

Bonar Bridge Football Club Annual Report

July 2024 - June 2025



*Creating togetherness, building
dreams & raising aspiration*

*A Grassroots community football Club
with BIG dreams*

Registered SCIO SC050022

Our Story

Bonar Bridge Football Club (BBFC) was originally founded in 1968. Registered as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) in 2019, the club is managed by a dedicated voluntary board of trustees with assistance from community volunteers.

The original club ceased in 2010 after 35 years of participating in the North Caledonian league. Providing the villages of the Kyle of Sutherland with a much-loved team to participate in, support, develop friendships and create valuable memories the club's cessation left a void for our remote rural communities.

In 2018 the club was reformed by a group of volunteers with a vision to create a holistic sporting and social opportunity for our communities, that would support all ages and abilities with clear development paths and long- term sustainability as a youth, league club, and community resource.

BBFC is more than just football; health, citizenship and community development are at the core of our aims. Keeping football inclusive and accessible at a local level.

We hope you enjoy reading this snapshot of the past year.

The Club is based at the Migdale Park playing fields and supports remote rural communities to have football access either as a player, volunteer, or supporter.



Our Facilities

Migdale Playing Field



Our Home ground is Migdale Playing Fields, a fantastic setting with views over the Kyle of Sutherland and to the mountains beyond. We are delighted to report this year, after several years of efforts by the club we have finally secured a 25-year lease of the playing field that will enable the club to make much needed improvements to the facility for the whole community to benefit. Our plans include securing the perimeter, the ground conditions, match day facilities and perhaps even an all-weather training pitch 😊

The Clubhouse

Our clubhouse was completely refurbished in 2022. The effects of the refurbishments have been far reaching, the community has a protected asset saved from falling into disrepair. The club is able to offer appropriate facilities that support health and wellbeing in a safe and comfortable environment, and it has enhanced the feeling of community spirit, club identity and increased involvement in the running of the club, it has been a real boost. Visiting teams always comment on the quality of our clubhouse and the service provided to them by the club volunteers.



Car park

Improvements made to our car park, in the last reporting period, have made a huge difference to the safety of our members, the volunteers and committee who worked hard to raise the funds and oversee the management of the project. Our next plan for this area is the installation of a barrier between the car park and field with emergency vehicle access and controlled pedestrian access further increasing the safe access to and from the car park and playing field. Funds have been secured for this from SSE Achany and Foundation Scotland Rosehall



Our Clubs

Junior Club

The Junior club is for ages 5 -11 and has a focus on football for fun that is inclusive and accessible. The club meets Friday evenings during term time and is facilitated by fifteen dedicated volunteer coaches. The club brings together children from all areas of the Kyle of Sutherland and our outlying neighbours assisting in the development of cohesion and the formation of friendships between children who attend one of the five small schools in the area. This also benefits the transition of primary children to secondary where friendships have already been formed.

To date the club has decided to remain unaffiliated to a junior league which removes the many barriers to participation competitive football places on families and children who for various reasons would be unable to commit to a competitive endeavour. We do arrange friendly games against other clubs and attend football festivals.



In the school summer holidays with thanks to funding from Creich Community Council Coire Na Cloiche fund we were delighted to be able to offer a football summer camp to 25 junior members. Three days of football fun provided by the excellent Ness Academy. Our junior

squad attended the morning session which was enjoyed by all and provided an opportunity to meet up with their club mates. This is an amazing opportunity for our young members and a boost to the club coaching volunteers who take a break over the summer holiday period. Several of our secondary members also assisted Ness Academy with the junior sessions to explore their own interest in coaching and to assist in achieving sporting awards 😊



"Thanks everyone, what a fantastic week"

"Great pics and a great 3 days as always! Thankyou for organising and thanks to the brilliant Ness Academy! (my child) loved it"

"Such fantastic sessions, thank you so much!! The girls thoroughly enjoyed them all"

"Amazing few days. Thank you guys so much"

Secondary

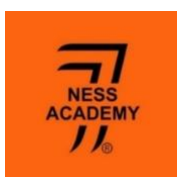


Our secondary squad training takes place every Tuesday evening. This group has created a clear pathway from junior to secondary to senior, with six secondary members invited to move forward to participate in the senior training next season.

Engaging with young people is at the heart of the BBFC. Providing young people with clear pathways to continue in sport and fitness has clear links to their continued engagement with sport as adults. At a time when young people are developing into young adults the club is assisting them into understanding citizenship, good health & well- being, and providing them with transferable skills. We continue to be members of Youth Highland who provide us with support, guidance, and a youth network.

Our secondary members were also provided with free, three-day access to the Ness Academy summer football with 3 days of afternoon training and football fun.





made possible with funding from



Coire na Cloiche fund

This season our secondary squad had matches against Harris who made the long journey to Migdale park and Ullapool who we travelled to. These matches are a great opportunity for them to play as a competitive team and also to meet other players from different parts of Scotland.

Harris



Ullapool



Trip to Ross County

Our secondary squad were also fortunate to be invited to attend a Ross County home game which we travelled to by minibus and enjoyed watching the game.

Senior Club



The Senior team compete in the North Caledonian league with 26 fixtures played this year and have enjoyed several wins and some very close calls. Training takes place on a Thursday evening led by coaches Bobbie Breen, Tommy McClenaghan and Robbie Breen





"The 24/25 NC league was another successful season, progressing on from the previous campaign and improving in almost all aspects. As we look to the next season we are already making improvements with squad additions and plan to have an improved pre-season ahead of the start in August with multiple friendlies planned. Off the field there has also been big improvements at the club, with social media presence and training which we will continue to look to improve in the coming season. Thanks go to all the committee from the first team squad for the work that goes into making it possible, especially for home games where everything is catered for excellently"

Tommy McClenaghan

NEXT MATCH




Saturday 22nd February
2025

Migdale Park, Bonar Bridge

1300 Kick Off





North Caledonian League

		PLD	GD	PTS
1	Invergordon	20	71	55
2	Halkirk United	21	56	52
3	Inverness Athletic	20	36	44
4	Golspie Sutherland	22	26	42
5	Orkney	20	13	37
6	Alness United	22	2	33
7	St Duthus	20	1	30
8	Fort William	21	-8	25
9	Bonar Bridge	22	-29	20
10	Clachnacuddin A	21	-32	12
11	Thurso	20	-60	7
12	Bunillidh Thistle	19	-76	4



Picture: Mackie Sports Photos

The committee are pleased that The Breens and Tommy will continue as the management team into the 2025-26 season. Additionally, the club is pleased with the retention of the bulk of our young squad who work hard and continually improve season after season.



Senior Players Awards of the Season



Jack Corbett - Player of the Year



Ryan Hamilton & Cameron Breen - Managers player of the year



Jack Corbett & Shaun Marshall - Players player of the year



Shaun Marshall & Jordan Shaw - Top Goalscorer

Fundraising & Community

Each year the club runs fundraising events which assist us with the running costs for all three squads. This year we combined the annual sponsored dribble with the end of season junior water fight. At Christmas we held our raffle which was greatly supported by many prize donations and people purchasing tickets. We are hugely grateful for this support.



This year we resurrected a previous community event The Four Legged race. It was a great event, lots of laughter and a fantastic dance at the end of it. No surprises that a BBFC team were the fastest 😊





We have also raised funds through sponsorship boards located at the perimeter of the playing field. Local businesses and those further afield have been delighted to support BBFC and its growth into a key community football club. Thank you for your continued support



The club is gaining an increasing profile in the football and wider community putting the club and the area on the map. This year we attended the Belladrum 3 day Festival taking a giant foosball game. Our attendance at the festival was praised by the organisers who asked us to go again saying “we bought that area of the festival alive”. It was a great experience for the club committee members and players represented by each squad who worked hard but also promoted the club brilliantly. There were lots of BBFC shirts, balls and cups seen around the festival with many parents hailing this as the best attraction for their children. We think the photos tell the best of the story 😊





The club welcomes and supports volunteers to be involved with the club either on a regular basis or more ad hoc

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The club supports a boot donation scheme to ensure everyone who wants to join in has the opportunity to do so.



The presence of the club at the playing fields has also encouraged the wider community to look after it and we are pleased to report that there is a notable change in the cleanliness of the site☺ Unfortunately we do still have to issue the odd reminder!!



Future Plans

We were delighted this year to finally take lease of the playing field for 25 years, which will enable us to secure funding and facilitate works to improve the area for the whole community. Thanks to funding from SSE – Achany and Foundation Scotland Rosehall we can now begin this process. The first works to the perimeter have begun and we have now purchased mowers to look after the grass cutting. We hope to have lots more photos of this work next year. Watch this space



Newly installed vehicle access gate

Finance

The club currently achieves a small income through player donations and small sponsorship from businesses. Financially the Football club is stable and meeting statutory financial obligations. The club is continuously fundraising to enhance the facility, member, and spectator experience and for the benefit of the whole community.

Our Funders

Thank you for your support, encouragement, and belief 😊 for travelling this journey with us and for supporting so many people to be active, together and included in this remote rural location.



Beinn Thaurisinn windfarm Creich cc Ardgay cc



Coire na Cloiche



Committee

Nene Maclean (Chair) Resigned December 2024, Kenny Macnab (Vice Chair) Resigned January 2024, Carrie Veters (Secretary) Chair From December 2024, Gavin Ryder (Treasurer), Tommy MaClenaghan Sheila Lall (Child Protection)

Scott Veters, Doris Calder, Michael Baird, Sammy Allan - Resigned January 2024, Amy Maclean, Steven Christie.

Coaches

Tommy McClenaghan, Bobby Breen, Robbie Breen, Steven Christie, Nene Maclean, Amy Maclean, Kenny Macnab, Carrie Veters, Elissa Steven, Keith Sutherland, Scott Veters, Gavin Ryder, Tommy Agnew,

Volunteers

Kay Morrison, Grant Morrison, Archie Ryder, Hayley Bangs, Gordon Sparling, Archie Lockie

Chair's Message

I have been acting as interim (or acting) Chair, since the beginning of January this year, it's very hard to believe that was six months ago! I'll try to cover what I can of the previous year, from my own six months in the role and the previous six months as Secretary if you can bear with me.

This year we have seen good progress made on the park with a much-improved competitive side, we aim to build on that in the coming season and we are very glad to have The Breens and Tommy to take that forward. With regards to the first team special thanks go to Gordon Sparling who has been brilliant taking match photos for us. We have seen some great attendance at the games, both local faces and visitors. Home days have become a great community event and we really hope for that to continue and grow.

The Junior teams are doing well in training and these skills are paying off in their school teams and competitions, hopefully their training with us is helping with that. Last year we secured funding for Ness Academy training in the Summer Holidays and this year we have been fortunate enough to do the same, I think you will agree this is a great asset to the community kids (and parents alike)

We have been busy off the park also with some drainage works carried out, this in return should help with more home games being played at Migdale Park. We have purchased new dug outs (which are waiting in the wings to be constructed) and are in the process of fencing the top and bottom of the park. We have also upgraded the running surface of the carpark and installed streetlighting to make things safer for the children in the darker nights whilst training.

We attended Belladrum, which was a roaring success! Several volunteers from within the management and committee attended over three days with our inflatable fooseball game and a good positive attitude, and we were delighted to have been invited back again at the end of July.

Another success has been the conclusion of the asset transfer, which will allow Bonar Bridge Football Club to make plans for Migdale Park, enabling us to access funds for further projects and to improve the park for the community.

All of these achievements would not be possible without the work from the committee and volunteers, there is so much that goes on within the football club, from kit washing to drain clearing (and let's not talk about dog poo collection!) you name it we've done it, so thank you! Finally, a huge thank you to our sponsors for their continued support, without all of you we wouldn't manage as a club

Many Thanks,

Carrie Vettters (Interim Chair)