



Cumann Lúthchleas Gael Ardcloch

Cruinniú Bliaintúil 2024

88th Annual General Meeting

28ú Samhain 2024

CONTENTS

An Clár	page 3
Standing Orders	page 4
Minutes of Last Year's Meeting	page 5
Treasurer's Report	page 16
Fundraising Report	page 22
Secretary's Report	page 23
Registrar's Report	page 26
Adult Hurling	page 28
Juvenile Hurling	page 30
Adult Football	page 34
Juvenile Football	page 36
St Edward's	page 38
Camogie	page 39
Ladies Football	page 41
Coaching Officer Report	page 42
PRO Report	page 43
Children's Officer Report	page 44
Tuarascáil Cultúr agus Gaeilge	page 45
Nominations for Executive Committee	page 47
Nominations for Football Committee	page 48
Nominations for Hurling Committee	page 48
Motions to the AGM	page 49

An Clár

1. Adoption of Standing Orders
2. Minutes of A.G.M. 2023
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 2024

(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 voting.



**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
ARDCLOUGH GAA CLUB
30th November 2023**

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 Seamus Ó Mídheach and seconded by Maurice Byrne.
3. **The Minutes of the 2022 AGM** were shared in advance. They were adopted following a proposal from Bill Blake and seconded by Conor McNulty
4. **The Accounts** were presented by Michelle Kelly and Mark Graham (auditor).
 - Maurice Byrne asked about the fall in income from pitch-side advertising. Michelle explained that all but two advertisers paid in full for a 3-year period in 2022. They will come up for renewal in 2025.
 - Tony Spain asked if Physio and Medical bills were for just one player. Michelle said that the sum shown was for four players.
 - Tommy Christian said that he was unhappy that the lights are being left on after training and matches wasting energy. Colm Tyndall said that he was investigating a solution which would allow us to control the lights remotely.
 - Evan Carr asked about the increase in coach expenditure.

Michelle said that the breakdown is as follows

Senior Hurling	€11,900
Football	€2,100
Other	€6,000 *

**Other: GPO, coaching courses and guest coaches*

- Dave Kelly asked if a hurling coach is appointed for 2024.
Ronan O'Malley said that he hoped the new coach would be ratified at the next Executive Committee meeting.
- John Ryan explained that the bar proceeds had not returned to pre-COVID levels and that it was an ongoing challenge for the club that would need to be looked at closely by the incoming committee.

The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Colm Tyndall and seconded by Tom Johnson.

5. The **Secretary's Report** and the **Registrar's Report** were adopted.

Chairman John Ryan's Address

Good evening, Everyone,

I would like to thank all of you for taking the time to attend the 87th Ardclough GAA Club AGM.

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 year. A Thiarna déan Trócaire ar a n-anam.

*Turning firstly to finance matters, as will you have seen from the account's presentation, the Club made a net surplus for the year of **€17,338**. The cash balance at year end stood at **€77,544**. Given the significant development projects that were completed during the year, the overall borrowing at the financial year-end was **€415,353**. **€50,000** of the Clann Credo bridging debt has since been repaid following receipt of a Leinster Council grant last month so the net debt current stands at c.**€360,000**.*

*As I noted in my address last year, in order to meet the annual loan repayments to service the current debt, we will need an annual net surplus of close to **€40,000**. As the Bar on a fully costed basis is only making a small surplus, the debt repayments will need to be substantially met through fundraising and related initiatives. The success of the fundraising efforts over the last couple of years has enabled us to deliver three major capital projects for the Club, which is a huge achievement for a club of our size and membership numbers.*

*So, whilst most of the 'heavy lifting' on the fundraising has been done, at current debt levels, there will be an ongoing annual requirement to generate between **€35K to €40K** in new fundraising. We need your continued support of the fundraising initiatives, be they entertainment events, the golf classic and other initiatives organised by the fundraising sub-committee.*

Membership income is another important source of revenue. Our current rates across all categories represent great value for money. The running costs of the Club have significantly increased in the last 12 months and with the enhanced sports facilities now available to members, we need to bring our membership rates in line with other local GAA clubs with such facilities. One of the proposals put forward by the fundraising sub-committee to the Executive was to increase membership rates across various categories for 2024. The Executive discussed this at its last meeting and agreed to the membership rates increases contained in Motion 1 tonight for ratification by members. On behalf of the Executive, I would ask for your support for this motion.

Member Type	Description	Price 2024	Price 2023
Adult Playing	Full Adult Playing Membership. Entitles the person to play and voting rights.	€160.00	€130.00
Family	2 Full Adult Playing / Non-Playing Members with Unlimited Child Family Members. Entitles the 2 adult members to voting rights.	€300.00	€230.00
Juvenile	U7 to U18 members (Age 6-17). Entitles member to play.	€110.00	€80.00
Student	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.	€120.00	€90.00
Nursery	Little Devils / Little Kickers members only (Under 6)	€55.00	€40.00
Adult Non-Playing	Full Adult Non-Playing Membership. Entitles the person to voting rights.	€120.00	€90.00
Senior Citizen / OAP	Discounted. Full Adult Non-Playing Membership. Entitles the person to voting rights.	€80.00	€70.00
Social	Entitles the person to attend General Meetings but it does not cover playing or voting rights.	€70.00	€60.00

Development Matters

Since last year's AGM, we have completed the installation and lighting of the all-weather pitch, which is a great addition to our facilities. Teams at all levels will see the benefit of this facility in the months ahead.

We also completed the purchase of 6.3 acres across the road from St. Anne's School. There was a significant amount of work involved in getting this over the line. Apart from legal negotiations with the Seller's solicitors, there was the GAA approval process, which required agreement from the Co Board, the Leinster Council, and the Central Council. In parallel with this, there was the loan application and approval process with Clann Credo, with all of the documentation required to get funds drawn down. I would like to pay thanks in particular to my fellow officers for their assistance in this whole process, and to the trustees for their availability and understanding in getting all the land purchase and loan documentation executed.

*There will be significant costs involved in order to get the new field ready as a playing pitch. This will entail site establishment and preparation costs, drainage, surface construction, and related works. There will also be fencing and car parking costs. We have received an overall budget estimate for this work of **€250,000**, excluding VAT. About **€100,000** of this relates to fencing, which we can make savings on as this estimate had budgeted for full perimeter fencing of the site, which should not be required.*

We have applied for the maximum Sports Capital Grant that was announced in September in respect of the field development costs. A Government decision on the grants awarded should be known by Q2 next year, and we will do our utmost again in order to get the best result for the Club. There will be matching funding required by the Club of 35% before grant funding can be drawn down. That will require a separate fundraising exercise by the Club next year.

At last year's AGM, approval was given to proceed with either Cellnex or PTI to apply for planning permission to install a communications tower on the Club grounds. The decision as to which company was granted approval to apply for planning was to be made by the Executive based on the best financial terms finally offered to the Club.

*PTI made the more attractive financial offer whereby they would pay **€200,000** within one month of grant of planning, and so we entered into a non-binding Heads of Terms with them last February. However, they approached us in early July when we were at contract stage to change the terms of the financial offer such that they would only make pay the leasehold premium to the Club on two conditions being satisfied; firstly, that planning permission was obtained and secondly, that all three mobile operators had signed up with PTI to move to the new tower.*

*This entailed too much risk for the Club as it was entirely within PTI's control. So we decided to proceed with Cellnex as they had agreed to pay us **€100,000** on planning permission being obtained; they were willing to do so on the basis that they have the mobile operator Three contracted to move to the tower. Two further payments of **€60,000** and **€40,000** will be paid if Vodafone and Eir move to the tower. We will continue to get rental income from the mast on the roof of **€9,000 p.a.** whilst Eir / PTI use this. We are due to sign the agreement for lease with Cellnex very shortly and the expectation is that they will apply for planning permission early in the new year. My recommendation would be that if one or more of these payments materialize in due course, the funds should be used in the main to pay down the Clann Cedo debt.*

One other matter I should update you on is the corner site near the canal. We have been in discussions with KCC since the start of the year about developing this into a public car park. The funding for this would come from Transport Infrastructure Ireland for greenways to local authorities; KCC through its projects division would apply for the car park planning. In July, KCC informed us they needed to enter into an agreement for lease in respect of the site before incurring costs in relation to developing the car park. We reverted to outline the terms on which the Club would enter into such a lease, and the usage requirements by the Club. Negotiations haven't progressed to any meaningful degree since, and we are following up with KCC so that we have a firm plan either way in relation to this site. My thanks to Chris Hoban for his work in relation to this.

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 elsewhere in the AGM pack summarise this well.

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

It was important that our senior hurlers continue to maintain our long-standing senior championship status. It goes without saying that whatever support is required by 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. It is great to see such numbers participating at underage; one of the challenges we will continue to face is retaining sufficient numbers to be competitive as they progress through secondary school.

On the juvenile football side, the Club's participation in St Edwards has gone very well on the playing field, and we collected some silverware. There have been some off-field challenges at the entry grade where this year Straffan U-12 fielded their own team on the basis that they had sufficient player numbers. This group will be playing U-14 next year and it's being proposed that Straffan players play as a ring-fenced group under St Edwards. The three clubs need to reach agreement on what can be accommodated so that it's in the best interests of St Edwards and the integrity of the amalgamation.

We continue to struggle at the adult football grade. It's unacceptable that we can't consistently field a team for competitions the Club enters. Once again, I would ask that we renew our efforts to ensure we can avoid a reoccurrence of this next year and can field a junior football team for all competitions. I would welcome greater interaction also between the adult and juvenile football committees, in conjunction with the Executive so that we are in a position to better support their work.

Our adult camogie team did us proud reaching the Junior A final losing to a very good Rathcoffey team. Our U20s play Johnstownbridge in the final this Saturday. Straffard continues to be a great success and won leagues at U15 and U16 grades.

Acknowledgements

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

On the Executive, this was Brendan Smartt's second year as club secretary. His time commitment and professional approach to how he acts as Secretary is second to none and I would like to thank Brendan for all he did during the year in organising and minuting meetings as well as getting extensive legal documentation signed by club and external trustees and in his negotiations to secure the €50,000 Leinster Council grant for the new field.

Michelle Kelly continues to do great work on all finance matters, and in managing the Club cashflows, not to mention the time involved in preparing financial 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 in relation to the new field purchase. Aoife Kelly's outstanding work as club registrar needs to be commended and recognised, as does her work in coordinating the running of the lotto.

Special thanks to Tom Johnson for all his pitch maintenance work, and the other handyman work he does around the Club. A true clubman. The main pitch continues to look in great condition and we need to keep it that way. We will continue with the annual pitch maintenance work of sanding, seeding and fertilizing.

One member of the Executive who isn't standing for re-election is Aidan Buggle. I would like to thank Aidan for his full attendance at executive meetings during the year, and the sterling work he did in organizing bar-related events for both adults and children. Hopefully, we can call on Aidan to assist us in that regard in the coming year.

I would like to pay collective thanks to all members of the outgoing Executive and the various committee reps for their work and support during the year. The committee meetings were constructive and the fruits of this are there for members to see. The fundraising sub-committee, led by James Kelly, will continue to have an important role to play for the Club in the year ahead. My thanks also to those people who have put themselves forward for election to the Executive in the year ahead.

As noted in the Secretary's report, we need greater participation and volunteering by members in club committees and initiatives. It currently falls on too narrow a base and whilst I appreciate the constraint on people's time, I would ask members who can make time available in the coming year to volunteer in order to share the burden of this administrative work. One such example is the Club lotto, where we need one or more volunteers to lead this and initiatives in relation to reenergizing same.

*Lastly, I would also like to acknowledge and thank our Club sponsors, Cliff At Lyons, for their sponsorship of the Club over the last year. Their sponsorship income of **€15,000 p.a.** is a welcome source of funding for the Club. It's a commercial relationship we need to build on more closely in the coming year to make it mutually beneficial for both parties.*

Thank you.

7. The **Adult Hurling** Report was adopted without comment.

8. The **Juvenile Hurling** Report was discussed.

Maurice Byrne asked if it would be possible for Ardclough to play in Dublin Hurling Leagues to challenge our players more similar to when Naas played in Kilkenny and Dublin. Ronan O'Malley said that the Dublin & Kilkenny boards are no longer accepting teams from outside their counties.

9. The **Adult Football** Report was adopted.

10. The **Juvenile Football** Report was discussed.

Dave Kelly asked if Straffan are leaving St. Edwards. Danny Graham said that Straffan are right to leave if they have the players.

Brendan Smartt said that there is a discussion ongoing in Straffan about going it alone. Some people feel that they have the numbers while others are unsure. Brendan said that it is a difficult situation for the Straffan Chair but that he hoped there would be a definitive outcome on the matter shortly.

Conor McNulty said that he would be very disappointed if players that had played together for a number of years were broken up as a result of this decision.

Tony Spain asked if we would have enough players to field teams without Straffan. Brendan Smartt said that we would be able to field but we would inevitably play in lower leagues which does not help development of the better players.

11. The **Camogie Report** was adopted.

12. The **Ladies Football** report was adopted.

Ollie Kelly thanked the committee for their support of the Straffard model.

13. The report of the **Children's Officer** was adopted.

John Ryan thanked Sharon Newsome for her work again in 2023.

14. **Tuarascáil Cultúr agus Gaeilge**

Seamus O'Mídheach thanked Elaine Dunne for her fantastic work on Scór na nÓg and the success in being awarded Kildare Scór Club of the Year.

John Ryan noted the grant award for Irish signage in the club.

The report was adopted.

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

Chairperson	John Ryan
Vice Chairperson	Paul Hogan
Secretary	Brendan Smartt
Treasurer	Michelle Kelly
Registrar	Deirdre Phipps
PRO	May Phillips
Oifig Cultúr & Gaeilge	Seamus Ó'Mídheach
Committee of 5 people	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.

The election of the committee as nominated was proposed by Ronan O'Malley and seconded by Oliver Kelly.

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 incoming committee will seek a Players Rep and Healthy Club Officer.

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

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 and Kevin McCarthy.

The committee was proposed by Conor McNulty and seconded by Maurice Byrne

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

Chairperson	Larry Graham
Secretary	Brian Mullen
Committee	John McGreal, Martin Bambrick, Sean Ahearne, Des Byrne Marcus Byrne, Peter Coulston and Brendan Smartt

The committee was proposed by Conor McNulty and seconded by Maurice Byrne

18. 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 2024.

Proposed by Brendan Smartt and seconded by Aoife Kelly

John Ryan outlined that the membership increases were warranted due to the increased running costs of the club since we added the new facilities. The new rates would raise approximately an additional €15,000 in 2024.

Maurice Byrne asked if we are being vigilant enough in ensuring that people who use the club facilities have paid social membership.

Tommy Christian said we should challenge people to prove they have paid.

James Kelly suggested that we could improve the signage in the club to let people know that they can become social members and how to go about it.

John Ryan said that the comments would be taken on board and raised at the first Executive Committee meeting.

The motion was approved on a show of hands.

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

Brendan Smartt explained that all clubs were being asked to pass a motion allowing them to replace the County Board and Provincial Council representatives with the GAA Corporate Trustee. He said it was his preference to move fully to the Corporate Trustee model, but the local trustees are not in favour of resigning at this time. The Executive Committee would not be seeking to force resignations.

He said that the motion as proposed would allow the club to fully move to the Corporate Trustee model in the future without requiring an Extraordinary General Meeting.

Simon Van Longkhuyzen asked if it was possible for one of the local trustees to resign or if they had to act as a block. Brendan Smartt said that it was possible to have two local trustees but not one.

The motion was approved on a show of hands

22. **Any Other Business.**

Peter Graham suggested that we should put some padding around the new floodlighting poles as he felt they were quite close to the pitch.

John Ryan said that he would look into this.

John Ryan thanked all for their attendance and wished all member a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Meeting Closed

TREASURER'S REPORT

A Chairde,

The Gross profit margin of 52% is consistent on previous years. As mentioned in last year's report, the expected increased costs in 2024 are expected to continue into 2025. We will need to keep a close eye on gross and net margins in 2025. 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 small increase in surplus of €7,820 for Year Ended 31/08/2024 when compared to 2023. This comes from the increase in income of €43,378 along with the increase in expenditure of €35,558.

The following Grants have been received in 2024:

- **Gaelic Games Energy Support Scheme:** June 2023 we successfully applied for a grant of €10,918.26. This amount was received in November 2023.
- **Leinster Club Development Grant:** August 2023 we successfully applied for a grant of €22,500, this amount was received in March 2024.
- **Glann Credo Loan:** This loan of €50,000 was fully repaid in November 2023 with the Leinster council grant of €50,000.

Michelle Kelly

Treasurer

Ardclough G.A.A Club

Bar Trading Account for the 12 Months Ending 31st of August 2024

	notes	€	2024 €	€	2023 €
Sales			196,247		202,305
<u>Cost of Sales</u>					
Opening Stock		7,800		8,217	
Purchases		<u>95,948</u>		<u>98,738</u>	
		103,748		106,955	
Closing Stock		<u>8,699</u>	95,049	<u>7,800</u>	99,155
Gross Profit			101,198		103,150
Gross Profit Margin			52%		51%
Direct Bar Costs					
Wages		67,900		67,707	
Light & Heat		14,222		15,100	
Telephone		1,394		1,402	
Entertainment		10,607		11,379	
Repairs		3,995		3,591	
Stock Take		1,400		984	
Total Costs			<u>99,518</u>		<u>100,163</u>
Profit	2		<u>1,680</u>		<u>2,987</u>

Ardclough G.A.A Club

Income & Expenditure Account 12 Months Ending 31st of August 2024

	2024	2023
	€	€
Income		
Bar Gross Margin	1,680	2,987
Membership	62,223	45,070
Fundraising:		
Donations & Fundraising	37,112	39,865
National Club Draw	2,590	2,790
Pitch Side Advertising	5,129	6,537
Sports Centre/Hall Rent	5,925	5,575
Donations & Sponsorship	15,000	15,000
Tickets	1,600	1,440
Meteor	12,000	12,000
Lotto	9,659	11,694
Grants	<u>33,418</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Income	186,336	142,958
Less Expenditure	<u>161,178</u>	<u>125,620</u>
Excess of Income over Expenditure	<u><u>25,158</u></u>	<u><u>17,338</u></u>

Ardclough G.A.A Club

Schedule of Expenditure for the 12 month period ending 31st of August 2024

	notes	2024 €	2023 €
Expenditure			
Advertising, Postage & Stationery		0	648
IT Expenses		2,727	2,155
Sports Equipment		13,833	11,933
Training Coaches/Fitness		15,505	20,008
Light & Heat		14,222	15,100
Repairs & Maintenance	1	13,471	10,978
Rates		4,546	4,571
Physio & Injury Expenses		8,174	8,577
Cleaning & Hygiene		5,212	3,800
Property Insurance		5,368	960
Players Affiliation		19,216	17,661
Tickets		1,600	1,440
Accountancy		2,927	2,927
Legal & Professional Fees		5,468	2,697
Bank Charges		1,625	4,787
Loan Account Interest		22,387	7,796
Depreciation		2,903	2,903
Juvenile Expenses		6,528	4,679
New Pitch Development		13,466	0
Hawkfield Levy		2,000	2,000
Total Expenditure		161,178	125,620

Ardclough G.A.A Club

Balance Sheet as at 31st of August 2024

	Notes	2024 €	2024 €
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible Assets	6		1,391,375
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stocks & Work in progress		8,699	
Cash at Bank & in Hand	3	11,773	
Debtors & Prepayments		22,000	
		<u>42,472</u>	
Liabilities			
GAA		85,392	
Clann Credo		260,278	
Other Creditors		17,191	
		<u>362,861</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>-320,389</u>
NET ASSETS			<u>1,070,986</u>
Capital Account			<u>1,070,986</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	7,219
Works on grounds/clubhouse	3,437
General	<u>2,815</u>

Total **13,471**

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	3,988
Development Account	4,383
Fundraising Account	34
Cash at hand	<u>3,368</u>

11,773

4) Loan Repayments

GAA Croke Park loan	10,988
Clann Credo Loan	<u>31,083</u>
Total	42,071

5) Lotto Account Balances

New AIB Lotto Account	7,000
AIB Jackpot Account	<u>2,800</u>
Total	9,800

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

6) In the year ended 31st of August 2024, there is increase in Fixed Assets this is due to the Capital Expenditure on Land, Astro and Flood lights.

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 2024, the committee sought to raise c€35k 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 in late 2023 with regard to raising funds for 2024. The proposal includes a number of initiatives across events, club draw and increased member contributions.

The following initiatives were adopted throughout 2024:

- Increased member contributions - €17k
- Annual golf day (September 24) - €11k
- Family fun walkathon (September 2024) - €21k

The support our annual golf day at the K Club and the Family Fun Walkathon received from members, local businesses and the local community was exceptional. The Walkathon saw a great turnout of members and local families and a great day's fun was had by all.

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 John Ryan, Club Chairman, Club Secretary, Aoife Kelly, and all on the Club Executive who have supported us throughout the year. Also, thanks to Niall Phillips, Deirdre Harmon, Tom Johnston, Aidan Buggle, Simon Van Lonkhuyzen and May Phillips who turned the Walkathon into a very special, fun filled day.

Finally, the Club requires a consistent effort to raise funds to support the fantastic developments we have for our juvenile and senior teams. The Fundraising committee would welcome new people to get involved and play a part in the activities for 2025!

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 Harmon, 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, PRO Declan Burke, Aidan Buggle, Gary Finneran

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Club Development

The Club Development Plan continues to feature heavily in the work of the club. While the plan has been completed with the installing 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, fundraising to meet repayments is a significant workload and will require continuing focus. As John highlighted in his address to the AGM last year, €35k to €40k additional funding will be required annually to service the repayments on our club development loans. This year, through our increased membership fees, participation in the National Club Draw, our Golf Day and Walkathon the necessary funds were raised. The support of our members and the Ardclough community and beyond will be needed each year as we look to fundraise annually. Our golf day was a fantastic day in the beautiful surrounds of the K-Club. Thanks to Brendan who organised the day, the teams and sponsorships. When needed the members of this club to pull together and I think we can all agree that the Walkathon was also a great celebration of our club and community. Thanks to James, Simon and all on the fundraising committee and the wider organising committee for their work pulling the day together.

The next phase in our plan will be the development of the new pitch. A planning application was submitted to Kildare County Council, and we are delighted to be the recipients of a Sports Capital Grant of €133k to develop the new facility. There is a significant volume of work involved in planning and grant applications and credit to John, Michelle and Paul for their work in securing the grant.

Our club sponsorship agreement with Cliff at Lyons comes to an end at the end of 2024 and we will be seeking a main club sponsor. We would like to thank the team at Cliff for their generous support over the past three years during a critical phase of our development plan.

At the AGM last year, a motion was approved to allow Cellnex (now PTI) to seek planning permission for a communications tower on the site. This planning permission was refused and the decision by Kildare County Council was upheld following an appeal to an Bord Pleanála.

Our operating costs and bar income remained in line with last year. The day to day operating of the club can feel like a mammoth task and there can seem a never-ending list of jobs. We are exceptionally lucky to have several people who dig in and ensure we can run the club. From filling the diesel tank, to fixing showers, & tidying the club. Our pitches continue to be the envy of other clubs and I for one am so proud to invite people to play here. Thanks to Tom, Joe and Gary for their trojan work in managing the pitches and facilities.

Our Lotto Committee are key to our ongoing weekly income, and we have a great team in place. Thank you to them for giving up their Fridays to run the lotto each week.

Games

Our sub-committee secretaries have outlined full details for each of their respective codes below. Thank you to Brian Mullen, Brian Kelly, Brendan, Peter and Eamon and to all who sit on our Games' committees for their support throughout the year. Thank you to all the players and coaches across all of our teams for your commitment and dedication. We have enjoyed every minute of the games and have had great times watching you all play.

We had a fantastic end to the season when our Minor Hurlers treated us to some fine hurling in Hawkfield coming away with the championship. Well done to the team and coaches. And later that day our Camogie team won the Junior Championship with a superb display of skills.

The team worked hard winning all their games in the championship, with a draw in one and we are delighted and so proud of them. It is a culmination of years of hard work from the team. We wish them the very best of luck in the Intermediate grade in 2025.

Our senior hurlers who went undefeated in division 2 gave us all the drama of extra time in the League Final before unfortunately losing out to Naas. It was a great sight to see our young hurlers Patrick, Kyle and Tim playing on the senior team and to see our Junior team doing well with our minors coming through. In the championship, it wasn't our day, but it was heartening to see our sideline packed with our young members celebrating every score.

While our footballers had some challenges this year, watching our young footballers play with our experienced players against Ballykelly, there is great hope for football and its future. Following a meeting on the future of football in Ardclough in October, several of the current football committee members decided to step aside and an interim committee was proposed. Thanks to Larry and Brian and the outgoing committee for all your work. Larry has played a key role in keeping football alive in the club at both adult and juvenile level. The fruits of this labour can be seen on a Wednesday night. with the number of young footballers out on the pitches. We are excited for 2025 and ready to support our incoming football committee and players. As a club we need to get behind them, go to their games and support them.

Our Juvenile section continues to thrive. There are so many highlights outlined in the reports below from another fantastic year. We have new members joining and new coaches coming on board. Every evening and weekend we have our teams out playing, making full use of our great facilities and most importantly enjoying their sport.

We can clearly see the benefits of the huge work going into our juvenile sections. Straffard will field a minor team for the first time in 2025 and in camogie, hurling and football we will have players coming through to our adult teams every year for the foreseeable future. While St. Edwards faced a few challenges during 2024, a 3-year commitment to the model from all three clubs now allows coaches and player to get on with enjoying their football.

This year, as with others, our young players have travelled the country representing Ardclough and our coaches have organised and invited many clubs to play in blitzes and challenge games at home. For the first time in a few years the U11 footballers organised a Festival of Football and we are looking forward to this being a permanent fixture in our June calendars.

Our U14 age group continues to face challenges as players choose different sports or the demands of training and matches and secondary school come to play. We do so much as a club to recruit and retain players up to this age and retention of players at this age group is key to ensuring we have players coming through to our adult teams, it's something we need to review next year.

Inter County

We continue to have players represent us at county level from our young camogie, LGFA, hurling and footballers to our minors, U20 and Drew Costello and Michelle Brogan representing the club at Senior level.

Referees

A huge thank you must go to our Young Whistlers group. Without them, none of our games would go ahead. They have grown in confidence and developed their skills during the year and with our increased number of teams and games we need to do more to encourage our young members to referee and to stay refereeing. We can support them in this by setting a good example on the sideline ourselves!

Off the field

Elaine and Seamus continue their great work in Scór and promoting Gaelige around the club with our new signage. Thank you to both for the work you do, and we're delighted to see some new faces in Scór this year.

The club is a vital part of our community, and it is evident in the daily comings and goings of the club from teen badminton, cards groups, bowls and our Youth Theatre Group. It's great to see the club busy and being used for family parties and celebrations.

2024 has been another busy and successful year for the club. There are so many people involved in achieving all that is set out in the reports. Thank you to every member of the club who has played their part. To all the parents who brought their children to training and spent their weekends (and weeknights!) on the sideline. To the coaches who spent their evenings planning games, setting out gear, always the first to training.

Thank you to the executive committee for their attendance, contribution and support over the year. Michelle has once again done trojan work on our finances, Deirdre our registrar and May our PRO has given us great content. Thank you to John for the time and work that he has put into the club and to the club development plan. It seemed such a challenge back in March 2022 and to have achieved all that we have is in no small part thanks to him. Thanks to Brendan for his constant encouragement, and support as I took over the reigns as Secretary. Thank you to Aidan and Gary for all that you do in the club, whether it's the Christmas party, Halloween disco, behind the bar, running the shop – these nights are as important as our games and make memories for our young members.

Thank you to Noel O'Sullivan for his ongoing work with our coaches. Not only an asset to our club and coaches but always a good port of call for late arrivals to matches for the score! Never to be seen without his piece of paper taking note of scorers. And finally, Tom Johnson for all that you do for the club from Executive, facilities, lotto the list is endless.

I wish all members and teams every success in 2025.

.

Condolences

Finally, I want to express my condolences to members who have lost loved ones in the past year.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha.

Aoife Kelly

Club Secretary

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

Membership at the end of 2023 stood at 832 members.

Membership for 2024 opened in mid December 2023 with renewal offers issuing to all existing members. As approved at our AGM in November 2023, there was an increase in membership fees for 2024. This increase was reflective of the impact of rising costs on the club, the increase in the number of teams, increased running costs, registration, insurance and maintenance fees.

See table below for Membership Plans for 2024.

To be considered a full member for the purpose of voting, membership must be paid in full by 31st March. If opting for the three-month instalment option, the first instalment payment had to be received by 31st March and the final instalment received by 31st May.

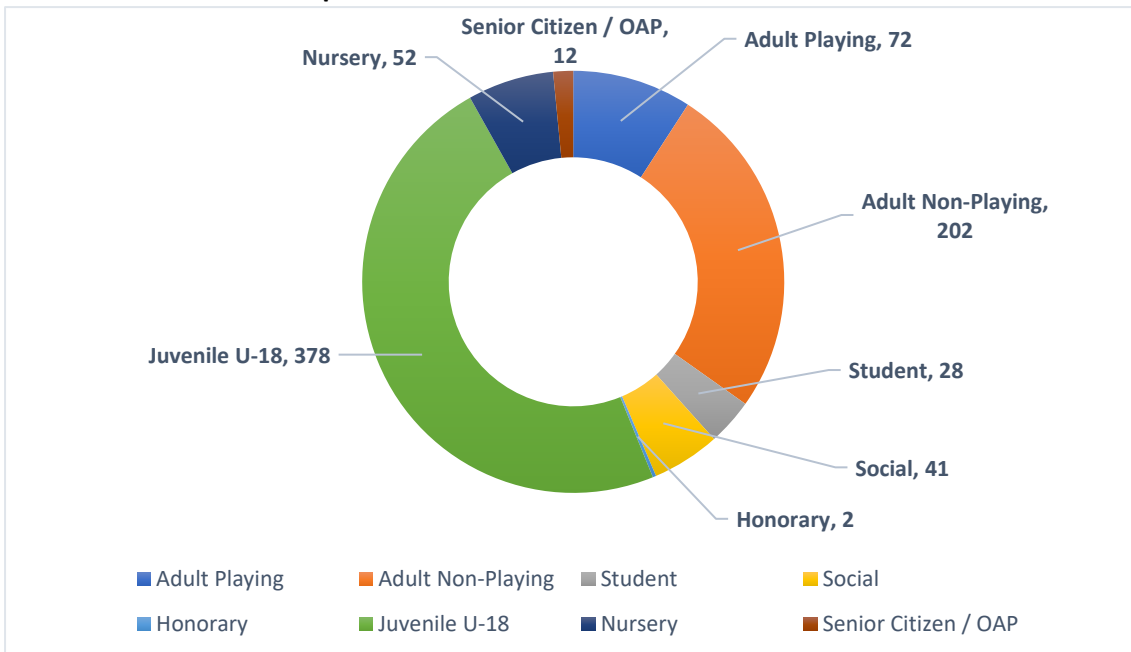
Membership Plans 2024

Member Type	Description	Price 2023	Price 2024
Adult Playing	Full Adult Playing Membership. Entitles the person to play and voting rights.	€130.00	€160.00
Adult Non-Playing	Full Adult Non-Playing Membership. Entitles the person to voting rights.	€90.00	€120.00
Family	2 Full Adult Playing / Non-Playing Members with Unlimited Child Family Members. Entitles the 2No adult members to voting rights	€230	€300.00
Juvenile	U7 to U18 members (Age 6-17). Entitles member to play.	€80.00	€110.00
Student	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	€120.00
Nursery	Little Devils / Little Kickers members only (Under 6).	€40.00	€55.00
Senior Citizen (OAP)	Discounted – Full Adult Non-Playing Membership. Entitles the person to voting rights.	€70.00	€80.00
Social	Entitles the person to attend General Meetings but it does not cover playing or voting rights.	€60.00	€70.00

As at November 2024 membership stood at 787. A decrease of 45 members when compared to 2023.



Breakdown of Membership



Juvenile Membership (Juvenile & Nursery) accounts for approximately 55% of overall membership.

Of the total membership base approximately 60% are male and 40% female.

Deirdre Harmon
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.

Adult Senior and Junior Teams

With Martin Fitzgerald appointed as senior hurling manager the year began with a strong return to training. High numbers involved at an adult level were notable and this enthusiasm and strong numbers remained a feature of the adult teams all year. The leagues commenced in April with Ardclough in Division 2 and 3. The senior team in Division 2 went unbeaten all league and were particularly unfortunate to lose the league final to Naas after extra time. As a result, the team will remain in division 2 for 2025. The junior team fared well in Division 3 finishing 4th and retained their division 3 status for 2025.

Despite losing the league final, preparation for the championship went well and following a defeat to Celbridge in the preliminary round we were placed in Group B. They subsequently beat Coill Dubh and Leixlip after 2 strong performances and guaranteed their senior status for 2025. Following the disappointment of the league final this was a key goal for the team to achieve in 2024. The team qualified for a quarter final and lost a tight game against Confey to exit the championship.

The junior team had a number of fine victories and were unfortunate not to qualify for a semifinal. Despite coming up just short, this year has proven to be a successful season for the junior team introducing a number of current year minors and 2023 minors to adult hurling.

Thanks to the players and all involved for their commitment throughout 2024, and we know that they will continue to build and look forward to 2025. 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 3rd year in succession in 2023. The team were in division 2 in the league and finished 5th following a disrupted campaign through weather delays and injuries. The team competed in the minor B championship and played some exceptional hurling across the summer months beating a strong Leixlip in the final. This win was the culmination of years of hard work 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.

Kildare

Ardclough was represented with the various Kildare panels in 2024 with Drew Costello involved in the successful Christy Ring cup and Tim Ryan and Patrick O'Malley with the Kildare U20s. At minor level Ardclough had Ronan O'Malley, Eoin Mills and Sean Coulston all involved.

Many thanks to our Hurling Committee for their work throughout the year and to all involved in running the teams – Martin Fitzgerald, Ger Buggle, John Walsh, Pat Fitzgerald, Will Hill, Eoin Stakelum 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. 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, Aoife Kelly and all of the committee for their work and support over 2024 and we look forward to building on the successes of this year in 2025.

Brian Kelly

Secretary – Hurling Committee

JUVENILE HURLING

Thank you for the opportunity to update you all on the progress of the Juvenile Hurling section over the last year. It has been another a busy year on the field for our Juvenile section. On behalf of the Juvenile Hurling Committee, I wish to offer my condolences to those who have lost loved ones throughout the year.

Go Games (U11 – U7) & Little Devils

Our nursery continues to go from strength to strength with new members and families joining throughout the year at all age groups from nursery to U11.

We have strong numbers at each age grade in Go Games with two teams entered at every age. The season began with the annual U10/ U11 Noel Burke Cup in February and March which was played on the new all-weather pitch for the first time. Noel himself was on hand to present the cup to the winning “Wexford” team in addition to our three Kildare Minor hurlers Ronan O’Malley, Eoin Mills and Sean Coulston who were on hand to present the medals.

As always, through the enthusiasm and dedication of our coaches and mentors we both hosted teams and travelling to many counties over the year for challenge games and blitz.

Some of the key highlights for the teams are as follows:

Little Devils – We have a strong team of new young hurlers attending every week having fun, making new friends, learning and developing their hurling skills.

Under 6 – We have made great progress with the skills development all year with good numbers attending training each week and looking forward to playing go games next year at U7.

Under 7 – Our U7s had a great season, back to training at the start of March. We have had great numbers growing month and month across the year. We played our first Go Games fixture against Confey in March and went on to play 12 games across the season. The team played a number of blitzes both home and away from home with great support from the parents travelling to cheer them on.

Under 10 – The 10s had a great year, the highlight being crowned Kildare u11 community games champions. The team went on to represent Kildare in the Leinster Community games, eventually losing to a strong Ballinteer St Johns team. The team travelled across Leinster playing teams from Kilkenny, Dublin, Carlow and Longford in addition to their usual Kildare rivalries. A real highlight for the young hurlers was getting to play during half time for a Kildare league game in Hawkfield. Well done to all, it is great to travel and build relationships with clubs outside the county.

Under 11 – The U11s enjoyed a great year from the first game against Lucan Sarsfields in early February right through to their final game against Milltown Sarsfields in the middle of November. The U11s joined forces with the U12s to play as a second team the U12 competitions this year getting to semi finals in both league and championship. This team learned and adapted to U12 well across the season going unbeaten and topping the table during the round robin phase of the Championship. The team played blitzes in Kildare and Meath pitting themselves against teams from Tipperary and Galway. The team played 30 games and trained well over 40 times in 2024 and it showed as the teamwork and skillsets went from strength to strength.

A special word of thanks to our young referees who week in week out ref matches from U7 – U11. We have an active panel of young refs without which it wouldn’t be possible to run our go games.

Youth (U16 – U12)

U16 - The team competed in division 1 in the spring in what turned out to be a highly competitive league. They were placed in the B championship playing some great hurling and qualifying for a shield semifinal. Many of this group were part of the Minor Hurling Panel, who won the Minor B Championship.

Well done to Colm Walsh & Daragh Buggle and also Rory Coulston & Ollie McCartan who were part of the U16 & U15 Kildare Team in 2024.

U14 - A young U14 team were highly competitive all year qualifying for a league semi final in the spring. A challenging start in the early rounds only strengthened the team, fuelling their efforts for the rest of the league. The team and the players throughout the championship gave their all and demonstrated the fighting spirit that has come to define this squad and then went on to win the Shield final against Naas played in front of many Ardclough supporters in Hawkfield. Well done to all involved in this team with a significant majority of this panel eligible for U14 again in 2025.

As a coaching team we are incredibly proud of the lads for their commitment and achievements this season. The players have gained invaluable experience that will serve them well in next seasons competitions, and the team looks forward to building on this foundation in the years to come.

U12 – The U12 League commenced in early March 2024. Due to great numbers in the U12 group this year, the decision was made to enter 2 Ardclough teams in the U12 League and Championships. We were delighted that across the two teams we added 12 new hurlers making huge contributions. The D1 team strongly qualified for a league final against Naas. With huge support on the sideline, coupled with commitment and skill ensured that this team were victorious on the night, winning the first U12 D1 title in over 20 years for Ardclough GAA.

Liam Hogan Cup was played in August 2024, and again due to large numbers at this age group, two Ardclough teams represented the club on what was a great day. Clubs from Galway, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Longford and Meath participated on day, with both teams performing really well culminating with the Cup team securing the Liam Hogan Cup for Ardclough for the first time.

Championship 2024: In what was a great achievement, both teams topped the table in their Groups and both secured semi finals positions. Despite great efforts from both teams, and both missing many players due to mid term holidays, the semi finals were the end of the road for both.

One of the key objectives at the commencement of the year was to keep the group together and end the year with as many players as we started with. Closing the year with an U12 panel of 30 players means a bright future for Ardclough hurling in the coming years. Particular mention to the girls who have played with us since U7 and who will be leaving us this year. Aobh and Isla Corcoran, Iris McCartan and Gemma and Lucy Ryan played a key part for the 2 teams. From the mentors, the team and the club we want to thank them for the most significant of contributions and being a vital part of our teams. We will miss them, but no doubt their success will continue on the camogie field.

Féile

A young U15 hurlers competed in the Féile C Hurling competition which this year took place unusually early in February. It was a great day of hurling which was once again hosted by Ardclough. Many of the team are eligible to play feile in both 2025 and 2026 and this experience will stand to them in subsequent years.

Liam Hogan Cup

The Hogan Family, along with the Juvenile Hurling Committee, were delighted to once again host the Liam Hogan Cup. This year for the first time Ardclough had two teams and the competition was expanded from 6 teams to 8 teams. It was a wonderful day with c140 players competing from 7 different clubs. After a great day of hurling, our division 1 U12 team won the Cup final winning the Liam Hogan Cup for the first time playing Killenaule Co. Tipperary in the final. This is a first time that Ardclough have won the trophy and is a testament to the hard work that the coaches have put in with a talented group of players. It must be acknowledged that a huge effort went into organising the day from a small number of people from within the club. Days like today bring the whole club together from Maurice and Mick manning the car park to countless others involved in running the day. This is the essence of what it means to be a member of Ardclough where young and old are willing to assist for the benefit of all.

Many thanks to the Hogan Family for their ongoing support for the day without which it would not be possible to run this in Ardclough.

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.

Minors – Ronan O'Malley, Eoin Mills and Sean Coulston

U17 – Celtic Challenge – Andrew Moore, Harry Maughan, John McKenna

U16 Colm Walsh and Daragh Buggle

U15 Ollie McCartan and Rory Coulston

U14 Elwood McGreal and Sean Buggy

GPO and Schools

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 the new Principal Dominic Tyrrell and will be in St Anne's for the full school year.

In February this year, 3rd and 4th class participated in the Caman Lets Hurl initiative which saw boys and girls playing hurling and camogie before school from 8am to 8.45am. Significant numbers of children attended for the 8 weeks of the programme, which was supported by the Ardclough hurling coaches.

In October the U11 St. Annes team won the Cumann na mBunscoil division 3 with the significant majority of the team playing hurling in Ardclough.

In April Salesians College Celbridge won the U14 Dublin Colleges B hurling championship. The team included Sean Buggy, Elwood McGreal, James Kelly, David Gallagher and Rory Coulston and were coached by assistant coach and former senior hurler Kevin Sexton.

This month (November), our GPO Kelly Perkins has commenced another "Caman Everybody" programme. Mini 12" hurls have been kindly purchased for the Senior Infants by Ardclough GAA. The programme has proven to improve recruitment and retention at this very important age group. We have received great support from our GPO in 2024 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 15th to the 19th July and was once again very successful. Ardclough host one of the biggest and most successful hurling Cúl camps in the county with over 170 children attending. Many thanks once again to Gerry Tully who has co-ordinated the camp on behalf of the committee for a number of years. Thanks also to Eoin Stakelum and all involved for hosting a very popular Easter Camp.

Coaching Officer

We continue to be hugely fortunate to have one of the best coaching officers in the country Noel O'Sullivan involved in Ardclough. Noel has once again this year organised workshops with John Doran and Martin Fitzgerald as we continue to upskill our dedicated coaches and mentors. Noels encyclopaedic knowledge of the hurlers involved in all ages from U7 to senior is great asset to the club. Noels dedication to the young hurlers of Ardclough is inspirational and he continues to an invaluable support to all our 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 once again bringing 150 adults and children by buses to Croke Park. This day brings all ages in juvenile hurling together and has proven to be hugely important to all involved in juvenile hurling in Ardclough.

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. The final award was confirmed in January 2024 and once again Ardclough maintained 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.

Finally, thanks are due to two people on behalf of the Juvenile Hurling Committee. Firstly, it is important to acknowledge the often-unseen work that Tom Johnson does for the hurlers and members of Ardclough. Tom is very often the first person on hand to support any and every day that Ardclough hurlers have and is generous in his support and praise of all successes we have. Secondly the juvenile chairman Aidan Buggle. In his first year in the role he has brought an energy and enthusiasm to the role which is unmatched across the club. Aidan is as likely to be seen in with the little devils as with the U14s and he is always seeking opportunities to grow participation with both children and mentors. On behalf of the juvenile hurling committee, we would like to thank Aidan for his work in developing hurling all age groups.

Brian Kelly

Secretary – Juvenile Hurling Committee

ADULT FOOTBALL

In early January, we received transfer requests from two players who wished to leave the club. Jamie Clyne wished to join Rathcoffey while Conor Duggan asked for a move to Straffan. The club refused these requests. However, following a hearing by the Kildare Competition Control Committee (CCC), the transfer requests were granted. An appeal by the club to the Leinster Council was dismissed. With our ongoing challenges in fielding competitive teams, this was disappointing, and even more because Rathcoffey and Straffan (both part of the St. Edwards amalgamation), accepted the transfer requests in the first place.

Training started Wednesday 24th January. Trainer Johnny McGlinn (Thomas Davis / UCD) was brought in and ran good training sessions.

Sean Aherne (committee member and selector) persuaded several players to return to the team giving a panel of around 20 players with an average at training of around 9 players with varying degrees of availability due to commitment to other sports (Rugby and Hurling) and travel.

Despite this, playing numbers were a challenge for both training & matches. A number of key players were not available this year due to having moved abroad and some others went travelling during the season. It did not help when a hurling challenge game was scheduled for the same evening as a football championship match.

Despite the challenges, the team competed in 3 competitions this year. We did not enter the pre-season Dowling Cup competition.

The Hanlon Concrete Senior Football League Division 4 started on 22nd March and finished on 22nd June. The team played in 8 games and conceded one game. The results were disappointing although there were two competitive performances.

The Tom Cross Transport Junior Football Championship started on 26th July. The team fulfilled 8 games but had to concede one. Again, results overall were disappointing, and we were only competitive in one fixture.

The Junior A championship started on the 22nd of September, where we played one game and conceded the other.

The first committee meeting took place on 17th January 2024 with the final one on 2nd October 2024

The Club Committee invited people interested in football to a meeting Monday 14th October to discuss how to take advantage of the expected flow of young players in the coming years. Some people expressed a desire to be part of a new football committee. To facilitate this the Football Chair, Secretary and most of the committee resigned to give the incoming group an opportunity to form ahead of the AGM and to have an opportunity to organise themselves ahead of the new season.

There is plenty of excellent work ongoing at underage level and we hope there will be multi stakeholder engagement to ensure the Adult football endures in Ardclough and that the many young players we have will be able to play their adult football here in Ardclough.

The Ardclough over 40's played a number of games early 2024 then wound down when the Adult team commenced playing. They recommenced training secession on 15th October.

We want to take this opportunity to thank all who in 2024 played, trained and the support staff for their help in seeing Football continue in Ardclough.

Brian Mullen

Ardclough Football Club Secretary (Outgoing)

Additional Note from Interim Committee

The Club Secretary invited anyone interested in football in Ardclough to discuss the future of football in Ardclough with a specific emphasis on how we transition young players from St Edwards back to Ardclough football.

The meeting took place on 7 October with John Ryan in the Chair. The playing numbers presented show that we can expect a flow of 4-5 young players per year to come through from our juvenile ranks from 2026 onwards. The next few years may be challenging but we can be optimistic about the medium term if we protect and develop our juvenile players.

A follow up meeting was scheduled for 14th October for people interested in joining the football committee along with the current committee. As indicated above, most of the current committee members decided to step aside to allow a new group to get organised ahead of the AGM and new season.

The meeting went ahead on 14 October. An interim committee was proposed including Dermot Coulston (Chair), Brendan Smartt (Secretary), Barry Molloy, John McGreal, Joe Aherne, Brian Coulston, Gary Delahunt, and John Deveney. The priority was to find a new coach for 2025, and a sub-group was formed for this purpose.

A new manger, Kieran McManamon, has now been appointed and a players meeting will be scheduled in the coming weeks. We are delighted to have Kieran on board, and we want to thank the club committee for their support in appointing Kieran.

Finally, we want to thank Larry Graham for his outstanding contribution to Ardclough football for many years. He has kept adult football going in the club and played a key part in rejuvenating juvenile football over the last 10 years. While he has expressed a wish to take a break, we hope he will be back involved with young players soon.

We also want to thank the members of the outgoing committee who have stepped away including Brian Mullen (Secretary), Des Byrne, Marcus Byrne & Martin Bambrick.

Brendan Smartt

Interim Football 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 nÓg (formerly Bord na nÓg) 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 (U5 and younger) right up to U11. After three years in these roles both Bill and myself will be standing down as Chairman & Secretary respectively and strongly believe that the Juvenile Football in Ardclough is in fine health and will thrive if it gets the continued support from mentors, parents and the Club that has been receiving to date. Currently the Ardclough U12 Footballers to U23 play as part of the St Edwards Amalgamation of Rathcoffey, Straffan and Ardclough which has worked very well and provided our players with competitive games in the upper divisions of the Kildare leagues. The amalgamation hasn't been without its challenges and Straffan were considering the possibility of withdrawing however the St Edwards committee were able to overcome their concerns and it is to everyone's benefit that they have confirmed their commitment to the amalgamation. All three clubs have signed the St Edwards charter which commits them to the Amalgamation for 3 years 2024-2026.

Ardclough girls can also play as part of an amalgamation called 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 teams.

Training and Matches

The Club began a very busy season and training started in March in preparation for the Spring leagues, with well over 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 2024 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

U11 Football Blitz

In 2024 we held an U11 football blitz that comprised of 2 Ardclough teams and another 8 teams that included Confey, Celbridge, Maynooth, St Finians, Érin go Brath & Rathcoffey. The day was a great success, and it was fantastic to see so many different teams enjoying themselves playing football and using the great facilities we now have here in Ardclough. The calibre of football was extremely high, and everyone seemed to really enjoy this “festival of football”. A huge thanks must go to Bill Blake and the organising team for putting in a huge effort to organise this blitz and hopefully it will become an annual event.

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

All age groups in St Edwards competed well throughout the season with teams competing in Semi Finals and having qualified for county finals at the time this report was completed. This success was in the backdrop of some uncertainty throughout the season around the future make-up of the amalgamation. Following lengthy discussions, all three clubs involved in the amalgamation (Ardclough, Straffan and Rathcoffey) have signed up to the Charter for 2024-2026.

The u12s group came together really well with 46 players/10 coaches and 2 streamed teams in Div 2 and Div 6. Both teams reached their league semi-finals and in the championship the Div 2 team have reached the final and Div 6 team the semi-final.

The u14s group fielded 3 teams. Two at the younger age group and one at the older age group. This age group were the most impacted by the uncertainty throughout the season but came together and competed very well. The Div D team will play in the Shield Final (v Two Mile House) on Sun 24th Nov, which is just reward for the hard work and dedication the whole team have put in this year.

The U16s group have two teams in Div D and Div F. The Division D have reached the championship final, and the F team won their F Shield final. In total there are 40 players in this group.

The Minor group competed well and reached the Division 3 final and competed well in the championship going out at the quarter final stage.

The Ardclough player numbers continue to grow with key players at Minor and U16 level. The numbers at u14 and u12 are high and represent the level of talent coming through from the Go Games level within the club.

Bill Blake

St. Edwards Committee

CAMOGIE

Update for U10 & U8:

Training began in February of this year with great attendance each week. We have 30 girls across the 2 age groups.

Our U10 group played 10 Go Games blitz throughout the year, playing teams from all over the county. Our U8 team struggled during the year but played 4 blitz and did really well. For next year we will look at entering an U11 team and U10 team.

Highlight of the year was our trip to Croke Park for the All-Ireland Finals.

Update for u13 & u14:

We competed in division 1 in u13 league in the spring. Was very challenging moving up from division 2. Numbers dwindling a bit with football now an alternative.

In the Autumn league our u14 crew competed in division 2. Numbers were low and we struggled to field a team having to postpone the first game against Naas. We reached out and convinced a few girls to come back to camogie, and that supported by two u11 players made up our crew of 15. We lost our first game against St. Laurance's but won against Kilcock and Naas (rescheduled game) and lost by a small margin to JTB leading to us meeting them again in the cup semi-final. The team dug deep and won the semi in a thrilling game. We met St. Laurance's again in the final, but we outgunned on a very windy day playing against the wind in the first half. Autumn 2024 was a real turning point for this team and a spirit developed among the players driving them from a hopeless start to giving everything especially on winning the semi-final.

This u14 crew are effectively the u15 Feile Team of 2025, we will need more numbers to be able to enter a team and need the support of all mentors in convincing players to join this team to ensure a successful and enjoyable campaign.

Update of U15s

U15's were in Div 1 in the Spring league ,found the going very tough in a very strong Division with a tight panel . Unfortunately, a few heavy defeats in this league contributed to some players dropping away from camogie which had a big effect on our Autumn leagues.

The U15 team did regroup for Féile which was held in Ardcloagh in April winning all their preliminary rounds to qualify for the B finals in JTB on May 12 , where they lost out narrowly to St. Laurence's.

A talented group here which we hope will have a good U16 league next Spring

Update for u17:

U17 Division 1 reached the shield final against Maynooth but unfortunately lost it in the Spring. We made the U16 division 2 shield final and won that against Moorefield in October this year. There was good representation from Ardcloagh with Kildare at minor level, U16 and U15. 4 players from this panel also played with the senior team throughout the senior championship!

The u16 team joined the senior panel for training also this year which was beneficial to both teams to increase numbers for training.

U20

League commenced on Nov 3 with a hugely entertaining draw against round towers . remaining rounds to be played throughout November.

Senior team

Senior team got back training Feb 12th. We got a few challenge matches under our belts before the league commenced Mar 31.

Girls had a very strong league reaching the cup final unfortunately losing out to a strong Athy team by 2:6 to 6 pts.

We regrouped in the summer with more challenge matches and commenced championship August 25 . Ardclough remained unbeaten through the Championship and won the junior A final on Oct 13 on a scoreline of Ardclough 5:7 Moorefield 2:9.

A tremendous achievement for this tight panel of players, youth and experience blending very well.

We now look forward to stepping up to intermediate level for 2025.

Peter Graham

Secretary - Camogie Committee

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 Straffard LGFA had a really excellent year over 2024.

It is a tribute to this support that from one team of circa 15 girls 7 years ago, we have well over 200 girls playing ladies football on an ongoing basis. 2024 represented a milestone year with the launch of the Gaelic 4 Mothers & Others team within the club. We now have 20+ adult females playing LGFA on a social basis within the club. During their inaugural year, the ladies played two friendly games against Kill and Maynooth- with lots of craic included!

At juvenile level, we are continuing to field teams from u7 to u17 level. From u7 to u11 our girls are having great fun, learning and advancing their skills.

Our 12s had a great year, playing up and winning the U13 Division 9 league in the spring and then one of the two teams went unbeaten in the U12 Division 1 autumn league, with the other team losing only one game in Division 4. They are an exceptional group of girls. These u11 and u12 girls won Cumann na mBunscoil titles with Ardclough national school and Straffan national school, which is a further demonstration of their talents.

Our girls at u13, u14, u15, u16 and u17 were very competitive all year, reaching a lot of semi-finals and finals over the year. Our u17 team won their division 5 league with a superb effort from the girls.

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.

We have scheduled an end of year awards night for 29 November in the club to mark this year's success and hopefully we will see a good turnout on the night!

Thanks to all once more for their support, and hopefully LGFA will continue to thrive into 2025.

Eamon Clarke

Secretary, Straffard LGFA

COACHING OFFICER REPORT

In January, the different age-group coaching teams came together to review and plan for the year ahead. They were following the Turas Player Pathway Programme designed by Leinster GAA, as well as the Ardclough Coaching Plan. It was notable that part of the planning included challenge games and blitzes, sometimes outside the county, as well as training schedules and their Kildare games programme.

Also in January, an Introduction to Coaching Gaelic Games (ICGG) H/C course was organised by Aoife Kelly and delivered by Kelly Perkins (Kildare PO). On the 17th of January, an Award One course commenced in Ardclough. John Doran (Kildare GDA) led the course and was assisted by other members of the Kildare full-time coaching team. A second ICGG course was delivered in the club by Conor Gordon (Kildare PO) in October

Kelly Perkins continued to take classes for hurling in the school as well as implementing the 'Caman Let's Hurl' before school programme on six Fridays in April/May. This year the 'Let's Play Peil' before school football programme will be rolled out as well.

During the Summer, two Coaching Workshops, entitled 'Coaching on the Astro' were held in our new Outdoor All-Weather pitch. This was to help our coaches to plan and deliver a full-panel session in the space. John Doran took a hurling session with our U13 hurlers and was observed by sixteen coaches. In August, Johnny Doyle (Kildare GDA) coached a group of U13 footballers from St. Edwards. Fifteen coaches were in attendance. Thanks to Bill Blake, John McGreal and Brian O'Brien for organising the football players, and to Aidan Buggle and Simon Van Lonkhuyzen for providing the hurling team.

In June, Bill Blake, Aoife Kelly and the Underage Football mentors organised a 'Festival of Football' for U11 teams. Six teams from other clubs along with two Ardclough teams enjoyed a great day's football. It was a fitting end to our players' Go Games years before moving up to U12 with St. Edwards.

In September, our U12 hurlers entered two teams in the Liam Hogan Cup, and we won the trophy for the first time. Organising blitzes such as this annually, along with challenges outside the county, add significant value to our player and teams' development. They are a terrific addition to the coaching programme. The links forged with other clubs give a pay-back in the form of invitations to blitzes and games outside the county.

Looking ahead, the Camogie Association is holding a Level One course in Ardclough on two Saturdays in November/December. During the close season, we will be organising a Forum on 'Developing an Ardclough Hurling Style.' Additionally, Paul Divilly will deliver a workshop to our coaches on 'Resistance Training for Teenagers'

Finally, a word of thanks to John Ryan, Brendan Smart, Aoife and Brian Kelly, Bobby Barry, Aidan and Sean Buggle for their help and support during the year.

Noel O Sullivan

Noel O'Sullivan

Coaching Officer

PRO REPORT

It has been a busy year getting to grips with the new role. My first focus was on streamlining our social media platforms and using our Instagram page to gauge if members would enjoy this type of content and we are delighted to say it has been a tremendous success!



- PRO Training completed March 2024.



- ONE Official Facebook page launched. November 2024 with the other 5 FB pages being made redundant.
- New page is a business page allowing us to gain better insights, analytics and be more streamlined.



- Website fully secured.
- Walkathon links on website increased traffic on the site.
- More to come on the website with some professional photos and drone footage.



- Thanks so much for all the videos, photos you send from the side lines and as coaches. The level of engagement this footage gives the clubs is not to be underestimated.
- Keep them coming.



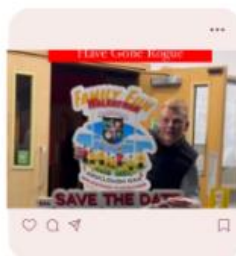
Instagram is gaining momentum with the club getting great exposure.

- Engagement is up largely due to big events such as Walkathon (a full social media promotional campaign was executed), Liam Hogan, Cup Finals.
- We have tested lives and they have proved very popular.
- Lots of interaction and engagement with other clubs tagging us.

Top Performing Content:



Senior Camogie Final
Most Viewed Post



Executive Walkathon
Most Viewed Reel



U12 Div 1 Final
Most Viewed Live

May Phillips

PRO

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 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.

Child Welfare Objectives 2024	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	Completed Q3 2024 & Scheduled Q1 2025

Sharon Newsome

Children’s Officer

TUARASCÁIL CULTÚR AGUS GAEILGE

Scór na nÓg (under 17s)

The Club entered Scór na nÓg 2024 County Final on November 10th:

Amhránaíocht Aonair (Solo singing): Abbie Connolly (2nd place)

Scéalaíocht (story telling): Cora MacAuley (3rd place)

Bailéad Grúpa (Ballad Group): Abbie Connolly, Cora MacAuley, Leila McDaid & Clara Browne

Scór na bPáistí

Scór na bPáistí is being revived in Co. Kildare, a Scór competition open to children who are in primary school. This is run under Cumann na mbunscoil, so schools will compete against each other in a County Final. Scór na bPáistí will be take place in February 2025.

Elaine Uí Dhuinn

Rúnaí Scór

G.A.A. Gaeilge Ard Cloch

Tacháí Cumann Luthchleas Gael le

cur chun cinn na Gaeilge, an damhsa, an cheoil agus an chultúir Ghaelaigh i gcoitinne.

Fiondúireacht Sheosaimh Mhic Dhonncha.

Cuireann an Chlub, An Teanga chun trí dul isteach san F.S.M.D. D'eirigh go maith leis an gClub in 2020 ag fáil Gradam i lathair ag Uachtaran C.L.G.

The Club promotion of the Language was successful in 2020 receiving Gradam F.S.M.D. from the G.A.A. President.

Thánaigh ráth ar an dara huair i 2024 agus an dara Gradam bronnta ag an gClub ag ócáid i bPairc an Chrocaigh.

Success has come a second time in 2024 with the Club awarded Gradam F.S.M.D at a function in Croke Park.

Ba mhaith leis an gClub buíochas a ghabháil le Glór na nGael agus le Cill Dara le Gaeilge as comhartaíocht gaeilge a mhaoiniú.

The Club wish to thank Glór na nGael and Cill Dara le Gaeilge for funding the Irish Language signage around the Club.



UAIREANTA OSCAILTE OPENING TIMES	
DEIRNÍ / FRIDAY	19.00 - 22.30
MAIRT / TUESDAY	19.00 - 22.30
CEADAGH / WEDNESDAY	19.00 - 22.30
DEARADH / THURSDAY	19.00 - 22.30
AOINE / FRIDAY	17.00 - 20.30
SATHUINN / SATURDAY	12.30 - 22.00
DOMHAINN / SUNDAY	12.30 - 22.00
LÁ SAOIRE NAIRRE / BANK HOLIDAY	12.30 - 22.00



Seamus Ó'Mídheach
Oifig Cultúr & Gaeilge

NOMINATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2024

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

Note 1: Brendan Smartt was nominated for Committee of 5 but has accepted the nomination for Secretary – Football Committee.

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

Children's Officer	Sharon Newsome
Coaching Officer	Noel O'Sullivan
Player Representative	Sean Buggy

The Incoming Executive will seek to fill the positions of **DLP & Healthy Club Officer**.

NOMINATIONS FOR FOOTBALL COMMITTEE 2024

Chairperson	Dermot Coulston
Secretary	Brendan Smartt
Committee	Barry Molloy, Gary Delahunt, Brian Coulston, John Deveney, Niall Kearns, Joe Aherne

NOMINATIONS FOR HURLING COMMITTEE 2024

Chairperson	Ger Buggle
Secretary	Brian Kelly
Committee	Tony Spain, Padraic O'Malley, Sean Buggle, Johnny Buggle, Noel Burke, Paul Hogan, John Walsh, Pat Ryan, Chris Maughan

MOTIONS TO THE AGM

MOTION 1

Ardclough GAA Club will propose and support a motion to the next County Convention that two points be awarded when a ball is struck directly over the bar and between the posts from a sideline cut.

Motion Proposed By: Thomas Buggle

MOTION 2

The Executive Committee will issue membership cards every year to full members.

Motion Proposed By: Thomas Buggle

Thank you for attending and for your incredible support in 2024