

**The Seattle Gaels
2017 Annual General Meeting**



February 10, 2018

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Seattle Gaels 2017 AGM Agenda

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2. Introduction
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4. Manager Reports
 - a. Hurling Manager's Report
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 - d. Ladies Football Manager's Report
5. Election of Officers
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Chairman's Report

The 2017 season saw the Seattle Gaels continue to grow as a club, with new members and progress in many areas.

Camogie, Hurling and Football

Our teams had solid seasons (see the individual manager reports below) and we continued to see progress in recruitment for all codes.

Men's football continues to be a center for energy and enthusiasm, and that was true throughout this year with more new players coming into the club, a strong stable of veteran players, excellent on field performance, and a strong sense of camaraderie and team identity. With the continuing development of Tacoma and Portland, there are ongoing opportunities for games throughout the year and that has been a positive for the program.

Hurling is still in a transitional phase, despite the terrific 2016 season. The continued number of veteran players cutting back on participation puts more pressure on the program to focus on growing the group of newer club members to bring new energy to the pitch. Hurling has perhaps the greatest opportunity for regional play with the Oregon teams, Tacoma, Vancouver and now Montana. A strong commitment to participating in these games, focus on recruitment and leadership from the veteran members is critical for the sport and will allow the newer hurlers to grow in skill and experience.

Ladies football and camogie again showed great grit and determination - excellent performances all around particularly considering the fact that many of the players are going full tilt in both codes. I continue to be impressed with the athleticism and dedication of these teams. I continue to think the ladies' codes would benefit tremendously by having more opportunities to play regionally. This means growing camogie and LGFB in Tacoma, Portland, etc. It would be wise if we as club did more to promote the growth of these sports outside of our club. I know that this is being promoted at the divisional level - but it should be a top priority for the team members of both codes.

Our youth outreach is limited to interactions with high schools who are including Gaelic sports into their PE curricula. We should continue to engage as much as possible in this area, as it is an important long-term awareness effort. Kudos to the small but dedicated group of club members who have routinely participated in these activities.

Seattle Gaelic Games

The Gaels once again hosted the Seattle Gaelic Games at Magnuson Park. It was another smoothly run tournament, with teams in all sports from throughout the Northwest Division and Vancouver. As always, thanks to great work by our club members, the tournament was well run and reports from all participating clubs were favorable. This is the largest and most important tournament for our games in the Division, and it is important that we continue to support it as a club and work to make it a great experience for the visiting clubs.

Social

Socially the club continues to be in good health, but there has been a noticeable drop off in energy and enthusiasm. 2016 was year that demanded a great deal from all club members, so in a way it was not a surprise that people perhaps took a bit of a break in 2017. Our new sponsor, St. Andrew's Bar and Grill has been a terrific partner and provides a great venue for social activities. They have been generous with space, time and incentives for our membership, and I encourage the entire club to come together in 2018 with a renewed effort to boost the social aspect of membership. It is the glue that keeps the club together and more and better attended social events will help all aspects of club life - on and off the field.

Special thanks to Jenna Volcko-May and Colin May for the work they have done to build the relationship with St. Andrew's.

Fundraising and Finance

The club is fortunate to be on solid financial footing thanks to revenue earned in 2016 and lower club expenses that year. However, a primary challenge for the incoming Committee will be to develop a solid strategy that provides newer, stable funding sources and looking more closely at our expenditures. We have benefited greatly from the participation of Boeing employees, and the very generous funding program that Boeing provides for volunteers. We have several club members who are in club management roles that have declared the many, many hours they dedicate to the club as volunteer hours through the Boeing program. And that has provided an important ongoing revenue stream. However, we need to supplement and diversify by developing new (or reviving old) fundraising methods. As it was last year, the Seattle Gaels bank balance remains strong - let's work to keep it that way in 2018 and beyond. See the Treasurer's Report for additional detail and analysis.

PR & Misc.

We have been doing a terrific job in promoting the club in recent years - and I often joke that we are much bigger in the media than we are in real life. We continue to see good use of Facebook and other digital media outlets, but as the overall digital landscape evolves, so too must our efforts. This should be an important area of focus over the next year as we work to build up overall brand awareness and increase our recruitment and retention efforts.

Committee and Club Managers

I would personally like to thank all of those who served on the Committee, served as team managers, and took on informal leadership roles within the organization. I can't adequately express my gratitude for all those who stepped up to make our season run more smoothly and keep our club healthy. The dedication and service of those who agree to take on the work and devote the time to volunteer in club leadership deserves great thanks from all. This club cannot survive without them.

In conclusion

I want to also thank the members. As I've said in the past, the Seattle Gaels IS its membership. We have a remarkable group of people who are not only dedicated to our great sports, but promote an atmosphere of fun, enjoyment and camaraderie throughout the year, both on and off the field. Thank you all.

Finally, 2017 marks my last year as Chair of the Seattle Gaels. When I first took on the job many years ago, I made a commitment to see the club through getting and hosting the 2016 USGAA Finals and helping prepare the club to be in a healthy place for the years that followed. Despite some bumps along the way, I think we've been successful in all the ways I could have hoped - and far, far more. Working with the club leadership and the many dedicated members over the years has been one of the great privileges I've had in my life. I'm proud of this club and the remarkable group of people that make it what it is. I look forward to seeing what the coming years have in store for the Seattle Gaels, to supporting the new leadership teams and membership in every way possible, and representing the Gaels as I continue my advisory role with various committees and projects for the USGAA national board.

As has been said, every day you put on a Gaels jersey is a good day.

Best of luck to all in the coming season - and thanks for allowing me to be small part of this great organization.

Is Mise le meas,



Brian White - Chair 2017

Secretary's Report

In 2017 we have worked to streamline communications with a few hiccups. We have put online our registration process (see registrar's report,) and we have improved our first point of contact communication with new or potentially new players. This has been done with creating an online form on the website that people can enter their information and it immediately sends their info to me and whichever code's manager they desire. This has allowed us to maintain contact with new players with fewer losses of email addresses and having to manually enter them into a google group. I anticipate that this will help greatly with recruiting. Thank you very much to Vanessa and Eamonn for helping set this up!

We have started splitting up club communication into "club wide" communication that will be done by myself and the chair through MailChimp and "code specific" communication which will be done through the google groups. If you have not been getting the MailChimp emails please sign up on the link sent to you or email me at secretary@seattlegaels.com and I will send you a link. This allows the MailChimp users to write emails ahead of time and set dates for their distribution which making our lives much easier. Please take advantage of the RSVP features on the emails which allows us to know how many people to expect and if, for example, no one is attending an event, cancel it. This will save the club money and the officers time and headaches. Look for emails with upcoming dates of Gaels events such as Irish Week, the St. Patrick's Day parade, another karaoke night and some upcoming early season matches. Please also continue to communicate with your managers about attendance at tournaments etc. Sorry in advance if you get duplicate emails. I am not the most tech savvy person and there are some learning/growing pains.

Intra-club communication seems to be acceptable, as we have a good working relationship with the other clubs in our division. There has been some difficulty with RSVPs being timely for regional tournaments. Please let your managers know if you can/cannot make events so that we can schedule or unschedule our participation in regional tournaments accordingly.

Facebook has continued to be a great tool for getting the word out about our club and upcoming events. Please continue to "like" and "share" events on Facebook as this gives us more visibility on member and nonmembers screens. I try to "invite" every Gael I have in my friend list, so if you are not getting the invites, please "friend" me and I will add you to my list.

The Nationals hotel accommodations were less than ideal because of cost and difficulty in registering rooms. Most of that is the Marriott's fault, and will hopefully go more smoothly in Philadelphia. Their website and group housing office were aggravating and thank you all for your patience with that process. Nobody lost their cool and I appreciate that. I will strive to get everyone the upfront cost of their rooms sooner in 2018. We did have to cancel one room due to last minute cancelations, which costed the club one-night stay. This normally would not be a lot, but due to the extremely high cost of housing in SF, was not insignificant. If we know who is attending earlier (see registrar's report) that will greatly streamline

Heather Morris - Secretary 2017

Treasurer's Report

Seattle Gaels Financial Report for 1/1/2017 to 12/31/2017

In 2017, the Gaels benefited financially from the income from hosting 2016 Finals. We also had higher matching funds from the Boeing volunteer match program. However, these large gains were offset by the increased cost of field rentals, and the high cost to subsidize the team's travel expenses to Finals in San Francisco. Additionally, the USGAA Convention was held in Coastal Virginia, which came with an increase in travel costs. The USGAA fees were slightly down from the previous year due to the decreased number of players that were registered compared to 2016. The major income and expenditures for 2016 and 2017 are listed on the next page.

	2016	2017
<u>Income</u>		
Dues and Payments	\$ 12,527.01	\$ 19,237.22
Boeing Volunteer Match	\$ 5,360.00	\$ 11,110.00
Microsoft Volunteer Match	\$ 9,312.30	\$ -
Nationals Income	\$ -	\$ 22,574.36
<u>Expenditures</u>		
Finals	\$ -	\$ 23,468.99
Field Rentals	\$ 3,678.00	\$ 7,524.00
USGAA Fees	\$ 2,265.00	\$ 2,191.58
USGAA Convention	\$ 1,752.28	\$ 2,159.03
Tournament Travel	\$ -	\$ 2,349.96
Kit/Equipment	\$ -	\$ 4,089.81
Ending Balance	\$ 19,176.39	\$ 32,998.15

*Ending balance includes Q3 and Q4 Boeing Matching Funds.

The largest expenditure from the year was Finals. The hotel costs were significantly higher in 2017 than they have been historically, which contributed to the higher subsidy. For the Dues and Payments line item, the income from dues was approximately \$9,000 and the other \$10,000 was payment to the club for hotel and equipment. In total, the club's travel subsidy amounted to roughly \$14,000.

Boeing has recently announced an increase in their annual matching amount from \$6,000 to \$10,000. We need to continue to leverage this program and encourage more Boeing employees to take on volunteer roles within the Club. We should also look for other organizations that offer similar matching programs that we can take advantage of.

After losing Murphy's as our primary sponsor, we were lucky enough to find St. Andrew's as our new sponsor. They did not give us upfront sponsorship funds, but have agreed to giving us 15% back of what we spend there. They have been great to us, and we should continue to host as many club events there as possible to increase our kickback. We purchased new kits at the beginning of the year, as well as new field equipment.

The net income received from hosting 2016 Finals was \$22,574.36, after disbursement to other clubs within the division, as well as to the IHC and Irish Network for all their assistance in organizing the large event. The committee discussed at length what to do with the additional funds. The discussions mostly centered around addressing the increasing cost of field rentals at Magnuson, as well as the uncertain future of the grass fields we currently rent. There are plans for a multimillion-dollar redevelopment of that area, and once that starts, the fields will become unavailable to us. Given these factors, I would recommend the new Committee to continue the search for a new sustainable pitch.

Ranko Asari - Treasurer 2017

Registrar Report

The 2017 season had the smoothest registration process to-date, thanks to the Seattle Gaels web form. Everyone who filled out the web form was registered and no one who did not fill out the form was registered. Previous years had seen a lot of word-of-mouth registrations, hunting down people for their info, and struggles with editing entries on the USGAA website. Great job everyone and thank you for making this year a success.

However, we did have a couple people, even core members of the club, who failed to register. Luckily, the USGAA system did not have good auditing and we were able to slip them in under the radar. On any other issues that came up, Lizzie (former USGAA registrar) was willing to work with us. Next year, the PNW's own Tom Lagan will be the USGAA registrar. Tom is highly organized so we will need to make sure we have all of our t's crossed and i's dotted to make sure nobody slips through the cracks for registration. The USGAA is also considering an online system where each player registers themselves directly with the USGAA. I have reached out to Tom for more information and clarification. Expect to hear more on that in the coming month or two.

This year we had 90 people registered online with the USGAA and 64 attend Nationals. This is better than previous years, but we should try to get these numbers as close as possible, because we pay fees for each registration. I recommend getting commitments on who is attending Nationals early in the season around April if possible. I think this will also help establish each person's field position and structure training throughout the season if line-ups can be worked out early. I think our teams will be stronger if we aren't cobbling together line-ups out of available players the weeks before Nationals.

Lastly, I will be stepping down from the registrar position. It's been a pleasure serving on the committee and helping out the club, but with a 2nd kid on the way, I want to step back and give others' opportunities to be part of the club leadership. I plan to assist whoever takes the position in 2018 to make for a smooth transition as some of the systems are difficult to learn and don't come with a lot of instruction. I plan to continue to be an active player and member.

Registration deadlines:

- **March 31st:** Intercounty Transfer Deadline
 - Any transfers from Ireland that want to be registered as US residents
- **April 30th:** Club-to-club Transfer Deadline & Club registration for each sport
 - Transfers from clubs within the US & All former players must be registered at this time
- **July 1st:** Sanction Registration Deadline
 - Irish players - must play at their grade listed on the sanction form
- **August 1st:** New Non-Irish Player Deadline
 - Only applies to first time registrations of Non-Irish players

Alex Luecke - Registrar 2017

Manager's Reports

Hurling

Hurling had quite a few ups and downs for the 2017 season and ended with a high note. The hurlers traveled quite extensively during 2017 and were able to show support for our other divisional clubs after their support for us during nationals in 2016, including finally making it out to Montana for the first time. While participation continues to be a focus, we have a steady stream of recruits coming in and we have laid the foundations with the help of Vanessa and the camogie players to have a healthy next season. Finally, we ended the season at nationals by making a decent showing down in San Francisco in the junior b division. Going forward hurling is set to start re-expanding this coming season and there are many good things to come.

Travis Holdren, Hurling Manager

Camogie

2017 was a season full of new territory for Seattle Gaels camogie. Riding the high of winning the championship at home in 2016, we had to work hard to once again find our balance and achieve a new level of proficiency at the Intermediate level.

This season was all about raising our standard. Coach Caroline stuck with us throughout the season and pushed us to test our boundaries. She did a fantastic job of developing drills to keep us engaged and improving. I want to thank her for her dedication and hard work!

Seattle Camogie was represented at a new tournament for 2017 – the Victoria Highland Games. Victoria is very keen on getting ladies football and camogie teams. While the city is not the easiest to get to, we should work with the Vancouver ladies to support this new team any way we can. We also played a match against the budding Columbia Red Branch Camogie team. These ladies, as well as ladies from Tacoma, are excited to join the NW camogie family. We should continue to foster the growth of teams in these cities.

Unfortunately, a significant percentage of the camogie team suffered season-ending injuries this year. While this is traumatic at a personal level, it also significantly affects the whole team. With such a small population of players, it becomes increasingly important to do whatever we can to keep our players healthy throughout the year so that we can continue to field a team. We cannot stop all injuries, but we can do our part to help players avoid situations that leave them prone to injury. One place that I believe we should focus on for 2018 is the warm-up. There are many doctor approved warm-up routines readily available used by a wide variety of teams throughout the world to help avoid injury. It should be a goal for not only the camogie team, but all Seattle Gaels teams to adopt one of these exercise programs and meld it with the typical practice warm-up routines.

The path forward in the world of Intermediate Camogie is not going to be easy. We will have to utilize the teams developing throughout the NW Division to get field time as much as we can and bring in as many players from the Seattle home-base as we can to remain competitive. Instead of returning to Junior Camogie in future years, I challenge the Seattle Camogie team to remain in the Intermediate division and work to bring our skills up to the next level. Someday, I want to see this team win at the Senior level, and I believe it can be done.

In 2017, we introduced a large number of new women to camogie. Our Intermediate squad at USGAA Finals was almost half rookies! While that doesn't lead to the best outcome in an Intermediate division, it says exciting things

about the seasons to come. The rookie spirit is intoxicating. Let's keep inviting new players out and building them up!

I look forward to what the 2018 Camogie season has in store for us!

Vanessa Peterson, Camogie Manager

Men's Football

Men's Gaelic Football in 2017 year had a small dip in average attendance at training and the occasional struggle for numbers at tournaments – that said we managed to win a few key competitions and added a few key players. We considered it a dip after a banner year for Nationals but are very confident that aggressive recruiting and indoor sessions will help our numbers and competition in the early spring. At Nationals our numbers were good but our overall fitness and coordination against a strong team were the downfall.

Highlights

- Competed and won at local PNW tournaments and were very competitive at other tourneys
- We encouraged commitment early and often, and tried to make it very easy for players to confirm participation at travel tournaments and organizing car rides all through Facebook Events

Challenges:

- Passed up on travel tournaments (San Diego, Victoria, Vancouver)
- Football was stuck with the early AM field time and shared field/time at Magnuson on the weekends potentially limited our numbers.
- New recruiting efforts didn't pick up until after the season

Plan:

- Already underway with an early off-season schedule for fitness
- Dedicated coaching to support management
- Early commitment and additional travel tourneys such as SD7s and Vancouver

Eamonn Colman, Manager

Ladies Football

Ladies Gaelic Football 2017 - was another great building year for us. We had a half-dozen new players come and join us throughout the season. A few of our key players this season were out for the majority of the season due to injury - which definitely played a big part in the 2017 season. Although we had a successful Emerald City Cup and some playing time in Victoria and Tacoma, we didn't have as much ladies' game time with Vancouver as the year past. We also did not make it to the West Coast Sevens in San Diego. We pulled through making it to nationals with a full roster of ~20 players, and played out hearts out in the heat.

Looking forward to 2018 -

Kate Starbird will continue to coach - and I (Jenna) will continue to manage the team. We will welcome any additional coaching help when or where we can get it. We are hoping to recruit more players this season and have a strong and full roster throughout the season. Hoping to play friendlies with Vancouver as much as possible, play in West Coast 7's, and bring a full team to Nationals in Philly.

Jenna Volcko-May, Manager

Seattle Gaels 2017 AGM - Election of Officers

The following are declared candidates for the Seattle Gaels Committee. A motion will be introduced by the Chair to allow the Committee to fill vacant positions if needed.

Committee Candidates

Candidates

- **Chair:** Vanessa Peterson
- **Vice Chair:** Pam McGrath
- **Secretary:** Heather Morris
- **Treasurer:** Ranko Asari
- **Registrar:** Tom Van Acker

NOTE TO ALL CLUB MEMBERS

ALL CLUB MEMBERS, not just Committee Members, have a right and responsibility to have their opinions heard and respected at regular Club Meetings, as well as a corresponding responsibility to share in doing whatever club work is required (e.g., agreeing to be Chair of a special event, helping set up tables, marking a field, etc.) All Club Members collectively share in these rights and responsibilities.