



2023

Clubs
An Tóchar
Annacurra
Arklow Rock Parnells
Ashford

GAA

WHERE WE ALL BELONG

#WEAREWICKLOW



An Tóchar CLG. An Tóchar GAA.



Senior

THE YEAR

The league campaign kicked off in March against Newtown with the groups ambitions to build on last year, win Division 1A and be promoted to Division 1. We progressed through the league winning 6 of our 7 games and drawing only with Kiltegan. This strong run saw us top the table at the end of league campaign, and winners of the 'Corn Na Saggart' cup.

At this stage the league split into two, with the top 4 teams of Division 1A playing off for promotion to Division 1 and the 'West Wicklow Cup'. We would continue our momentum winning all three games against Kiltegan, Avondale and Kilmacanogue. This secured promotion to Division 1 for 2024 and a league final against Avondale to look forward to.

The final against Avondale was held in Aughrim, and after a poor first half where we trailed by 12 points at the break. The lads rallied, putting in a huge second half performance to win on a score line of 3-13 to 3-09 and in doing so securing the West Wicklow Cup.

The newly revamped senior championship started in August, with two groups of 6. We were drawn in a tough group



Our Senior Sponsor



Senior's

alongside AGB, Blessington, Bray Emmett's, Avondale and Kiltegan.

Unfortunately, the team could not build on the momentum from our league form. Winning 1, Drawing 1, and losing three games. Missing out narrowly on a quarter final following a narrow 1-point loss to Bray in the last game of the group having had to play 3 games in 6 days.

SQUAD

Jordan Brady, Dale Brady, Peter Byrne, Gerard Byrne, Enda Byrne, James Cardiff, Stephen Connor, Oisín Cullen, Conor Davis, Conor Fee, Darragh Fee, Gavin Fogarty, Liam Gaffney, Roan Hayes, Hugh Kenna, Tom Kenna, Brendan Kennedy, Luke Kenny, Gavin Kenny, Eoin Murphy, Ciaran Murphy, Matt Nolan, John Paul Nolan, Jamie Salley, Niall Sheahan, Conor Short, Lorcan Smith, Aaron Smith, Luke Wrynn

THANKYOU

Thanks to the management team of Noel Brady, Mike Hassett, Noel Morris and Kevin Byrne. I would also like to thank all club officials who assisted the group during the year in particular Club PRO Maureen Cronin, Club Secretary Michael Kinsella and Club Treasurer and pitch bookings officer Kerry Fee. And finally, a big thank you to the O'Gorman family at Crown Roofing & Cladding for the continued support.

Junior B

THE YEAR

Having achieved promotion from Division 4 in 2022, the second men's team competed in Division 3 of the league this year. The team had some encouraging performances beating Avoca, St Pats, Tinahely, AGB and Carnew finishing the league with 10 points.

Selection of some of our top league performers for the senior championship team required several reinforcements from the 3rd team. This by no means weaken our team and added some additional "Experience".

The senior team were drawn in Group 1 of the Junior B championship, 3 convincing wins and 1 narrow defeat to Eire Og on a night where resources were depleted resulted in a quarter final against Dunlavin, deplorable conditions in Ballinakill made for a difficult game but success lead us to a semi-final against championship favourites Avoca. The full squad gave everything that Sunday morning against Avoca earning a deserved win and a place in the final against Tinahely.

The final started badly going 1-03 to no score in the early stages of the game. However, this team believed in each other, panic never set in and going in 1 point down at half time. Decisions in the second half didn't always seem to go our way but no one was taking this one away from us. The subs



Junior B Champions

introduced sealed the victory. The young and not as young proved a perfect blend for the second team this year.

Watching the minor lads win their championship next following day made our victory all the sweeter!!!

SQUAD

Bill Halligan (Captain), Liam Kenna, Dan Mohan, Johnny Tobin, Luke Fergusson, Lorcan Nolan, Matthew Byrne, Noel Power, Martin Gaffney, Sean Davis, Shay Carr, Graham Sutton, Niall Byrne, Cian Timmons, Enda Byrne, Hugh Kenna, Niall Gaffney, Luke Wrynn, Michael Kinsella, Ciaran Murphy, Aharon Smith, Sean Lacey, Enda Murphy, Dale Brady, Tom Kenna, Liam Gaffney, Dan Byrne, Shay Nolan, David Kavanagh, Eoghan Marah, Kevin Lynchelaun, Conor Shortt, Gavin Staunton, Bobby Brady, Sean Brady, Roan Hayes



Our Junior B masterminds

THANK YOU

A massive thanks to our Management team of Chris Brady, Ollie Byrne, John Brady and Robert Power and coach Conor Shortt. Without you wouldn't have got there. Thanks also to our generous sponsors, Enviro Safe (Martin and Karen Byrne), John Brady Roofing and Robert Power Electrical.

Junior C

THE YEAR

The club fielded a third adult men's team for the second year running in 2023. An impressive achievement for a small rural club to be fielding three adult men's teams. Training started back on a cold dark January night with a group of players ranging in ages from 18 to somewhere north of 40!

The team played six games in the Division 5 East League against Enniskerry, Kimacanogue & Kilcoole on a home and away basis, before a break in the season prior to commencement of the championship.

The team again competed in the Junior C grade in the championship, in a strong group with Eire Og, Rathnew, Arklow Geraldines-Ballymoney, Bray Emmets and St. Pats. With the Junior B second team also playing championship on Thursday nights, numbers were tight and the championship team was not as strong as it was during the league, therefore positive results were hard to come by. We did however record a big win



Our Junior B Sponsor

over Bray Emmets down in Bray playing our best football of the year. Unfortunately, it was all in vain as other results didn't go in our favour in subsequent games and we exited the championship at the at the group stage.

It was great to see the commitment of so many of the players in this group from January to September, even when results weren't going our way. Hopefully we'll see everyone back next year and any announcements of retirements at the end of the season were premature!

They day when we see a player in their 50s lining out for An Tochar may not be too far away!

SQUAD

Ronan Hurley (Captain), Dan Mohan, Johnny Tobin, James Brady, Luke Fergusson, Cian Brady, Lorcan Nolan, Tom Clancy, Sean Brady, Noel Power, Paul Kenna, Jack Salley, Sean Davis, Shay Carr, Graham Sutton, Niall Byrne, Cian Timmons, Ciaran Byrne, Alex Hassett, Luke Wrynn, Michael Kinsella, Liam Kenna, Robert Cullen, Sean Lacey, Roan Hayes, Alan Byrne, Sean Brady, Dan Byrne, Shay Nolan, David Kavanagh, Matthew Byrne, Kevin Lynchelaun, Stephen Fox

THANK YOU

Thanks to our Management team of Chris Brady, Ollie Byrne, John Brady and Robert Power and Conor Shortt and Michale Kinsella who training sessions during the year.



Our Junior B celebrations



Our Junior C

Nursery

THE YEAR

The nursery had a very successful year at An Tóchar Nursery. 36 kids registered and turned up for football, fun and to make new friends each Saturday morning at 9am. The kids were ran through their paces as we developed early level skills but mainly concentrated on having fun and getting the kids and their families involved in the club.

THANK YOU

Thanks to the coaches for the huge effort they put in and for turning up with a positive attitude every week, which rubbed off on the kids. Our coaches were Chrissie Shortt, Ger Power, Tom Kelly, Cathal Prendergast, Pat Donohoe, Holly Fitzmaurice, Niall McGraynor, Therese Molloy. Thanks also to Bernie Byrne for helping out.

A special mention for our legendary coach Tommy Carroll who attended every single session and worked tirelessly every week to develop the kids basic skills and bring a huge smile to their faces.

The club were extremely supportive with facilities always provided and lots of support given. Thanks so much also to Frances Gaskin for support with the various coaching courses



Nursery

and certification and underage chairman Nick Nolan for his help.

Under 7



Under 7's

THE YEAR

The under 7 boys had a brilliant season, with great commitment from the lads, especially in the wind and rain on some occasions, in fact some of the better sessions were those in the rain! There was huge improvement by all in relation to skills but most of all there was lots of fun at every session. The lads had fun learning new drills and there was even some healthy competition each night. The lads gave it their all in each of the sessions, particularly when it came to tug-o-war or water balloon fights! There was a panel of 30+ lads and we rarely had a training session with less than 25, which was superb. Go Games were no different, we had excellent participation and enjoyed games at home and away to St. Pats, Bray Emmets, Eire Og, AGB and Laragh. The season ended with an U7 Monster Blitz down in COE Ballinakill at the beginning of September. Particular thanks to the parents who stepped up during the Go Games and supporting in coaching roles to



Our Under 7 Sponsor



THANK YOU

A massive thank you to Tommy Carroll who we heavily relied on, he kicked off each training session with group drills and was a huge support to us in leading training sessions and doing individual group drills with the lads. Also, thanks to the coaching team who gave up their Tuesday evenings every week not to mention Go Games on a Friday. Also thanks the parents and grandparents who didn't shy away from nights where they were dragged in to tug o war or drills. Even on the wet and windy nights!

Lastly, a special thanks to Conor Kenna and Roundwood Timber for their very generous sponsorship of club tops for the U7 boys. It is very much appreciated by all and a fitting end to a great season to be able to don their new tops as they received medals from All Star Colm Basquel!

Under 9

THE YEAR

The U9 team started back training on Monday and Friday evenings in early March, indoors at first and as the weather got better we went onto the pitch. The first game was a friendly



Under 7's in training

against the u10 An Tóchar girls. Throughout the season we participated in 9 blitzes with Bray Emmets home and away, Greystones home and away, St. Pat's home and away, Laragh, Arklow and a monster blitz in Ballinacill. We finished off the season with a friendly match against the U10 An Tóchar girls again. It was clear to see each child's level of skill improving as the season progressed and this team has a bright footballing future ahead of them.

THANK YOU



Under 9's



Under 9's

Thanks to all the parents who helped this year and there seemed to be a great willingness from everyone to lend a hand when asked. Also a big thank you to all the coaches, Noel Wolohan, Lukie Ferguson, Liam Kenna, Cathal Prendergast, Mark Merrigan, Sean Connolly, Sean Brady and senior An Tóchar player's Niall Sheahan and Peter Byrne who volunteered their time and energies throughout the year in all kinds of weather. Hopefully the children enjoy their break from GAA and return next year ready for another year of footballing fun!

Under 11

THE YEAR

The year kicked off in March with over 36 boys registered. Training took place every Wednesday and Friday evening with games every second week for the U11s and player pathway games once a month for U10s. There was a very consistent turnout at training and games. Training outside finished in October and finished off with some indoor sessions once a week in the main hall.

The team played 35 games in total over the season, so the lads got plenty of games with some challenge games mixed in.

The boys really improved their basic skills of kicking, hand passing and soloing. There is no doubt that the club has a bright future with the talent that is coming through in this group.

Thanks to Gareth Doyle for attending some training sessions and showing the coaches how it's done! Thanks also in particular to Kerry Fee for arranging pitches and Moneystown for us, the club is under significant pressure to fit everyone in so it's not an easy task.

The lads all had great fun also which is very important part of participation, and the boys were all very well behaved throughout the year. Some boys will be moving up to under 13 next year and wish them all the best.

THANK YOU

Many thanks to all the parents for bringing the boys to games and attending training. A special thanks to the coaches Connie, Stephen, Donal, Philip, Clive, Ken and Fergal for all their hard work throughout the year.

All the best for the future guys!



Under 11's

Under 12

THE YEAR

18 games & 50 training sessions!

Great progress was made with these players this year. Games were tough having to play U.13 teams being U.12 but the boys rose to the challenge every time and gave a fantastic account of themselves every time.

Training sessions were well attended but the challenge going forward is to provide meaningful games for these guys.

THANK YOU

A great big thank you to all the parents for travelling around the County to games.

Under 13

THE YEAR

The season started in April with 25 kids training, split into 2 groups 2010/2011.

From the start to the end of the season we saw a massive improvement with our 2010 group reaching the plate final which was played in Enniskerry and we won comfortably.

THANK YOU

Thanks to Brendan Brady, Joe Byrne and Ciaran Molloy for coaching the 2011 group and to Denis Byrne and Tom Gaskin for coaching the 2010 group.

And a special thanks to all the parents for dedicating their time to bringing their children to training and matches.

Under 15

THE YEAR

2023 was a challenging year for the U-15's on the field. The team had some very strong performances but were unlucky in a number of tight games to come out on the wrong side of results. But as we all know there is more things than games won to measure success by and 26 players pulled on the An Tóchar jersey for the U-15's, in fact a few more than that as we a good helping hand from the U-13's for a couple of challenge games.

Byrne & Woods

BYRNE & WOODS GASTRO BAR

Roundwood, Oldtown,
Roundwood,
Co. Wicklow

Under 13 Sponsor



Under 12's

Unfortunately, the team did have a few players leave us during the year to pursue other sports and were unable to commit due to clashes. But hopefully they will return to us in the very near future. The team were also unlucky this year with a number of players suffering injuries that kept them significant periods of the year.

The year started off in Division 2 of the U-15 League and applied ourselves very well, never being too far ahead or behind other teams. There was then a re-shuffle of the championship structure, and the team had a couple of very good wins in the championship however the club ultimately ended up contesting the U-15 Plate final against Tominafinogue in Ballinakill.

On the day of the final the lads played some excellent football and that applies to every player that took the field that

Saturday. It was a great victory that day and finished things on a high note.

THANK YOU

A huge thanks to the parents who consistently brought the lads to training. The team had 20+ players at nearly every training session which is a massive positive and makes me very confident about the future for this team. Thanks to the coaches for the time they put in and a word of thanks to Garreth Doyle for the sessions he attended and the guidance he gave us.

Most importantly a huge thanks to the lads themselves. They have been a pleasure to deal with all year and easy to manage. Best of luck to all of them, as some move to minor and some stay to play another year at U-15. There is huge talent in this bunch, but this stage of their development is very important not only from a football perspective but also physically (Strength and Conditioning) and psychologically, their own goal setting.



Under 13's

"Whether you believe you can or believe you can't you're right" – Henry Ford

2023 was a fantastic year for minor football in An Tóchar. The club were well represented on the county minor panel by, Matthew Fox, Joe Heatly, Josh Healy and Éanna Nolan. At club level the group got together for the first time back in February where the panel met up and this group set out very clearly what they wanted to achieve for the year.

Many groups in the county set out with similar goals and ambitions, but what set this bunch of players apart from other groups was the hard work they were willing to put in to turn their dream into reality. The team commenced our season playing a number of "player pathway" and challenge games where all players, including a number of U-15 players were able to get plenty of football and opportunities to develop.

At the end of May the county minors finished up and the full panel were together for the first time. The full panel headed to Westmeath where to play Moate All Whites in a challenge, stayed overnight and went Kayaking and participating in water sports activities the following day.

This was a great team building weekend that set the team on the right path for their year to start in earnest as ONE group.

At the end of June, the U15's & U16's in this panel were invited to play a 7-a-side competition in Tinryland GAA club in Carlow with teams from Laois, Kilkenny, Carlow, Wicklow and Dublin. This was a long day but proved to be a great day out with the lads celebrating Cillian Byrne's birthday by beating Cuala from



Under 15's Plate winners

MINOR THE YEAR



U16 Tinryland GAA, Carlow 7-a-side Shield winners

Dublin the final of the shield to pick up our first piece of silverware for the year.

The first phase of our U-17 championship campaign started in June where the team were drawn in a group with St. Kevins, St. Nicks, Annacurra, Tomnafinogue and Michael Hogans. This group contained four group teams and the winner of the U15 championship from two years ago so promised some tough games and it did not disappoint. The lads won all five games in this group coming from behind in a number of them including two thrillers at home against Annacurra and Tomnafinogue where the team came from 7 and 8 points behind respectively. By this stage this team was gaining a lot interest and super support from the people of Roundwood - filling the stand for our home games. However, this phase of the competition came with a blow, something that turned out to be more serious than originally thought. In our third game, in what seemed like a pretty innocuous clash, one of our mid fielders, Eoin Medlycott tore his ACL sustaining an injury that would ultimately finish his season on the field. However, despite his injury and disappointment, in what epitomises the mindset of this group, Eoin showed great leadership and continued to come training and be an active member of the panel for the rest of the year.

Topping this group brought us into a new group of six teams for the second phase of championship with Annacurra and Tomnafinogue also qualifying from our group along with the top three teams from the other side of the draw - AGB, Eire Og and Blessington. The stakes now were increasing with every game. There was very little room for slipping up as the top two only qualified for the minor A final with no semi-final or back door. As in the first phase of the competition the lads did things the hard way in a number of games. The team went to Arklow to play AGB who were being branded "unbeatable"

Following their performances in the first group and things did not look great when the lads went five points down in the first half. However, as with several other games, this team refused to accept defeat and the players fought their way back into the game winning 1-14 to 2-08.

Next up was Tomnafinogue again in what proved to be one of our hardest games all year. The lads started well and were leading by a point at half time, but they fought back and were leading the game by four points going into injury time. Once again, this team showed their true character

with Denis Leacy, Matthew Fox and Seán McHugh winning a few crucial turnovers as full time approached before Josh Healy drove forward scoring an injury time point which was followed by a goal from Éanna Nolan in what turned out to be the last play of the game. The game ended in a draw 1-10 each - remaining the only unbeaten team in the competition.

After this the lads defeated Annacurra again and got a Walk Over from Eire Og which meant the team had now secured a place in the county final with one game still to play - away to Blessington. However, as the season was pushing towards the crucial phase our injury count was increasing with both our

regular corner backs picking up injuries at training and at one point it looked like they could have been ruled out of the County final. Denis Leacy had a suspected broken ankle which thankfully turned out to be much less serious and Cillian Byrne sustained a fractured finger which ultimately ruled him out until a few days before the final. Denis came back for our last game against Blessington where he only lasted a few minutes before having to be substituted for his younger brother Enda.

These injuries created opportunities for several other players and by the time the nine group games in the championship were played, 22 players got game time in the championship and had seen 12 different scorers, illustrating the strength and depth within the panel of players.

All of this ultimately led the panel us to where they had targeted to get to back in February - in county Minor A final for the first time in 31 years. A three week wait followed, which I am sure felt like an eternity for these lads at this point, but at the same time it allowed time for some of the lads on the injured list to get right.

On October 30th, Bank holiday Monday, that day arrived, and the lads took to the field in Aughrim to face a very fancied Tomnafinogue team for the third time this year. An Tochar got off to a great start with Seán McHugh knocking the throw-in down to Josh Healy who picked out Joe Healy with a great pass. Joe found our team captain, Éanna Nolan, at corner forward and Éanna went on a driving run and had the ball in their net after 17 seconds. Josh then got a point after a one-two with Conor Byrne, and followed that shortly after with another goal where Joe broke a long ball down to Joseph McDonnell who calmly slotted it away with his right foot. The lads were then leading by 2-1 to 0-0 after eight minutes.



Minors



Our County Minors

However, that would be all the scores the lads would get in the first half, despite some really lovely football including a dazzling run from Ryan Healy where he left two defenders sitting on the ground watching as he narrowly missed the target. To their credit, Tomnafinogue fought back into the game and cut the deficit to two points by the break. Our defence worked incredibly hard during this period with JJ Brady doing a great job as sweeper and the rest of the backs all playing their part. Declan Murphy also made a fantastic save when they did manage to breach our defence and get in one on one with our keeper. Tomnafinogue did get some help from the referee with some rather soft decisions, especially where Matthew Fox won a great ball, got pulled to the ground by two players on his way out and somehow managed to have a free awarded against him for over carrying. Nobody could understand that one! That said they missed a few relatively



CREATING POLYMER SOLUTIONS

Our Minor Sponsors

easy frees in this period so the lads rode their luck in that regard.

An Tochar got the first score in the second half with a free from Éanna after Joe was fouled. Shortly after this, things took a turn for the worse when Denis Leacy was shown a straight red card, in what seemed like a pretty harsh decision, after only seven minutes in the second half. The teams exchanged a couple of points with Joseph getting a lovely point off his left. They then got a goal to level the game before Joe Heatly scored an amazing point after a super piece of work from João Vitor to carry the ball up the field and pass to Joe. After this Tomnafinogue scored their second goal following what seemed like a certain free for JJ was not given when he was taken down as he attempted to come away with the ball.

There were eight minutes left. The lads were two points down, a man down and legs beginning to get tired. Kye Murray and Brian Medlycott were brought on and boy did this give the other twelve on the field a new lease of life. As they had done several times before this year they decided “We will not be beaten today...”

All over the field they all stepped up a gear - from Cillian Byrne to Luca Nolan to our other Killan Byrne up to Joseph and Joe who now looked like they were in the half back line. Tomnafinogue would not score again and the lads would get three more points to win.

Our first came from tenacious work from João who had more turnovers than any other player on the day. He dispossessed their keeper and feed Joseph who calmly slotted over to bring his tally to 1-2, making him top scorer in the final. The next came when Éanna was tackled around the neck and taken down when bursting through and Joe stepped up to convert the free. This would leave Joe top scorer in the 2023 Minor A championship with an outstanding tally of 10-33 for the year. This crucial score also brought us level and by this stage the crowd in the stand were in full voice and really starting to believe along with the players. By now the lads were dominating all around the middle and winning most of the breaks and dirty ball. After thirty-two minutes, when everyone was out on their feet, the lads had an amazing passage of inter-play involving Josh, Luca, Kye and Brian which ended in Luca receiving a return pass from Josh and dropping the ball over their crossbar in a play that would ultimately secure him the well-deserved accolade of “man of the match”. ...

Tomnafinnogue won the kickoff, but Seán McHugh put in a hard challenge to dispossess them as he had done all day. Josh, Joe and Éanna battled hard to retain possession and the referee blew the final whistle. This bunch of courageous young men had got the reward for the all the hard work they had put in over the 107 times they had met and played and trained together throughout the year.



Our Minors teambuilding

They finished the year unbeaten and would now be crowned worthy County Minor A Champions and would bring this cup back to Roundwood for the first time since 1992. Well done lads!!

THANK YOU

John Clancy, Paul Kavanagh and David Brady for their drive, professionalism, positivity, guidance, and encouragement to the group.

JL GOOR (Gearóid Clarke) – main sponsor for gear and bags

John Clancy for the Souvenir (away) set of jerseys for the lads & footballs

Karen and Martin Byrne for our big fundraising quiz night

Gerry O’Toole, Gráinne Medlycott, John Brady, Joe Kavanagh – sponsorship and bus

Paul Brady, Kerry Fee and Maureen Cronin for pitch, promotions, and scoreboard

Nick Nolan and Tiarnán De Hál for reffing challenge games

Sadhbh Nolan for players meals 😊

Parents and supporters – What can I say



CLG Áth An Churraigh. Annacurra GAA.



Under 6s

Another busy year for the Nursery group at Annacurra GAA. The smallest members of the club were a bundle of enthusiasm each week as they learned the basics of the game. The children made big strides during the year as their confidence and skills developed week after week. A big thank you to all the parents for ensuring the children were present throughout the year.

Also, it was great to see the kids turn out in such big numbers on county Final Day kitted out in all their Annacurra green and gold gear. We look forward to helping them continue their GAA journey.

Under 7s

Early in April, the U-7 kids resumed training, and a large number of players expressed interest in joining the club. The U-7 team for 2023 consisted of thirty players. The squad's goal



Under 11's



Under 13's

for the year was to teach them the fundamentals of football, with an emphasis on their personal growth and enjoyment of the game. The ultimate goal was to inspire the team to play more football in the future and represent the club.

Throughout the season, the Kids faced a number of opponents, including Aughrim, Tinahely, Shillelagh-Coolboy, and Baltinglass. Every player had a great time and experienced a great deal of excitement as they all got to play in every match. Playing for Annacurra's Green and Yellow is just the beginning for these young kids, and the club's future is bright.

We would want to encourage all parents to practice with their children whenever possible during the lengthy winter months in order to assist them develop their skills. These workouts will help them hone their talents and eventually become elite football players. Additionally, I would encourage parents to participate in coaching and provide a hand more often. More assistance will help the kids become better athletes.

A special thanks to all the coaches for their help throughout the year, Great to see so many willing to offer. See everyone again next year.

Under 9s

The under 9s had a great year and took part in blitzes all over the county. They travelled to places like Baltinglass, Carnew, Aughrim, Coolboy & more. In every location the green and gold of Annacurra was represented by some fantastic young players. They had a great time in their games, and even though no one was counting, our guys were winner in our eyes. Over the year, the team developed brilliantly into a wonderfully skillful group, which can only boast a bright future.



Under 15's



Minors

Under 11s

This under 11 group had a busy year starting training in March for their first match in early April against a strong Blessington side. During the year we had some great wins and the odd loss but always competing with every team we played. We finished off the year with a blitz on one of the coldest wettest days of the year but that didn't stop them from turning up and playing their hearts out.

The under 11 skills competition returned this year for first time in a few years and Alex Ward deservedly represented Annacurra and finished in joint second in all of Wicklow so well-done Alex.

Under 13s

Another eventful and thoroughly enjoyable year for this great bunch of lads and their coaching team of Alan Nolan, Joe Dolan and Jon Hynes.

Over the course of the season, we were entered into the C Championship, which was the right grade for us based on league results. We have a really talented bunch of Under 12s in this group, but only had 2 full Under 13's, which saw us heavily outgunned in the physical stakes against teams with a greater number of older boys. I stress the physical stakes, because there are very few better footballing teams than this group, and we think that will be evident next year when we have a lot more numbers at the right age. Another feature of our squad was the fabulous contribution from the Under 11s, ten of this squad played up with us every week. Without them, we had no team – simple as that. For our club this is becoming the new norm at all grades, as we increasingly adapt to the challenges of competing as a stand-alone club. Some years the numbers work, some years they don't. Our Under 11s were brave and brilliant for the whole season, and we hope this year stands to them.

Our year culminated with a Shield win in Enniskerry against An Tochar, and we finally got the chance to walk in over the Bridge! We have been trying for a long time.

As always, a huge thanks to the parents who supported us loudly throughout the year and journeyed to all four corners of the county.

Under 15s

Having won the U13B championship in 2021, this team started the year in the A division. Despite some good performances and great effort by the players, we struggled to compete with the larger clubs and ended up playing in the B championship. We also played in the A division of the Feile and while we didn't qualify, we put in some good performances on the day and really got a feel for what it is like to be playing in the top division.

The team went unbeaten in the B championship qualifying for the final against Kiltegan, with some great wins along the way. This was a close game between two evenly matched teams but unfortunately, we were narrowly beaten on the day by 1 point.

We would like to thank Sean Kavanagh and Brian & Margaret Moran for sponsoring tops, shorts & socks for the team before the final.

Trainers:

Declan Byrne, Brian Moran, Tony Doyle

Minors

It was a hugely successful year for the minors, which culminated in winning the Minor A Shield 2023 for the first time. Players and management worked extremely hard throughout the year on specific aspects of the game including high fielding, diagonal passes, outside the boot kicking, tackling and palming goals. It was a pleasure to see so many of



Under 19's

the players improve their skills throughout the year and display them at the highest level of underage football. The maturity, skill level and the will to win on display was hugely satisfying. The minors were ably abetted by this year's under-15s and under-16s who formed a large portion of the squad. Well done to those who played with distinction above their age grade at Minor A level. Thank you to the u-15 coaches who facilitated this. We look forward to seeing this cohort of minor players form part of the adult squads in 2024.

We wish a speedy recovery to Eoghan Murphy and look forward to seeing him in the jersey again this coming year.

Under 19s

The Under 19s finished the footballing season for the club with a bang. Our lads entered into the Championship with a team predominantly made up of minor players and a handful of under 19s. However, this didn't deter the team and management as they set sail in the championship with determination and skill.

In the group, the lads took on Kilcoole, St Pats, Carnew and Baltinglass and managed to get through the four games with four wins. This meant they were the winners of the B Championship for stand alone teams, and they moved forward to the B Championship Final against the amalgamated teams' winners, Michael Dwyers. This was played in Aughrim in December, and after a cracking game of football, our lads came up just short after a titanic battle. They showed their skill, grit, determination, and commitment to the green and gold.

Well done to team and management.

Team:

Dan Kirwan, Cian Fitzgerald, Jamie Wolohan, George Doyle, Eoin O'Connor, Paddy Flynn Horan, Charlie Graham, Michael Kavanagh, Oliver Doyle, Adam Lifely, Adam Healy, Evan Byrne, Sammy Harpur, Sean Carey, Luke Nolan, Stewart Davey, Sean Weld, JJ Byrne, Rhyann Moules, Killian Duffy, Alex Doyle, Joh O'Reilly, Darragh Kennedy, Eoghan Murphy.

Juniors

Our junior footballers had a mixed year but introduced a lot of players to adult football and supplied a large number to the intermediates for the year.

Our League campaign was hugely successful as we secured top spot in the Division 5 South League with an undefeated campaign. We defeated AGB in the league quarter final stages and unfortunately defeated by Donard in a humdinger in the semi-final.

After this game, we lost a large number of our panel to the intermediate ranks and had a slow start to championship.



Intermediates

Thankfully, we regrouped and were very competitive in the latter stages of our group. Unfortunately, we came up short in a couple of fiercely tight games but none the less, it has been a great year seeing so many wearing the green and gold.

Team:

David Whitty, Brian Shannon, Adrian Shannon, James Walsh, Jamie Wolohan, Shane Ryan, Jack O'Sullivan, Mick O'Brien, Shane O'Neill, Sean O'Neill, Patrick O'Neill, Patrick Moules, Liam Moules, Fionn Moules, Shane McAllister, Declan Loftus, Daniel Kirwan, John O'Neill, Leo Araujo, Conor Barnes, Dean Barnes, Stephen Beattie, Ciaran Byrne, Michael Darcy, Rob Davey, Mark Doyle, James Fitzgerald, Cian Fitzgerald, Cathal Healy, Alan Horan, Jack Keenan, Chris Keogh, Ian McDonald, Ronan Brennan, James Doyle, Adam Healy, Elliot Robinson and Stephen Murphy. The team were managed by Alan Nolan, Cathal Healy and Darragh Kennedy

Intermediates

The 2023 season kicked off with a good and solid league campaign in Division 2, where loads of players got good game time. In this, there were some really strong performances which helped develop the panel for what was to come later in the season. At the finish, the team missed out on a change at promotion narrowly in the last two games of the league.

The championship campaign followed quickly behind. This saw us drawn in a group with Kilmacanoague, Valleymount, Laragh, Donard and Carnew. Even though we had a tough group, the lads played some lovely football and showed their trademark heart with good results against Kilmacanoague, Donard and Laragh. They also dug out draws against Valleymount and Carnew on difficult days for the team. This left us in unbeaten and in good shape at the top of the group. Moving to the quarter final, we took on local rivals, Ballymanus.

After a tough game, in difficult conditions, our lads rallied in extra time to get the win. This led us to a repeat game against Donard in the semi-final. Donard were determined in our second meeting of the year, and some late heroics saw us take the lead on the stroke of full time. On to the county final for the second time in as many years.

The lads faced Barndarrig in the county final. As often goes with county finals, it was a tight and tough game. Heading down the stretch, Frank Clune slotted what looked like the winning goal. To the supporter's dismay, Barndarrig managed to claim a penalty goal with seconds to go and claim the win. Heartbreak for our lads and management again.

Massive thanks to Joe, Tom, Clive and Mark for their efforts in training the team in 2023, and best of luck in 2024.

Team:

Robert Fitzgerald, Euan Harpur, Adam Healy, James Keenan, Sean Weld, Glenn Austin, Alan Byrne, Martin O'Brien, Evan Doyle, James Doyle, Ronan Brennan, Dylan Doyle, Frank Clune, Gearoid Murphy, Michael Healy, David Whitty, Shane O'Keeffe, Michael O'Brien, Stephen Murphy, Stephen Murphy (Big), Kevin Healy, Conor Byrne, Elliott Robinson, Paul McDonald, Ian McDonald, Pariac Doyle, Rob Davey, Adrain Shannon, Dean Barnes, John Moran, Dan Kirwan, Brian Shannon, Shane Ryan.





CARRAIG PARNELL Inbhear Mór. Arklow Rock Parnells.



After all the medals and cups won by our squads last year, we knew it would be a hard year to follow especially since a lot of our players moved up into different age groups. Every player made us proud. Táimid bródúil as a gcuid éachtaí! (we are proud of their achievements)

Our Saturday academy started of the year encouraging all children from Arklow and surrounding areas to come and 'give it a hurl' for the first three weeks and we had a great response, and we believe we had a good few that stayed for the season.

What we particularly were happy to see was all the older youth players coming out and helping the coaches with the younger kids showing us that they care about Arklow Rocks and while they want to be winners, they also want their club to succeed, and they are happy to share their skills with the younger players. An-mhaith, tá said iontach.

We would like to thank our young Whistlers, who ensured all the younger games and blitzes were played well and fairly this year. Tiernan Pierce, Robert Waddell, Cian Redmond, Niall O Donovan, Mickey Kinsella, Grace Delaney, Ailbhe Wood, Erin Byrne, Ava Wolohan, Aine Byrne, Poppy Heald and Doireann Kiloran.

Positive comments were received on their fairness, ability to explain to the juveniles why something was not allowed and being able to deal with difficult decisions. All the lovely compliments above were highlighted to the club from parents and coaches of our Club, other Clubs and County Officials. While they may not have realised it, they were acting as wonderful Ambassadors of the Arklow Rocks. Go raibh maith agat ar son an Choiste.

After such a wonderful year in 2022 we started off the juvenile year with a lot of optimism and many returning young players which we were really happy about.



Intermediates

We ran a programme of open play for anyone who wanted to give hurling a try and we were thrilled with the success and number of children that turned up, even when the weather was against us the young boys and girls came out to play, many thanks to St Marys for letting us use their facilities when we were waterlogged. Luckily our youth players also came out to help teach our new recruits which made it a fun event that we all enjoyed.

Intermediate Hurling

TEAM MANAGEMENT:

Ray Nolan, Colin Byrne, Joe Connors, Bryan O'Leary

Our hurling campaign started in early February under the new Management of Ray Nolan and his team. The team started with a good run in the Leinster Club League and they put in some fine performances. Our League campaign started on the 8th of April away to Western Gaels and this tough match ended in a draw. This was followed by a loss to a very strong St Pat's of Wicklow who had just come down from Senior and then a narrow one-point loss to Carnew in Carnew. Our next match saw us record an impressive win over Avondale in Parnell Park and then another win on the road away to Kilcoole. We then topped this off with another home win against Aughrim and the signs were positive heading into the championship.

With the Championship split into 2 groups, 1 group of 4 and 1 group of 5, the Rocks were placed in a group with Aughrim, Carnew, Glenealy and Western Gaels. First up was Western Gaels in Echolon Park, Aughrim. This was a game full of drama and entertainment and the team dug deep to come back in a

game that looked out of reach at half-time. A spirited comeback in the second half saw the Rocks come away with a two-point win, 2-14 to 2-12. Things appeared to be going in the right direction.

Our next match out was Aughrim on the 23rd of July, All-Ireland Hurling final day, in Avondale. From the throw in Aughrim appeared to have the measure of the Rocks and perhaps drawing on the fact that one of their mentors and club members were refereeing the All-Ireland Final in Croke Park that day, Aughrim ran out easy winners on the day 1-16 to 1-08.

Things went from bad to worse when the Rocks lined out against their old foe Carnew on the 26th of August in Pearse Park. This was to be the Rocks biggest loss in Championship with the team only registering 7 points in 60 minutes of hurling. A lot of players, mentors and supporters left Pearse Park that day wondering where hurling in Arklow was headed. This saw an end to our championship hopes with one game left. Not where we wanted to be. Our last game was against Glenealy on the 2nd of September in Annacurra. The Rocks put up a score of 1-20 but Glenealy proved too strong scoring 3-18.

Another year of what could have been but in my humble opinion not without small green shoots of hope. The Rocks is a family orientated club, always was and always will be. Like family, we are always critical of our own but when times are tough you would have their back and will stand shoulder to shoulder with them in the fight. Time to stand up and fight!



Juniors

Junior Hurling

Junior Hurling in Wicklow seemed to be forgotten about until the middle of August when all the fine weather for hurling had been a distant memory. The Rocks took to the field in all their Junior Championship matches. The first game was against Barndarrig in Parnell Park and saw the Rocks losing 1-10 to 0-20 to the eventual winners of the Junior Hurling Championship. A quick turnaround saw them travel to Kiltegan where they lost by a big margin. This team did not have time to lick their wounds though as they were out 2 days later in Knockanna where they lost by the smallest of margins after putting up a good score. Seven days later the Rocks recorded their first win in the championship in Ballinakill by defeating Bray Emmets 3-13 to 3-09.

Our last game was against Kilcoole and despite scoring 5 goals on the night the Rocks lost to a spirited Kilcoole side. Last up was Greystones 7 days later in Ballinakill and again the Rocks came up short. This left us joint bottom of the Championship table with Knockanna and thus meant we were in the Junior B Championship semi-final against Knockanna with the winner going through to play Kilcoole. The Rocks were victorious in the semi-final and progressed to face a decent Kilcoole side who had beaten us earlier in the championship.

Neither side could be separated in the Final and the game went to a replay. The replay was set for Sunday the 22nd of October in the Hurling cauldron that is Annacurra. In front of a big crowd of supporters for both teams this game delivered in terms of drama and entertainment.

The Rocks had brought their 'A' game for the first half and with some fine performances from the Rocks saw them lead 1-06 to 0-03 at half-time. Kilcoole found their rhythm in the second half and came back strong but with some fine hurling from all the Rocks on the day we ran out winners 1-13 to 2-06. Well done to all involved.



Under 7's

Under 7s

The year started after Easter this year and we had a great turn out to our 3 Saturday's of 'Come N Try' hurling. This was a great initiative, and we gained a few new faces as a result.

The Go Games Blitz didn't start until May of 2023 and we had a great turn out for most of them, at times fielding 2 teams that were very competitive. A huge thank you must go to the players and parents who travelled all over Wicklow to play the games. I must also thank Robert Waddell, Bill Connors, Niall O'Donovan and Eoin Byrne who helped out with the young lads this year.

Under 9s

There was great excitement on the 13th of May when our U9s played go games at half time of the Nicky Rackard cup with Wicklow played Roscommon in Aughrim.

What a great group of boys, they turned up to training every week and played their hearts out at every blitz. U9s have been a pleasure to watch and see each boy develop to their potential developing into a great little team. The future looks bright for the Rocks with this team of boys on the rise. Thanks to all the parents who brought the kids to training and games every week.

Under 11s

TEAM MANAGEMENT:

Ciarán Mellon, Paul Guilfoyle, Declan Kehoe, Kim O Leary



Under 9's

Our U11 boys had a superb season this year. Training began in February and continued throughout the year. Attendance at training was admirable with great commitment and fantastic attitude within the group.

This year for the first time the club entered two teams into the Wicklow GO Games. Between both teams over 23 games were played, with remarkable improvements noted over the course of the season. Results were excellent overall with outstanding hurling being displayed by both teams.

Outside of the county the boys were delighted to participate in a tournament hosted by our neighbours Naomh Éanna, in what can only be described as a memorable day for all involved.

The boys finished off their season with a well-deserved trip to Hidden Valley, Rathdrum. A fun-filled day was experienced by all as the boys celebrated an enjoyable year. The younger cohort of this group along with the help of some of our u9's competed in U10 Player Pathway League. They took to the pitch with great determination, taking great pride in showing off their skills which in turn resulted in a consistent run of positive results. The lads finished off their season by participating in the Kilmacud Festival of Hurling in U.C.D. A

fantastic day for our young stars, playing against some of the top clubs in the country.

A special mention must also go to the parents. Without their support, none of this would be possible.

The coaches and club are very proud of this group of boys and would like to thank them for their efforts throughout the season. With continued support and commitment, we look forward to these players continuing to develop their range of skills and passion for hurling in 2024.

Under 13s

A huge thank you to all the lads that turned up and played hurling for the club at the u13 age level. This bunch of lads turned up every time no matter what and they are a credit to themselves and their parents.

The year started out in Division A of the U13 League and it was a tough battle from the start. After being on the receiving end of several heavy defeats the club applied to drop down to Division B in the Championship. This division was more competitive and the team started to grow in confidence and the matches were much closer. As a result, the team made it to

the Division B Shield Final. After a number of postponements, the final was played on Sunday the 5th of November in Kilcoole vs St Pats of Wicklow.

After a nervous start the team found their rhythm and started to hurl with a determination that they had shown all year. At the break they lead 1-03 to 0-04. The second half was a continuation of that grit and determination and with some fine scoring from 'Man of the Match' Ollie Madigan, Senan Byrne and Sean Kavanagh the Rocks ran out eventual winners.

Well done to all the lads!

Under 15s

Sean Pierce, Bill Connors, Denise Pierce.

Due to lack of numbers our U15 hurlers played with 4 St. Patricks players on permission for year 2023. That gave us a total of 16 players on age U15/U14 plus 3 more u13s stepped up on multiple occasions.

We formed a very strong team but unfortunately due to different players suffering injuries at different times we did not reach full potential. In fact, we only had a full pick of all players on 4 occasions throughout the year.

We finished in 5th place in the league out of 9 teams.

We competed in Féile where we played Bray in the 3rd/4th place play off having finished 2nd in our group and only lost out by a point after extra time.



Under 11's



Under 11's

The championship fared slightly better where after 7 games we finished 3rd, winning 4, losing two and drawing one and also finishing as top scorers in the competition.

That put us in the shield final against Carnew where we eventually lost by a goal. In other years where injuries are kinder these were probably the two best teams at u15 in the county this year.

Thank you to all the parents, players, admin Denise and especially, Jason Redmond, Bill Connors, Liam Murphy, Tom Connors, Kevin Reilly and Philip Byrne who covered more sessions than they probably should have had to throughout the year due to my own work commitments, unfortunately.

Definitely put down as a year of 'nearly but not quiet'. Plenty to work towards in 2024.

Hurling Féile 2023

Our U15 lads did us proud at the County Wicklow Feile, with wins against Luke o Tooles and Michael Dwyers and a loss to Carnew with the team finding themselves in the final with Bray Emmets, unfortunately Bray managed to score in extra time to win.

The Minor Team

TEAM MANAGEMENT:

Jason Remond, Liam Murphy, Bill Connors,

These young men came from a fabulous year last year moving up from U15s with the majority of the team born 2007 or under it was always going to be a competitive year. I have coached most of these young men since they were 6 so I knew they were up to the challenge. We started training in February so that we would be fit and ready for our first match. 3rd of April saw us out against Luke O Tooles in Aughrim, unfortunately not the result we wanted but they played a good match and a lot of good hurling was observed. We had wins and loses some of which were difficult for the team but as



Under 11's

always, they picked up their hurls and trained a bit harder and worked towards the next match. Next year we will be an even stronger and older and hopefully will push our way through to a trophy. I will be sorry to say goodbye to our 2006 boys who all played excellent hurling this year and hope to see them move to one of our Men's team next year.

I would like to thank all the parents who got the boys to training and to matches and trusting me to coach their sons for the last 10 years.



Under 11's



Under 13's



Under 15's



Minors





CLG Ath na Fuinseoige. Ashford GAA.



Under 7

It was a great summer for the Ashford 'Super Sevens'. They fielded two teams for most of their matches and improved greatly as the season progressed. A team of characters, they showed great determination and perseverance winning most of their games.

Under 9

As expected, this year we had a great turnout of Under 9 Boys for the past season with over 30 number players

We were able to field 3 number teams on most occasion with the overwhelming attendance

We were thrown straight in at the deep end with the Go-Games commencing after only 2 number training sessions

We got off to turbulent start in the first couple of go games fixtures, but the players never lost faith.

We took what we learned from the first games of the year and turned it into positives within the training sessions, which in turn gave Ashford

Some great football within Go Games with great passages of Play between the Players in Hand passing and Kicking.

We feel as a club we ended on a strong note after the past year, and we wish the players moving up all the Best in their next Team

Thank you to Martine, Brian, David & Garry for all there help and hard work throughout the year.



Under 9's

Under 11

Our U11's had a great year. They played with determination and never get up at any of the matches. They improved immensely over the year. And did themselves proud. At the end of the season we had 23 lads in total taking part. With great numbers turning up for training and matches home and away.

We also received new sponsored jerseys from John Ryan of BES Engineering.

Noah Clarkson competed in an U11's Wicklow skills competition in Aughrim during the year.

Under 13

Our under 13s looked ahead to this year with some apprehension as playing numbers didn't look great. We started off the season in Division 4 of the league and it quickly became apparent that this was a good little team and would be too strong for this grade level. They were moved up to Division 3 and still proved a lot stronger than any of the opponents they came up against. During the summer the county board moved them up again and the lads continued to step up to the mark going through the whole league campaign unbeaten. When championship came around Conor decided to take the bold decision to put the team into the A

championship. First up was Eire Og at home and the lads made a great start to the campaign winning by a point. Next up was Blessington and the lads showed great grit and determination to come away with a 3 point victory after a tough game. Next up was another away game against Tomafinogue where the lads needed a win to book their place in the final. The lads didn't disappoint and after a bit of a slow start they came away with a victory 2-09 to 0-08. The lads would face Eire Og again in the Under 13 A Championship final. After a great effort going unbeaten all the lads came up just short against a very good Greystones side losing 1-14 to 0-11. We congratulate this squad on their efforts throughout the season and it was a tremendous effort to get to a A final.



Under 11's



Under 7's



Under 11's



Under 13's

