterson

to report a new U-14 team at Uddingston Grammar. Sadly we have lost - for the time being - Oban Lorn U-14 and Ballachulish U-17. However we are hopeful that these sides as well as Taynuish and perhaps others may be able to enter development teams next season.

Following a series of regional qualifiers across the country, the 2016 RBS National First Shinty Festival was held in Fort William at the end of February. The event attracted the best young players from across Scotland, with 26 teams and over 200 children taking part on the day.

The National Disability Festival also continued to be a highlight in the youth calendar. The two-day Festival was held for the 7th year at the MacDonald Resort in Aviemore and attracted 70 children from across Scotland.

58 young players attended the five-day U-17 National Player Development Camp at Strathallan School in Perthshire from the 17th to 21st July. The players had a programme 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.

In conjunction with the Women's Camanachd Association, supported by Marine Harvest, the National Development Camp for girls also took place at Strathallan School in Perthshire over the weekend of 9th & 10th July. The Camp brought together 49 girls of all abilities, backgrounds and ages for two days of top level coaching and a 6's tournament. As with the boy's Camp, this is an important element in the continued development of the women's game.

The 2016 Scottish U-17 District Select Squad travelled to Ireland on the 24th to 27th July for a successful three day shinty/hurling tour that saw them win their games against Kilkenny (15-9) and Dublin (16-13). As the scores suggest, these were very competitive games and were played with excellent sportsmanship.

In September, North and South Area Inter-district matches at U-14 and U-17 levels took place. The four North districts were Skye & Wester Ross, Lochaber, Inverness and Badenoch and they came together at Spean Bridge to contest the Ferguson Transport Shields. Sixteen clubs were represented and 72 players participated at each of these tournaments which were held on consecutive Sundays. The South U-14 and U-17 squads were selected following a series of trials at Inveraray and a 6-a-side competition in Oban. Close to 50 players were involved in each age group.

The U-14 and U-17 North v South representative matches went ahead on Sunday 2nd October at An-Aird, Fort William, with both matches being won by the North.

The annual U-21 North v South match was played at Ballachulish on Saturday 27th August. Both squads held selection and preparation sessions in advance and the match also doubled as a final trial for the U-21 International Squad to compete in the 2016 Shinty Hurling International at Inverness. The game proved to be a thrilling encounter and an excellent showcase of young talent, with the North securing a 3-1 victory over their South rivals.



Young Stars shine at 2016 National Player Development Camp

From Sunday 17th until Thursday 21st July, 58 of the country's brightest young shinty prospects descended upon Strathallan School in Forlandenny, Perthshire for the 2016 National Player Development Camp.

Each player, aged between 14 and 17, had been nominated by their youth or senior Club to take part in the Camp, designed to offer the very best in the technical, tactical, physical and psychological aspects of the game.

Throughout the week, the young players received specialist training from Camanachd Association coaches based around all the key skills and tactics of the game. Former Hearts footballer and ex shinty player Donald Park, currently Head of Coach Education at the Scottish Football Association was on hand to deliver a practical session, and an inspiring talk to all the players and coaches. Andy Henderson, the

Scottish Rugby Union U-18 Coach also delivered a fascinating talk on the psychological side of the game to the budding shinty stars. A number of awards were presented at the end of Thursday's session. The award winners were: Player of the Camp: John Gillies (Skye); Most Improved Player: David MacDougall (Aberdour); Outstanding Endeavour: Liam Arnott (Lochcarron).

Camp organiser, Ronald Ross commented: "The National Player Development Camp has once again proved a great success. Since its inception over 19 years ago, the camp has helped hundreds of young players from across the country to improve all aspects of their game from the technical to the physical elements of the sport. The camps are also a great way for the participants to meet other aspiring shinty players, forging ties and friendships throughout the sport."

Abercorn School retain Disability First Shinty Festival Trophy

Aviemore was the venue on Tuesday, 26th April, for the seventeenth annual Disability First Shinty Festival which saw Abercorn School from Glasgow emerge as winners.

9 teams and 6 schools from Inverness, Oban, Perth Glasgow and North Ayrshire enjoyed coaching from qualified shinty coaches and games throughout the two day event which culminated in a tournament.

The tournament was played on a round robin format with all 9 teams playing each other once, with the top 2 teams making it through to the final.

The round robin league was extremely competitive with some excellent play and great goals scored throughout the day.

Park School from Ayrshire topped the group on maximum points with last year's winners Abercorn clinching second place, two points behind Park.

The final lived up to all expectations with Abercorn School coming out on top by two goals to nil against the much fancied Park side in what can only be described as a pulsating encounter.

Festival organiser and Regional Development Manager, Ronald Ross, said: "This is one of the most rewarding events we hold annually as we are bringing together over 55 children who don't get many opportunities to compete in shinty. The event grows in popularity each year so I hope we build on this success for next year."



A selection of Youth Shinty Results 2016

Our annual youth shinty calendar contains details of the many competitions held under the auspices of the Camanachd Association at Primary, Secondary and Club Levels. There are also a number of independent youth competitions which are promoted by clubs, schools, families and Associations.

The number of these tournaments is such that it is impossible for the Shinty Year Book to provide a detailed report on each of them individually, although we may choose to highlight some of them. However, it is the Year Book's intention to record if possible the name of all the winning teams for posterity. We apologise in advance for any unwitting omissions.

C.A. Primary School Competitions:

National First Shinty Tournament	2016	Winner	P7 Portree
		Winner	P5 Inverloch
National Disability Festival	2016	Winner	Abercorn School
Tulloch Trophy	2016	Winner	Bute Primaries
MacKay Cup	2016	Winner	Bute Primaries
North World Cup	2016	Winners	P7 (established) – Newtonmore
			P7 (emerging) – Balnain
			P5 Inverloch
South Taynuilt	2016	Winners	P7 Bute Primaries
			P5 Taynuilt

C.A. Secondary Competitions:

MacBean Cup	2016	Winner	Lochaber High School
MacPherson Cup	2016	Winner	Kingussie High School
Wade Cup	2016	Winner	Lochaber High School
Donella Crawford (Girls)	2016	Winner	Kingussie High School
Girls League	2016	Winner	Portree High School
Girls Development League	2016	Winner	Plockton High School

CA Youth Competitions

U17 London Shield	2016	Winner	Oban Camanachd
U17 MacTavish Cup	2016	Winner	Skye Camanachd
U17 MacQuisten Cup	2016	Winner	Oban Camanachd
U17 WJ Cameron (Development Cup)	2016	Winner	Lovat
U17 Strathdearn sixes	2016	Winner	Kingussie
U14 MacMaster Cup	2016	Winner	Skye Camanachd
U14 Development Trophy	2016	Winner	Ballachulish
U14 South 9's League	2016	Winner	Kyles Athletic
U14 North Division 1	2016	Winner	Skye Camanachd
U14 North Division 2	2016	Winner	Lochaber
U14 North Division 3	2016	Winner	Inverness
U13 South Competition	2016	Winner	Cowal & Bute

Independent Youth Events

Ross-shire 6s (Caberfeidh)	2016	Winners	Lochcarron/Dingwall/Kyle
			U14 Dingwall
			U14 Clubs Caberfeidh
Williamson Primary sixes (Newtonmore)	2016	Winner	Newtonmore
Macaulay Association Primary 6's	2016	Winners	P7 Bute
			P5 Inverloch
Valerie Oliphant Memorial Trophy (Ross-shire)	2016	Winner	Kyle Primary
Fraser MacPhee Primary 5/7 (12s)	2016	Winner	Inverloch Primary
Inverness Sixes U14 (Ken Ross Trophy)	2016	Winner	Kinlochshiel
Shinty Shop Great Glen sixes	2016	Winner	Lochaber High
Kingussie SC Primary sixes	2016	Winner	Kincraig
Donnie MacLean U14 sixes	2016	Winner	Fort William Shinty Club
Lanarkshire Primary Schools First Shinty	2016	Winners	St Brides, Cambuslang
Lanarkshire Secondary Schools 6 a side	2016	Winners	Uddingston Grammar
Far North 6's	2016	Winners	U14 Glengarry A
			U17 Lochbroom
			Open Kinlochbervie

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Thrilling London Shield victory for Oban Camanachd

Oban Camanachd U17 3 Skye Camanachd U17 2

Oban Camanachd U17s won the Marine Harvest London Shield Final with a thrilling 3-2 victory over Skye Camanachd U17s at the Eilan on Saturday 5th Nov.

This was a thrilling encounter between two evenly matched young sides. The score was 2-2 at half-time, with a last minute goal from Skye's Ruairidh MacLeod bringing the sides level just before the break.

The second half was a similar story with extra time looking very much on the cards, until Daniel MacVicar finally broke the deadlock, sealing victory for Oban with the last hit of the game.



The scorers for Oban Camanachd were Lewis Buchanan (10), Daniel McCuish (22), Daniel MacVicar (80). Scorers for Skye Camanachd were Ruairidh MacLeod (17, 40).

The match referee was Deek Cameron, whilst the trophy was presented by Grade 1 referee John Angus Gillies representing Marine Harvest.

Skye Camanachd overcome Kingussie to win the Ken MacMaster Cup

Skye U14 7 Kingussie U14 0

After the disappointment of last year's loss in the final, Skye U14s finally got their hands on the Ken MacMaster trophy defeating Kingussie U14s 7-0, thanks to four goals from Ross Gordon and singles from Holly MacLean, Mark MacQueen and Dan MacDonald.

Played before the Camanachd Cup final at Fort William on Saturday 17th September, this match showcased the skills of both sets of youngsters with George Taylor-Ramsay in the Kingussie goals and his opposite number Murphy Henderson for Skye both producing outstanding saves.



The finishing of Skye's Ross Gordon caught the eye, in particular his second strike of the afternoon. Collecting the ball wide on the right, he slipped it past an onrushing defender before sending a powerful back-hand shot into the far postage stamp corner.

Afterwards Skye captain Jamie Gillies received the trophy from Mr David MacMaster, son of the late Ken MacMaster of Caberfeidh in memory of whom the cup was originally presented.

Match referee was John Wood (Fort William).

RBS MacTavish Juvenile victory for Skye

Skye Camanachd U17 2 Fort William U17 1

Skye Camanachd U17 lifted the RBS MacTavish Juvenile Cup beating Fort William U17 2-1 on a wet Bught Park, Inverness on Saturday 11 June 2016.

Skye opened well, pinning Fort William back and going ahead in 10 minutes James Pringle knocked home a rebound from Fort keeper Jordan Morrison.

Skye doubled their advantage after the break when a powerful Ross Gordon drive from the edge of the D made it 2-0 with 53 minutes played.

However Fort William reduced the deficit two minutes later when substitute Victor Smith hit a low 18 yard shot past Skye keeper Jack Henderson to make it 2-1.



For all Skye's dominance, they were still only a goal ahead and they were almost made to pay as Fort William created three late chances but somehow the boys in yellow failed to capitalise on them which meant that when referee Andy MacLean blew the final whistle, it was Skye

captain James Pringle who went up to receive the RBS MacTavish Juvenile Cup from Kimberly Forsyth representing sponsors RBS. Skye full centre John Gillies was named man of the match, for which he was awarded the coveted Sandy MacKay Medal.

Oban Camanachd win MacQuisten Cup

Oban Camanachd U17 9 Inveraray U17 0

Oban Camanachd U17s secured victory in the 2016 MacQuisten Cup Final at Mossfield Stadium in Oban on Sunday 26th June, scoring nine goals without reply against Inveraray U17s. Though the wet conditions did not help either team it was soon evident Oban's greater experience was always going to tell against an Inveraray side whose lack of game time at this level was apparent from the outset.

Oban attacked from the first whistle and it was clear their intent was to secure an early goal from which to build on. That goal came within the first ten minutes when Daniel MacVicar finished superbly. From that point on, Inveraray struggled to get a foothold in the game with Oban attacking at



will and forcing Inveraray largely to concentrate on damage limitation.

Oban Camanachd's domination of the first half saw them score six before the break and while Inveraray played better after the turn around Oban were still able to add a further three goals

to their overall tally. Main marksman for Oban was Daniel MacVicar who bagged a personal tally of six goals while Daniel MacCuish, Lewis Buchanan and Craig MacMillan all got singles.

Match referee was Iain Kennedy (Fort William).

Double success for Bute Primaries

Tulloch Trophy

Bute Primaries, the South Area Champions were confirmed as overall winners of the 2016 Tulloch league following a convincing 6-2 victory over North Area top side Portree Primary School at Jubilee Park, Ballachulish on Saturday 18 June 2016.

Jack McKirdy got Bute off to a flying start when he scored the opener in 3 minutes with team-mate Leon MacMillan making it 2-0 shortly after.

Portree then attempted a comeback with a Liam MacQueen goal in 17 minutes.

A second strike from McKirdy, however, ensured Bute would hold a 3-1 lead at the break.

Bute then added a fourth through MacMillan just after the restart and though Portree scored a second through MacQueen to make it 4-2 further goals from MacMillan and then Marcus Plank confirmed the final margin of victory as 6-2 late in the second half.

Thanks go to Ballachulish Shinty Club for hosting the game and referee Martin MacLean for officiating.



MacKay Cup

Bute Primaries completed their double cup success at An Aird, winning the MacKay Cup Final beating Newtonmore Primary by 3-2.

Bute took a two goal lead in at half time thanks to strikes by Leon McMillan after 12 minutes and Rory McDonald. Newtonmore responded by dominating the start of the second half drawing level through goals from captain Xander Ross and Iain Fraser. The game ebbed and flowed after this with the clinching score coming from Leon McMillan in 62 minutes.

Both squads deserve the highest praise for delivering a quality game for the appreciative spectators. This was assisted greatly by the skilled performance of referee Ross Brown from East Kilbride (ex Lochcarron), who was officiating at his first Youth Final. The Anne Cameron Quaid for Player of the Match was presented to Marcus Plank of Bute.

Past President of the Schools Camanachd Association Donnie MacLean from Lochaber High School presented the runners-up and winners medals to all the players plus the MacKay Cup to the winning Bute captain Marcus Plank.



North enjoy double success in Inter-District matches

(Both games took place on Sunday 2nd October 2016 at An Aird, Fort William)

U14

North 8 South 1

North U14s retained the U-14 Fraser MacPhee Memorial Cup beating South 8-1 in the process, though the match was a much tighter contest than the score line suggests. Fort William forward Victor Smith got the North off to a great start with an early goal, and that was quickly followed by a well taken goal from Skye's Ross Gordon. The South responded with a neat strike from Campbell Watt, but Victor Smith, against the run of play, restored the North's two goal advantage with another clinical strike from the edge of the box that gave Charlie Ferguson in the South goals no chance. The introduction of Glengarry's Mungo Blakey gave the North another attacking dimension, and it was his determined run that led to Victor Smith claiming his hat-trick with a low grounder to bring the half-time score to 4-1 to the North.



The second half started with the South on the attack driven on by Cally McNaughton and Daniel Sloss, but it was the North that got the next goal through Ross Gordon. Further second half goals from Kieran MacPherson

(2) and Daniel MacDonald brought the final score to 8-1.

Niall MacPhee presented the trophy to the winning North captain Finlay Ralston who had an excellent game at the heart of the North defence.

U17

North 5 South 4 (AET)

This match was a classic encounter with both teams evenly matched throughout. North took an early lead through Newtonmore's Iain Robinson but the South quickly responded via an excellent goal from Daniel MacVicar who evaded his marker John Gillies to send a rocket shot past North keeper Lee Dunbar.

With play raging from end to end the deadlock was broken when a strike from Iain Robinson found the net bringing up a half-time score of 2-1 to the North.

The second half was also frantic but the South had the early edge, levelling and then going ahead thanks to a double from Glasgow Mid Argyll's Callum McLay. North responded with a rocket shot from Skye's James Pringle then retook the lead courtesy of an excellent goal from Beaul's Robbie Brindle. South however fought to the end



and were rewarded with an equalising goal from captain Scott MacDonald to bringing the full time score to 4-4.

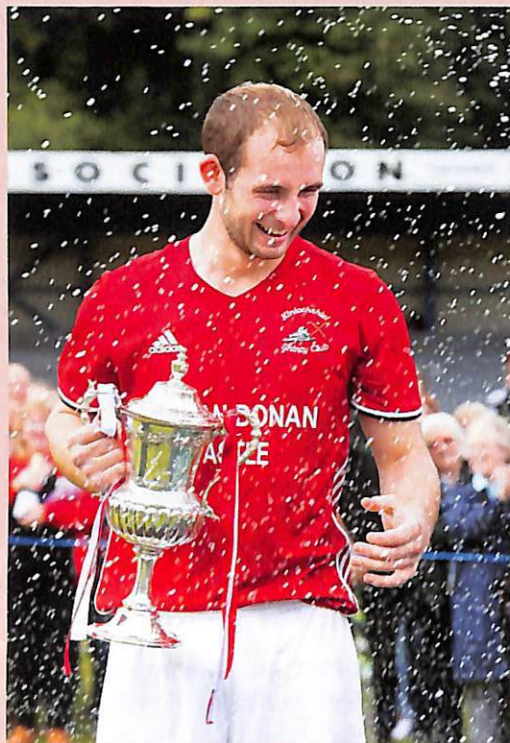
The game was eventually decided three minutes into the second period of extra time when an Iain Robinson strike finally gave the North victory.

Jim Barr, President of the Camanachd Association presented the cup to the North captain Scott MacKenzie.

Special thanks to the MacPhee Family for their continued sponsorship of the U14 and U17 Youth representative matches.

Shiel's Macaulay Day of Glory

This celebratory verse was written to commemorate the occasion on 3rd September 2016 when Kinlochshiel won the Macaulay Cup at Oban. The author is **Duncan Ferguson**, the retired Headteacher of Plockton High School where the majority of the winning 'Shiel side received their formal (and their shinty) education.



Olé, Olé, Olé Shiel have won the Macaulay
Hail the reds' triumph on this famous day
The camanachd team from Lochalsh and Kintail
Went down to Oban and with panache did prevail
With supporters from Dornie, Achmore, Glenelg and Kyle
The pride of the west they triumphed with style
Babies, grannies, mothers and even some swags
Colin's game plan was clear and free of all snags
On Mossfield's green sward they carried the day
The camans they swung with pride in the fray
For no quarter was given to brave Inveraray
Five goals to the good only three given away
A double for Jordan and the rest from MacRaes
The Fynesiders beaten; Shiel worthy of praise
David Falconer the trophy he held it aloft
Ceilidhing with gusto in village and croft
The club that began nearly sixty years ago
Had come to the final and put on some show
The players of the past looked on full of pride
A senior national trophy for this skilful side

So history has been made by these Kinlochshiel boys
Great honour they have brought, no shortage of joys
Well done to that club of Kirkton's hallowed soil
Now famous in shinty a reward for much toil
All salute their endeavour and a trophy well won
No end to ambition and more days in the sun
Great memories of Oban not far from the bay
Olé, Olé, Olé Shiel have won the Macaulay!

Slàinte mhath 's math a rinn sibh!



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North retain Caol Cup in U21 Inter-District clash

South U21 1 North U21 3



The North recovered from losing an early goal to beat the South 3-1 in the annual inter-district match at Ballachulish's Jubilee Park on Saturday 27th August 2016.

With Scotland U21 manager Allan MacRae taking a keen interest, the South were managed by Iain McDonald and Lovat defender Drew Howie took charge of the North squad.

The South, captained by Ally McKerracher, got off to a great start when Daniel MacVicar put them ahead after just a couple of minutes when he capitalised on an error in the home defence to crash a backhand shot into the roof of the net for the opener.

Though the North fought hard to equalise for the rest of the half, the closest they came to a leveller was a Charlie MacDonald strike which came back off the crossbar.

The second half was however a very different story. Ten minutes after the break Craig Morrison pulled the North level when he was first to react to a rebound and just managed to tap the ball home to make it 1-1.

Charlie MacDonald then weighed in with two late goals which ultimately gave the North the win. His first came in 77 minutes when he crashed a low backhand drive into the net to make it 2-1, and his tidy finish in 81 minutes finally ensured victory for a North side which just about deserved their win.

The only down side to the contest was the fact that Inveraray's Lewis Montgomery suffered a nasty hand injury which saw him side-lined for much of the rest of the season.

After the match North U21 captain Michael MacKenzie was presented with the Caol Cup by Camanachd Association Director Keith Loades.

The match was useful preparation ahead of the Shinty/Hurling international between Scotland U21 and Ireland U21 at the Bught Park, Inverness on Saturday 22 October 2016.

South U21s: Scott MacLachlan (Inveraray); Andrew MacDonald (Oban Celtic), Ross MacRae (Kyles Athletic), Michael MacKinnon (Oban Celtic), Ally McKerracher (Oban Celtic) (**captain**); Ryan Gilles (Taynuilt), Jamie MacVicar (Col Glen), Lewis Montgomery (Inveraray); John McNulty (Glasgow Mid Argyll), Daniel Madej (Oban Celtic), Fraser Watt (Inveraray), Daniel MacVicar (Oban Camanachd); **subs** Cameron Sutherland (Ballachulish), Ross MacMillan (Oban Camanachd), Kyle MacMartin (Kyles Athletic), Jack Mitchell (Aberdour), Angus Thorburn (Aberdour), Arran Dunn (Bute)

North U21: Callum MacDonald (Lochaber); Ewen Campbell (Beaully), Rory MacKeachan (Kingussie), Blair Morrison (Caberfeidh), Michael MacKenzie (Lovat) (**captain**); Barry MacDonald (Lochaber), Danny Kelly (Lovat), Innes Blackhall (Kilmallie); Craig Morrison (Caberfeidh), Neil Stewart (Newtonmore), Oliver MacRae (Kinlochshiel), Charlie MacDonald (Inverness); **subs** Duncan MacKinnon (Lochaber), Euan Lloyd (Glenurquhart), Will Cowie (Skye Camanachd), Rory MacGregor (Kingussie), Calum Morrison (Beaully)

Match Referee - Iain Kennedy



Artemis Macaulay Sixes

The annual Artemis Macaulay Sixes, played at Mossfield Stadium, was yet another of shinty's great days out. Played on Sunday 12th June the competition attracted a total of 33 teams; 15 teams for the P7 section, 15 teams for the P5 section and 3 teams for the Development league.

The Development league was won by Dunollie a side based from Park school. The Alastair Campbell Shield was won by Braxi Boys from Inverloch who defeated Taynuilt in the final.

The Ian Cumming Memorial Trophy was won by Bute who defeated Newtonmore Titans in the final while the Oban Celtic Shield was won by Newtonmore Titans.

The best boy of the tournament was Archie MacKinnon from Inverloch and the best girl was Hannah MacDonald from Park.



Kingussie win the Strathdearn U17 Sixes at the Bugt

Kingussie won the 2016 Strathdearn U17 Sixes at the Bugt Park, Inverness on Thursday 23 June. The tournament attracted ten teams. Beaulie, Caberfeidh, Kinlochshiel, Fort William, Kingussie, Glenurquhart, Inverness, Kilmallie, Lovat and Strathglass competed in two round robin leagues of five.

Kingussie and Beaulie progressed from League 1, with Fort William just missing out on goal difference. Glenurquhart and Kilmallie progressed to the semi-finals from League 2.

At the semi-final stage Kingussie beat Kilmallie 4-0 in their semi-final tie whilst Glenurquhart defeated holders Beaulie 3-0.

This set up what promised to be an exciting final, with both Kingussie and Glenurquhart unbeaten all evening, and neither team having even conceded a goal.

Kingussie took a 1-0 lead early on in the game but Glenurquhart fought back to equalise at the end of the first half.



The game was eventually decided in the last couple of minutes when Kingussie's Ruaridh Anderson, who had been excellent all evening, scored what proved to be the winning goal.

Referees Martin MacLean and Neil Ferguson presented the Strathdearn Sixes Cup to Kingussie captain Ruaridh Anderson.

Double Inverloch Success at 2016 Fraser MacPhee Primary School Shinty Tournament

There was a double success for Inverloch at the 2016 Fraser MacPhee shinty tournament at An Aird on Sunday 19 June 2016.

A total of 17 primary school teams travelled from all over the Highlands including Dunvegan, Inverness, Oban, Taynuilt, Newtonmore and Kingussie to take part and the total of more than 150 boys and girls who were present made this the most successful Fraser MacPhee Shinty Tournament to date.

When not playing in the games, the youngsters were invited to compete in a shinty skills obstacle course and a ball hitting speed test using a professional speed gun.

A team of volunteers ran a kitchen service which apart from feeding all the participating players also raised £450 which has been donated to help disabled children participate in shinty.

Results:

P7 & under Winners – Inverloch P7s

P7 & under Runners up – Kingussie P7s

P7 & under Player of the Tournament – Cameron Stephen (Inverloch)

P5 & under Winners – Inverloch P5s

P5 & under Runners up – Inverness P5s

P5 & under Player of the Tournament – Taegan MacLeod Murray (Inverness)

Shinty Skills Competition Winner – Calum Monigal (Kingussie) - 144 points

Speed Hitting Competition Winner – Lachlan Cameron (Dunvegan) - 86 km/hr



Far North Shinty 6s 2016

On Saturday 28th May, Scourie once again echoed to the sound of clashing camans as teams from all over the Highlands and Islands met for the Far North Shinty Sixes.

As well as five teams representing the hosts, Kinlochbervie Camanachd, two teams from Glengarry, two teams from Lewis, a team from Caithness and one from Lochbroom all converged to battle it out on the pitch.

The morning saw the 14 & Under category take place with two of KLB's teams getting the proceedings underway. Glengarry A last

year's winners and KLB Juniors proved to be the dominant teams while both Lewis and KLB Hotshots were not far behind. The youngest team were KLB Futures made up solely of P 5-7 players but what they lacked in stature they more than made up for in attitude. As the morning drew to a close Glengarry A secured the cup with KLB Juniors taking home the silver medals. Junior Player of the Tournament was Finlay Fraser from Glengarry.

After a short break the senior Open Section got going with KLB Alumni, taking on a team from Caithness with KLB Alumni eventually winning 2-1.

Next up were Loch Broom, last year's winners who won against KLB Undergrads.

As the section was nearing the end, KLB Alumni and Lochbroom met on the pitch with both sides needing victory to win the title. KLB looked strong but the strong Ullapool team eventually scored twice to win the tie.

A win for Caithness in their final match against Broom could radically alter the tables. However it was not to be because once again a dominant Broom took the game comfortably securing the cup for the second year in a row. KLB Alumni were runners up while Stephen Morrison from Lewis was chosen as Senior Player of the Tournament.

(report courtesy of Paula Macleod)

Success for Kingussie High School at Donella Crawford 6s

The Donella Crawford 6's is a key fixture for school teams in the shinty calendar each year. This year was no exception with once again nine high school teams making the trip to Ardnamurchan High School for the competition.

There two pitches to play on and with each team playing 8 games there was lots of fantastic shinty to witness. At the end of the round-robin Ardnamurchan A finished top of the pile on goal difference with Lochaber A second, Glenurquhart 3rd and Kingussie High School just edging out Plockton A for the 4th spot.

The semi-finals were played in unison, Kingussie after their slow start in the early part of the competition surprised Ardnamurchan A 1-0 whilst Lochaber A eventually defeated Glenurquhart 2-0 in the other semi.

In the final, a Kingussie strike in the first half proved to be the deciding factor with reigning champions Lochaber A not being able to find the back of the net despite their best attempts.

Donella Crawford's cousin, Alistair McMillan was on hand to conduct presentations and hand over the medals and the trophy to the winning Kingussie captain.



Cupa Iomain na h-Òige – Farpais Nàiseanta Iomain do Sgoilearan ann am Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig

Bha Iomain Cholmille – pròiseact iomain Gàidhlig – ag obair ann an com-pàirteachas le Sgioba Gàidhlig Chomhairle na Gàidhealtachd agus High Life na Gàidhealtachd gus tachartas iomain nàiseanta a chur air dòigh airson sgoilearan P4 – P7 ann am Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig ann an sgoiltean air feadh Alba.

'S e pròiseact piolait a th' ann an Cupa Iomain na h-Òige – ach thathar ag amas air tachartas bliadhnaile a dhèanamh dheth, stèidhichte sa Ghàidhealtachd agus fosgailte do sgoiltean air feadh Alba.

Chaidh an tachartas a chumail ann am Pàirc an Eilein ann am Baile Ùr an t-Slèibh, agus bha a h-uile càil gu tur tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig.

Tha Cupa Iomain na h-Òige air taic fhaighinn bhon Chomhairle agus Bòrd na Gàidhlig. Tha Iomain Cholmille a' toirt seachad Cupa Iomain na h-Òige dhaibhsan a bhuannaicheas, agus tha a' Chomhairle

a' toirt seachad taic airson geall-dùbhlain – Duais Ghàidhlig Iomain na h-Òige – a tha a' dol chun an sgioba aig an robh an deòin as motha an cànan a chleachdadh aig an tachartas, a bharrachd air buinn a tha air an toirt do gach com-pàirtiche. Rinn FilmG, dhan a bheil a' Chomhairle a' toirt taic, ceangal leis an luchd-eagrachaidh seach gur e deagh chothrom a bh' ann dhaibh earrann spòrs a chur an lùib farpais FilmG na bliadhna seo. Bha iad cuideachd a' filmeadh is ag aithris mu chleasan gaisgeil nan Gàidheal òga.

Thòisich an tachartas le 6 cluicheadairean air gach taobh, agus 8 ann an sguad. Ghabh sgiobaidhean à Baile Ùr an t-Slèibh, Loch Abar, Inbhir Nis, Glaschu agus Dùn Èideann com-pàirt. Às dèidh latha farpaiseach, bhuannaich Bun-sgoil a' Bhaile Ùir an fharpais agus fhuair Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abair Duais na Gàidhlig airson dealas dhan chànan.

Photos by Neil Paterson, Courtesy of Film G, the Gaelic Short Film Competition filmg.co.uk



Bun-sgoil Loch Abair nan suidhe airson 'selfidh'

(Cupa Iomain na h-Òige was a pilot competition held in Newtonmore for Gaelic Medium Primary Schools organised by Iomain Cholmille and Highland Council. It was won by Newtonmore Primary School, with Lochaber Gaelic Primary School winning the prize for Gaelic usage. It is hoped the competition will become a fixture from 2017 onwards.) On Thursday 17 November 2016 Highland Council recognised the shinty work undertaken by Eoghan Stewart at their Annual Awards Ceremony at Smithton Free Church, Inverness.)

Shinty World Cup



On the 28th June 2016, the Bught Park in Inverness was host to the 'Shinty World Cup', a competition for primary schools in the North of Scotland. There were 3 entry categories:

Primary 7 and under, competition for established schools.

Primary 7 and under, competition for emerging schools.

Primary 5 and under, super 6's competition.

In all there were 42 teams present on the day with a total of 327 young people taking part.

There were two groups in each of the above sections with the top two from each progressing to their respective semi-finals.

The Primary 5 section proved to be the closest in the group stages. In group 1, after a tight penalty shoot-out which also involved Kingussie, both Inverloch and Drakies eventually progressed to the semi-finals.

In group 2 Dingwall Primary went through without dropping a point while Newtonmore just edged out Portree after a play-off to claim their place in the semi.

The semi-finals were

Primary 7 Established:	Primary 7 Emerging:	Primary 5 Super 6's:
Portree v Newtonmore	Balnain v Milton of Leys	Drakies v Dingwall
Kyleakin v Tarradale	Aviemore v Ballachulish	Inverloch v Newtonmore



Newtonmore winners of Primary 7 Established.

Some very close play and excellent skills were on show throughout the day but especially in the semi-finals and finals. All the games were decided in normal time and the schools which progressed were;

Newtonmore v Kyleakin; Balnain v Aviemore; Drakies v Inverloch

Newtonmore, after losing to Kyleakin in the group stages, reshuffled and ran out comfortable winners in the **Primary 7 Established** competition. Balnain, unbeaten all day won over a very good Aviemore side in the **Primary 7 Emerging Competition** while, Inverloch Primary 5s, were victorious over an excellent Drakies side in the **Super 6's final**.

Medals to all finalists were presented by Camanachd Association President Jim Barr.



Inverloch winners of Primary 5 Super 6's.



Balnain winners of Primary 7 Emerging.

Scots students enjoy cross-code experience in Belfast

George Hay



Saturday 12th of November saw the annual Shinty/Hurling and Camogie challenges take place between Scotland's male and female student teams and their Irish opponents. This year both Scottish sides travelled to Northern Ireland to face on a very strong challenge in Queens University Belfast.

Scotland's Women were the first to take the field and with weather and pitch conditions favourable a great contest was anticipated. The match started off at a furious pace with both midfields battling hard to gain the ascendancy. Both Megan Ralph and Rachel McCafferty were outstanding for the Scots in this area and fine strikes by both Rhona

MacIntyre and Rachel McCafferty had the Scots leading at half time by 6 points to the Belfast girls 1 goal and 1 point.

The second half continued to be a evenly matched affair but with Allanah Savage marshalling the Queen's defence well, Scotland found further opportunities in front of goal difficult to create. The Irish girls on the other hand having adapted to the hybrid game soon found enough gaps in the Scot's defence to take a commanding lead. Eventually Scotland ran out of time, going down by 14 points (4 goals and 2 points) to 6 points (2 goals).



The Scotland Men's match also started at a furious pace with the visitors doing their best to keep the ball low in order to open up the Irish defence. However facing a determined back line of hurlers they found it difficult to create potential chances. The hurlers themselves launched a series counter-attacks at a Scot's defence which was held firm by the excellent performances from Ryan Harrison, Alex Dunning and Finlay MacMillan.

As the match ebbed and flowed, frees by Craig Anderson kept Scotland in front before a piece of fantastic play in which the Scots used the full width of the pitch before scoring an excellent goal through Hamish Anderson. A second goal this time by Craig Anderson had the Scot's leading at half time by 10 points (2 goals and 4 points) to 2 points (2 single points).

The second half started like the first with the hurlers again on the attack with the Scots defence generally holding firm despite losing a number of single points from open play. However frees from Craig Anderson and a single point from Will Cowie kept the scoreboard ticking over. Late in the half the Hurlers began to tire leaving the Scot's to take advantage courtesy of goals from Will Cowie, James Pringle and Sandy Elrick. Despite a late Irish rally further scores by Craig Anderson and a Jack Berg point finished the game off with the Scottish Students tasting victory over Queens by 27 points to 7.

Thanks must go to the Queen's University coaching staff and our Irish hosts for providing an excellent standard of opposition, fantastic facilities and hospitality for the day.

University Shinty— Honours go to Strathclyde and Edinburgh Universities

(Wednesday 9th March saw shinty's University sides battle it out at St Andrews for the honour of being crowned Scottish University champions 2016.)

Strathclyde University Men's Captain Calum Morrison and Edinburgh University Women's Captain Isla MacKay also received the League trophies which their teams had won earlier in the season.



Men's: Littlejohn Vase Edinburgh University 0 – 2 Strathclyde University

The men's final was a repeat of last year's encounter. However this year Strathclyde had the league victory under their belt - thus were full of confidence. This was a fast paced affair and well contested by both sides but it was Strathclyde who broke the deadlock first with a somewhat controversial goal from Craig Anderson whose shot struck the upright and, despite being cleared, was judged to have just rolled over the line.

The goal was enough to keep Strathclyde ahead until half-time with both teams' defences holding strong following strong pressure. The second half followed the same pattern as the first half, with both teams giving their all but once again it was Strathclyde who notched a goal when Euan Forsyth fired a quality strike into the bottom corner to give his side just enough of a cushion to see them safely through to the end of the game.



Women's: McHue & Porter Trophy RGU Shinty Club 0 – 1 Edinburgh University Shinty Club

The women's final was also a repeat of last year's final which saw RGU knockout Edinburgh after a lengthy shootout. The opening minutes provided some clear chances for both sides to go ahead but both defences held strong. However, Edinburgh were eventually able to score what turned out to be the decisive goal when a close range effort by Arabella Kennard put them in front just before the half-time break.

The second half saw a spirited RGU fighting hard to draw level but unfortunately for them the Edinburgh defence was too well organised and the disappointed RGU side were unable to find the net when it mattered.



Group photo from the English Championships in Bristol.

News from the English Shinty Association

Once again, Shinty in England saw another historic year with the English Shinty Association (ESA) and its affiliate clubs continuing to progress in all sectors of the sport including the ladies' game.

Early in the year the ESA sent three mixed teams (two ESA and one Camborne School of Mines* [CSM] team) to Dropkick sixes in Musselburgh where all three sides performed well.

This year also saw ESA play three friendlies in Scotland, against GMA in February and twice against Caithness later in the year. Despite losing all three encounters the ESA can take encouragement from improved performances on each occasion.

2016 also saw ESA reach the quarter finals of the Bullough Cup after being given a bye but sadly they were unable to progress losing 6-1 to GMA.

ESA's final appearance of the year came at the Bught Park in the Inverness Sixes. There an ESA and a CSM team competed, both reaching the knockout stages of the Rosedean Shield.

Finally, the first ever CSM tour of Scotland took place involving four friendly matches, one tournament and one mountain, with the team climbing Ben Nevis and raising circa £1,500 for charity.

**Camborne School of Mines is a part of Exeter University*

Competitions and Tournaments

South of the border the first half of 2016 saw Cornwall retain the 5th annual English Shinty Championship at Bristol.

Meanwhile teams from London, Oxford and the North battled it out in the new ESA Tri-Series, the first league format shinty in England for many years. London were the eventual winners and were crowned the first ever Tri-Series champions.

At the London Shinty Festival, the home side retained the London Festival Cup with a 6-3 victory over Cornwall in the final. Excitingly, the level of shinty on display showed a marked improvement from that seen in previous competitions since the revival of the game in England. Especially promising was Oxford firmly stating their intentions as one of the new forces in English shinty.

2016 also saw the "Oxfordshire 6s" tournament being held for the first time with Dundee University travelling south to claim the prize of being the first Scottish team to travel south to play in an English Tournament this century. Not to be outdone, players from St Andrews University visited Cornwall for the Lowender Peran Festival*.

**(This is a festival of Celtic music, dance, arts and culture, held annually in Newquay, Cornwall)*

Women's Shinty

Women's shinty also continues to grow in England. For the past two years, the ESA have hosted London v Cornwall women's games at both major tournaments in England - the English Championships and London Festival. To bring in more players, other shinty events such as the Lowender Peran festival have also hosted women's development games, with teams made of experienced and new players playing in a friendly match.

This year ESA entered a women's team into the Dropkick 6s tournament. The women's team placed second, losing only one game in the entire tournament to the eventual winners Edinburgh Uni Alumni. This coming year ESA Women will enter the WCA Challenge Cup, the first time a team from outside Scotland have entered a WCA competition.

Next year will see the 5th anniversary of the revival of shinty in England with Cornwall celebrating their foundation and first match against London. Here's to a fantastic 2017 of English shinty!

For more information visit Englishshinty.com or English Shinty Association on Facebook.



ESA Ladies at the Dropkick Sixes.

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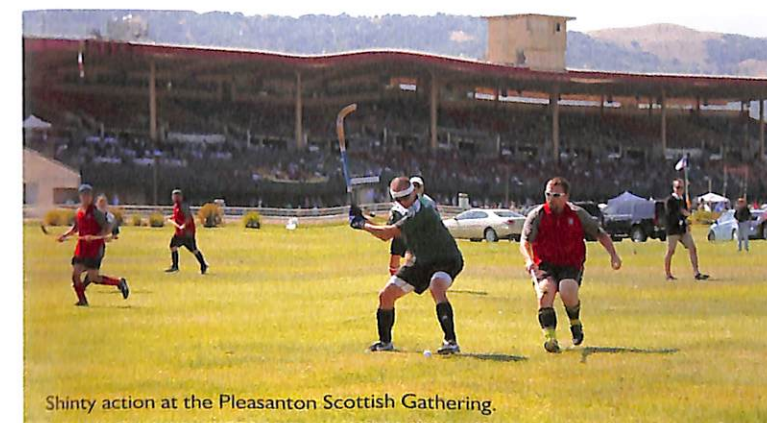
Shinty in the US – 2016 – A Letter from America

By Michael Ross Bentley

Far from the shores of Loch Ness, beyond the dramatic landscape of Lochaber, even further west than the Western Isles, you can hear the clash of the ash ringing out. This distinctive Highland sound echoed down the concrete canyons of Manhattan, at least for a weekend, and on the beaches of Half Moon Bay in California. In 2016 shinty was literally played from coast to coast in the United States.

2016 marked the 15th anniversary for Northern California Camanachd (NCC), a noteworthy milestone for the first of the modern US shinty clubs. Having begun the year playing on the beach, and then progressing to training sessions on more normal pitches, the club held their Summer evening sessions outside the NASA facilities at Moffett Field in Mountain View. NCC member and part time NASA employee Yuli Talyansky recruited a number of summer interns for these sessions, introducing shinty to men and women from all over the US, and even a pair of visiting scientists from Japan. The spirited scrimmages were one of the highlights of the shinty year for the Californians.

In April consecutive weekends saw demonstration matches being played first in California at the Ardenwood Tartan Day gathering, and the following weekend in Manhattan as part of the New York City Tartan Week festivities. In 2006 the Camanachd Cup had been proudly displayed in the iconic Grand Central Terminal, and 10 years later Glenurquhart Shinty Club visited the Big Apple. The Drumnadrochit side marched in the parade on Saturday, dressed in shinty tops and kilts, and performing keepy uppy along 6th Avenue. On Sunday the Glen boys played a demonstration match at Inwood Hill Park along the shores of the Hudson River, 10 miles and 180 years removed from the site of the "first sportive meeting" of the Highland Society of New York, an event that had also included shinty. Though not aware of the history, the local soccer players were impressed by the game, which drew a large crowd of onlookers.



Shinty action at the Pleasanton Scottish Gathering.



Michael Kosman Memorial Cup teams at Pleasanton Scottish Gathering.

Back in California the Pleasanton Scottish Gathering, which welcomes more than 35,000 attendees over two days, provided the venue for the fifth annual Michael Kosman Memorial Cup. Players from three American shinty clubs participated in the matches, and provided some excellent shinty for spectators.

As much as there was to celebrate this past year, the American shinty community mourns the passing of Colleen McAvoy, who lost her battle with cancer in May. Colleen was one of Northern California Camanachd's most enthusiastic players and spokespersons. She served on the club's board, and provided pivotal help in getting both NCC and US Camanachd non-profit status. Colleen's energetic and generous spirit, as well as her friendship, is sorely missed. Colleen is survived by her husband, and fellow shinty player, Jim Buatti, and her children, James, Douglas and Eva.

2017 will open with NCC's 10th annual New Year's Day shinty match on the beach, a tradition that continues to attract strong support from the local shinty community, friends and family. Additionally, a dozen of the camans brought over by Glenurquhart have found their way, through US Camanachd sponsorship, to Oklahoma, hopefully a key ingredient in developing a new American club. The future looks bright for shinty in the US.



NASA Shinty squad.

Shinty jumps the Pond

Glenurquhart's 2015 MacTavish Cup winning side enjoyed the trip of a lifetime to New York where on Saturday 9th April they took part in the 18th Annual Tartan Day Parade down 6th Avenue. For Glenurquhart Club President Garry MacKintosh the invitation to his club to strut their stuff on the streets of Big Apple came as a massive surprise - but a very welcome one at that.

"Just after our MacTavish Cup triumph last June I was contacted by Alan L Bain, President of the National Tartan Day New York Committee who suggested we take the side across, march in the parade and also showcase Scotland's indigenous sport with an exhibition match. Clearly they had noted our historic victory in the media - our first success in the MacTavish in over a century of trying - and I suppose the idea of a team of shinty players from the shores of Loch Ness caught the American imagination.

We sat on the idea for a while but then having been joined in the venture by several strategic sponsors we realised we could seize the opportunity of a lifetime. We brought on board tartan specialist Scotkilt Ltd who supplied us with our kilts for the trip, Alan MacPherson of Tanera Camans who provided our shinty sticks, Ark Estates (Scotland) Ltd and of course our very own Highland Council, all of whom saw our trip as a positive boost for the Highlands."

The trip also had the blessing of VisitScotland whose Regional Partnerships Director Scott Armstrong stated "I am delighted that members of Glenurquhart Shinty Club are demonstrating their #ScotSpirit in New York this year flying the flag for not only Scotland, but also the Highlands and encouraging people to come and visit us in the future."



"Loch Ness is a globally recognised brand and people from all around the world are fascinated by the myth. VisitScotland's marketing and digital platforms already provide a shop window for Scotland and I hope this trip will complement that, with the team promoting the Highlands

internationally by showcasing the region's cultural background."

A party of 30 players and officials, accompanied by Camanachd Association President Jim Barr, a native of Glenurquhart, left Drumnadrochit for New York on Friday 8th April and returned to the Glen on Monday 11th after a fabulous weekend which saw the black and reds fraternizing with the locals and displaying the finest of the ancient sport's stick skills as they walked down 6th Avenue.

A demonstration match between two full teams on Dyckman Soccer Field on Sunday 10th April 2016 on the banks of the River Hudson, with US Camanachd President Michael Bentley guesting for one of the sides, brought the game to the attention of a wider American audience. The weekend's festivities ended with the Glenners being amongst the guests at a glittering city centre reception hosted by the New York Tartan Society.



Coach building continues apace to ensure shinty's future

The Camanachd Association continues to work with a range of partners, including member Clubs and 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 for Shinty 2015-2017.

13 Foundation coaching courses were held in 2016, reaching 107 coaches across the country. This is an increase on previous years and far exceeds the target figure of 80. Importantly the vast majority of coaches qualified in 2016 have again taken up a coaching position with a local school or club and are directly contributing towards the further development of our sport.

Our United Kingdom Coaching Certificate (UKCC) accredited Level 1 & Level 2 courses continued to be promoted in 2016:

Five UKCC Level 1 courses have been delivered so far to 44 candidates surpassing the target for the year of 30 candidates.

One UKCC Level 2 course took place on the weekend of the 10/11th December in Inverness and 2 coaches participated. The Association remains extremely grateful for the support of 12 volunteer Coach Educators who support CA staff in the delivery of coach training packages across the county.

In addition the Association continues to invite every Member club to participate in the Club Coaching Initiative as part of the Club Accreditation Scheme This enables the individual club to meet with



Camanachd Association staff to discuss their specific coaching needs and agree a tailored development plan.

A series of Continuous Personal Development (CPD) workshops were again delivered during 2016. These included for the first time an Anti-Doping Education workshop which was run in partnership with the Women's Camanachd Association National Squad. Additional development workshops were also provided by other partners, e.g. First Aid and Funding, and delivered in the course of the year.

We continue to promote the inclusion of shinty on the www.igameplanner.com website. The CA series of compilation videos also continues to be extended with new examples produced and uploaded to the Camanachd Coaching YouTube channel.

Finally, the ongoing development of the coaching database continues to improve communication with and between coaches, as well as providing an important vehicle for the Association to target training opportunities at relevant individuals.

Supporting the Men in Black

As ever, the recruitment and development of match officials at both Youth and Senior levels remains a critical issue and is identified as a priority concern for the sport in the current Strategic Plan for Shinty.

Consequently, a new Youth/University Foundation Referee Course was piloted at the end of 2015 at St Andrews University and was then rolled out from April 2016. Fifty candidates have completed the new course so far.

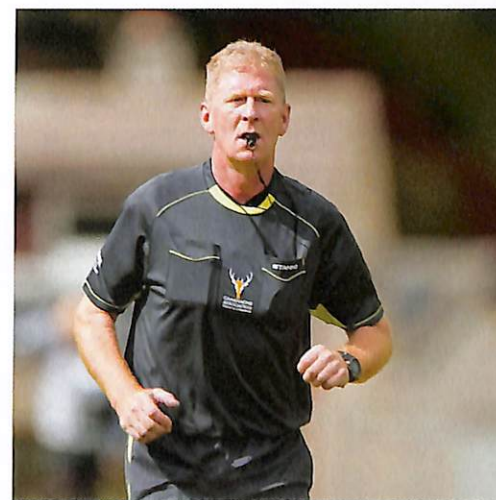
Beyond this at the recent Camanachd Association AGM it was agreed that every club with at least one senior team, wishing to enter a juvenile competition run by the Camanachd Association, is required to identify at least one referee, either qualified as a Foundation referee or enrolled to attend a Foundation referee course. The nominated referee will require to commit to refereeing youth games for their home club and may be invited to officiate at other youth games within their local area. These youth competition referees cannot be referees currently officiating at senior level.

Distinct from Youth shinty, a total of 34 referees were allocated to Senior games, down from 42 in 2015. Only 25 were available on a regular basis throughout the season, a decrease from 28 in 2015. Five referees who had previously officiated in 2015 did not participate in 2016 and three new or returning referees were introduced at senior

level during 2016. The grading of referees in 2016 was as follows: 10 Grade One, 13 Grade Two and 6 Grade Three.

Encouragingly, two of our referees attended a development workshop run by the GAA in Dublin for senior hurling referees. A promotional video is already available on the CA YouTube channel and further DVD clips were produced in 2016 to support referee training.

Finally eight Area and one National Development Workshops for Match Officials & Assessors were also delivered during 2016. Following this, a Short Term Working Group (STWG) has been established to review and further develop the current training and grading programme for match referees. It is intended that any new framework will be drawn up prior to the start of the 2017 playing season.



Shinty's Heroes Storm Stirling Castle

Hugh Dan Maclellan

On 29th October 2016, Stirling Castle hosted a special tribute to those pipers and shinty players who lost their lives in the First World War. As part of a series of events commemorating "Shinty's Heroes" the presentation entitled "The Somme and Shinty's Heroes" used music, storytelling and song to relate the story of the impact shinty players had on the war – with a particular focus on the story of Pipe Major Willie Lawrie of Ballachulish.

Willie Lawrie who composed the well-known tune 'The Battle of the Somme' was invalided home from the trenches and died in November 1916. His pipes are now on display in the Regimental Museum of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders at Stirling Castle, and were on show at the event alongside the famous Paterson pipes from Beaulieu which have a strong shinty connection and were retrieved after the Battle of Festubert in 1915.

In addition to hearing about PM Willie Lawrie, moving stories were told of Dr Johnnie Cattanach, commonly regarded as shinty's greatest ever player, who died at Gallipoli; Dòmhnall Ruadh Choruna and the Great Gaelic song An Eala Bhàn; the Paterson of Beaulieu pipes from Festubert and an account of the 1913 and 1914 Camanachd Cup Finals. Many of the players who appeared in these matches never returned from the war.

"The impact shinty players had in the Great War is a fascinating tale that deserves to be told" said broadcaster and sporting academic Hugh Dan Maclellan who presented the performance "At Stirling Castle, we were building on the success of a series of previous WWI commemoration shows. It's shinty's way of paying tribute to those who died in the wars, and telling their stories in a slightly different way - through the eyes, stories and tunes of shinty-playing communities."



The Lawrie Pipes are returned to their Display Cabinet.



Gary Innes at Stirling Castle with the Lawrie Pipes.

The main performance featured singer Linda MacLeod, musicians Megan Henderson, Ewan Robertson, Hamish Napier, Duncan Lyall and James MacKintosh and was under the musical direction of former Scottish shinty captain, accordionist and Mòran star Gary Innes.

The highlight for many was, however, the appearance of box player and former shinty referee Willie Lawrie Junior of Ballachulish who joined the band for a moving rendition of his grandfather's great tune.

Piper Duncan MacGillivray of Calrossie played the Paterson pipes while the BBC's Iain Anderson also read specially chosen historical extracts along with Prof Ewen Cameron of Edinburgh University and Brigadier John MacFarlane of Taynuilt.

The *Somme and Shinty's Heroes* was supported by shinty's ruling body the Camanachd Association and Fèisean nan Gàidheal.

Skye Camanachd stalwart Donnie Martin given Lifetime Achievement Award

Skye Camanachd stalwart Donnie Martin has been recognised for his coaching activities with the 'Lifetime Coaching Achievement of the Year' award at the 2016 Highland Coaching Awards which were held at the Inverness Leisure Centre on Saturday 22 October 2016.

The awards are run by High Life Highland in partnership with sportscotland to recognise the outstanding contribution and significant impact of local coaches.

Donnie has been involved with Skye Camanachd for over 40 years as player, youth coach, second team manager, first team manager, goal judge, referee, committee member, Chairman as well as taking a leading role in the Skye Camanachd Social Club. A former player who continued to wield the caman until well into his forties, he remains actively involved in coaching primary school children at the club. He spends every spare hour at the Skye Camanachd Clubhouse - both inside and out - maintaining the pitch,



cutting the grass and lining the pitch to make sure it is ready for shinty matches throughout the season.

With shinty such a vital part of life in Skye, it is particularly appropriate that Donnie has been rewarded for all his efforts in ensuring that the club, formed in 1892, continues to grow and thrive.

Russell gets on his bike

Between 10th - 19th August, Kingussie co-manager and former Camanachd Association Development Officer Russell Jones cycled the 847 miles from Lands End to John O'Groats in aid of two charities. Russell was prompted to undertake the solo unsupported cycle challenge in memory of his elder brother Mike who died in March as a result of a sudden haemorrhagic stroke. His resolution to complete the challenge was further strengthened in June when his colleague, the former Kingussie player and manager, Jimmy Gow also suffered a sudden stroke while at work in his garage in the town's High Street.

The money raised - over £7,500 - was split between Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland and the Skye based Lucky2Bhere charity for which Russell has volunteered for a number of years as an Emergency Life Support trainer.

L2BH was formed in Portree in 2007 by Skye Camanachd's Ross Cowie after he had suffered a sudden cardiac arrest. The charity aims to fill the gap before professional help arrives, by providing Public Access Defibrillators and ELS training for a broad range of groups including rural communities, sports clubs, schools and work places.



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Policy Round-up

(In 2016, the Camanachd Association has had a particular focus on the following policy areas)

Medical Policy

The Camanachd Association reiterates that it is a key part of a Club's duty of care to have an appropriately trained First Aider with each team, plus a fully stocked first aid kit. A range of local first aid courses delivered by Local Authorities and other partners are regularly promoted to Members via the CA website, Facebook & Twitter.

In addition, Heartstart Camanachd, in partnership with Lucky2Bhere, continues to assist all clubs to have appropriately trained First Aid/Emergency Life Saving (ELS) personnel with good quality First Aid kits and a community defibrillator. Courses have been run throughout the shinty area with to date seven out of ten Premiership clubs having completed the training. In total 226 individuals have completed the training (136 Male and 90 Female). The latest club to complete training was Dunadd Ladies in November 2016.

The Camanachd Association was also one of the initial Sport Governing Bodies in Scotland to sign up to the Scottish Government's Sport Concussion initiative and continues to promote the guidelines.

Child Protection Policy

In the light of recent revelations emanating from other sports, the Camanachd Association reaffirms the centrality of its Child Protection Policy as set out in Bye Law 6. This policy area led by CA Regional Development Manager Ronald Ross is integral to the new Club Mark Accreditation Scheme.

As well as monitoring that every club has a designated and trained Child Protection Officer (CPO) in place to 'champion' good practice and ensure consistency in safeguarding children, the Camanachd Association also requires that any member of staff or club volunteer who carries out regulated work on behalf of the Camanachd Association is compliant with the protocols laid down by CRBS – Disclosure Scotland.

shinty yearbook | review of 2016

Finally the Camanachd Association reminds all affiliated Associations, Clubs and individuals that by virtue of their memberships they are bound by the Camanachd Association's Child Protection Procedures.

Anti Doping Policy

Early in 2016 sportscotland requested all Sports Governing Bodies to review their Anti-Doping Policies, Bye Laws, Procedures and Education programmes in line with new World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) updates.

The Camanachd Association, led by National Development Manager Graham Cormack, working closely with United Kingdom Anti-Doping (UKAD) completed the review and produced appropriate adjustments which were approved by the Board of the CA at their meeting in September. A new updated Bye Law 7 was then made available on the CA website and highlighted at the AGM. of the Association in November 2016.

This Bye Law makes it clear that participants in the game of shinty may be subject to random testing. This can take the form of both In-Competition testing and if required "No Advance Notice Out-of-Competition" sample collection.

It is the personal duty of each player to ensure that no Prohibited Substance enters his or her body and he or she is personally responsible for any Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers found to be present in Samples provided.

A new Anti-Doping workshop has been developed as part of the Education programme. Piloted by the Women's Camanachd Association National Squad in September this will be rolled out to other squads in 2017 and included in the National Development Camps.

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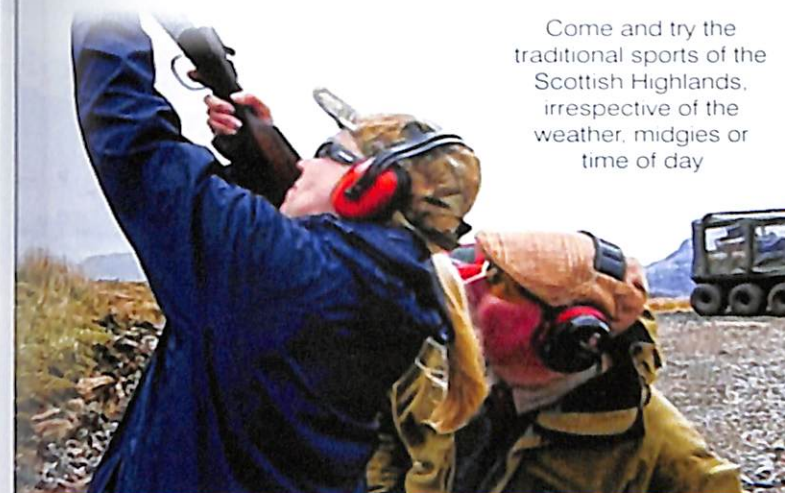
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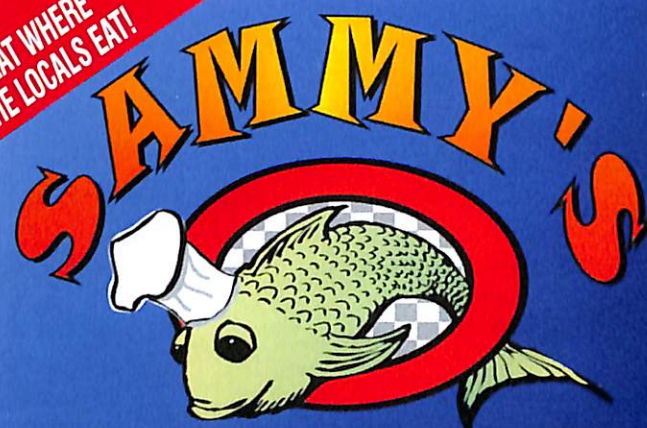
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Clubs maintain drive to develop facilities

"The current Strategic Plan for Shinty places specific emphasis on developing People, Clubs and Places. At this strategic level, the CA is fully committed to support Clubs with their aspirations to improve Pitch and Club house facilities."

Jim Barr, President Camanachd Association

On the back of an anonymous donation of £100,000, **Lovat Shinty Club** have recently launched a funding drive which should see work start on a new sports pavilion at Balgate Park by March 2017. The new building will not only house male and female changing rooms but is also intended for use by the wider community. The facility will incorporate treatment rooms suitable for physiotherapists and NHS staff as well as social areas available to the local school and other groups. Already the local NHS trust have indicated they could make use of the building as a facility for a community nurse, a huge benefit in an area with limited access to public transport.

As well as the initial donation, the club have also been able to access funds from Sportscotland, and the Robertson Trust which together with various other donations and the clubs own funds are enough to give the green light for a March start. However with the project expected to cost a total of £440,000, fundraising is on-going.

Equally enterprising in forging links with their local community have been **Kinlochshiel Shinty Club** who started work on creating a new pitch at Balmacara in September 2014. While the initial impetus for the project came about as a result of the generosity of two benefactors who remembered the club in their wills, financial contributions from sportscotland and the Highland Council also played a vital part.

To complete the project Kinlochshiel Shinty Club developed a partnership with the Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust offering part of their site for affordable housing in exchange for the completion of an access road and carpark as well as the provision of services to the future Phase 2 works (The Changing Facility).

Partnership Working has benefitted both club and community and there are now four new families in the village with five more children - perhaps future shinty players - attending the primary school.

The houses stand on the newly created "Grant Road" - named after the late Peter Grant, who was President of the 'Shiel club for many years but also a great supporter of shinty in its wider context.



A birds-eye view of the site of the Newtonmore Development.

The pitch will be ready for 'Shiel's Premiership games at some point in season 2017-2018.

Kingussie are also focused on providing a major upgrade at The Dell. Since their original purchase of the field in 2010, the Club have improved the facility by adding stop-ball fencing and a cafe.

However with an eye on attracting National Finals, and creating better experiences for players, visitors and home supporters alike, a new development plan has been proposed.

With £107,000 in funds secured from the Cairngorm National Park Leader Fund, the Club have also been awarded two other grants, one from the Scottish Hydro Electric Community Trust and the other from the Highland Council Area Discretionary Fund.

The improvements will comprise not only a 100 Seater Grandstand but also team rooms to replace the dugouts on each side. Equally in the club's sights are tarmac improvements to the access road and the car park. Work is already under way with the recent addition of a mains electricity supply to provide power for the café and a scoreboard while the purchase of a modern second-hand top quality sit-on mower has also been completed.

Up the road the **Newtonmore** club are also making progress with their own upgrade having completed on Friday 22nd April 2016 the purchase of land for what will be known as the "Dr Johnny Cattanach Memorial Field". This will be a second pitch suitable, not only for games but also important in lessening the impact on the Eilan of the Club's heavy training schedules for the full age range of players throughout the season.

The purchase was achieved thanks to grants from the Highland Council Area Discretionary Fund, Foundation Scotland and the Isobel Parker Fund as well as generous support from Aberdeen Considine amongst others. In addition £5,000 of club funds was also used with the balance being raised from book sales and special fund-raising events.

Having set out an initial budget of £30,000 to cover the price of the land, legal fees, planning fees, fencing and other miscellaneous costs, the development now has moved on to its second phase. The site is at present enclosed by stock proof fencing and with soil testing having taken place, planning permission as well as detailed costings for the groundwork required to make the "Johnny Cattanach" a viable pitch are now being actively sought.

As is usual in shinty's many communities, fundraising is always underway.

The Loch Ness Inn

The Loch Ness Inn is located in Drumnadrochit, just 1.5 miles from Urquhart Castle and 15 miles from the Highland capital, Inverness.

The hotel is a traditional Scottish inn built in 1838, offering accommodation with a contemporary feel - subtle colours have been used throughout to create a warm and relaxing mood to complement the age and style of the building. Original artwork by renowned Scottish artist, Dot Walker, can be found in the restaurant and bar as well as in the individually designed bedrooms.

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2016 Marine Harvest National Shinty Awards

The 2016 Marine Harvest National Shinty Awards Winners were announced on Friday 21st October at a ceremony and dinner in the Drumossie Hotel, Inverness. The awards were presented by Marine Harvest's Business Support Manager, Steve Bracken.

MARINE HARVEST AWARD WINNERS:



Marine Harvest Coach of the Year
– **PJ MacKintosh, Newtonmore**

Marine Harvest Player of the Year
– **Finlay MacRae, Kinlochshiel**

Marine Harvest Club of the Year
– **Newtonmore**
(award collected by Norman MacArthur & Rob Ritchie)

Marine Harvest WCA Club of the Year – **Lochaber**
(award collected by Rebecca Masson & Aileen Campbell)

LEAGUE COACHES & PLAYER AWARDS:



Marine Harvest Premiership Coach of the Year
– **Iain Hay, Oban Camanachd**
(award collected by Davie Hamilton)

Marine Harvest National Division Coach of the Year
– **Mark MacPherson, Kilmallie**

Marine Harvest South Division Coach of the Year
– **Kenny Wotherspoon, Oban Celtic**

Marine Harvest North Division Coach of the Year
– **Cammy MacDonald, Newtonmore**



Marine Harvest South Division 2 Coach of the Year
– **Ewan Menzies, Tayforth**

Marine Harvest North Division 2 Coach of the Year
– **Jamie Beaton, Aberdeen University**

Marine Harvest Premiership Player of the Year
– **Steven MacDonald, Newtonmore**

Marine Harvest National Division Player of the Year
– **Jack MacDonald, Beaulie**
(award collected by Steven MacKenzie)



Marine Harvest South Division 1 Player of the Year
– **Neil Carmichael, Oban Celtic**

Marine Harvest North Division 1 Player of the Year
– **Iain Robinson, Newtonmore**

Marine Harvest South Division 2 Player of the Year
– **Hal Jones, Kilmory**
(award collected by Ross Brown)

Marine Harvest North Division 2 Player of the Year
– **Rob Urquhart, Aberdeen University**
(award collected by Kinnon Dear)

WOMEN'S CAMANACHD ASSOCIATION AWARDS:



WCA Marine Harvest Development League Coach of the Year – **Lyndsay Bradley, Ardnamurchan**

WCA Marine Harvest South Division 2 Coach of the Year
– **Elaine Wink, Fort William**

WCA Marine Harvest North Division 2 Coach of the Year
– **Charlie Mainland, Lovat**

WCA Marine Harvest National Division 1 Coach of the Year
– **Michael Delaney, Lochaber**
(award collected by Kirsty Delaney)



WCA Marine Harvest Development League Player of the Year
– **Katherine Dibble, Skye**

WCA Marine Harvest South Division 2 Player of the Year
– **Eilidh Ross, Ardnamurchan**

WCA Marine Harvest North Division 2 Player of the Year
– **Carolann Innes, Inverness**

WCA Marine Harvest National Division 1 Player of the Year
– **Rhianna Kirk, Skye**

YOUTH AWARDS:



WCA Marine Harvest Volunteer of the Year
– **Lyndsay Bradley, Ardnamurchan**

Marine Harvest Youth Coach of the Year
– **Davie Pringle, Skye**

Under 14 Player of the Year
– **Lachie Shaw, Fort William**

Under 17 Player of the Year
– **John Gillies, Skye**

YOUTH AWARDS:



Under 21 Player of the Year
– **Oliver MacRae, Kinlochshiel**

Donella Crawford Award for Youth & Schools – **Iain McDonald, Bute**
(award collected by Ted McDonald)

The Johnny "Ach" MacRae Quach Referee of the Year
– **John Angus Gillies, Portree**

Emerging Referee of the Year
– **Ross Brown, East Kilbride**

VOLUNTEER AWARD: FAIRPLAY AWARDS:



William Paterson Silver Volunteer of the Year 2016 – **Albert & Alison Loades, Kinlochshiel**

Fair Play Award 1 Team Club
– **Lewis Camanachd**

Fair Play Award 2 Team Club
– **Kyles Athletic**

Media Award 2016 – **Oban Times**
(award collected by Lesley MacKerracher & Alasdair Bruce)

In Memoriam

The shinty community has lost good friends over the course of the past season – former players and supporters alike. Here the Year Book pays tribute to those who have gone.

(While every effort has been made to include all those who have passed away it is inevitable and regrettable that one or two may have been omitted due to the passage of time or the pressures of space.)

Archie Beaton, Ballachulish

Former Ballachulish Shinty Club stalwart Archie Beaton died peacefully on 22nd Feb 2016.

Archie was born at Ardlamont, Tighnabruaich and spent his school days there. His family moved to Fasnacloich, Appin when Archie was 15. Though he was a staunch Kyles Athletic supporter all his life, Archie played for Appin in the 30s and 40s, missing out on wielding the caman only during those years of his war service.

He joined the Ballachulish shinty committee in the late 60s and served the club for more than 30 years.

Ewen Bowman, Kilmallie

Kilmallie Shinty Club President Ewen Bowman passed away suddenly on Sunday 28th February 2016 after a short illness. Ewen was a long standing sponsor of Kilmallie Shinty Club, he was also the Club President having served the Canal Park side for over 30 years.

His contribution to shinty also included being the first sponsor of the Camanachd Referees Association.

Johnny Campbell, Newtonmore

When Johnny Campbell passed away on 27 July 2016, Newtonmore lost one of its greatest players of the post war era. All teams in shinty over the years have had their great and skilful players, and Newtonmore have had many, but in Johnny Campbell, Newtonmore had someone special.

How else can one describe a man who in the late 1940's played in a Camanachd Cup Final and continued to play throughout the 1950's, 1960's and then in 1972 captained Newtonmore to Camanachd Cup glory in Glasgow, in the process winning the Albert Smith Medal for Man of the Match. His was a playing career of over 30 years, all of it at the highest level during which he won, as the display shield displayed in Newtonmore pavilion on the day of his funeral indicated, a total of 70 medals.

Evan Cattanach, Kingussie

Former Kingussie player Evan Cattanach passed away peacefully in July 2016 at his home in New York.

Evan grew up in Kingussie and after leaving Kingussie High School he served in the Royal Navy for four years. Returning

to Badenoch to work on the family farm at Kerrow, he was a member of the legendary team that won the Camanachd Cup in 1961.

Evan then got a job in the whisky industry and he worked in and managed some of the most famous distilleries in Scotland becoming one of the foremost whisky experts in the world.

In the early 1990's Johnnie Walker whisky appointed Evan as the world's first 'whisky ambassador' and in this capacity he relocated to the United States where he spent the rest of his days.

Jimmy Jackson, Appin

Jimmy Jackson passed away on 22nd December 2016 at the age of 81. He was a member of the Appin side which won the Munro Shield in 1951 as well as the Bullough Cup in 1953. Jimmy also played for Ballachulish, prior to the Club folding in the late 1950s.

He then joined Oban Camanachd for a couple of seasons, before going back to play for the re-formed Ballachulish Club in 1964. Jimmy enjoyed further success with Ballachulish, winning the Bullough Cup, the Munro Shield and the Campbell Cup in season 1964-65. In the 1965-66, season, he was also a member of the Ballachulish team that won the Dunn Cup. Jimmy retired from playing in 1967.

Johnnie MacCorquodale, Appin

Johnnie MacCorquodale passed away on 24th December 2016 at the age of 94. He played for the successful Appin side of 1951 (Munro Shield) and 1953 (Bullough Cup) winning teams. In 1957, Johnnie, joined the Ballachulish Club, and took part in an epic Macaulay cup semi-final against Inverness, which took 3 games to determine which club would play in the final. The first match, played at Inverness, finished 3-3, with Johnnie scoring one of the Ballachulish goals. The replay at Spean Bridge finished 6-6. The second replay, again at Spean Bridge, finished 4-2 to Inverness, therefore, depriving Johnnie of a Macaulay Cup final appearance.

Donald 'Donut' MacDonald, Strachur

"Donut", as he was affectionately known, was associated with shinty in Strachur since his family moved to the village in 1962, and last played in 2014. He was a member of the Strachur side

which overcame the odds to beat Newtonmore at Mossfield in the 1983 Camanachd Cup semi-finals before two late goals meant they eventually lost out 3-2 to Kyles Athletic in the final at Fort William. Strachur were also beaten by Kingussie in the Macaulay Cup Final that same year.

He always had Strachur Shinty Club at heart and was one of the driving forces behind the new sports field and pavilion at Strachur. His coaching prowess earned him the South Division 2 Manger of the Year accolade at the 2011 Marine Harvest Shinty Awards.

Duncan MacIntyre, Oban Camanachd

Duncan MacIntyre died peacefully on Tuesday 5th July after a long illness. Duncan had a fifty year association with Oban Camanachd serving the club as committee member, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-President and President, his proudest moment coming in 1996 when as President of the club, Oban Camanachd defeated Kingussie 3-2 at Inverness to win the Camanachd Cup for the first time in over 50 years. Duncan was also a member of the Macaulay Association for a number of years.

John MacKechnie, Glenorchy

John MacKechnie passed away suddenly on December 26th, 2016 aged 76 years. A Past President of Glenorchy Shinty Club he served in various roles within the club for over 40 years as well as on the Camanachd Association Disciplinary Committee for several years. Although John was not a player himself, his sons Allan & Graeme were well known players for Glenorchy over the years.

Alick "Inky" MacKenzie, Referee

Alick "Inky" MacKenzie who died peacefully on Saturday 30th January 2016 at Kingsmills Nursing Home, Inverness holds the record as the youngest person to referee a Camanachd Cup Final. This occurred in 1948 when aged 29 he took charge of the Camanachd Cup Final in Inverness between Newtonmore and Ballachulish.

Alick played shinty for Lochcarron in his early years but was called up by his country in 1940 and was posted to France with the 4th Seaforths. There he was hit by shrapnel when a shell landed next to him and exploded killing the comrade who was with him.

After he left the Army he returned to live in Inverness but due to the injury he sustained he was unable to continue playing shinty and took up refereeing instead. As such he officiated at many major finals. Alick subsequently served on many of the North Area Committees as well as on the Association's Disciplinary Committee for a number of years.

Carole MacKintosh, Newtonmore

Carole MacKintosh, wife of Newtonmore first team manager PJ MacKintosh died at the family home Fasgadh in Strone Road, Newtonmore on Saturday 27th February 2016 at the age of 51. Originally from Bournemouth, Carole had lived in Newtonmore for more than thirty years.

She leaves two sons, Paul and Blair, daughter Melanie and her grandchildren.

Duncan MacLennan, Lovat

Duncan MacLennan, a keen supporter of and former player for Lovat shinty club, died peacefully in Raigmore Hospital, Inverness on February 1st 2016. He was a noted shinty player in his student days at Aberdeen as well as being an accomplished and outstandingly knowledgeable musician. An English teacher at Millburn Academy, Inverness for many years Duncan also was in his younger days a stalwart of the folk scene in Inverness.

Patsy MacPherson, Inveraray & Cairndow

Patsy MacPherson passed away peacefully in Ashgrove Care Home surrounded by her family on Thursday 7th April 2016, aged 92 years. Patsy was a well-known Inveraray Shinty supporter. Her two sons, three grandsons and three nephews have all played for Inveraray Shinty Club. She attended many matches with flasks of tea for all the boys at half time, a gesture which was greatly appreciated by the team.

John "Chitty" MacRae, Kinlochshiel

John "Chitty" MacRae passed away peacefully on Sunday 18th December at his home in Dornie after a long illness.

Chitty initially played shinty for Lochaber High School then Fort William Juveniles before breaking in to Lochaber Senior team. The family then moved up to Dornie and Chitty played for Kinlochshiel for over 20 years.

His funeral took place on Friday the 23rd of December at Inverinate Community Hall with interment at Clachan Duich cemetery.

Hugh O'Kane, London

Hugh O'Kane died on 19th December 2015 after a fall, which led to a head injury. He was 71 years old. Along with Sean Reid, Hugh was instrumental in the 1982 - 1992 reincarnation of London Camanachd. He was also involved at various times with Tayforth and Cumbernauld as well as serving on the Shinty Yearbook committee from 1973 to 1988. He organised the Dundee Shinty Festival, with its multiplicity of competitions, from 1976 to 1993, despite being based in England.

Geordie Smith, Dalmally

Geordie Smith, Dalmally passed away peacefully on 14th October 2016 at Lynn of Lorne Care Home, Benderloch, aged 91.

Geordie and his wife the late Mary Smith (Smithy) moved from Brechin to Dalmally in 1966 where he found employment with the Forestry Commission. There, Geordie and Mary became synonymous with Glenorchy Shinty Club with all six of their sons going on to play the ancient game.

The Camanachd Association also notes the passing of two former GAA presidents (Uachtaráin) **Joe McDonagh** and **John Boothman** who both died in May 2016. They were great supporters of the international series of shinty/hurling matches between Scotland and Ireland and many on this side of the water will recall fondly the presence and influence of both men at various venues at home and in Ireland.

Unique photograph of three sporting trophies

This remarkable picture was captured on Monday 9th May at the Palace Hotel on the banks of the River Ness. The occasion was the draw for the second round of the Camanachd Cup, which was being made by Ross County Chairman Roy MacGregor and his Inverness Caledonian Thistle counter-part and himself a former shinty player, Kenny Cameron.

The picture is unique because it is the first time in Scottish sporting history that these trophies – the League Cup, the Scottish Cup and of course centre stage, the Camanachd Cup – tightly in the grip of Lovat Club President John MacRitchie have been held simultaneously by Highland clubs all based within an 14 mile radius of one another.



The man behind the lens

The man behind what is sure to become one of the Highlands most iconic sporting images is photographer Neil Paterson who is due to have his work showcased in a special exhibition at Eden Court Theatre in August 2017. Entitled 'Cleeks, Blocks and Kicks' Neil's display will feature around 60 of his shinty pictures - taken over a period of eight seasons since 2009 - over two floors of the Highland's main theatre complex.

Since his move back north in 2008 Neil has become one of shinty's foremost action photographers covering all of the sport's premier trophies and competitions as official photographer for the Camanachd Association. His work appears regularly in national and local publications, amongst them the Press & Journal, The National, The Sunday Herald, the Oban Times, the Highland News, the Inverness Courier, as well as the BBC sports website.

"The main driver behind this exhibition is my desire to get more of the many shinty pictures I have taken over the years out to a wider audience. People often only see the work which appears in the papers but there are many more. Each of the pictures on display will be in black and white because I believe that imparts a timeless quality and elegance to any photograph. I also feel strongly that the fact they will be large prints to view is also more



impressive and punchy than viewing small images on a tablet or computer screen."

The Exhibition runs from Tuesday 1st to Thursday 31st August 2017 at Eden Court Theatre Inverness.

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