

**The Camanachd Association (CA)  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018  
6.00pm, Fort William**

**Directors Present:**

Keith Loades	KL	President
Willie MacDonald	WM	Director (Youth)
Steven MacKenzie	SM	Director (Competitions)
Wendy Chamberlain	WC	Director (Portfolio TBC)
Colin Cameron	CC	Director (Portfolio TBC)
Angus MacVicar	AM	Director (Officials)
Lyndsey Bradley	LB	Director (Co Op)
John Finlayson	JF	Director (Co Op)

**Staff Present**

Derek Keir	DK	Chief Executive Officer
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**Apologies:**

Jock Turner	JT	Chieftain
Sarah Birrell	SB	<b>sportscotland</b> Partnership Manager
Daniel Palombo	DP	Director (Finance)

The board would like to formally note their condolences to the families of Donnie Mackenzie, Billy McLaughlin, Flora McLean, Colin Campbell and Hugh Barron.

## 1. Welcome

- 1.1 KL formally welcomed and congratulated CC and WC on their appointment as Directors at the AGM. KL also extended warm welcome to JF and LB as Co Opted Directors and thanked them for their willingness to support and be involved.
- 1.2 The Agenda was agreed
- 1.3 No conflicts were recorded
- 1.4 The minutes of the previous meeting were approved (Prop SM, Seconded WM)
  - MA Point 1 DK has sent draft role descriptions to board members who will refine in line with agreed roles by January 2018. **(DP, AM, SM, WM)**
  - MA Point 2 DK to request minutes from CA meeting with WCA **(DK)**

All present approved draft redacted minutes of November 2017 Board Meeting for publishing on website inclusive of two suggested adjustments.

## 2. Finance\*

### 2.1 Update Paper approved.

- 2.1.1 From the projections at the start of 2017 the CA are now projecting a far improved financial position.
- 2.1.2 The revised forecast figures show an overall 2017 outcome that has [REDACTED] against a budget figure of £995
- 2.1.3 Savings were made throughout the year and DK commended staff, board and all event committees who contributed. DK also expressed thanks to former president Jim Barr who played a significant role throughout the year.

- 2.1.4 [REDACTED] - DP will know the actual figure after the January 2018 VAT return has been calculated. **(DP)**

## **2.2 Sponsorship**

- 2.2.1 3 New sponsors have been confirmed for 2018 (Liberty British Aluminium, cottages.com and Gilmour Sports)  
2.2.2 Liberty and cottages have also joined the business club  
2.2.3 Sportscotland invoice for the return of the overpayment to be processed **(DK)**

## **2.3 2018 Budget approved**

- 2.3.1 Sponsorship has been firmed up for the Balliemore and MacTavish Cup  
2.3.2 Further discussions are planned with Aberdeen Considine **(DK)**  
2.3.3 Unknowns exist on sportscotland grant. CA have been advised to plan based on 2017 figures.  
2.3.4 Budget shows a projected [REDACTED]  
2.3.5 KL highlighted the need to secure grants (identified in red)

## **2.4 sportscotland investment grant**

- 2.4.1 sportscotland is currently in the process of prioritising resources against a backdrop of circa £10m budget shortfall. This is primarily due to a sizable reduction in National Lottery investment. 80% of SGB investment is National Lottery funds.  
2.4.2 Since 2010 sportscotland has increased the investment into SGBs by over £6m per year, with a particular focus on London 2012 and Glasgow 2014. This was resourced mostly from National Lottery funds. sportscotland are looking at reducing overall investment into SGBs, unfortunately this is unavoidable and they appreciate the work all partners are putting into planning accordingly.  
2.4.3 Whilst sportscotland had a positive budget outcome from Scottish Government there is still a significant downturn in National Lottery income that will need to be bridged.  
2.4.4 sportscotland will advise each SGB individually after our Board meeting on 28 February.

## **3 Competitions**

### **3.1 Update paper approved** SM presented the update paper

- 3.1.1 DK shared BBC Alba request to look at alternate dates for the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Semi Finals. SM confirmed that we can move one semi-final to the 30<sup>th</sup> July however there is no capacity to source a second Saturday. Board were unanimous that the second semi-final needs to remain in August.  
3.1.2 The competitions committee paper requested that the board consider the potential of a Sunday for Cup finals. This was knocked back based on the number of clubs who are currently against participation on a Sunday. The board did acknowledge that playing on a Sunday would relieve significant pressure on the fixture schedule and encouraged the competitions committee to continue exploring options for fixture solutions with clubs. Board concluded that the Camanachd Cup Final should remain on a Saturday

### **3.2 International**

- 3.2.1 There is some dubiety over the location of next year's International as there may be an Aussie Rules fixture at Croke Park in 2018.  
3.2.2 DK and KL have been in touch with Irish counterparts however a decision on location is not expected until mid to late February.

### **3.3 WCA**

- 3.3.1 A new liaison committee with the WCA is to be established **(DK)**  
3.3.2 DK to follow up with WCA to identify appropriate representative to attend CA meetings **(DK)**

### **3.4 Byelaw Approval**

#### **3.4.1 Byelaw 4.2 – Helmets: approved**

- 3.4.1.1 All youth clubs are to be encouraged to make provisions to comply with this Byelaw for the start of season 2018. However, in recognition of the difficulties which may be experienced in transitioning existing equipment to meet the required faceguard standard, the byelaw will not be rigorously applied until the 1/7/2018. (1<sup>st</sup> of July 2018)  
Board considered additional correspondence from [REDACTED] Inverness in relation to the impact this new byelaw may have however the board were unanimous that the priority for this byelaw is to ensure the

health and safety of youths participating and that this should not be compromised through the use of non-compliant helmets.

- Graham Cormack is researching the specifications and certificates of a shinty compliant helmet (ISI355?). O'neils have provided sample and we are looking into whether or not this is compliant with the European Council Directive 89/686/EEC "Personal Protective Equipment" Article 10 and what price it would cost.

**3.4.2 Byelaw 3.5: Failure to play scheduled matches – Approved** (For = KL, JF, WM, SM, LB Against= CC Abstain= AM&WC)

**Proposal for 3.5.2 Failure** to play a scheduled fixture in North or South Division 2, other than by reason of postponement as provided for in **3.2**, shall result in the match being declared won by the team not responsible for the failure and that team shall have two points added to its total league points. In addition, the offending team shall be penalised by the deduction of one point from its total league points.

**3.4.3 Clarification – Referee expenses – Approved**

AM provided update on wording

**3.4.4 Byelaw 8 - Appendix 1 - AUTOMATIC SANCTIONS (Deferred to Short Term Working Group to review a range of options to improve discipline)**

AM - Sin Bins have positively influenced other sports and shinty needs to explore options that will help improve the disciplinary record within the game that has resulted in over 500 yellow cards in one season. Sin Bins represents a significant change however we are in great need to make a change to place the onus on members to make good decisions. Currently we have a number of officials that have left the game due to the level of abuse in the game. An immediate sanction would as it has done in other sports heighten respect and reduce the number of bookable offences.

AM – We now have data and more clarity on how this could work but we have missed opportunity to share this with clubs. Understand if we want to defer for a year and explore further.

SM – Clubs still have a lot of questions that need answers

JF – Clarity on this type of change is essential

WC – Understanding new rules takes time

LB – See the benefits of this rule however administratively it may be a challenge

KL – This topic has heightened awareness of the disciplinary issues in our game

We haven't fully shared how this proposal would be implemented and our member clubs and officials need this information. We are not in a position to implement this for the current season however the proposal remains a valid option that should be considered alongside other options to improve discipline and a Short Term working group should be established to present proposal to board by July 2018. Consultations should begin at the next round of club and official workshops. The Short term working group should explore a range of options on discipline and that this should include members from clubs and officials **(AM)**

**3.4.5 Sports Betting Policy – Approved**

**4.1 Diversity and Inclusion Policy**

4.1.1 Equality is about treating everyone equally – Diversity represents treating everyone as individuals and this is why our policy has been changed to Diversity and Inclusion

4.1.2 WC to approve policy on or before the end of February **(WC)**

4.1.3 WC highlighted opportunity to sign up to a LGBT charter. WC to follow up with DK and Graham Cormack **(WC)**

**5.1 Officials Update**

5.1.1 2 officials have left whilst 2 new officials have been recruited for 2018/19

5.1.2 All clubs are encouraged to identify prospective officials to CA staff.

**5.2 Legal Matters and Procedures**

5.2.1 The committee Chairs for Behaviour in Sport and Disciplinary committees will meet to review current procedures to ensure they are fit for purpose for season 2018. Any recommended alterations to the CA policies and procedures will be recommended to Board **(AM)**

5.2.2 Board had a lengthy discussion on current processes and noted that the balance of probability used within a certain timescale after disciplinary matters arise is understandably different to beyond reasonable doubt used in a court case.

**6.1 Operational Plan (Feedback requested) and Strategy (Approved)**

6.1.1 All invited to send feedback to DK on operational plan on or before 15<sup>th</sup> February.

6.1.2 WC was delighted to see SMART objectives in the operational plan

6.1.3 KL expressed thanks to DK and staff for the work done on the Operational Plan.

**7.1 AOCB**

7.1.1 Douglas Macintosh Trophy – WM to advise on new trophy on or before the end of February **(WM)**

7.1.2 The Camanachd Association's 125th anniversary takes place in 2018. The precise date is October 10th when the Association was formed in Balavil House. Board have agreed to establish a 125-year subcommittee including **(KL, WC, SM and JF and any other members as appropriate)**