



*The Washington DC Gaels GAA
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Secretary's Report 2022

As Club Secretary I would like to present to you the Secretary's Report for 2022. Welcome all of our members to this year's Annual General Meeting. With a return to normalcy starting this year, we were able to see more of a normal season and get back on track as the Gaels focused on development, recruitment, and game play. I want to thank each board member for your time and commitment to the DC Gaels this past year.

Hurling

Hurling had a strong show of returning players and were able to recruit throughout the year, gaining a few new players for the 2022 season. 2023 will see an emphasis placed on recruitment. Players were eager to return to the pitch and they had a strong show at practices. A strong thanks to Colm Everard Patrick McCabe this year for coaching the Hurling team. The team participated in friendlies, tournaments, and the Mid-Atlantic season with success in winning the Mid-Atlantic Final. In August, the men were able to travel to Finals in Chicago and compete at USGAA Finals. For game recaps, visit the DC Gael's website!

Camogie

Camogie started up with a handful of returning and some new players coming to practice in April. It was a rough year around the region with games made up of a mixture of the teams and none at a full 13 a side. Thanks to the success of the Spring/Fall League and Youth Program there was a lot of interest in joining the team. Recruitment will remain a heavy focus as we go into the 2023 season. Many thanks to Rosie Reilly for taking on coaching this past year as well as introducing wall ball sessions to get in skill work during the off season. Also, thanks to Jillian Hannah who helped lead the team in the role as Captain with her go get 'em attitude that helped spur on the team. For game recaps, visit the DC Gael's website!

Men's Football

The men's footballers had a strong turnout of returning players and had their best year in recruitment for quite some time. Thank you to Emmet McKeown, Shaun Saul, Rory Coffey for coaching the team this year. The team had the opportunity to travel to various tournaments this past season and showcase their skills in the Mid-Atlantic. They

remained undefeated in the Mid-Atlantic division and traveled to Chicago for Finals and won the first game before missing out in the semi final. For game recaps, visit the DC Gael's website!

Ladies Football

The ladies footballers had a strong turnout of returning players and gained some new players along the way. Players were eager to return to the pitch and had a consistent strong show at practices. A big thanks to Becca Levetzow for coaching the team this year. The team had the opportunity to travel to various tournaments this past season and showcase their skills in the Mid-Atlantic. In August, they traveled to Chicago and put up a hard fight against Cleveland during the USGAA Finals. Following Finals, the ladies went undefeated, winning the Baltimore Shamrock 7s. For game recaps, visit the DC Gael's website!

Club Youth Development

After 18 months of planning and numerous zoom calls Danny Green, our youth officer, was able to get the youth program out and onto the field! This has been a breath of fresh air in the club. Supported by the successful application to the Global Games Development Fund, additional funds were available to our Youth Development League headed by Danny Green with assistance from the youth committee; Patrick McCabe, Christina Petrocelli, Shaun Saul, John Hanley, Mike Brown and club volunteers. With a soft launch in August of this year we were able to introduce an 8-week program that saw tremendous growth. We are at over 50 registrants for the fall season. We are thankful for an opportunity to teach the next generation of footballers, hurlers, and camogs at such a young age! A special thanks to everyone involved with making this a success for the Gaels and our community! For heartwarming pictures, check out DC Gael's website! A special thank you to all the coaches that have signed up or stayed behind after the adult fall league to help out.

Fundraising

The Gaels brought back our tried-and-true Squares fundraiser for the All- Ireland finals. The Ladies Football team also worked concessions at Washington Commander's games to raise funds for their season. Both events were great successes and as always if you have any fundraising ideas for 2023, do not hesitate to reach out to the board!

Social Events

This season the club was able to get back to usual. Many of the Gaels attended a Washington Spirit soccer game and had a wonderful time cheering the Spirit on. The annual Tubing trip also was enjoyed by many.

The Gaels were excited to be back with a presence at Ireland at The Wharf for St. Patrick's Day. We took the opportunity to show the community the basics of Football

and Hurling/Camogie. Thank you to those that volunteered to represent the Gaels at this event!

The 2022 Awards Night was held in December at the Tight Five Pub in Adams Morgan. This is a time where we are able to join together for a few pints, laughs, and to recognize the outstanding players from the last season. Congratulations to our players of the year: a tie between Seamus Holland and Alex Durfee (hurling), Jillian Hannah (Camogie), Shaun Saul (Mens Football), and Katie Landes (Ladies Football). Our club person of the year was our Club Development Officer, Christina Petrocelli! Congratulations to all!

While 2022 was a bit of a rebuilding year, it set the framework for great things to come in 2023. I would like to thank the board for their commitment to the DC Gaels. There is so much work behind the scenes and your contributions do not go unnoticed. To our members, thank you for your participation and engagement with the club. I urge you to join committees and participate when possible in the coming year as there is still so much work to be done as we grow in skill and numbers. Thank you all for your time and dedication to our club.

Cheers,

Candice Stone
Secretary