



## **Charleston GAA**

Annual General Meeting Minutes

Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020

3:00 pm @ Charleston County Public Library

### **Present Board Members:**

Chair: Brian Bland

Vice Chair: Andrew Maron

Treasurer: Tiff Nichols

Secretary: Rob Coyle

Recruitment: Brett Wadford

Special Events: Austin Dain

PRO: Ryan Shrum

### **A. Board Member Reports**

#### **Treasurer's report (Tiff Nichols)**

- We are currently \$2,000 in the red after paying Nationals fees, etc.
- We want to find a home field and rental costs are still to be determined
- It was proposed for players to pay their own USGAA registration this year, or to find a way to streamline getting those fees well ahead of Nationals
- It costs \$500 minimum to sponsor pub league. Should we try for larger companies? McCann's committed \$1250, Tommy Condon's \$1000, Willin Solutions \$1800, and Recovery Room \$500
- Proposition to raise dues to \$100-\$150 to help cover various tournament fees and field rental. Most members were in support of this; exact fee to be determined

#### **Sponsorship (Ryan Finn)**

- We need to wear our McCann's new jerseys when we are out at events, rather than our older ones, because that is part of the sponsorship commitment
- We have a sponsorship packet that breaks down the tiers and costs for Pub League, etc
- Angel Oak has offered us a club discount but we'd need a 6 month, \$700 commitment.
  - o In discussion, more members felt this was too large a commitment based on number of attendees at the first two free events. Andrew expressed interest in keeping some other kind of partnership with Angel Oak.
- We also have a sliotar sponsor where company logo is printed on the balls

- Upcoming fundraising: Superbowl Squares, sold for \$10 to \$20 a piece

### **Recruitment (Brett Wadford)**

- We have about five new recruits who are active and have come to more than one event or practice
- The club did 4 demos this year, 3 at College of Charleston and 1 at American College of the Building Arts
- Will work to keep up the momentum and do more demos, and reach out to the new ACBA players in the Spring when practices resume
- Possibly do demos at corporations or businesses
- New player clinics
- Would like to do a survey of people who only show up once to see what we can do better or why they didn't return
- Brett gets best responses with texts but will continue to send monthly or more frequent emails to new and potential members

### **Secretary (Robert Coyle)**

#### **Practices-**

- We have had over 70 games and practices during the year
- We should work to improve recruiting and retention, as more numbers make for better quality practices
- We need more coaches, and should make a practice play book for better organization and use of practice time

#### **Pub League overview-**

- This year we may try to play sevens with three teams for pub league

#### **Holy City Cup-**

- Suggested moving Holy City Cup (HCC) to Spring to avoid burnout around Nationals time
- Try to find an objective way to have A and B teams

#### **Coaching goals-**

- o more one on one help to elevate skills and maybe focus on that's players position on the field. More position specific drills also
- o More games-based approach to practice
- o More fitness and cardio, both in practice and on your own

#### **Nationals discussion**

- o Is there a qualification procedure? Yes, for larger divisions but not usually in the south, there's enough space for us to play at any level
- o There is new, better leadership coming for the Southeast division of GAA, which will help with tournament planning and Nationals, etc.
- o We should treat all tournaments like they are SE division qualifiers

- Atlanta and Charlotte have approached the women on the team about playing camogie with them at Nationals; Atlanta has half enough players for a second team, to be complimented by Charlotte women (most of whom are more interested in Gaelic football at Nationals) so our ladies would round out a second combined team.

### **Chair's report (Brian Bland)**

#### **Survey results:**

- People are willing to do 2 to 4 events per month
- To travel 20-30 minutes for practice
- Eleven people currently interested in Nationals
- People want more teams for pub league
- They felt that Spring pub league took away from tournament prep
- Fall pub league had an 8.4 positive rating
- People feel that retention and getting numbers out for pub league are areas that need work
- Requests for more pre-information on the drills to save time and confusion, and themes for practice (ie, marking day or striking, etc.)
- New player clinics should take place outside of practice
- Wednesday practice needs to be more focused and start on time; Sundays for games and clinics
- Training sessions for flaggers, goal judges, etc. for tournaments
- Interest in a sideline manager
- More focus on athletic recruitment and getting an A team/B team
- More non-bar events and family friendly fundraisers

#### **Recent successes**

- We played in our first Nationals tournament in 2020
- Charleston Hurling prevailed at some tournaments but would like to retake the Holy City Cup in 2020
- Successful recruitment and dedication of recent board has seen club grow from record low numbers in the 2014 slump to nearly enough members to have three pub league teams and to split into 2 teams for some tournaments

### **B. 2020 Board Election Results**

- Chair: Andrew Maron
- Vice: Ryan Finn
- Treasurer: Tiff Nichols
- Secretary: Christina Butler
- Recruiting: Brett Wadford
- PRO: Caitlyn Lees
- Events: Gordon Thompson
- Sponsorship: Brian Bland

## **C. New Business: Andrew Maron**

### **Resolutions:**

1. Ryan Finn- Possibly make chair position a 2 year position in the future to keep continuity and momentum going. Motion- declined.
2. length of terms and term limits. 2 years maximum in a board position to prevent burnout. Motion- passed.

### **Votes:**

- Move HCC to Spring.
  - o Reasons- prevent Nationals and tournament burnout, good for recruitment and retention early in season.
  - o Counter point- too early, not enough time to practice and prepare.
  - o Motion- passed.
- Raise dues for fields, member support, etc.
  - o Motion- passed.
  - o New membership fee TBD by board in next meeting.
  - o Part of dues to be earmarked for finding a home field.
  - o Members noted that our sport is one of the cheapest to get into in the Charleston area, especially because we will lend equipment

### **Closing comments from Andrew:**

2020's top issues will be securing a field and focusing on recruitment and retention.

Adjourned.