Bonar Bridge Football Club Annual Report

July 2025 - June 2026

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. The club house is a community owned asset and the playing field is leased to the club (25 years) by the Highland Council

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 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. The area is used by parents/carers for school drop off and collection, a mobile hairdressers and over run for the Golf club parking.







Our new fencing and access gates have created a safer way to access the playing field for all members of the community and the school who use it for PE and sports events



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 Thursday evenings during term time and is facilitated by dedicated volunteer coaches including youth ambassadors. 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. Instead we focus on fun and holiday camps including Easter and summer












In the school summer holidays with thanks to funding from Ardgay & District 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 😊
















BONAR BRIDGE FOOTBALL CLUB

1968

BONAR BRIDGE FOOTBALL TEAM

EASTER FOOTBALL CAMP

Join us this Easter for fun, football, and skill-building!

Dates: Thursday 9th & Thursday 16th April

Time: 10:00am – 3:00pm

Location: Bonar Bridge Football Pitch

Ages: P4–P7

Cost: FREE SESSION

What to expect:

- **Fun** football games & drills
- **Skill** development sessions
- **Mini** matches & competitions

What to bring:

- Football boots or trainers
- Water bottle
- Packed lunch & snacks

To book your place:

Ross Stirling **07931 868776**

Limited spaces available – book early to avoid missing out!

Secondary



OUR NEW KIT

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.

This year with thanks to Creich and Ardgay & District Community Council funding our Junior and Secondary members will all be issued with new kit including winter training tracksuits 😊

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.











NESS ACADEMY

made possible with funding from

Ardgay & District Community Council

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 team have had some fantastic wins this season and are looking to build on this in the forth coming season.




















FIRST TEAM MANAGERIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Bobby Breen has resigned from first team duties with immediate effect. The club would like to thank Bobby for his efforts over the last three years, and wish him all the very best in all his future endeavors.

Robbie Breen left the club earlier in the summer and the committee understand he has a new club in Edinburgh - again we thank Robbie for his efforts and wish him all the best going forward.

The committee are delighted to confirm that Richard Brittain has agreed to step into the newly vacated management role and will head up the clubs management team going forward with immediate effect. Ritchie's track record as a very top level player, manager and coach is of course second to non and needs no introduction.

Tommy McClenaghan will continue his pivotal role within the management team, the coming season will be Tommy's fifth season with us on the managerial side and the committee are looking forward to his last two seasons of already good work with Ritchie raising to a new level and driving the club forward.

Senior Players Awards of the Season



Managers Players of the year – Gary & Ally



Jake Lockette Top Goal scorer



Aiden Players player of the year



Club Captain Jack Corbett



Versatility – Bruce





Young player of the season - Cameron

Fundraising & Community

Each year the club runs fundraising events which assist us with the running costs for all three squads. This year we introduced a new event moving away from the annual raffle to a giant football Christmas card. A huge success and some very lucky winners

Bonar Bridge F.C
5 Nov 2025 ·

GIANT Christmas Football Card

Would you like the chance to win up-to £1000 cash just in time for Christmas? Plus cash second and third prizes?

Why not take part in our GIANT Christmas Football Card!

We've put 200 Football Clubs on our wall, each club costs £20 to purchase, all money goes into our Christmas pot, half going to BBFC and half going to prizes.

If we sell all 200 clubs that means a huge £2000 cash prize pot separated into 3.
For example 1st - £1000, 2nd - £750, 3rd - £250*

List of teams available below, drop us a message or get in touch with a committee member to secure your favourite team.

Why not tag your mates below if you know who they support..

All shares appreciated 🙌💚



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 and many will be delighted to learn that we are returning in July/August 2026 festival 😊

















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



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!!



Playing Field developments &Future Plans

Now the club has secured a 25 year lease we have been able to begin improving the playing field for the benefit of the whole community. With funding support received from SSE – Achany windfarm and Foundation Scotland RWE windfarm we have purchased mowers, a new shed and put fencing around the field making it safer and a more defined area used by the community.



















With funding secured from the Highland Council ward discretionary fund and Creich community council we were able to purchase two dugouts replacing the temporary tent ones used previously. A huge improvement.

For the future our attention is turning to the provision of an all weather training & community pitch cited as a priority in the local community action plan and the local place plan. Watch this space 😊 😊 😊 😊 😊 😊 😊

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 Thaursinn windfarm Creich cc Ardgay cc

Highland Council Ward Discretionary

Committee

Carrie Vetters (Chair) Gavin Ryder (Treasurer), Tommy MaClenagan (Secretary) Sheila Lall (Child Protection)

Scott Vetters, , Doris Calder, Aldi Calder, Michael Baird, Steven Christie, Keith Williams, Ross Stirling, Sheila Lall

Coaches

Tommy McClenaghan, Bobby Breen, Robbie Breen, Carrie Vetters, Elissa Steven, Scott Vetters, Gavin Ryder, Ross Stirling

Volunteers

Archie Ryder, Hayley Bangs, Gordon Sparling (A huge thank you for being club Photographer), Archie Cameron

Chairs Message

The 25/26 Season has, overall, been a good one to us here at Bonar Bridge Football Club, we've had our degree of successes and failures, some on and some off the pitch. We had a positive initial start in the North Caledonian League for the 25/26 season. Though sadly finished on 22 points. Bobby Breen has decided that this would be his last season with our club and we wish him and the family the best in their future endeavours. Moving forward we are really pleased to have enlisted Richie Brittain as our new manager for the 26/27 season, ably assisted by Tommy McClenaghan who will continue with the management team moving forward. I think I can say for us all that we are quietly hopeful this will be a hugely positive change for BBFC going forward. Richie brings a wealth of football experience and he and Tommy complement each other well. Again, this year I would like to make a specific thanks to Gordon Sparling who has continued to photograph any matches he can and does a fantastic job of it.

Off the pitch we have had some major successes as is evidenced just looking at the park. We have had drainage works done, the brilliant fencing and gates have been erected, making the park a far safer area for the community (and school specifically) to use. We have had a storage shed built for the grass cutting equipment and the committee have taken on the heavy load of cutting the grass. It looks so much better than it ever has done, with the regular shorter cuts and the attention to detail that goes into it so special thanks to those committee members who give up a significant amount of time doing that.

We attended Belladrum again last year and we will be doing so again two weeks from now with our huge inflatable foosball! This really raises the clubs profile and means we now have a much wider following than before. We had a hugely successful fundraiser at Christmas, with our Giant Christmas Football Card, a novel idea which we hope to do again this year with even more success.

We have raised funds for new kits for the primary and secondary kids and we are in the process of launching our new team kit. A lovely retro number you may have spotted on social media!

Moving forward we are looking at pitch redevelopment, we hope to begin the initial stages of planning for an all-weather facility at Bonar Bridge Football Club. This will entail some inter-planning, research and development, including site surveys and public consultation. The annual report will be released very shortly and that will look towards supporting that funding drive. Potentially very exciting times ahead!

Finally, just a word of thanks to our BBFC Committee, there are only a small amount of us but we are very much small and mighty. Together we are putting Bonar Bridge itself, not just the football club, on the map and giving the best of impressions to the wider community, well done to you all for that.

Thank You

Carrie Anne Vetters

Chair



