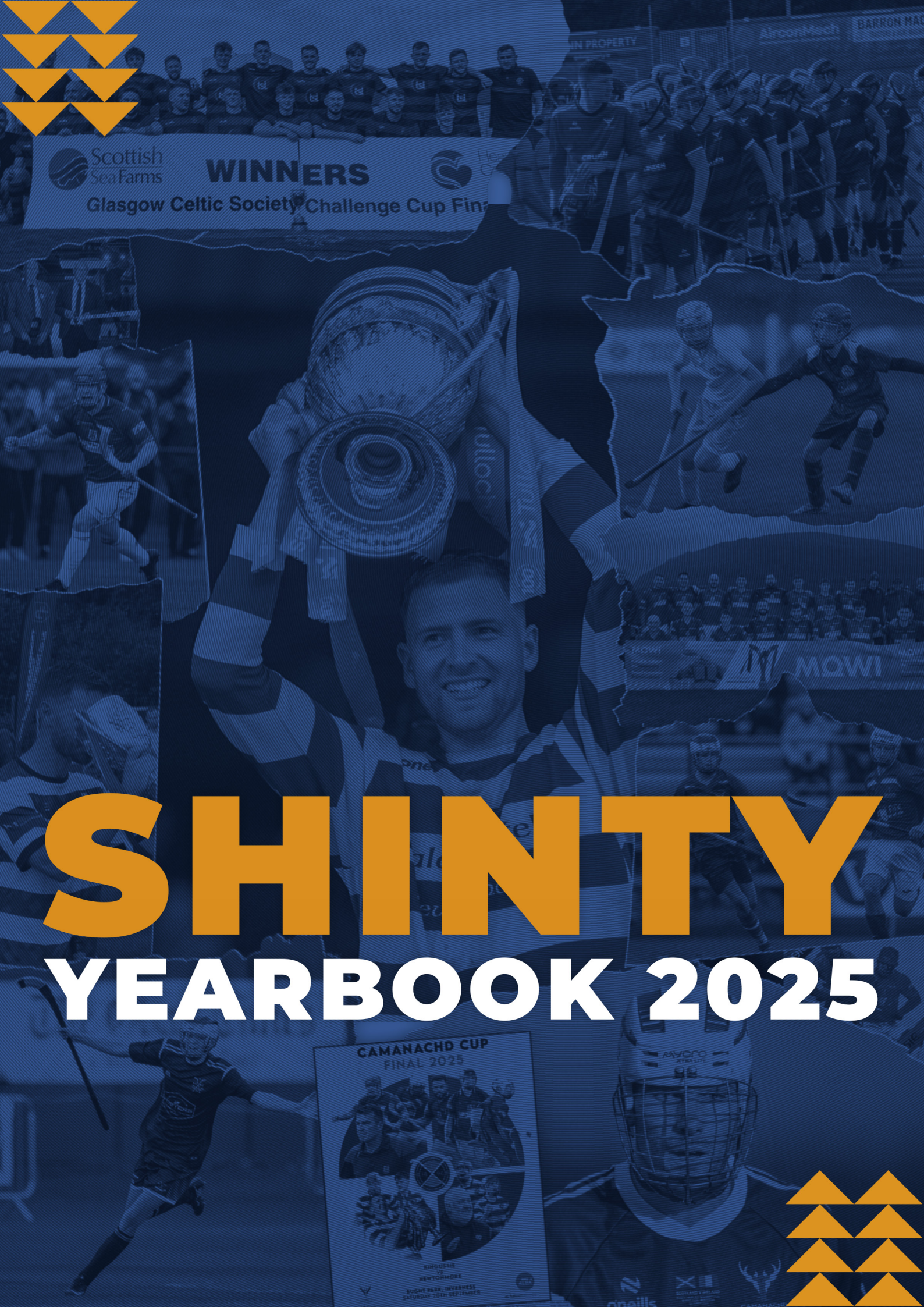




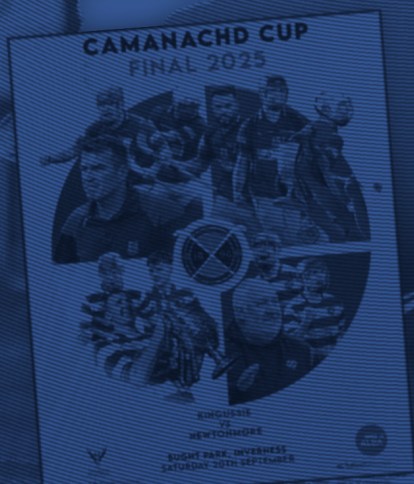
WINNERS



Glasgow Celtic Society Challenge Cup Final

SHINTY

YEARBOOK 2025



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YEARBOOK 2025 PRESIDENT'S INTRODUCTION



Season 2025 will be remembered for two main highlights on the field of play. Newtonmore brought an end to Kingussie's period of dominance by winning the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup in an exciting final in Inverness. At the same venue a month later the return of the shinty-hurling international to Scotland saw Ireland retain the Mowi Quaich in a close encounter, whilst the women's international which preceded the men's match, ended with the Irish team, representing the Camogie Association for the first time, taking the honours back to the emerald isle.

The season also witnessed the closest finish seen in the Premiership with four teams in a position to win with three games left to play. Holders Kingussie clinched the title in the last game of the year to add to their MacTavish Cup and Macaulay Cup successes. Other notable on-field achievements were Col-Glen becoming the first single team club to gain promotion to the Premiership, and Oban Celtic picking up the rebranded Chieftain's Cup in Cannich.

In the women's game, the top teams in Badenoch and Lochaber battled it out for silverware with Badenoch taking the WCA Mowi Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup and Lochaber winning the Premier League in a play-off. All these successes and many more are covered in full detail in this Yearbook. Congratulations to all the winners for their achievements.

2025 was also a significant year in the history of the Bught Park, Inverness. Recognised by many as the home of shinty, the venue saw the completion of the refurbishment of the grandstand involving the provision of new changing facilities for teams and officials, an overhaul of the seating areas and roof, and new ground maintenance storage area. The project also involved the construction of a purpose-built pavilion adjacent to the stand, housing a hospitality suite and supporting kitchen and bar, an exhibition space and office accommodation.

The work was funded by the Highland Council and managed by High Life Highland. Once again, all of the Camanachd Association expresses its gratitude to these bodies for the provision of this valuable asset which will serve not just the sport of shinty, but many other sports and events in the wider Inverness area extremely well for years to come.

The exhibition space mentioned above now hosts Shinty's Story – Sgeul na Camanachd, an exhibition primarily aimed at the preservation and promotion of the game's cultural legacy. It was officially opened by First Minister John Swinney as part of the Mowi international weekend celebrations and was made possible owing to a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to which the Association is extremely grateful. The exhibition has already been welcomed and praised by many of our own community, and we are optimistic it will also become a popular landmark in the city and will be visited by interested people from far and wide.

As usual the season culminated in the Mowi Awards evening in Fort William, where the achievements of players, coaches, officials and volunteers at all levels, male and female were celebrated. Congratulations to all the winners - it was good to see honours spread around the country. The final event of the year, the Annual General Meeting was once again well supported by the clubs. An important decision taken this year was the mandatory wearing of compliant helmets at all levels in the game from season 2027. The safety of players during games and training is of paramount importance to the game as we strive to attract new participants in competition with other sports.

As we look back on yet another successful year of shinty, I would like to pay tribute to all the people who volunteer to support our game. No matter what role you play, whether you are a team manager, coach, club office-bearer, club committee member, ground convenor or indeed anyone who provides support to the running of a club, your contribution is valued and much appreciated. I would also like to recognise all our referees and officials who are an integral part of our game and deserve all our support.

Finally, I would like to thank our CEO and all our staff at the Association for the ongoing professionalism and dedication they show in carrying out their respective roles, and also the Board of Directors, Chieftain and Vice-Chieftain for their support throughout the year. I hope you enjoy reading the Shinty Yearbook 2025.

Burton Morrison

Camanachd Association President

YEAR IN REVIEW YEAR IN REVIEW

YOUTH

Increase in Membership

The Association is proud to report an **increase** in youth membership from 2024-2025, a positive reflection on the efforts from both staff and volunteers across shinty.

Youth male membership stands at **1371** and youth female participation is **452** with **300 extra members** compared to last year.

Residential Camps

The Association and partners continue to offer unique experiences in sport with the ever popular residential camps providing first class coaching for youngsters, held at Glenalmond College in Perth.

	Participants	Clubs
Boys	65	25
Girls	48	10

Scotland Squad

The 2025 U17 RI Cruden Scotland tour saw **19** Players from **13** clubs successfully secure **two wins** in Dublin and Wexford respectively.



GROWING THE SUPPORT NETWORK

The Camanachd Association trained up **152 teachers** in 2025. Our Partnership with UHI is key to this, with primary and secondary teaching students delivering the sport in schools. In addition, **7 School based CPD sessions** were also provided, upskilling teachers/teacher specialists in their delivery of shinty.

In 2025 we ran a total of **10** courses with **99** new coaches being trained and a split of **59 males** and **40 females**.



The following workshops were organised to help upskill the volunteers in the shinty community:

- 1st Aid Courses
- Funding Workshop
- Combatting Supporter Behaviour
- JustGo/ Membership
- North/South Youth Forums
- Social Media
- Child Protection
- Ground Maintenance
- Writing a Club Development Plan
- Tactics in Shinty



FACILITIES

A key priority within the CA facilities strategy is the development of facilities at **Mossfield Park, Oban**. A Mossfield Development Group has been set up with representation from all shinty clubs in Oban including the Macaulay Association.



*Indicates Primary School participation was included



YOUTH COMPETITIONS

Youth competitions continue to be carried out, with competitions held across the country totalling 2726 youngsters participating. A Small Schools primary competition was added to the player pathway in 2025 to provide playing opportunities for small and rural schools nationally.

	Youngsters	Schools/Clubs	Winner
MacKay Cup	286	22	BSGP
CA Cup	260	20	Skye Shinty Academy
Shinty World Cup (N)	368	46	BSGP/Lundavra
Shinty World Cup (S)	110	15	Kyles/Aberdour
Tulloch Cup	385	35	Rockfield
UHI Cup	200	20	Skye Shinty Academy/Inverness
First Shinty Finals	144	18	Rockfield/Aberdour
Small Schools Shinty	96	12	Kingussie Primary
Macaulay Sixes	160	27	Kyles/Aberdour
MacBean Cup	84	7	Charleston Academy
Donella Crawford	88	11	Inverness Royal Academy
MacPherson Cup	72	6	Kingussie High
MacMaster Cup	285	19	Lovat
MacTavish Juvenile	165	11	Newtonmore
MacQuisten Cup	90	6	Glasgow Mid Argyll
WJ Cameron	98	9	Bute
London Shield	225	15	Newtonmore

PRIMARY
SECONDARY

WOMEN'S SHINTY

The women's game continues to see sustained growth, with female membership climbing **9.8%** from 2024. This year saw a restructuring of the WCA Mowi leagues, introducing a second national division to stimulate growth and provide new opportunities for clubs to test themselves against a wider variety of opponents.

The Mowi International returned to Scotland and the Association was pleased to work closely with our friends at the WCA to deliver a joined up double header which, despite the result, was a great celebration of the sport and the advancement in the women's game in recent years.

The Association has worked in partnership with the WCA to expand the media offering and were pleased to have 22 women's matches filmed this year, with special thanks to **Skye Sports** who continue to drive forward club media on an impressive scale that should be an example to all.

	Scheduled	Played	Walkover	Point Share
WCA Premier League	84	84	0	0
WCA National Div	84	83	1	0
WCA North Div	60	58	2	0
WCA South Div	48	58	2	0
WCA VF Cup	6	5	1	0
WCA Challenge Cup	17	16	1	0
Total	299 (+16.7%)	206 (+41.3%)	8 (-50%)	0 (Down from 7)



YEAR IN REVIEW

MEMBERSHIP

MEDIA PROFILE

STAFF

WELLBEING

We continue to work with the **Scottish Counselling Services, Mikeysline** and **SAMH** to raise awareness of Mental Health and wellbeing and provide support to clubs.

The shinty club chaplaincy programme continues to play an important role in supporting clubs. Currently we have 22 chaplains with two new being appointed this year at Lochaber and Lochcarron.



INCLUSION

Shinty continues to be used as a vehicle to allow youngsters with disabilities to partake in sport and recreational activities. Day festivals were held in Inverness & Fort William, where **80** school pupils from 8 schools took part in a day of Shinty. The National Disability Festival was again held in Aviemore, where **85** pupils from 9 schools across Scotland enjoyed two days of Shinty, with an overnight stay at MacDonald's resort.

OFFICIALS

5 Referees courses were delivered in 2025, with **58** people attending.

As part of our respect Match Officials campaign a series of respect videos, featuring current male and female players were distributed over a 3-month period, raising awareness of the importance of respecting match officials.

43

Referees were used in 2025

22

Available on a regular basis

15

Referred on at least 15 occasions.

BEST OF THE REST

New Mowi Scotland Kit

The Association was pleased to enter into partnership with premium sportswear company O'Neills, with two new Scotland kits launched and record sales achieved over the 3 months since launch.

Increased staff count to 11

Thanks to 100% funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Highlands & Islands Enterprise, the Association has been able to appoint Iain Hunter as Exhibition Delivery Officer and extend Jaime Robayna Gortazar's Digital Officer position.

First home Mowi International since 2018

We were proud to deliver both a men's & women's Mowi Scotland vs Ireland International at Bught Park, Inverness. Despite victory for Ireland, the game showcased the best of both sports and also highlighted the blossoming relationship between the Association and the WCA.

We are proud to present an 11% rise in membership in the years since returning from COVID, thanks must go to the hard work of committed club volunteers for engaging their communities after the restart and enabling our sport to get back on its feet. Highlights of our growth are across the women's game but also in the youth male numbers. Progressing our cohort of youths into senior shinty is the main challenge for the Association, and indeed for our member clubs, as we seek to strengthen our core and develop the sport in new areas.

Year	2019	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Adult Male	1332	1341	1440	1126	1293	1222
Youth Male	1375 *	1056	1202	1413	1097	1371
Adult Female	480	351	362	422	371	405
Youth Female	450 *	367	390	379	409	452
Totals	3637	3115	3394	3340	3170	3449

*Indicates Primary School participation was included

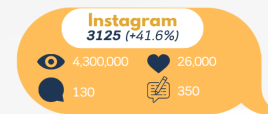
The Association's media output and content offerings have been revolutionised over the last year through the employment of a Digital Officer, a position that has been extended through to 2027 due to the sustained growth across all platforms. The aim is to further engage current Shinty fans, as well as to help grow the game and promote it to the next generation, following a philosophy of "If you see it, you want to be it", thus setting the building blocks for youth participation. Combined following counts sit at 26,840.



Facebook is the platform that sees the largest media output. As this is the largest social media used by the Shinty target demographic, the majority of content is posted on Facebook.



The previously dormant TikTok account has proved successful in further engaging a young audience through condensed short form video clips.



Instagram has been a new focus in the past year, aiming to engage a younger demographic through the creation of highly engaging visual content. Leading up to and during the Mowi Shinty/Hurling internationals collaboration with the GAA and Camogie resulted in large growth on the platform, a highlight being a post that received 6,900+ likes and 2,400,000 views.



67 matches were filmed, 2 of which were live streamed for the first time ever, 8 of which were women's and 6 youth games. Collaboration with "Tachartas" has also seen 5 further games live streamed.



235 articles were published on shinty.com with 181,000 views, as well as 33 press releases. Online ticket sales rose to 3445.

The Association's partnership with the BBC has continued, with 8 matches live on BBC Alba and Radio Nan Gaidheal. The BBC continue to promote Shinty via their gaelic medium channels through conducting interviews and posting match highlights.

Club media continues to improve, with clubs such as Skye and Oban Camanachd offering in house match replays. If you would like advice on how to grow your club's media offering you can contact jaime@shinty.com for assistance.



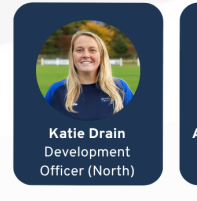
Ruari Davidson
Chief Executive Officer



Astie Cameron
Operations & Events Manager



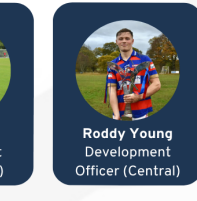
Ronald Ross
National Development Manager



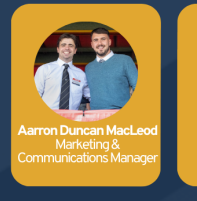
Katie Drain
Development Officer (North)



Alaina MacLennan
Development Officer (East)



Will Cowie
Development Officer (West)



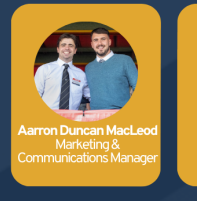
Aaron Duncan MacLeod
Marketing & Communications Manager



Jaime Robayna Gortazar
Digital Officer



Iain Hunter
Exhibition Delivery Officer



Vega Hui Ouyang
Finance & Administration Officer

Board of Directors

President: Burton Morrison

Vice President/Coaching & Volunteering: Willie MacDonald
Strategy, Communications & Facilities: Roddy McCuish (end of term)
Officials: John MacRitchie

Non-voting Observers at Board
John MacKenzie - *Chieftrain*, Richard Gall - *Vice Chieftrain*, Karen Williamson - *Women's Camanachd Association President*, Lorna Callan - *sportscotland*

Competitions: Kevin Thain

Finance: Alister MacKinnon
Club Development and Facilities (South Argyll): Barry Martin
Equality, Youth & Child Protection: Graeme MacDiarmid

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Aviemore
Newtonmore



Fresh Faces Strengthen Camanachd Association in 2025

2025 was a transitional year for the Camanachd Association with its Chief Executive Officer, Ruari Davidson enjoying his first full year in post. The opening of Shinty's Story – Sgeul na Camanachd led to the recruitment of an eleventh staff member as Iain Hunter was appointed to the new role of Exhibition Delivery Officer. This 24-month fixed term role, fully funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, focuses on ensuring every visitor to the exhibition can enjoy an engaging and rewarding experience. Iain, who is previous a U17 Scotland international said: "I am really excited to have started this role within the Camanachd Association, shinty has always had an important part in my life and this role is something I am relishing – I hope to highlight our sport and share my enthusiasm with others".



Willie MacDonald was ratified as the Vice President of the Association at the turn of the year, Willie said, "The sport shinty has always been at the heart of my life, and I'm honoured to take on the role of Vice President. I look forward to working with the Association's Board and the wider community to ensure the continued growth and success of our sport across the country."

The AGM saw the departure of director Roddy McCuish after serving his maximum six years on the Board of Directors. Having worked to organise the Mossfield Redevelopment Group and on communications throughout the South region, his experience was invaluable and we thank him for his time and the character he brought to the role.



Barry Martin and John MacRitchie were elected to the Camanachd Association Board of Directors, with the former taking up a role in facilities in South Argyll and the latter continuing in his position as Officials Director.



Kings reign supreme after final day drama

The 2025 Mowi Premiership gave us the most exciting title race in an age with four teams involved up until the final weeks of the season. Those four teams were usual the suspects - Kingussie, Newtonmore and Oban Camanachd as well as surprise package Fort William, who after having just come into the division put up a valiant fight - amassing 24 points, enough to come second in both the 2023 and 2024 seasons.

Alas, they finished in fourth place, with Oban Camanachd going one better in third after dropped points in three of their final four league games (albeit against the three strongest sides in the division).

Kingussie had to claw their way back from fourth, having had their incredible 52 game undefeated streak ended at the hands of Kinlochshiel in July. This result prompted plenty excitement in the shinty community, proving an exciting four way title race was developing. However, as a side that knows triumph, it was Kingussie who kept their cool, as they defeated rivals Newtonmore in the following game before putting Oban Camanachd to the sword.

That meant it came down to the old rivals Newtonmore and Kingussie, with the former top of the division on goal difference - a 3-1 victory over Oban Camanachd ensured this, with it going into the last game of the season between Fort William and Kingussie.



Roddy Young, Savio Genini and Dylan Borthwick celebrate one of many goals scored for Kingussie in 2025

Iain "Corky" Borthwick



The holders only needed a point, and any nerves were settled early doors as Fraser Munro put them ahead, with the veteran wing-centre drifting in field and picking up a neat cutback from Ruairidh Anderson and firing into the bottom corner. Celebrations of relief then became celebrations of delight as Anderson doubled Kingussie's lead ten minutes later from the right wing. Fort continued to put up an admirable fight, but there was no stopping Kings who would go on to claim a fifth consecutive league title.

Speaking after his last game in charge of Kingussie, Iain "Corky" Borthwick reflected on wrapping up yet another trophy. "We were delighted to get that final win that we needed in a nail biting finish to the season - having 4 teams fighting for the league in 2nd half of the season, with it going down to the last game needing a point made it a classic - and it was also good for neutral supporters! That's part of the the thrill for our players, as they thrive on that pressure.

This year has been our toughest season to achieve the title, especially with the amount of injuries we have had - many of which were long term. It gave plenty of our young players time to shine, which they did really well with and were crucial in giving us the points that we needed to get over the line to lift the title.

The game that stands out the most was away to Oban Camanachd in the league, with 7 of our players missing. Giving the young boys their chance, and seeing them adapt well to give us a hard fought point was crucial in winning the league"



Lochaber make history in inaugural league

Lochaber crowned a great season with an historic triumph, winning the inaugural Mowi WCA Premier League after they overcame Badenoch in a decisive playoff. The two sides had been inseparable across all twelve of league matches, finishing level on points and forcing a fourth (including the Valerie Fraser Cup Final) and final meeting to settle the title for the side from Spean Bridge.

The rivalry had been finely balanced. It had been Lochaber who edged both encounters in the league, their resilience proving the difference in two tight contests. Badenoch, meanwhile, struck back in the Mowi Valerie Fraser Cup Final, reminding the shinty world of their pedigree as four-time reigning league champions. Their free-scoring form through the season, shown with their big wins against Kinlochshiel, Glenurquhart and Skye - set the tone for another title charge, yet Lochaber's momentum in the run-in, capped by victory over Badenoch on the final day, ensured the race went the distance.

Storm Amy delayed the playoff by a week, but when the sides finally met under bright skies at Braeview Park, the tension never wavered. Lochaber thought they had drawn first blood inside five minutes, only for Leah Maxtone's opener to be ruled out. And just before the interval, they missed another chance when Mairi Duncan's penalty was superbly saved by Elizabeth MacGregor.

Their breakthrough came on 53 minutes. Brooke Falconer's tenacity opened space for Maxtone to feed Missy Howie, who fired home with conviction. As Badenoch pushed, Lochaber struck again late on, with Howie sweeping in a second after fine work from Natalie MacDonald.

When the whistle blew, Lochaber's players sank into joyous disbelief, having defied the odds in a manner that will no doubt live long in the memory. Club captain Amy Disher was the one to receive the league trophy for the first time, lifting her second major honour in as many years.



Joy for captain Amy Disher

Andy MacDonald, Lochaber manager said "Everyone at the club is very proud of the girls and how they achieved the first ever league win for the club. After we lost away to Skye, we knew that if we wanted to win the league, we would have to beat Badenoch again - it was a credit to the girls that we were the team who managed to do that.

There has been a lot of emphasis in the last three years on improving fitness in all the teams at the club - you can see how this has helped the ladies team compete, and to have six of our players called up for Scotland is a testament to all the hard work they have been putting in. It just show that if you put in the hard work you will get the reward!"



Goalscorer Missy Howie is congratulated by Leah Maxtone and Hannah MacDonald after netting the 2nd goal



Lochaber win Mowi National in style

Lochaber won the Mowi National Division on the 9th of August after an 8-1 win against Strathglass and were presented with the trophy on the final day of the season in a 3-0 win at Peterson Park over Glasgow Mid Argyll.

Starting the season off in style by putting 7 past Col-Glen, the Spean outfit never looked back and went the full season undefeated, the only blemish on their record came in the second game of the season away to Bute where they drew 1-1. In the end they finished a huge 9 points clear of runners up Col Glen and unsurprisingly were the top scorers and boasted the best defence in the division. A goal difference of 31 shows their dominance, and when compared to their GD of 15 in their previous national division winning campaign in 2023, the club can surely feel in a better place stepping up a division.

Lochaber will look back fondly at many matches this season, perhaps none more than their 5-4 thriller against their local rivals Kilmallie. After going 4-2 down, captain Ben Delaney and Stuart Callison levelled the match, before an 87th minute strike, again from Callison secured the points as well as bragging rights in the derby.

Ben Delaney



This season, success was led by Captain and top scorer Ben Delaney who bagged a goal a game across the league campaign, topping the goalscoring charts in the division, whilst teammates Stuart Callison and Shaun Nicolson both chipped in 9 league goals.

Their triumph sees them return to the Mowi Premiership after a year's absence, Ally Ferguson's men will no doubt look to go one better than they did last time out and retain their topflight status.

After securing his side's immediate return to the top flight, Ally Ferguson shared his thoughts on how the season had gone; "The team have done very well this season, and we have gone on to celebrate this. We have to be pleased - we improved on a number of fronts, in particular defensively, where we managed a few clean sheets, and as a unit looked out for each other and covered each other's backs very well with Brennan MacDonald settling well into goals. Equally, discipline also saw a marked improvement, and we didn't lose players - we've struggled in recent years due to suspensions and this season showed how important it is for all the players to be available over the piece. Over and above that the lads enjoyed it and are really looking forward to Premiership shinty next season.

Ally Ferguson



We have a very experienced mature side with some younger players coming through. Seonaidh MacDonald is a good example of this - at 18 he's settled in with the first team, and we've got another three or four similar examples of this sitting on the wings waiting to come through, so we are in a good place looking forward."



Badenoch rampant on route to Mowi WCA National Division title

The 2025 season saw the creation of a second nationwide division in the women's league pyramid, with the new WCA Mowi National Division coming into being and with it came an air of excitement as teams who would rarely get the chance to play each other would come together without the lines of North-South to split them.

If the league structure was a breath of fresh air, so too were an all-out attack Badenoch side who averaged 7 goals per game with Kate McAdam and Orla Olds supplementing the behemoth of goals that Lexi Farquhar scored. For context, the 42 strikes that Farquhar managed in the league was more than the tallies of 4th placed Strathglass as well as 6th and 7th placed Glengarry and Ardnamurchan - an incredible feat from a very talented player. Not to disparage the efforts of the rest of the players - a defence with promoting young players such as Adele Gow and the efforts of goalkeeper Abbie MacLeod conceded only 21 goals, which is an impressive feat when considering the high scoring nature of most games in the Mowi National Division.

Badenoch's season started with victory at Glengarry before they dropped their first points of the season in a thrilling 3-3 draw at Strathspey, that would prove to be the last points they dropped before an even more incredible 5-5 draw with Aberdour in August, the point that day being enough to seal the title. Aside from that, the season saw a sea of victories for a side who had lost out to Glenurquhart and Kinlochshiel in previous years, but had stepped up their game this campaign and managed to top both national competitions. A dream season was capped with a double figure league triumph against Ardnamurchan, with team captain Catrin MacLeod being presented with the league trophy, making Badenoch II the first team to have their name inscribed on the trophy - not a bad achievement for such a young team!

Co-manager David Olds said "We've really enjoyed the national league! There's a good number of teams with a good mix and with a lot of competitive games that saw us coming up against some teams that previously played in the south leagues or in the top flight. In most games our average age was 16, whilst our oldest player was 21, and the team as it stands will probably be the 2nd team for next season, with players a few players like Lexi and Orla most likely featuring with the first team. At the start of the season, we asked the first team to tell who they were wanting to move up and then asked them to leave us the rest, as we wanted to help them gel well as a team which would help some progress into the first team. We have a lot of younger players coming in who are 15/16 that are being held back and not breaking into the squad, so next season we can lose some to the first team and bring in some younger players."



Managerial duo David Olds & Malcom MacLeod led the team in 2025



Thrill Bill Volume III: Mowi North 1 completes hat-trick of trophies for Fort

Fort William were confirmed as Mowi North Division 1 champions in style, capping things off with a 7-2 victory over relegated Beaulieu at An Aird. League top goalscorer Graham Campbell bagged two that day, with Lewis Morrison and Struan Stephen also helping themselves to braces, with Owen Ohagan completing the rout - a result was indicative of the Town's season in which they scored 4 or more goals on 14 occasions.

With that in mind it is little surprise that they wrapped the league up with 2 games left to spare, and though they were defeated in both those remaining fixtures, they still boasted a three-point lead at the top of the table when all was said and done. Combined with the Sutherland and Strathdearn Cup victories, which you can read about later in this publication, this really represents as successful a season as it is possible to have at reserve level, underlining the quality, fighting spirit and unity within this Fort side.



Aside from the goalscoring prowess, their title winning side was built on imperious home form, led by experienced captain Mark Grant and player/coach Bryan Simpson, only dropping points in one game at An Aird and even that came after the title was already won - and against a strong Skye side. The challenge for 2026 will be bleeding some of the undeniable talent into the first team while staying consistent at second team level, though, that's not a bad problem to have!

With Fort William's first team managerial duo stepping down, the club's hierarchy were clearly impressed with what Scott McNeil had achieved in his year long tenure in charge of the reserves, as he was handed the reigns to the Mowi Premiership outfit. Reflecting upon the season, Scott said - "First and foremost, it was the boy's attitude - they bought into everything I wanted them to do, and the commitment levels in training was very good. I actually used 35 players over the course of the season which is quite amazing - I said at the start of the season that I thought we could win the league on the assumption that you could lose a game or two, whereas if you lose in the cup you're out.

I could see us developing as we went along and the boys were playing really well; I think we had 9 wins in a row which was a stat I was impressed with. From there on in we moved on, and for the younger boys, there's plenty that are definitely better players now than at the start of the season. The biggest problem they'll have is that we've got such a good pool of players for the first team. I reckon there's a few players in the second team that are well better than the division that they're in, and could certainly be playing in the national division."



Final day drama as Oban Celtic pip rivals to South Division 1

2025 represented a unique challenge for Oban Celtic, who after falling on hard times had forfeited their 2024 National Division campaign and gone down to operating as a single team club due to facing significant issues with player availability. Led from the back by their experienced player/coach Cameron McCallum, Celtic came into the division with the aim of bouncing back at the first time of asking with a core of young players. Standing in their way were a strong Lochside Rovers team, and the green and whites would have to be at their best to fight off a team who had won all but one league games the season prior.

Celtic hit the ground running, with forward Kyle MacFarlane netting all 3 goals in an opening day win over Ballachulish before Ardnamurchan were dispatched to the tune of 6 goals. Confidence would surely have been at an all-time high after their first league meeting with rivals Lochside Rovers ended in an emphatic 4-1 win for the hosts. The wins continued to flow in, however draws at Aberdour and Kilmory allowed Lochside to force a final day title decider.

Oban Celtic went into the final day of the 2025 season knowing that if they avoided defeat against their local rivals, they would win the title, no doubt a highly nerve-racking prospect, though their heart rate was calmed after goals from Lennon Campbell and Kyle MacFarlane put the hoops 2-0 up inside eleven minutes. Despite having missed a penalty, Lochside would bite back later in the match and level the scores with half an hour to go - and those in the green and white side of Oban would endure a nervy end to the game after they themselves missed a penalty late on to seal the title - however, Celtic were resolute and held on to ensure that they lifted the league title and secured a well deserved return to the National Division.

Overall, Celtic scored 3.6 goals per game on their way winning the division - unbeaten in the league and dropping points only three times - including a run of 8 wins on the trot from the start of the season. That solidity set them up for glory and they were able to get over the line, buoyed by marksman Kyle MacFarlane who bagged a quarter century in the division, outscoring his nearest league scoring rival by 12 goals.

Captain David Hill was the man to receive the trophy at Mossfield, later saying "It was a big effort throughout the whole year - you could see that the boys were putting that wee bit more in training. After the last few seasons that we've had, with things getting worse and losing players before eventually having to say that it's too much at the national level and having to drop down, bringing the young ones through has, been a massive boost.

Winning the Chieftain's Cup gave the boys a huge lift and a bit of hope that we really could go back up at the first time of asking and actually contest at a higher level again.

And with us winning games, it makes it a lot easier for folk to come to training on a regular basis, so things are looking good, especially with such a young team we have coming through - I think we've got a lot to build on next season."





Caberfeidh lift North 2 led by Ali Taylor's exploits

Caberfeidh lifted the Mowi North Division 2 title on September 27th after a 4-0 win against Lochaber. Young Ali Taylor's first half hat-trick helped Caberfeidh on their way before Kyle Lawrie added the icing on the cake for the Castle Leod men - that win meant they would finish 4 points clear of runners-up Kilmallie. Cabers started the season strongly and looked dangerous from the off, having not been lost in the league until June. Defeat against Kilmallie, then against Inverness two games later looked as though it may destabilise their title run, one they had total control over the league up to that point, however, their quality shone through and driven forward by the incredible 38 league goals of Ali Taylor (58% of their total, including 8 hattricks), they would in the end prove uncatchable.

It's easy to be blown away by the goals but Caberfeidh also boasted the best defence in the division, something which they had become known for over the two years previous, adding in the goals to that strong backline is what allowed them to go one step further and lift the title. Moving up a division in shinty is always difficult but Caberfeidh will be buoyed by a season that saw them drop just 5 points out of 36. How they adapt to the potential promotion of the likes of Taylor, Seamus Henderson and Fraser Morrison to the first team be the deciding factor as to whether they can use this year as a springboard or not.



Caberfeidh II captain Reece Houston lifts the trophy high above his head after a successful season for the club



Kyles Athletic II bounce back at first time of asking

Kyles Athletic won Mowi South Division 2, regaining their place in South Division 1 after being relegated the year prior. The Tighnabruich club's seconds started off in incredible fashion by hitting 48 goals in their first 6 matches, only being handed their first defeat of the season on July 26th, by which time they had already beaten everyone in the league and truly set the pace atop the league. The second half of the season saw them keep up that relentless form until the league was won, with both Tayforth and eventual runners up Strachur-Dunoon able to take points from the champions after that point.

An average of 6.4 goals per game tells you pretty much all you need to know about their dominance in the league, however, particularly impressive was the blend of top-quality aging players with some very talented youngsters coming through the ranks. Playing alongside experienced former Scotland international Andy King is an opportunity any young player would relish to have and improve their game, and Kyles will hope this will pay off in the near future as they look to blood in a new generation into the 1st team.

Bragging rights in the Kerr household will sit with Dunkie who pipped his son Ethan to top scorer, however, Ethan would end up playing a number of 1st team games, walking in his father's footsteps. Having picked up the Mowi Under 14 Player of the Year Award, it is fair to say he is one to watch in the very near future!

Having sealed the title away to Tayforth, captain Anna Nicolson lifted the trophy to cap off a memorable season – not least for herself, having also had a successful season in the Women's game, finishing up a runner up with Dunadd in the Mowi WCA National Division and being picked for the Team of the Season, as well as representing the West at senior level.





Glen girls go unbeaten on way to Mowii WCA North title

Glenurquhart II's season was a story of dominance, winning the title by four clear points after going the full ten game season undefeated. The season started and ended with games against Lochaber in which they racked up an aggregate score of 10-3 with young star Rowan Brockie responsible for 7 of those goals. She would go on to bag another 23 goals in the league giving her a 3:1 goal to game ratio for the campaign, very impressive indeed!

Glen also boasted the best defence in the league, conceding 11 less than next best Inverness. It was in the end only Inverness who could lay a glove on Glen, the two sides playing out entertaining 2-2 and 3-3 draws towards the end of the campaign, but that aside the Blairbeg outfit were flawless and celebrated lifting back to back titles at this level!



The team were recognised at the annual Mowii Awards as the WCA North Team of the Year, as manager Judi Crichton picked up the Award on behalf of the club. We caught up with her to find out her thoughts.

"I feel the hard work of the team has been rewarded this season, we soon fell into our stride and the ladies picked up a good rhythm. Commitment to training and fitness was fundamental to our success and we claimed the benefits of this, and whilst the season hasn't been without its challenges, the team were well gelled and faced every tougher game together.

We have enjoyed all our games, home and away, in the North League. It is a challenge in itself to restructure leagues within any sport. We found we had the opportunity to challenge the stronger players and get more game time for the developing element of our squad within our league.

I think the blend of youth and experience is very important, I would go far as to say I count on the experienced heads out on the pitch to lead the younger players when we're having a tough day out there. In my opinion second team shinty really relies on all the experienced players to set positive examples to the developing players. I'm very proud of how the Glenurquhart II ladies have conducted themselves this season!"



Inveraray lift maiden league title

Last year's yearbook carried an article about Inveraray Women's team and the rebirth of the club for the first time in over a decade. Just one year later, we are delighted to be celebrating their league title win with the yellow and blacks triumphing over Tayforth, Glasgow Mid Argyll and Uddingston to win the division. In an exhilarating title race, they were pushed all the way by Tayforth, though their early season form gave them a buffer that was, ultimately, a bridge too far for the Edinburgh based side, who despite beating Aray on the final day of the season finished two points off the pace. Pushed on by the goals of duo Katie MacKay and Hannah MacDonald (the pair made up 73% of Aray's strikes). Inveraray also boasted the most stubborn defence in the league, with their goalkeeper Tracey Stark conceding just over a goal a game, no mean feat when sharing a division with Tayforth and the 49 individual strikes of Siobhan Lane.

This success was presided over by manager Ally Munro, who has been a key figure in the reestablishment and growth of the women's section of the club, his importance being recognised as he took home the award for WCA Coach of the Year.

The BBC cameras visited The Winterton to cover the success of the side, not just on the pitch but as a way of uniting all of the community. It was a successful day for the club, winning 14-0 to cap off a season that will go long in the memory, with captain Paige Scott lifting the league title. Whilst promotion was not mandatory, they voluntarily elected to make the step up to the National Division, a testament to a belief that they can continue to grow as a side. It wasn't the last we saw of Paige – she also collected the WCA South Division Team of the Year award!

Inveraray's win is testament to the hard work of the players and the volunteers behind the scenes, we spoke to Katie MacKay to find out more...

"It feels great to have won this year, I don't think we expected to come to far in such a short time, but with our commitment and dedication throughout the season it was well earned. We started the season steady with high hopes, wanting to improve on last season and when the results started going our way our confidence grew, and that's when we managed to secure our league win.

If I'm being honest, I didn't think this year I played my best in every game. I definitely look back at a few games and think I could have done better, not by goals but just with my general play. But it's something to look at and improve for next season! Myself and Hannah play well in the forward line together, sharing the goals between us - I beat her by one in the league, but she did top me by one throughout the season including cup games!

Ally Munro's been great since day one, he gives up a lot of his time and shows a lot of commitment towards our team, along with Norrie Campbell and Allan MacDonald. They make a great coaching team together, and they're also not the worst craic!

I'm excited for the season ahead, playing in the national league will be a different ball game playing against teams we've never played before and on new grounds, but we're definitely excited for a new challenge, and obviously with being a newly promoted team, survival in the national is our main aim. But we're always looking to continuously grow our team and players and continue to improve on previous seasons and see where we end up!"



PREMIERSHIP	W	L	GD	PTS
1 Kingussie	12	1	35	29
2 Newtonmore	13	4	34	27
3 Oban Camanachd	11	3	25	26
4 Fort William	10	4	13	24
5 Skye	9	6	8	21
6 Caberfeidh	7	9	-8	16
7 Kinlochshiel	5	8	-4	15
8 Kyles Athletic	5	10	-16	13
9 Lovat	3	13	-32	8
10 Beaully	0	17	-55	1

TOP SCORERS

Iain Robinson	Newtonmore	24
Lachie Shaw	Fort William	17
Ruariadh MacLeod	Skye	13

NATIONAL	W	L	GD	PTS
1 Lochaber	13	0	31	27
2 Col-Glen	9	5	8	18
3 Glasgow Mid Argyll	8	5	5	17
4 Bute	7	5	11	16
5 Inveraray	6	6	2	4
6 Kilmallie	5	8	0	11
7 Glenurquhart	3	8	-0	9
8 Strathglass	0	14	-48	0

TOP SCORERS

Ben Delaney	Lochaber	14
Fraser Watt	Inveraray	13
Calum MacDougall	Kilmallie	13

WCA PREMIER	W	L	GD	PTS
1 Lochaber	10	2	30	20
2 Badenoch	10	2	36	20
3 Skye	7	5	7	14
4 Glasgow Mid Argyll	5	5	4	12
5 Kinlochshiel	3	7	-24	8
6 Inverness	3	8	-22	7
7 Glenurquhart	0	9	-35	13

Lochaber defeated Badenoch 2-0 in a play off to win the league

TOP SCORERS

Leah Maxtone	Lochaber	17
Zoe Reid	Badenoch	16
Caitlin MacLean	Skye	14

WCA NATIONAL	W	L	GD	PTS
1 Badenoch II	10	0	63	22
2 Dunadd	8	4	22	16
3 Strathspey	6	5	5	13
4 Strathglass	5	4	-10	13
5 Aberdour	3	5	-10	10
6 Glengarry	2	8	-24	6
7 Ardnamurchan	1	9	-46	4

TOP SCORERS

Lexi Farquhar	Badenoch II	42
Eilidh Cameron	Dunadd	39
Charlotte Bisset	Strathspey	33

NORTH 1	W	L	GD	PTS
1 Fort William II	11	4	30	23
2 Newtonmore II	10	6	19	20
3 Skye II	8	4	16	20
4 Kingussie II	9	7	20	18
5 Inverness	7	7	-2	16
6 Glenurquhart II	6	7	0	15
7 Glengarry	6	7	-27	15
8 Kinlochshiel II	4	9	-16	11
9 Beaully	2	12	-40	4

TOP SCORERS

Graham Campbell	Fort William II	20
Toby Thain	Kingussie II	19
Lewis Morrison	Fort William II	18

NORTH 2	W	L	GD	PTS
1 Caberfeidh II	14	3	44	29
2 Kilmallie II	11	4	41	25
3 Lewis	9	5	14	22
4 Lochaber II	8	5	14	21
5 Aberdeen University	9	7	0	20
6 Lovat II*	13	5	23	18
7 Lochcarron	7	9	-9	16
8 Inverness II	4	10	-11	10
9 Strathglass II	3	13	-35	6
10 Boleskine	0	17	-81	0

Lovat II deducted 8 points due to dropping down to North 2

TOP SCORERS

Ali Taylor	Caberfeidh II	38
Donnie MacRae	Lewis	16
Bryan MacKay	Kilmallie II	15

South 1	W	L	GD	PTS
1 Oban Celtic	11	0	31	25
2 Lochside Rovers	11	2	40	23
3 Aberdour	7	4	29	17
4 Kilmory	4	6	-15	12
5 Inveraray II	5	8	-12	11
6 Ballachulish	5	8	-11	9
7 Ardnamurchan	4	10	-27	6
8 Glasgow Mid Argyll II	2	11	-35	5

TOP SCORERS

Kyle MacFarlane	Oban Celtic	25
Lewis Buchanan	Lochside Rovers	13
Jordan Kerr	Lochside Rovers	11

SOUTH 2	W	L	GD	PTS
1 Kyles II	9	2	59	19
2 Strachur-Dunoon	8	2	24	18
3 Bute II	6	4	9	14
4 Uddingston	5	6	-2	11
5 Tayforth	4	7	-19	9
6 Stirling	3	8	-46	7
7 Aberdour II	1	7	-25	6

TOP SCORERS

Dunkie Kerr	Kyles II	16
Ethan Kerr	Kyles II	15
Brandon Wilson	Strachur-Dunoon	14

WCA NORTH	W	L	GD	PTS
1 Glenurquhart II	8	0	41	18
2 Inverness II	6	2	12	14
3 Lochaber II	5	4	6	11
4 Lovat	4	4	9	10
5 Kinlochshiel II	2	8	-42	4
6 Skye II	1	8	-26	3

TOP SCORERS

Rowan Brockie	Glenurquhart II	30
Fiona Urquhart	Lovat	16
Kamryn Hughes	Inverness II	11

WCA SOUTH	W	L	GD	PTS
1 Inveraray	9	2	34	19
2 Tayforth	7	2	43	17
3 Glasgow Mid Argyll II	3	5	-9	10
4 Uddingston	1	11	-68	2

TOP SCORERS

Siobhain Lane	Tayforth	49
Katie MacKay	Inveraray	18
Hannah MacDonald	Inveraray	17

Yearbooks Digitised

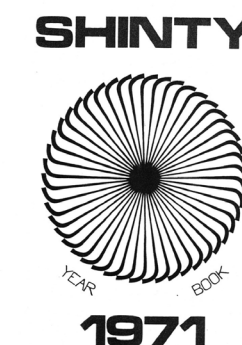
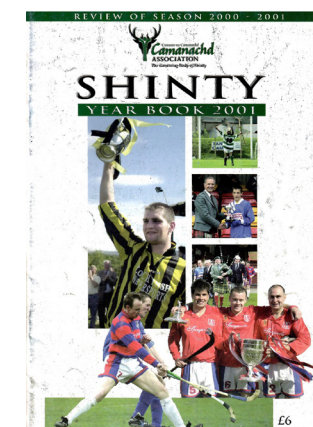
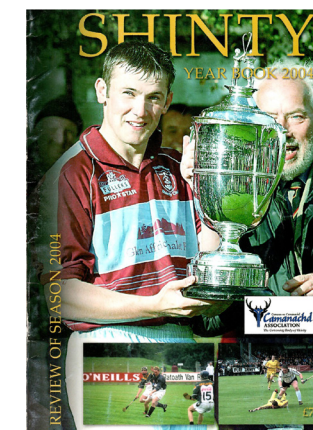
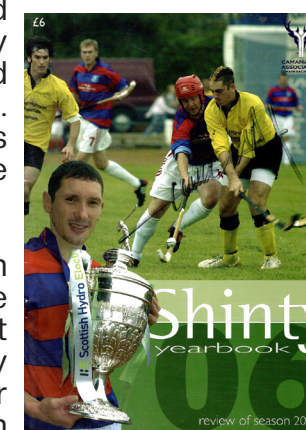
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The Shinty Yearbook was first published in 1971 and has been published annually since then. It is generally held to be the single most important repository of the modern history game of shinty, and the "go-to" source for matters of record and also a huge collection of articles about the sport – personalities, changes in the sport, opinions and specially, photographic images from over the years.

It has for the greater part of its existence been produced on a voluntary basis and has helped sustain the interest throughout the shinty playing community in the culture and heritage of the sport, as well as providing a platform for the promotion of the game and dissemination of information. Full sets of copies the Shinty Yearbook are a rarity and this digitisation project, which has lead to an accessible on-line version of the contents, has long been an aspiration of the shinty community.

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Four W M Donald MacTavish Cups on the trot for Kings of the North

Kingussie see off Lovat 2-0 once again to retain MacTavish

On June 14th, Kingussie defeated Lovat 2-0 to lift the W M Donald MacTavish Cup for the fourth year running. The newly refurbished Bught Park, Inverness opened its metaphorical doors for the first time since UK Levelling Up Funding saw its facilities upgraded. The occasion, the 2025 W M Donald MacTavish Cup Final between Kingussie and Lovat. The holders overcame Lochaber in the semi-finals and were top of the league and unbeaten in all competitions going into the final, Lovat by contrast found themselves in the league relegation places, albeit they defeated then second placed Fort William 2-0 in their semi. It was a hotly contested final, and a hot day, though the crowds flocking to Bught Park were not blessed with sunshine, the clear skies of Friday were replaced with a dark cloud, the good news for both sides was that the rain that was promised came in brief showers rather than the anticipated deluge and when Steven MacLachlan threw the ball high into the air to start the game the pitch was slick but the conditions fair.

Kingussie got their first shot on the minute mark, with a Savio Genini ball skipping past the Lovat defence and into Roddy Young's path, however, the forward's low shot was confidently dealt with by goalie Ronan MacMillan. Six minutes later and it would be Lovat's turn to generate a half-chance, with a ball from Bailey MacKay came through the centre to Greg Matheson, who then flicked the ball inside and hit a bouncing shot at Kingussie stopper Rory 'Bob' McGregor, the keeper expertly stopping and clearing the ball in one fluid motion to keep the scores level.

On the 29th minute, McGregor was called into action again, Graeme MacMillan attempting to control the ball with his chest on the edge of the D, the control didn't stop the ball but instead turned it goal bound, the keeper reaching out a low left hand which saw the ball bobble up and start heading towards his top right corner, but a big right palm sent it clear of the danger zone and kept the game at 0-0.

The battle of the keepers would continue, and the best save of the half would come on the 35-minute mark, Iain Fraser driving with the ball from the centre, finding Young with a nice scoop pass - Kingussie's top scorer drilling a low shot across goal with venom which was well saved by MacMillan's outstretched stick. 9 minutes later it was the same combination, Roddy Young with a well hit shot from the edge of the D, stopped by MacMillan with a great stop with the stick, this time low to his left.

That was the last major action of a first half that would see both managers fairly pleased with what they saw, Kingussie making more chances, but Lovat carrying plenty threat when the ball would break to one of their forwards.

The second half settled into a similar rhythm as the first, half with chances exchanged but the more clearcut landing the way of Kingussie: first Lovat's Matheson flashed a shot wide, Ruairidh Anderson then hitting the outside of the post from the right wing, Thomas Borthwick forced keeper MacMillan into a smart save with his feet before Young did the same thing.

In the 74th minute, the deadlock was finally broken, as Thomas Borthwick's free hit to Genini on the left flank was controlled by the forward who then pushed the ball outside his marker to create the angle and fired a low shot into the far corner beyond the outstretched MacMillan to spark wild celebrations.

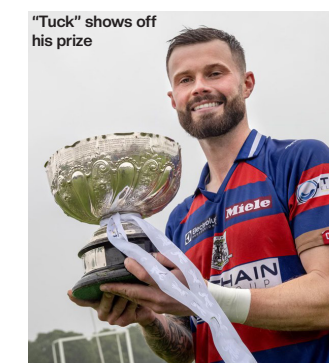
The battle between Young and MacMillan would prove the final battle of the war, as the Kingussie forward collected the ball from Anderson on the right wing before lifting his shot into the top right corner and sealing a 4th successive MacTavish victory for Kings.

For Lovat, a performance that they can have pride in, they turned the final into a battle but just weren't able to get over the line against a more experienced side. Craig Mainland was awarded the Man of the Match in what will provide some personal solace for him.

Incredibly for Kingussie, a 12th trophy out of the last 13 available and a first for Thomas Borthwick as Kings captain, with the full-centre receiving the MacTavish Cup from W M Donald at the end of the game and lifting it high into the air.



Genini celebrates yet another big moment in a Kingussie shirt



"Tuck" shows off his prize



Hat-trick of Celtic Cups for dominant Oban Camanachd

Oban Camanachd beat Kyles Athletic 6-1 to win their 23rd Glasgow Celtic Society Cup

Peterson Park, Yoker played host to the south area senior final, as the sport's most historic trophy, the Glasgow Celtic Society Cup was competed for. The supporters were treated to a very warm afternoon, although with highs of 24 degrees, the players would perhaps be less thankful. Both sides had narrow semi-final wins against lower league opposition with the holders squeezing past Glasgow Mid Argyll 2-1 and Kyles beating Inveraray 3-2 after extra-time.

Des McNulty threw the ball into the sunny skies to get the game underway, and the opening ten minutes saw the teams feeling each other out, Kyles getting a few shots on target but, nothing to truly challenge stopper Cammy Sutherland. It would be Oban who took the lead though, Daniel MacVicar taking in a long ball and playing a smart give and go with Malcolm Clark before receiving the ball again on the right wing and firing a wicked shot across Iain MacFarlane into the bottom corner.

On the 30th minute Oban would double their lead, a well hit Lorne Dickie shy dipping at the front post for Malcolm Clark to run onto and guide beyond the keeper expertly. Oban Camanachd would continue their territorial dominance throughout the rest of the half and though Kyles did look dangerous on a few occasions, they weren't able to get many shots away despite some delightful link-up play in the final third.

As the players lined up for the second half, it was clear that the next goal would be of vital importance, if the holders were to take a 3-0 lead it would be difficult to see how Kyles could come back, equally a shot of belief for the all-time record holders could propel them back into the match. James Pringle made sure it was the latter as the former Skye man battled for the ball between the lines, dribbling towards the left flank before unleashing a powerful shot beyond Cammy Sutherland into the far corner.

Game on! Or at least it would have been had Oban not restored their two-goal lead just three minutes later, MacVicar playing a good ball in towards Clark who did enough in the air to allow the ball to come through to Ross MacMillan, who in turn ran onto it and pushed a half-swing beyond the Kyles keeper. Dickie came close to adding a fourth on the 65th minute, the wing centre dancing inside two defenders before cracking a low shot from distance, stopped by MacFarlane. However, on the 72nd minute it would become 4-1.

Clark's initial shot was well saved with a palm then volleyed away with the stick by MacFarlane, the forward recycled possession smartly though with a clipped ball towards the far post, Daniel MacCuish using his first touch to flick it round one side of the defender before moving the other side and lifting the ball high over the onrushing MacFarlane, with the ball sinking into the net and sinking any slim chances of a Kyles Athletic comeback.

Fifteen from the end and it was five for Camanachd, a free hit from the left flank was taken short and quickly with Ross Campbell in enough space to get a strong clean hit into the roof of the net meaning Oban had five goals from five different scorers. Seven minutes later Campbell would spoil that statistic by adding his second and Oban's sixth, again it was from a free hit, this one well within Oban's half though as Andrew MacDonald played a long diagonal ball from centre right to the top left flank, the ball again dropping to Campbell who fired an equally impressive drive into the roof of the net.

A minute later, the ball was beyond MacFarlane again, Garry Lord taking a cross-field ball wonderfully on his chest then flicking it past the keeper, MacFarlane though scrambled back and slapped the ball behind for a corner in a great display of quick thinking.

That was the last true action of a game which saw the pre-match favourites live up to the billing with an assertive victory over their old rivals. Lorne Dickie was awarded the Donald MacNiven Memorial Medal for a man of the match performance before Captain Daniel MacVicar lifted the Glasgow Celtic Society Cup high into the air to the delight of the Peterson Park crowd.



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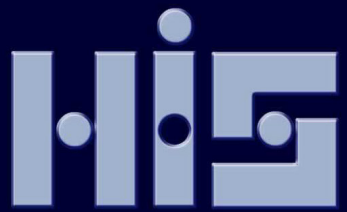
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The town crowned after 'best ever' Highland Industrial Supplies Sutherland Cup

Fort William see off Kinlochshiel by 6-4 in extra time in a thriller

The Highland Industrial Supplies Sutherland Cup Final once again returned to Blairbeg Park for an encounter between Strathdearn Cup winners and Mowri North Division 1 leaders Fort William and a Kinlochshiel side who, although lower in the table, boasted an array of young talent. The west coast side had got the better of Glenurquhart 3-2 in their semi-final while 'the town' eliminated Newtonmore 5-1. A minute silence was observed in respect of Fort youngsters who had tragically lost their lives before Ewen MacLean threw the ball high into the air to start the final.

It took Fort just three minutes to take the lead, as Struan Stephen's deep corner was stopped by a Shiel defender who wasn't given the opportunity to clear the ball as Dan Nixon used his strength to fashion a shooting opportunity, rifling the ball high into the net from close range with little goalkeeper Calum MacMillan could've done about it.

Three minutes later, another corner and another goal for the league leaders, once again it was Nixon who was on the receiving end of a delivery, however his shot was blocked smartly, but the follow up from Graham Campbell flew in at MacMillan's left-hand post from twenty five yards.

With the pre-match favourites two goals ahead after six minutes, there was probably a feeling of trepidancy among neutrals that this game might be over very quickly, with it being clear that the next goal would be of vital importance. Four minutes later it came from Kinlochshiel, Rory Barclay's free hit into an area was scooped out to the left flank by Jay MacRae who used his great balance to ride a couple of challenges and rifle the ball across goal and into the net.

Just after the twenty-minute mark the Rearig outfit had their equaliser, MacRae's free hit flick to the back post was hammered home by Seamus Martin at the back post. Three minutes later Fort restored their lead, and it was through another corner, this time the delivery from Pdraig McNeil. was controlled by Morrison in the centre of the park who pushed the ball to his right and drilled a strike into the left-hand bottom corner, 25 minutes on the clock and five goals!

Two minutes later it was 4-2 and the editor will give you one guess how it started... McNeil's corner saw the ball break in the centre of the box where Graham Campbell was on hand to hammer home his second of the game from close range.

With the half-time whistle going shortly after, Fort had again forged themselves a two-goal lead, but Kinlochshiel had shown that they carried a serious threat when they managed to get the ball into the forwards.

The opening fifteen minutes of the second half saw the sides growing into the game, wary not to concede the goal that could lose the game or let the opposition back into it. It was the latter that transpired on the 61st minute though as a fantastic cross field ball by Sean Campbell was fired home by Kieran Martin. Soon after, it was yet another equaliser this time MacRae picking the ball up, turning and twisting to find a clean strike before unleashing a powerful shot which found the bottom corner and brought the game level once more.

Both teams went in hunt of a winner over the final quarter of the game and in truth either one of them could have got it, but whether by skilled defending, great shot stopping or dumb luck, the ball stayed out of the net, and we went to extra-time.

After an incredible 90 minutes tied at 4-4, no one in the crowd expected a goalless extra-time period and they were right as Fort William went ahead for the third time in the game in the hundredth minute of the game. This time a long ball was taken from the feet of Campbell by Stephen, who in turn had it taken from him by Jack Kearney who cracked a shot in from the edge of the D.

The town would make sure that there was no chance of a Kinlochshiel comeback by adding another in the 119th minute, the ball coming out wide to Morrison on the right flank, he was given space to tee it up and cracked the shot into the net to ensure the Sutherland Cup would return to An Aird for the first time since 2009.

After the full-time whistle both teams were presented with medals by Highland Industrial Supplies Director Garry Mackintosh while Jay MacRae was awarded the official Man of the Match award for an inspirational performance at full-forward for Kinlochshiel. All that was then left was for Fort William Captain Mark Grant to be presented with the silver mounted caman and Sutherland Cup trophy.



The future is bright for Jay MacRae



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Lochaber win Ferguson Transport & Shipping Balliemore Cup

Lochaber defeat Inveraray 3-0 to reclaim the Balliemore

26th July saw Lochaber and Inveraray descend upon Spean Bridge for the Ferguson Transport & Shipping Balliemore Cup Final. Inveraray came into the match as underdogs, sitting 7th in the Mowi National but having overcome Inverness in a comfortable 4-1 win in the semi-finals a fortnight earlier. Lochaber on the other hand sat top of the National and had eliminated fellow title challengers Col-Glen by the same score-line. The shinty community had become used to blue skies and a warm breeze at the Balliemore over the past few years, however, this year saw a return to some more traditional west coast weather with the introduction of heavy showers making the park slick.

Jamie MacPherson threw the ball into the air to get the game started and it was not long before the first real chance of the game, with Martin Johnstone picking up the ball from a loose shy and finding Captain Ben Delaney 19 yards out with his back to goal, he shifted the ball to his left and cracked a low shot at goal which was saved smartly by the feet of Scott MacLachlan and swept behind for a corner

Ten minutes later, it was creator turned scorer as Johnstone picked up a ball that was pushed into the corner by Findlay MacDonald and rifled a shot across the keeper and into the top right corner, stunning both the crowd and the keeper, neither of whom were expecting a shot from that kind of angle. Any fears that Lochaber may pull away after getting the opener were unfounded and over the next 10 minutes Inveraray had a flurry of half-chances, however, they were unable to trouble stopper Brennan MacDonald.

The teams continued to exchange a few chances in a match that was played in the centre of the park a lot and with the slick surface leading to a lot of balls skipping out of play – and so, MacPherson brought an end to the first half with the score 1-0 to Lochaber.

In the second half the teams continued to vie for supremacy, but hard running and good defending kept chances to a minimum, however the Winterton outfit were definitely growing into the game, peppering MacDonald's goal with balls, albeit not necessarily shots. The best of the bunch saw Aray's Ewan Donnan fire a tricky one from distance at MacDonald, however, his defence were there to help him out after he made the stop with his feet.

In the 80th minute, Lochaber doubled their tally. Max Campbell playing a nice ball into Delaney who was fouled, though play continued with the ball falling to Shaun Nicolson, whilst his drive was well stopped by MacLachlan, the ball which bounced up from his feet, was flicked up and hit home by the onrushing Ben MacDonald to give the Spean men a bit of breathing space in the match.

Six minutes on, Lochaber created another chance, Nicolson again with some good work down the right-hand side, beating his man and putting one on target from distance. MacLachlan was equal to the strike which he beat away from above his shoulder with his left hand, however, in the rush to pick up on the loose ball, Campbell Watt tangled legs with Ben MacDonald and referee MacPherson pointed to the spot. Max Campbell stepped up to take the penalty and left the keeper with no chance, driving the ball powerfully into the top left corner.

That was the last major action of the game and with it the 2025 Ferguson Transport & Shipping Balliemore Cup Final came to a close, Lochaber winning the competition for the 5th time in total and the 2nd time in as many years. For Inveraray, a valiant performance against the league leaders, but they were unable to put enough pressure on the Lochaber goal. Max Campbell was awarded the Man of the Match Award, in honour of Captain Archibald MacRa Chisholm, by Strathglass' Robert Geddes, but it would be captain Ben Delaney who had the ultimate honour of lifting the Ferguson Transport & Shipping Balliemore Cup.

The Association were pleased to donate half of the gate receipts from the final to Lachlan Campbell's #MindNotDefeated MND Fundraiser, you can find out more below.



Max Campbell receives his award from Robert Geddes





GMA defy the odds to lift Bullough Cup

Glasgow Mid Argyll shock Lochside Rovers after a 3-1 win at Strachur

On Saturday 16th August, Strachur was once again the venue for the Bullough Cup Final as the contest brought together Glasgow Mid Argyll and Lochside Rovers. Lochside were top of the league going into the game, some 17 points ahead of their fellow finalists and boasting a recent 7-1 win against them. GMA on the other hand sat 7th in the league 3 points clear of the relegation zone and hadn't won a game since the Bullough Cup Semi-Final 6 weeks earlier where they defeated Inveraray 5-2.

With all that in mind, most neutrals had the holders down to retain the trophy, but GMA fans turned up in good numbers with the hope that their side would lift the trophy for the third time.

Jamie Paterson was the referee for the day and started the game by throwing the ball into the air for the teams to contest. Most finals tend take a bit of time to settle down before any side drives forward for an attack, but this was not most finals and it would be Glasgow Mid Argyll to upset the apple cart very early on by taking the lead. Almost directly from throw up, Cailean MacInnes swept a wonderful ball to the left flank, the wing-forward playing a tantalising ball right across the face of goal – Scott Craig unable to sweep it home on the first attempt – but try, try and try again was the motto of the day, and while his second attempt was well blocked his third was rocketed into the roof of the net to put the city dwellers 1-0 up in the very first minute.

After that chaotic start, the match fell into a more predictable format with the teams exchanging half chances and battling well across the centre of the park in an attempt to assert some dominance and control on the frenetic proceedings.

The second goal of the game would be key, and it went the way of Lochside, a ball into the left wing by Daniel Duffy was controlled by Fraser MacMillan, his block on a GMA clearance then allowed forward Matt Rippon to take aim from distance. Most people would call shooting from there a pot shot, however Rippon's rocket found the keeper's top left corner and thus levelled the scoring just three minutes shy of the half-time whistle.

The question in the second half became, would GMA be able to replicate their speedy start? The answer, a resounding yes. Just four minutes into the second half and the blue and whites were ahead again, a free hit in the centre of the park by Jamie MacLeod was well dummied and the ball carried its way to the right flank and into the path of Mark Bain, the Glasgow Mid Argyll hitman firing across the keeper to put his side back in front in the match.

Fifteen minutes from the end and the Peterson Park outfit made sure the Bullough Cup would be returning to Yoker for the first time since 2022. A great block at wing-centre saw the ball zip down the right flank, still some 40-yards out, Craig floated a shot onto the target and as so often is the case with shots like that, the ball found its way past the goalkeeper and sparked jubilant celebrations among the travelling GMA fans. That is how the game finished, and the underdogs had done it thanks to tireless work throughout the pitch with young backs Ruaridh MacSween and Zac Menzies picked out for particular praise in keeping the potent Lochside backline at bay. It was Camanachd Association President, Burton Morrison who presented the Bullough Cup to the Glasgow Mid Argyll Captain Calum MacFarlane-Barrow who lifted the trophy high into the Strachur air.



Fort regain Strathearn Cup

Fort William defeat Skye 4-2 in extra time at Balgate

A sun kissed Balgate was host to Strathearn final between Skye and Fort William. With Caberfeidh and the hosts Lovat playing out a match with eight goals prior to the main event, it wasn't just sunshine on the forecast, but goals! The forecast did not disappoint on both fronts, and referee Donji MacLeod started proceedings as the last of the few hundred strong crowd filed into the park.

The first chance went to Fort William eight minutes in as Lewis Morrison had a good shot saved by the Skye keeper. Three minutes later it was Fort's keeper being called in action for the first time, Iain MacLellan having his effort saved before the shot from the corner was put over the bar. Shortly after, it was Skye who followed up with a shot of their own which hit narwolly the post, and thus the tone for a high-octane game was set!

Fort William began to pepper the Skye goal with shots – eighteen minutes in Bryan Simpson's shot went wide, but he made no mistake as he scored from close range on twenty one minutes. Soon after it could we'll have been two, Dan Nixon having his shot well saved by the Skye goalkeeper before the rebound was put over the bar.

Tensions started to flare ahead of halftime as Iain MacInnes was shown a yellow card for a push on Duncan Stevenson that saw him collide into the ad boards, before Lewis Morrison caught Nui Nicolson with a strong swing which forced the first change as Leo Templeman took his place.

Skye would equalise on the stroke of half time with a well taken finish from forward Archie MacDonald pulling the islanders level. A tense and edgy first half thus ended with a stalemate as the teams went back into the changing rooms.

The second half kicked off with chances for both sides, both well saved by the keepers. Skye would continue to put pressure on, before Lewis Morrison won Fort a corner when his shot was blocked before following up with another shot shortly after, this one going well wide.

Fort took the lead after the hour with a well driven shot by Lewis Morrison beating the Skye keeper.

At this point the momentum was with Fort, as Bryan Simpson nearly added another fifteen minutes later, however his shot was blocked.

Against the run of play, it was Skye who equalised from a free hit, with Graham sending the Skye support into raptures after rescuing the game for the islanders, and just like that it was extra time in what would be a true test of the team's fitness levels in the blazing heat.

The nerves were starting to show for both teams as it turned into a scrappy game – as Jack Layton put a low driven shot wide ten minutes in. The best chance came for Fort as the ball broke to Jack Kearney who was in space, but his shot was struck with too much power behind it and went over the bar much to the frustration of the Fort faithful.

This frustration wouldn't last long, as a stramash in the goalmouth ended with Dan Nixon sticking the ball into the back of the net to restore the lead for Scott McNeil's men.

The volume was cranked up, with Skye nearly hitting back shortly after, however Ali Stewart stuck the ball wide and the two sides went into half time with Fort holding a slender goal lead.

The second half kicked off with Skye throwing everything they had at it, while Struan Stephen could well have won it for Fort late on with a well hit shot; however, it was over the bar and Fort's celebrations would have to wait.

By this time the gamesmanship was underway from Fort, Greig Kelly being cautioned by the referee for throwing the ball away before a shy.

No issue for Fort however – with the last hit of the match Jack Kearney pounced on a well saved shot to make it 4-2, and just like that Fort William were Strathearn champions!

Mark Grant lifted the trophy in front of the jubilant Fort faithful, with the trophy heading back to An Aird for the 2nd time in 3 years. Fort William awarded a joint man of the match to both Greig Kelly and Duncan Stevenson for two strong performances.

Newtonmore extend Camanachd record in front of bumper crowd

Newtonmore beat old rivals Kingussie in Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Final at Bught Park.

Bught Park was once again the venue for the 2025 Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Final, a match that saw shinty's greatest rivalry played out on the sport's grandest stage, with holders Kingussie taking on record winners, Newtonmore. Kings had comfortably beaten Fort William 3-0 in the semi-final while the Eilan outfit beat Oban Camanachd 4-1 at the same stage. In the weeks leading up to the final, the two had met twice, once in the Macaulay and once in the league with both of those games ending 3-0 to Kingussie, meaning they had the tag of favourites going into the match.

Bught Park was awash with fans ahead of throw up with the weather forecast of torrential rain not bearing true save for a few showers before and after the much hyped match.

The atmosphere was fervent, with the Inverness Royal Legion Pipe Band leading the players out onto the pitch. Iain Kennedy was taking charge of his first Camanachd Cup Final as referee and got the game started, as Newtonmore settled into the game more readily than their opponents. It was the team from The Dell who had the first chance of the game, as Ruairidh Anderson played a corner in before Dylan Borthwick had his initial attempt blocked by his marker, his second requiring the keeper Kenny Ross making a confident stick save to his left to keep things level.

It would be Newtonmore who opened the scoring though, a long ball down the line from Declan Brannan was scooped up by Joe Coyle who beat his marker for pace and drilled a ball across goal. Matthew Sloss using his body well and allowing it to run into the path of Iain Robinson who checked inside and fired a strike across Bob McGregor and into the bottom corner to put 'More ahead.

Undeterred, Kingussie continued to fight against their rivals, nearly being rewarded when Bob McGregor's long clearance fell to Savio Genini on the right wing, with his snapshot skipping up off the turf and required a smart save from Kenny Ross in nets, as the veteran stopper using his hand and letting Rory Kennedy mop up. A few minutes later and Ross had his palm stung again, this time after Roddy Young moved the ball well to create a bit of space for himself before he fired a shot on the target from distance.

Newtonmore would continue to stretch Kingussie on the break, although they were struggled to create anything to trouble keeper McGregor with the final approaching half-time. Just before the break though, the ever present Ross would show that he was just as good with his feet as he was with his hand, saving a long range strike from Dylan Borthwick first then Young's drive from a tight angle.



The second half started with the same vigour and determination that the first had and it wasn't long before it was Newtonmore who doubled their lead. Struan Ross rose the highest to win the ball from a Kingussie shy, with young Matthew Sloss collecting his hit and flicking it over his head into Coyle whose shot was well saved, but with the Kingussie keeper off his line in an attempt to usher the ball away, Iain Robinson picked his spot in the bottom right hand corner with the defender on the line unable to keep the ball from finding the net.

Thirteen minutes later it was unlucky for Kingussie as Newtonmore piled on the misery, Struan Ross with a long ball into the right-hand channel, Coyle's shot was well blocked by Calum Grant but the forward picked up the ball, dribbled into the area, beat another defender and cracked a shot hard and low through the keeper's legs - 3-0 and Newtonmore were in dreamland!

Kingussie continued to fight to try and get back into the game and it looked as though they were going to get that elusive goal when Thomas Borthwick dropped one in from distance, the ball pushed to Savio Genini, but his powerful shot saved by Ross in goal. On the 71st minute they wouldn't be denied - Savio Genini slipping the ball to Ryan Borthwick from a free hit, the Kings man pushing it beyond Ross from close in. A glimmer of hope.

Eight minutes from the end, Robinson nearly completed his hat-trick, beating his marker for pace down the right flank after a ball from Joe Coyle and opting for a scooped finish that then dragged agonisingly wide of the near post. A Kingussie free hit one minute from time gave them the opportunity to get within touching distance of taking the game to extra-time when sub Ryan Borthwick's shot was almost deflected by a stray Newtonmore caman on route to goal, that action enough to deceive the

excellent Kenny Ross and bring Kings to within one.

Within one was exactly how the game stayed though, with Iain Kennedy bringing the game to a close, as 'More were crowned Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup champions for a record 35th time. The Albert Smith Man of the Match was awarded to Iain Robinson for an exceptional performance in the forward line, the Newtonmore man rising to the occasion, bagging a brace on shinty's biggest occasion. But it was captain Craig Ritchie who received the Camanachd Cup from Tulloch Homes Director Kieran Graham and lifted it high into the air in front of a packed out Bught Park. Peter Ross' men had ensured that the Camanachd Cup was once again Newtonmore's trophy to parade around the village.



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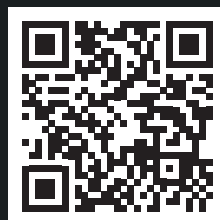


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McGregor heroics see Kingussie over the line in ding-dong Macaulay Cup Final

Fraser Munro's strike the difference in a 1-0 win over Oban Camanachd

On Saturday 23rd August, two familiar foes took to the field at Mossfield Park, Oban to compete for the Macaulay Cup. Kingussie, the holders had won 13 of the last 14 trophies available to them coming into this game, although the one triumph absent was delivered to them in this competition at the hands of the day's opponents, Oban Camanachd who had won the 2023 final. The red and blacks bested Glasgow Mid Argyll 3-1 in the south semi-final a month earlier, whilst the north final saw Kingussie convincingly defeated their rivals Newtonmore 3-0 at Braeview Park.

There was an air of excitement ahead of the game with a sense that this final really could go either way, as the two sides played out a 1-1 draw in the league back in May and only one point separated them at the top of the Mowi Premiership.

Referee Jamie MacPherson threw the ball up at a busy Mossfield to get the final underway and the opening period saw both teams feeling their way into the match with tentative forays into the opposition half, neither side truly dominating or creating major chances. The first shot of the game was created by Ruairidh Anderson's industry in stealing the ball from the half back and running it on to Dylan Borthwick who, with his back to goal 25 yards out, created a yard and bounced a shot towards Cammy Sutherland, the stopper making an expected save with his feet.

Thirty seconds later though, it was 1-0 to Kingussie, a shy from the centre of the park was stopped by the Camanachd back, however, veteran Fraser Munro was quickest to the ball as it popped up in the air, taking the ball under his spell and firing high into the net from 20 yards to put the holders ahead.

Camanachd didn't let going one down affect them though and a minute later forced Rory 'Bob' McGregor into a great save, Ross Campbell latching onto a good cross-field ball and laying it into the path of brother Scott, his long range drive was well saved by McGregor and though he found himself out of position when the ball was recycled, his defence was able to do the rest and get the ball clear. The ball wouldn't stay clear though and Daniel MacCuish got a looping shot away from the centre of the pitch, McGregor again proving equal to it with a smart palm and volley clearance - with a clip of the save being viewed over one million times online!

As the half progressed Oban Camanachd continued to grow into the game, creating more frequent and better-quality chances than Kingussie who weren't helped by the loss of stalwart Robert Mabon and Rory MacKeachan through injury. The defence, and especially McGregor stood strong though, his best moment came just a minute before the break, Oban's Scott Campbell battling well, pushing the ball into Ross Campbell who slipped it out wide to MacCuish, his strike was as pure as you would hope, across McGregor towards the far corner of the net, but the keeper's lightning fast reactions prevented said shot from being the equaliser.

Understandably after a frenetic first half, it took the players on both sides a little longer to get going in the second, the first major chance of the half falling the way of Oban Camanachd as a free hit from captain Daniel MacVicar fell into the path of Lewis Cameron on the edge of the D, his shot though was swept up and over the bar. A few minutes later and Kingussie were inches from doubling their advantage, Roddy Young dragging his man back and forth on the right wing, creating half a yard and cracking a shot across the keeper that bested Sutherland but was denied by the far post, the ball bouncing back out when it looked destined to nestle in the net.

The final ten minutes of the match saw the Oban side push for the all-important equaliser, but they were snuffed out time and time again by the Kingussie backline. Unable to fashion anything clearcut, ended 1-0 to Kingussie who lifted yet another trophy as they were presented with the Macaulay Cup by Macaulay Association president Roddy McCuish at the end of the game, much to the delight of a strong Kingussie travelling support.





Sunshine on Chief for Oban Celtic

Oban Celtic defeat Ballachulish 4-2 to set up a league and cup double

The newly named Chieftain's Cup final, formerly the Single Team Cup, brought together Oban Celtic and Ballachulish, two sides who the editor has it on good authority (nudge to a certain Mr MacPhee of Ballachulish) had never met in a senior final before. The final took place at Cannich, the home of Strathglass Shinty Club, perhaps not the most obvious place for the two sides to meet, but it was decided at the start of the season that the competition would honour the Camanachd Association's first Chieftain, Captain Archibald Macra Chisholm. The organisation of the event, hospitality and effort put in by Strathglass in delivering the final was commended by both teams and indeed the Camanachd Association Chieftain and President alike.

Turning our attention to the match, Oban Celtic would arrive at the final as favourites, topping Mowì South Division 1 and boasting a 3-0 victory over Ballachulish earlier in the season. Balla on the other hand found themselves comfortably midtable and with one of the most stubborn defences in the division, only bettered by Lochside Rovers. Aly Paterson threw the ball high into the air to start the game with the final taking a familiar pattern, both sides feeling their way into the game and looking to avoid committing too much too soon. The first chance of the game though would fall to Oban Celtic, Innes Jackson picking up on a loose ball out of defence and feeding Scott Dempster on the right of the D, he shifted the ball further wide before cracking one towards the near post, Dougie Rankin called into action with a smart stop with his chest and behind for the corner. Following that chance Oban Celtic grew more into the game and began putting Ballachulish under a lot of pressure, with Jubilee Men putting their bodies on the line to stop Rankin having any more serious work to do during that spell.

That pressure would eventually tell though, forward Kyle MacFarlane playing a ball from the centre into Lennon Campbell on the left, his cross-field ball was missed by the full back and William MacEwan had pulled off his man to the right flank where he had time to take a touch and rifle it into the roof of the net. On the brink of half-time Celtic would double their lead, Ruaridh Horne dropping a ball right into the centre of the D, MacEwan laying the ball off to MacFarlane who, despite the ball being right under his feet, and managed to hit a sweet shot high into the top right-hand corner.

Two goals in five minutes and as the half-time whistle went 60 seconds later, it was no doubt a tough time for Ballachulish to concede.

Fears that Celtic might run away with it were cemented five minutes after the break, Campbell picking the ball up on the right flank and playing a flat pass across the centre, the Balla defender would have easily cleared the ball was it not for the smart side on block from MacFarlane who then took a couple of touches to create a yard and lasered a shot into the keeper's bottom lefthand corner for his 27th of the season.

The Ballachulish men were down but not out and just two minutes later they were rewarded for their match long endeavour, Cian MacPhee hitting a long ball into Patrick MacLean who took it down on his chest, shifted it to the left and got one back for the Jubilee outfit. Innes Jackson restored Oban's three goal lead eight minutes later after some hard work from Alex Dunning in the centre of the park released the ball out wide. Jackson running with the ball before lifting it over Rankin in goal.

Ross MacLean got a goal back for Ballachulish in the 85th minute, but despite both keepers having a few great saves in the embers of the match, it was too little too late for a heroic comeback, so it was Celtic who saw out the match and got their hands on the Chieftain's Cup, Captain Davy Hill aptly receiving the trophy from Camanachd Association Chieftain John MacKenzie at the final whistle.



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Double in Dublin for Young Scots

Scotland see off challenge of Dublin and Wexford RI Cruden u17 Tour

Nineteen players from thirteen clubs and four Camanachd Association staff gathered at Edinburgh airport before boarding the early flight bound for Dublin. With a mix of training, cultural experiences and challenge matches versus local county hurling teams, the yearly trip helps to showcase and develop the talents of Scotland's top young players.

Sunday

The squad arrived at the accommodation at Dublin City University, before making their way down to the pitches to partake in some light training where the coaches were able to assess each player's suitability for composite rules matches. After some rest, the team headed into Dublin city centre to explore the city and its culture. Team bonding saw a few games of pool and darts in the student union at the accommodation, before the team returned to their rooms for an early night, preparing for the following day's match against the Dublin county side.

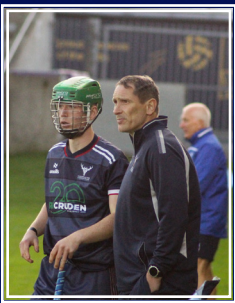


Tuesday

The next day the team were up bright and early, boarding a coach to travel down the coast to Wexford. The boys took in the atmosphere of the Fleadh, with the county town being buzzing with activity and live music performances – with even Ed Sheeran performing! Rumour has it he was in town to watch the Coyle brothers play...

Those who were on the tour last year would appreciate the renovations undertaken at Wexford Park, with impressive new facilities hosting the squad in comfort. The sun was shining as Matthew Sloss and Daniel Maclean put the Scots into the lead early on, and whilst Wexford hit some points in retaliation on it was Scotland who dominated the first 40 minutes of the match. Wexford sprung into life in the back end of the match, narrowing the point gap to just 9 points. However it wasn't enough, as match finished 20 (4-8) to 29 (7-8), making it 2 wins out of 2 in the Emerald Isle for the young Scots. Alexander MacDonald was named Man of the Match with a formidable performance at the back, but a mention must be given to defender Seonaidh-Alex MacLeod who also put in a tremendous performance. After the full-time whistle, a delicious curry was provided by the Wexford GAA and the coach departed for Dublin with the squad in a boisterous mood.

Parnell Park was the venue as Scotland took on a Dublin select side. Captain Arran Stephen exchanged a Scotland strip emblazoned with the RiCruden logo with the Dublin captain before Shane O'Rua put Scotland ahead early on. From this point it was one way traffic as Scotland ran out 34 (8-8) – 4 (0-4) winners over their counterparts. In his 3rd year on the tour Matthew Sloss was deservedly awarded the Man of the Match, as he contributed to 9 points and controlled the game.



Ronald Ross
Scotland Manager



Alexander MacDonald
Oban Camanachd



Alfie MacLeod
Glenurquhart



Arran Stephen (C)
Fort William



Auryn Kerr
Col-Glen



Daniel Maclean
Glenurquhart



Doug Brockie
Glenurquhart



Hayden Taylor-Ramsay
Kingussie



Jacob Bain
Newtonmore



James Coyle
Newtonmore



Joe Coyle
Newtonmore



Kenzie Taylor
Caberfeidh



Kieran Martin
Kinlochshiel



Louie MacLellan
Beauly



Matthew Sloss
Newtonmore



Seonaidh MacDonald
Lochaber



Seonaidh-Alex MacLeod
Skye



Seumas MacFarlane
Kilmallie



Shane O'Rua
Kilmallie



Zac Menzies
Glasgow Mid Argyll

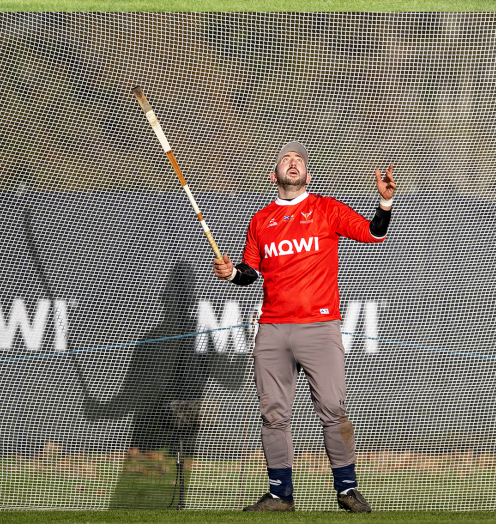


Willie MacDonald
Coach



Will Cowie
Coach

Ireland make it 3 In a Row against Scots



It was an historic occasion as both Scotland and Ireland lined up at the Bught Park for the first Mowi Shinty Hurling international on Scottish soil since 2018. Over 2,000 supporters gathered, and those packed into the newly refurbished Bught Park Stand included Scotland's First Minister John Swinney.

Scotland manager Alan MacRae named a much-changed squad, with seven new caps: Innes Blackhall, Calum Shepherd, Archie MacRae, Ryan Harrison, William MacKinnon, Bob McGregor and Calum Grant.

Irish co-managers Terence 'Sambo' McNaughton and Michael Kavanagh, in their third and final year in charge, named a strong squad in their bid to extend their two-game winning run. Limerick's Dan Morrissey, a five-time All-Ireland winner, captained the side and was joined by county teammate Shane O'Brien. There were places for Tipperary's All-Ireland winning trio Eoghan Connolly, Alan Tynan, and young hurler of the year Darragh McCarthy, Galway's Cianan Fahy and Kilkenny's Eoin Murphy, who is widely considered to be hurling's greatest modern goalkeepers.

The late addition of Clare star Ryan Taylor increased the increased the top-tier complement to eight hurlers.

This contest went full pelt from the start with the Scots using a fast and physical approach coupled with some quick passing moves which worked to unsettle their opponents as the hosts took an early lead. The hosts found the net after just three minutes when Iain Robinson won possession ahead of Dan Morrissey, sending Lachie Shaw racing towards the goal. Keeper Eoin Murphy ran from his line to challenge, but the ball broke to the Scotland right where Ruaridh Anderson stroked the it into the net. Robinson and Shaw spurned goal attempts, whilst Donald Nixon went close with a dead ball from the left whilst Blair Morrison saw a free from the right charged down before Zander Michie added a point. The closest Ireland went during the early exchanges was a solo run from Alan Tynan, but Scotland keeper Bob McGregor was quickly off his line to clear the danger.

Scotland's pressure paid off as a second goal from Ruaridh Anderson made it 7-0 on 20 minutes.

Donald Nixon won the ball in a crowded midfield, picking out Iain Robinson who got in ahead of Dan Morrissey again. He found Shaw who spread play to Anderson on the left and he allowed the ball to run across his body before firing low across the keeper into the far corner of the net.

The Irish were up against it but their response was clinical as, straight from the restart, Shane O'Brien lobbed a high ball in from the right and James Doyle got in ahead of his marker and although his strike was well-saved by the impressive Bob McGregor in the Scotland goal, the ball came back out to Cha Dwyer and his shot on the turn gave the keeper no chance.

Ireland scored again on 39 minutes. Doyle took the ball from Dwyer and raced down the left flank, before he finished well into the bottom corner to make it 7-6. Their comeback was complete when Eoghan Connolly's point, made it 7-7 at the break.

The visitors had the wind in their favour in the second half, but it was the Scots who regained the lead through another Michie point. However, Shane O'Brien and Connolly bagged a point each to have The Irish ahead for the first time in the game.

Ireland extended their lead when Dwyer leapt brilliantly to touch Ben Conroy's dropping ball from the left into the net from close range to score his second, and Ireland now led 12-8.

Scotland, cheered on by the home support, then managed to pull it back to 12-10 through points over the bar from Daniel MacVicar and Nixon, but despite a late goalmouth scramble, they couldn't find the goal that would win the game.

Dan Morrissey added to his five All-Ireland winners medals with as he climbed the Bught Park steps to receive the Mowi Quaich from Jayne MacKay from Mowi. It was Scotland keeper Bob McGregor who was later named man of the match for a strong performance at that night's post match reception in the new pavilion.

Scotland manager Alan MacRae was delighted with his troops and, speaking straight after the final whistle, he said: "I'm so pleased with all the players. We gave the players a plan and they carried it out. We set out to be very physical and quick from the start and it worked, selecting the starting 14 with this in mind - that's why excellent man-markers like Daniel Sloss, Duncan Matheson and Calum Grant were left on the bench.

They always had a role to play, coming on to do their jobs and the sheer energy required for this fixture means you can't just field the same team throughout. I'm just gutted with the outcome as we were so close to winning that. It was there for us, but we just couldn't get it over the line."

Skipper Blair Morrison added: "We ran a very good Irish side close, and you could tell we were well prepared. We definitely had chances to win it, but I suppose Ireland passed up some opportunities too, it's just that ours have come back to haunt us more. The boys put in a power of work to keep up with the Irish throughout the game and we were very unfortunate on a couple of occasions and on I'm sure that on another day it could've been different for us."

Ireland's two-goal hero Cha Dwyer added: "I was lucky enough to play shinty-hurling in 2016, so I knew what to expect but I think the levels have risen since then. It's more physical and more competitive from start to finish. You could tell the Scots had done their homework on us. Shinty is a more positional sport than hurling but they stuck to us from the start, and we didn't get much space to solo or anything else."



MEN'S SQUAD

Scotland Men's Manager Alan MacRae selected the following 20 player squad, after a number of trial and training sessions, to face off against the hurlers.



Alan MacRae
Scotland Manager



Alexander Michie
Kingussie



Archie MacRae
Kinlochshiel



Blair Morrison (C)
Caberfeidh



Bob McGregor
Kingussie



Calum Grant
Kingussie



Craig Mainland
Lovat



Calum Shepherd
Fort William



Daniel MacVicar
Oban Camanachd



Daniel Sloss
Newtonmore



Danny Kelly
Lovat



Donald Nixon
Kinlochshiel



Duncan Matheson
Kinlochshiel



Iain Robinson
Newtonmore



Innes Blackhall
Kilmallie



John Gillies
Skye



Lachie Shaw
Fort William



Rory Kennedy
Newtonmore



Ruairidh Anderson
Kingussie



Ryan Harrison
Skye



William MacKinnon
Skye



Davie McVey
Fitness Coach



Iain MacDonald
Coach



Iain Morrison
Goalkeeping Coach



Lorna Forsyth
Sports Therapist

WOMEN'S SQUAD

Scotland Women's Manager Ross Brown selected the following 20 player squad, after a number of trial and training sessions, to face off against the camogs.



Ross Brown
Scotland Manager



Alaina MacLennan
Kinlochshiel



Ali MacVicar
Glasgow Mid Argyll



Amy Disher
Lochaber



Beth MacLellan
Glasgow Mid Argyll



Caitlin MacLean
Skye



Christina MacDonald
Skye



Hannah MacDonald
Lochaber



Hazel Hunter
Glenurquhart



Joanne Gillanders
Lochaber



Kira MacDonald
Lochaber



Kirsty Deans
Badenoch



Lexy MacLeod
Skye



Mairi Duncan (C)
Lochaber



Mairi Stewart
Badenoch



Megan Ralph
Badenoch



Natalie MacDonald
Lochaber



Rachel McCafferty
Glasgow Mid Argyll



Rhona McIntyre
Badenoch



Rona Stewart
Badenoch



Zoe Reid
Badenoch



Katie Drain
Coach



Laura McCafferty
Coach

Irish plant flag on Scottish soil

Ireland showed their class over the second half to win 18-6 over hosts Scotland in the historic Mowi Shinty-Camogie International at the Bught Park, Inverness.

A healthy attendance watched on as this noon throw-in got underway and Ireland built an early 4-0 lead when Amy Quinlisk's ball over the bar was followed by a Saoirse McCarthy goal.

However, Scotland struck back to edge in front. First, a dead ball from Megan Ralph dropped into the D, which deceived Irish keeper Aoife Corcoran and ending up in the net before Beth MacLellan was first to react when the goalie didn't deal with Zoe Reid's low ball from the left, as she made it 6-4.

The impressive Saoirse McCarthy struck again with her second goal before the interval to give Ireland a slender 7-6 advantage.

The Cork camog then completed her hat-trick as she turned her marker before soloing towards goal, steady-ing herself before hammering the ball home for a great finish.

The visitors had the elements in the second half and following a '65 into the goal area from skipper Saoirse McCarthy, Amy Quinlisk scored a goal to make it 10-6.

The Scots tried to get back into it and just before the hour, Megan Ralph struck wide from a free just in front of the stand, wide on the right.

Soon after, Rona Stewart's sideline cut troubled the Irish defence and Ralph tried to shoot before Rhona McIntyre sent the ball past the post.

Saoirse McCarthy then flicked a free, before sending it over the bar and the point made it 14-6.

Ireland continued to add to their tally and Sive Byrne gathered a loose ball before heading goalwards and lifting the ball over the bar.

Scotland keeper Joanne Gillanders made some terrific saves throughout, and including Aine Cunningham from point-blank range.

Meadbh McLoughlin completed the scoring when she bundled the ball home at the death to seal Ireland's 18-6 win.

Throughout the course of the match Ireland's Saoirse McCarthy showed why she had been included in the Camogie All Stars team for 2025. As Irish captain she received the Mowi Quaich from Scottish First Minister John Swinney and Mowi COO Ben Hadfield at the end of the game, capping off a fine day by picking up the player of the match award at the post match ceremony that evening.

New Scotland manager Ross Brown took time out to look back on the game. He said: "The whole coaching team are really pleased with the Scottish performance. All the girls did really, really well and they dug in when they had to.

Going into the match, we knew we probably weren't going to be as fit and as match conditioned as the Irish and that proved to be the case.

We were probably out on our feet during the final 20 minutes, and they pulled away. I thought we battled really well in the first half and were only a point behind at the break but their speed and conditioning in the second half took the game away from us.

We've picked up a lot from the game though, and there are plenty things we will work on ahead of next year's international."

Whilst the result didn't go in the way of the Scots, the women's game can take great encouragement from the event as a whole. The 2025 Mowi Shinty/Camogie international was the first in history to have been jointly delivered with co-operation from the Camanachd Association, the GAA and Women's Camanachd Association where both matches took place on the main pitch at the Bught Park. In addition, the game was streamed live on YouTube to a significant viewer base, both at home and abroad.

Irish panel: Aoife Corcoran (Westmeath), Fiona Keating (Westmeath), Aoife McDonald (Tyrone), Shannagh Heggarty (Antrim), Gráinne McDonald (Tyrone), Sive Byrne (Wicklow), Casey Kelly (Wicklow), Saoirse McCarthy (Cork – captain), Áine Cunningham (Tyrone), Tara Naughton (Roscommon), Sally Bolger (Roscommon), Dearbhla Magee (Down), Katierose Bell (Antrim), Ashling Thompson (Cork), Amy Cousins (Wexford), Dearbhail McLoughlin (Westmeath), Meadhbh McLoughlin (Westmeath), Amy Quinlisk (Tipperary), Aisling Hagan (Tyrone)

Coaches: Ger Manley (Cork), Róisín Breen (Kilkenny), Emma Kavannagh (Kilkenny), Paul O'Grady (Mayo) Seán McLaren (Antrim)





Badenoch Ladies II lead the way in historic Cup Finals Day

13 goal thriller as Badenoch beat Inverness 7-5

The day had finally arrived for when four teams would battle it out, aiming to lift their prospective cups. Up for grabs were the Mowi WCA Valerie Fraser Cup, and the Mowi WCA Challenge Cup. With all the final preparations in place from all the hard work of the WCA volunteers, and with The Eilan's surface in great condition thanks to Newtonmore, it was now down to the teams. The 2025 edition of the Mowi Challenge Cup was a re-run of last years' final: Badenoch II would take on holders Inverness II in the first match of the WCA finals day.

With Inverness II defeating Aberdour 10-4 in the semi-final, and table topping Badenoch II beating Dunadd 9-1 in the other semi-final, both teams were looking evenly matched. A gentle wind blew in from the south, and consistent cloud cover, the conditions couldn't have been better for the final.

After a minute's silence for Kingussie Chieftain Joe Taylor and three young men who tragically passed away earlier that week, referee Keith MacKenzie got the game underway. With Inverness playing with the wind at their backs, it wasn't long before Badenoch's goalkeeper was put under pressure by Isla McNeil and Kamryn Hughes. However, Abbie MacLeod would perform some amazing saves to keep the duo at bay. This seemed to settle the young Badenoch teams' nerves as they then formed an attack of their own. With goalie Nyah Campbell scrambling to clear her lines, Orla Olds was quick to pick up a loose ball and sink it into the back of the net to give Badenoch the lead after 6 minutes played.

Inverness soon rallied to get back into the game, and with their keeper Campbell delivering goal hits with pinpoint accuracy to both Kamryn Hughes and Isla McNeil, in under 20 minutes played, Inverness were 2-1 up. But with the WCA National League winners scoring 84 goals in the league alone this year, the youngsters soon went on the attack again, and two minutes later, Lexi Farquhar levelled the score at 2-2. In the next 10 minutes, both teams drew their sabres; firstly 3-2 Badenoch, 3-3, 4-3 to Badenoch, and then in the final minute of the first half, the score was 4-4 through Isla McNeil's second strike of the match.

The healthy crowd that had gathered to watch this incredible cup final needed a break to draw breath just as much as both teams needed it for their efforts in this nail-biting clash.

Badenoch came out onto the pitch first after the break, ready to take the game by the scruff of the neck and it wasn't long before their captain Catrin Macleod sent a screamer in to the top corner of the Inverness goal - 5-4 Badenoch. Both teams made some changes, Badenoch dropped Orla Olds back into the centre line and brought on full forward Kate McAdam. This change in players soon opened up the Inverness defence, and as the young Badenoch side's fitness kicked in, Badenoch would go up 7-4 through further goals from the dangerous duo, Lexi Farquhar, and Orla Olds. In the dying minutes of the game, it was Inverness who scored a late consolation goal to end the game at 7-5 Badenoch.

Keith MacKenzie blew his whistle and drew this epic cup final to a close and to begin the celebrations for the Badenoch youngsters. It was double delight for the Badenoch youngsters as Orla Olds was awarded the PeterGow.co.uk Player of the Match. Any number of Badenoch's players could have been awarded the accolade in truth, from keeper Abbie MacLeod, to captain Catrin MacLeod. But with four goals scored at critical times in the match, Olds had orchestrated the attacks upon the Inverness defence and worked tirelessly (as the whole team did) to ensure that the Mowi WCA Challenge Cup would return to Badenoch, and that it was not a full repeat of last year's final!



Peter Gow presented Orla Olds with the player of the match award after a stellar performance



Badenoch complete famous double with Mowi WCA Valerie Fraser win

Badenoch avenge 2024 defeat with a 2-0 triumph over Lochaber

The Mowi WCA Valerie Fraser Cup, the showpiece event of the finals day and the premium competition in women's shinty saw the return to the big stage of two familiar foes, as holders Lochaber took on 2024 defeated finalists Badenoch. Ahead of the game, things could not have been much tighter between the two sides, tied on 20 points in the league at the end of the season with Badenoch vanquishing all others who came before them, whilst it was Lochaber who had done the double over their rivals.

Referee Steven MacLachlan got the game underway, and within three minutes Lochaber had the ball in the back of the net, Leah Maxtone's drilled ball into the centre was pushed home by Natalie MacDonald, however, the goal judge's flag was raised for a correct offside decision to quell the red and white delight.

The next chance of the game came to Kirsty Deans, who played the ball down the line to Megan Ralph who danced inside nicely past her marker and lined one up from distance, bobbling into the ground and skipping towards goal, but Gillanders was astute enough to stop with her feet and push it behind for a corner. Two minutes later, she would not be denied. A long free hit from Rona Stewart was wonderfully flicked to the side by Ralph who then drilled a shot into the bottom right-hand corner.

Soon after Ralph came close to a second, with Zoe Reid winning the ball from her marker inside the Lochaber half and feeding the ball into the goal scorer where she tried the same finish, but this time goalie Gillanders was able to get across and make the stop.



Rona Stewart completed her incredible comeback from injury as she was named player of the match

It would then be Lochaber's turn to come close, Missy Howie picking the ball up from a free hit and giving it to Natalie MacDonald in the danger area, Badenoch defenders did enough to force her wide, but somehow she managed to find the half yard to flash a shot across goal from a tight angle, the ball whistling by the outside of the far post. Just.

The first chance of the second half would go the way of Lochaber, Wink flashing a great ball across goal from the right flank, Maxtone arriving at the back post had a couple of swipes at it, but McGregor slapped it wide to keep her side ahead. Five minutes later and the same combination opened Badenoch up again, Wink slipping the ball into the path of the onrushing Maxtone with both her and McGregor challenging for the ball it popped up and agonisingly flew wide of the left-hand post.

It was Badenoch who would strike next though, a goal hit being snatched up by Ralph who aimed for the bottom right-hand corner, Gillanders managed to make the save but with the ball bouncing off her it was Hope Borthwick who was on hand to push the ball past into the empty net. Ralph almost made it two in twenty seconds with a good strike across goal, but Gillanders made a really smart stop to give Lochaber time to find their feet again.

As the second half pressed on Lochaber pushed for that all important goal to get them back into the game, however Badenoch stayed resolute at the back, a combination of strong defending and a couple of smart stops from McGregor keeping the red and white forwards at bay. Badenoch themselves would continue to carry a threat on the counter attack but there would be no goals forthcoming for either side in the remainder of the game with Steven MacLachlan bringing the final to an end at 2-0.

That meant Badenoch Captain Rhona MacIntyre would receive the Mowi Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup from Jayne MacKay and lift it high into the air to the delight of the crowd at The Eilan with full-centre Rona Stewart also receiving the Player of the Match Award from Peter Gow – a great day for 'The Girls at The Dell'!

Women's Camanachd Association

President's Report



As the season has once again concluded for another year, I'd like to take this opportunity to firstly thank every member of the Women's Camanachd Association, which is made up of volunteers, who work tirelessly behind the scenes to provide the platform of competition that we have in the Women's game today.

It was with great sadness we learned of the passing of Peter Gow. As a great supporter of Women's shinty, he sponsored our cup

We returned to Oban for our Macaulay Area Rep games. We are very grateful to all the coaches for their hard work and time in selecting and coaching your squads. We had two very competitive games with the Blues coming out winners in the u16 match whilst it was the East who edged the win in the senior game after sudden death penalties - a first for this fixture. Many thanks to the Macaulay Association for the sponsorship and in particular Davie Hamilton who ensured everything ran smoothly on the day.

It was an absolute delight to have the international fixture reintroduced this year, we are indebted to the Camanachd Association and Mowi for making this happen and making us fully inclusive - a first in our history, thanks to all those involved in delivering a joint approach for the mens and women's teams. Thanks also to manager Ross Brown his assistants Katie Drain and Laura McAfferty who coached and selected the squad, we are grateful for all the work behind the scenes that went into this historic event. Congratulations to all the players who were selected to represent our country. This was the 9th Shinty/Camogie full international - unfortunately it wasn't our day on the pitch, which leaves Ireland with a 5-4 lead over the fixture, however we are hoping this will become a permanent fixture so we will have our time!

For the 2nd year running our National Under 14s 6-a-side tournament was held at Canal Parks. Eleven teams took part in two leagues and played off to a final where Kinlochshiel came out winners over Lovat - congratulations to Kinlochshiel!! We are extremely grateful to Logic Alarms for their sponsorship and to all at Kilmallie for the use of their facilities and their hard work preparing the pitches for the day.

Yet another amazing camp was delivered by Katie Drain, held this time at a new venue in Glenlamond College in Perthshire, which would live up to all our expectations. Thanks to Katie for coordinating and organising and to Muirhall Energy for their generous grant and HIS for their sponsorship of the event, the girls had an action packed weekend full of training, fitness, games, drills and most importantly having fun throughout. Katie and her group of coaches helped make the weekend such a success, and the Camp for 2026 has already been booked for the 10th - 12th July 2026 - we hope to see as many of our young players there as possible for another fantastic camp.

The WCA are indebted to Mowi for another year's sponsorship of the women's leagues, cups and the international - their support is invaluable to our game. To all the aforementioned individuals and sponsoring companies - without you women's shinty wouldn't be where we are today, so on behalf of all involved in the women's game, we thank you so much!

finals day for 24 years and over those years became a dear friend to so many in the Women's game - he will be sorely missed by us all.

The season started with 7 teams in our newly formed Premier League, 7 teams in the National League, 7 teams in the North League and 4 teams in the South League, as well as an U14s round robin league. Due in part to the amazing weather we had, the fixtures went smoothly, as the leagues were wrapped up prior our cup finals day in September - apart from the innagural Premier League play off due to Storm Amy.

Congratulations to Lochaber winning the first ever Mowi Premier League after a thrilling league followed by an exciting play off against Badenoch. To the Badenoch II side who won the National League, to Glenurquhart II winning the Mowi North League and to Inveraray winning the Mowi South League. Many thanks to all the competing clubs, players, coaches and members for working together and making this season a success.

We returned to The Eilan for our cup finals day - as ever, Newtonmore were great hosts to work with, thus making our life as volunteers so much easier - thank you to everyone involved, before, during & after the day. It was a repeat of last year's finalists and another two great games were had. We introduced the National Primary Final to our day, which I'd say was a great success with 16 very excited enthusiastic and ambitious young players delighted to be part of the big day. Thank you to all the Committee and Events crew for their hard work in making this day happen. Thanks also to our officials, to whom without them it just wouldn't be possible.

The Mowi Awards takes place again this year, a great occasion to showcase all the positives from shinty. Congratulations to all our award winners. This year we had a neutral panel with representatives from the North and South to go through the votes, I must thank these individuals as this made life so much easier for the heavily involved committee. Many thanks to Mowi and the Camanachd Association for making this event possible, it's great to be a part of this special night.

We all know the hard work that being part of a shinty club involves, running the Women's Shinty calendar is no different, so I would like to thank those in the WCA committee which is made up of volunteers for all their hard work throughout the year, planning, prepping and delivering a full fixture list, competitions, our cup finals and meetings, all on top of working and family life - your time and dedication is much appreciated.

Thanks also go to our link officer Katie Drain, who has continued communications with the CA, as well as additional thanks to Astie Cameron for publicising our fixtures and scores.

This year we have worked closer with the Camanachd Association, especially with the International, thanks must go to Ronald and Ruari for supporting this. We are also very grateful to Aarron and Jaime for the work they have done on our socials alongside Jeanette.

We are a small core of volunteers and we desperately seek new members to come on board, we meet online once a month, so please consider joining us.

Looking ahead at 2026, we are set to introduce a new single team cup and a 12-a-side cup, again I must thank those clubs that joined us to discuss the best way forward for all clubs, showing the commitment we all have to our game, striving to introduce the highest level of competition available to help continue building and strengthening our game.

Karen Williamson - President

Why Shinty?

To mark women and girls week, we asked players why they play the sport, and what benefits it brings to them

Shinty helps me keep fit, healthy and happy! I meet people each year, I get to coach kids and see their skills and love for the game grow, I get to referee games and tournaments and it's helped me meet new people while at Uni.

Molly Mackinnon
Skye



Shinty gives me a release for the frustrations of the week. Plus it's so rewarding helping the younger girls develop. I try to be that role model that my old teachers were to me. To any girls wanting to get involved - get stuck in playing with the boys. There's no better feeling as a young girl than demonstrating that you are just as good, if not better!

Grace Drummond
Dunadd



Shinty gives you a focus, sense of achievement and just makes you feel good about yourself for doing a fitness session, a game, and to be outside in the fresh air.

To give support and to be supported by teammates and coaches makes you feel 100% better.

Tegan Bruce
Kinlochshiel



Team spirit within the club has helped immensely. Even if I come off the pitch thinking I've played awful and let everyone down, my team is always there to pick me up, support me and tell me how wrong I am with that thought.



Rachel Cruickshank
Strathspey

The people that inspire me the most in shinty are the unsung heroes. The ladies that run the WCA as volunteers, that organise the leagues and fixtures, that put Shinty ahead of their families at times to make matches happen and give up things to allow others to have opportunities to play the sport - it is these people that have inspired me.

Lucy Davies - Strathspey





Women's Macaulay Association Area Reps take place at Mossfield Park

Under 16 and Senior matches both go the distance

Oban was the host to the yearly Women's Macaulay Association Area Rep matches, where crowds were treated to two competitive games, both going to extra time and one being pushed to a penalty play-off.

First up was the U16's match, where the top 32 girls from across Scotland were selected and evenly split into 2 teams: the reds & the blues. Credit goes to red coach Alaina MacLennan and blue coach Caitlin Mutch who created 2 very competitive teams.

This game saw an avalanche of goals from the go, with the blues taking a quick lead through Inverness' Kamryn Hughes with the reds equalising through Badenoch's Lexi Farquhar, this pair didn't stop until it was 3-3, it was captain Isla McNeil that clinched the half time lead for the blues, with the score 4-3 in favour to team blue.

The reds came out and quickly got in the lead with goals from Inverness' Hughes and Glenurquhart's Rowan Brockie, but Isla McNeil made it equal again by netting for the blues, but the reds replied through Lochaber's Brooke Falconer. The game far from over though as Inverness' Rebekah MacLean scored for the blues to make it 6-6 at Full Time. The reds took the lead in extra time with another Brockie goal, however in the 2nd half of extra time 3 goals from McNeil & Hughes secured a 9-7 win for the blue side.

Captain Teri MacLeod (Skye) was presented the shield by Macaulay Association President Roddy McCuish. Kinlochshiel's Kacie MacRae (Red) was named the player of the match.

Red U16 - coached by Alaina MacLennan
Brooke Falconer (Lochaber), Charlotte Howell (Kinlochshiel), Eilidh Cameron (Dunadd), Ellie Hardie (Inverness), Ellie Paterson (Lochaber), Emily Van Loon (Glenurquhart), Eva MacDonald (Lochaber), Kacie MacRae (Kinlochshiel), Kayla Gow (Badenoch), Kayla Hughes (Inverness), Lexi Farquhar (Badenoch), Louise Buchanan (Ardnamurchan), Millie Alderson (Lochaber), Naomi MacRae (Inverness), Orlagh Moran (Inverness), Rowan Brockie (Glenurquhart), Una Ross & Maisie Ewing (Kilmallie) - injured

Blue U16 - coached by Caitlin Mutch
Abigail MacRae (Kinlochshiel), Adele Gow (Badenoch), Alexia Rigg (GMA), Ava Roberts (Ardnamurchan), Iona Ferguson (Lovat), Isla McNeil (Inverness), Kamryn Hughes (Inverness), Katie Loughray (Lochaber), Livia Berardeli (Lochaber), Poppy MacKenzie (Kinlochshiel), Rebekah MacLean (Inverness), Rhea Brockie (Lovat), Sofi Seymour (Glenangarry), Sophie Power (Glenurquhart), Teri MacLeod (Skye), Violet Mair (GMA)

Next up was the seniors where it was the best from the east vs the west. The west coached by Andrew MacKenzie and Ian Morrison, got off to a great start taking the lead through goals by Eilidh Cameron and Beth MacLellan, however the west coached by Ross Brown and Scott Campbell fought back and took the lead through Megan Ralph and Zoe Reid. Cameron got the equaliser, but Glenurquhart's Hazel Hunter found the net for the east, however the game was not over as Cameron struck her hatrick, bringing on extra time, with the full-time score 4- 4.

It was the west who took the lead in extra time through Caitlin MacLean, and it was beginning to look like it was over until Natalie MacDonald struck for the east making it 5-5 at FT of ET. Penalties were upon us, each team taking 5 apiece they were gridlocked at 1-1, so sudden death began, and it was Laura Soffe who netted the winner for the East.

After full time, the East Captain Mairi Stewart was presented with the cup by Macaulay Association President Roddy McCuish, while Lexie MacKenzie was awarded the player of the match award.

As ever, the Women's Camanachd Association are indebted to the Macaulay Association for their continued support and sponsorship of this yearly event. Thanks to Alec MacVicar & Des McNulty for helping out by refereeing, to Holly, Drew, Karen and Louise for goal judging to Davie Hamilton for all of his help and support and the Mossfield groundsmen for the superb surface despite all the rain prior. Thanks to our photographers for capturing the day and to all our players and coaches!

West Seniors - coached by Andrew MacKenzie & Ian Morrison
Abi Kirkland (GMA), Alaina MacLennan (Kinlochshiel), Ali MacVicar (GMA), Anna Nicolson (Dunadd), Beth MacLellan (GMA), Caitlin MacLean (Skye), Christina MacDonald (Skye), Eilidh Cameron (Dunadd), Kirsty Gray (GMA), Leona Falconer (Glenangarry), Lexie MacKenzie (Kinlochshiel), Lexy MacLeod (Skye), Maree MacKenzie (Kinlochshiel), Paige Scott (Inveraray), Rachel McCafferty (GMA), Sarah-Jane Ferguson (Skye)

East Seniors - coached by Ross Brown & Scott Campbell
Amy Disher (Lochaber), Caitlin Mutch (Inverness), Christy MacIntyre (Lochaber), Hannah MacDonald (Lochaber), Hazel Hunter (Glenurquhart), Iona McCulloch (Tayforth), Isla Strachan (Strathglass), Kira MacDonald (Lochaber), Laura Soffe (Lovat), Mairi Stewart (Badenoch), Megan Ralph (Badenoch), Morven McCallum (Strathglass), Natalie MacDonald (Lochaber), Rona Stewart (Badenoch), Sarah Caird (Badenoch), Zoe Reid (Badenoch)

National Player Performance Camp

July saw 50 young girls representing clubs from across Scotland gather at Glenalmond College in Perthshire for the annual Residential Shinty Camp, sponsored by Muirhall Energy

On arrival, the girls met in the common room to kick off the weekend, where they received their camp t-shirts and hoodies before heading off on a guided tour of the school's facilities.

The weekend began with team-building challenges in the games hall. Players were divided into mixed groups from different clubs and set a variety of tasks that encouraged communication and collaboration in different ways. After an energetic start, the girls took the remainder of the evening to relax, settle into their accommodation, and get to know one another.

Saturday brought a full day of shinty in the Perthshire sunshine. The morning focused on defensive drills, followed by lunch and a late session dedicated to striking skills. Players worked on forehand and back-hand techniques, half-swings, and improving their accuracy. The effort and enthusiasm on display were outstanding, with the girls actively applying feedback throughout the drills.

A well-earned afternoon break allowed everyone to enjoy the school's swimming pool facilities and some downtime. Before dinner, the group came together for a workshop led by Alaina, focusing on player attributes, inclusion, and teamwork. In the evening, the shinty action continued with a six aside tournament. Teams, named after Irish counties, competed across two pitches in a series of exciting matches. It was fantastic to see friendships forming on the sidelines,

confidence growing on the field, and several players volunteering to referee. Team Waterford emerged victorious. After the tournament, the girls returned to their accommodation for pizza night and enjoyed a relaxed evening making full use of the common area facilities to bond.

Sunday morning saw the players return to the pitch for attacking and movement drills. Following lunch, the girls were divided into teams for competitive ten aside matches, each led by a coach. In a closely contested tournament, Coach Caitlin Mutch's team claimed the win. Parents were invited to watch the final matches and attend the prize-giving ceremony. The weekend awards were presented as follows:

Six-a-Side Winners: Waterford
Ten-a-Side Winners: Caitlin's Team

Junior Awards:
•Most Improved Player: Catherine (Caberfeidh)
•Most Endeavour Player: Eilidh (Kilmallie)
•Player of the Camp: Ceitidh (Skye)

Senior Awards:
•Most Improved Player: January (GMA)
•Most Endeavour Player: Livia (Lochaber)
•Player of the Camp: Lexi (Badenoch)

A huge thank you goes to the fantastic coaches - Niamh Donnelly, Caitlin Mutch, Laura McCafferty, Jacob Green, Katie Drain and Alaina MacLennan.



Rathbones is delighted to be a supporter of the Camanachd Association and wishes everyone an enjoyable day

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For further information, please contact **Calum MacLean** on **0141 248 4311** or email calum.maclean@rathbones.com

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Free scoring Bute lift W J Cameron



Bute score 12 to bring trophy back to the island

Sunday the 14th of September saw the finals of the W J Cameron take place at Mossfield, Oban. Three teams travelled for the event with Inverness and Glenquhart travelling from the north area and Bute representing the south. The format for the day was a round robin league style played 15 minutes each way.

The first game saw Glenurquhart and Inverness play each other. It was the Inverness side who got off to a speedy start when they took an early lead through Finlay Neilson. This momentum continued when they doubled their lead through a fine strike from Lyall Oparka. This took them into half time with a 2-0 lead.

The match proved to be a game of two halves with the Glen coming out of the gate quickly and putting pressure on the Inverness goal, that pressure paid off when Kaleb Power grabbed a goal back for Glen Urquhart. This momentum continued when Emily Van Loon grabbed a second goal for the Drumnadrochit side with under five minutes left to play. Glen then continued to push for the winner, however Inverness defended well, marshalled by the excellent play of Isla McNeil. That meant both teams took away a point from the first game.

The second game saw Bute take on Inverness. Bute came out flying playing some great attacking shinty and their dominance meant they went into the half time break with a four goal lead thanks to goals from Lloyd Robertson, Robert Lowrie, Louie McDonald and Aarron MacFarlane. Inverness reshuffled things in the second half with McNeil going into full centre and giving the Highlanders a foothold in the game. However, Bute added two further goals through Regan Craig and Lowrie again seeing them take a 6-0 victory.

The final game saw Bute play Glenurquhart where both sides knew a win would take the trophy. They started well and took the lead after 6 minutes through Kaleb Power. However, it was the experience of the islanders shone through, with a hat trick from the ever clinical Lowrie, a double from McDonald and one from Aarron MacFarlane seeing Bute confirm a 6-1 win and claim the W J Cameron title.

The W J Cameron trophy was won then presented to the islanders by Les Kinvig from the Macaulay Association to Bute captain Regan Craig.



HALF-SWING
SHINTY PODCAST



The Half-Swing Shinty Podcast reviews and previews the shinty from all over Scotland with hosts Aarron and Cammy providing an holistic view of the weird and wonderful world of shinty. You can check it out by scanning the below QR code. From Lewis to Tighnabruaich and Ardnamurchan to Aberdeen – we have spoken to them all!

You can listen to the pod wherever you get your podcasts from including Spotify, Apple Podcasts and more by searching "Half-Swing Podcast" or by scanning the above QR Code.



Dicksons of Inverness North World Cup

368 players from 44 teams participate

The 30th of September saw the Dicksons of Inverness North Shinty World Cup took place at Bught Park once again . This competition was for individual primary schools in the North of Scotland and there were 3 entry categories, these were;
P7 and under competition for established schools
P7 and under competition for emerging schools
P5 and under super 6's competition

There were 44 teams in attendance on the day and 368 youngsters taking part, the highest number of participants post pandemic. Eight pitches were set up and manned by volunteers (referees, score-runners and referee mentors). These volunteers, as well as some fantastic adults, included pupils from Charleston Academy who all completed their referees course in advance of this event and were a real credit to their school, clubs and teachers throughout the course of the day.

The P6/7 established section had two leagues, with the top two from each league progressing to the day's semi-finals. Both the P5/4 section and the P7 and under developing sections both had three leagues meaning the top team from each section plus the best overall runner up from across the three leagues of each age group progressed to the day's semi-finals.

The competition was close in all three sections, with them coming down to one or two points to determine who would progress to the next stages.

The Semi-Finals were:

<i>BSGP V Kingussie</i>	<i>Hilton V Glenurquhart</i>
<i>Milton of Leys V BSGLA</i>	<i>Inverlochry V Lundavra</i>
<i>Newtonmore V Aviemore</i>	<i>Kingussie V BSGP</i>

All the semi-finals were tightly contested matches with one of them running to extra time, and some fantastic shinty from young players on show.
Progressing to the finals we had:

BSGP V Hilton
Milton of Leys V Lundavra



All of the finals were played six minutes each way. BSGP took on Hilton in the P6/7 Established Final, turning out to be an entertaining end to end final, both teams having chances and forcing each keeper to make some good saves, as a very skilful battle developed between Hilton's Lewis MacPherson of Hilton and Alasdair Tindall from BSGP in the centre of the pitch. Nothing could separate these sides (their league match also resulted in a draw) as the final whistle approached so it was 3 minutes extra time each way. BSGP pounced straight from the whistle, with their Captain Lila Schuman showing some fantastic close skills and scoring the opener to put BSGP up 1-0. Before Hilton could even take a breath BSGP struck once again, this time through Frankie Moore. Hilton would continue to battle but couldn't stop the impressive Lila from scoring her second and in the last minute of the game Callum Graham bagged their fourth - a fantastic advert for shinty between two very good sides.

Lundavra and Milton of Leys played out in the emerging schools final with some fantastic skills by both teams on show. Lundavra were impressive from the get-go with some great individual skill and team play from those on the park. Lundavra went 2-1 up with goals from Harrison McKenzie and Joey Stephen but that didn't stop Milton of Leys looking dangerous and continuing to hunt for an equaliser, not letting their heads drop. Lundavra kept possession well though and created opportunities until the end, maintaining their 2-1 lead and taking home the salver for 2025.

BSGP and Newtonmore then had a highly entertaining game in the P5 and under final. BSGP were determined from the start to avenge last year's final defeat and started with a bang. The two BSGP Cailean's (one MacDonald and one Murchison) had been on fine scoring form all day and the final was no different with the two of them bagging all their teams' goals within the 12-minute game with some very silky play and extra special finishes. Newtonmore never once gave up though and should be proud of their efforts battling to the end. All players on the park showed fantastic attitudes throughout the course of the day's games.

Medals to all finalists were presented by Ronald MacKay – Nissan Sales Manager from Dicksons of Inverness and we are very grateful to him for being there on the day.

Huge thanks have to go to all the volunteers from the day who were involved in coaching and refereeing, as well as all the youngsters involved from Charleston Academy and Fortrose Academy, who were a credit to their schools and clubs showing maturity and responsibility regardless of the job they were given. Without this group of volunteers this event would not have happened, the support they provided was invaluable and the enthusiasm they came with was a massive bonus.



Macaulay Association South World Cup

110 players from 15 teams participate

Peterson Park in Glasgow was again host to the Macaulay Association South Shinty World Cup,a competition held for primary school children in the South of Scotland, with two entry categories - a Primary 6/7 section and a Primary 5 & Under section.

There were 15 teams there on the day and over 110 young people taking part. three pitches were set up and were manned by excellent volunteers and referees.

For the P6/7 section there were two league groups with the top two teams in each group progressing to the semi-final stage. In the P5 & Under section the top two from the round robin went straight to a final.

In the P6/7 section four teams came out on top. In section 1, Aberdour topped the group with 8 points from 8 and Glean Dail came a very close second with 6 points. In section 2, Kyles Athletic mirrored Aberdour's record from section 1 with a flawless 8 points from 8, with Glasgow Gaels Red finishing second with an impressive 6 points in the group stages.

This set up our two semi-finals for the P6/7 section, Kyles Athletic vs Glean Dail & Aberdour vs Gaels Red Kyles v Glean Dail was first up with Kyles taking early control. A quick fire four goals in the first half were unanswered by Glean Dail as the half time whistle went. The second half was much more evenly contested, with Glean Dail looking to find a way back in. They probed but unfortunately for them it wasn't enough, as Kyles put the game to bed by scoring their 5th goal to give them a 5-0 win. Aberdour vs Glasgow Gaels Red faced off to see who would join Kyles in the final. Aberdour looked threatening from the get-go, with chance after chance narrowly missing the Gaels goal. They finally got their breakthrough midway through the first half with a well worked goal from midfield giving them the advantage in this semi-final. Gaels Reds tried their best to stay in the game, defending with their bodies on the line. But two quick fire goals from Aberdour just before the half meant they had a mountain to climb if they wanted to reach the final. Like the previous semi, the game was a much more even contest in the second half with then Gaels looking for a breakthrough. In the dying moments Aberdour scored their fourth and final goal setting up a thrilling final, Kyles v Aberdour.

The final saw both teams starting at a fast pace. Kyles though begun to win the midfield battle which allowed them to create chances at will. Aberdour had defended well until a well worked Kyles goal saw the Tighnabruiaich outfit take the lead early in the first half. Aberdour fought back and began to create some chances of their own, but slightly against the run of play Kyles grabbed their second of the game giving them a two goal cushion in the final.

Aberdour looked down, but just as the first half was coming to an end, they rifled a shot past the Kyles keeper from just past the half way line to get back into the game, 2-1 at the break.

The second half was wide open with both teams pushing for a goal. Aberdour started to assert themselves, narrowly missing two chances early in the half. As Aberdour were looking for a way back into the game, they were leaving space in behind, space that Kyles exploited as they grabbed their third of the game to finish 'Dour off and to clinch the cup, a great final to watch.

In the P5 section, after the round robin group stage two teams were top. Aberdour and Rockfield both finished with 7 points, only dropping points in the group stages to each other with a 1-1 draw, making for an exciting final on paper.

The final was set with both teams looking to be crowned this year's winners. The game didn't take long to spring into action with tackles flying in and great shinty being played, both teams determined not to lose. Nothing could separate the teams - that was until the fifers hit Rockfield with a ball over the top, with the Aberdour forward slotting the ball past the Rockfield keeper giving the Silversands outfit an early 1 goal lead. Aberdour continued to push, and it wasn't long until they extended their lead with four quick fire goals, which gave them a convincing halftime lead. Rockfield were playing with so much heart, but it just wasn't going their way as 'Dour continued to hit the target repeatedly.

Aberdour seemed to be hitting form at the right times and before they knew it, they had added to a commanding lead with a few early second half goals. The game was being played in great spirit with both teams giving their all, but as the full-time whistle went, Aberdour were announced as worthy winners on the day.

Davie Hamilton from the Macaulay Association was in attendance for the presentation, with all finalists recieving a medal from Davie, with winning the captains, Connor Cook (Aberdour P5s and under) & Struan Moss (Kyles Athletic P6/7) recieving the P5 & Under and the P6/7 South World Cup trophies to end what was a fantastic day for South Shinty!

A massive thank you to The Macaulay Association for their sponsoring of the event, as well to the team at Yoker for the amazing facilities and to the young volunteers helping on the day!



Kilpatrick & Hollybrook victorious at Mowi National Disability Shinty Festival

85 players from 9 schools participate

Aviemore was once again the venue for the 28th annual Disability First Shinty Festival with training and matches taking place at the Aviemore Primary Astro, with an overnight stay at the renowned MacDonald Resort. Kilpatrick School from Glasgow lifted their 1st title, winning League A, whilst fellow Glaswegians Hollybrook School emerged victorious in section B.

Over 85 children, forming twelve teams from nine schools hailing from Inverness, Kingussie, Grantown, Oban, Glasgow, Lochaber and Ayrshire enjoyed coaching from qualified shinty coaches and games throughout the two-day event which would culminate in a tournament on the final day. After wrapping up day 1, the youngsters retired to their hotel and resort, where they enjoyed an evening of leisure activities and a buffet meal, allowing a chance to socialise out with their school groups.

The final day tournament was split into A & B leagues on a round robin format, with the teams in each section playing each other once. Both leagues saw some great competition with excellent play and some great goals scored throughout the day.

Kilpatrick school from Glasgow defeated the reigning champions Abercorn in an enthralling final to win League A and be crowned the 2025 winners. Hollybrook won league B defeating Kilpatrick B in a closely contested final.

Scan to view a video roundup of the event:



Jayne MacKay from sponsors Mowi presented medals to all the children and the trophies to the captains of Kilpatrick and Hollybrook schools.

Jayne MacKay, Mowi Community Engagement Officer, added: "Mowi is proud to support the National shinty disability festival. The two-day festival is action packed and accessible for all. It was great to see so many children taking part, having fun, learning new skills and making friends."

Camanachd Association National Development Manager, Ronald Ross, said: "This is one of the most rewarding events that we hold annually as we are bringing together children who don't get many opportunities to compete in shinty. The event grows in popularity each year, and it was great to see over 85 children taking part over the two days. I would like to thank tournament sponsors Mowi, all the participating teams, players, teachers and support staff that made the effort to take part in this year's festival".



National Player Performance Camp

The Highland Copiers National Player Performance Camp took place from Sunday 20th to Thursday 24th July 2025, at the new camp location of Glenalmond College, Perth. The residential camp brought together 65 talented U17 players from 25 clubs across Scotland.

Over the five days, players underwent an intensive programme. The coaches, comprised of Association Development Staff and experienced shinty players, Ruaridh Anderson and Zander Michie, tailored the sessions to focus on the technical, tactical, physical and psychological aspects of the game.

Some of the key areas of focus:

Technical: Precision in passing and hitting, ball control, shooting and defensive technique. Specific drills were devised to develop and challenge the players ability to execute the skills under pressure.

Tactical: Players took part in game related practices focusing on positioning and decision making. Focus was put on the players movement, where to play the ball and supporting teammates.

Physical: A focus on improving fitness levels, agility and strength through sport specific drills, general conditioning and informative gym workshop lead by Zander Michie.

Psychological: A focus on confidence building and positive growth mindset both on and off the pitch with an informative talk and workshop on resilience and goal setting by Kieron Achara, MBE (former Scotland and GB Basketball Captain).

Every year the players are challenged to a skills competition, this year's winners were;

Fastest Dribble: Jay MacRae (Kinlochshiel)
Hardest Hit (mph) – Robert Lowrie (Bute)
Longest Shy – Owen O'Hagan (Fort William)
Longest Hit Backhand - Cameron Mitchell (Newtonmore)
Longest Hit Forehand – Archie Stewart (Inveraray)
Accurate Shooting at Speed – Ethan Kerr (Kyles)
Fitness Award – Aurn Kerr (Col-Glen)

The 2025 Team Winners;

6's Tournament Winners – Limerick
10's Tournament Winners – New York Knicks
Most Committed Player – Iain Graham (Skye)
Most Improved Player – Ciaran Burns (Aberdour)
Player of the Camp – Alfie MacLeod (Glenurquhart)

The Performance Camp remains a cornerstone of our player development pathway. As always, it is great to see so many talented young players come together to learn, challenge themselves, and forge lasting friendships. The high standard of coaching, combined with the excellent facilities, ensured that players received the best possible opportunity to develop their skills and enhance their performance. The Camanachd Association are grateful to Highland Copiers for their support, which helps us make this experience possible.





Rockfield and Aberdour victorious at National First Shinty Finals 2025

150 players from across Scotland compete for the coveted National P5 and P7 titles

The P7 & Under tournament was played at the Nevis Centre in Fort William. The standard of play throughout the day was of the highest order with all the eleven teams and their players giving a great account of themselves.

Section A saw the impressive Rockfield Primary top the group on maximum points with Tomnacross Primary two points behind, claiming the runners-up spot. Section B couldn't have been more competitive, with the classy Inverness Gaelic School topping the group on nine points, with the skilful and last year's winners Caol finishing second on eight points.

The first semi-final saw Caol Primary take on Rockfield Primary in what can only be described as the best game of the day with Rockfield edging out Caol 4-3 in a thrilling contest. Rockfield's winning goal was scored with only five seconds left of normal time to book their place in the final. The second semi-final saw Section B winners Inverness Gaelic School take on Tomnacross Primary in what was a closely contested game, with Inverness Gaelic eventually prevailing 4-2 to reach the final.

The final between Rockfield and Inverness Gaelic School started at a frantic pace with play raging from end to end, a credit to both schools. Rockfield however, driven on by the outstanding Arthur Handley proving too much for the talented young Inverness team, with the blues running out deserved 7-2 winners, to win the P7 & Under National First Shinty Championships for 2025.



The P5 & Under competition took place at Lochaber High School and the large crowd, filled with plenty travelling parents and family members was entertained with an afternoon of fantastic shinty.

Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort Rìgh (BSGP) and Aberdour Primary qualified from the competitive Group A pooling, the standout game between themselves saw both schools chasing the top spot in the group with a 2-2 draw and nothing between the sides goal difference had to come in to play to determine the top spot.

The strong St Columbus team came out firmly on top of group B only losing only one out of their six group games. The runners up were left until the last Group B game of the day with Bun-sgoil Ghaidhlig Loch Aber (BSGLA) needing to beat St Columbus to make it through to the semi-finals. Some fantastic shinty from both sets of young players and BSGLA playing their best of the day to secure the win they needed and gain a place in the Semis.

The first semi-final was between the two Gaelic primaries - BSGP and BSGLA. There was nothing between the sides, both defending well and showing some silky forward play as the game ended in a 2-2 draw. Extra time and golden goal were in place and both teams had chances to win it. The victory came to the local team, with a excellent strike across goal into the back of the net to take BSGLA into the P4/5 final.

The second semi-final started quickly with St Columbus getting a goal inside the first minute to make it 1-0, but Aberdour who had been fantastic all day didn't let that deter them and quickly brought it back to 1-1. Rueben Hilditch who had been running the Aberdour midfield then showed his class with high energy play, sprinting to every ball and not letting anything past him.

'Dour had the momentum and scored another to make it 2-1, St Columbus didn't stop battling though and showed some real grit and determination. Aberdour kept the pressure on however and scored another making it 3-1 and sealing their place in the final.

The final featured some impressive shinty from both BSGLA and Aberdour. Aberdour maintained their tournament momentum, with Murdo MacColl opening the scoring. BSGLA continued to battle and put Dour under pressure, with end-to-end shinty on display.

However, it was the 'Fifers' that continued to drive forward adding another 4 goals, from Flynn Wilson, Rueben Hilditch, Connor Cook and Murdo MacColl to seal victory and Aberdour Primary's first ever National Finals win. Congratulations to Aberdour, who showed great determination, teamwork and shinty!

Jack Ferguson of tournament sponsors Ferguson Transport and Shipping presented the trophy and medals to all the players.

Thanks to Lochaber High School, Shinty Ambassadors, Volunteer Referees, Nevis Centre and LHS staff for helping the whole day run smoothly.

Mossfield hosts Macaulay Sixes

27 teams make the journey to Oban for a great day of shinty

Sunday the 1st of June saw the Macaulay Sixes return to Oban's Mossfield Stadium. Twenty seven teams from across the country entered over three categories including: Development, P5 and Under and P6/7.

The development section had eight teams separated into two leagues where the top teams from each league progressed to the semi-finals. Rockfield Rovers and the Rockfield Rovers both progressed from League A, whilst Dunollie and Lundrava would progress from League B. Two closely contested semi-finals saw Rockfield Rovers edge out Dunollie and Lundrava beat Rockfield Rovers progress to the final. In the end the impressive Lundrava team came out on top winning the final to cap off a successful day for the Fort William based side who were unbeaten throughout. It was great to see so many youngsters putting in great determined performances throughout the day with numerous primary 1s playing their part for their teams.

The P5 and Under section was once more split into two leagues with 8 entries. League A required a playoff to decide who would top the group between St Columba's and Aberdour Whites. St Columba's won that game meaning they would play 2nd place in league B. Aberdour Blacks topped their section as Park finished in the runner up spot. In the first semi-final the two Aberdour sides faced off and despite a good fight from the Whites, the Blacks came out on top. The other semi-final saw St Columba's edge out Park Primary who are improving in every competition.

The final was another close affair between two sides who have met each other several times at this level always providing a close game and this would prove no different. In normal time nothing could separate both sides in what proved to be a nervous final meaning extra-time was required as neither team could break the deadlock. Two minutes each way was needed and with under a minute to play it was Aberdour who broke the deadlock and looked certain to win the tie. However, the young St Columba's team pushed on from the throw up and with the last hit of the ball a great strike found the back of the net to take the tie to penalties. In the end Aberdour won 3-2 on penalties in what was a great spectacle for the neutral.



The P6/7 section featured eleven teams. In league A Kyles came out on top going unbeaten, followed by Lovat who had made the long journey down from Kiltarlity. League B saw Rockfield topping their section with the Glasgow Gaels finishing in 2nd. The first semi final saw Kyles taking an early two goal lead against the Gaels. However, the Gaels showed great fight and managed to score two goals in the second half to take the game to extra time, where Kyles pushed on from that scare and scored two goals meaning the game finished 4-2.

The second semi-final between Lovat and Rockfield proved to be a competitive with the game remaining goalless until the second half when Lovat managed to break the deadlock. Rockfield pushed on and in the last minute found an equaliser once again meaning extra time was needed to separate the sides. After another four minutes the game stayed even, meaning once again penalties were required to decide who progressed to the final. In the end it was Lovat who progressed after three well struck penalties, whilst Rockfield would miss of theirs.

Kyles and Lovat competed in the final where an early strike from Cairn Crowe put Kyles ahead, continuing the early pressure and doubling their lead soon after through good work from Sorley Kerr. Kerr would go on to grab another soon after closing the Lovat keeper winning the ball back and finishing low into the net to have a three goal lead into half time. The second half was more balanced with Lovat pushing to get back into the game however it was Kerr who completed his hat-trick to round off an impressive display from the Tighnabruaich players.

The presentations took place and on top of the sides winning their competitions there was also player of the tournament awards handed out. Firstly, Kayla Heely from Rockfield was awarded the Girl of the Tournament for her impressive displays and gritty never give up style of play. Sorley Kerr was deservedly awarded the boys player of the competition, as his goals would prove to be the difference for Kyles on the day.

Sweet spot for Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort Rìgh as they win MacKay Cup

BSGP defeat Rockfield 3-1 at Bught Park

The MacKay Cup Final was be the first match to take place at the newly renovated Bught Park as the curtain raiser and the first of three Shinty Finals which were taking place over the course of the day. The final was contested between Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort Rìgh (BSGP) and Rockfield Primary School.

Both schools had come through the group stages of this competition having played, and beaten, schools from up and down the country and it was fantastic to be able to welcome all the players, coaches and strong crowd of supporters the newly re-opened Bught Park for the occasion. Prior to the start of the game teams were piped onto the pitch and introduced to Burton Morrison, Camanachd Association President.

The game, officiated by James Munro, would start frantically with Rockfield on the attack, some nice tackling by BSGP and a monster clearance put the ball up the other end of the park and within the second minute of the game BSGP had a powerful shot on target by Calum Graham saved by the Rockfield full back – however, it was the BSGP captain, Ceitidh MacNab who would be quickest to the rebound, sweeping the ball into the back of the net and putting her team 1-0 up.

The play ebbed and flowed with both teams enjoying some spells of possession. The Rockfield players would've been forgiven for feeling hard done by, with their forwards having some excellent passages of play (the link up between Archie Macintyre and Ollie Duffy was particularly impressive) however, some fantastic goalkeeping by the cool and calm Seonaidh Nicolson kept his team ahead.

It was fourteen minutes before the next goal came, a penalty to BSGP for a foul in the box which Alasdair Tindall smashed into the roof of the net leaving the Rockfield keeper with no chance, putting the Skye side 2-0 up.

The third goal came just minutes before half time, some BSGP pressure handled well by Rockfield's defence, however the clearance, which was drilled down the middle of the pitch, was picked up by the skilful Alasdair Tindall who once again hit a ferocious long range strike past everyone and right into the roof of the net. This meant the score going into half time was BSGP 3 Rockfield 0.

The second half saw positional changes for Rockfield with the ever powerful Arthur Handley going into full centre. Rockfield had the better of the possession for the first five minutes, creating some good chances and moving the ball around the forward line well, with Duffy once again looking sharp. It was on 42 minutes that their goal came, a long clearance from MacIntrye reached Handley in midfield who played the ball up to Duffy, who then cut across to Jack Cassells who played it back to Ollie Duffy, his impressive first touch taking the ball round Nicolson in the goals allowing Duffy to slip the ball into the back of the net claiming a goal back for Rockfield to open the game back up.



The game was on a knife edge going into the final stretch, Rockfield having perhaps more chances but some more outstanding saves from Seonaidh Nicolson keeping them out, meanwhile BSGP looked deadly on the break with Tindall, MacNab and Calum Graham all linking up well. Both teams were denied by the post in the second half, leaving coaches' nerves frayed. The final whistle came on 60 minutes with BSGP victorious after a what was a fantastic display from both sets of young players on the day.

Burton Morrison was on hand to conduct the presentations to both sets of players and coaches and was able to hand over the MacKay Cup to the BSGP Captain Ceitidh MacNab who rightfully celebrated intensely with her teammates.

It was great to see Irene Cameron there to present the Anne Cameron Player of the Match Quaid in memory of her mother which deservedly went to Rockfield's Ollie Duffy for 2025 for a fantastic shift on the pitch.

Thanks to both sets of players, coaches and parents for their support before during and after the event. To referee James Munro for officiating the game along with goal judges Jamie MacPherson and Bart Bukowski for keeping the game flowing.



Skye Shinty Academy lift Harper MacLeod CA Cup for 2025

Islanders beat Oban Youth 2-1 to lift cup

The Harper MacLeod CA Cup Final took place at The Eilan, Newtonmore. The final was the second game of the day, following on from the London Shield Final and there was a decent crowd in attendance to watch the youngsters in what was set to be a very close and competitive game. Oban Youth were back in the final for the second year in a row and they were joined by Skye Shinty Academy for the first time.

Both teams would be piped onto the field and introduced to Calum MacLeod from sponsors Harper MacLeod before the game got underway. James Munro was the man in charge in the middle supported by Graeme Irvine and Billy MacLeod who were goal judges.

Both teams started off strongly with some excellent hitting but it was Skye who struck first, an excellent shie on the nearside touchline was played expertly into the path of captain Hector Porteous who went on a driving run though the middle of the park and unleashed a rocket high into the back of the net putting the islanders 1-0 up six minutes in. Voted as the youth goal of the sason, this strike has so far amassed over 420,000 views online – not bad!

On twelve minutes it was Skye that struck again, some good work this time down the far side by Porteous meant he was able to play the ball across to the middle, a lovely first touch by Lila Schuman to control the ball, touching it inside, losing her defender, creating space and fired the ball into the back of the net, leaving the keeper with no chance. Oban did not let their heads drop and after some positional changes started to come into the game. The game ebbed and flowed for the next ten minutes with both teams playing some nice shinty and creating chances at both ends of the park.

Oban Youth, just as the sun began to come out, then took their chance to get a goal back. A lovely ball from the nearside across the pitch opened up the Skye defence, Ollie Carroll made a fantastic run to the back post and with his first touch slotted the ball past the keeper into the back bottom corner which meant the score going into half time was Oban Youth 1 – 2 Skye Shinty Academy.

The second half started with pressure from Oban Youth, some lovely play from the Oban youngsters meant the Skye defending had to be top notch. Josh Campbell was playing excellently for the Oban side taking control of the midfield for the first fifteen minutes of the second half and playing plenty of first class balls into the forward line. Skye's Ellis Crawford however wasn't letting anything past him, as he put in tackle after tackle to deny the Oban forwards.

The next ten minutes saw Skye come back into it with some great clearances into the forward line by Alasdair Tindall allowing Schuman to run onto the ball and masterfully hold it up. The game was back and forth with both teams having pressure and the adults on the sidelines being more nervous than the players heading into the final five.

Oban's Arthur Handley, who had had a fantastic game so far was pushed up for the final five minutes, his long ball right on top of the Skye keeper nearly pushed Oban level but a goal line clearance from the Skye defenders kept them in front.

It was only a few minutes after this when a long clearance from Skye found Reece MacLeod who played the ball down the line to Calum Graham, Graham beat his defender and cut the ball back to a waiting Frankie Moore who turned the keeper and scooped the ball into the back of the net.

James Munro brought the game to a close on the hour mark with both sets of players exhausted from their efforts. This final was close, competitive and skilful and credit goes to all players involved as well as their coaches for an entertaining spectacle.

Calum MacLeod from Harper MacLeod was on hand to conduct the presentations, handing out the medals to first of all Oban Youth as runners up and then to the Skye Shinty Academy players as the days winners. He then handed over the Harper MacLeod CA Cup to a delighted Skye Captain, Hector Porteous to round off the days proceedings.





Ardnamurchan hosts Donella Crawford

11 all girl teams compete at Strontian

The Donella Crawford sixes provides a platform for high school girls to come together and take part in shinty, while remembering Donella, who was a huge advocate of the girl's game. Ardnamurchan High School once again offered to host the event which saw eleven teams with close to a hundred players sign up to participate.

Teams played each other once in an eleven team round robin in short sharp games across three grass pitches. There were a number of very close games and the level of shinty was impressive across all teams.

In the group stage first placed Inverness Royal Academy played fourth place Glasgow Gaelic School in the first semi-final. Glenurquhart would take on Kingussie in the second semi-final after finishing second and third in the league stage respectively.

Two competitive semi-finals saw the IRA maintain their unbeaten record overcoming a young Glasgow side, the Inverness outfit running out 2-0 winners after ten minutes. Meanwhile it was a Lexi Farquhar backhand strike that gave Kingussie the victory in the other semi-final over what was an impressive Glenurquhart side.

The final showcased some fantastic shinty played by both teams. Given the poor weather conditions that had plagued the event all day, the tackling and hitting was particularly impressive.

Both goalkeepers were forced into making a number of impressive saves to make in regulation time and the game was still deadlocked as the final whistle went. Five additional minutes were to be played in extra-time and still the game ebbed and flowed from end to end.

It took something special to break the deadlock and that came a minute from the end from Inverness's Isla McNeil who sent a ferocious back hand strike from a wide position high into the back of the net, which would leave the Kingussie keeper with no chance and sealing victory for her school.

Simon Patterson, Acting Head Teacher for Ardnamurchan High School was on hand to conduct the presentations, giving the medals and the trophy to the winning Inverness Royal Academy Captain, Isla McNeil. Well done to everyone at the IRA for their victory.

The Camanachd Association would like to thank Ollie, Ruairidh, Freddie and Rosalyn for taking the time out their day to referee the event, to Alan Gray for being on hand for any First Aid throughout the day and to Colm O'Rua and Ardnamurchan High School for hosting yet again - everyone involved will already looking forward to next year's competition!



Kingussie take MacPherson Cup home

Six teams meet at Mossfield

On Thursday the 19th of June, secondary schools from all over Scotland gathered at Mossfield, Oban for the 2025 Macpherson Cup. Kingussie, Oban, Portree, Ardnamurchan, Lochgilhead and Glasgow Gaelic School were all in attendance.

All teams would play each other once, with the top two teams progressing to the final. Last year's winners Kingussie were looking to pick up were they left off, and they did just that, as they won all five games, scoring nineteen and conceding none in a very impressive group stage run making them our first finalist. With Kingussie dominating the group stage, it left second place completely in the balance.

Teams were desperate to pick up points with Portree and Oban looking most likely to pick up the second place spot. Nothing could separate them in their game, with it finishing 1-1 leaving both teams on five points. Portree advanced due to a +4 goal difference against Oban's +2, thus making it a Kingussie - Portree final. Portree were looking to cause an upset, with their group stage game ending 2-0 to Kingussie in a closely contested game.

However, the final couldn't have started any worse for Portree as they conceded to a great Toby Thain strike on 45 seconds giving Kings an early lead. Portree tried to come back applying some pressure on the Kingussie goal, but giving keeper Hayden Taylor-Ramsay little to do. The game was more or less put beyond them on the fifth minute mark as Josh Stewart doubled Kings' lead to make it 2-0 just before half-time.

Kingussie came out in the second half in their full flowing best, creating chance after chance and a quick fire double from hitman James Coyle gave Kingussie one hand on the trophy. Last minute goals from Joe Coyle and Toby Thain again saw the game finished a convincing 6-0 win to Kingussie, with Portree more than playing their part.

Captains on the day Hayden Taylor-Ramsay and Joe Coyle went up to collect the MacPherson Cup, giving Kingussie back to back wins in the competition. A massive thank you goes to Argyll and Bute Council for the excellent facilities, Stephen Campbell for refereeing and to Davie Hamilton and Alan Hill for doing the scores!



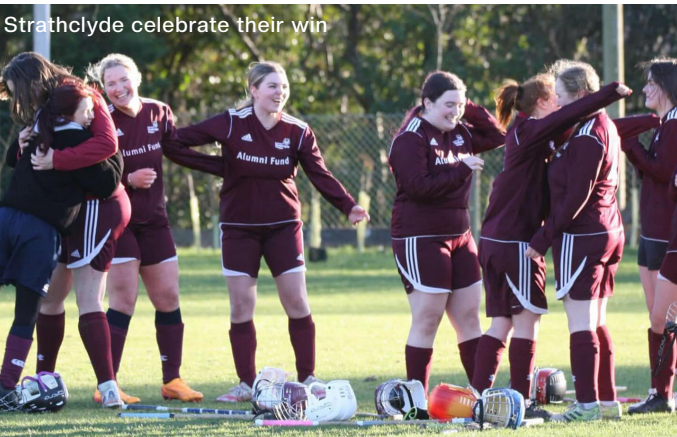
Littlejohn and McCue & Porter showcase the best of university shinty

Wednesday the 12th of March saw the return of the Littlejohn and McCue & Porter Tournaments as university sides from across Scotland met at St Andrews to battle it out for the respective cups. The day turned out to be a great success with a total of 11 teams and 140+ players competing across the men's and women's competitions on the day.

In the McCue and Porter, UHI topped the table in the group stage with seven points after winning three games and drawing one. It was then Strathclyde and Edinburgh who squeezed into joint second place after finishing on five points apiece. All three teams progressed straight into the semi-finals, UHI meeting fourth place and Edinburgh and Strathclyde going head-to-head once again. The game finished 0-0 in normal time. As the end of extra-time loomed, both teams were giving everything to score the winner but both defences were standing strong, sending it to a penalty decider, which Strathclyde edged it 3-2 to send them to the final.

Up next was group toppers UHI facing underdogs Glasgow, and the Highlanders wasted no time in asserting their dominance, as Abi Ross latched onto a ball at the back post to fire her side into a 1-0 lead on the second minute. Ross was playing with great freedom up top, and she punished Glasgow again on the seventh minute after sliding the ball past the Glasgow keeper doubling her and her team's tally. The game would finish 2-0 to UHI.

This set up an exciting final between two top teams, Strathclyde vs UHI. The whistle blew and we were underway, with both teams exchanging blows but as both defences were holding out, the chances were limited, and the first half came to an end. As the second half followed suit, and it looked to be a familiar story with the game petering out into extra-time. Fatigue was starting to creep in as chances were few and far between and after a short extra time we were heading for penalties again. Strathclyde showed their penalty class again running out 4-3 winners in a great final which could have gone either way, the game was one to remember for those in attendance.



In the Littlejohn, Strathclyde topped the group with an impressive display winning four and drawing one as they scored fifteen and conceded an impressive one en route to gaining nineteen points. Glasgow came a close second with eight points after winning four and losing one to table toppers Strathclyde. UHI finished the day with seven points and Edinburgh with five points to close out the group in third and fourth respectively.

Up first in the semi-finals was first placed Strathclyde taking on 3rd placed Edinburgh. Strath continued their dominate form as they ran out 4-0 winners. A brace apiece for Steven Thomson and Skye Mackintosh were too much for the capital side to deal with, as Strathclyde progressed to the finals. Their opposition would be decided by the last semi of the day, UHI v Glasgow. It was a competitive game throughout, with both forward lines moving the ball around nicely on what was now a tricky surface. Two late first half goals from UHI put them in a commanding position, with Archie MacRae and Dan MacDonald getting a goal apiece. It was MacRae who ultimately finished the game with a 17th minute backhand strike to set up the Littlejohn final, Strathclyde v UHI.

The stage was set, UHI v Strathclyde in the decider. The game was end to end, both teams creating chances at will. UHI were edging the tie but could not find a way past an inspired Strath keeper. The game did not let up after this, with both teams still running the defences riot looking for the opener. Strathclyde missing a few chances early in the second came back to haunt them as UHI captain Finlay "Stork" MacLennan gathered the ball just outside the box, his swivel and turn caught Strathclyde by surprise as he proceeded to fire his backhand shot past the keeper on the seventeenth minute to take the lead late in the game. Strathclyde tried to respond but UHI held out to win the Littlejohn Trophy for the second time in a row.

A massive thank you to Martin Cameron and Jamie Patterson for refereeing and a massive congratulations to both teams on their respective wins and to all the teams that attended for making it a day to remember for Student Shinty.



Schools Report

In a continued bid to promote shinty and make it more accessible to young people, the Camanachd Association has again partnered with the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) to train 90 teaching students to deliver the sport in primary and secondary schools.

The programme, named 'Shinty for Schools', aims to introduce children to Scotland's community sport. With the help of trained professionals, who are passionate about the sport, children will be able to learn new skills, values, and teamwork. Since 2023, over 260 teachers have received training.

Speaking on the partnership, Ronald Ross, National Development Manager of the Camanachd Association, said: "We are delighted to be partnering again with UHI to provide this exciting opportunity for trainee teachers to gain knowledge and skills to deliver shinty in schools across the whole of Scotland. It is important that we continue to promote and grow our great game and ensure that it has a bright future, which starts with getting young people involved." To grow our game we need to increase our workforce, and this unique partnership allows us to do just that.

This training course is comprised of both theoretical and practical components, to ensure that UHI student teachers have the confidence and understanding in delivering the programme. The course covers the both of the 'How to Coach' and 'What to Coach' techniques that are fundamental to skills development in the game of shinty, all of which will help the teachers to deliver effective and engaging sessions to their pupils. On completing the course, the students will all receive a newly designed coaching resource pack that will include drill cards and skill videos to support them in their delivery.

Graeme MacDiarmid, Camanachd Association's Youth Director said: "Moving forward the Camanachd Association would like to see 'Shinty for Schools' highlighted in school development plans and being recognised as a key part of a schools ethos to create opportunities that are available for the long term in the local community. The role regular physical activity has on the well-being of our children is a core part of our children's learning and Shinty for Schools can play a central role in sustaining regular physical activity by helping young people move into positive and sustained destinations beyond school – a key component of curriculum for excellence."

"The experiences and outcomes that shinty can complement also extend to health and well-being, the language of Gaelic and social studies. Our sport connects communities across Scotland, builds connection and a sense of belonging in our communities."



Teachers take part in training

Glen Urquhart High School and the Camanachd Association were pleased to announce the launch of the newest School of Shinty, further strengthening the sport's presence in one of its historic heartlands. This development sees Glen Urquhart High become the 14th School of Shinty across Scotland and cements a formal partnership with both Glenurquhart and Strathglass Shinty Clubs.

The School of Shinty initiative formally integrates the sport into day-to-day school life, offering pupils increased opportunities to engage with shinty through the curriculum, after-school clubs, and competitive fixtures. Supported by coaches from the local clubs and shinty ambassadors, pupils will receive structured training and access to mentorship, competitions, and a pathway into club shinty at Strathglass or Glenurquhart.

Allan MacLeod, Strathglass Shinty Club Vice President said: "Strathglass Shinty Club are delighted to support the School of Shinty in Glen Urquhart High School. As a club, we recognise the importance of giving everyone, at all ages, the opportunity to get involved in shinty—especially at the critical age of 13 to 16, where we are competing with many other activities available in schools. The majority of our players have been, or are, pupils at the High School and have proudly represented the school in shinty over the years. It is only right that we support this project. We are looking forward to working in partnership with Glenurquhart Shinty Club and the Camanachd Association to deliver this plan and help develop shinty in one of its native strongholds."

The partnership will foster deeper connections between both education and sport, ensuring that young people have the tools, support, and encouragement to engage with their local club and continue playing the game beyond the school environment.

Garry Mackintosh, Glenurquhart Shinty Club President said: "All at Glenurquhart Shinty Club are delighted to be part of the new school of shinty based at Glen Urquhart High School. We are looking forward to working closely with the school, Strathglass and the Association to ensure young people in our community have as many outlets as possible to take part in shinty."



Ruairidh Todd and Allie MacLeod are two examples of the talent the programme helps nurture

A map of every school with a shinty ambassador. There are currently 42 young ambassadors across 20 schools, 14 of which are formal schools of shinty. Young ambassadors host a variety of events in and out of schools; lunchtime clubs, after school clubs and even Events. Additionally, every ambassador is trained as a referee and completes their young leader awards with SportsScotland.



Skye and Inverness lift UHI Cup trophies

This is the fifth time the UHI Cup Event has been played since 2019, set up as the result of a partnership which has been formed between the CA and the University of the Highlands and Islands Sports Department. Since 2019, it has grown in popularity with 20 teams (200 primary aged players) involved in the event this year.

All current HNC sports students have been taken through their foundation coaching course, delivered to them by their local CA Development Officer and to follow on from this and allow the students to gain more knowledge about the game of shinty and see the game in action they then attended UHI Cup events over two days.

Twenty teams of primary school aged players from across the north have now come together twice, once for a provisional round robin to decide which squads would go on to compete for the UHI Cup on finals day and which would play for the UHI Salver. Each team was allocated a newly qualified UHI coach, their role was to get to know the players, take the group for warmups and cool downs and importantly work with and be mentored by the existing club/school coach or teacher.

All twenty teams came together during the start of May at Blairbeg Park, Drumnadrochit, for the finals day, and what a fantastic day of shinty it was. Both days we were blessed with fantastic weather and lots of peely wally coaches and participants went home sun kissed with eighteen degrees on not being bad by shinty's standards! The teams were split into two groups both of ten. Within this, each group was split in half to form four groups of five. Each group played each other once and the top two teams from each group then progressed to their respective semi-finals.

The Salver Final saw a very close and competitive game between Inverness and Hilton. With both sets of finalists feeding into Inverness Shinty Club, it was a keenly contested grudge match between both sets of players and coaches. It took until extra-time to find a winner with the full time score level at 1-1. Both teams pushed for a winner but it was the Inverness team that scored in the final minute to secure victory (and bragging rights) to crown them Salver winners for 2025.

The UHI Cup Final was a fantastic game of shinty with both sides showing some skilful play coupled with passing and movement that was well beyond their years. There didn't seem to be anything between the sides and it was three minutes into the second half before the deadlock was broken via a free hit for Skye, a lovely ball played up field and Alasdair Tindall made no mistakes firing the ball into the back of the net with a rocket of a shot. Lovat pressed back, but it was Skye who had the better of the last minutes, hanging on to the one goal lead and securing the UHI Cup for 2025.

It was great to have the Lindsay Brown from Graham MacGregor Joinery on hand to conduct the presentations for 2025. A huge thank you goes to Graham MacGregor Joinery who kindly agreed to sponsor this event.



UHI

**Far a bheil
ionnsachadh
a' ciallachadh
barrachd**

Tha UHI a'
tabhann raon
nas fharsainghe
de roghainnean
ionnsachaidh na
aon cholaiste no
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10/10 performance for Newtonmore in MacTavish Juvenile Cup Final

Dominant Newtonmore put 10 past Glenurquhart

As the traditional pre-cursor to the senior W M Donald MacTavish Cup Final, the Juvenile Final between the north's best U17 sides saw Newtonmore take on Glenurquhart at Bught Park Inverness. Glenurquhart had dispatched Beaulieu 7-1 in the semi-finals, whilst a very strong Newtonmore side scored 40 goals on route to the final, so the final promised to be a high scoring occasion.

Jamie MacPherson got the game started and it took Newtonmore just three minutes to open the scoring, James Coyle getting a great block in and pushing the ball wide where Archie Bloor was on hand to rifle a shot into the roof of the net.

Glen tried to force their way back into the game, Alfie MacLeod collecting the ball on the left flank and firing from thirty yards, his shot though was confidently dealt with by Cameron Mitchell in goals.

Five minutes later and Glenn MacDonald tried the same trick from the right flank, again though, Mitchell proved equal to it. MacLeod must've thought the third time would be the charm when he hit a delightful strike from the edge of the D across the goalkeeper, but somehow Mitchell got a palm to it and forced it behind for a corner. Newtonmore were ahead, but the Glen would continue to push them hard.

Newtonmore picked up where they left off at the start of the second half and it was James who became the third Newtonmore player to secure their brace, this time with a wicked strike after rising highest to control a corner 25 yards from goal.

Joe Coyle came close to doubling 'More's advantage, Jacob Bain picking up a ball in the centre and playing it into James, he drew the defender out and played it into the space left for his brother, who took a touch and half swung beyond Rory McWhirr, but also beyond the post.

Perhaps frustrated by that missed opportunity, six minutes later, Coyle would collect the ball fourty yards out, beat his man and drive down the right touchline before cutting inside and knocking the ball into the back of the net to make it 2-0.

A minute later and he was at it again, McWhirr made a good stop from a thirty yard James Coyle strike before the post denied Josh Stewart, but Joe was there to secure his brace. It then was a case of scorer turned provider as Joe picked the ball up on the left flank and flicked the ball infield, with James intelligently using his body to roll his man and fire in Newtonmore's fourth. 'More would add a fifth on the brink of half-time, Joe sliding a delightful ball into Bloor's path on the right and the wing-centre doing the rest.



As anyone with siblings knows, competition comes naturally, and when Joe spun his man after a great ball from Stewart, he would push it into the far corner to be the first one to complete his hat-trick there was a wry smile from him. Four minutes later, he added his fourth with Bain playing the ball into the centre of the goal, Joe flicking it back away from goal to create the angle before rifling in again. Four became five when he dribbled into the box and pushed past McWhirr, the shot coming off the post but fortuitously landing at his feet for an easy tap in.

James Coyle would provide the glitter on the cherry on the icing on the cake just three minutes from time as he completed his hat-trick with a great finish from the left and so it ended 10-0 to Newtonmore, who had lifted the MacTavish Juvenile Trophy for a second year in a row.

The honour of the Sandy MacKay Man of the Match went to Matthew Sloss, who put in yet another a top performance in his maiden year wearing blue and white.



Divine Nine for Newtonmore in Mowi London Shield Final

Newtonmore reclaim London Shield in rematch of 2024 final

Two familiar foes would cross camans again in the Mowi London Shield Final, as the Eilan hosted Glenurquhart and Newtonmore who played out a repeat of the MacTavish Juvenile Cup Final earlier that season.

The Badenoch side had set the pace all year at under-17 level, having scored an incredible 122 goals whilst conceding just three goals all season. With many of these players excelling at North 1 level, and with the addition of Matthew Sloss and Joe Coyle who were an integral part of a side which won the TH Camanachd Cup, the quality of player available meant they were rightly favourites going into the rematch of the 2024 final.

Torrential rain caused the match to be re-scheduled, but when the teams finally took to the field it was not long before Newtonmore took the lead against the holders, with Jacob Bain slipping a ball in field from the right flank allowing the mercurial Joe Coyle all the time in the world to pick his spot in the bottom right corner.

A minute later, there was another name on the scoresheet for 'More as Josh Fraser picked up on a wonderful slip pass from James Coyle, dribbled into the area and flicked it beyond the onrushing keeper. Ten minutes in and Newtonmore asserted their dominance with a third, a long ball from Logan McCormack eventually breaking to Joe Coyle who made no mistake getting his second of the match with a powerful low drive.

On the 15-minute mark, not to be outdone by his brother, James would add his name to the scoresheet, picking up the ball from Matthew Sloss 25 yards out in a central position and firing a low shot into the back of the net. It was five inside twenty minutes after a well worked free hit from the left flank allowed

Coyle brothers to combine to create a shooting opportunity for Joe, though his strike was well saved by Rory McWhirr, there was little the stopper could have done about the rebound which was volleyed home by Fraser from short distance. James would then make it six from distance, ending any faint hopes of a revival from the Glen, and, just to stay ahead in the brotherly battles, Joe would strike again before half time, pushing the ball into the back of the net after capitalising on the rebound from a Fraser strike.

Credit to Glenurquhart, 7-0 down and it's easy for tempers to flair or heads to drop, but they continued to battle hard and were soon rewarded, a long ball from Daniel Van Loon dropped to a Newtonmore back however, Rowan Brockie put in a strong block and the ball broke free on the right wing, her pass was inside to the better positioned David Fraser who fired a great strike across the keeper and into the bottom corner.

Newtonmore's eighth was probably the goal of the day, a lofted ball into James at full forward was flicked on first time into the left flank and the path of Joe, his touch took him

to the byline before a fantastic cutback found James Coyle who set his sights before drilling the ball into the back of the net.

James would then go on to bag his fourth of the afternoon with a strike from a similar distance which deceived the Glen keeper. The final goal of the game went the way of Kaleb Power who hammered home a half-volley after a Glen free hit to make the final score Glenurquhart 2-9 Newtonmore.

That meant that Newtonmore Captain Arran Ford would receive the Mowi London Shield from Camanachd Association Finance Director, Alister MacKinnon, making it a cup double for the young Badenoch side.

Four goal hero James Coyle was awarded the Douglas MacKintosh Memorial Man of the Match Award. Congratulations must go to Newtonmore who have proven that they are the best team at U17 level time and time again this campaign, with commiserations to Glenurquhart who put up a spirited fight after strong performances throughout the under-17 season.





Lovat youngsters win MacMaster Cup

Lovat defeat the holders Skye 2-0

The 2025 MacMaster Cup final took place as a precursor to the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Final on 20th September. The crowds that travelled to Bught Park saw Lovat u14 face Skye u14. The weather stayed dry on the most part and made for a perfect game of shinty. A large crowd formed to watch these two talented youth teams battle it out for the ultimate prize of u14 shinty.

Both teams were led out by their captains and lined up for the cup final formalities, where they were greeted by Youth Director Graeme MacDiarmid, CA Chieftain John MacKenzie and David MacMaster

Willie MacDonald blew the whistle and got the game underway, and the game was off to a flying start with some thrilling end to end shinty taking place with both teams looking threatening. The game began to settle, and skilful individual battles formed all over the park. Both teams managed to cancel each other out though with neither team managing to break the deadlock in the first half.

In the 43rd minute Lovat would strike through captain Archie Bell who lost his marker and delivered powerful effort from distance straight into the back of the net. This goal seemed to give the game a more competitive edge, with tackles flying in all over the pitch and both teams in search of the vital second goal. It was in the 53rd minute Dougal Strang put himself on the scoresheet, picking the ball up and turning his man, driving forward with it, skipping past another Skye defender and slotting it neatly in the bottom corner for one of the all-time great MacMaster Cup goals.

Skye aimed to fight their way back into the game and were looking dangerous but were shut out by a strong Lovat defence who put it all on the line to maintain their clean sheet. The game was a contest the whole way through with both teams looking dangerous right up until the end, but the game drew to a close at 2-0 as the Lovat team burst into jubilant celebrations.

Graeme MacDiarmid along with David MacMaster conducted the presentations, Lovat's Dougal Strang was presented the Player of the Match Award and whilst the MacMaster Cup was lifted by Lovat captain Archie Bell.



Glasgow Mid Argyll retain MacQuisten Cup on home soil

GMA hold on to defeat Oban Camanachd 2-1

Saturday the 21st of June saw Peterson Park in Glasgow host the 2025 MacQuisten Cup Final prior to the Glasgow Celtic Cup Final. Oban Camanachd and Glasgow Mid Argyll were competing for the title in a repeat of the 2024 final. The teams were piped out onto the field led by the officials on the day of referee Craig Scott and goal judges Jamie Paterson and Alison Howatt.

As the game got underway it was GMA who had the slight territorial advantage in the opening five minutes without creating a huge amount against a strong Camanachd defence who were led well throughout the game by Levi Armour.

It was Oban Camanachd who would take the lead however when a long ball up the pitch was taken in by Innes Mackay who took a touch to his left before firing an unstoppable shot into the roof of the net.

The next spell of the game was competed for in the middle area of the pitch with both sides creating half chances for themselves. The most notable of these chances was when Calum Robb hit the side netting of the goal on twenty seven minutes and soon afterwards Scott Campbell of Oban collected the ball short from a corner dribbled past two men before firing the ball just over the crossbar. However, these narrow misses meant that going into the break Oban Camanachd held a one goal advantage.

The second half began much the same as the first half, the majority of the play occurring in the middle of the park. Oban had the first real chance of the second half when Daniel Duffy struck past the right hand post on 55 minutes.

A minute later from the resulting goal hit GMA created a chance after Oban failed to clear their lines and Calum Robb hit a well struck shot from around twenty yards beating the keeper to his left hand side to take the teams back level.

GMA continued to push for the lead in what was their best spell of the game, as captain Ruairidh MacSween hit the base of the post on sixty five minutes.

The ten minute spell of pressure paid off for GMA though when on sixty nine minutes Scott Craig managed to get on the end of a rebound from the Oban Camanachd keeper giving the Glasgow side the lead, with just over ten left to play in the final.

After the goal it was Oban who pushed for the equaliser, with the GMA keeper making a smart save from an long range effort which came across his goal - in the the last few minutes Camanachd captain Scott Campbell pushed up the pitch and despite hitting two quality strikes both found the side netting meaning Mid Argyll would hold on for a well fought narrow victory.



With the victory confirmed, Angus MacInnes from the Glasgow Celtic Society alongside Graeme MacDiarmid from the CA would both present the medals and trophy, with Glasgow Mid Argyll captain Ruairidh MacSween given the chance to lift the cup for his side in what was a very even game which could have gone either way, with the players and supporters being able to celebrate amidst a backdrop of the televised senior Glasgow Celtic Society Cup final, the result of which provided some solace for the young Camanachd side.





North do the double in area rep matches

An Aird hosts a goal fest

An Aird, Fort William was the venue as the yearly under 14 & 17 area representative matches took place. The North 14s were coached by Scott MacLennan and Jonathan McCormack, with the squad being made up of players from eight club sides, whilst Will Cowie and Iain MacFarlane took charge of a side fielding players from seven teams from the South area

Les Kinvig got proceedings underway, and less than a minute in, Archie Bell latched onto a rebound with a shot that put the North 1-0 up, a goal which would set the tone for the rest of the match. Four minutes later, it was Archie again in front of goal, with some smooth stick work to take the ball away from the South defender, opening up space to blast a shot into the net to make it 2-0.

Jake Sandison was the next on the scoresheet, with three South defenders unable to prevent his shot which made it 3-0. On 28 minutes, a lovely long ball from inside the North's half fell to Oliver Rose who made no mistake in putting them four goals up.

The South however would not go down without a fight, and it was they who netted next through Ethan Kerr pouncing on a loose ball to hit a rocket of a strike to make it 4-1 on the cusp of half-time.

With play restarting, goals soon followed as Jaiden McCormack found himself in space, his low shot beating the goalie to make it 5-1. Kaleb Power was the next to score, taking advantage of a mistake from the South defender and placing his shot into the near post. Confidence was clearly high for Kaleb, as two minutes later he was the recipient of the ball from a corner, which he made no mistake of striking into the net to make it 7-1.

Dougal Strang showed why he was the MacMaster Final Player of the Match, finding himself in space and hitting a long-range effort into the net to make it eight. Kaleb Power completed his hat-trick on the stroke of an hour with a neat finish, however, the plaudits for this one had to go to Dougal Strang whose impressive dribbling allowed the ball to fall to his teammate.

The scoring was rounded off by Jaiden McCormack, with his movement sending the south defender's stick flying, allowing him to unleash a fantastic shot from distance into the roof of the net. Not long after, Les Kinvig called a halt to proceedings, with the final score ending at 10-1, as Rosemary MacPhee presented the trophy to the victorious North side.



Following on from the U14s game the same day, the North and South U17s took to the field at An Aird. The South side boasted a good spread, including players from Ardnamurchan, GMA, Kyles Athletic, Oban Camanachd, Bute, Inveraray, Uddingston, Aberdour & Col Glen. Despite containing six Newtonmore players (justifiably so for a side that had been utterly dominant at U17 level) there was still room for representation from six other clubs, namely: Skye, Kinlochshiel, Glenurquhart, Beaul, Fort William and Kingussie.

Iain Kennedy threw the ball high into the air to start the game and it wasn't long before the South fashioned the opening chance of the game, good work down the right flank by Ethan Kerr who would deliver a good square ball which was fired over the bar by the South forward from 22 yards.

It would be the North that would take the lead though, with Alfie MacLeod winning a long ball from Hayden Taylor-Ramsay's hit out and playing it down the line to James Coyle, Louie MacLellan ran onto Coyle's in-field pass and drove to the byline before cutting the ball slightly beyond the penalty spot where MacLeod was on hand to rifle home.

On the brink of half-time the North would double their lead, their second goal coming from Beaul's MacLellan who ran onto a shy that was smartly dummied by James Coyle, whilst there was some confusion in the stands as to whether the ball had actually gone in having hit the goalkeeper's spare stick and bouncing back out, however, there was no doubt on the pitch that the ball had crossed over the line into the bottom right hand corner.

In the second half, the heavens opened and so did the game and while the North may have thought they would be able to simply see the game out, the South had very different ideas. By the 70th minute, the South pressure paid dividends, Zac Menzies playing a ball into a dangerous area and neither the full-back nor the keeper could deal with it leaving an easy half swing finish for Ciaran Burns.

Two minutes later and the South had an incredible chance to level the game after Robert Lowrie, who had used his body smartly to get into the box, was then judged to have been fouled by the North defender. Lowrie got his own back though by cracking the penalty into the top right corner.

That's how the game finished and so extra-time beckoned! The teams exchanged a few half chances in the first part of extra-time but it wasn't until three minutes into the second half that the vital goal would be struck. Jay MacRae with a shy towards the byline, though MacLellan lost his footing he was able to do enough to lay the ball back to Jacob Bain who squared it to teammate Coyle who fired home from the edge of the D.

That is how the game finished and afterwards it was Newtonmore's Matthew Sloss who lifted the trophy high into the air, well done to both teams for a highly competitive fixture. Thanks must go to Tachartas who kindly live streamed both games live on YouTube to a healthy audience.

Caol Cup returns North after 7 goal thriller

North edge South by 4 goals to 3 to reclaim cup

Winterton Park, Inveraray hosted the 2025 Caol Cup. Andy Watt remained in charge of the South side who won the tie in 2024, whilst it was Willie MacDonald and Camanachd Cup winning coach Peter Ross took charge of the North.

The game would get off to a tense start with both team jostling to put their marker down on the game neither team were really creating clear cut chances. The first shot on target came from Coll MacKay who struck a low drive from twenty yards towards goalie Calum MacMillan's feet who made a good stop. This seemed to galvanize the South who would continue to create decent opportunities for the next ten minutes.

It was on sixteen minutes the deadlock was broken by the South when Cailean MacLeod did well to escape his marker around fifteen yards from goal, breaking through a couple challenges from covering defenders to finish off a nice individual goal by tucking the ball into the bottom corner.

From the throw up the South drove on again and this time a cross into the back post from Auryn Kerr found Ewan Donnan in space who made no mistake when firing the ball into the roof of the net giving Macmillan no chance.

The North side bounced back from this and started to create chances of their own with the North centre-line, marshalled by Seonaidh-Alex MacLeod, getting a foothold in the game. The pressure paid off when on 33 minutes Matthew Sloss, who had been kept quiet up to that point, created space for himself and rifled a low effort from 25 yards into the bottom left corner of the goal to get one back for the boys in blue.

The game went from end to end for the remainder of the half with the best opportunity falling to the South when they strung together a lovely move involving all the forwards which ended with Coll MacKay coming in at the back post onto a low pass at the edge of the D. His effort looked destined for the roof of the net but Calum MacMillan pulled off a tremendous save above his head to ensure the score remained at 2-1 going into the break.

The second half began in the same manner as the first with neither team really creating too many clear cut opportunities. The clearest of the chances again fell to the South when the ball broke to MacKay who put the ball over the bar from around 15 yards out.

The South's missed opportunities were punished when on 71 minutes the ball broke centrally to Xander Ross who hit a clean strike from around 15 yards into the roof of the net.

However, the game did not stay on level terms for long as on 73 minutes it was the South who took back their advantage when Cailean MacLeod found the bottom right corner from 18 yards with a strike across the goals giving MacMillan no chance.

The yo-yo style of the game was not finished there however, when on 84 minutes the North's pressure after going behind paid off when the ball dropped to Xander Ross at the edge of the D he made no mistake when firing low past Gordon Currie.

Again, from the throw up the North drove on and this time it was Logan Beaton who slammed the ball in from 20 yards across the goals and found the back of the net giving the North the lead in the game for the first time in the match.

The South pushed for an equaliser late on, but the North saw out the remainder of the game well leaving the South ruing their earlier missed chances and pressure.

The game was a good advert for shinty with strong performances from both sides. Louie MacFarlane was impressive throughout, while Auryn Kerr's play making was dangerous from half-forward and Cailean MacLeod caused issues throughout. The North had Seonaidh-Alex MacLeod who had a good battle with Marcus Planck, and Calum MacMillan who made some excellent saves throughout the game to keep the North in the fight.

Aithisg na Gàidhlig / Gaelic Report

Ged nach robh Fèill Iomain Cholmcille ann am bliadhna seo, bha am pròiseact Camanachd na h-Alba a' dol bho neart gu neart le iomadh tachartas a chuir gu mòr ri àite na Gàidhlig ann an spòrs nan Gàidheal.

Thòisich a' bhliadhna le Al Mac an t-Sealgair a' toirt seachad leasan na Gàidhlig do dh'ìnnbich air feadh na dùthcha air-loidhne. Chluich dà sguad Gàidhlig aig Farpais Jack Asher ann an Glaschu. An uairsin anns a' Ghearran airson Seachdain na Gàidhlig chuir Camanachd an Eilein air dòigh comataidh Gàidhlig ann an compàir-teachas le Iomain Cholmcille aig an aon àm a chuir iad air bhog suaicheantas ùr dà-chànanach.

Cuideachd, ruith Acadamaidh Bhraghad Albainn ann an Obar Pheallaidh Farpais nan Gàidheal glè shoirbheachail sa Ghearran agus 's e Àrd-sgoil Àird nam Murchan a thog an sgiath le còrr is leth-cheud an Iathair. Bha sguad leasachaidh sianaran a' strì aig Farpais Chill Rìmhinn fo stiùir Chonaill MhicDiarmaid sa Ghiblean.

An uairsin, bha ceithir farpaisean air leth soirbheachail ann an Cupa Iomain na h-Òige air feadh na h-Alba. Bha cha mhòr 350 sgoilearan bun-sgoil Gàidhlig an-sàs sna farpaisean am bliadhna seo agus 's e Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Bhaile Ghobhainn, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abair agus Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort Rìgh a thog na duaisean airson cluiche. 'S e Bun-sgoil Bhruach na Muilne (Inbhir Narainn), Bun-sgoil Ghleann Dail, Sgoil Stafainn agus Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abair a choisinn na Duaisean Gàidhlig.

Cuideachd, chaidh Cupa Camanachd Chalum Chille a chuir air chois airson iomain ann am Muile is Eilean Ì a bhrosnachadh agus chaidh sin a thoirt do sgioba Bhun-sgoil Bhun Easain 's iad a' farpais airson a' chiad uair ann an Àth Tharracaill.

Cha robh dearmad ga dhèanamh air an àrd-sgoil. Thug IC taic do thrèanadh aig Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, agus mar thoradh air sin, bha na buill ann airson a' chiad farpais nàiseanta do bhoireannaich aois-sgoile ann an Glaschu sa Chèitean. Cuideachd, le taic bho Choinnlean an Eilein, chuireadh air chois farpais ùr Cuach Dhonnchaidh Fhearghasdain airson farpais eadar àrd-sgoiltean Gàidhlig bhon cheann a deas is bhon cheann a tuath. 'S e sgioba taghte a' Phluic is Phort Rìgh a rinn a chùis air sguad à Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu ann an Reàraig agus bha Donnchadh na ghàidh a' toirt seachad na duaise agus òraid nach robh ro fhada! San Lùnasdal, chuidich Iomain Cholmcille le Fèill an Phobail ann am Beal Feirste a chur air dòigh agus Camanachd an Eilein 's sguad Taghte o Shruighlea is Baile Udain a' riochdachadh na h-Alba an aghaidh Aontroim.

Airson crìoch a chur air a' bhliadhna, thill am Mòd a Loch Abair a-rithist. Gu fortanach bha an tìde fabharach gu leòr airson an iomain a chluich air An Aird. Bhuannaich Bun-sgoil Luinn Dà Bhrà Cupa Mòd Ghlaschu ann am farpais sgoineil bun-sgoile. Bha geam air leth faisg eadar darna sgioba Loch Abair is an sgioba boireannaich ùr aig Cill Mhaillidh a bhuannaich Loch Abair le buillean-peanais airson Geall-dùbhlain LearnGaelic. 'S e Baile a' Chaolais a thog a' chiad chupa aca ann an iomadh bliadhna le geam fìor inntinneach an aghaidh Àird nam Murchan. Bha Baile a' Chaolais air chall an aghaidh Ghleann Garaidh ann an 1985. Chaidh Graeme MacDiarmid ainmeachadh mar Cheann-feadhna na Camanachd.

Thug e tlachd mhòr dhan a h-uile duine aig Iomain Cholmcille a bhith a' faicinn na h-uimhir de chluicheadairean le Gàidhlig a chluich do sgioba làn na h-Alba, agus eòlas o Iomain Cholmcille gan cuideachadh sa bhlàr an-aghaidh ar co-chàirdean Èireannach. Cuideachd thug e toileachas mòr dhuinn uile a bhith a' faicinn Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort Rìgh a' togail Cupa MhicAoidh (rud a thuit cuid nach tachradh idir) agus Flora Guidi, ceannard na bun-sgoil sin a' faighinn Duais Urras an Eilein o Chamanachd an Eilein airson Gàidhlig a bhrosnachadh tro iomain.

Although there were no Iomain Cholmcille Gaelic internationals in 2025, it was still a very busy year for the Camanachd na h-Alba project. Skye Camanachd introduced a new bilingual badge and a Gaelic committee. Ardnarmurchan High School won Farpais nan Gàidheal held at Breadalbane Academy in Aberfeldy as part of World Gaelic Week. Conall Macdiarmid led a development six-a-side team at the St Andrews Sixes, and there were also Gaelic teams at the Jack Asher Sixes.

There were four successful Cupa Iomain na h-Òige tournaments with lots of new winners of the trophies for shinty and Gaelic. A new Cupa Camanachd Chalum Chille was gifted to Bunessan School to promote shinty in Mull and Iona and IC supported a session in Ullapool for Lochbroom, Lewis and Harris youngsters.

The Portree/Plockton select defeated Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu in the inaugural Duncan Ferguson Quaich, held at Rearraig to promote secondary competition for Gaelic schools. (And Duncan was very happy to be there to present it – kindly reminding us all it wasn't a memorial trophy!) Iomain Cholmcille also helped facilitate Skye and the Stirling/Uddingston select's trips to play Antrim County as part of the West Belfast Festival in August.

Finally the Mòd Cup day in Lochaber was a great success, with Lundavra winning the Primary competition, whilst Lochaber edged out the new Kilmallie ladies team on penalties for the LearnGaelic trophy. Ballachulish finally won the Aviemore Trophy after 40 years from a defeat to Glengarry, vanquishing Ardnarmurchan in a great spectacle at An Aird.

Everyone was delighted to see so many Iomain Cholmcille Alba alumni line up for both men and women's teams in the full Scotland squads, as well as seeing Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort Rìgh lift the Mackay Cup (something some said would never happen) and Flora Guidi receive the Urras an Eilein trophy from Skye Camanachd for promoting Gaelic through shinty. Hopefully, the Iomain Cholmcille internationals will return strongly in 2026. Suas leis an iomain!



English Shinty Association Update

2025 saw ESA play the most matches since our founding in 2012. The year kicked off with the ESA, Cornwall and Durham shinty club all entering teams into the Jack Ashers' tournament, with ESA reaching the semi-finals, after finishing top in their group. We built upon this promising start by entering teams into both the Bullough and Chieftain's Cup, reaching the semi-finals in the former, losing out again to our opponents in 2024 Lochside Rovers, this time by a narrower margin, and securing two goals against the strong side. In the Chieftain's Cup, we displayed what was possibly our strongest team performance to date, with a confident 3-1 victory over Tayforth. Our ladies team played against Ardnarmurchan in the Challenge Cup, narrowly losing out on the chance to progress in what was a tight game that we will hope to build on.

With over 100 players under the ESA banner, our domestic league also involved great competition. The final league title ultimately rested on the Lowender Peran tournament hosted by Cornwall. London would narrowly defeat Cornwall in their tournament match, leaving the fate of the league to a penalty shootout between London and Oxford. London managed to hold their nerve and secure the trophy. This year each tournament included a Ladies game, with a 9 aside being played at Lowender marking strong growth.



If you ever fancy a trip down south, we would be absolutely delighted to host you!

Team of the Season

The shinty community have chosen their expanded Mowi Premiership, National, Regional, WCA Premier League, National & Regional Teams of the Season.

In order to narrow down the vast pool of talent, every Captain was asked to name their own team of the season which was not allowed to contain any players from their club. From that, the most popular names in each position, from each league, were then put to social media poll with victorious players making the team.

After just shy of 50,000 votes were cast, the Teams of the Season were confirmed to be:

MOWI PREMIERSHIP CAPTAINS' TEAM OF THE SEASON



MOWI NATIONAL DIVISION TEAM OF THE SEASON



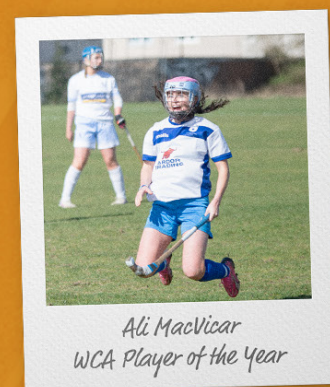
MOWI NORTH DIVISIONS TEAM OF THE SEASON



MOWI SOUTH DIVISIONS TEAM OF THE SEASON



MOWI WCA PREMIER LEAGUE TEAM OF THE SEASON



WCA MOWI REGIONAL LEAGUES TEAM OF THE SEASON



MOWI WCA NATIONAL LEAGUE TEAM OF THE SEASON





SHINTY MEMORIES SCOTLAND



CAMANACHD
ASSOCIATION
COMANN NA CAMANACHD

If you would like to know more about setting up, joining or helping with Shinty Memory Groups, make a donation to help with costs, or can help supply materials for the memory boxes, please contact shintymemories@gmail.com

New Patrons And Members Of Honour

The Camanachd Association announced the appointment of new Patrons and Members of Honour, recognising individuals whose exceptional commitment has shaped and strengthened shinty. The honours were confirmed at the Association's Annual General Meeting on Friday 29 November.

Patrons

Tom Smith was recognised for his incredible support in delivering Shinty's Story – Sgeul na Camanachd. His commitment has gone far beyond the call of duty, enriching a landmark project that will leave a lasting legacy for the sport.

Duncan Henderson was honoured for his long shinty journey that spans more than sixty years. A long playing career in Argyll-shire and a remarkable record of attending every Camanachd Cup Final with his wife for over six decades reflect his deep connection to and his unwavering support for the game.

Members of Honour

Dondie Robertson was recognised for his lifetime of dedication to shinty in the Fort William area. His steady involvement has supported generations of players and helped sustain the game in a proud shinty heartland.

John Henderson was honoured for exceptional service as an official where he set standards for his successors to follow. Remaining a staunch supporter of shinty, he has continued to make a valuable contribution through his work with the Macaulay Association.

Robert MacIntyre was appointed in recognition of his outstanding promotion of shinty on the global stage. His pride in his roots and his visibility in world sport serve as an inspiration to young players and bring great credit to the shinty community.

2026 Mowi Awards

The Mowi awards ceremony once again took place at the Highland Cinema in Fort William, as ever celebrating the fantastic dedication and hard work from players, coaches and volunteers alike. Many in attendance had made the short trip over from An Aird, where the most exciting Mowi Premiership title race in many a year had culminated in Kingussie lifting the title, and a fantastic night was had by all to cap off what was a very memorable 2025 season.

Mowi's four main values of Passion, Share, Community & Trust are celebrated throughout the evening, which this year saw 32 awards handed out, with new awards being handed out this year due to the expansion of the WCA league pyramid.

The Men's Player of the Year award went to **Thomas Borthwick**, who dominated the middle of the park as he captained Kingussie to a treble. The Borthwick's are no stranger to picking up awards and "Tuck" was a very deserving recipient of the award, with his many of his performances picking up plaudits as Kings once again dominated teams across the country throughout the season, led by Tuck in the centre line.



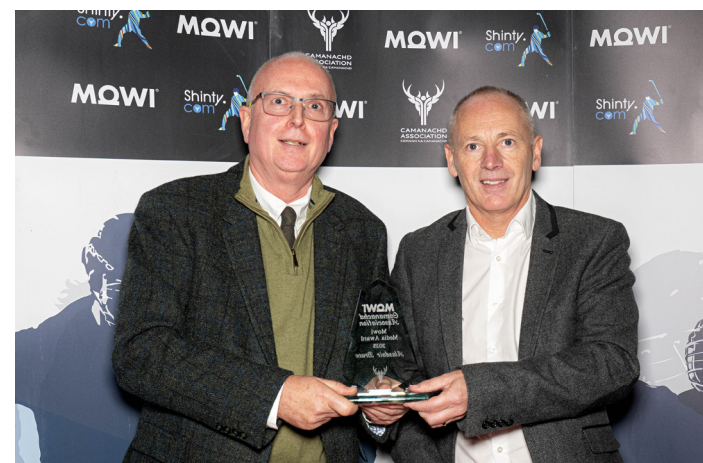
The WCA Premier Division Player of the Year went to **Ali MacVicar**, who was presented the award after a strong showing throughout the campaign - a clip of her hat-trick against Inverness was played for those in attendance which demonstrated the danger she poses to defenders. The honour rounded off a strong year for the Oban native, and the MacVicar family as a whole, with both Ali and brother Daniel taking to the pitch in the Mowi International series the month prior.



Fair Play Award - Single Team Club
Strachur Dunoon (Collected by Brandon Wilson)



Fair Play Award - Single Team Club
Strathglass (Collected by Ruaridh & Adam Todd)



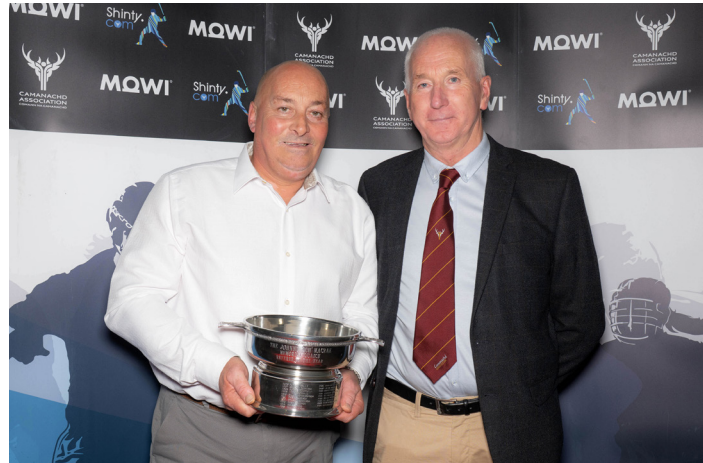
Media Award
Alasdair Bruce



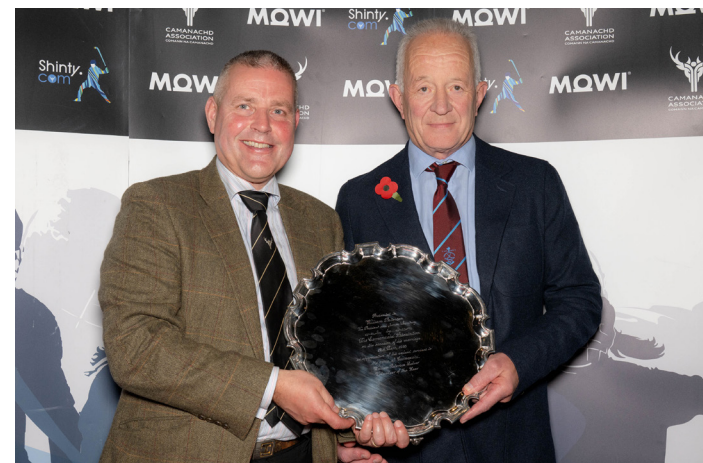
Social Responsibility Award
Russell Jones



Emerging Referee Award
Aly Paterson (Collected by Steven MacKenzie)



Referee of the Year Award
Iain Kennedy



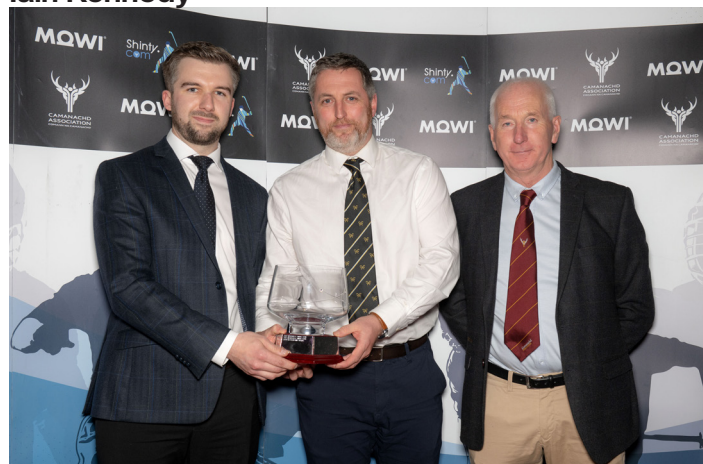
Volunteer of the Year
Roddie MacLennan (Strathglass)



Youth Coach of the Year
Lisa MacColl (Aberdour)



Donella Crawford Award for Schools & Youth
Helen MacLennan



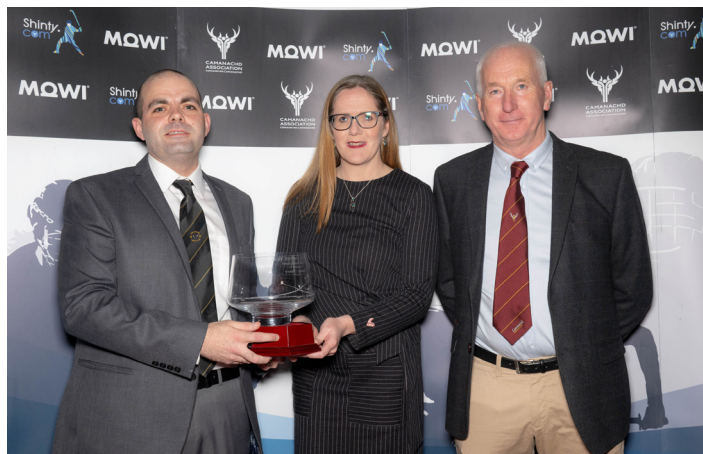
Gary Innes Award for Club of the Year
Skye Shinty Academy



WCA Service to Women's Shinty
Lyndsay Bradley



WCA Club Development Award
Dunadd



Gary Innes Award for School of the Year
Lundarva



Award for Innovation
English Shinty Association



WCA Under 14 Player of the Year
Maura MacKenzie (Kinlochshiel)



WCA North Division Team of the Year
Glenurquhart II (Collected by Judi Crichton)



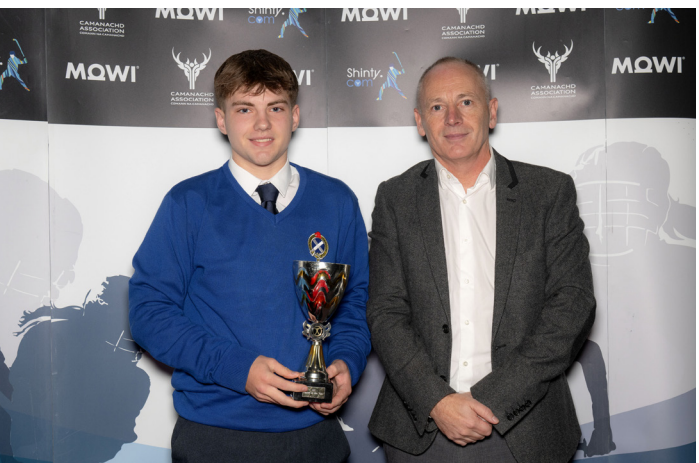
WCA North Division Player of the Year
Isla McNeil *(Collected by Scott McNeil)*



WCA South Division Team of the Year
Inveraray *(Collected by Paige Scott)*



Under 14 Player of the Year
Ethan Kerr *(Kyles Athletic)*



Under 17 Player of the Year
Matthew Sloss *(Newtonmore)*



WCA South Division Player of the Year
Siobhan Lane *(Tayforth)*



WCA Coach of the Year
Ally Munro *(Inveraray)*



North Area Leagues Player of the Year
Ali Taylor *(Caberfeidh)*



North Area Leagues Coach of the Year
Scott McNeil *(Fort William II)*



WCA National Division Team of the Year
Badenoch II *(Collected by Millie Lavin)*



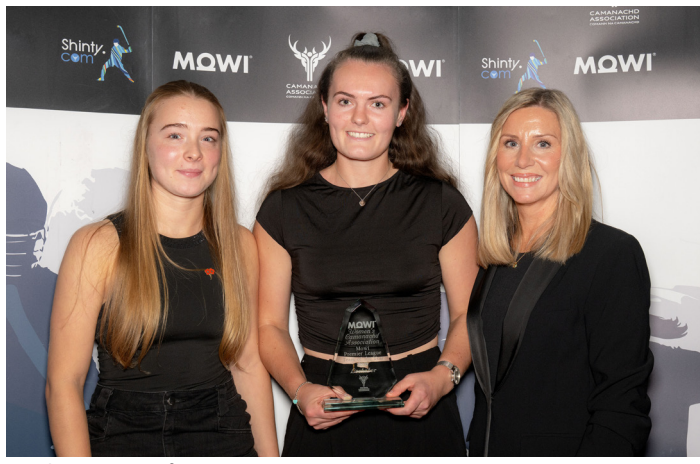
WCA National Division Player of the Year
Lexi Farquhar *(Collected by Millie Lavin)*



South Area Leagues Player of the Year
Kyle MacFarlane *(Oban Celtic)*



North Area Leagues Player of the Year
Cameron McCallum *(Oban Celtic)*



WCA Premier League Team of the Year
Lochaber *(Collected by Amy Disher & Kira MacDonald)*



Community Club of the Year:
Col Glen *(Collected by Neil Black)*



Skye Inagurate Donnie Martin Stand

Skye Camanachd this year marked a significant milestone with the completion of the Donnie Martin Stand at Pairc nan Laoch, a fitting tribute to one of the club's most dedicated figures in its long history.

Donnie Martin's name is woven into the fabric of Skye shinty. From his early playing days at Portree High School in the 1970s to his tenure as the Skye Camanachd Chieftain, he was at the heart of the club for over 50 years. His vision for a main stand to complement the clubhouse at Pairc nan Laoch is now a reality, thanks to the commitment of a dedicated fundraising team and the generosity of the wider shinty community.

The stand will not only provide supporters with a prime vantage point but will also stand as a lasting legacy to Donnie's passion and dedication to the game. Skye Camanachd's achievement is a testament to the strength of community spirit in shinty, and the club's determination to honour one of its finest.



Stirling Join Senior Leagues

Still only 3 years old, Stirling Camanachd continued its development path by entering a senior team in the Mowi South Division 2 in 2025. This was done more in hope than expectation as it was going to be a significant challenge to blend together a mix of those new to shinty, ex-hockey players with an ability to hit a ball but little knowledge of the hurly-burly of shinty, ex-players relying on experience rather than youth, both sexes, all ages. The result was extremely encouraging and has the team looking forward to the start of the 2026 season.

The team fulfilled all its fixtures and finished second bottom of the division (not finishing bottom was a target), on 7 points with 3 wins and a draw. Twenty-two goals scored in the league, with ex-Boleskine player John Fraser leading the line with 9 goals over all matches. John is team captain for 2026 and is also utilising his shinty knowledge to coach the senior team. A total of 35 players were used during the season, evidencing a huge level of interest in the game throughout the Forth Valley and beyond. The squad has continued astroturf training through the winter and is aiming to make further progress in season 2026, with first-time entry to this year's Sutherland and Bullough Cups.

The growing interest in shinty will also see the entry of Stirling women's team in WCA Mowi South Division, and the Under-14 team continues to gain experience. Stirling are also continuing to make progress at Under-12 level, with performances improving against the established sides like Glasgow Gaels and Aberdour.

Huge progress in only 3 years, thanks mainly to the leadership of Neil Sutherland who gathered a group of interested individuals in 2021 which officially formed the club in February 2022. Chairman of the club, Neil is involved at all levels, coaching, playing when required, representing and promoting the club to any and all agencies who might be able to help the club. Behind Neil is a committed group of volunteers who focus on their individual responsibilities to help maintain the club.

A notable achievement in 2025 was to take on the lease of the magnificent pitch and pavilion at The Haws, Cornton Road, Bridge of Allan. This was a major commitment by the club but shows its ambitions for the future. The pitch has received many compliments on quality of its playing surface and has been used by a number of other clubs.



Col-Glen Upset the Odds

In one of the most incredible feats in recent shinty history, Col-Glen became the first single team club to gain promotion to the Mowi Premiership after their second place finish. This feat was made even more impressive considering that the club was only re-founded in 2005, and first competed in the National Division in 2023. Having finished August on 18 points, Ronnie MacVicar's men had to wait nearly 2 months to find out if they would gain their place in shinty's top flight.

The fairytale was confirmed in October, as Bute were unable to get over the line against Inveraray, consigning the islanders to a 4th place finish, whereas Glasgow Mid Argyll were equally unable to win their games in hand, consequently occupying 3rd place in the final standings. And thus Ronnie MacVicar's 10th year in charge at the Clachan of Glendaruel, which started in South Division 2, would commence in the top flight of shinty.



Neily McNaughton led the line with 11 strikes in the league, whilst Scott MacVicar also chipped in with 7. Auryn Kerr represented Col-Glen on the international stage, building on an impressive season by representing Scotland u17's in Ireland, before joining his team mates Cally & Neilly McNaughton as well as Murray McClymont in the Mowi National team of the season.

November saw a boisterous dinner and award presentation take place in the village hall, as Scott MacVicar was presented with the player of the year award. The evening was made even more special when club chairman Neil Black arrived later on, under the guise of having been held up at work. As it turned out, much to the delight of the assembled club members he had been at the Highland Cinema in Fort William picking up the Mowi Community Club of the Year Award, a moment none of those in attendance are likely to forget.

Col-Glen's ambition can be seen as they haven't rested on their laurels, announcing shortly after the season was wrapped up that they would be looking to improve their changing facilities subject to fund raising. Whilst they went up as a single team club, they will go into the 2026 season with a reserve side. Joining forces with Strachur-Dunoon means the glen will be able to strengthen their position, as well as enlarging the player pathway in the Dunoon and Cowal area.



WANTED SHINTY REFEREES

Fair play starts with you!



Referees are vital to the continued development of shinty and refereeing is an excellent way to keep fit and stay involved in the great game. The Camanachd Association are looking to recruit more male and female referees, particularly for senior league and cup matches.

As a shinty referee you get:

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Matches can be allocated on a local basis

Matches allocated to fit with your availability

The knowledge that you are giving back to

Scotland's most historic sport

As a first step towards getting involved all you need to do is attend a **FREE** Starter Refereeing Course.

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Camans Crossed on Everest

By Eilidh Davies, BBC Scotland

Shinty has reached new heights after a 12-year-old player made it to Everest Base Camp with his caman - and even had time to do a little bit of training with the shinty stick.

Fergus Maclean, from Fort Augustus, completed the eight-day trek in Nepal with his mum, Liz.

It is thought to be the first time anyone has completed the 5,364m (17,598ft) climb to the foot of the world's tallest mountain with a caman.

Fergus, a Kilchuimen Academy pupil who also plays in goals for Glengarry U14s and U17s, did the challenge in memory of his grandparents who had dementia and to raise money for charity.

Fergus said: "It was very cold and the higher up we went the harder it was to breathe because of the altitude.

"I'm very happy to have done it. It was amazing to see all the big mountains and especially Everest.

"I am now really looking forward to eating some nice chocolate and getting a hot shower."

Fergus added: "It was a big achievement and something I'll never forget - but I'm not sure I will do it again."

He has raised several hundred pounds and plans to donate the money to Dementia UK as well as the Telford Centre Care Home in Fort Augustus, where his late granny was cared for. Fergus also hopes to give some of the cash to The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, a charity his grandmother supported.

His mum Liz Proudlock previously worked as a mountain guide assisting people to Everest Base Camp in the 1990s. She said she was incredibly proud of her son.

"There's been some bitterly cold mornings but Fergus embraced the challenge of the whole trekking experience," she said. "He just kept on going. He was so determined. We did it together as a team."

Ms Proudlock said it was important shinty also played a part in the challenge. She is a member of the Women's Camanachd Association (WCA) and the ball that Fergus used while practicing some keepy uppies was a WCA ball.

"Shinty is embedded in him. He loves it. He was so proud to leave his mark for Glengarry up there," she said.

Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Replica Wins Prestigious Craftsmanship Awards

The craftsmanship behind the Camanachd Cup replica has been recognised with top honours at the Goldsmiths' Craft & Design Council Awards in London. The team, from original trophy makers Hamilton & Inches, responsible for recreating one of shinty's most iconic trophies received gold and silver awards for excellence in silversmithing, polishing, and chasing.

Paul won the gold award and the Birmingham Assay Office Award for senior chasers, while Colin secured silver for senior polishers and David earned silver for senior silversmiths. Their achievements highlight the remarkable skill and dedication that went into crafting the replica, a project that took six months to complete.

Camanachd Association President, Burton Morrison, praised the achievement: "The likeness to the historic Camanachd Cup really is remarkable, and we are thrilled with the exceptional quality of the work. This new trophy not only honours the legacy of shinty but ensures that future generations of champions can lift a symbol worthy of the rich history it represents."

The recognition has provided an incredible opportunity to showcase this remarkable craftsmanship. The Camanachd Cup replica spent time on exhibition in London before being displayed at the Birmingham Assay Office.



Shinty's Story - Sgeul na Camanachd Ribbon Cut by First Minister



Past President and Chair of the Culture and Heritage Committee Steven MacKenzie reflects on the long road travelled to create Shinty's Story – Sgeul na Camanachd.



"Shinty's Story - Sgeul na Camanachd is a masterpiece that sets out the fabled story of the game of shinty." - John Swinney

Written By Steven MacKenzie

The 25th October was a historic occasion for shinty community with Scottish First Minister, John Swinney, joining the CA President, Burton Morrison, in opening Shinty's Story – Sgeul na Camanachd. Hopefully everyone reading this article will have visited, or is intending to visit, this interactive exhibition that aims to explain why shinty is so much more than a sport.

Most shinty supporters will have been vaguely aware of the exhibition through Yearbook articles, shinty.com updates and occasional press articles in the last couple of years. However, it has taken a truly Herculean effort to get the exhibition open with numerous individuals helping us along this journey. Our thanks to all who contributed and my profuse apologies to anyone who I've forgotten.

Much of the credit must go to Inverness Shinty Club who opened discussions with The Highland Council in 2015 to improve facilities and club access to the facility. This prompted the Association Board, led by then President, Jim Barr, to establish a Bught Park Users group, chaired by then Camanachd Association Development Manager, Graham Cormack. Attendees included amateur football representatives, the Inverness Wildcats American Football team, Inverness Shinty Club and a host of local councillors.

Discussions facilitated by Highland Council and then Camanachd Association Board Director, John "Slippy" Finlayson, led to a feasibility study funded by Highlands and Islands Enterprise. The report, finalised during the height of the COVID Pandemic in May 2021 and produced by consultants EKOS, presented a range of options including a full size all-weather shinty pitch, a smaller all-weather football pitch, developing events infrastructure, refurbishing, or extending the stand through to developing indoor facilities for tennis and athletics.

The timing of the report proved fortuitous as it formed the basis of the Bught Park improvements that were part of the tripartite Levelling-Up funding bid made by The Highland Council that included the Inverness Castle Project and The Northern Meeting Park. Approved in October 2021 it seemed that all our efforts had been successful but little did we realise that the hard work was only starting!

The key challenge facing the Association was that while the Levelling Up bid would create a space to tell the history of our sport the building itself would be owned and run by High Life Highland. There was nothing in the bid to design and refurbish it – this responsibility was entirely in the hands of the Camanachd Association.

The Culture and Heritage committee was expanded and tasked with designing and creating the content. The initial committee was:

- Dr Hugh Dan MacLennan, Shinty Author and Historian.
- Torquill MacLeod, Event Scotland and former Camanachd Association COO.
- Sheena MacDougall, Learning & Outreach Officer National Library of Scotland.
- Iain Caimbeul, Research Fellow University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI).
- Derek Keir, Camanachd Association CEO
- Aaron MacLeod, Camanachd Association Media Officer.
- Steven MacKenzie, Camanachd Association President

As the project progressed Torquill MacLeod, Iain Cambeul, Sheena MacDougall and Derek Keir gradually stood down from the committee and were replaced by:

- Jeya Calder – Inverness Shinty Club
- Shona MacLennan – former CEO of Bòrd na Gàidhlig
- Ruari Davidson – CEO Camanachd Association.

Timescales were extremely challenging with the Levelling Up bid requiring that the project be delivered by May 2025. The committee agreed that an application to National Lottery Heritage Fund was the most likely source of funding and work began immediately on the application. The funding process was extremely detailed with the committee discussing and debating the outline approach to be taken. A consensus emerged in some key areas:

- The space should not be a "museum" but a more of a modern "interactive experience"
- It should appeal to a wide range of experience from shinty aficionados to those engaging with the sport for the first time.
- It must include be inclusive in both geography and in gender.
- It should be bilingual in English and Gaelic.
- The exhibition must reach beyond its physical location to engage and educate across Scotland.

The format of the bid required that we work closely with High Life Highland and this delivered two additional benefits. The first, was that the Bught Park stand would be refurbished and upgraded. While there has been some criticism of the upgrade it needs to be borne in mind that the refurbishment was led by High Life Highland, the historic façade was to be retained and that the changing facilities were to be multi-use rather than solely a "shinty" facility.

The second benefit fulfilled a long-standing aim of the Board. The Camanachd Cup, or Camanachd Association Challenge Trophy, to give it its full name, had long been a concern having been polished and repaired so often that there was a concern it would collapse in on itself. Many options had been considered such as refurbishing a similar trophy or commissioning something entirely different to be presented to the winning team.

The Culture and Heritage Committee briefly considered displaying the trophy in the new space at the Bught Park but due to security and insurance considerations, along with the costs of a creating a bespoke cabinet to display the trophy quickly ruled this out. A proposal which was put forward by myself to house the trophy at Inverness Castle was unanimously adopted by the Culture and Heritage Committee. The Camanachd Association Board also adopted this proposal and were adamant that an exact silver replica was required to replace it.

Hamilton and Inches, renowned Edinburgh Jewellers who had produced the original trophy were delighted to take on the tricky challenge of an exact replica. We were also fortunate that sponsors Tulloch Homes offered generous financial support to ease the costs to the Association. The cup was unveiled at the 2024 Camanachd Cup Final in Fort William, Kingussie would emerge as the first team to hold aloft the new trophy just as they were the first to claim the original.

Planning continued all through 2022 and 2023 with Highlands and Islands Enterprise once again assisting our application by appointing consultants Slilk7 to assist with our National Lottery Heritage Fund application. In truth, no matter how skilled the Culture and Heritage committee were, we would have struggled to negotiate the labyrinthine application process, and the wisdom in accepting their advice became apparent when we were awarded £188,518 for planning the new exhibition, as well as a further £355,524 if our plans were successful and we moved to the delivery phase.

Once again, we were fortunate that design company Lateral North, headed by ex-Lovat player Tom Smith, were successful at the procurement stage. Tom's passion and desire to design something fitting for our sport shone through, while he and his team had the patience of saints as they stretched deadlines to accommodate the inevitable wranglings and discussions that are part and parcel of a project of this size.

Shinty's Story – Sgeul na Camanachd, had been agreed as exhibition's name, while inside visitors would be taken on a themed journey through 4 themes, Origins, Community, Competition and Future. The consultation exercise was contradictory in that at times the natural reticence of the shinty community to tell their stories was apparent yet we were still deluged with information and stories that would fill the exhibition many times over. In fact, the committee are convinced there are so many more stories worthy of telling and we look forward to uncovering these in the years to come. The immediate responsibility now lies with Camanachd Association staff Aaron Duncan-MacLeod and Iain Hunter (who was recruited as part of the project), along with the wider Camanachd Association Board, with the initial goal to deliver a wide reaching Activity Plan to engage people in shinty and heritage both within the exhibition and for underrepresented groups, thanks must go to Helen Avenell and Dan Cottam for their support in devising this ambitious document.

Finalising the content frayed everyone's nerves and all involved deserve great credit that we are all still on speaking terms. Suffice to say that we got there in the end with the exhibition opening a month later than originally planned. It was fitting that the First Minister of Scotland, John Swinney, opened our exhibition and that the Scots Makar, Peter MacKay, graced the opening with his composition "Iomain", signalling that our story was finally being recognised on the national stage.



Ruaridh Anderson takes aim during the Macaulay Cup final



Sunday to do list: Order new Stick



Scotland u17's pose at Croke Park



Lewis lads take a break at the Jack Asher sixes



Snap!



Inverness take on a Glasgow hurling side at half time of the Mowri International



The young Lovat players celebrate during their MacMaster Cup win at Bught Park



Col-Glen's goalkeeper is put through his paces ahead of a match against Kyles Athletic



Penri Jones has a swig from the MacDonald Cup



Bob McGregor doing what he does best



Lochaber celebrate the winning penalty that saw them through to the Mowri Valerie Fraser cup final



Bob MacIntyre dons an Oban Celtic strip at the WM Phoenix Open



A steam train passes An Aird as Ballachulish take on Ardnamurchan in the Mod Cup



Euan MacCormick and Lewis Tawse cross camans at Balgait



Joe Coyle wasted no time seeking out his pals after netting in the TH Camanachd Cup final



Tarzan enjoyed that one too!

THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Camanachd Association would like to thank all those who those contributed to the articles and photographs in the 2025 edition of the Shinty Yearbook.

The 2025 Shinty Yearbook was edited and designed by Jaime Robayna Gortazar and Aarron Duncan-MacLeod.

Special thanks are extended to Neil G Paterson who provided most of the images for the yearbook.

The bulk of the articles in the Yearbook were written by Aarron Duncan-MacLeod however, the Camanachd Association Staff and Alasdair Bruce are also thanked for their efforts in its completion.

We also extend our thanks for copy provided by Katie Drain, Will Cowie, Roddy Young, Alaina MacLennan, Karen Williamson, Burton Morrison, Steven MacKenzie, Eoghan Stewart, Eilidh Davies, Neil Sutherland and Scottish Student Sport.

As mentioned, Neil Paterson took the bulk of the photographs but thanks must also go to Paul Paterson, Kevin McGlynn, Paul Ross Stephen Lawson, John MacMillan, Stewart Inglis, Iain Cochrane, Phil Hughes, Andrew Sinclair, Charlene MacLeod, Graham Bell, Katie Drain, Donald Cameron, Iain Ferguson, UAV360, Reece Paterson, Peter Sandground, Craig Paton, Iain Ferguson, Sinclair Images & Fiona Young who also provided images for the yearbook.

The editor's gratitude must also be extended to Burton Morrison, Ruari Davidson, Will Cowie, Iain Hunter and Astie Cameron for their efforts in proofreading the yearbook and to everyone who made 2025 a year worth writing about.

SPORT FOR LIFE

Our vision is an active Scotland where everyone benefits from sport.

In an active Scotland we will all find ways to be physically active every day. Keeping moving at home and at work. Taking an active approach to getting around. Choosing to be active in our leisure time.

An active Scotland is one where people are encouraged to take part in sport at all levels, meeting fewer barriers and feeling more included.

sportforlife.org.uk

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Obituaries

David Campbell (Lochaber)

David Campbell was a defining figure in Lochaber’s formidable 1960s side, an outstanding attacking player renowned for courage, pace and natural finishing. Operating chiefly at wing forward, he combined skill with fearless directness, charging relentlessly into the D and unsettling any defence in his path. Slight in build yet immensely powerful, he was both a fierce competitor and a model sportsman. He continued into the 1970s before work and family life intervened, remaining a committed supporter of Lochaber and a lasting presence in the club’s proud playing history.

George Campbell (Inverness)

George was a truly colossal figure in the world of shinty – known as Big George he literally towered on and off the field. He was man who you would wish for playing on your side rather than against you. It was said that George invented sideburns before sideburns were even a thing. He’s written into the history of Inverness Shinty Club for his tremendous contribution and unwavering commitment, as well as being respected as a gentleman to us far and wide across many shinty clubs. We finish as we started – George Campbell a truly colossal figure.

David Duncan (Fort William, Inverness, Aberdeen University)

David “Drot” Duncan began his shinty journey with Fort William at under-12 level, progressing through the youth ranks to the reserves. A talented and tenacious forward, he combined sharp movement with exceptional stick skills and a low centre of gravity that made him formidable in attack. Fearless and fiercely competitive, he had a knack for unsettling defenders and seizing chances in front of goal. After moving north, he represented Inverness Shinty Club, later joining Aberdeen University, where he played a key role alongside fellow Fort William players, leaving a lasting mark wherever he featured.

Arthur Ferguson (Lovat)

All were saddened by the passing of Arthur Ferguson aged 93. Arthur had a great reputation as a shinty player for Lovat for whom he played for in the early 1950’s. Arthur was also a keen supporter and attended many games at Balgate. Arthur will be missed at our Shinty Memories meetings.

Hamish Keir (Caberfeidh)

Hamish represented Caberfeidh during the 1960s, progressing from the second team to become a regular in the first team until injury curtailed his playing days. He later returned to the club in the mid-1980s as a committed committee member and valued sponsor, serving with distinction as Club President from 1998 to 2006. He remained actively involved until his passing.

Shinty ran deep in his family, and his lifelong dedication to Caberfeidh leaves a lasting and respected legacy.

Peter Wood (Ballachulish & Fort William)

Peter served with distinction as second team manager in 2014 and 2015, guiding the side to a league title and a Sutherland Cup final, narrowly lost after extra time to Kyles Athletic. His commitment to developing young players left a lasting legacy, with many he coached still representing the club today.He is remembered with warmth and respect, and we remain proud that his son, Peter, continues to be part of the Fort William family.

Alasdair Lawrie (Oban Celtic)

The shinty community were saddened to learn of the passing of Alasdair Lawrie. Coming from a well known Oban family, his Grandfather Kenny being the groudsmen at Mossfield Park, and Uncle Angie a member of theCamanachd Cup winning Oban Celtic team in 1954. Alasdair won all the available School trophies (MacKay, MacPherson and MacBean Cups) with Rockfield and Oban High Schools.

On leaving school he went initially to Oban Lorn, then to Oban Celtic, where he was a top scorer, scoring over 80 goals in one season. He played in the 1972 Camanachd Cup final at Old Anniesland where Celtic were defeated by a legendary Newtonmore side. He also played for Glasgow Police, and Glasgow Mid Argyll, where his goal scoring continued with regularity. He will be fondly remembered as not the biggest player, but very determined, and with as hard and accurate a shot from a dead ball, with few equals in his day.

Calum MacAskill (Lovat)

A joiner to trade Callum excelled as a player for Lovat, he also gained international recognition in the Scotland v Ireland games. After his long playing career he also had a period managing the senior team.Callum was also a regular at the Club’s Shinty Memories meetings Away from shinty he was an honorary member Aigas Golf Course and a valued committee member of Highland Accordion and Fiddle Club.

Joey MacGillivray (Kingussie)

All of us at Kingussie Camanachd Club are sad to hear of the passing of Joey MacGillivray. Mrs MacGillivray was a teacher and then Head Teacher of Kingussie Primary School for many years and did more than anyone to encourage shinty to be played in our school. The old ‘tattie mashers’ were always available to be used at break times for those without sticks and Mrs MacGillivray was a huge help and encouragement to Ian Ross when he began coaching the Primary School in the early 1970’s.

Rory MacDonald (Lochaber)

Rory MacDonald served Lochaber Camanachd with unwavering dedication as Chieftain, club historian and loyal supporter. A direct link to the earliest days of organised shinty, his family played a pivotal role in the formation of the Camanachd Association in 1893. Rory safeguarded the club’s history with pride and authority, chronicling its story and upholding its traditions. His lifelong commitment ensured Lochaber’s heritage remained recognised and respected.

Peter Gow (Women’s Camanachd Association, Inverness, Caberfeidh & Lochaber)

Peter was the first sponsor of the Valerie Fraser cup from 2002 - 2017 and continued his support with sponsoring the Player of the Match from 2017 onwards, a remarkable 24 years, cup finals day won’t be the same. We would like to extend our deepest sympathies to his family and friends. Peter – that cheery smile, his enthusiasm, his kindness and ability to relate to everyone young and old. Peter carried out every possible role from player, coach, committee member to president at Inverness. Peter always felt lucky to be involved in shinty and football – but the luck was all of ours in knowing him. It’s hard to think of a new shinty season without the chance to see Peter at a game. But we’ll smile and be grateful that his memory will always live on. Peter Gow – one of the best known shinty legends to grace Inverness Shinty Club.

Ian ‘Tosh’ MacKintosh (Kilmallie)

Made of stern stuff, Tosh was a strong, dedicated player from our fabled 1950s -60s first team as well as being a true Highland gentleman at heart. Tosh kept up his love of shinty stories and craic all his days and was known locally as the proprietor of Corpach Hotel for many years. If the walls in such premises could talk, they sure would have a few tales to tell about the antics of Kilmallie folk over the years!

William Alexander MacKintosh (Strathglass)

The community of Strathglass were saddened to hear of the sudden passing of Willie who resided in the village of Tomich. Willie was a former player and committee member of the club which he served with distinction and is missed by family and friends from near and far.

James ‘Scottie’ MacLean (Caberfeidh)

Scottie devoted a lifetime to shinty in Strathpeffer. Beginning at Fodderty School, he went on to represent Caberfeidh at every level, spending many years with the second team before stepping up to the first team as both an out-field player and goalkeeper. His finest hour came as wing forward in the Caberfeidh side that defeated Kingussie 2–0 to win the MacGillivray Senior League Cup at the Bught Park in 1963.

Following his playing career, he served as trainer, second team manager and committed committee member, later coaching at Fodderty School. His family’s strong contribution to Caberfeidh remains part of his enduring legacy.

Alexander ‘Darkie’ MacRae (Kinlochshiel)

Former Kinlochshiel shinty player Alastair Macrae passed away peacefully on Saturday 12th July 2025, aged 94. When Kinlochshiel was formed in 1960 from the district teams of Kintail, Lochalsh and Glenshiel, Alastair, having played for the Glenshiel team, was among the first players to play for the new club in their defence. They had immediate success winning the Strathdearn Cup in 1961, the Sutherland Cup in 1962 and the Strathdearn Cup again in 1966.

Anne MacRae (Lovat)

Anne MacRae sadly passed away at the age of 84. Anne was the wife of the late Findlay who was a vice president of Lovat Shinty Club and served in the committee for over 60 years. Anne’s grandsons Stuart MacDonald along with Angus & Ashie Mearns still play for the club and her daughter Morven is a committee member. Anne was also a regular at our Shinty Memories meetings.

Fergus Ward, Jordan MacPhee and Lewis Knox (Fort William)

It is with profound sadness that we mark the passing of Fergus Ward, Lewis Knox and Jordan MacPhee, three young men taken far too soon. Fergus and Lewis were dedicated members of Fort William Shinty Club, progressing through the youth system to become valued members of the current under-17 squad.

Both carried strong family ties within the club. Four of the Knox brothers have represented Fort William over the years, with Alan serving as first team co-manager. Fergus’ grandfather, Peter Black, devoted more than three decades of service to the club, including many years as president. Their loss will be deeply felt across the shinty community.

Bobby Middleton (Bute & Kyles Athletic)

Bobby was born and raised on Bute, where he enjoyed a distinguished shinty career defined by strength, skill and leadership. Following the club’s reorganisation in the late 1960s, he mentored a young side to Sutherland Cup glory in 1972 and to the final again in 1973. He also spent two successful seasons with Kyles, winning the Camanachd Cup in 1969 and the Celtic Cup in 1970. Equally adept in defence or attack, he was a consummate team player.

A gifted singer and mouth organ player, he brought music and warmth wherever he went, and remained devoted to sheepdog trials throughout his life.

Jimmy Snodgrass (Caberfeidh & Ross-shire Camanachd Association)

James “Jimmy” Snodgrass fostered a lifelong commitment to shinty, inspired by family ties to Furnace and strengthened through decades of involvement across Ross-shire. A regular at Camanachd Cup Finals, he became a driving force for the game in schools after moving to Dingwall, leading shinty at Dingwall Academy while also supporting primary school development alongside his wife, Moira. Both were active within the Schools Camanachd Association.

Jimmy later served as President of the Ross-shire Camanachd Association and contributed as a committee member at Caberfeidh. Even in later years, he maintained a keen interest in the sport and followed its major occasions closely.

George Smith (Lovat)

It is with great sadness Lovat Shinty Club heard of the passing of George Smith aged 66. George was a long serving member of the committee. He was a true gentleman and always keen to play his part in the running of the Club, whether park maintenance, help on match days or fundraising to mention a few. His son Tom played for Lovat at both Junior & Senior levels. Tom was also instrumental in the creation of Shinty’s Story – Sgeul Camanachd at the Bught.

Joe Taylor (Kingussie)

It is with great sadness that the news reached the shinty communities on Tuesday 26th August 2026, that the Kingussie Camanachd Club Chieftain, Joe Taylor, had died peacefully at Raigmore Hospital. Joe had turned 92 years old in February and had been involved with the sport of Shinty all his life. He had served at other Clubs such as; Oban Camanachd, Skye and Lochaber.

In 2026, he equalled the record of 34 years for the number of years as Chieftain of Kingussie Camanachd Club. There was a turn-out of over 200 people for his funeral on the Dell on 11th September. His grandsons Fionn and Torrin currently turn out for Kingussie.

Robert (RJ) McLauchlan (Inveraray, Furnace, Oban Lorn and Strachur)

Robert was a great shinty player in Argyllshire, lately a goal judge and attended many Camanachd matches and presentations through invitation by the committee. Every Saturday he would follow his love of Shinty and travel Argyllshire every week to watch the sport. Two of his grandchildren, Scott & Gavin McLauchlan play for Caberfeidh, and his youngest grandson Jack Steadman has started playing with Stirling, following in RJ’s footsteps.



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