



**CAMANACHD
ASSOCIATION**
COMANN NA CAMANACHD

**THE GOVERNING
BODY FOR SHINTY**

2018 Annual Report

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1. FOREWORD

As my first year in office comes to an end I am pleased to be able to advise that our small team of staff have been very busy during the year and that the same is true of our volunteer Directors on the Board. I am sure that you would join with me in thanking them all for the contribution which they have made to the sport of shinty. We must not forget the large number of people who give freely of their time to serve on various sub committees. Our game would simply not function without their help.

This year, one such volunteer, Donald Skinner, retired as Chairman of the Behaviour in Sport Committee after many years of loyal service. The contribution made by Donald and others in similar posts simply cannot be measured and I would like all involved in our sports to be more aware and more appreciative of the work being carried out by our long list of volunteers. The position vacated by Donald has been filled by another stalwart of the game. John Mackenzie brings with him a vast knowledge of shinty and an aptitude for seeking out justice. Unfortunately, I regret to have to report that his services have been required far too often this year. Several unsavoury incidents have occurred hitherto unheard of in our sport. Whilst the system will deal with the offenders it would be preferable if Clubs would take on greater responsibilities and prevent these offences taking place in the first instance. I therefore request that Clubs cascade the message down through their members so that the good name of shinty is not impaired by a small number of individuals.

However, there is much to be pleased about this year. I took the opportunity to strengthen the Board even further with the co-option of Lyndsay Bradley and John (Slippy) Finlayson. Both bring different skills sets to the Management Team and I look forward to their election as Directors at the AGM. It will be evident to all who visit our web site that every Director has his/ her individual area of responsibility and whilst some portfolios are relatively recent I anticipate improvements being made in the coming months.

At the beginning of my term finance was a major concern. As highlighted by my predecessor Jim Barr in his 2017 Report to the AGM, central and local governments were cutting back on funding year on year. There were warnings from SportsScotland that their overall funding was going to be substantially reduced and that this could have an effect of the amount which they could award to the CA. However, due perhaps in no small measure to the CA fulfilling its obligations and meeting its targets we did not suffer any reduction in funding. This together with good management of expenditure and some generous sponsorship has enabled us to forecast a very small surplus for year ending 2018. Despite some of the best weather we have experienced in recent times we still had 53 postponed matches due to unplayable pitches. This is a substantial reduction on previous years but when you add in bereavements and requests for rearranged dates by clubs it certainly taxes the skills of our Competitions and Events Manager. It is to his credit that Astie has managed all these problems and had all matches were completed well within the playing season. Thanks also to our Competitions Director and his subcommittee for their part in making this happen. All Clubs are to be thanked for their greater understanding of the need for adjustment.

The future of shinty is very much dependant on the youngsters of today and it is an onerous task to have them engage in our sport when there are many other attractions. The work of the Development team is recorded later in this Report and the reader should note that there have been some very good initiatives. I see this as an area of extreme importance and whilst our team is small and enthusiastic there is a need for even more volunteers at Club level or School level in certain areas to assist with the rise in junior shinty.

After a period of six years on the Board Angus MacVicar is due to retire at this year's Annual General Meeting. Angus did not have a background in shinty but had vast experience on many other issues such as governance which was of great assistance to the Management Team when dealing with some difficult issues. Latterly Angus took on the challenging role of Officials Director. As we all know attracting referees into our sport has been a huge problem for many years but it is to Angus's credit that we have in place policies and pathways for the recruitment and training of Officials. We also have in place a number of very dedicated Referees and Goal judges who turn out most Saturdays or when requested. All have benefited in some way from these procedures put in place. They all are due our respect as without them there would be no matches. I'm sure Angus would have liked (as we do) to see more taking up the whistle. We wish Angus well and would hope that he continues to have close ties with the sport in the future.

The Competitions Report is attached and details all the trophy winners throughout the season. My thanks however go to all teams and their Committees for the work that they put into shinty regardless of the level or standard at which they compete. The game is there to be enjoyed by all. I was particularly pleased to attend the Ladies Cup Finals and witness the skills on display. The growth in the women's game has been rapid and I applaud the WCA for their achievements.

The international matches had to be rearranged this year at the request of our Irish friends. However, I think these enforced changes improved the events as it allowed us to host the Scotland Ladies match and the Senior match on the main pitch at the Bught Park on the same day for the first time. The under 21 Men travelled to Dublin. Congratulations to all involved.

To mark the 125 anniversary of the formation of the Camanachd Association we hope to publish a book giving an account of the last 25 years of the CA as seen through the eyes of former Presidents and Employees. It should be an interesting read! The author is none other than our own Steven Mackenzie. How he found time to have this book produced along with all the other things he is involved with is a credit to him.

I was delighted to be asked to attend a meeting in Kingussie chaired by John Mackenzie and hosted by Donnie Grant to witness the progress regarding our Memories programme. Great strides forward have taken place for this the worthiest of causes. I would appeal to others, not yet involved, to do so if they possibly can. Shinty is in the heart of all our communities and we rely on support freely given to all Clubs so if we can return that gratitude in some way by helping to cheer someone up for a few hours then we will go some way to repaying the debt.

I thank Dr Hugh Dan MacLennan for the vast amount of time he spends on shinty matters not only for his involvement in the Memories programme but for promoting the game in many ways with his historical lectures and posts all of which are of interest and help publicise the game to a wider audience

I finish by expressing gratitude to all who support shinty.

Keith Loades
President

2. FINANCE

The Camanachd Association's 2017 Annual Accounts report a £42,346 increase in turnover and a surplus for year of £32,084, increasing the Associations reserves to £ 108,046 at 31st December 2017. The Association's financial target for 2017 was to attract commercial sponsors, improve its business processes and make economies across the board in order to balance the books for 2017. The CA was fortunate to secure Tulloch Homes as title sponsor for the Camanachd Cup for a four-year term. Unfortunately, RBS did not continue with sponsorship of the MacTavish Cup however, Anderson, Shaw & Gilbert agreed to be Cup Final match day sponsor. In addition, membership of the Camanachd Association Business Club increased to five local businesses.

The 2017 Annual Accounts show Grant funding increased by £8892 from 2016. The Sportscotland grant remained similar and was the largest single contributor to shinty funding. However, local authority-based grants were again reduced due to the general squeeze on budgets. Sponsorship income increased in 2017 by £1721 largely attributable to the income from Tulloch Homes and increased membership of the Business Club. Marine Harvest, who agreed a further three-year sponsorship of shinty were again the principal sponsors of shinty in 2017, combined with additional support from Gilmour Sports and the BBC.

Total expenditure in 2017 was £553,967, a decrease of £41,688 on the previous year. This was as a result of improved business processes and careful management of expenditure. Key areas of expenditure remain: Competitions, Development, Wages and Office Expenses. Competition costs reduced by £38,237 in 2017 as a result of savings made across the programme. Membership numbers increased to 3354 in 2017, with a subsequent increase in associated income.

Due to the close monitoring of the Association's 2018 budget we expect to record a profit of around £10k which will go towards increasing our reserves. It is likely that we will break the VAT de minimis threshold of £7500 this year and most every year from now onwards. This places an extra burden of between £8k - £10k VAT payments on our finances year on year. Unless the de minimis threshold, which has been in place for many years, is revised upwards, we will need to accept that the business has outgrown the target organisations for this concession. The 2018 Annual Accounts will provide the appropriate detail and will be distributed to member Clubs when finalised in 2019.

3. COMPETITIONS

Newtonmore defeated Lovat by three goals to nil to retain the 2018 Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup. The final which was played at Mossfield Stadium, Oban was Newtonmore's 3rd consecutive victory and their 33rd in total. Despite two North teams contesting – shinty's BIG day out! - the final in Oban attracted a crowd in excess of 2,000 spectators, plus a large additional audience tuning in via live TV, radio and online broadcasts. Newtonmore forward Evan Menzies, who scored two goals, won the Albert Smith Medal for Man of the Match.

The 2018 Artemis Macaulay Cup Final in Oban proved to be an exciting game, with Kinlochshiel defeating Kyles Athletic by three goals to two in a thrilling match with the destiny of the trophy in doubt until the final whistle. Both these finals were broadcast live on BBC2 Scotland.

Newtonmore defeated Kinlochshiel by two goals to one to retain the Cottages.com MacTavish Cup at Bught Park, Inverness in a match which was broadcast live on BBC ALBA. The Glasgow Celtic Society Cup Final was also broadcast live on BBC ALBA and was won by Oban Camanachd who defeated Kyles Athletic by two goals to nil at Taynuilt.

The Liberty British Aluminium Balliemore Cup Final was held at An Aird, Fort William where Kilmallie triumphed over Glasgow Mid Argyll by three goals to two.

The Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup Final was won by Newtonmore, who defeated Kingussie by five goals to two at The Dell, Kingussie.

Lochside Rovers won the Bullough Cup defeating Kyles Athletic by five goals to two in an exciting encounter played at Strachur. Newtonmore defeated Fort William to win the Strathdearn Cup with a four goals to nil victory at the Bught Park, Inverness.

The Women's Cup Finals Day again took place at The Dell, Kingussie. Badenoch & Strathspey triumphed in the Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup defeating Skye by four goals to one whilst Glenurquhart won the Marine Harvest Challenge Cup by four goals to three against Inverness. The Finals Day was once again an excellent occasion, with a large crowd and some exciting shinty being played. The Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup was broadcast live on BBC ALBA for the first time.

The Marine Harvest Senior Men's Shinty/Hurling International between Scotland and Ireland at the Bught Park on 20th October was won by Scotland, their fifth consecutive Bught Park victory, to retain the Marine Harvest Quaich. The final score was Scotland 1 – 11 (14) and Ireland 1 – 9 (12). Scotland's Senior Women played their Shinty/Camogie challenge match against Dublin at the Bught Park prior to the Senior International. The final score was Scotland 4 – 1 (13) Dublin 0 – 2 (2). Scotland defeated their Irish counterparts to win the Marine Harvest Under 21 Shinty / Hurling International trophy in a match played on 3rd November at Abbotstown, the GAA's National Development Centre in Dublin. The score was Ireland 2 – 7 (13) Scotland 6 – 7 (25).

Participation in the senior leagues in 2018 dropped to 53 teams from 54 in 2017, as a result of Dunoon not entering a team. The Marine Harvest Premiership comprised ten teams, with eight teams in the Marine Harvest National Div, there were eight teams in Marine Harvest North Div 1 and eleven teams in Marine Harvest North Div 2, Marine Harvest South Div 1 had ten teams with six teams in Marine Harvest South Div 2.

In total there have been 655 senior fixtures scheduled in 2018, compared to 689 in 2017. 29 fixtures were unfulfilled due to team raising difficulties, down from 39 in 2017. 92 fixtures were postponed and rescheduled compared to 125 in 2017, of that 92, 53 were due to unplayable fields and 8 due to bereavement, a further 26 were rescheduled at the request of both clubs in compliance with the Byelaws. During 2018, 12 fixtures were reversed or transferred to an alternative venue to ensure the game took place on the scheduled date, this compares with 9 in the previous year, 14 fixtures were played midweek.

Newtonmore won The Marine Harvest Premiership by six points despite losing two of their first 4 league fixtures; this was their eighth league title in the last nine years. Both Skye and Glenurquhart, having finished in the bottom two positions of the Premiership, are relegated and both will play in the Marine Harvest National Division in 2019. Kilmallie won the Marine Harvest National Division, and they will be joined in the Premiership by Inveraray.

Newtonmore won Marine Harvest North Div 1 again but being a 2nd Team, they are not eligible to be promoted. Bute won Marine Harvest South Div 1 and will play in the Marine Harvest National Division in 2019. Lovat won Marine Harvest North Div 2 and are promoted to play in Marine Harvest North Div 1 in 2019 with Aberdeen University, who finished bottom of Marine Harvest North Div 1 replacing them. Strachur won Marine Harvest South Div 2 dropping only 2 points. Kilmory will replace them in Marine Harvest South Div 2. With only two fixtures remaining Kilmory advised that they were unable to complete their league programme and wished to withdraw from the league; however, they hope to regroup and play in Marine Harvest South Div 2 next season. All results involving Kilmory were removed from the league as one of their remaining fixtures could have affected the outcome of the title.

4. DEVELOPMENT

The Camanachd Association's Development Team has continued to developing strong relationships with the clubs within the designated regions. The Team are fully committed to working with and on behalf of members in the promotion and development of shinty across Scotland:

Graham Cormack	National Development Manager
Ronald Ross	Regional Development Manager
Euan McMurdo	Regional Development Officer - West
Paul MacArthur	Regional Development Officer - Central
Katie Drain	Regional Development Officer - North

Well organised clubs and associations will use good decision making, effective stewardship and planned approach to continuous development

Growth and membership retention - Engage the largest possible audience in shinty through focused interventions that support sustained participation and planned growth.

The Clubmark Accreditation Scheme, which was launched to all clubs in September 2016, has provided a clear framework for the Development Team and their Clubs to work through. The Scheme is reviewed and adjusted annually. Thirty four clubs have now engaged with the Scheme. Twenty two have completed the Foundation Level – Three have moved onto the Bronze Level with Fort William Shinty Club becoming the first to achieve the Silver and then Gold standard recently. All Clubs have found the process very beneficial in providing a clear understanding of where the Club stands and how it can develop an Action Plan to guide its progress. The Development Team continue to extended invitations to all Clubs who have not engaged yet to do so. Detailed information on the Club Mark Accreditation Scheme, including Case Studies of engaged Clubs, is available on the website <https://www.shinty.com/mens/membership-and-clubs/help-for-clubs> or from the Camanachd Association Development Team

Although many challenges remain, 2018 has continued to see positive progress across many aspects of the game. We have continued to develop and promote programmes across the country that deliver participation opportunities for youngsters in the club and school environment. Club youth membership is 1347, 1002 male 345 female in 2018. All clubs are reminded of their responsibility to ensure that all youth players are properly registered with the Association and accurate team lines are produced for every game. Adjusted membership categories will be presented to the AGM and these should assist with growth in the future.

School participation has again been strong in 2018. The number of Primary school children engaged with shinty is encouraging with good numbers of teams taking part in tournaments. Examples of this are the 2018 North Shinty World Cup (300 pupils/40 teams) and the 2018 MacKay Cup (380 pupils/24 schools), with a similar pattern across many other school-based tournaments. Encouraging these new players to progress into membership of their local club is a continued focus for 2019. New Team Lines for School events introduced in 2018 have helped to monitor this transfer. The above adjustments to memberships categories presented to the AGM should again assist with growth in the future

The introduction of the first 'School of Shinty' at Kingussie High School was the start of a project to increase the profile and participation in Secondary Schools. Talks have already been held with two further schools (1 North – 1 South)

Additional Secondary School S1 and S2 Festivals were held to help maintain the link with pupils when Primary children move up to Secondary school. This will be extended to S3/4 in the 2018/19 school year. This transition will not happen organically and requires a strong partnership between club(s), school, active schools and the association to ensure that this transition is maximised where possible. It is planned that the provision of Festivals and local gatherings will provide a positive experience in shinty and our objective is to work with partners to support the transition into clubs.

A Schools Camanachd Forum was held on the 2nd September in Fort William. Fourteen representatives of schools and clubs attended. Notes from the forum were collated and circulated for any additional comments by the end of September. The finalised notes and comments were provided to the Camanachd Association Youth Committee who considered them at their meeting on the 8th November.

Girl's shinty continues to develop in an encouraging way. The High School Girls league was run again and saw eight teams (80 girls) participate in the Finals Day at Lochaber High School. The Donella Crawford Tournament was also successfully run at Ardnamurchan High School with 12 teams taking part which is an increase of 3 from 2017.

The comprehensive programme of Youth league and cup competition provides the structure for youth involvement and we are pleased to report new teams at Uddingston U14 & U17, Strathglass U14 and returning teams at Beaully U17, Aberdour U17, Lovat U17, Inverness U17 & Caberfeidh U17. The more structured U-14 opportunities in the Central region in 2018 have also assisted stronger foundations.

Following a series of regional qualifiers across the country, the 2018 National First Shinty Festival was held in Fort William on 17/03/18. The original date on 03/03/18 was postponed due to severe weather warnings. The event attracts the best young players from across Scotland, with 26 teams and over 200 children taking part on the day.

The National Disability Festival continues to be one of the highlights in the youth calendar. The two-day Festival was held for the 9th year at the MacDonald Resort in Aviemore and attracts schools from across Scotland, with 78 children taking part. Sponsorship for this year's event again came from the MacPhee Family from Fort William and the Celtic Foundation.

The youth results and fixtures are published alongside the senior game and we continue to promote and market the youth game through the social media sites and the youth website. The ability to keep all information up-to-date is dependent on clubs submitting accurate information and scores as soon as possible following games.

74 young players attended the five-day U17 National Player Development Camp at Strathallan School in Perthshire from the 15th to 19th July. The players had a programme of intensive coaching with the focus on the physical, technical, tactical and psychological aspects of the game. We were extremely fortunate this year to have two prominent guest speakers from the world of sport: Kiaron Achara GB Basketball captain – Pam Paul Celtic FC Nutritionist. The Development Camp continues to provide a key stage in the development pathway for young players.

In conjunction with the Women's Camanachd Association, supported by Marine Harvest, the National Development Camp for girls also took place at Strathallan School in Perthshire over the weekend of 6th and 8th July. The Camp brought together 46 girls of all abilities, backgrounds and ages for two days of top level coaching and a 6's tournament. For the first time an Elite Group of 16 players was included and undertook a workshop on Tactics. As with the boy's Camp, this is an important element in the continued development of the women's game.

The 2018 Scottish U17 District Select Squad travelled to Ireland on the 22nd to 25th July for a successful three-day shinty/hurling tour that saw them win their games against County Meath and Dublin. These were very competitive games and were played with excellent sportsmanship. The Irish, as ever, were exceptional hosts.

In September, North and South Area Inter-district matches at Under 14 and Under 17 levels took place. The four North districts were Skye & Wester Ross, Lochaber, Inverness and Badenoch and they came together at Spean Bridge to contest the Ferguson Transport Shields. Sixteen clubs were represented and 72 players participated at each of these tournaments which were held on consecutive Sundays. The South U14 and U17 squads were selected following a 6-a-side competition in Oban. Close to 50 players were involved in each age group.

The U14 and U17 North v South representative matches were due to be played on Sunday 7th October at An-Aird, Fort William, but had to be postponed due to severe weather. Efforts to rearrange the games were hampered by un-played club games which were crucial to the North and South U14 leagues and the U17 National London Shield. Possibilities are still being considered. Our thanks go to The MacPhee family for supporting the U-14 match and to Highland Council for supporting the event.

Garry Innes made a donation to the Camanachd Association following the auction of one of his International tops that he wore at Runrig's final concerts in Stirling.

Garry's donation was topped up by an anonymous male donor from Skye.

The total donation was £4,321

The money will be used in the following ways;

- 1) An annual award to the Club that is developing Youth Shinty in a progressive way.
- 2) An annual award to the School that is developing Shinty in a progressive way.
- 3) A bank of equipment which can be loaned out to new groups to help them develop.

Club Culture – We will deliver a more vibrant, welcoming and character building environment that nurtures a values based development of the game.

The Camanachd Association developed a new Health & wellbeing policy in 2018 plus a number of templates and information leaflets for clubs. We also continue to develop Equality and Inclusion standards:

Camanachd Association – Health & Wellbeing Policy developed and agreed. Launch in October 2018.

Support information

- Sample – Club Health & Wellbeing Statement
- CA Anti-Drugs policy – Bye law 7
- Sample – Club Alcohol – Drugs Policy
- Sample – Club Smoke – Free Policy Statement
- Sample – Club Mental Health statement

- CA Anti-Bullying Policy
- Sample – Club Anti-Bullying Statement
- Scottish Sports Concussion Guidelines. The Camanachd Association are a core signatory Sport.

Fitness, Nutrition, Hydration and First Aid information is available to Clubs and Associations through Coach Education and the Clubmark Scheme.

Scottish Association of Mental Health – Mental Health Charter for Physical Activity & Sport. Accepted: 14th June 2018.

Commitment to promoting, developing and delivering the principle of the Charter.

UK Equality Standards in Sport – The Camanachd Association achieved the Foundation Level in 2018 and the Preliminary Level in 2015. We have now commenced on the Intermediate level with a target of completion by March 2021. Clubs and Schools will be asked throughout 2019 to provide some data to inform this process.

CA Equality & Inclusion Policy – This was reviewed and updated in March 2018 and is available on <https://www.shinty.com/mens/about-us/diversity-and-inclusion>

Equality Network - Scottish LGBT Sports Charter. Met with Scott Cuthbertson of Equality Network in Inverness on 05/10/18 and signed up to the Charter.

Reach – The CA has been a partner Governing Body in the UKCoaching Initiative to support Women in Sports Coaching since 2016

Collaboration - We will develop a broad range of partnerships to expand the reach of shinty

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

The Camanachd Association were delighted to successfully apply for funding from the Year of Young People National Lottery Fund which has allowed us to set up a Youth Ambassador Programme in 14 schools across the country. The programme commenced in November and we look forward to communicating its activities and developments.

Marine Harvest Development Fund

£5,000 has been kindly provided by our longest standing sponsors. In the first phase nine clubs received support of £350. A second phase is now underway.

Child Protection

It is a requirement of membership that all clubs have an identified and appropriately qualified Child Protection Officer (CPO's). The Camanachd Association continues to work closely with clubs, ensuring that all coaches working with children complete the PVG (Protection of Vulnerable Groups) disclosure application process as part of the ongoing governing body operating requirements. Update workshops were delivered for CPO's prior to the Camanachd Cup Final in Oban and the International in Inverness.

The Camanachd Association was one of the pilot Scottish Sports Governing Bodies working with Children 1st on new guidelines for future implementation. These new guidelines are now implemented and Glengarry and Kingussie are to be commended as the two pilot Shinty Clubs to take part in the programme.

5. COACHING, OFFICIATING and VOLUNTEERING – Enhance our coach, official and volunteer resources and develop them from good to great

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

We are proud to report that our United Kingdom Coaching Certificate (UKCC) Level 1 course successfully completed an external verification by the SQA in July 2018. This endorsement provides a guarantee that Camanachd Association coaching courses are at least on a par with those delivered by any other sport in the UK. The resource materials are highly commended by UKcoaching and the Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA). To continue our commitment to providing the right courses in the right way for our candidate coaches we have, considered feedback received from previous courses, and developed a new pilot UKCC Level 1 course which includes an on-line pre-course element that allows a reduction in the on-course time commitment required. This pilot course is now being promoted to coaches.

Seven Foundation Coaching courses have been held in 2018, up to the AGM, reaching 41 coaches across the country. Further courses are being confirmed and we should reach over 80 coaches in total by the end of the year which is our target figure. It is important to note that the vast majority of coaches qualified in 2018 have again taken up a coaching position with a local school or club and are directly contributing towards the further development of our sport.

Four UKCC Level 1 Courses have been delivered in 2018 so far to 25 candidates. Two further courses are planned and the target set for the year is 30 candidates.

The assistance of Member clubs in ensuring their team Coaches/Managers are appropriately skilled and qualified is crucial as part of the Club Accreditation Scheme. The Initiative promotes the opportunity for each club to meet with Camanachd Association staff to discuss their specific coaching needs and agree a tailored development plan.

A series of four Continuous Personal Development (CPD) workshops on Fitness for Shinty were promoted and delivered in partnership with the Woman's Camanachd Association during 2018. A range of additional development workshops provided by other partners, e.g. First Aid, Child Protection and Funding, were also promoted throughout the year. A Shinty First Aid course was delivered at Caberfeidh SC for ten people from six clubs in the region.

The CA series of compilation videos continues to be extended with new examples produced and uploaded to the Camanachd Coaching YouTube channel, these also included videos on rules of the game.

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

Finally, the ongoing development of the coaching database continues to improve communication with and between coaches, plus provides an important vehicle for the Association to target training opportunities at

relevant individuals. Reminders were sent to all coaches with qualifications due to lapse in 2018 and 20 have so far come forward for re-validation or up-grading.

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

A programme of workshops for Club committees are being developed. A survey has been circulated to gauge the preferences of clubs in each of the four Regions. The results will inform the workshops that will be delivered.

6. MATCH OFFICIALS

The recruitment, retention and development of match officials at senior level remains a critical issue and is identified as a priority concern for the sport in the Strategic Plans for Shinty. Although some progress has been made, the Association recognises that the situation remains highly fragile and requires the proactive support of all Member clubs and associations to help increase and develop the number of officials regularly active within the game. The Match Officials Pathway is available on the CA website <https://www.shinty.com/mens/officiating/opportunities>

A total of 39 referees were allocated to Senior games during 2018, up from 34 in 2017. Only 27 were available on a regular basis throughout the season, similar to 2017. 3 referees who had previously officiated in 2017 did not participate in 2018 due to injury, work or family commitments. Two new referees were introduced at senior level during 2018. 29 referees officiated in at least 10 senior matches in 2018 compared to 23 in 2017. 6 refereed on only one occasions this season compared with 2 in 2017. The grading of referees in 2018 was as follows: 11 Grade One, 14 Grade Two and 14 Grade Three.

The Youth/University/WCA Referee course, which was introduced by the Development Team in 2016 to encourage people to become involved in refereeing continues to be successful engaging participants. 31 people have completed the course so far in 2018 to add to the 63 from 2017 and the 58 from 2016. Bye Law 4.2.1, which was passed at the 2016 AGM, continues to assist in encouraging participation in this course. A key focus in the new strategic plan for shinty is progression and this is something we aim to encourage for all new officials starting their journey as a referee or goal judge. 2 officials progressed from Youth games to senior games this year and 4 others are considering completing the Senior Foundation Course for 2019.

Four Area Workshops for Match Officials & Assessors were delivered during 2018.

Sample video clips are available on the CA YouTube channels (Main & Coaching) to encourage understanding of the Rules and the decision-making challenges Referees encounter. These include: kicks, players on the ground, one handed play, free hits, pushing, fouls and dangerous play. Further clips are in production at this time for inclusion

7. PITCHES AND FACILITIES - Work in partnership to address the growing demand for shinty facilities

The Camanachd Association Facilities Strategy was updated in 2018 in partnership with sportscotland and has supported club applications for funding. The Strategy is available on

<https://www.shinty.com/mens/playing/grounds>

The improvements witnessed at Kinlochshiel (new pitch), Lovat (new clubhouse), Kyles (pitch drainage), Newtonmore (new second pitch) and Kingussie (new stand & team rooms) in 2018 are very encouraging and further developments are being pursued by Fort William (new junior pitch) and Glenorchy (new pitch). A Bught Park user group is also being considered to look at updating and developing the facilities.

8. MEDICAL

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

The Camanachd Association was one of the core Sport Governing Bodies in Scotland to sign up to the Scottish Government's Sport Concussion Guidelines 2015 and these were updated in 2018. Available on

<https://www.shinty.com/mens/playing/scottish-sports-concussion-guidelines>

Heartstart Camanachd, in association with Lucky2Bhere, are continuing the quest to see every shinty club in Scotland in possession of a Defibrillator and personnel trained in its use. There is a growing list of shinty clubs who have received defibrillators and associated Emergency Life Saving training: Aberdeen University – Beauly – Fort William (2) – Glenurquhart – Kingussie – Newtonmore – Lochaber – Lovat – Skye (2) – Strathglass – Kincaig – Kinlochshiel – Dunadd – Bute – Taynuilt - Carrbridge/Strathspey

We encourage all remaining clubs to consider the benefits to their club and community of having some defibrillator and trained personnel. We would also remind all clubs that have undergone training and have a defibrillator, to ensure they have a designated person responsible for Medical matters and that they are checking the equipment and requirements for new or update training on a regular basis and keeping the Camanachd Association and Lucky2Bhere up to date.

Please contact National Development Manager Graham Cormack graham.cormack@shinty.com 07894 533538 (M) for further information or to register interest.

9. SPONSORSHIP AND GRANT FUNDING

sportscotland, the Scottish Government's National Agency for Sport, remains the single largest funder of the Camanachd Association. In 2017 **sportscotland** invested £182,000 in the Camanachd Association, principally to cover key staff costs but also to provide some additional resource for agreed Development and Coaching activity.

Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd is the principal sponsor of shinty. A new three-year sponsorship agreement was reached with Marine Harvest in 2017, extending their relationship with shinty to more than 30 years and marking the sport's biggest ever sponsorship investment. We are extremely grateful for this support, the sport has benefitted enormously from Marine Harvest support and the Association continues to work hard to ensure Marine Harvest receive the required return on their investment.

The 2018 Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup took place in Oban concluding the 2nd of a four year sponsorship agreement from 2017 – 2020. This is a significant partnership and one that we hope to strengthen through the continued growth and popularity of the Camanachd Cup.

Cottages.com were the 2017 title sponsor of the MacTavish Cup, which has helped raise the profile of the competition. We are delighted to confirm cottages.com have agreed to continue with their sponsorship into a second year.

The Camanachd Association's in-kind partnership with Gilmour Sports continues to add great value for the sport. This is the fifth year of their appointment as Official Kit Supplier to the Camanachd Association, providing clothing and equipment to four National Shinty Squads and CA Development staff, plus a number of youth events and initiatives. We are grateful for their continued support and encourage all within the shinty community to consider the extensive range of shinty kit and equipment available at Gilmour Sports shops or online such as replica Scotland playing shirts, balls, helmets and strips.

Aberdein Considine concluded their longstanding title sponsorship of Sutherland Cup in 2017 and we would like to note our thanks to Aberdein Considine for such an extended period of sponsorship.

We are also grateful to the large number of companies that support the Association through membership of the Shinty Business Club throughout the year, namely: Highland Industrial Supplies (HIS), Russwood, Liberty British Aluminium, cottages.com, Tulloch Homes, Anderson Shaw and Gilbert and Marks and Spencer's. Support from Ferguson Transport & Shipping, Loch Ness Gifts and James Gallacher was also gratefully received. The Business Club offers companies a unique package of hospitality and promotional benefits across a range of key shinty events throughout the course of a year.

Additionally each Scotland squad player (Mens, Women, U21) secured an individual sponsor to support their participation in this year's Shinty/Hurling & Camogie Internationals.

In addition to the funding from sportscotland, the Camanachd Association received grant funding and sponsorship from a wide range of organisations, including: Inverness Common Good Fund, Highland Council, Argyll & Bute Council, Bid 4 Oban, Glasgow Celtic Foundation, Scottish Disability Sport, Travis Perkins, the

Scottish Government Year of Young People Fund and Gary Innes in 2018. This support goes a long way to supporting the game and allows us to provide a depth of opportunities across a range of age groups.

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

10. MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

The communications portfolio is an area we have progressed in 2018 consulting with a number of communication experts with a view to enhancing our work with extra resource to further profile shinty and all the great work taking place in and across our clubs. Positive media coverage of shinty is a key platform for promotion of the sport, reaching large audiences and engaging both current and new supporters.

BBC Scotland continued their excellent coverage of the sport with two televised broadcasts plus regular coverage on the radio and online. The televised matches were the Artemis Macaulay Cup Final and the Camanachd Cup Final. The Camanachd Cup Final also received live commentary on Radio nan Gàidheal. BBC ALBA televised seven matches live this season: Cottages.com MacTavish Cup Final, Scottish Sea Farms Celtic Society Cup Final, both Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Semi-finals, Marine Harvest Premiership derby match between Kingussie and Newtonmore, the Marine Harvest Valerie Fraser Cup and the Marine Harvest Shinty/Hurling International. The above is further enhanced by coverage on a number of important local radio stations:- Cullin FM, Oban FM and Moray Firth Radio.

Shinty also benefits from excellent national and local printed media reporting. We are pleased to have maintained regular profile for the sport in several national newspapers throughout the season, including the Press & Journal, WHFP, Highland News, Ross-Shire Journal, Inverness Courier, Strathspey and Badenoch and the North Star in addition to national coverage in the National, The Herald and The Scotsman. Many local papers also provide extensive coverage of the sport, a reflection of the important role shinty plays in the life of communities across Scotland. We gratefully acknowledge the effort and support of all journalists, photographers and editors who provide shinty coverage within their publications.

Finally, the association would like to make special note of the contribution of Journalists, photographers and Norman Strachans team who help raise the profile on Shinty through their work throughout the year. This work contributes significantly and raises our capacity to profile shinty in newspapers, on tv and on social media channels including YouTube. Norman Strachan and his team were able to film a number of matches throughout the year for the Association's YouTube channel. The channel has now received nearly 713,196 up from 573,793 views in 2017. The shinty community is extremely grateful to all those that help profile shinty and we thank them for their time and expertise.

The Camanachd Association's launched a new website (www.shinty.com) in October 2017 and this has been the principle communication tool for the Association which continues to reach thousands of members and supporters throughout the year providing a wide range of relevant information and resources. In addition we are keen to utilise our membership system to better understand our members and engage them for significant finals throughout the year.

The Association's social network channels also provide an important communication platform, with more than 7571 "likes" on Facebook and 4966 "followers" on Twitter. Both these channels continue to grow in popularity and the Association is making increasing use of each channel to keep members informed on the latest developments. With the help of a network of club volunteers, both of these channels also provide live goal updates from matches around the country every Saturday throughout the season.