



Tralee Parnells Hurling & Camogie Club

AGM 2023

7:30 pm, Friday 17th November 2023

Meadowlands Hotel

Agenda

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Minutes of AGM 2022**
- 3. Treasurer's Report 2023**
- 4. Secretary's Report 2023**
- 5. Chairperson's Address – Camogie**
- 6. Chairperson's Address – Hurling**
- 7. Election of Officers & Members of Executive Committee 2023**
- 8. Other Business**

Secretary's Report

A Chara,

This was my very first year in this role. Although this officer's position was new to me and at times it was a massive learning curve, I have thoroughly enjoyed this year. It was great to get more involved with the senior / adult side of our club, both in the fixtures and match officiation of the various senior's panels.

2023 has been a very successful year for both the hurling and camogie codes at all age groups within the club on and off the pitch. On the pitch the highlights were the Camogie U15 Féile team winning the All Ireland Féile na nGael Camogie competition, while our Senior Hurlers won the Division 2 County League and they followed this up with winning the County Intermediate Hurling Championship.

The win that evening in the final is one that will last in my memory, with the scenes of joy and celebrations of the players and supporters a sight to behold. I am confident that there will be many days like this in our club's future. Being part of such evenings only reinforces my love and believe in this club and what all us club members are doing for this great game of hurling in the heartland of football.

Unfortunately, after a fourteen-week layoff between games our Senior Teams Munster Club Junior Hurling Championship participation came to a valiant end against The Banner of Co Clare.

Our Junior Hurlers competed strongly in all competitions and reached the South Kerry Junior League final and just lost out to the winners Rathmore by a single point after extra time.

Our U21s take to the field in the North Kerry Hurling Championship this weekend and I wish them well on their campaign.

Our Minor squad had an unfortunate year through injuries and player involvement in other sports and their year concluded early. I have no doubt that this will be reversed for the 2024 season.

Our underage age codes both in Hurling and Camogie are going from strength to strength and this will leave our senior ranks in a very healthy state for the future. This is all down to the great work being done by all our managers, coaches, mentors, parents and executive officers, I applaud you all and keep up the great work.

Well done to all Parnell's players and Coaches in Hurling and Camogie that represented the County this year. The club is hugely proud of every player that has worn the County Jersey.

Off the pitch there was a number of significant events to mention, our first Club Social, which was a great success, our inaugural Tralee Parnell's Golf Classic, also a great success. All fundraisers this year were successful, and I wish to thank all who organized and volunteered for these events. There was great club participation in Scor na nÓg and Scór na bPaistí competitions with our the Tráth na gCeist team qualifying through Munster for the All-Ireland finals. A lot of time goes into preparation and practise for Scor and I thank all those involved in this.

Our club colours are now a common sight through the town of Tralee and beyond, with our members and coaches wearing our club apparel in larger numbers. All this is aided by our participation in the St Patricks Day Parade where we get a wide and welcoming audience.

I would like to recognise all those officers, members and sponsors who contribute so willingly and graciously to the running of the club in this 2023 season.

I would like to extend my sympathies on behalf of the Club, to all officers, players, members and friends who have suffered bereavements during the past year.

Thank you to everyone in the Executive Committee who has helped me along the way and to the County Board and Joe Wallace for the use of Caherslee. A special thanks to Chairpersons Stephen Buttimer, Lynda Harris and Aine Lambe for your help and patience. A big thanks to Dermot Reen, Camogie Secretary Clair Salmon and my predecessor Natalie Henessey for their support during the year. A special thanks to David Brick who waded in with help during the year. Finally, I would like to thank my family for the support they provided me during the past year.

As a 'blow in' to Co Kerry, Tralee Parnell's have made me very welcome to the county and I consider it a big part of my Kerry life (I will always be a Clare man though) and I am proud to have helped in the making of this great club and will do again in the future.

As I said at the start this has been a thoroughly enjoyable year. I am stepping down from this role at the end of this term and it has been an honor to be your Secretary for Tralee Parnell's.

I wish the new Secretary the very best of luck

Ger Donnellan

PRO Report

The positions of PRO for both Hurling and Camogie were not filled at last year's AGM. After putting out some messages and "feelers" we unfortunately were not successful in finding people to fill the roles. As a result, the combined efforts of Stephen Buttimer, David Brick and Kieran Fitzgerald ran the PR side of the club during the year. With Stephen writing most of the match reports as well as the weekly notes and David keeping our Social Media pages up to date.

Our Club Website <https://Traleeparnells.gaa.ie> which was setup in 2022 is now our gateway for all club information. Each week the site is updated with club news and lotto results. It is also regularly updated with documents such as the club policies, the five year plan, AGM reports as well as the details of the club Executive and coaches.

It was another busy and successful year for the club which resulted in many events both on and off the pitch to be covered. Some noteworthy highlights include our U15 Camogie squad continuing a trend from last year in winning the Division 1 Féile competition in Kerry to make it through to the All Ireland weekend. The finals were held in Co Roscommon where Parnells defeated all before them to win their division of the All Ireland Féile na nGael Camogie competition.

Our Senior hurlers had an incredible year by losing just one game to win the Division 2 County League who then went on to win the Intermediate County Championship at the end of July. After a long break the squad were able to get together to face The Banner of Clare in the Muster Junior Championship in November where the team put up a very strong performance to loose out by just a goal after a tough contest.

Our academy players of boys and girls turned out in fantastic numbers throughout the season where training or challenge matches and most importantly fun was the order of the day.

With the growth of the club it was fantastic to see an equal growth in the club's representation on county teams at all age groups in both Hurling and Camogie throughout the year.

Off the pitch there were a number of significant events with our first Club Social back in February to mark our ten year anniversary. There was a large turnout on the night with a number of Kerry GAA dignitaries in attendance. Chairpersons Áine Lambe and Stephen Buttimer paid tribute to their predecessors and the founding members for their initiative. There were various medal and award presentations on the night including a special presentation to David Brick for his dedication to the club since its launch in 2012.

There were a number of fundraiser events during the year including a table quiz and the buster race day at Kingdom Greyhound Stadium. The club also ran a Golf Classic at Beaufort Golf Club at the end of July.

The club again took part in Scor na nÓg and Scór na bPaistí competitions. All the groups representing Tralee Parnells qualified for the County Finals of Scor na nÓg where our Tráth na gCeist team successfully defended their county title. From here, the Tráth na gCeist team went on to qualify in Munster where for the second year running, they went on to come fourth in the All Ireland finals.

The Club's Healthy Club status was recognised at a special awards ceremony at GAA HQ at the end of 2022 while our Health & Wellbeing Officers ran pre-season Couch to 5k and Circuit training programs in January.

While it is a busy club the phrase "Many hands make light work" is definitely applicable for public relations activities. Anybody who is available even for an hour a week could help a lot, whether it is to write a match report or update the club website. It would be great if parents of juvenile age groups could assist and take photos or write a short update on their teams' activities every now and then.

After winning Féile in both Hurling and Camogie in recent years and with the success of our Senior Hurlers the future looks bright for the club as we head into our second decade. Here is looking forward to our younger players developing into senior players to continue the development of Parnells as strong contenders in Hurling and Camogie at both Club and County level.

Chairperson's Report 2023 – Camogie

Summary of Season:

On field:

- The 2023 season began early in February for U12's upwards to Senior Ladies. Some teams choose to hold a number of ball wall sessions in Crotta followed with Astro sessions held in both CBS the Green.
- Healthy attendance at early sessions saw an increase in numbers when we all started back in Caherslee early April.
- U8 upwards groups had adequate mentors but still there is still a need for more experienced hurling/camogie coaches to develop the players and progress the coaching ability of current mentors that have requested it.
- We didn't have an U6 team this year, some of the younger girls fell in with the U7 boys and more trained with the U8 girls.
- U8 girls seemed to struggle to have consistency of numbers for both training and blitzes.

- Our 10's had a positive season, but mentors expressed need for more blitzes next season and additional experienced coaches.
- U12s made it to the Div 1 final and unfortunately lost to a stronger Cillard team
- U14s had an undefeated season and topped it off with a nail biting final with Cillard that drew in normal time, and we went on to win in extra time. A very hard-fought battle.
- Greatest achievement for this year was the U15s even though lost the county Feile final but went on to represent the County in the Division 5 National Feile na nGael and won it out on the day up in Oran Co. Roscommon
- U16s had a great season winning most of their games and very unlucky to lose to Causeway in the Div 1 final.
- Minors had very few games and huge challenge to keep these players engaged- only the same dedicated players attending training on a regular basis. They made it to a shield final but unfortunately lost to a strong Killarney team.
- Juniors-This squad again faced difficulties throughout the season due to lack of players and lack of commitment from existing players.

Off field Achievements:

- Buster Night Fundraiser
- Camogie Club sponsors:
Declan & Triona Costello of Eamon Costello (Kerry) Ltd., Fairies Cross Medical Centre, Hugh Culloty, Garveys Supervalu and Dunnes Stores. Your support is invaluable to the development of the Camogie Club and our players.
- A meeting was held with the MTU GAA Development Officer Michéal Quirke in October regarding the creation of working links that would be mutually beneficial to both Tralee Parnells Hurling and Camogie Club and the MTU. It is envisaged that Tralee Parnells Hurling and Camogie Club will avail of the opportunity to offer a work placement to a Health and Leisure Student in early 2025. The proposed purpose of the placement student will be to go into the schools of the Tralee catchment as well as supporting potential and existing coaches with the ongoing development of Tralee Parnells.

Proposed Planning for 2024

- As a Club we need to target the primary schools' especially younger classes to grow our numbers from U6's upwards- Feb/Mar 2023.
- Promote the use of Scoil Mhic Easmain Ball Wall
- We need more new volunteers not only in an experienced coaching capacity but also in non-coaching roles- the same volunteers have been multitasking for a number of years now and are burnt out.
- Our minor and senior panels are extremely high risk again for 2024 - numbers low as well as lacking enough committed players- we need a serious plan to keep the committed players we have.
- Enter a 7 aside tournament for U16 upwards.
- From a camogie development perspective, the County Board does not have an adequate planning structure in place to help Clubs progress.
- Plan to invite more teams from outside Kerry for challenge games.
- Invite guest coaches during the season and develop goalkeepers.
- Liaise with MTU to engage new potential player/coaches.

Lynda Harris & Aine Lambe

Chairperson's Report 2023 – Hurling

A chairde, tá fáilte romhaibh chuig Cruinniú Ginearálta Bliantúil Na Páirnéalaigh Trá Lí 2023. I'd like to welcome everyone to our AGM for 2023.

I would like to reflect on another busy year gone by under a number of themes.

- Field Activities
- Feile
- Facilities
- Fundraising
- Volunteers

Of course, it is only fitting that I begin by reflecting on a very successful year for our Senior hurlers. Having made the ultimately prescient decision to play in Division 2 of the County League, where we were playing against teams we would be playing at Championship time, the team ran out deserving winners in the Division 2 Final in Crotta in May against a Causeway team that had beaten them earlier in the League. Having only won 2 games the previous year, the team had got the winning feeling this year and victory in the league set them up well for the Intermediate Championship. At the 5th time of asking, we finally captured Corn Antóin Uí Murchú following wins over Kilmoyley, Causeway, Kenmare and then St Brendans in the final in Austin Stacks Park. This was no more than the team and Management deserved following a few near misses since we turned senior in 2019. At a club meeting at the end of August, there was unanimous support for us to apply for Senior status to play in the Senior County Championship next year. As a result, a motion has now been submitted to the Co Board in support of our application to go Senior – this will be voted on next Tuesday night and if carried it will then be brought forward to Co Convention in December to be ratified. Signals at the moment are very positive and the other North Kerry clubs are supportive of our application. Of course, it will be a big step up in class and that will need to be mirrored with a step up in commitment from everyone. It is also likely to result in additional expenditure so we welcome financial support of any kind to allow us to make that step up. The season isn't quite over with competitions dragging on longer than they should, but because of the football focus in this county, district competitions can only take place once football is finished. The Seniors still have a North Kerry Junior League Final to play as well as a South Kerry Championship Final. I'd like to thank the management team of Kevin, Ollie and David for their commitment to the team throughout the year and also to congratulate David who welcomed a new addition to his family during the season. I hope as a Management team they will consider remaining in place for 2024 as we take our rightful place at the top table of Kerry hurling.

Our Junior team competed in Co League Div 3, Co Junior Championship, South Kerry League and South Kerry Cup. There was a good program of games for them and they performed very creditably in all competitions, reaching the South Kerry League Final against Rathmore, losing after extra time. I'd like to thank Paul Daly and Gearoid O'Doherty for their management of this team.

In last year's end of year address, I reflected on and congratulated our U15 boys team on winning Feile. Little did we know then that our girls would follow in their footsteps and bring home another Feile title to the club. I had the pleasure of spending a wonderful day in Roscommon during the summer where I watched the girls hurl out of their skins and display wonderful skills and commitment throughout the day. Unlike the boys the previous year, the final was a far more tense affair but the girls showed a never-say-die attitude and ensured the cup was coming across the Shannon to Tralee. Well done to all involved from parents to players to the Management team – you all made us very proud once again.

With regard to our Academy players and coaches, it was great to see our new ball wall in use from early in the season. It truly is a great facility to have on our doorstep and will certainly bring on the skills of our young players. Well done to Dermot, Aine, Lynda and all our coaches for ensuring that a full and enjoyable

training and games programme was provided for all our young hurlers and camogie players during the year. Congratulations in particular to those teams that won their respective competitions. It is imperative that we identify a full time coaching officer for 2024 – as our club thrives and grows, we need to ensure we are providing the best level of coaching for our young people using the most modern coaching practices.

Congratulations to our Scor na nOg competitors who reached the County Final and in particular to our Scor na nOg Trath na gCeist team of Oisín, Aoife, Donnacha, Karl and Brian and their manager Damien who retained their County title in March, came second once again in the Munster Final and acquitted themselves excellently in the All-Ireland Final in June just missing out on a place in the final 3.

Off the field

Facilities

As well as our new Ball Wall in GSME, our new field in Pairc na Darach at the Sports Complex sprang into life, but only after a lot of planning and hard work by a number of people, but particularly our Development & Facilities Officer Carmel who put in trojan work behind the scenes to get the ballstops up, the field sanded, the hedges cut, the nets erected and the juvenile goalposts in place. A number of age groups held training sessions there towards the latter end of the year. With some final work to be completed, I would hope that it can become the focal point for our Academy players from 2024 onwards.

We continued to have relatively unrestricted access to Caherslee, and this is in no small part to the good working relationship between Carmel and Joe Wallace. The erection of nets behind the goals in Pitch 2 early in the year by Kerry GAA was a very positive addition to the facilities as it allowed us to run training sessions while matches were taking place on the main pitch. I'd like to thank Joe for all his support during the year.

Fundraising

Ger has presented a comprehensive report on the state of our Finances and I would like to thank him for his work as Treasurer over the past number of years. There was added complexity this year trying to manage the day to day finances, as well as manage the expenditure associated with Parc na Darach.

I'd like to thank our Lotto committee for keeping that show on the road and running the draw every fortnight. There still is untapped potential in the Lotto so if anyone has ideas how we can expand this to reach more people more regularly, I'm all ears as they say. Thanks to Agnes and Morgan Sheehy and Paudie Sugrue for their help with our inaugural golf classic, which proved to be a great success. To David Brick and the team that got behind the Rose of Tralee Day at the Dogs, thank you too. A mention to Barry Lyons too who ran our Last Man Standing World Cup Fundraiser at the end of last year.

I would like to personally thank anyone that provided financial assistance to Tralee Parnells this year. Whether it was sponsorship or fundraising for our Féile team on their way to their All-Ireland success, sponsorship for our golf classic, support for our Rose of Tralee "Day at the Dogs", or any specific financial contribution of any kind towards the club, I am extremely grateful. I'd like to thank our Registrars, Kieran and Grainne, who ensured that our move to Foireann this year for our registration was smooth and for keeping on top of our membership which still is our main source of funds. We chose not to run the GAA's National Draw last year but tickets have now been issued for the 2024 draw and these will be issued over the coming weeks to all members so we look forward to your support in this regard.

Kerry Teams

Well done to everyone from Tralee Parnells that was involved in County teams during the year, either in a playing or coaching capacity. It's great to see Parnells represented at all levels from Academy teams to inter-county Kerry teams, in both hurling and camogie.

Social

The inaugural Parnells social was held in February and a great night was had by all. I'd like to thank the organising committee for ensuring such a successful and enjoyable night. Given the success we had in 2023, no doubt there will be another social in 2024 with quite a few medals to be presented!

Healthy Club

Thanks to Diarmuid and Caroline for their efforts during the year in continuing the focus on our Healthy Club initiative and in particular on their efforts in helping us achieve Gold Status.

Congrats

Congrats to those who got married during the year, welcomed new family members and had exam success. We also remember all those club members who lost loved ones during the year.

Conclusion

Last year I ended on a plea for help with Fundraising – my plea this year is for general help. We have a great club, just 11 years old, success on and off the field, but this success is being supported by the same pool of people who are, understandably, reaching exhaustion levels and no longer able to provide the commitment needed to keep the club going. Being a relatively new club in a town where parents are already members of other clubs, presents its own challenges. Unfortunately – and this is something we need to improve on in 2024 - not everyone knows everyone else. Caherslee is a place where people drop and collect and there aren't a lot of opportunities to chat. I would love for this to change next year. We really need new faces to come on board and supplement those that are already there. These volunteers don't necessarily need to take up positions on the Executive straight away – help is needed in all aspects of the club. From putting out flags, to washing jerseys, to making tea and coffee during Academy training sessions, to pitch maintenance in Parc na Darach, to picking up cones after training, to assisting with certain fundraising activities. Help will never be turned down. We even need people just with ideas – ideas on how to widen our net of volunteers. In time, I believe we need a role on the Executive just to be responsible for our Volunteers and to ensure there is a 'conveyor belt' of volunteers to ensure continuity in all roles.

If after the election of officers this evening, there are some unfilled roles and there are people here that would like to help out the club in some way, please let me know and we would be delighted of the help.

To finish, I would particularly like to recognise and thank all outgoing members of our Executive committee who worked tirelessly throughout the year. I would particularly like to thank those that are stepping down this evening and who have chosen not to put their names forward for another year – Carmel, Diarmuid, Ger D, Caroline, Katie – thank you all most sincerely for your help over the past year and indeed the past few years.

I too had intended to step down this evening after 3 enjoyable but very busy years. However, as our Senior team transitions to competing in Senior Championship and to ensure this transition happens as smoothly as possible, I am happy to put my name forward for election as Chairperson for 1 further year. If successful, I look forward to working with the new committee.

Go raibh maith agaibh go leir agus go n-éirí leis an gclub i 2024.

Stephen Buttimer

Cathaoirleach.

Registrars Report

After a significant increase in membership numbers in 2021 there was a drop off in 2022 and this trend continued for 2023 with an drop in hurling and a more noticeable drop on the Camogie side. This surge in 2021 may have been due to Covid as people availed of any option for recreational activities.

This year we used the GAA application Foireann for the first time for registration. After a few teething problems initially, this was a relatively smooth transition. While this is our first year as registrars, based on the feedback from colleagues it seems that Foireann has simplified a number of administration activities during the year. We also benefited from lower commission rates. It is still a relatively new application and it is hoped that further useful enhancements will be added in the future. In particular, there is a need for managers to be able to quickly see the current status of team registrations on their mobile phones.

We also offered a number of options to subscribe to the Club Lotto at a discounted rate at registration time. 11 members availed of this option when renewing their family membership and this information was transferred to the Lotto system which is hosted in Clubforce.

Club Registrars

Kieran Fitzgerald and Grainne Foley