



YEARBOOK

The County
The Clubs
The Teams
The year that was

2021



GAA



The Clubs of

**An Tóchar
Annacurra
Arklow Rock Parnells
Ashford
Avoca
Avondale**

In the year that was

2021



An Tóchar



An Tóchar Intermediate Football Champions 2021

Despite another difficult year our numbers continue to grow. We have over 400 registered juveniles and 130 registered playing adults. Training and playing with their teams has been vital for the well-being of all our players, and our supporters have enjoyed the benefits of going to matches to cheer them on.

Our coaches continue to work hard with their teams from nursery upwards and that is evidenced in how well our boys and girls teams performed in their league and championship campaigns through-out the season. We look forward to 2022 and watching these young players develop their skills as they work towards joining the adult teams.

Our Club has been very fortunate to receive generous

sponsorship for gear from local businesses through the year, and we thank you all for your support.

Our Adult men had great numbers this year, so much so that we had three adult teams, Junior B, Junior C and Intermediate. After a long wait our Junior C played Blessington in the County Final. a strong last quarter from our lads, along with a strong subs bench, helped us to victory. Our first mens team won the Intermediate Championship in a very close game against Hollywood and will return to the ranks of Senior for the 2022 Championship campaign.

Roll on 2022

#AnTócharAbú



An Tóchar Nursery



An Tóchar U7 Boys



An Tóchar U9 Boys



An Tóchar U11 Boys



An Tóchar U13 Boys



An Tóchar U15 Boys



An Tóchar Minor Boys



An Tóchar Junior C Football Champions 2020



Cumann Lúthchleas Gael



Annacurra Junior D Football Champions 2021

Here we are at the end of 2021, and who thought after the COVID interrupted 2020 we would still be implementing COVID protocols. Having said that, at least we had a full season of training and matches and thankfully spectators were able to go to matches without the scourge of having to win a limited number of tickets for games.

It was particularly important for juvenile players to get back into the fields and train and have fun with their friends.

It is with the juveniles I start our report. As I said above, 2020 had been a very hard year for all juveniles, so it was great that we were able to resume full training in March. I have to say for all the success we had this year, the most uplifting thing for me was to see the field full of children every Wednesday night.

Under 6's

We had a super bunch of boys and girls at under 6 level on Wednesday evenings. We made brilliant progress as we worked on our catching, kicking, throwing, balance and coordination skills and had lots of fun at the same time. It was obvious though that everyone's favourite part each week was when the bibs came out to divide into 2 teams for our little end of training football game!

All of the coaches were really impressed by the consistent attendance every week and the super levels of engagement from the kids. The steady advances were clear for all to see. It was wonderful to see such a big group of shining stars of the future having so much fun and enjoying the good weather together. The future of our club looks very bright indeed! They showed up every week and had lots of fun. Thanks to a great bunch of coaches they had a great introduction to the GAA and we are really looking forward to having them back in the new year.

Annacurra U6's



Annacurra U6's



Annacurra U7's



Under 7's

Our under 7's were a great bunch to work with. They improved their skills all year through fun. This would be an exciting year for them as it would be the first time they would

represent the club. They played in blitz games every two weeks and the excitement for them and their parents the first time they pulled on an Annacurra jersey was great. Their coaches were delighted with them and are. Looking forward to next year again.



Under 9

We had a very large group of under 9 boys and girls this year. We had many newcomers who had not played before and it left us with the nice problem of having to find an extra coach to help out. While they were happy doing drills, all this lot wanted to do

was play football. Training wouldn't be in ten minutes when they were plaguing the coaches to start the matches. They played in blitz games every two weeks over the Summer and Autumn, and there wasn't a day when we couldn't field two teams at the same time. They are a great bunch and next year can't come quick enough for them.



Annacurra U11's

Under 11

This is the first age group that competes competitively. So this was an exciting year for this group. While it is still all about fun there is that hope that all the work from the previous years will show some fruit. I am delighted to say they had a really good year. They went the whole way to the under 11B final. They didn't manage to win it, but it was a great achievement. Congratulations to the players and coaches.

Annacurra U13's

Under 13

We were tight on numbers for our under 13 team this year and so we knew it would take a lot of hard work to be competitive. It is safe to say that there was no shortage of hard work or great attitude from these lads. Despite tight numbers they got to the under 13B championship final. While this was great it wasn't enough for them. They went on to claim the championship. This was a fantastic achievement for them and for their coaches. Congratulations to everyone involved. Winning is a great boost to confidence and hopefully they can look forward to a bright future in the club.



Annacurra U15's



Under 15

While the under 13's might have started the year as an unknown quantity, there was much expected from the under 15 squad. They had won the under 13B two years ago and had made great strides since then. They were taking on the under 15A championship, and while hopes were high, it would be a difficult task for a small club to compete at this level.

They played really well and at the end of the season found themselves in the semifinal. This turned out to be a very tight game, but after extra time they succeeded in making it to the final where they would take on a very strong Éire Óg side.

This was the first time for many years that an Annacurra team would contest an A final and it was no surprise when most of the community turned out in Arklow to support them. It was a high quality match but when the final whistle went we had won by two points.

We hope that with this victory under their belts they will have the drive to keep going and at some stage represent Annacurra at adult level. Congratulations to players and coaches on a fabulous achievement.

Annacurra Minors



Intermediates

Our intermediate team went in to 2021 in transition. The team was made up of many older players who have given great service to the club over many years, and new young players just starting out.

We started the year really well and made it through to the league semifinal. We didn't make the final but it had been a good campaign.

We had a difficult draw in the championship against Hollywood.

We started well but we were just unable to hang on going down by a single point. Hollywood themselves would go on to play in the final. We drew Coolkenno in the back door, but we put in an under par performance and went into the relegation playoff. This was always going to be tough with two teams to go down. However we won two of our three matches and will be intermediate again next year.

Over the next few years we will have many players graduating to adult level and hopefully we will be in a position to challenge for honours in the future.

Minor

We did enter a minor U17 team this year which on it's own was a great achievement for the club. Our ambition at the beginning of the year was to make sure the lads got plenty of football and be as competitive as possible. It was a very young side with two thirds of the panel coming from the under 15 squad. It could have been very difficult, but the lads were fantastic throughout the year. We went very close to making the County final only to lose out by a point. We did however go on to win the shield final which was well in excess of any ambition at the beginning of the year. Needless to say the coaches were thrilled with them.

2021 was a great year for the juvenile section of the club. Thanks to all the players and coaches for their time and effort. Thanks to the the parents. Ye showed great support to the club this year and we look forward to next year. Finally congratulations to the players who were chosen to represent the County at their respective ages.

Juniors

The juniors had shown signs of improvement in 2020 and went into 2021 with confidence. The junior team's league campaign featured matches against Aughrim, Tinahely, & Coolkenno. Annacurra completed wins away to Aughrim and home and away to Tinahely with a home loss to Coolkenno the only blot on the copybook in the first 4 games. A draw at home to Aughrim left the league to be decided in the last game away to Coolkenno. A fiery encounter was decided by goals by Fionn & Liam Moules meaning Annacurrawon Division 5 South for the first time in a number of years. This qualified Annacurra for a quarter final of the Division 5 county league which pitted them against old foes Saint Pats. Having been well placed at half time, Annacurra were slow starters in the second half conceding 1-4 in the first ten minutes before rallying and running out of time with a depleted team to lose on a scoreline of 2-9 to 2-12. 2021 marked the first year in which a junior D football championship was contested in Wicklow. 8 teams began the

quest to become the winners of the inaugural competition. Annacurra were pitted in one of two groups with Kilmacanogue, Stratford and Avoca. Annacurra's began at home with a game against Avoca. Annacurra were slow starters in this match but the half time return of Alan Horan to championship action from his 17th retirement saw Annacurra ultimately power to a 4-10 to 0-7 win. Annacurra then travelled to Hollywood to face Stratford. A superb team performance on the night was rewarded with 5-20 to 0-5 with some vintage scores from the evergreen Clive Horan. The final group game was at home to Kilmacanogue and Annacurra completed a perfect record in the group with a 2-16 to 1-7 win. Annacurra travelled to Shillelagh in the semi final to tackle Coolkenno. With Don Jackman stationed at full forward and his nephew Benny Jackman anchoring midfield a tough assignment was expected. An opportunistic goal from Robert Davey at the end of the first half allowed Annacurra to take control and some superb link play between himself and Clive Horan ensured Clive finished with a personal total of 0-8 as Annacurra advanced to final on a scoreline of 2-10 to 0-5.

In the final which was played as part of a double header with Avoca's junior B final, Annacurra took a first minute lead with a Clive Horan goal. Avoca struggled to settle to their task in the final with Annacurra's slick attack overpowering Avoca in an excellent first half display seeing them lead on a scoreline of 2-10 to no score. To Avoca's great credit, they put in a much improved second half display to limit the margin of Annacurra's victory to 3-11 to 0-5. This marked a first county title for the men from the Derrywater since 2010 and with the club hoping to compete for higher honours again next year.

The future looks bright for the junior team with great development shown by the younger players over the course of the year allied to the older players showing that there is still some diesel left in the tank.

Off the field there was plenty of activity as well. We replaced the floodlights. This was a big undertaking and the result is that we have new fantastic floodlights.

We also put in two new dugouts. The dressing rooms were painted and new equipment was purchased for the gym. Much of the work was voluntary and we sincerely thank everyone for the time and expense they went to. However there were also significant costs and we thank our very generous sponsors and private donations we received. It takes money to run a club and we thank everyone.

We can't finish up without mentioning deceased members of our club. We said goodbye to some popular and well known figures in the club this year. They are missed and we send our deepest sympathy to their families and to the families of all deceased members of the club. There is no future other than that which is built on the work of the past.



Arklow Rock Parnells

Club Info

2021 is an historical year here at the Rocks. For the first time in its history Camogie has a team at every level. This is a phenomenal record achieved by our Camogie Chairperson, Penni Heald and all the growing volunteers including Camogie Secretary, Richella Wood, Coaches Vinnie Byrne, Danny Curran, Breda McCarthy, Jimmy Kavanagh, Mary Geraghty, Billy Mellon, administration help Daimhnait McDonough, Sarah Forde, Jennifer Walsh, Denise Pierce and to all our Super Parents who are there when we need them. It really does take the whole Rocks family to make it all work.

During the year we also lost a member of our Rocks Family, club legend Mylie Fortune. This was a sad time for us as Mylie was a constant figure of support to most teams on the side-line no matter the venue! Hook 'em, block 'em and rock 'em! RIP Mylie, you legend.

Even with all that the pandemic is bringing, Camogie and Hurling is keeping us going together whilst we are staying apart.

Intermediate

We opened their league campaign in April and ended up playing Barndarrig in the league Final in Aughrim in July where we were beaten. This was a rude awakening before the first round of the Championship which was to be run on a league basis.

Success was not to be ours in the 2021 Championship. Arklow Rocks represented Wicklow in the Leinster Club Junior Hurling Championship and were drawn against Tara Rocks, Gorey. The game was played in Enniscorthy in November and we were comprehensively beaten by a much fitter and better hurling team on the day.

Our Junior Hurling Team opened their league campaign in June fulfilling all seven fixtures and ending in August, winning just one game. The Junior hurling championship was also run on a league basis this year, with the club playing four games in their group unfortunately without a win.

Lots to build on and improve for next year.



U7 and U9

The season started on the 18th of June 2021 for our under 7 and under 9 hurlers with an away trip to Aughrim and the club was well represented with some fine hurling skills on display. We played in a total of seven blitzes throughout the year, hosting two, and I would like to thank all the parents who came out and supported us. It was great to see all our young hurlers enjoying themselves whilst wearing the Green & White of Arklow Rocks. U10 Player Pathway





Our under 9 team competed in an Under 10 player pathway league ran by the County Board, playing a total of five games. These players have put in a great effort this year. With approximately 15/16 players to pick from Dave Carroll and Ciaran Mellon were spoilt for choice. This fine group of

hurlers won all their matches and collected a trophy along the way. Our Under 11 will benefit next year from the players moving up.

COACH: David Carroll, Ciaran Mellon

U11



A great improvement in these players throughout an up and down year. This group put in some fine performances. Along the way they faced their old foe Carnew in a final on the 13th of October. On a windy morning in Ballinakill the

Rocks ran out winners 1-7 to 0-3. It what was great game of hurling to watch.

COACH: Bryan O'Leary, Philip Byrne

U13



Our Under 13s had a remarkably successful year given we had only five on age players and we had to concede our first game of the year due to fixtures of other age groups as we did not have enough players. We fought on and with a number of under 10 and under 11 players, we fielded fully competitive teams for every other game and eventually finished in 5th place in the league.

We went on to face Kilcoole in the championship semi-final. The true grit of this team was never more evident and by pure determination they held a tough Kilcoole team scoreless which is remarkable accomplishment in any game. Onto the final, the first one, against Eire Óg Greystones and with a comfortable lead mid-way through the second half the game was brought to an early conclusion through no fault of any players.

This led to massive confusion and uncertainty to such a

young group of players. What do we do? What is going to happen now? The players themselves at this young age decided we keep training for the unknown and so they did until they got word, a replay!!

They attacked the replay with the same eagerness and vigour they had all year. It was a game of ups and downs; we lead for the entire first half. Eire Óg fought back to a draw with 15 minutes left. At the water break they were asked did they want to win it and, like they had all year, they responded. 1-2 in the next couple of minutes and the trophy was coming to Arklow. An incredible feat given the trials and tribulations they had faced all year. A fantastic group who never give a moments trouble and who, above all else, love their hurling. What more could you ask for! Yup the Rocks
COACH: Sean Pierce

U15



Once again it is the time of year for reflection and this year has been a thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding year for our Under 14 and Under 15 hurlers, despite the constant threat of the dreaded covid virus.

Our Under 14 team competed in the player pathway league. They won all the group games comfortably and all players got the chance to play lots of game time and really en-

joy their hurling. In the final, captained by Eric Wright, we outscored our rivals, St Pats of Wicklow and ran out winners. Under 14 County champions!

Our U15 team, while mainly younger players, gave a massive account of themselves. We played nine games and were highly competitive in every single game. Unfortunately, we missed out on the A final but secured a spot in the B

semi-final where we faced, Glenealy. The game was played with great speed and skill and at the end Rocks prevailing with nine points to spare, the cup was lifted by captain Jamie Somers.

THANK YOU'S

For not only getting us through the period of a pandemic but expanding during the last two years, a huge thank you to our Executive Committee. Not an easy task leading through the unknown but we have come through thriving.

For all the improvement, growth and effort put in by the players, coaches, administrators and committees is much appreciated and illustrated in the club. A big thank you to the parents, grandparents who got their players to their matches and training, tackled Foireann and complied with all the covid rules, helped when needed and supported the club. Without your support and commitment our teams

Overall, it was a great year for both our teams. Hopefully next year will be just as enjoyable and a bit more "NORMAL"
Carraig Parnell Abú
COACH: Jason Redmond, Liam Murphy, Sean Pierce

would not be as successful as they are.

A special thank you needs to be made to effort and time given by Tom Byrne and Jack O'Reilly for their work maintaining the grounds but also building the outdoor area on a tight schedule and low budget. This area is invaluable whilst we cannot use the facilities at the clubhouse. The grounds are always in top condition and the pitch is a joy to play on. A task not getting easier with the growing numbers. Well done everyone and here is to a bigger and more awesome 2022 with some exciting times ahead.

Carraig Parnell Abú!





Ashford

Ashford U7's trained hard all year and represented the club fantastically at their GoGames. Special thanks to their coaches for their efforts throughout the season.

The under 11s only lost one game all year and played Avondale in their Mini League final. They saved their best performance for the year for the final in Avoca and were outstanding all over the field to win 5-12 to 0-5.

Under 13's played Newtown the C championship semi final and won 8-0 to 2-10. They played a strong Carnew side in the county final and put in a great effort, unfortunately losing 2-5 to 0-4.

Our under 15's lost out to Kilcoole in the D Championship semi final and our 17s lost out to Michael Dwyers in the B Championship semi-final.

Well done to all the players, Coaches and COVID officers for each team,

A big thanks to all our Coaches

Under 7: John Ryan, Martine Behan, Brian Coen, Gary Newsome and David O'Connell

Under 9: James Clarkson and Dean Mooney

Under 11: Conor Behan and Ian Healy

Under 13: Francis Crean and Stephen Behan

Under 15: Liam Byrne

Under 17: Lee Fitzpatrick, Brian Collins and Robbie Clarkson.

Ashford U9's



Ashford U11's



Ashford U7's



Ashford U13's



Ashford U15's



Ashford Minors





2021 was a year in which Avoca GAA Club made history. The club has been growing over the last number of years and it was decided that 2021 was the right time to enter a second adult men's team for the first time ever. Both adult teams enjoyed relative success in their league campaigns with both making it out of the group stage and into the quarter finals. Strong opposition got the

better of both teams however and it was back to the drawing board before the championship rolled around. Training took place throughout the summer under the watchfull eye of Eamon Furlong as Junior B manager with Michael Doyle and Kevin Harper as selectors while Andrew Doyle Snr. took charge of the junior D team with Liam Reid, Michael Fahy and John Harper as selectors.



Avoca U13's

Junior B

The Junior B team had an excellent championship campaign beating tough opposition to top their group and progress to the knock out stages. They got to the final against Knockannana where they forced a replay on the first occasion but unfortunat came up short the following week in the replay.

Junior B County Final Team Back Row Left to Right. Rob Wilson, PJ Fluskey, Dean Power, Liam Dickenson. Mikey Fahy, Dale Fluskey, Conor Doyle, Niall McCauley, Andy Doule Jnr, Connor Short, John Harper, Jason Porter, Chris Arthur. Front Row Left to Right. Colin Doran, Dean Carter, Adam Tuke, Colin O'Connor, John Porter, Paddy Kennedy, Aaron Tuke, Adam Arslan, Johnny Arthur, Stephen Reddy.

Avoca Junior B County Finalists



Junior D

The Junior D team also enjoyed a successful championship campaign making it out of the group stages and beating some strong teams in the knockout stages to make it to the Junior D final in their first year together. Annacurra were very strong opposition on the day of the final and in the end they just had too much experience for Avoca. Overall it was a successful year for both teams and we hope the club continues to grow and that the juvenile players can aspire to playing on adult championship winning teams in the future. Junior D County Final Team Back Row Left to Right.

James Murray, Anthony Doran, Michael O'Neill, Darren Keogh, Chris Canavan, Robbie Warde, Paddy Kinsella, Niall McCauley, Luke Burke, Eoin Murtagh, Dylan Doran, Cathal Hendley, John Gilvarry.

Front Row Left to Right.

Tony Heffernan, Brandon Doyle, Ger Doyle, Dale Moran, Colin Doran, Stephen McCauley, Connor Short, Stephen Reddy, Declan Doyle, Zach Wolohan, John Kavanagh.

Juveniles

This year saw a record 115 players register to play Gaelic football with the Avoca Juvenile GAA Club. Our nursery had 36 girls and boys turn out on Tuesday evenings which bodes well for the future of the club. The U7s and U9s again had a very successful Go Games campaign. Our U11s had another good year in which they only lost 1 game in the league and unfortunately came up short against a very good Barndarrig side on finals day. The U15s teamed up with Avondale and Laragh to form the Clara Gaels team and also had a very good year but unfortunately lost out to an excellent AGB team in the county final. Our U17s playing with Michael Hogan's were looking to win a county championship for the second year in a row but lost out to Eire Og in the final.

The biggest success of the year was our U13s who won the county championship final against Barndarrig. What's most significant about this is it's the first ever county final win by an Avoca juvenile team. Well done to everyone involved. The Avoca U13 team on the day was:

Dylan Fitzpatrick, Conor Healy, Prince Poku, Seán O'Neill, Luke Purser, Lucas Reid, Liam Kinsella (Captain), Ryan Doyle, Jack Power, Darragh Harper, Seán Og O'Neill, Aiden Fleming, Conor Daly.

Subs: Kyle Fluskey, Thomas Nolan, Ruairi Fleming, Harry Connell, Evin Kinsella, James O'Keefe, Jayden Doyle.

So all in all another excellent year and the biggest challenge we now face as the club grows from strength to strength is trying to accommodate everyone on the playing pitch. We look forward to the season ahead.

#AvocaAbú.

Avoca Junior D County Finalists





Avondale

The Academy had another very successful year, in fact we had the most members ever since the Academy started, having 22 U9 players, 31 U7 players and 25 U5 players. They played 16 hurling and football Go-Games, along with a few friendlies. We had 6 home go games, a note of thanks to all our young referees who helped us out.

A big thank you to our team of dedicated coaches who give up their free time week in, week out, no matter what the weather to help develop our children, it's evident this is working because the children's skills and team interaction was clear to see in both training sessions and games.

Under 9: Barry Sheehan, David Moran, Roy Byrne, John Cashman.

Under 7: Declan McInerney, Sara Shawgi, John Sheehan, Eugene Heffernan, Liam Kelly.

Under 5: Kathy Geoghean, Eugene Dunne, Stephen Donoghue, Marti Hennessey.

Avondale Academy



The U11 football team played 8 very competitive and enjoyable games this year, ending with a final against Ashford. Most of the panel have been together since the academy at u5 and they have developed into a great team who play for and support each other. The squad who played throughout the year included Aidan and Conor Kelly, Aidan Kearns, Charlie Cullen, Daniel Statkevicius, Dylan Ross, Eoghan Doyle, Enda Dechaine, Finn Byrne Doyle, Finn Keogh, JJ Busher, Matt and Joe Byrne, John Jinu, Josh Porter, Noah Porter, Ollie Evans, Rhys Kinsella, Timmy Barnes, TJ Heffernan, Will Phelan and Paudi Byrne. The team was managed by Cormac Doyle with Trevor Heffernan, Liam Kelly and with help from a number of parents throughout the year.

The Avondale U13 hurling team competed very well in their league this year. Captained by Adam Kearns they finished in the top half of their division and qualified to play Michael Dwyers in their final. Unfortunately, despite a massive effort from the whole team, Michael Dwyers proved too strong. It was, however, very encouraging to see such improvements in the teams performance throughout the year. The team was: Adam Kearns (captain), Tadgh Cleary, Leighton O Toole, Cameron Byrne, Tiarnan Byrne Cahill, Denis Byrne, Leighton Gahan, Tyler Byrne, Jake Browne, Harry Cullen, Tyler O Neill, Shane Kennedy, Kevin Murphy, Alex Kavanagh, Charlie Cullen, Will Phelan. Management: Brian Kearns, Clive Heffernan.

The future looks very bright for Avondale GAA.

We had a very enjoyable family day out in Clara Lara funpark in August. In September the children received their new Avondale logo socks and shorts. Our final wrap up day in October was a fun filled morning finishing off with an Avondale beanie hat & goodie bag for everyone.

This success of the Academy is down to a few key things; the children & parents, the coaches and a dedicated team of backroom support, their jobs often go unnoticed but are so valuable to keeping things running smoothly. Thanks to our Covid supervisors, Bernie Kearns, Noeleen Byrne, Lisa Byrne, Shaunagh Byrne and Sharon Sheehan, the Avondale senior committee for their support and Mikey O'Toole for having the pitch in splendid order throughout the year. With our ever increasing numbers we always welcome help with coaching, administration tasks etc

Thanks to all the parents/ guardians for bringing their children to training sessions and matches, they were always willing to help out when required and full of encouragement and support. Finally best of luck to the children who have been in the Academy for the last 5 years as they move up to Under 11s.

Avondale Senior Hurling Team 2021

The Avondale senior hurling team made massive strides during the 2021 season. It is important to remember that for the previous 3 years, Avondale had been unable to win even 1 competitive game in either league or championship and were struggling to compete at senior level.

This year the Dales won 4 from 7 league games and were in the mix for a league final appearance right up to the final league match. Kiltegan, St. Patricks, Carnew & Kilcoole were put to the sword whereas defeat was inflicted on us by Bray, Glenealy & Eire Og. In championship, we were in a tough group which included both 2020 county finalists Bray & Carnew, along with Kilcoole. We easily beat the Goosebankers in the first game and were only a puck of a ball away from beating Carnew in the next, falling just short after a terrific 2nd half comeback after what was a lacklustre first half. To compete against a very strong Bray team in our last match all stars needed to be aligned, however preparation was badly disrupted the week leading up to the game with injuries to key personnel and we never got going. Still, massive progress was made with a lot more expected from this team in 2022.

The most pleasing aspect of being involved with this team was seeing the amount of players attending training. Every training session had an attendance of anywhere between 25 and 35 players meaning competition for places on the team was excellent. Players were enjoying themselves and looking forward to the upcoming fixtures. Massive credit must go to Ray Fiddler Nolan who had only just taken the reins as



Senior Hurling Team

manager at the beginning of the year. He was coming into manage the team at a very low ebb and of course Covid didn't make this task any easier. Ray has lifted Avondale hurling again to a place where we are now competing strongly at senior level. Don't forget Ray's right hand man Liam Phelan who was a revelation in his role as selector. A calming influence on the sideline, Liam loved nothing better than to encourage and offer advice to the younger players on the team. Ross Merry looked after the gear whereas Chief

Statistician Donal Browne monitored everything from puckouts and turnovers to how many conversations Eugene Dunne had with the referee!

Thanks to everyone else that helped out with the team in any way and to our wonderful supporters who came out to support us. The team and management would also like to thank a local man who sponsored crew neck tops for all senior and junior players and management. Roll on 2022.

Junior Hurling Team



Junior Hurling

The year 2020 and 2021 will go down in the history books as one of the most important years in junior hurling with Avondale winning two championships in the year 2021. The 2020 final had to be delayed until 2021. In the final we played Eire Og Greystones at the gaa centre of excellence in Rathdrum. This was a great game of hurling in the end the dales were the winners. It was a great day for captain Seamus McGraynor lifting the cup. The evergreen captain gave a lifting speech and encouraged the team to put in a huge effort to go and win the 2021 B championship. The 2021 championship started off with wins over Arklow Rocks and Eire Og Greystones and Knockanna and Aughrim and Bray Emmets. We lost out to Saint Patrick's and a great Western Gaels team, but we went on to reach the final which was played in Aughrim in September. The dales gave an outstanding display of hurling winning by 3-17 to 0-07 Once again it was the veteran Seamus McGraynor along with joint captain Kevin Kinsella to lift the junior B cup. These two championship wins is a very important win for the club and

the future is looking bright. The class of Ray Nolan was very much on show for all the games but this was by no means a one man team this was a team of thirty two players who wanted to win from the goal keeper Trevor Heffernan to the full forward his brother Eugene. This team of some players who have given a lifetime of services to the club to the many young players that have been coached by Ray Nolan and Clive Heffernan (Manager) and Seamus O Shaughnessy

THE 2020/2021 JUNIOR HURLING PANEL

Seamus O Shaughnessy, James Doyle, Niall Heffernan, Kevin Kinsella (Joint Captain), Karl Phelan, Cathal Doyle, Ray Nolan, Seamus McGraynor (Joint Captain), Alan Fox, Roy Byrne, Dermot Phelan, Wesley O Toole, Dillon Kearns, Brian Burke, Johnny Tobin, Liam Phelan, Craig Byrne, Trevor Heffernan, Michael O Toole, Shane McGrath, David Byrne, Keelan Busher, Cian Ward, Darren Kennedy, Eugene Heffernan, John Porter, John Harper, Owen Heffernan, Paul Driver, Chris Canavan, Nathan Kirwan, Cormac McGraynor, Edward O'Shaughnessy

Senior Football

Our Senior Footballers entered the 2021 season hopeful that they could build on their 2020 championship exploits where they unfortunately lost out at the county semi stage on penalties to Tinahely. The management team of David Burke, Pat Baker, Maurice Leahy and Brendan Ward entered their 3rd season at the helm hopeful to be able to bring our young Avondale side one step further and get our hands on a senior county title. Covid played havoc again in the early parts of this season as pitches were closed and training was paused but it was great to eventually be able to get back out to the field at the start of the summer season. We played in the Division 1 league alongside all of the counties top teams and put in some strong performances. The highlights of the League campaign were beating Blessington (this years county champions) and Baltinglass (2020 county champions) in two hard fought battles. In preparation for championship we played some of Leinsters top club teams in challenge games and put in some steady performances but we're struggling to find a winning momentum. We met Donard in the first round of championship and were

hot favourites. In this game we really struggled to get going and played within ourselves and were on the losing side of this battle. We then met Newtown in the back door and comfortable beat them. This set us up for a 1/4 final date with ole foes St.Pats Wicklow Town. We never really got going in this game and as was our downfall for many of the games this year we found scores hard to come by. Even after Pats were reduced to 14 men and the game was there for the taking we could not capitalise. The end of road for this team and for the management team after a positive few years. The players will dust themselves down and hope to come back stronger than ever in 2022. We at the club would like to thank the management team for their time and energy they brought to the club over the past 3 seasons. A special mention to Conor McGraynor who unfortunately will be leaving the club this year, Conor moves to Mayo and will play with Westport next year. Conor was a member of our intermediate championship winning team in 2012 and represented Avondale and the Wicklow county team at all grades over the past 20 years and has been a great servant to this club both on and off the field.



Senior Football Team

Junior Football:

Like our senior team our junior footballers were looking to build on a positive couple of years where they have been knocking on the door of promoting to the Junior A ranks. Benefitting from a lot of strong underage players coming up through the ranks and the addition of some of our senior panel too that were eligible we entered the division 4 league with a strong squad. Brian Breen alongside Brendan Ward were the men in charge of the team. True to form we made light work of all teams before us in the league stage. We overcame An Tochar in the league semi final and this set us

up with a Home League final with Dunlavin. Dunlavin like ourselves were littered with many of their senior players on their squad. We started the game exceptionally well but self imploded in the second half and unfortunately lost this one on the day.

Our championship season ended on a disappointing note also as we lost out in the semi final stage to our neighbours Avoca.

Plenty of strong young players on show in this team and we hope to see many of these lads promote into our senior team in 2022.

