

Beauly Shinty Club



10 Year Plan for Facility Improvements 2025-2035

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Background:

Shinty (or *camanachd* in Scottish Gaelic) has roots stretching back into Celtic mythology and legend with Cú Chulainn and St Columba both renowned exponents of the game. Camanachd was the common ancestor of Scottish shinty and Irish hurling with the two sports diverging when the rules were formalised in the late 19th Century.



Shinty has almost certainly been played in the Beaully area for at least a millennium, but what is certain is that competitive games were being played on parish lines during the early and mid-19th Century. The club was constituted in 1892 and was one of the founding members of the Camanachd Association in 1893. It won the Camanachd Cup, the sport's premier competition, in 1897 (the 2nd time it was played), 1898 (the first club to retain the trophy) and 1913.

Various other honours have been gathered along the way but perhaps the most remarkable achievement of all is that the club has never gone into abeyance during the last 133 years, although there were hiatuses for the two World Wars and the COVID Pandemic. Games were played at various locations around the area such as Teawig, Teanluick, Dunballoch and Groam of Annat before the club settled at the Ferry Park. The Ferry Park was a popular venue but a lack of facilities and increased winter flooding saw Inverness District Council purchase Braeview Park to provide a new home for the club in the 1980s.

The club have carried out various improvements over the years such as building a clubhouse, erecting ball retention nets, installing spectator barriers and fencing the recreational area. We are proud to have been an integral part of the Beaully Community for well over a century and to bring social benefits estimated at over a £340,000 pounds per year.

Moreover, we would like to own the parts of Braeview Park used to delivery shinty so that we can further enhance the facilities both for Beaully Shinty Club and the local community.

Braeview to date:

Braeview has been home to the shinty club since 1986.



In the early 1980s a steering group was formed to investigate the provision of a shinty pitch and football pitch for the residents of Beauly. Inverness District Council rose to the challenge and purchased an area of land at Braeview Park in 1983 to add to an existing strip of land they owned that was located adjacent to Beauly Primary School and surplus to requirements.

The shinty pitch at Braeview Park opened in 1986 and has been home to Beauly Shinty Club ever since. Inverness District Council, and then The Highland Council, provided regular grass-cutting services but this was insufficient to maintain the playing surface required for playing shinty so the club have always carried out additional mowing. In 2019 the club took sole responsibility for maintaining the shinty areas in return for an annual payment from The Highland Council.

The improvements made to the Braeview Park facilities are listed below:

Improvement	Investment
Paterson Pavilion changing rooms	£180,000
Floodlights	£5,000
Ball retention nets	£25,000
Spectator barriers	£10,000
Grass-cutting equipment (pick-up, gang mowers, roller)	£10,000
Rabbit-proof fencing – Cnoc na Rath	£12,000
Security fencing – car park to school pedestrian gate	£38,000
TOTAL	£280,000

Social Benefit:

While considering the future for the shinty club the club have taken stock of where we are and where we want to go. We presently field teams at first team, second team, under-17; run a Shinty Academy with teams at under-14, under-12 and sections at P1-3; P4-5 and P6-7. Importantly we started a girls team in 2022 and the intention is that this will develop into a full ladies team in the next 3-5 years.

Sustaining this number of teams requires significant volunteer hours and fund-raising of about £60,000 per year. We are currently in the process of converting to a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) but at present our committee consists of five office-bearers and a general committee of another twelve members supplemented by numerous other volunteers who assist with specific tasks. In addition, the club are acutely aware of the role they play within the local community in terms of fitness, competition and wellbeing.

We organise or participate in a number of activities that are not for profit such as a Chaplaincy service, The Highland Cross Charity Duathlon, Shinty Memories Events, a Burns Night and a Pensioners Christmas Concert. We estimate that the Social Benefit provided by the club equates to over £340,000 annually (see Appendix 1 for a detailed breakdown).

This social benefit would be impossible were it not for the support of the local community. During COVID we were proud to make our facilities available to the Aird Medical Practice to run vaccination clinics and we already partner with Beauly Primary School, The Highland Cross and Beauly Gala Committee to co-ordinate events.



Community Partners:

The depth of support we enjoy is demonstrated by our current partners and sponsors:

- Beauly Community Council
- Beauly Primary School
- Tarradale Primary School
- Mulbuie Primary School
- Charleston Academy
- Beauly Gala Committee
- Beauly Community Trust
- Beauly Bowling Club
- The Highland Council
- High Life Highland
- Highland Cross Charity
- The Camanachd Association
- Lovat Estates
- Beauly Mens Shed
- Beauly Cares
- CV Components Ltd (match ball sponsor)
- The Priory Hotel (1st team sponsor)
- Logical Print & Document Solutions Ltd (1st team sponsor)
- Williamsons (2nd team sponsor)
- Organic Sea Harvest (training tops sponsor)
- Simpsons Garden Centre (u-17 sponsor)
- The Friary (u-14 sponsor)
- BR Plumbing (girls sponsor)
- Pitchside banner sponsors x 25
- Player sponsors x 32



Strategic goals:

The club have agreed the actions below, approximate costs, funding sources and estimated timescales:

Ref:	Action:	Cost	Source	Timescale
1.	SCIO – achieve charitable status.	£0	N/A	June 2025
2.	Paterson Pavilion – take ownership or extend the lease	£0 - £10,000	Existing funds / Fund-raising events / Crowdfunding	June 2025
3.	Apply for a Community Asset Transfer	£0 - £200,000 (depending on THC CAT discussions)	Existing funds / Fund-raising events / Crowdfunding / Funding applications	November 2025
4.	Ramp access – improve existing ramp access from Braeview Park for mobility restricted supporters	£5,000	Funding applications	November 2026
5.	Fence shinty area – extend the existing school fence to the Braeview side to completely enclose the shinty area.	£12,000	Funding applications	November 2027
6.	Hard standing area – improve access for mobility impaired shinty supporters by creating a hard-standing area pitchside	£10,000	Funding applications	November 2028
7.	Pitchside building – erect a pitchside building for hospitality use and meeting space.	£300,000	Funding applications	November 2034

Strategic goals (cont'd):

We believe these improvements would enhance Braeview Park for the wider Beaully community.



Erecting a new pitchside building would allow us to renovate The Paterson Pavilion changing facilities to better accommodate the increasing use of our facilities across all age groups. This would also be available to Beaully Primary School or any sports clubs that establish themselves in the village. A new building would also increase meeting space in the village as the Phipps Hall can be expensive and difficult to secure a booking.

Owning the pitch would provide security of tenure and give us confidence to pursue funding for further pitch investments. For example, a ramp and hard-standing area would improve access for mobility impaired supporters especially in spring and autumn when the ground is soft.

Fencing off the shinty area would allow us to control access, improving our facilities and opening up the possibility of bringing Cup Finals and representative games to Braeview Park. The fencing would also make the area more secure allowing the Primary School and the Gala to run events while controlling access to a secure space.

We believe our plans would considerably enhance the already considerable contribution we make to the Beaully community. We hope The Highland Council will recognise this and give a significant discount to the market value of Braeview Park. This would accelerate the investment we will make in Braeview Park and make it available to the wider community all the sooner.



APPENDIX 1: SOCIAL BENEFITS

Coaching benefits:

	Number	Hours per week	Weeks per year	Hours per year	Hourly Rate	Value
1st Team Managers - training	2	8	39	624	£ 40.00	£ 24,960.00
1st Team Coaches - training	3	4	39	468	£ 25.00	£ 11,700.00
2nd Team Manager - training	1	4	39	156	£ 30.00	£ 4,680.00
U-17 Coaches	2	2	15	60	£ 25.00	£ 1,500.00
U-14 Coaches	3	2	15	90	£ 25.00	£ 2,250.00
U-12 Coaches	6	2	15	180	£ 25.00	£ 4,500.00
Girls Coaches	2	2	39	156	£ 25.00	£ 3,900.00
					Sub-Total	£ 53,490.00

Games benefits:

	Number	Hours per week	Weeks per year	Hours per year	Hourly Rate	Value
1st Team Managers	2	5	22	220	£ 40.00	£ 8,800.00
1st Team Coaches	3	5	22	330	£ 25.00	£ 8,250.00
2nd Team Manager	1	5	22	110	£ 25.00	£ 2,750.00
U-17 Coaches	2	5	10	100	£ 25.00	£ 2,500.00
U-14 Coaches	3	5	10	150	£ 25.00	£ 3,750.00
U-12 Coaches	6	5	10	300	£ 25.00	£ 7,500.00
Girls Coaches	2	5	4	40	£ 25.00	£ 1,000.00
Volunteer - 1st team	6	2	22	264	£ 17.57	£ 4,638.48
Volunteer - 2nd team	2	2	22	88	£ 17.57	£ 1,546.16
					Sub-Total	£ 40,734.64

Volunteer benefits:

	Number	Hours per week	Weeks per year	Hours per year	Hourly Rate	Value
Office-bearers	4	10	52	2080	£ 17.57	£ 36,545.60
Committee	12	4	52	2496	£ 17.57	£ 43,854.72
Junior committee	8	2	6	96	£ 17.57	£ 1,686.72
Sale of Work	20	5	1	100	£ 17.57	£ 1,757.00
					Sub-Total	£ 83,844.04

Physical and Mental Health benefits:

	Number	Hours per week	Weeks per year	Hours per year	Hourly Rate	Value
Burns Night	1	10	2	20	£ 17.57	£ 351.40
Highland Cross	3	8	1	24	£ 17.57	£ 421.68
Fitness Training - seniors	30	4	39	4680	£ 17.57	£ 82,227.60
Fitness Training - u-17	18	2	10	360	£ 17.57	£ 6,325.20
Fitness Training - u-14	18	2	39	1404	£ 17.57	£ 24,668.28
Fitness Training - u-12	18	2	39	1404	£ 17.57	£ 24,668.28
Fitness Training - women / girls	12	2	42	1008	£ 17.57	£ 17,710.56
Chaplaincy	1	2	52	104	£ 14.96	£ 1,555.84
Shinty Memories	2	5	6	60	£ 17.57	£ 1,054.20
Pensioners Christmas Concert	5	8	1	40	£ 17.57	£ 702.80
					Sub-Total	£ 159,685.84

Grass cutting:

Avoided costs / saving to The Highland Council

£ 3,675.00

TOTAL HOURS PER YEAR **17,112**

TOTAL BENEFITS **£ 341,429.52**

N.b.

Volunteer hourly rate from Citizens Advice Scotland

Volunteer hourly rate from Citizens Advice Scotland

Hi-life £26.60 individual membership x 12

£39.99 family membership x 12

Contact us for *further enquiries:*



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