

**AGENDA FOR CLARA CAMOGIE CLUB AGM SUNDAY
26TH NOVEMBER 2023 AT 12PM IN CLARA GAA CLUBHOUSE**

- 1. Adoption of Standing Orders**
- 2. Minutes of 2022 AGM**
- 3. Consideration of Secretary's Report**
- 4. Consideration of Treasurer's Report**
- 5. Chairman's Address**
- 6. Election of Officers & members of the Camogie Committee**
- 7. Consideration of the nomination of coaches for all ages**
- 8. Discussion on suggestions/recommendations**
- 9. Any Other Business**

Clara Camogie AGM Secretary's Report 2023

I would like to welcome everyone here today to our Annual General Meeting. Clara camogie club had another busy season training & competing at all age groups & in all the various competitions.

Our Senior team were led by the management team of Peter "Chap" Cleere, Jennifer Dillon & John Curtis. It was a difficult year for the senior team given the loss of players through emigration but despite being tight on numbers throughout the year they trained hard from the 19th March right through until we exited the championship on the 8th October. We struggled to field a team in all our All County league games & didn't manage a win but the performances improved as the year went on. We then played three league games against St. Brigid's, Windgap & St. Martins & three defeats in these games left us with a first-round championship match against Conahy. The team prepared well for this match & came away with a resounding victory on a scoreline of 8-08 to 1-04. This win against Conahy was a hugely important result for the club as it secured our senior status for the 2024 season & put us into a senior championship quarter final for the fourth consecutive year. Despite a very creditable performance we exited the championship at the hands of a very strong & experienced Piltown team. However, we should be very pleased with our finish to a difficult season & particularly with the resilience shown by the team & management in preserving our senior status for another year. There is a huge amount of talent in the current group of young players & hopefully we will have a few players returning to the panel next year & will be back challenging at the latter end of championship 2024. I would like to thank our management team of Peter "Chap" Cleere, Jennifer Dillon & John Curtis for their commitment over the past year & especially thank Chap for his time & dedication over the past two years & to wish him the best of luck as he takes up his new role as manager of the Kilkenny Senior camogie team.

We did look at entering a team in the Junior C championship but it wasn't an option due to the small number of players available.

Our U-22's are in the 12 a-side competition given the low numbers available but at the time of writing this report they had not yet played a match.

Once again fielding a team in the minor grade was a major struggle for the club. We played two games in the league beating Bennettsbridge & losing to O'Loughlins but were unable to fulfil the other 4 league fixtures. In league/championship we played two games losing to Tullogher & Erins Own/Naomh Brid but again couldn't fulfil our other round robin fixture against Carrickshock. For the previous three years we barely managed to field 15 players in the championship & this year we ended up in the unfortunate position of having to give a walkover in the first round of championship for the first time ever. This is due to a drop off in playing numbers at the age of 15, 16, 17 & 18 over the past few years which is a serious issue that the club badly needs to try & address. A huge thanks to coaches Joe Casey, Eamon Dunne & to Ciaran Prendergast for the time & effort given by them throughout the year.

Our U-16 team this year competed in the Roinn C competition. We had decent squad numbers but as the year went on we became more & more dependent on the younger players, particularly the U-14's. In the League we played Rower-Inistioge, Tullaroan, Barrow Rangers, Carrickshock & Tullogher. We didn't win any of these games but the performance & the effort was good & we didn't have a full team available for any of these games.

In the League/Championship round robin we lost to Tullogher, St. Martin's & Barrow Rangers & drew with Young Irelands. This left us in the preliminary round of knock out championship where we had a hard fought win against Erins Own/Naomh Brid putting us into the quarter final. This match against Rower-Inistioge was played during the Halloween mid-term & we were missing a number of players. We ended up playing 13 a-side & were beaten by Rower-Inistioge. As previously stated the team was heavily dependent on our u-14 girls to make up the numbers & they performed valiantly, showed great determination & never gave up.

To summarise our U-16's season, the drop off in numbers, particularly the older girls is again a concern for the club going forward. We congratulate our younger players for holding their own against girls several years older & no doubt this will stand to all these girls, most of whom will be playing U-16 again in 2024.

Thanks to Eamon Dunne, Padraic Brennan, Aoife Murphy & Siobhan Treacy for all their hard work & dedication throughout the year.

Our U15's, down to & including our U-13's, participated in Division 4 of the County Feile competition this year. We played our matches in Kilmacow & a win against Graiguenamanagh & a great draw against Kilmacow put us into an afternoon final at the Kells Road against Kilmacow again. The final was a brilliant game of camogie. The Clara girls led by just one point at half time having had the advantage of a strong wind behind them. Kilmacow started the second half strongly & went a goal ahead after just 5 minutes of the second half & Clara looked in trouble. However, the girls put in a brilliant last 10 minutes & eventually ended up winners on a scoreline of 2-03 to 1-01. This was a brilliant panel performance with all 22 girls getting game time throughout the day & in the final. It was great to see our captain, Maria Hogan, lift the cup & it was the highlight for the club for 2023. Thanks to the management team of Brian Kennedy, Noel Corr, Eamon Dunne, David Shortall & Kathryn Kennedy.

Our U-14's had great numbers this year with a panel of 27 players. Attendance at training was very good & was all the better for having such big numbers. We competed firstly in the Roinn C league & had a good win over St. Martins, a draw with Windgap & defeats against Emeralds & a very strong Bennettsbridge team who subsequently went on to win the Roinn B championship. We then competed in the championship round robin & had some very good results. We had a good win over Ballyhale, a draw against Glenmore, a narrow defeat in a thriller against St. Martins & lost to eventual championship winners Emeralds by just 4 points. We also played challenge games against St. Brigids, Blacks & Whites & Barrow Rangers which we won & Young Irelands, which we lost, in preparation for the championship knock out quarter final against St. Lachatains. We suffered two bad injuries to key players in the week leading up to this match & were beaten by a very good Freshford team. Overall, we were very pleased with the way the year went. We had a big panel of very committed, enthusiastic players who were very willing to learn & work hard. We did our best to give all 27 players game time throughout the year especially in the league & challenge games. This was challenging at times but we felt that this was very important to us from a player retention point of view. Our hope for 2024 & beyond is that this very dedicated group of players continue to play camogie & if they stick together & keep improving the way they did this year there will be success for them in the future. Thanks to coaches Brian Kennedy, Noel Corr & David Shortall.

At U-12 this year we had a group of 21 very dedicated & enthusiastic girls who trained hard all year & who improved greatly as the year progressed. The season started early for these girls on Saturday 25th February when they played against Danesfort at half time in the Kilkenny vs Galway Intermediate league match. The girls also took part in the Cáman to Leinster blitz in Nowlan Park in April. They played blitzes throughout the Summer in Clara, Gowran, Paulstown & in Clara again. On the 22nd July they played against Emeralds at half time in the All Ireland Intermediate semi-final between Kilkenny & Derry in Semple Stadium. They began their mini league campaign on 5th August & played Naomh Brid, Lisdowney, Conahy, James Stephens, Conahy, Lisdowney & finished with a Finale Day game against Blacks & Whites on the 21st October. They played a total of 7 games in the mini league winning six games & drawing the other game & put in some great performances over the course of the league. The majority of the older u-12 girls trained with the u-14's throughout the year & the improvement in their skills & development from doing so was very obvious as the year went on. There is a bright future ahead for this bunch of talented girls. A huge thanks to the coaches Jennifer Dillon, Simon Carroll, Michael Beatty, Aine McDonald, Aoife Glynn & Rebecca Nolan.

The Under 10 Camogie girls - with a panel of 19 girls - had a brilliant season. A great bunch of girls with loads of ability & enthusiasm for the game. Hopefully all of them will be back to play again at U10s & U12s next year.

They had a long enjoyable season with an early start. The first blitz against Kilmacud Crokes, Bennettsbridge & Barrow Rangers was held on the 12th of March in Clara. With the last outing, another blitz in Kilmanagh on the 14th October with teams from St Brigid's, Drom & Inch, Rower Inistioge, Boherlahan Dualla & Gaitír competing.

Holiday season was busy as usual across the Summer months but there was a good attendance at training most nights & a great turnout for all the games.

Over the season there were games against St. Brigid's, Erin's Own, St Martins, Blacks & Whites, Ballyhale Shamrocks, Barrow Rangers, Bennettsbridge & Gowran. There were also a number on Go Game Blitzes hosted by Thomastown, St Martins, Clara & again by Thomastown & Clara a second time.

A busy season but many hands made light work with the coaching team of Ed Mulrooney, Siobhan Carrigan, Bill O'Keeffe, Joe Treacy, Eamon Phelan, Grace Barcoe & Emma Shortall.

2023 was a superb season for the u-8 Camógs in Clara. We had a panel of 20 girls at the start of our season & finished with 21 girls enjoying their Camogie with friends. Our season started with the u-9 blitz in Kieran's College, followed by trips to Dicksboro & Gowran. We hosted O'Loughlins & Dicksboro in Clara, which was followed by much needed ice pops as it was during the heatwave, remember that! Then we were on the road again with a trip to Lisdowney for an enjoyable morning. It was then our turn again, as we hosted St. Lachtains, O'Loughlins, and Naomi Bríd in Clara. There was one more blitz to round the season off in Castlecomer, before a season finale trip to Kilmanagh to play the hosts St. Brigid's as part of their festival of Camogie.

A huge thanks to all players, & their parents for the support throughout the season. We hope they all enjoyed the Camogie as much as we did. Thanks to coaches Kathryn Kennedy, Dermot Nolan, Fintan Treacy & Paul Mullally.

On average we had 16 u-6 girls at training on Monday nights. They played one blitz with Bennettsbridge & all of them showed great improvement & above all else had great fun over the year. The ask from the coaches is that they ideally need 4 coaches for this group, given the number of players & to allow for the absence of coaches on the odd occasion. The coaches feel this is minimum requirement from a health & safety aspect for both players & coaches. This is something the committee will take on board. Thanks to coaches Mairead Buckley, Avril Jones & Aoife Treacy.

Away from club action the highlight of the year has to be the winning of the Roinn A Cumann na mBunscoil camogie championship by the Clara school team. On a beautiful sunny Sunday in June in Gowran they played some outstanding camogie in beating Bunscoil Macauley Ris on a scoreline of 10-02 to 3-04. The result was never in doubt from the very early stages & such was their dominance they were able to give every member of the panel a run in the final. There were great scenes of celebration when Olivia Power raised the cup on behalf of a great panel of players. Great thanks, as always, to the teachers Ms. Phelan, Ms. Glynn, Mr. Deegan & Mr. Mulrooney for their ongoing work with our young players.

Congratulations to Aisling Curtis who was a member of the Kilkenny Senior team who reached the All Ireland semi-final, to Rachel Whelan, Keara Ryan & Laoise Nolan who were part of the Kilkenny Intermediate team who reached the league final, won the Leinster championship & were beaten in the All Ireland semi-final. They continue to be great role models for our younger players.

Congratulations to Lucy Boyd who represented the club on the Kilkenny u-16 team & to Caragh Brennan, Onagh Fitzgerald, Amy Bergin & Moya Kelly who were part of the u-14 Kilkenny county squads.

Congratulations also to Emma Corr, Claire Murphy & Lucy Boyd who won a senior college's All Ireland and to Lucy Boyd & Pia Langton who won junior colleges All Ireland medals, all with Loreto.

As always, we thank all our coaches, managers & mentors for the continued work & effort they put in with all our teams throughout 2023. The club's achievements & continued development wouldn't be possible without the hours of dedication that our coaches give to all of our teams. All of this time & effort is greatly appreciated by the players involved. We thank you for continuing to provide support to our players at all levels & we also extend our thanks to all parents who support the camogie club throughout the year by making many car trips to the pitch for training & cheering on from the side-lines.

Off the field the Camogie Club together with the main Clara GAA club, the Bord na nOg & the LGFA club continue to work towards creating a "One Club". We hope to get close to our goal of the "One Club" in the coming year.

We are very fortunate to have great support from the main GAA club & are very grateful to the GAA club Executive Committee for this. The two main items of expenditure i.e. registrations & insurance are covered for in full by the GAA club out of the camogie membership subscriptions & this puts us in a comfortable position financially. We, in turn, put in a huge effort during 2023 to support the main fundraisers run by the GAA club particularly the Parish Lotto, Walkathon, Piltown Draw & stewarding at matches in Clara.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sharon & Mark Kelly & Freshco for their continued sponsorship of the Camogie Club. They have been very loyal to us over the past number of years & this is very much appreciated. I would also like to thank Ned Nolan of Hermitage Pigs for their very generous sponsorship of a new set of jerseys for the u-12 team.

There is one major area that the Camogie Club urgently needs to address over the coming year. This is the recurring issue of player retention particularly those players at the u-14, u-16 & u-18 age groups. As stated earlier our inability to field a team in the minor championship is a major concern & we need to work towards ensuring that this does not happen again in future years. The incoming committee will need to prioritise this during 2024.

I would like to thank the committee for all their continued work throughout the year. I would especially like to thank my fellow officers - Chairperson Eamon Dunne & Treasurer Ed Mulrooney.

I would like to thank you again for all for your continued support to Clara Camogie & to the continued growth & success of the club in 2023. Wishing you all a happy & safe Christmas & New Year.

David Shortall,
Secretary.