

Glasgow Mid Argyll Shinty Club Report 2020-2021

Glasgow Mid Argyll are the only senior Shinty Club in Glasgow. We currently run two men's teams, two women's team and an under 14 development team which provides a pathway into senior shinty from the various junior clubs in the greater Glasgow Area.

In line with the majority of sports, the Camanachd Association took the decision to cancel all competitive shinty in the 2020 season due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. We returned for a brief period to club training sessions in September 2020 in order to maintain player participation and engagement but this was curtailed as we entered a further lockdown period over the winter months.

As we emerged out of lockdown in early 2021, we commenced training sessions in March 2021 at Hughenden and were encouraged to see a resurgence of interest amongst the players in the various sections of the club. Of particular note was the increase in player participation numbers especially amongst our women's section. We were indebted to Gary Kitchener for accommodating our needs at a time when there was a fair bit of pressure on the pitches with the training pitch being out of commission and a degree of juggling required between the various sports sections using Hughenden. Also, our thanks to Adam Richardson for the preparation of a surface that was absolutely perfect for shinty purposes. All the players enjoyed the experience of being part of a larger sports hub in the west end of Glasgow.

In May, after prolonged negotiations, the club were able to obtain a short term let from Glasgow City Council for us to return to train and play our 2021 shinty season matches at Peterson Park, Yoker (Garscadden). The long term future of the facility is by no means certain and we have genuine concerns about the shinty pitch being available to us beyond this current year.

A restricted shinty season commenced in May whereby leagues were played on a regional basis to reduce travel requirements and all national cup competitions took place. Whilst it is encouraging to see shinty competition recommencing, the season has been blighted by ongoing postponements due to Covid -19 restrictions. Whilst all the 2021 season cup competitions will be completed, the leagues are unlikely to be finished before the winter shutdown.

Glasgow Mid Argyll remain keen to maintain our links with Hillhead Sports Club and Hub and hope very much that we will again be able to train at Hughenden and use the club for our committee meetings and social events in the near future.

Dougie Luke

President, Glasgow Mid Argyll Shinty Club

August 2021