



# **Cumann Lúthchleas Gael Ardclach**

**Cruinniú Bliaintúil 2023**

87<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

30ú Samhain 2023

**WE ALL BELONG HERE  
IN THIS PLACE. AT THIS TIME**

**WE BELONG NOT BECAUSE OF WHO WE ARE OR WHERE WE COME FROM**

**BEING HERE MEANS BELONGING**

**BELONGING MEANS KNOWING YOU'RE PART OF A COMMUNITY**

**A COMMUNITY THAT HAS A PLACE FOR ALL**

**WHERE POTENTIAL IS NURTURED**

**WHERE INDIVIDUALS BECOME TEAMS**

**WHO HONOUR THE LEGACY OF THOSE WHO WENT BEFORE**

**AND STRIVE TO BUILD A LEGACY OF THEIR OWN**

**SOME OF US PLAY**

**SOME OF US USED TO PLAY. SOME OF US NEVER PLAYED**

**WE ALL BELONG**

**BELONGING MEANS HAVING A VOICE**

**MEANS BEING ABLE TO SAY WHAT YOU THINK IS RIGHT**

**BEING LISTENED TO**

**BELONGING MEANS RESPECTING EACH OTHER**

**MEANS BEING THERE FOR EACH OTHER**

**ON THE PITCH. OFF THE PITCH**

**BELONGING MEANS ROLLING OUR SLEEVES UP AND DOING WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE**

**WE ALL BELONG WHETHER IT'S OUR FIRST DAY OR OUR HUNDRETH YEAR**

**WE ALL BELONG HERE BECAUSE THIS PLACE BELONGS TO US ALL**

**OUR GAA**

**WHERE WE ALL BELONG**

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# An Clár

1. Adoption of Standing Orders
2. Minutes of A.G.M. 2022
3. Treasurer's Report & Statement of Accounts
4. Secretary's Report
5. Chairperson's Address
6. Matters arising from Games Committee Reports
  - Football
  - Hurling
  - Camogie
  - Ladies Football
7. Election of Club Officers and Executive Committee
8. Election of Football Committee
9. Election of Hurling Committee
10. Motions to the AGM
11. Any Other Business
12. Condolences

## CRUINNIÚ BLIANTÚIL 2023 (Annual General Meeting)

### Standing Orders

- The Proposer of a motion may speak for a maximum of five minutes only.
- A member speaking on a motion, or an amendment, shall speak for three minutes only.
- The proposer of a motion, or an amendment may speak a second time before a vote is taken. No other member may speak a second time to any motion or amendment.
- The Chairman shall, at any time that he/she considers a matter to have been sufficiently discussed, call on a proposer to reply, after which a vote is taken.
- A Member may with consent of the Chairman, move” that the question be now put” after which, when the proposer has spoken, a vote must be taken.
- A speaker to the Chairperson Address/Secretary’s Report or to any other general discussion shall not exceed three minutes on one topic.
- Standing Orders shall not be suspended for the purpose of considering any matter not on the Agenda except by the consent of a majority equal to two-thirds of those present, entitled to vote and voting.
- The Chairman may change the order of items on the agenda with the support of a simple majority of those present, entitled to vote and



**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**ARDCLOUGH GAA CLUB**  
**24<sup>TH</sup> November 2022**



1. Chairman John Ryan opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the meeting. John said that all documents and nominations had been shared in advance and hoped that people had an opportunity to review them in advance.
2. **The Standing Orders** were adopted following a proposal from Larry Graham and seconded by Gerry Tully
3. **The Minutes of the 2021 AGM** were shared in advance. They were adopted following a proposal from James Kelly and seconded by Niall Phillips
4. Brendan Smartt explained the requirement to formally adopt the **GAA Club Constitution**. He proposed that we adopt Format 2(a) and this was seconded by Larry Graham.
5. **The Accounts** were presented by Michelle Kelly and Mark Graham (auditor).
  - Danny Graham suggested that in future we should share a summary of funds raised for capital projects versus expenditure to date.
  - Tom Johnson suggested that we try to make more out of the National Draw in future.
  - Larry Graham asked for a breakdown of the €10k spent on sports equipment
  - The accounts were adopted. Proposed by Maurice Byrne and seconded by Tom Johnson
6. James Kelly thanked everyone involved in the **Fundraising** Committee for their efforts in raising an extraordinary amount of money for the Development Plan. The fundraising report was proposed by Ronan O'Malley and seconded by Ollie Kelly.
7. The **Secretary's Report** was proposed by James Kelly and seconded by Gerry Tully
8. The **Registrar's Report** was discussed.
  - Danny Graham pointed out that we only had 64 adult playing members and questioned how we could hope to field three adult teams. Aoife Kelly explained that some players may be family or even student members so 64 is not a fair reflection of the number of adult players.



## 9. Chairman John Ryan's Address

Good Evening All,

I would like to thank all of you for taking the time to attend the 86<sup>th</sup> Ardcloy GAA Club AGM. It is pleasing to see such a fine turnout.

On behalf of the outgoing Executive Committee, I wish to extend our sincere condolences to all Club members who have suffered bereavements during the past 12 months. A thighearna dean trocaire ar a n-anam.

Turning firstly to finance matters, as will you have seen from the accounts presentation, the Club finances are in a healthy state as we embark on the remaining phases of our development projects. Our bank balances across the various accounts stood at **€240,000** at the end of August. The Club is currently **debt free**. The overall net surplus for the year was **€190,000**. A fantastic outcome that reflects the success of the fundraising efforts led by that sub-committee across all channels. **€165,000** of the surplus came from donations and pitch side advertising, which for the most part is non-recurring income. Put differently, the net surplus for the year, if one excludes the exceptional income items, was **€25,000**.

*Why is this relevant?* To meet the annual loan repayments to service the debt that will be drawn down to buy the new land and deliver the astro project, we will need an annual net surplus of at least **€40,000**. The shortfall will need to be met through fundraising and related initiatives. We need to target **€20,000** minimum per year, over and above the annual golf classic. So while most of the 'heavy lifting' on the fundraising has largely been done, there will be an ongoing requirement to generate new sources of funds as the bar surplus won't service all of the debt repayments.

Membership income is another important source of revenue. Our current rates represent great value for money. A decision on the level of fees to be charged in 2023 was made by the outgoing executive and will be published in advance of the next renewal date.

At last year's AGM, there was overwhelming support for the motion to proceed with three capital projects:

1. Erection of floodlighting on the main pitch in 2022
2. Installation of an all-weather pitch and lighting at the canal pitch in 2022
3. Purchase of lands in Ardcloy and development of a pitch, assuming a deal could be done on terms satisfactory to the Executive Committee

*So how did we fare?* The floodlighting project was delivered, later in the year than planned, which was essentially due to supply chain and related issues. But they are installed now and look great.

The all-weather lighting was installed at the same time. With regard to the astro itself, we have a contract signed with Premier Pitches. They have placed orders for the equipment and





will be ready to go on site when ground conditions permit. Realistically, this won't be until late January at the earliest. We will move forward with the all-weather pitch installation as soon as it makes sense to do so, whilst being conscious that our juvenile members would like to have it available to them at some stage this winter.

With regard to buying new land, we have agreed terms to purchase about 6.3 acres across the road from St. Anne's School. We intend to sign and close this deal next month. To do so, we need GAA approval in three stages, the first being from the Co Board, which we have received. The next stages are Leinster Council, and then Central Council, acting through the NFMC, the last one being the most rigorous.

I mentioned in last year's address that we were considering purchasing land adjacent to the school, to combine this with the school field registered in the name of Diocese. We had ongoing dialogue with the school to progress this but were eventually informed that the school board of management didn't wish to proceed with the transaction.

I also had discussions during the year with the land owner across the road from the Club. They didn't want to sell any land at this time but did ask for a letter of support which we issued in support of their land rezoning application. This has generated some goodwill with the owner, from which there may be an opportunity for the Club to secure some further land on that site at a future date.

I would now like to provide more insight on the financing of the capital projects.

The pre-tender quote for the main pitch floodlighting was **€200,000**. The final cost was **€220,000**, the increase mainly due to ball-trackers not in the pre-tender quote. The lights have been financed by a sports capital grant of **€150,000** (an excellent outcome given we had budgeted for half of this), and new funds raised of **€70,000**.

The astro pre-tender quote was **€250,000**. The final cost will be **€284,000**, the additional costs being due to the increased cost of materials. The astro will be financed by a GAA Development loan of **€100,000**, repayable over 10 years at an interest rate of 1.9%, a 15 year loan of **€100,000** from Clann Credo at a 5.45% interest rate, and new funds raised of **€84,000**.

The land option we are pursuing now is dearer than what we anticipated last year but given the great outcome, the **€295,000** purchase price is justifiable. The land purchase is being financed from three sources: (i) a **€175,000** loan from *Clann Credo* (ii) a Leinster Council grant of **€50,000** and (iii) own funds of **€75,000**. The *Clann Credo* loan will be repayable over 15 years at a 5.45% interest rate; there is no penalty to the extent the Club can repay it over a shorter time period. We expect to receive the Leinster Council grant next year so we have secured bridge financing from *Clann Credo* in the interim to enable us close the land deal. The own funds will come from a combination of funds held in the old development account and new funds to be raised. We are short **€20,000** in own funds at this point.

So for those members who haven't yet made donations this year, we are asking that you do so over the next three weeks. As noted in the Fundraising Committee report, the total funds raised since the AGM last year is **c.€180,000**, a phenomenal outcome for a club of our size.



The average donations for the most part have been above the €500 minimum being sought per member. Given we are about to deliver on all three capital projects, we need all members to donate at whatever amount you can afford. Otherwise, we could be in a position whereby we have to ask some members to donate a second time, which doesn't seem right.

To wrap up on the financing, our total project costs will be in the region of **€800,000** compared with the estimate earlier this year of **€750,000**. Our borrowing level though will remain at **€375,000**. The monthly repayments on the combined debt next year will be **€3,400** per month. This will fall to **€3,200** per month when the bridging loan is repaid. So while this is challenging, it's doable. Remember that we were able to service monthly debt repayments of **€2,800** during the pandemic.

There will of course be capital costs associated with getting the new field ready as a training pitch, and playing matches in due course. We estimate the initial cost to get the grounds ready for use at **€50,000**. How we fund this needs to be considered by the incoming Executive Committee. *Part of it could come from a tax refund estimated at €15,000 the Club will be due to receive next year relating to donations made by PAYE only taxpayers towards the floodlighting and astro projects, which are eligible for tax relief under Donations to Approved Sports Bodies.*

Further development of the new grounds in due course could be through grant aid sources, and other initiatives.

### Motion

I want to spend a few minutes giving some background and context to the motion to be discussed later in the meeting. We were approached by Cellnex earlier this year asking if we would consider a financial proposal to allow them install a communications tower on the Club grounds. They are acting for 3 Mobile, which currently pay a small component of the rent on the roof masts (Eir being the primary operator). Cellnex mentioned they had approached other land owners in the locality, including Cliff At Lyons.

The offer from Cellnex is to pay the Club an initial sum of **€80,000** for the construction of the new tower, assuming planning permission is obtained. They would need a letter of consent from the Club in support of their planning application at the site and require the Club to grant a 25 year lease in return for the upfront amount. They don't offer a rental income alternative. If a second operator (expected to be Vodafone) locates on the facility, they would pay the Club another **€40,000**.

*If Eir relocate at some point from the roof to the mast, Cellnex would pay us a further €100,000. Eir are not however our licensee on the roof, it's Phoenix Tower International that own the mast equipment and pay the annual rental income, which now stands at €12,000 p.a. So if Eir want to move from the roof, they would need to reach agreement with Phoenix on this and Phoenix would have to serve us a 12 month notice to terminate the license agreement for the roof masts.*



A top up premium of **€10,000** would be paid by Cellnex if a fourth operator locates on the facility.

Since we published the motion, we have been approached by Phoenix, which have made a counter offer. If we do a deal with them, they could pay us a total amount of up to **€240,000** comprised of the following:

- **€18,000** upfront on signing of the agreement for lease for the tower site
- **€182,000** if planning is obtained for the tower (and Eir move to the tower)
- **€40,000** if a third operator (e.g. Vodafone) locate on the tower

Given this development, we will be moving an amendment to the motion that would allow us to proceed with either Cellnex or Phoenix. The decision as to which company is granted approval to apply for planning would be made by the Executive Committee based on the best financial terms finally offered to the Club.

If the motion is approved this evening, the timeframe for either company to obtain planning permission is uncertain but it's possible it could be secured in 2023. If so, this would be timely as it would enable the Club to pay down some of its new debt, thereby lowering the ongoing monthly repayments. *If for example, we used €70,000 of the Cellnex or Phoenix money to pay down part of the Call Credo debt, our monthly repayments would be reduced by €560 p.m., which would save the Club €100,000 over the 15 year loan term.* Some of this money could also be used for the new grounds, or perhaps to hire our own hurling/football coach for juveniles. The potential financial benefits for the Club of either offer are evident so it's for that reason the Executive Committee have put forward the motion for approval this evening.

### Club Teams

Time does not permit me to comment in any great detail on how we performed across the various adult and juvenile grades. The informative reports summarize this well.

I would like to express my thanks to all our players (adult and juvenile) and their coaches and mentors for their dedication and work during the year.

It was important that our senior hurlers maintained our long standing senior status. It goes without saying that whatever support is required from management and players next year to build on this will be forthcoming from the Executive.

Our juvenile hurlers continue to be competitive across a number of grades and claimed some well-deserved silverware in certain age groups. It is welcome to see increased numbers participating and enjoying themselves; one of the challenges we will continue to face is retaining sufficient player numbers to be competitive as they progress to minor level and beyond.



On the juvenile football side, the Club's participation in the St Edwards amalgamation has gone well but will require ongoing work and close involvement from the representatives and mentors to ensure that the amalgamation bears fruit from our perspective.

We continue to struggle at the adult football grade. The football committee report from Brian Mullen summarizes the position well. We will need to renew our efforts to ensure we can field a competitive junior football team for all competitions. I would welcome greater interaction between the football committee and the Executive so that we are in a position to better support their work.

### Acknowledgements

Lastly, I want to acknowledge the contribution of various people during the year.

On the Executive, this was Brendan Smartt's first year as club secretary. It was a baptism of fire given everything that we had ongoing. The amount of time he has put into the role has been phenomenal, a lot of it not seen by many so my sincere thanks to Brendan.

Aoife Kelly likewise was new to the registrar's role and again, the time and effort she has put into that role, as well as coordinating the running of the lotto, has been immense.

Michelle Kelly continues to do sterling work on all finance matters, and the additional work required from her during this fundraising process this year has been significant, not to mention the time involved in preparing documentation to enable us to successfully apply for various grant and loan applications.

My thanks to our Vice-Chairman Paul Hogan for his ongoing work in dealing with the project contractors and managing the floodlights installation. Paul and some of his work colleagues had to be 'hands on' in the erection of the lights. Thanks also to Ken Kelly for his work in this regard - when we needed a hand, he was there.

My thanks to Chris Hoban in dealing with all planning related matters; when we had some issues to address recently, his calm and knowledgeable approach ensured we got the right end result.

When Mick Kelly stepped back at the end of last year after many years of service in maintaining the Club grounds, another Club stalwart and committee member Tom Johnson stepped into the breach. Joe Lynam has done likewise. The main pitch continues to look in great condition and now that we have floodlighting in place, we need to keep it that condition, so we will continue with the annual pitch maintenance work of sanding, seeding and fertilizing.

I would like to pay collective thanks to all members of the outgoing Executive and committee reps for their work and support during the year. The committee meetings were constructive and members tasked with action items got on with these; it was a cohesive and positive group, and the fruits of this are there for members to see.



The off-field highlight of the year has been the success of our fundraising efforts and this is down to the sustained efforts of our fundraising sub-committee, led by James Kelly. Were it not for his tenacious and thought out approach to driving and managing the whole process, we would not have raised the amount of funds we did. A key part of the fundraising was the advertising signage money raised, and this was down to the work of Simon van Lonkhuyzen. My thanks to both of them and all on the sub-committee.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank our Club sponsors, *Cliff At Lyons*, for coming on board earlier this year. Their sponsorship income of **€15,000 p.a.** is a significant increase from prior years. It's a commercial relationship we need to build on more closely in the coming year to make it mutually beneficial for both parties.

Finally, it would be remiss of me not to pay special thanks to Noel Burke, who is stepping down this year as hurling chairman after many years in that role for the Club. Noel embodies all that is great about Club dedication and loyalty, and has shown this in spades as a player and for many years as a volunteer with Club. *We will make a presentation later to Noel as a small gesture of our thanks.* We look forward to his continued support over many more years with the Club.

Thank you.

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10. The **Hurling Report** was discussed.

- Danny Graham said he felt the school is not supporting the GAA Club sufficiently. He feels that there is more rugby than GAA being played in the school.
- Rob Slack challenged this view and pointed out that Barnhall Rugby are being more aggressive in promoting their game.
- Brian Kelly said that we should consider investing in our own coaching resource.
- The report was proposed by Pdraic O'Malley and seconded by Ronan O'Malley

11. The **Adult Football** Report was proposed by Brian Mullen and seconded by Maurice Byrne

12. The **Juvenile Football** Report was proposed by Larry Graham and seconded by Brian O'Brien

13. The **Camogie Report** was proposed by Colm Tyndall and seconded by Diane Brogan

14. The **Ladies Football** report was discussed

- Ollie Kelly indicated that the LGFA County Board had questioned the Straffard amalgamation and that the incoming committee would be seeking to ensure that it is placed on a solid footing for the future.
- The report was proposed by Simon Van Longkheuzen and seconded by James Kelly



**15. Tuarascáil Cultúr agus Gaeilge**

The report was proposed by Ger Buggle and seconded by Frank Ahearne.

16. The report of the **Children's Officer** was proposed by Pat Corrigan and seconded by Tony pain.

**17. The nominations for the Executive Committee** were as follows

<b>Chairperson</b>	John Ryan
<b>Vice Chairperson</b>	Paul Hogan
<b>Secretary</b>	Brendan Smartt
<b>Treasurer</b>	Michelle Kelly
<b>Registrar</b>	Aoife Kelly
<b>PRO</b>	Declan Burke
<b>Oifig Cultúr &amp; Gaeilge</b>	Seamus Ó'Mídheach
<b>Committee of 5 people</b>	Tom Johnson, Chris Hoban, Gary Finneran, Aidan Buggle and Andrew Whelan

Note: Ollie Kelly was also nominated to join the committee but declined due to his commitments with Straffard and the Under 16 county footballers

There being no further nominations, this committee was deemed elected.

In line with the constitution, the Outgoing Committee have ratified the following appointments

**Coaching Officer** Noel O' Sullivan

**Children's Officer** Sharon Newsome

Phil Synnott has agreed to remain as the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) for 2023.

The outgoing executive failed to appoint a Players Representative. The Incoming executive will seek to find a volunteer.

**18. The nominations for the Hurling sub-committee** were as follows

<b>Chairperson</b>	Ronan O'Malley
<b>Secretary</b>	Brian Kelly
<b>Committee</b>	Tony Spain, Colm Buggy, Padraic O Malley, Sean Buggle, Ger Buggle, Chris Hoban, Johnny Buggle, Noel Burke, Paul Hogan, John Walsh and Brian Coulston

This committee was proposed by James Kelly and seconded by Ollie Kelly



19. **The nominations for the Football Sub-Committee were as follows**

<b>Chairperson</b>	Larry Graham
<b>Secretary</b>	Brian Mullen
<b>Committee</b>	John McGreal, Martin Bambrick, Gary Finneran, Barry Molloy, Des Byrne and Marcus Byrne

The committee was proposed by Maurice Byrne and seconded by Larry Graham

20. Two **Motions** were proposed to the meeting

**Motion 1.**

**Following a review of membership fees in neighbouring clubs, the Executive Committee proposed the following membership fees for 2023**

<b>Membership Type</b>	<b>2023 Rates</b>
Family	€ 225
Adult Non-Playing	€ 85
Adult Playing	€ 150
Juvenile U-18	€ 85
Juvenile U-18 (Reduced)	€ 50
Nursery	€ 40
Social	€ 65
Student	€ 100

Proposed by Brendan Smartt and seconded by Aoife Kelly

- Padraic O'Malley said we should make it clear that there is an option for quarterly payments.
- Danny Graham suggested that the executive committee consider having an OAP rates as happens in some golf clubs. John Ryan asked that in approving the motion, the meeting would give the incoming committee permission to consider the matter and to empower them to decide on it.

**The motion was approved on a show of hands.**



## Motion 2

**To allow Cellnex proceed with an application for planning permission to erect a communications tower on the grounds of Ardclough GAA Club at a location on the edge of the site between the hurling wall and the planned new all-weather pitch, and to authorise the Club Officers and Trustees to enter into the necessary contractual arrangements with Cellnex to proceed with the planning permission application and if granted, the erection of the tower based on the agreed commercial terms.**

Proposed by John Ryan      Seconded by Paul Hogan

John Ryan explained the background to the motion and outlined the financial proposal from Cellnex. He explained that since the motion had been published, Phoenix Tower had indicated their wish to apply for planning permission to erect a tower on the grounds of the club. Phoenix are the company who operate the masts on the roof on behalf of Eir Mobile.

John proposed that the motion be amended as follows

**To allow Cellnex or Phoenix Tower proceed with an application for planning permission to erect a communications tower on the grounds of Ardclough GAA Club at a location on the edge of the site between the hurling wall and the planned new all-weather pitch, and to authorise the Club Officers and Trustees to enter into the necessary contractual arrangements with Cellnex or Phoenix Tower to proceed with the planning permission application and if granted, the erection of the tower based on the agreed commercial terms.**

Proposed by John Ryan      Seconded by Paul Hogan

- Fergus Maughan asked if the equipment on the roof was now obsolete. Brendan Smartt said that the equipment on the roof had only been upgraded earlier this year and would most likely be relocated to the tower in the event that planning permission was secured.
- Danny Graham asked about the current rent from Eir. John Ryan said it was €12k for two masts – one from Eir and the other from 3 Mobile.
- Kevin McCarthy said he felt that it was a ‘no brainer’ for the club to try to secure a deal as this sort of money does not come along every day.
- Maurice Byrne said that he would not be in favour. He felt that we should not be giving rights of access to any third party and said that a club in Wexford was being picketed at the moment over a mast.
- Peter said he would be concerned about the local community reaction. Brendan Smartt pointed out that if the tower was erected, the masts would be further from the houses than they are at present.





- Andrew Whelan asked if it was a given that the masts would move off the roof? Brendan Smartt said it would not be guaranteed but that our advice was that it was quite likely to happen if a tower was constructed.
- Ronan O'Malley said he would be in favour of the motion as it would significantly reduce the club debt.
- Kevin McCarthy said that if the club did not accept the offer, there was every chance we could lose the current rental income from the roof as a tower could be built somewhere nearby.
- John Ryan asked if there were any further contributions. As there were not, a show of hands was called on the amended motion.

**The motion was approved on a show of hands**

#### **21. Condolences:**

A one-minute silence was observed for all deceased members during the year.

John Ryan thanked all for their attendance.

**MEETING CLOSED**

## TREASURER'S REPORT 2023

The Gross Profit margin from the bar of 51% is consistent on previous years. As mentioned in last year's report, the increased costs in 2023 are expected to continue into 2024. On the Bar Trading account, I have included the direct overheads associated with the running of the bar. This is to enable us to monitor the profits associated with the bar.

There has been a decrease in the overall profit for Year Ended 31/08/2023 when compared to 2022, which was expected and noted in last year's report. This was due to the large fundraising efforts in 2022. The Balance Sheet fixed asset figure represent the capital expenditure in 2023 e.g. land purchased, flood lights and Astro installed. The associated debt is also represented in the Balance Sheet.

The following Grants/Loans have been applied for and received in 2023:

- **Sports Capital Grant** (granted in 2022) the club was awarded €150,000, €39,218 was received up to year end 31/08/2022. The balance of €110,782 was received in 2023. (See note in financial statements).
- **Covid 19 Support Grant:** April 2023 we applied and received a Covid 19 Support Grant of €4,799 from the GAA. This was received by way of credit against the club's insurance. The insurance costs for 2023 was significantly less at €960.
- **Gaelic Games Energy Support Scheme:** June 2023 we successfully applied for this grant of €10,918.26. This amount was received after 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2023.
- **Leinster Club Development Grant:** August 2023 we successfully applied for this grant of €22,500, this amount will be received in late January 2024.
- **Leinster Council Grant:** €50,000 land purchase grant. We borrowed €50,000 by way of a bridging loan from Clann Credo when purchasing the new field. On receipt of the grant from the Leinster Council in November 2023, the bridging loan was repaid in full to Clann Credo.
- **POBAL Community Centre Grant:** We received a grant of €22,500 for a kitchen equipment upgrade. This work will be completed by mid-December and the balance of the grant of €2,500 will be paid in January 2024.
- **GAA Development Loan:** The loan was drawn down in February 2023 and was used towards the Astro. Monthly repayment of €916 commenced in February 2023.
- **Clann Credo Loans:** Total of €275,000 borrowed and drawn down. Monthly repayment of €2,550 commenced in April 2023.

**Michelle Kelly**  
*Treasurer*

## Ardclough G.A.A Club

### Bar Trading Account for the 12 Months Ending 31st of August 2023

	notes	€	2023 €	€	2022 €
Sales			202,305		173,520
<b><u>Cost of Sales</u></b>					
Opening Stock		8,217		8,947	
Purchases		<u>98,738</u>		<u>84,537</u>	
		106,955		93,484	
Closing Stock		<u>7,800</u>	99,155	<u>8,217</u>	85,267
Gross Profit			103,150		88,253
Gross Profit Margin			51%		51%
<b>Direct Bar Costs</b>					
Wages		67,707		48,982	
Light & Heat		15,100		8,685	
Telephone		1,402		1,175	
Entertainment		11,379		12,408	
Repairs		3,591		3,450	
Stock Take		984		1,046	
<b>Total Costs</b>			<b><u>100,163</u></b>		<b><u>75,746</u></b>
<b>Profit</b>	<b>2</b>		<b><u>2,987</u></b>		<b><u>12,507</u></b>

## Ardclough G.A.A Club

### Income & Expenditure Account 12 Months Ending 31st of August 2023

	2023	2022
	€	€
<b>Income</b>		
Bar Gross Margin	2,987	12,507
Membership	45,070	41,999
<b>Fundraising:</b>		
Donations	21,007	122,514
National Club Draw	2,790	4,660
Pitch Side Advertising	6,537	43,541
Golf Classic	7,178	11,392
Other Fundraising Events	11,680	1,640
Sports Centre/Hall Rent	5,575	2,580
Donations & Sponsorship	15,000	15,000
Tickets	1,440	1,440
Meteor	12,000	10,500
Lotto	11,694	18,177
	<u>142,958</u>	<u>285,950</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	142,958	285,950
Less Expenditure	<u>125,620</u>	<u>85,250</u>
<b>Excess of Income over Expenditure</b>	<u><u>17,338</u></u>	<u><u>200,700</u></u>

## Ardclough G.A.A Club

### Schedule of Expenditure for the 12 month period ending 31st of August 2023

	notes	2023 €	2022 €
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Advertising, Postage & Stationery		648	1,208
IT Expenses		2,155	0
Sports Equipment		11,933	10,140
Training Coaches/Fitness		20,008	10,034
Light & Heat		15,100	8,685
Repairs & Maintenance	1	10,978	10,599
Rates		4,571	3,663
Physio & Injury Expenses		8,577	4,031
Cleaning & Hygiene		3,800	3,200
Property Insurance		960	1,550
Players Affiliation		17,661	15,961
Tickets		1,440	1,440
Accountancy		2,927	2,927
Legal & Professional Fees		2,697	3,430
Bank Charges		4,787	1,327
Loan Account Interest		7,796	177
Depreciation		2,903	2,326
Juvenile Expenses		4,679	2,552
Hawkfield Levy		2,000	2,000
		<u>125,620</u>	<u>85,250</u>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>125,620</b>	<b>85,250</b>

# Ardclough G.A.A Club

## Balance Sheet as at 31st of August 2023

	Notes	2023 €	2023 €
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible Assets	6		1,385,119
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Stocks & Work in progress		7,800	
Cash at Bank & in Hand	3	77,544	
Debtors & Prepayments		22,000	
		<u>107,344</u>	
<b>Liabilities</b>			
GAA		94,665	
Clann Credo		320,688	
Community Kitchen Grant		22,500	
Other Creditors		10,630	
		<u>448,483</u>	
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			<u>-341,139</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			<u>1,043,980</u>
<b>Capital Account</b>			<u>1,043,980</u>

I approve these accounts and confirm that I have made available all relevant records and information for their preparation.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Ardclough G.A.A Club

### Notes to the Accounts

**1) Repairs & Maintenance**

Pitch Works	7,563
General	<u>3,415</u>

**Total 10,978**

2) On the Bar Trading Account, I have included the direct overheads associated with the running of the bar. This is to enable us to monitor the profits associated with the bar.

**3) Cash at Hand**

Bar Accounts	11,683
Development Account	19,459
Fundraising Account	44,152
Cash at hand	<u>2,250</u>

**77,544**

**4) Loan Repayments**

GAA Croke Park loan	6,410
Clann Credo Loan	9,527

**Total 15,937**

**5) Lotto Account Balances**

New AIB Lotto Account	2,923
AIB Jackpot Account	<u>2,800</u>

**Total 5,723**

Both Balances are not shown in the Balance Sheet cash figure.

6) In the year ended 31st of August 2023, there is increase in Fixed Assets this is due to the Capital Expenditure on Land, Astro and Flood lights.

7) "Ardclough GAA received a Sports Capital Grant from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. The total awarded was €150,000. €39,218 was received up to the Year End 31/08/2022, with the balance of €110,782 received in the Year Ended 31/08/2023."

# FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE REPORT

The following is a summary of the work of the fundraising committee with regard to the Club Development Project.

In 2023, the three elements of the project were delivered:

- Floodlights for the main pitch
- An All-Weather astro pitch
- Acquisition of six additional acres of land

Throughout the year, the committee continued to seek member donations in the region of €500 - €1,000 per member, offer Pitchside advertising & run some other fundraising events, such as the evening with Keith Barry and Annual Golf Day.

**The results:** To date, over €220,000 has been raised through the various fundraising channels

## **Plan for 2024:**

The Club needs to raise c€35k per annum to meet the bank loan, increased operational costs and reduction in bar income post-COVID. The fundraising committee submitted a number of recommendations to the Club Executive with regard to raising funds for 2024. The proposal includes a number of initiatives across events, club draw and increased member contributions. Events will take the form of smaller/shorter (3 to 5 per year), enjoyable events:

Other Ongoing Initiatives: the committee is continuing to approach members who haven't made a donation yet and requesting donors to return tax back forms. Circa €10k - 12.5k is available at no cost to individual or club

The support this project has received from members and the local community has been exceptional. Significant progress was made in 2023. The three elements of the Club project have been delivered on budget and ahead of time. The efforts of members, giving generously has been a big part in enabling this.

Special thanks to all the members of the fundraising team, the communications and admin teams for their continued hard work and dedication. Special thanks to Brendan Smartt, Club Secretary, Aoife Kelly, Club Registrar and all on the Club Executive who have supported us throughout the year. Finally to our Club Chairman, John Ryan who has been so focussed on getting the job done!

**James Kelly**  
**Fundraising Committee Chairman**

Fundraising Committee: Simon van Lonkhuyzen, Aoife Kelly, Brendan Smartt, Conor McNulty, Niall Phillips, Ronan O Malley, Colm Tyndall, Bill Blake, Brian Coulston, Deirdre Phipps, Noel Burke, Tony Spain, Martin Fitzgerald, Niall Molloy, Tom Johnston, Sean Buggle, Ger Buggle, Johnny Buggle,  
Communications / Admin & support team: Marie Killeen, Michelle Kelly, Anita Blake, May Phillips, Declan Burke, Aidan Buggle, Gary Finneran



## **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

### **Infrastructure Development**

The last year has been dominated by the implementation of the Club Development plan which was approved at the AGM in November 2021 and for which funds were raised throughout 2022. The three pillars of the plan, the installation of floodlights on the main pitch, the building of an All-Weather Pitch on the site and the purchase of land for a new pitch have all been completed. The members of this club, and indeed the other members of the community that contributed to the fundraising effort can be proud of the facilities we've put in place that our young people will benefit from for many years.

At a recent AGM, the committee was criticised for not pursuing grant aid. In the last two years, we have received €294,717 in grants from five different bodies. On top of this, €30k was raised in the club sponsorship agreement with Cliff At Lyons and a low interest loan secured with from the GAA. These funds are not easily secured. There is a lot of paperwork, phone calls and meetings to attend credit is due to John Ryan, Michelle Kelly, and Paul Hogan for their work in securing these funds.

The new facilities means that we are catering for players on more teams that are playing more matches in more months than ever before. We wanted to enable our young people to spend more time down here and it is great to see this happening. Not surprisingly, the Operating Costs of the club have increased with more playing equipment required, more referees to be paid, more pitch maintenance required and of course higher energy bills with the use of floodlights on three pitches as well as the hurling wall. Despite massive effort by Aidan Buggle and the bar committee, bar income has not returned to pre-COVID levels so we will need to increase membership fees and do a bit more fundraising over the next few years.

We are still working on finalising a deal with Cellnex to erect a communications tower on the site which could generate around €200k in once-off income and which would substantially reduce our debt. I hope to confirm an agreement before the end of the 2023.

### **Senior Games**

On the field, we've had mixed fortunes. Our Senior Hurling team had a tough season getting relegated to Division 2 but retained their Senior status.

The Senior Football management battled to field teams in the league and championship but eventually qualified for the Junior 'A' Championship final but failed to field a team for the final. It is hard to understand how this can happen and I know management and players that showed up were embarrassed and disappointed.

After a difficult start to the year, the Adult Camogie team acquitted themselves well and were narrowly beaten in both the League & Championship Finals.

It was great to see Ardclough field a Minor Hurling team for the second year in a row and we hope to do so every year from now on.

## **Juvenile Games**

The great work on Juvenile Hurling continued on this year. We continue to field competitive teams in Division 1 of the Hurling competitions and we are able to hold our own at that level. After a tough few months during the Spring League, it was great to see the u14 Hurlers regroup for the Autumn competition and play a Shield Final here in Ardclough a few weeks ago. Well done to the Under 16 Hurlers who won a shield final in October and to the second Under 12 team which won Division 3 of their league.

In Football, the amalgamated teams brought home some silverware too. *St Edwards* Under 16 Footballers, with 5 Ardclough players won Division 3 of the Spring League and at the time of writing are in the semi-final of the Division 2 Autumn league. Great credit due to Jer Moore and his fellow mentors for how they have developed that group of players.

The Under 15 team won their Féile competition with a squad that included eleven members of Ardclough and quite a few members of that squad recently secured promotion from Division 3 of their Under 14 Football League.

*Straffard* added to their trophy haul winning both the Under 15 and Under 16 leagues and there are over 200 girls playing football from Under 7 to Under 17 which is a great achievement in such a relatively short space of time. And, not to be out-done, the U16 Camogie team won their Division 2 Cup Final.

## **Inter County**

At intercounty level, Sean Whelan and Drew Costello represented the club on the Kildare Senior Hurling team that just missed out on promotion to Division 1. We were particularly proud to see Tim Ryan represent Ardclough as Captain of the Kildare Minor Hurling team where he was accompanied by Daragh Miller and Ronan O'Malley. We also had a number of Ardclough players on underage county teams and development squads in all codes and well done to all of these players.

## **Coaching**

Noel O'Sullivan took on the role of Coaching Officer and a lot has been achieved in his first year. We have seen a significant step-change in the number of hours our hurling and football coaches have spent improving their skills. Well done and thank you to Noel and all the coaches who have given more of their time to become better coaches. This will pay off on the pitch in the years ahead and I hope it will also increase your enjoyment of your coaching role.

Sourcing referees continues to be a challenge for the association. The county board is challenging clubs to provide referees with a penalty of loss of home advantage for clubs who don't play their part. We will need to give this more attention in the coming year.

## **Scór**

Off the playing fields, our *Scór na nÓg* group were awarded 'Club of the Year' with four out of five entrants winning county titles and one qualifying for the Leinster Final. Well done to Seamus Ó'Midheach and Elaine Barry for their continued work in this area.

## **Volunteers – we need more**

The club is built on and around people giving their time to the club and without whom we could not do what we do. Our membership has doubled so we need more people to keep the show on the road. If you can help, whether it is coaching or just doing the admin for a team, helping with the Lotto or anything at all. Every little bit helps, and your time would be really valuable to the club.

## **Thank You**

Thanks to our army of coaches who go out in all weathers to develop our players, young and old. You are the reason that we all want to spend time around here and where we are happy to bring our children because we know they are safe and having a good time.

Thanks to the people who run the Lotto, volunteer to sweep the Astro in the hurling wall, who turn up when the alarm goes off, who cut the grass, who sell advertising, who man the gate when we have a big game or big event, who open the club for the Irish dancers and so many more things – without you it just would not work.

I want to thank all of the executive committee members for their time and commitment. Attendance at meetings has been very high and the debate has always been constructive, positive, and respectful. Thanks again to Aoife Kelly who has managed the Registrar role superbly but also helped me in my role throughout the year.

Thank you also to the sub-committee chairs and secretaries who have supported me in my role over the last year. I really appreciate it.

I will never understand how people like Christine Murray (Secretary, Kildare County Board) and Elaine Connolly (Secretary, Coiste na nÓg) manage to do their day jobs and still keep the wheels turning in Kildare GAA. They are brilliant women.

## **Condolences**

Finally, I want to express my condolences to members who have lost loved ones in the past year and in particular the Buggle family who lost Mary at Christmas time.

Suaimhneas síoraí dóibh go léir.

## **Brendan Smartt**

*Secretary*

## REGISTRAR'S REPORT

Membership for 2023 opened on January 3<sup>rd</sup> with renewal offers issuing to all existing members. As approved at our AGM in November, there was a small increase in membership fees for 2023. This increase was reflective of the impact of rising costs on the club and also the increase in the number of teams, increased running costs, registration, insurance and maintenance fees.

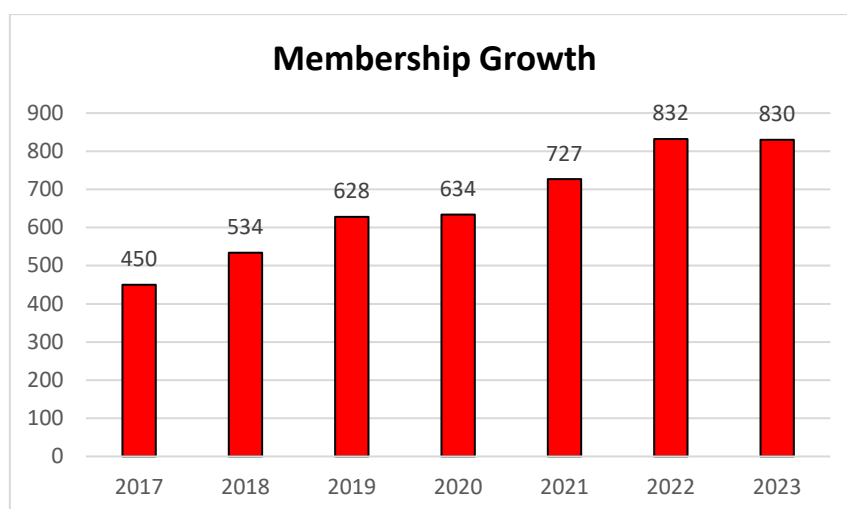
Following discussion at the AGM last year, the Committee introduced a Senior Citizen (OAP) rate which gave the same benefits as Adult Non-Playing but at a reduced rate to our Senior Citizen members (see table below). There was no change to the Social Member rate for 2023.

The Club Executive took on board feedback from members at the AGM in relation to payment options and introduced a three-month instalment option for membership payments. In order to be considered to be a full member for the purposes of voting, the first instalment payment had to be received by 31st March and the final instalment received by 31st May.

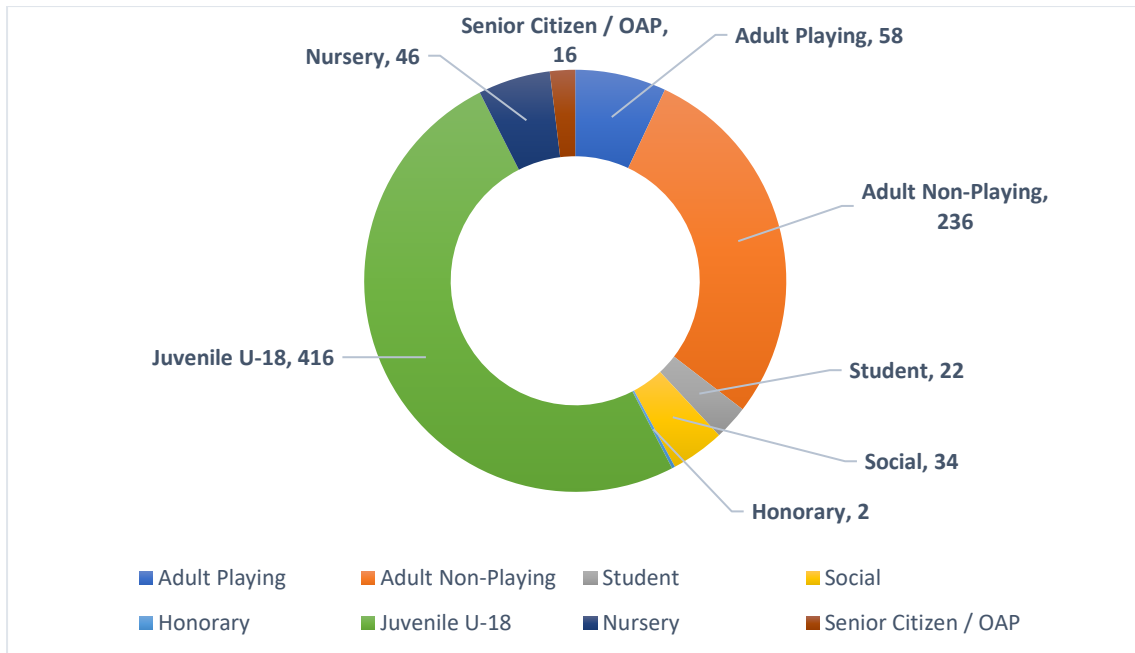
### Membership Plans 2023

Member Type	Description	Price
<b>Adult Playing</b>	Full Adult Playing Membership. Entitles the person to play and voting rights.	€130.00
<b>Adult Non-Playing</b>	Full Adult Non-Playing Membership. Entitles the person to voting rights.	€90.00
<b>Family</b>	2 Full Adult Playing / Non-Playing Members with Unlimited Child Family Members. Entitles the 2 adult members to voting rights.	€230.00
<b>Juvenile</b>	U7 to U18 members (Age 6-17). Entitles member to play.	€80.00
<b>Student</b>	Full Playing Membership – Over 18 and in full time education. Available with upload of valid student ID. Entitles the person to play and voting rights.	€90.00
<b>Nursery</b>	Little Devils / Little Kickers members only (Under 6)	€40.00
<b>Senior Citizen (OAP)</b>	Discounted - Full Adult Non-Playing Membership. Entitles the person to voting rights.	€70.00
<b>Social</b>	Entitles the person to attend General Meetings but it does not cover playing or voting rights.	€60.00

As at November 2023 membership stood at 830.



## Membership Breakdown



Juvenile Membership (Juvenile & Nursery) accounts for 56% of overall membership. Of the total membership base 59% are male and 41% female which is the same as 2022.

**Aoife Kelly**

*Registrar*

## **ADULT HURLING**

Thank you for the opportunity to update you all on the progress of the Hurling Club over the last year. On behalf of the Hurling Committee, I wish to offer my condolences to those who have lost loved ones throughout the year and in particular to the Buggle family.

The year began again with a review of the league and championship format, with the league structures revised to 8 teams in Division 1-3 and 6 teams in Division 4. Ardclough were placed in Division 1 and 3. The senior team in Division 1 had a difficult league campaign being relatively unlucky to lose a number of tight fixtures. The team finished in a disappointing last position in division 1 with only 1 win resulting in relegation to division 2 for 2024. The intermediate team finished 4th in Division 3 and retained their division 3 status for 2024.

Preparation for the championship went well and following a favourable draw Ardclough were clinical in their defeat of Confey in the preliminary round. This ensured that Ardclough were placed in Group A but also crucially secured their senior status for 2024. Following the disappointment of the league this was a key goal for the team to achieve in 2023.

In Group A we played games against Eire Og, Naas and Coill Dubh and whilst we lost to Eire Og and Naas in the first 2 games we were involved in a fiercely competitive game against Coill Dubh which could have gone either way. We came up just short on this occasion whilst Coill Dubh eventually lost the county final. This demonstrates how small the margins are between all the other senior clubs in Kildare outside of Naas. Thanks to the players and all involved for their commitment throughout 2023 and we know that they will continue to build and look forward to 2024. I would also like to extend our thanks to those players who gave their time to the Juvenile teams this year.

### **MINOR**

Ardclough had a minor (u18) team for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in succession in 2023. Given the significant gap previously between minor team representation before the 2022 team, this alone is indicative of the strength of underage hurling in Ardclough at present. The team were in division 2 in the league and played some outstanding hurling across the league campaign. The team won the final against Éire Óg Corra Choill following an exceptional performance on the night. This win was the culmination of years of hardwork and dedication by the coaches and mentors of this age group. All involved in hurling in Ardclough would like to congratulate the team on this great achievement.

### **Minor Summer League & Championship**

The CCC ran a small Minor Summer League with Ardclough placed in Division 2 grouped with Cú Chulianns and EOCC. The team lost their opener against a strong Cú Chulianns team and with EOCC withdrawing from the competition the competition concluded in advance of the championship. The team played in the B Championship with EOCC, Cú Chuliann's, Leixlip and Moorefield and were 3<sup>rd</sup> in their group.

## **Kildare**

The Kildare hurlers had a great league campaign getting to a league final and came within touching distance of promotion to division 1. Well done to Sean Whelan and Drew Costello representing Ardclough.

We were also represented very well on the Kildare minor panel with Tim Ryan selected as captain, with Daragh Millar and Ronan O'Malley both selected and featuring in games throughout the season.

Many thanks to our Hurling Chairman Ronan O'Malley and the Hurling Committee for their work throughout the year and to all involved in running the teams - Ger Buggle, John Walsh, Pat Fitzgerald, Will Hill, Ronan O'Malley, Padraic O'Malley and Peter Graham. Thanks also to those who have helped with the running of the hurling club during the year from manning the gates, preparing pitches, refreshments and all the unseen work behind the scenes. I would like to also express our thanks to the Juvenile Hurling Committee for the work they do.

It is important to also acknowledge the development work that has been completed in the club in 2023. The development of top class lights and a new 90m+ astro ensures that we will continue to have some of the best facilities available within the county. Many thanks to those involved in the continued fundraising and development of these facilities within the club.

All of the above could not be achieved without the support of the Executive Committee. Thanks to John Ryan, Brendan Smartt, Michelle Kelly and all of the committee for their work and support over 2022 and we look forward to building on the successes of this year in 2023.

## **Brian Kelly**

*Secretary – Juvenile Hurling Committee*

# JUVENILE HURLING

## **U14 Division 3**

Following a challenging start to the season which saw our U14s withdraw from the division 2 league following the refusal of a regrading request. The team played in the division 3 in the summer/ autumn and played a number of games including in a shield championship final.

## **U12 Division 1 and Division 3**

At the U12 age group, two teams were entered at Division 1 (U12 team) and Division 3 (U11 team). Both teams played some impressive hurling, over the Spring with our D3 team winning their division.

During the Summer our Division 1 team won an Inter-County Summer League with teams from Kilmacud, Ratoath and other teams from Kildare.

For the summer / autumn competitions the U12 team remained in division 1 with our U11 team moving to division 2. The teams were extremely competitive with both reaching a league semi-final and championship semi-finals with our division 2 team winning their shield final.

Both teams have played a number of challenge matches throughout the year against teams from around the country. In addition, our U12 team participated in the Liam Hogan Cup and travelled to UCD to play in the Kilmacud Crokes Festival of Hurling in October with 15 teams from around the country. They competed well on the day in UCD, just losing out in the Shield Final to Mungret (Limerick).

It was a great achievement to field 2 No. U12 teams this year, well done to all.

## **Feile**

Our U15 hurlers competed in the Feile A Hurling competition in April. It was a great day of hurling which was hosted by Ardclough. The team played some super hurling topping their group and qualified for the semi-final against Naas, just losing out narrowly. Despite the loss, we are immensely proud of the boys who showed great skills on the day. In addition, the team ran a fundraiser raising €2,170 to cover the cost of their gear for the competition.

## **Liam Hogan Cup**

The Hogan Family, along with the Juvenile Hurling Committee, were delighted to once again host the Liam Hogan Cup. It was a fantastic day with c120 players competing from 6 different clubs. Our U12 team represented our club well winning against Kiltale and running Burgess close with a 0-6 to 0-5 win. They played St Pats in the 2<sup>nd</sup> final and won out the match. Well done to Burgess who won the Cup. Many thanks to the Hogan Family and all the people who helped on the day.

## **Kildare**

We had number of players representing the club on the U14, U15 and U16 Kildare development squads also across the summer, playing various games against intercounty opposition. Well done to all involved.

U16 Harry Maughan, John McKenna, Seán Coulston, Eoin Mills and Ronan OMalley

U15 Colm Walsh, Daragh Buggle, Luke Kelly, Logan Fogarty

U14 James Kelly, Fergal Tully, Ollie McCartan and Rory Coulston



## **GPO**

We continue to develop and grow the number of initiatives we run with the support of our GPO Kelly Perkins. She continues to run hurling sessions in the school with the support of Mary Manley and will be in St Anne's for the full school year.

In February this year, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class participated in the Caman Lets Hurl initiative which sees boys and girls playing hurling and camogie before school from 8am to 8.45am. Over 30 children attended for the 8 weeks of the programme, which was supported by the Ardclough hurling coaches. Sliotars were then presented by John Doran to the school for their participation.

In May, we hosted our first Primary School Blitz with 6 teams from Scoil Bhride Kill, Scoil Bhride Straffan and St. Annes NS Ardclough participating. It was a very memorable day with over 100 children taking part.

This November, our GPO Kelly Perkins has started the "Caman Everybody" programme. Mini 12" hurls have been very kindly purchased for the Senior Infants by our sponsor Cliff at Lyons. The programme is also proven to improve recruitment at this very important age group.

We have received great support from our GPO in 2023 and Noel Mooney the Kildare Games Manager both of whom have been important to the ongoing development of juvenile hurling in Ardclough.

## **Cul Camp & Easter Camp**

Hurling Cul Camp ran from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> July and was again very successful despite the inclement weather. Over 170 children attended with our own GPO Kelly Perkins running the camp. Many thanks to Gerry Tully who co-ordinated the camp on behalf of the committee. Thanks also to Martin Fitzgerald and all involved for hosting the Easter Camp.

## **Coaching Officer**

We are very fortunate in Ardclough to be surrounded by a huge amount of experienced members who take huge interest in juvenile hurling development and dedicate great time to the sideline. This year we are particularly fortunate to have Noel O'Sullivan involved as our Coaching Officer. Not only has Noel organised workshops with Paudie Butler and specialised goal keeping training but his constant presence on the sideline and his eagerness to learn about our young players has been an invaluable support to all our coaches, particularly at the younger age groups. Special mention to Tom Johnson also who will always have a word of support for our players and coaches.

## **Leinster Final**

The highlight of the year was the return of the annual trip to the Leinster Final in June with the hurling club bringing c150 adults and children by buses to Croke Park. This was a hugely successful trip with great attendance and a superb game. The day ended with a return to the club house where pizzas and a few drinks were enjoyed by all. Thank you to Sean Buggle for organising this event.

## **Caman Chill Dara Awards**

The Kildare County Board established an awards scheme 3 years ago to develop hurling in the county. The award is given to clubs who meet particular criteria set out in various categories including membership growth, club profile, school development etc. In 2021 the

hurling club achieved a silver award and in 2022 we achieved gold. For 2023 we are on track to maintain our gold award and this is no small part to the group of over 40 coaches, our members, committee members and Executive Committee who are involved in and support juvenile hurling in Ardclough.

### **Club Development Plan**

As with previous years, we continue to see growth in membership over the year particularly the younger age groups (Little Devils – U9). This time last year work had commenced work on the floodlights and we are now at the end of the year with an all-weather pitch and a new 6 acre site.

As a committee we would like to express our thanks to all on the Executive, Fundraising Development Committee and all the members who donated and supported the plan. We have seen over the last month with the weather closing pitches the importance of our all-weather pitch for training and matches that would have been cancelled had we not had this facility. Our floodlights have enabled matches to be held and training to continue on the dark evenings.

We are also very fortunate to have a committed group of coaches, mentors and parents working within the club. I would like to extend my thanks to them all for their commitment. I would like to thank Hurling Chairman Ronan O'Malley and the Hurling Committee for their continued support throughout the year.

All of the above could not be achieved without the support of the club as a whole. Many thanks to our Chairman John Ryan, Secretary Brendan Smartt and the full executive committee for their tireless work during the year. As always, our treasurer Michelle Kelly ensured we had everything we needed. Liz Graham has kept us organised on the pitches and Sharon Newsome has supported us on our Child Welfare agenda. We would also like to thank the PRO – Declan Burke for his work promoting the club. We would also like to express our appreciation to Padraic O'Malley, Tom Johnson, Ronan O'Malley and Joe Lynam for the great job they have done in preparing our pitches which continue to be the envy of many clubs across the county.

Many thanks for your time this evening. As you can see, the success of the Juvenile Hurling section is due to the enormous effort of everyone involved. We look forward to 2024 and building on the progression of our juvenile teams.

Finally, special thanks are due to Juvenile Hurling Chairman Sean Buggle. In his final year in the role he doesn't leave easy boots to fill. His dedication to hurling in Ardclough can be evidenced by the achievements of the last number of years. Having first served as juvenile secretary and then chairman Sean has been integral in the development of hurling in Ardclough for the next generation of hurlers. On behalf of the juvenile hurling committee, we would like to thank Sean for his dedication to the development of hurlers and coaches across all age groups.

### **Brian Kelly**

*Secretary – Juvenile Hurling Committee*

## **ADULT FOOTBALL**

The Ardclough GAA Adult Football team competed in 4 competitions in 2023.

The Dowling Cup commenced on the 18<sup>th</sup> Feb, the Hanlon Concrete Senior Football league Div 4 commencing 25<sup>th</sup> March, the Tom Cross Transport Junior Football Championship commencing on the 6<sup>th</sup> July and then the Junior A championship starting on the 4<sup>th</sup> September, with the season concluding with the final fixture on the 8<sup>th</sup> September.

Manager John Slevin (Celbridge) initially brought on board for Dowling Cup remained on board for all competitions. Training started Monday the 23<sup>rd</sup> January.

Numbers were poor for both training & challenging for matches with key players not available this year due to having moved abroad and some additional departures on both an interim basis and a permeant within season, additional players returned post the end of the Rugby season.

The dual players (which the football team continues to remain reliant on) had not been training with the football team due the intense schedule of Hurling training and matches. Fionn Carr, football team captain tried to broker an agreement where the football team would train one same evening as the Hurling team with the dual players afforded a small portion of time at the end of their training secession to training with the footballers. This symbiotic approach unfortunately did not materialise due to a number of reasons, such Hurling training running over.

Result on the pitch varied with some strong performances and some wins in the league and Junior A championship. There were however a number of conceded fixtures in both league and championship

The football club chairman has, post season end, met with the club executive to discuss the challenges facing the football club now and into the future

There is significant work ongoing at underage level from coaches, mentors and the committee and we hope there will multi stakeholder engagement to make sure the Adult football endures in Ardclough to have an offering in due course when the underage players comes of age for Adult football

The Ardclough masters commenced its first training secession on the 26<sup>th</sup> October with strong training numbers (average attendance circa 21) The football committee would like to thank the organisers and coordinators for getting this going and to Larry Graham who has taken training.

We want to take this opportunity to thank all who in 2023 played, trained and the support staff for their help in seeing Football continue in Ardclough

**Brian Mullen**

Ardclough Football Club Secretary

## **JUVENILE FOOTBALL**

Bill Blake is the sitting Chairman of the Juvenile Football Committee and Peter Coulston is Secretary and have been in these roles since 2022. We are sharing the role as the Clubs Coiste na nog (formerly Bord na Nog) Representative and Sharon Newsome is the Children's Welfare Officer. A huge thank you is due to all the Committee Members, Team Mentors who play such an important role in the preparation and training of our Underage Footballers. A massive effort has gone in this year, from Little Kickers (U6 and younger) right up to U11. Currently the Ardclough U12 Footballers play as part of the St Edwards Amalgamation of Rathcoffey and Ardclough which has worked very well and provided our players with competitive games in the upper divisions of the Kildare leagues. Our Girls also play as part an amalgamation, Straffard, which caters from U8 upwards and comprises of the Ardclough and Straffan Clubs. Again, a big thank you goes to all involved in these successful Amalgamations.

### **ClubZap**

In 2021 all club communications were moved to Clubzap and it is being used very successfully to communicate with parents about issues relating to training and matches which is in line with GAA protocol and in keeping within GDPR guidelines.

### **Training and Matches**

The Club began a very busy season and training started in March in preparation for the Spring leagues, with well over a 100 kids training every Wednesday evening. From speaking with the mentors of all teams from U7 up to U11, Ardclough have performed extremely well in all Grades which bodes well for the future. Training stopped in July & August and resumed in September for the Autumn leagues which are finishing up in November and again Ardclough have been very successful with a team entered at every level. The new flood lights and astro pitch have been of huge benefit for training and matches .If these new facilities were not available then some matches would have been cancelled so these new additions are a great investment in the Club's playing facilities . For kids that are U12 and older they play in the St Edwards Amalgamation, which has worked very well thanks to the time and commitment by relevant mentors. Well done to all players and mentors, for their hard work and dedication within the St Edwards structure this year. This amalgamation will hopefully pave the way for the development of future Ardclough Players.

Straffard Girls continue to go from strength to strength and had continued success, winning titles at U16 & U12 during 2023 and it is great to see so many girls playing football.

On behalf of the Juvenile Football Committee, I would like to thank all the underage mentors and especially Sharon Newsome for her excellent work as Child Welfare Officer and Bill Blake for his first rate work as Juvenile Chairman

### **A Positive Year & Bright Future**

Our Juvenile Football section is growing strongly and with that, the Ardclough Membership is expanding year on year, which is very positive for the Club. The Juvenile Football training groups have benefitted from the installation of the new lights and the new Astro pitch which are being used for training and matches and commend the Club Committees for their progressive plans for the future. We look forward to Ardclough GAA progressing with continued success on the playing fields in 2024 and continued investment in new and better facilities for the juvenile players.

### **Final Thank You**

Finally, the Juvenile Football Committee would like to thank the following, Executive Chairman John Ryan and Football Chairman Larry Graham, along with their respective Committees, for all their hard work and support during the year, Tom Johnston & Joe Lynam for keeping the pitches in superb condition, Liz Graham as pitch coordinator and also our young Go Games Referees who contributed to our Underage matches throughout the year without whom there would be no matches.

While most of the coaches have completed the online coaching course, we continue to try and get all coaches to complete the practical course, and hopefully a lot will do this when the leagues are completed.

We are always looking for new mentors and coaches and if any parents would like to get involved then please contact myself or Bill or any other juvenile mentor. Finally, we wish all Ardclough teams in each code the very best for 2024.

**Peter Coulston**

Secretary – Juvenile Football Committee

## **ST. EDWARDS**

St. Edwards is an Independent team made up of Straffan, Rathcoffey and Ardclough players which covers teams from Under 12 to Under 23. Ardclough players are involved with every age group and it has been a pretty good year on the pitch.

The Minor Football team were beaten in a Championship final a few weeks ago after a good campaign which started with a successful round-robin tournament.

In the first half of the year, the under 16s won the Division 3 League. That group have gone on to play in Division 2 in the Autumn and have comfortably qualified for the semi-final. There are six Ardclough players on this team.

One of the highlights of the year was the Under 15 group winning Division 4 of the Féile competition with 6 Ardclough members on the team. That group makes up the core of the second Under 16 team, playing in Division 6 and have qualified for a League Semi Final.

We are also fielding two Under 14 teams. The first team has just finished top of Division 3 and have qualified for a League Final. The second team have found the going tough but managed to win a few matches towards the end of the league. The priority for that group has always been to have a full squad ready to compete in Division 3 of the Spring League in 2024.

At Under 12, Straffan chose to stay out of the St. Edwards model so Ardclough played with Rathcoffey. The group have done very well, given that they didn't know each other at the start of the year, qualifying for a Championship semi-final and currently waiting to play a League semi-final.

### **Thanks**

Thanks to Jer Moore, Conor McNulty, John McGreal, Fergus Sammon, Brian O'Brien, Seamus Mangan and Nicola O'Connor who are the Ardclough coaches who have gone with the Ardclough players and are looking after the St Edwards players in the S. Edwards model.

### **The Future**

We see St Edwards as the best vehicle for getting as many players as possible back to play Senior Football in Ardclough. We are retaining more players and those players are getting to play Division 2 or 3 football which we could not aspire to playing alone. It will be another 5-6 years before we see good numbers (i.e. four or five per year) coming through to be available for the Senior Team.

Brendan Smartt  
*Secretary, St. Edwards.*

## **CAMOGIE**

All teams resumed training at the end of January, early February. With the Feile competition now for u15s (previously u14s), the Camogie board adjusted the fixtures calendar to start with odd ages in the spring. U13s, U15s, U17s and Adult leagues ran through the spring and early summer months. The Go Games committee ran fixtures as usual alternating between odds and evens each week.

We are very grateful to Aoife Kelly and Paul Hogan who have come on board along with a steady group of volunteers who have recruited teams from u7 to u9s.

We had very strong representation of Ardclough players across the various county squads. Grace Coburn with u14s. Emma Buggy, Katie Moran, Niamh Burke and Ruby Moran with U15s. Anna Coburn, Ava Kelly, Emily and Kate Wiseman with the U16s. Martha Grogan with the Minor squad and then Michelle Brogan with the Intermediate squad. The 2 u16 squads both reached Leinster Finals of which 1 of the squads won. Following on from the provincial finals just 1 team was permitted to enter the All-Ireland Series. The squad reached on All Ireland Final and were defeated by a very strong Down team. Great opportunity for these players to play for their county. As a club we are very proud to have so many representing the club.

### **Phyllis Finneran Memorial Cup Tournament**

On Easter Sunday we held our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual tournament. There were 4 Ardclough teams ranging from 10- to 14-year-olds. Many thanks to the Finneran and Kenny Families on another successful year. The players were delighted with their medals kindly sponsored by the family. Special thanks to everyone who helped out on the day and many thanks for the contributions of food and refreshments. As always thanks to Bobby for his help. We look forward to next year's tournament.

### **Camán to Leinster, April 2023**

We were fortunate to be selected to take part in this tournament for u12 players which was held in Nowlan Park.

We played the following teams, Danesfort of Kilkenny, St. Mary's of Rosslare, Birr of Co Offaly. The girls thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

### **Trip to Croke Park**

We brought a large group of young players along with their families to attend the All-Ireland Camogie Finals in Croke Park. Despite the wet conditions getting in and out of the stadium on the day the group had a great time. We would hope to make this an annual outing for the camogie club.

## 2023 teams entered to the fixtures calendar

1 x U8 team Autumn	1 x U9 team Autumn
2 x U11 teams Spring/Autumn	1 x U12 team Group A Spring/Autumn
1 x U13 team (Div 2) Spring	1 x U14 (Div 2) Summer
1 x U15 (Div 3 & Feile B) Spring	1 x U16 (Div 2) and Summer 7 a side
1 x U17 (Div 2) league Spring	1 x U20 Summer 7 a side & autumn league
Junior A League & Championship	

### Our Teams

In mid-April the 1<sup>st</sup> training session for girls ranging from 7 to 9yrs old was held. Following a few weeks of training the mentors then arranged various challenge games. The girls performed well with good numbers. The group started with 17 players and has grown to 29. An u8 and u9 team were entered to the Autumn Go Games schedule. There were some challenges with clashes with hurling at similar age groups which prevented some of our u8 games to go ahead. Overall, the mentors are very happy with how their season has played out. The numbers coming through are also very encouraging and looks likely that next year we will be able to enter teams from u7s, u8s, u9s and u10s. Many thanks to Aoife and Paul for their positive approach and to all their mentors for making this possible.

Our u11 teams performed exceedingly well throughout their summer and autumn games. This bunch of players are improving every week. The attendance for training and games is always 100%. Claire & Rosie both look forward to moving away from blitzes and entering league structures with this group next year.

Our u12s, 13s and 14s have collectively trained together throughout the year. The u12s have had very competitive leagues competing at a high standard in their games all year. The group is made up of half 11 year olds and half 12 year olds. They thoroughly enjoyed their day out in Nowlan Park back in April for the Caman to Leinster Tournament. The u13s team played in Div 2 for their spring league. The team faced tough oppositions, we struggled to compete at this level due to player availability. This team has welcomed some new players this year. The u14s had a strong Div 2 league campaign. Returning players to the u14s have made a big impact. They won all but one round v St Laurence's. The team went onto to face St Laurence's in the Cup Final. On the day the team were much more competitive compared to their round robin stage earlier in the league but unfortunately they were out gunned on the day. Laurence's were undoubtedly a step ahead of all the teams in the group. Paul, Liz and Chris continue to work very hard with this group.

Our u15s played in Div 3 of their league. They had a big panel of players and performed well in their league rounds. The team progressed to a cup final meeting St Brigid's (a combination of Johnstownbridge and Cappagh). Unfortunately, it was not to be their day and St Brigid's came away winners. In April the u15s entered the Feile B competition. They



won 3 out of 4 games to reach their groups cup final. On the day there was a lot of upheaval and a last-minute change of venue seen the group make a speedy journey to face Eire Og in their final. The team were very disappointed to lose out by a single point in the game. The game ended 2.03 to 2.02.

Our u16s took part in a summer 7 a side competition held in Round Towers. The girls played over 3 rounds of blitzes and went onto to play in the final of their group. They were unlucky to lose out to St Laurence's on the night. The u16s Div 2 League got underway at the end of August, due to the holiday period and player availability they were unlucky to lose their 1<sup>st</sup> round against Clane. Following on from this the team went onto to win all their subsequent rounds and reached the Cup final. They played a strong Eire Og side and came out winners on the night. Final score of 3.08 to 3.07. This was a great achievement for the team and management to achieve Division 1 status for 2024 season. Well done to Jacinta, Colum and Brian.

Our u17s had a very competitive league in Div 2. Some obstacles with county u16 and minor fixtures impacting on player availability. Liz like most other clubs had their work cut out rearranging games to ensure they got played. They team won 3 out of 5 rounds. The team went onto reach the Shield Final beating St Coca's 4.10 to 1.09.

The U20s played in the Summer 7 a side competition. There were 4 rounds, the team competed well in their games. The group ultimately reached the final of their group which has yet to be played. The U20 league is currently underway. We have played and won our 1<sup>st</sup> round against Rathcoffey. We look forward to the remaining rounds with an enthusiastic squad.

Our Adult Team commenced training in early March. They had a strong league winning 4 out of 5 rounds. We reached the Cup Final and played Rathcoffey. We were unlucky to lose the game by a single point. Overall, the team were happy with their progress through the league. There were 7 young girls came through onto the adult team this year. I would like to commend the other players for their warm welcome to these players who have blended into the team well. The squad trained hard over the summer and played well in their challenge matches in preparation for their championship. The Championship got underway in late August. Out of the 7 rounds we won 5, loss 1 and drew against Rathcoffey. Due to the poor weather conditions and pitch closures our Cup final was delayed by 2 weeks. On Nov 6<sup>th</sup> the final went ahead were we faced Rathcoffey yet again. Rathcoffey set the pace in the first half and totted up an impressive lead of 10 points going into half time. We came out much stronger in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half and mostly kept the Rathcoffey defence under pressure. The game concluded 2.12 to 2.08. Unfortunately for us we took too long to make an impact in the game and simply ran out of time. To this panel, over the year we couldn't have asked for more dedication from the tight knit group we had to work with. We are always knocking on the door of Intermediate and the players recognise we need to build on from this year and strive to achieve the next level.

## **Acknowledgments**

I would like to thank all the mentors across all our teams for their continuous work and commitment to camogie in Ardclough. Thanks to all the Go Games referees. Thanks to the Football, Hurling and LGFA mentors for the continued open communication around training and match schedules. Thanks to our pitch coordinator Liz. Thanks to everyone who is working on the pitches and upkeep of the grounds throughout the year. Thanks to Bobby and all the bar staff.

To all the officers and members of the Executive Committee on their tireless work throughout the year. The addition of the all-weather facility has been a game changer. To have that improvement to that space is very welcome, especially with the weather conditions. Great news on the land acquisition, we look forward to hearing about the progress there!

Well done to the teams that won silverware this year. Wishing all the teams in the club the best of success in 2024.

To all who have suffered bereavements through the year, my sincere condolences.

On behalf of the Camogie Club, we wish all our members a happy and healthy New Year.

***Claire Curtis***

***Camogie Secretary***

## LADIES GAELIC FOOTBALL

Thank you to the executive committee of Ardclough, to the parents and to all of the volunteer coaches whose support meant that the LGFA had a really excellent year over 2023.

It is a tribute to this support that from one team of circa 15 girls four years ago, we have over 200 girls playing ladies football on an ongoing basis. The level of interest and new membership is high in both Ardclough and Straffan. We are now fielding girls teams at every age level from u7 to u17. We have had county representation at u14 and u16 level and we're immensely proud of the Straffard girls who have had All Ireland success this year. They represent Straffard and Kildare in the best possible way and are strong role models to our younger girls. There is no reason why, with continued support from Ardclough GAA and Straffan GAA, that our girls cannot continue to enjoy access to opportunities to play club football for the foreseeable future, and certain girls will get to wear the lillywhite shirt.

We continue to introduce our u7, u8s and u9s to Ladies Gaelic Football via the go games model- coaches and players have really enjoyed the year, with great mixing between the girls as they make new friends as teammates.

Our u10s had a super year also, and are really improving their skills in leaps and bounds. A highlight of the year was playing an exhibition match at half time in one of the Kildare ladies games in their successful all Ireland intermediate campaign.

Our u11s also continue to improve and hosted a blitz in July , which involved 8 teams and over 100 girls. These girls won cumann na mbunscol titles with Ardclough national school and Straffan national school, which is a further demonstration of their talents.

Our u12s also performed very strongly in their autumn league and won division 3 undefeated, in a highly competitive league. These girls, combined with a number of u11s won the Kildare community games championship, beating kilcullen with a last minute goal on a really memorable evening in Straffan. They ultimately lost the Leinster championship to Clontarf in a very competitive match, who went on to win the all Ireland community games outright.

Our, u14s, u15s and u16s have also enjoyed excellent spring and autumn leagues, bringing home league wins. The roll of honours for 2023 leagues is:

- U14 div 9 semi finalists
- U16 div 6 winners
- U15 div 4 winners

Our continued success is great for the girls and for the coaches and parents. But most importantly, all the girls are enjoying playing sports with their friends and represent the parishes extremely well against any and all opposition. Thanks to the support we've received from both clubs, we have over 200 girls playing a sport that was not open to them less than 5 years ago. This shows what can be achieved through collaborative efforts and support from clubs. This collaboration is now formally set in place as we have established

Straffard as a standalone club, who's members are signed members of either Ardclough and Straffan. This is a huge development for our club and we thank the Ardclough executive and the Straffan executive for this support.

The end of year awards took place in Ardclough on 24<sup>th</sup> November in the club to mark this year's successes.

A final development to note is that Straffard are shortly launching a club shop on O'Neills. We hope to see a lot of red, white, yellow and blue attire around Ardclough and Straffan!

Thanks to all once more for their support, and hopefully LGFA will continue to thrive into 2024.

**Eamon Clarke**

*Secretary, Ardclough LGF*

## COACHING OFFICER REPORT

The year began with several fact-finding meetings with small groups of Under-Age coaches from the different codes. Following on from this, it was decided that a Coaching Plan should be drafted for each game, to ensure consistency and continuity along the Player Pathway.

Following consultation with James Devane from Leinster Council, it was decided to adopt their TURAS programme as a suitable model for our player development. At the beginning of March, John Doran (Kildare GDA) visited the club to give a presentation on the model. On the same night, twenty-six coaches broke into groups to set about planning four training sessions for their teams. Each session was to be coached twice. Eight weeks later, they came together to review them.

In early June, two Coach Developers, Paudie Butler (former National Hurling Director) and Ronan McDonald (Dublin GPO) delivered Coaching Clinics in the club.

Paudie took a Hurling/Camogie session at the Ball Wall with our U12s/U13s and was observed by twenty-six coaches. Ronan took eighteen of our U10/U11 boys and girls for a football session based on the TURAS model. Fourteen coaches observed him. Our own clubmen, Eoin Stapleton and Finn Leach, conducted a hurling Goalkeepers' Clinic with sixteen U11/U12 players and were observed by fifteen coaches.

On the Coach Education front, ten of our hurling coaches took part in Croke Park Pilot Workshops on 'Patterns of Play' in Ballyboden and Abbotstown.

Future workshops planned for early 2024 include visits to the club by Paul Divilly (Kildare GDA) to do a workshop on 'Resistance Training for Teenagers' and Johnny Doyle and Tadhg Fennin will take a football session in our new All-Weather facility.

In January, the club will host two Kildare GAA Coach Education Courses, 'INTRODUCTION TO COACHING GAELIC GAMES (H/C)' and 'AWARD ONE (H/C)'.

Finally, a word of thanks to John Ryan, Brendan Smartt, Brian Kelly, and Aoife Kelly for their support throughout the year.

## REPORT OF THE CHILDREN’S OFFICER

Ardclough GAA promotes and implements a code of behaviour that encourages fair play, respect, equality and safety. The GAA Code of Behaviour outlines the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for children’s sport and addresses the appropriate levels of behaviour, practice and conduct required from our young players, coaches, mentors, supporters, parents/ guardians and clubs involved with Ardclough GAA.

### **Ardclough Club Children's Officer**

Ardclough GAA has, as required under the GAA Code Guidelines, a designated Children’s Officer who should be the first point of contact for all your child welfare concerns or questions. We would ask everyone involved with the club to support and co-operate with them in their important duties. You can be assured you will be dealt with professionally and in the strictest confidence.

### **Garda Vetting and Safeguarding**

The GAA has a long-established principle of vetting any person who works with children or vulnerable adults in our Association. This principle is enshrined in rule through our Code of Behaviour (Underage) and has become part of the overall recruitment and selection process for those who wish to volunteer in the GAA.

Ardclough GAA Children’s Officer manages the adherence of GAA Garda Vetting and Safeguarding requirements for all coaches and mentors across all Codes to ensure our club remains Compliant.

Ardclough Children’s Officer (CO) Sharon Newsome can be contacted via email [Childrensofficer.ardclough.kildare@gaa.ie](mailto:Childrensofficer.ardclough.kildare@gaa.ie) or 083-1874460

Ardclough GAA Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is responsible for dealing with concerns relating to the possible abuse of children and ensuring the reporting of allegations or concerns of abuse to Tusla and/or An Garda Síochána, having established reasonable grounds for concern.

Ardclough Designated Liaison Person Jan ‘22 to-date – Philip Synnott

Child Welfare Objectives 2022-2023	Status
Club Safeguarding Risk assessment statement	Completed and submitted to Croke Park
Club Safety statement	Completed
New coaches Garda vetted	Completed
Existing coaches Garda vetting renewals	In Progress
Existing coaches Safeguarding renewals	In Progress
New Coaches Safeguarding course	Scheduled Q1 2024

**Sharon Newsome**  
*Children's Officer*

# TUARASCÁIL CULTÚR AGUS GAEILGE

## Scór na nÓg



The Club entered teams in Scór na nÓg 2023. We participated in

- Amhránaíocht Aonair: Siún Mac Giolla Phádraig agus Emily Ní Dhómhnaill.  
Scéalaíocht County Title: Harry Mac Liam who qualified for the Leinster Final.  
Ceol Uirlise County Title: Caoimhe Ní Dhuinn, Aodh Ó Mangaín & Ruby Ó Móráin  
Bailéad Grúpa County Title: Siún Mac Giolla Phádraig, Emily Ní Dhómhnaill agus Eddie Breathnach.

Ard Cloch

Club of the Year

All our acts won County finals and progressing to the Leinster Semi-Finals, with Harry Mac Liam reaching the Leinster Final which took place in Wexford Opera House which was a fantastic achievement.

Plans are already in train for next year to compete in:

- Amhránaíocht Aonair
- Scéalaíocht
- Ceol Uirlise
- Bailéad Grúpa
- Drámaíocht.

**Elaine Uí Dhuinn**

Rúnaí Scór



## Gaeilge

Tacaíonn Cumann Lúthchleas Gael is cur chun cinn na Gaeilge, An damhsa, an cheoil, na hamhráníocht agus an chultúr.

The Club in association with Glór nan Gael promotes the language through membership of F.S.M.D The Club hopes to enter in the Civil Award Category in 2024. To date the club has received €900 from Glór nan Gael matched by €225 by the Club to promote the language.



### Cill Dara le Gaeilge Feiceálacht na Gaeilge 2023

The Club was awarded €1,000 for the Irish Language signage.

The aim of the scheme is to provide funding to erect signage in Irish or bilingual signage for the purpose of making the Irish language more visible to the public. The signage will be in place before the end of the year.

Ambasadóir na Gaeilge.

It is intended to appoint an Ambásadóire na Gaeilge in 2023

*Seamus Ó Midheach*  
*Oifigeach Cultúr / Gaeilge.*



## NOMINATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

<b>Chairperson</b>	John Ryan
<b>Vice Chairperson</b>	Paul Hogan
<b>Secretary</b>	Brendan Smartt
<b>Treasurer</b>	Michelle Kelly
<b>Registrar</b>	Deirdre Phipps
<b>PRO</b>	May Phillips
<b>Oifig Cultúr &amp; Gaeilge</b>	Seamus Ó'Mídheach
<b>Committee of 5 people</b>	Tom Johnson, Aoife Kelly, Gary Finneran, Colm Tyndall, and Andrew Whelan

*Note 1: Declan Burke* was nominated for PRO but has opted to stand down due to personal commitments.

*Note 2: Aidan Buggle* was nominated to remain on the committee but has opted to stand down to focus on coaching commitments.

*Note 3: Aoife Kelly* was nominated for Registrar but has indicated her preference to stay on the committee and will act as Assistant Secretary

In line with the constitution, the Outgoing Committee have ratified the following appointments

<b>Children's Officer</b>	Sharon Newsome
<b>DLP</b>	Phil Synnott
<b>Coaching Officer</b>	Noel O'Sullivan

The Incoming Executive will seek to fill the positions of ***Player Representative*** and ***Healthy Club Officer***.

## **NOMINATIONS FOR FOOTBALL COMMITTEE**

**Chairperson**      Larry Graham

**Secretary**        Brian Mullen

**Committee**        John McGreal, Martin Bambrick, Sean Ahern, Des Byrne,  
Marcus Byrne, Peter Coulston, Brendan Smartt

## **NOMINATIONS FOR HURLING COMMITTEE**

**Chairperson**      Ronan O'Malley

**Secretary**        Brian Kelly

**Committee**        Tony Spain, Padraic O Malley, Sean Buggle, Ger  
Buggle, Chris Maughan, Noel Burke, Paul Hogan, Pat  
Ryan, John Walsh, Kevin McCarthy.

## Motion 1.

Following a review of membership fees, the Executive Committee proposed the following membership fees for 2024.

Membership Type	Description	2024 Rates	2023 Rates
<b>Adult Playing</b>	Full Adult Playing Membership with voting rights.	€ 160	€ 130
<b>Family</b>	2 Full Adult Memberships with voting rights plus unlimited child family members up to age 17	€ 300	€ 230
<b>Juvenile</b>	Members aged 7 to 17 years. No voting rights.	€ 110	€ 80
<b>Student</b>	Full Playing memberships. Must be over 18 and prove they are in full time education. With Voting rights	€ 120	€ 90
<b>Nursery</b>	Aged 6 or under. No voting rights	€ 55	€ 40
<b>Adult Non Playing</b>	Non playing adult members with full voting rights	€ 120	€ 90
<b>Senior Citizen / OAP</b>	Discounted adult non-playing membership with full voting rights	€ 80	€ 70
<b>Social</b>	Entitles person to use the clubhouse bar but does not offer voting rights	€ 70	€ 60

Motion Proposed By: Aoife Kelly

Seconded By: Brendan Smart

## Motion 2

### **Ardclough GAA Club will start the process of replacing the Current Trustee model with the GAA Corporate Trustee model.**

It would see the replacement, as soon as practicable, of the County Board and Provincial Trustees. This motion has been requested and approved by both.

At some future point, and with the agreement of the local trustees, the club will move to the full Corporate Trustee model.

Proposed: Brendan Smartt

Seconded: John Ryan

### **Some information on The Corporate Trustee**

- The GAA set up a separate legal entity, a Trust Company, called "Iontaobhas Corparáideach Chumann Lúthchleas Gael cuideachta faoi Theorainn Ráthaíochta" (ICCLG).
- The Trust Company holds the property for and on behalf of the Club. Clubs can now opt to hold property through this Corporate Trustee and many have already done so.
- The GAA recommending that clubs move away from the traditional model of three local trustees plus one each from the Provincial Council and local county board to this new model. Sport Ireland have also backed that recommendation.
- Both Kildare County Board and the Leinster Council have asked clubs to move to the Corporate Trustee model, and that as a minimum their representatives be removed as Trustees.
- Holding property through the Corporate Trustee does not affect the ownership of the club property in any way but has the significant advantage of avoiding registered amendments to the title when trustees die or retire. Moving to the corporate trustee model in its entirety would reduce future legal costs arising from future title transfers.
- Purchasing or transferring assets in the current model is a time consuming and unwieldy process for a volunteer to manage. This is simplified with the corporate trustee model.
- Now that the major investment in the Development plan has been completed, this feels like the appropriate time for Ardclough to start this process.
- In moving to the Corporate Trustee model, a club can choose to *either*
  - (i) introduce partial change where property is held by a combination of club personal trustees and the Corporate Trustee *or*
  - (ii) have property held only through the corporate trustee.

Thank you for attending and for  
your incredible support in 2023

“Volunteers do not necessarily have the TIME,  
they just have the HEART”

Elizabeth Andrews