

# Newtonmore Camanachd Club

**Newsletter**

**September/October 2019**

**1] On the Field** It has been a case of highs and lows for both senior teams this season. The biggest high was of course the historic fourth in a row Camanachd Cup winning triumph v Oban in Fort William which was thoroughly deserved. This came on the back of a real run of injuries the effects of which have continued. The 1<sup>st</sup> team have now had 4 consecutive league defeats which has not happened in the last fifteen years, so here's hoping that is a temporary blip!

The second team, with a number of young players, have been surprisingly in contention for both North 1 and by reaching the final of the Strathdearn Cup. However poor discipline has directly affected results particularly the Strathdearn defeat and the top of the table clash with Glengarry when three players were suspended. [The 2<sup>nd</sup> team disciplinary record is the worst in the recent past, with more bookings and suspensions this season than in the three seasons from 2015 to 2017 combined].

The under 17s have done really well reaching the London Shield Final after beating a strong Oban Camanachd side in the semi final over two legs. They are already beaten finalists in the Mactavish junior cup.

Our Primary School got to all three finals in their competitions and despite not winning any of them there are some really talented players coming through and I would expect us to be contesting more finals in the coming years.

**2] MIDAS** Would anyone be willing to do the MIDAS course on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November and then be available from time to time to drive the second team minibus? There is no charge for attendance. We need to use the minibus as there are so many young players and the club has a long standing policy of not allowing young drivers with young passengers after an accident a number of years ago.

**3] Xmas hamper** We are looking for donations for the large and medium hampers. Call me on 673048 or text 07817 378729 to find out what is most needed. The draw is at the Xmas sale. Raffle tickets will be available in a week or so.

**4] Xmas sale and Player Awards** This is on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December from 1400. The player awards this year will be after the sale finishes between 1530 and 1600 [due to the move of the dinner dance to February]. Offers of help on the day would be much appreciated.

**5] Progress with the Dr Johnnie Field** You may have noticed that after spiking and fertilising the new field is looking good. There are about four very wet patches at different parts of it that we will need to find a solution for before matches are played on it. However the grass has matted very well and the pitch is ready for taking a lot of the training and practice games next year.

**6] Camanachd Association AGM** On Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November in Fort William as usual.

**7] Road safety** At long last we have had clarity from the Council about further action they will take. However they are now saying that the construction of the pavement at the Eilan side, which we are to do, requires separate permission and specification because it lies outside the 30mph limit. This will cause a further delay unfortunately.

**8] AGM** This will take place on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 1900 in the Balavil Hotel.

**9] Financial position** This will be discussed in more depth at the AGM. With the very high costs of the replacement grass cutting equipment; extra physiotherapy costs because of the large injury list; additional costs of spiking and fertilising two pitches; and the absence of a players fundraising event, our reserves have fallen below the clubs minimum level.

This means that there will need to be significant belt tightening next season as we need to build up our reserves to protect the clubs future as well as continue to make improvements to our pitches. We are intending reinstating running the bar at the Highland Games, so that is a start to raising more money.

**10] Volunteers needed** – After 7 fantastically successful years PJ is standing down as 1<sup>st</sup> team coach. This means there is an opportunity for someone with the shinty knowledge, who has the drive to succeed and can dedicate the time to this key role. Club history will be made if we retain the Camanachd Cup in 2020, so there's an extra incentive.

- Paddy is stepping back from regular grass cutting so we need another volunteer to join the rota with Cammy and Stuart. Training will be given in driving the tractor first!
- Maureen quite rightly wants someone else to take over coordinating the 1<sup>st</sup> team tea and baking rota. With the 2<sup>nd</sup> team teas a great success as well, someone willing to ensure stocks of sausage rolls, biscuits, soft drinks, teas and coffees would be a bonus! Home baking and teas, apart from adding hugely to the enjoyment of matches, brought in £3k+ in 2019.
- Gate rota: not doing it yourself, but ensuring we have cover at 1<sup>st</sup> team matches and a volunteer to do the collection at 2<sup>nd</sup> team matches. We took in over £10k through gate money this year so this is crucially important.
- Help for Sandra: nearly £2k has been raised through the 50/50 this year at 1<sup>st</sup> team matches and the Highland Games, but it would be great if Sandra could get a rest at some of the 1<sup>st</sup> team matches!
- Lottery draw: could you give up 1 hour from 8 to 9pm every 8<sup>th</sup> Saturday to do this. Its great fun as you get to meet locals as well as a lot of tourists and it's only 6/7 Saturdays a year. This makes between £4k & £6k a year for the club.
- Driving the 2<sup>nd</sup> team minibus from time to time as outlined in 2] above.

**11] An elegant weapon, graceful to wield – The making of the Caman** is the title of this years Dr Johnnie Cattanach Memorial lecture at the Highland Folk Museum at 1930 on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November. The speaker is Hugh Dan MacLellan.

**12] Internationals** Good luck to Rory Kennedy, Andy Mackintosh, Mike Russell & Steven Macdonald for the match in Ireland this weekend and also to Ian Richardson & Iain Robinson in the under 21s fixture.

**13] Ad boards** Tony Vastano is taking one for the Old Post Office cafe in Kincaig next year. Do you know of anyone else you could persuade to take one. This winter we will move all the boards into the equipment shed and renovate the backings.

**14] Clubhouse redevelopment** We are meeting with Sportscotland soon to understand what their priorities would be in order for us to be able to access their Sports Facilities Fund. Charles Girdler has kindly produced an exciting design, but we need a very generous donation or a legacy to make the full scheme affordable.