

**CLG Coill an Chlochair**  
**N. Mhuire / Ceapach**  
**Killyclogher St. Mary's**  
**/ Cappagh GAA**



**An Chomhdháil Bhliantúil 2023**  
**Annual Report 2023**

## Chairman's Address 2023

Thank you for attending our AGM this evening as we have almost reached the end of 2023.

During the meeting you will hear updates from the Club's Officers to cover the period since our last AGM. I would like to pay tribute to all our coaches and players and management throughout the age groups. We are indebted to you all for the amount of time you give to coaching and training and participating in games throughout the year. The level at which you all train both as individuals and as a team has increased year on year and we are never too far off the mark in the various competitions at all the age groups, both female and male. I would like to pay tribute to our senior ladies who won the Intermediate Final and will play senior football next year - well done.

Our U14 girls have excelled this year and are now Tyrone League and Championship winners for 2023 – well done to all the players and management.

It is great to see how many players transition into our senior teams and we have a never-ending conveyor belt of talent. Eamon has compiled his 2023 Secretary's Report and thanks to all who contributed and providing more detail on various age groups and aspects of the Club over the past year.

Our G4MO and Dads and Lads continues to flourish and thanks to all those involved, these training and team bonding sessions give the opportunity for all ages and abilities to be part of a team and train and compete with other Clubs within the County.

The handball continues to grow and now provides coaching from under 10 right through the age groups including adults.

Our hurling continues to grow from strength to strength, we can safely say that hurling is back in Ballinamullan! Our U14 boys won the Tyrone Féile and represented Tyrone in the Ulster Féile. Our U16 boys won the grade two league final. Thanks to all the Coaches for their dedication and making this happen. We now hope to field a minor hurling team in 2024.

Our Set Dancers qualified for the Ulster Final, but unfortunately due to factors beyond their control they were denied the right to represent Ulster in the All-Ireland Scór Sinsir Final; you can all be very proud of your achievements. Well done also to our Ceilí Dancers and Instrumental group this year.



The Golf Classic this year was another huge success and goes from strength to strength, thanks to all who were involved and thanks as always to our sponsors. It is great to see new sponsors coming on board. Thanks also to Kieran McMullen for his professional live streaming of the event which adds to the professionalism of this annual event.

It was good to see our annual 10K road race and 5K fun run/walk back this year, there was an incredible turn out for this event with over 550 participants competing on the day, as with all events it takes a huge team of people to run it professionally, the success of the event does not come without the support of a number of groups within our community.

Our Family Fortunes was a great event and thanks to our hard-working committee for making this a huge success, thanks also to our sponsors, teams and to all who supported us on the night. I think it is important to have a similar social event each year as it caters for everyone.

The Health & Wellbeing committee continues to play a very important role within our Club and provide information in relation to nutrition and exercise. The Committee's hard work has paid off and we achieved Foundation Healthy Club status during this year.

Thanks to our Youth Office for carrying out their various roles over the past year and managing the training schedules, in order to maximise the availability of the pitches. The management of our youth is very important and this year the 'U6 stay and play' was introduced which was very well attended. Thanks to all the Coaches who gave of their time week after week to make it such a huge success. The youth within our Club is going from strength to strength and these young players are the future of our Club.

I would like to pay tribute to our umpires, linesmen and referees; to the stewards, to those who mark out our pitches, to our photographer, to our Club shop assistants, those who manage the weekly Lotto and those who promote Cairde Cappagh within our Club.

We as a Club are very dependent on volunteers on match days and keeping our Club tidy throughout the year and whilst we have some new faces coming on board, there are plenty of opportunities for anyone who wishes to help. I would urge you to please volunteer and help share the workload. We should all be very proud of what we have and it takes a band of volunteers to give tirelessly of their time to make our Club – just remember **'volunteers don't get paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless'**! There is a lot of work carried out in this Club and we should be indebted to those who give their time selfishly to deliver the works.

I would like to thank the many Club sponsors whose contributions have helped us develop many areas of the Club, both on and off the pitch; I think in these times it is important that we support those sponsors who support the Club.

I would also like to sincerely thank the members of the Club management committee for the crucial role you play in the effective running of the Club during the year.

A special thanks to the officers of the Club and I would like to recognise the tremendous work and commitment they gave to me and the Club over the past year.

We are currently finalising our Club Plan and it will be published in January 2024 – the main objective of the plan is to keep the Club to the forefront in enhancing the lives of our members, supporters and the wider community – thanks to the Club Panning group and everyone who participated in the workshops.

Finally, I think we all recognise the importance of our Club community and the way in which we all support each other in times of need - on behalf of the Club I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to all within our Club who lost loved ones over the past year. To all, Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha.

### **An Cathaoirleach, Liam Ó Cuinneagáin**



## Finance Overview

As you will see in the Annual Accounts for the year ended 30 September 2023, the cost of running the club keeps getting higher. The day to day running costs, which includes heat & light, insurance, player registration, playing expenses (equipment and kit), pitch & facilities, and maintenance is massive.

Several fundraising events help to cover these costs, namely our annual 10K, Golf Classic our exclusive membership scheme Cairde Cappagh and our weekly lotto plus the generous contributions from all our sponsors who continue to support us every year.

PS: If all adult members bought a single Lotto ticket each week, it would produce an annual income of approximately £20,000 which would be a huge boost to our income.

## Secretary

The only thing as Secretary I want to touch on this year is the spiralling rise to the club in physio, scans, and operations costs which I deal with closely and which are in the main mostly attributable to our senior men. Even with the benefit of having a physio attend training sessions which helps reduce some of the costs rather than each player organise and attend the physio of their choice the cost to the club is still very high. The club is not able to claim back physio costs from the Players Injury Fund and will only get approx. 2/3 of the cost of a scan back and that's if there is no operation required. In relation to operations the Players Injury Fund normally doesn't cover the whole cost of the operation let alone the scan and physio sessions that are required with it. Going forward the club needs to look at ways to reduce those costs as they are increasing

year on year. There are quite a number of our players both men (15 + 3 in the process) and ladies (7) now in Cairde Cappagh which is great to see, however if we could encourage many more of our working senior players to join, it would be a big help in defraying these costs.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has helped me during the year mainly in providing paperwork, reports, etc that enables me to fulfil my role. It is much appreciated.

## Youth Officer

At the start of 2023 we introduced our Code of Conduct to every youth group in the club. This was well attended by both kids and parents and everyone happily signed off on it.

We ensured every coach this year held their Safeguarding, Access NI & GAA foundation coaching cert. Even with the large number of coaches we have we still require more as our youth membership numbers continue to grow each year. This will be built on further in 2024 with the introduction of a youth sub-committee.

2023 saw the return of Camogie in our club with the U14 group playing a full League and Championship season.



This year we had great success with our U14 Girls winning a double, our U14 Hurlers crowned Tyrone Feile Champions and our U16 Hurlers winning the League.

We ran a full programme of Go Games for U8 & U10 Boys and Girls with increased Numbers of kids this year.

We introduced the U6.5 group this year and played several Go Games with local clubs. This group was a big success with large numbers of kids and parents taking part every week. Gaelic Start numbers did suffer a bit with the introduction of the U6.5 group, this will be reviewed in 2024.

Our Annual Donnelly Cup competition was another success with 7 Primary schools taking part and entering multiple teams.

Our Annual youth Fun Day was well attended and every kid enjoyed the Day.

A word of thanks to all the coaches and club helpers, without these people we would not be able to provide the level of GAA service Killyclogher does.

### **Gaelic Start**

This year there was a change up for Gaelic Start with the newly created Under 6 group for the older boys and girls. The first session took place at the start of May and finished up in September.

The numbers were good during the school months. However, due to holidays the numbers were depleted in the summer holiday months. Overall, it was great to see loads of new faces at Gaelic Start. Thank you to the Senior Ladies who helped out every Saturday it was on.

### **U6.5**

This is the first year we had our U6.5 sessions at the club, and what a great success. The main aim of this program was to give children a positive experience of coming to the club and enjoying the skills and social aspects that the GAA is built on. The second aim was to encourage as many parents/adults as possible to get involved and see how open our club community is. On average, we had 50 kids show up with their parents each evening, with the focus being on "Stay, Play and Learn". Parents were actively involved in each session by participating in fun games and helping deliver at each skill-based station, which they could transfer and practice the same activities at home. We went by the motto that each child has a ball, and thanks to the kind sponsorship from Lough-Tec, each kid who came to the sessions went home with a ball to practice with and increase their love of GAA. Our program finished on a high with a kid's colour run, which took place in Duddy's field, a great way to end a fantastic program with the emphasis always based on fun and having a positive experience of coming to our Killyclogher GAA grounds. Special mention to all the parents and adults who helped out throughout every session: Cathal Green, Gary Wallace, Rian McCaul, Sean McGowan and other senior players who helped throughout the program. Go raibh maith agat.



## U12.5 Boys

Coaches, Barry Donnelly and Ryan Devlin

Team performance - The U12.5 boys They played 9, won 3 and lost 6. They performed very well this year against some very strong teams in their group. The boys trained well and they all got better over the course of the year, both in training and in games. The boys seemed to enjoy the large pitch game format. The boys all seemed to enjoy the training and the games, and the skill level of all the players improved throughout the year. The boys performed really well at the Loughmacrory tournament we attended this year and really enjoyed the tournament experience. The U12.5 coaches greatly appreciated the efforts and support of all parents throughout the year.

## Under 14 Boys

Coaches, Ryan McCloskey, Barry O'Neill, Conal McGinn.

Performance -League, games played 10, won 4, lost 5 drew 1, Championship, games played 3, won 2 lost 1.

U14 football was late to start in 2023 with the 1st league game not played until 22nd July.

This year group had a panel of 28 boys which included 4 x U12s. This left us just short of being able to field a development team.

With lads involved in U16 football, U14 training commenced on 10th June with the group having 34 training sessions, 2 x challenge, 10 x league and 3 x championship matches, with the season ending on 4th November. The U14 league being played during the summer holidays impacted on availability for games and training. There were high numbers in this group who were also involved in hurling and it was common to have to adjust training schedules and plans to accommodate hurling fixtures.

As the team developed and focused on the championship campaign, it was clear to see that this particular year group can compete at Grade 1. Indeed, as the boys' skills and confidence grew, it was disappointing to end the season with a narrow defeat in the championship semi-final. The U14 coaches are grateful for the support of the parents for getting everyone to training and games and for the wider support from the club who helped throughout the season

## Under 16 Boys

Coaches, Neil McDermott, Noel Sweeney, Eoin Bradley, Paul McCarney Ryan Swift and Paul Sweeney.

Team performance, League played 11 won 8 lost 3, Championship won 2 lost 1. Got to semi-final in both League and Championship and lost to Greencastle in both. A reasonable season with the lads, some good football played at times but for some reason performances dipped in the second half of matches. This needs addressed for lads to improve as does game management. Disappointed to loss to the same team twice with very little between us. It was a learning curve for both players and management.



## **Under 18 Boys**

Coaches Fearghal McDonald, Barry O'Connor, Matthew Murnaghan, Rian McCaul and Eamon McGrath.

League played 10, win 1, drew 1, lost 8. Championship played 1, lost 1.

Team performance - For the talent this team has, unfortunately over our season they didn't perform to what we expect of a grade 1 minor team. We had 4 League games to play before our championship game, so we felt it was important to win games early so to give the lads confidence leading into the championship. In R1 and 2 we should have win both games for we played some great football but had 1 League point to show for our efforts. R3 and 4 we got well beaten in both games. We played well in the first half in both games only to come out in the 2nd half and let in early goals, unfortunately the heads dropped which then led to both teams really getting on top of us. Our next game was in the championship away to Donaghmore, we played some great football in the 1st half but we didn't take all our chances and made some simple errors in our play, that resulted in them getting goal chances which they did take. We then ended up getting well beaten. Our league games started up again with a great performance and a win away to Ardboe. From then on our league form was very inconsistent, R6 we got well beaten by Trillick. R7 we had our best performance of the year again Eglisk, we were leading towards the end of the game only for us to let in a goal which was the difference in the game at the end. R8,9 & 10 we got well beaten in all them games, we conceded to many goals early in the games which left it a hill battle for us to win.

Overall this team should of done better, if they committed to training more often it would have given them a better chance of performing better and winning more games. Lastly, I would like to thank Eamon McGrath, Barry O'Connor, Matty Murnaghan, goalkeeper coach Rian McCaul, Niamh McDonald (for match day stats) and Kieran McMullen for his video work.

## **Senior Football Team**

2023 was one of those years we will look back at with mixed emotions. One that had so much promise and yet failed to deliver what we really wanted on the football field.

### **League 23**

The league campaign in many ways was a mirror of 2022, in that, we competed very well throughout and had remarkably qualified for the league semi-final 4 games in advance of the completion of the competition. We remained unbeaten at home! And had memorable wins against Dromore and Trillick. On the road we had big results at Dungannon and Carrickmore. We looked fairly composed throughout the league with Loughmacrory the only real disappointment.

Our consistency over a two-year period in the league is no surprise given the talented squad of players we have.

Senior League over two years. Played 32 – Won 22 – Drew 5 – Lost 5

We await our semi-final which cannot be played until Trillick finish up their Ulster Campaign. We obviously go into that with a major disadvantage in that it will be three months since we have had a competitive game. This is a wholly unsatisfactory conclusion to the competition and demeans it somewhat.



## Championship 23

We drew the county champions for the second year running. This time Errigal Ciaran! Some would say bad luck but we as a management team certainly felt that this was a good draw for us. One to keep us focused throughout the year and one we certainly felt we were capable of winning.

Translating our league consistency into a championship performance had been the aim of senior management. We failed in that regard and for the second-year running did not make any impression under lights at Healy Park. We were second best for large periods of the game, except, for maybe a 20 Minute spell in the second half where we played something like what we are capable of. This included a missed goal opportunity that would have seen us tie the game on 60 minutes.

## Reflection

2023 was a tough but an enjoyable year. Our boys could easily have downed tools and struggled their way through the year, given, the grief that many are dealing with. They chose not to do that, and we helped each other along the way. Because of this alone, I will think of this year as a successful one!

Going forward, we still have ground to make up if we are to succeed. As a club making sure that the infrastructure is there to help all our teams achieve as well as improving our standards and our culture.

And as players, I am sure when you meet up again, you will be able to pinpoint numerous improvement areas. I hope to see all our players back in 2024 and look forward to watching you from the stands.

## Thanks

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people (listed below) who have contributed their time and substantial effort to help me out over the last two years. When you hear the vast sums of money that other clubs are rumoured to be paying it is great to be able to call on such talent who are able and willing to put the shoulder to the wheel. Special mention must go to Brendan still controlling the sidelines after all these years. I recognise also that there are many others (too many to list) who help with important tasks that often go unnoticed and I thank you all.

Management team. Barry O' Neill, Brendan Harkin, Chris Gorman, Damian Cox, Dermot Carlin, Dermot McKeogh, Gary Wallace, Jason Doyle, Kevin Smyth, Kieran Howe, Leo Green, Noel McCaul, Paul McFadden, Peter McGinn & Sean O Kane. Gabhan Sludden & Luke Murnaghan who helped when injured. Also, Eoin Bradley, Jerome Carelton, Gareth Fox & Timmy McGinn.



## Hurling

Coaches. Jason McGlinchey, Barry O'Neill, Conal McGinn and Brendan Gallagher

Cappagh Hurling and Camogie competed across several grades and competitions during the 2023 season. We entered respective teams in the Tain Og U13 and U15 competitions where we played several matches, coming up against teams such as Kevin Lynch's Dungiven, Ederney, and Carrickmacross.

Cappagh also entered the Grade 2 U15 Hurling Feile, securing the right to represent Tyrone in the regional finals at Ballerin in Derry. The team had wins over Coleraine and London before losing to St Finbarr's in the semi-final.

Our U14 hurlers reached the Grade 2 League and Championship finals losing out to Fintona and Turlach Og respectively.

The U16's fared better losing the Championship final to Duiche Neill but winning the League final against Naomh Colmcille.

Cappagh also fielded a Camogie team for the 1st time in many years competing at U14 level. The team acquitted itself well winning several games over the course of the season and the future looks bright for Camogie in the Parish

## Camogie

Coaches. Jason McGlinchey and Yvonne McGlinchey.

Team Performance, League – games played 5, won 2, lost 3, Championship – games played 1 lost 1.

2023 is certainly a year for the history books in regard to Camogie. For the first time in 90 years our club fielded a competitive Camogie team in both the league and championship.

The call was put out for Cappagh Camogs, and our girls answered loudly! The commitment, dedication and bravery of these girls deserves respect and recognition.

It is especially of note in that most of the team were learning and playing sport which was completely new to them. The girls played 5 league games, winning 2 of these. It must be noted that which each of the games the girl's confidence and performances have improved.

The girls were drawn against Greencastle in the first round of the championship. They were defeated by Greencastle who then went on to comprehensively win the championship. The club, management, parents, and team should take great pride in this inaugural group of Cappagh Camogs. With continued commitment from all the future of Cappagh Camogie will only grow from strength to strength.



## Dads & Lads

Barry O'Connor

Our Dads & Lads team continues to thrive, training sessions tend to be held on a Wednesday or Thursday evening depending on pitch availability. We have added more new faces to the group in the last year and it great to see men from our own club and those who would have played their football with other clubs in Tyrone and beyond, coming together for a bit of craic every week. We even have a player who travels from Donegal to train and play with us

Like the previous year, the biggest challenge to this initiative is the lack of other clubs in the county who have a Dads & Lads team. The games played this year were significantly down on the previous year, we did play a few games against Beragh but despite efforts to arrange games with other clubs nothing came of them.

We missed out on the National Blitz in Dublin this year so the target for 2024 is make sure we attend it. There was no involvement from Ulster GAA this year either despite them organising several successfully blitzes in 2022. In October we returned to the Donagh club in Fermanagh to take part in their annual Dads & Lads blitz where the opposition included Beragh, Belnaleck and the host club themselves. On the back of that a team from Belnaleck travelled down to Ballinamullan in early November for a game which was thoroughly enjoyed by both teams.

The social aspect of this initiative is vitally important and we hope to see if continue to make progress into the 2024 season.

## Ladies Football

### U8 Girls

Coaches. Nuala Carlin, Barry Howe, Noel Green, Mary Conway, Aine O'Connor and Siobhan Devine.

The Under 8 girls started training in March 2023. Training was well attended with numbers regularly exceeding 30 girls. The coaches were very impressed with the commitment of a large number of girls attending on a weekly basis. The focus at training was on skill development, go game practice, and fun. Focusing on the key skills needed for Gaelic has meant that the girls who have attended regularly have improved massively. The coaches were very pleased with the attitude of the older girls (P4 and 5s) who were extremely welcoming to and encouraging of the younger P2 and 3s.

The girls took part in a number of go games against various clubs. We would like to thank all of those clubs for their hospitality on Saturday mornings. The girls also played a number of challenge matches this year, helping to build their confidence on the pitch.

We ended the season with a trip to Aladdin's Kingdom, and each player was presented with a first touch football to build on their skills over the Winter.

The coaches would like to thank all the parents for their commitment to getting the girls to training and games. All the best to the girls now moving on to the under 10s. The under 10 coaches will be very lucky to inherit such a talented group of footballers.

## Under 10 Girls

Coaches. Shane Tracey, Peter O'Kane, Anne-Marie Meenan.

The girls competed really well in all 10 Go-Game matches throughout the season. We also had 3 challenge games and were invited to the Triona McNabb memorial tournament in Dromore which we unfortunately lost in the final. We also played in the end of season County blitz in Garvagh. The numbers were really good this year. We had approximately 25 to 30 at most sessions although numbers did drop slightly during the summer. All girls progressed really well with the skills and rules of the game and really enjoyed training and matches.

## Under 12 Girls

Coaches. Adrian Patterson, Shane Tracey, Mark Tracey, Stephen O'Neill & Rita Fox.

We had 10 Go Games that started in July this year and ended in October. We began training at the beginning of March and also had a few friendlies to keep the girls up to speed. Scores are not really kept in these games as the aim is to get the girls as much game time as possible. All very competitive matches with very little between teams at this grade.

We had on average around 25/30 girls out training and the same at games all be it during the summer where we had fewer numbers due to holidays.

The girls thoroughly enjoyed the season, and we have several rising stars who also participated in the U14 double winning side and the U13 team that won the Noel Tracey Memorial tournament in Kildress. Numbers are strong and competition even stronger and girls football in the parish is looking very promising for the future.



### **Under 13 Girls**

Coaches. Rita Fox, Aine O'Connor, Phenah O'Neill, Aidy Patterson, Stephen O'Neill, Mark Tracey, Shane Tracey, Ryan Devlin & Barry O'Connor.

Our U13 Girls were invited to a tournament by the Kildress club in early August, the tournament was organised in memory of Noel Tracey whose brother Mark coaches with our underage girls' teams including the U13 team. Teams were split into two groups and our girls finished top of their group after impressive victories over Galbally, Errigal Ciaran, Edendork, Kildress & Pomeroy. This meant they had qualified for the semi-final of the Cup competition where the opponents would be Donaghmore. A highly entertaining game followed but our girls were on top all over the pitch and ran out convincing winners and advanced into the final. As fate would have it, the opponents in the final would be the Kildress club. Our girls played superbly well as a team and Kildress, like other teams had done before them, found our defence almost impossible to break down, while at the other end of the pitch our forward unit were converting some impressive scores. As the final whistle sounded our girls had secured victory with a 7-point margin.

Tyrone LGFA also organised an U13 club league at the end of the season, the main contributing factor was the lack of an U12 competition in 2023 owing to new directives from Croke Park. The format of the club league was 9-a-side games with unlimited subs, there would be four grades, Platinum, Gold, Silver & Bronze. Such was the interest from our girls we were able to enter two teams providing competitive football for almost thirty girls. Our games were hosted in Garvaghy on Saturday mornings and while there were some logistical issues with the

organising of the games it was a very enjoyable experience for the girls. As the competition progressed, we were the only club involved who were fielding two teams and while there was no silverware to show at the end the important thing was our girls had all got plenty of football and had enjoyed themselves.

### **Under 14 Girls**

Coaches. Ryan Devlin, Seamus Donaghy, Aine O'Connor and Barry O'Connor.

Preparations for the 2023 season for our U14 girls began towards the end of January, once again the numbers of girls turning out at this age group were fantastic, the first training session was attended by 32 girls and by the time the first competitive game was played this number had increased to 38. We contacted the County Board with a view to entering 2 teams at U14 level, much to our frustration however we could not reach an agreement with them on what grades the two teams would play at.

The team would be competing in Grade 2, within the group itself there was a steely determination to try and put right the championship final defeat of 2022 in which many of these same girls had featured. From a management point of view, our objective was to get every girl as much football as we could throughout the season. With that in mind we set about organising several challenge games with Grade 1 teams, before the season started in earnest, the girls played matches against Edendork, Aodh Ruadh, Dromore, Omagh & Donaghmore. While the results were probably the least important aspect of these games, it was clear from the performances in all the games that we were going to be a force to be reckoned with in Grade 2.

The season started on 5th March with a home game against Ardboe and it was clear from the outset that the challenge games had prepared the girls well, the football they played was of a very high standard and the togetherness of the team was very evident, we ran out comfortable winners in this game and this was repeated in the next two fixtures which included an away game to St Macartan's & a home fixture with Trillick, while the scoreline in these games would suggest we were getting things very much our own way, the reality was our opponents had plenty of possession but the team work of our girls meant they were being restricted to very little in terms of shooting opportunities.

Round 4 of the league saw Errigal Ciaran visit Ballinamullan on what was a very windy evening for football. With three wins already secured this game would give us a much clearer indication of where we were at as a team. The first half was a tense affair, we had lost the toss and played against the wind, Errigal, as expected, were putting it up to our girls, something that we hadn't really been used to in the three previous games and when they went ahead early in the game it was clear to see we had a different challenge on our hands. All credit to the girls, they regrouped and got back to doing what they had done well in the previous games, playing as a team. Through sheer hard work and determination, we managed to get a few scores on the board that left us ahead on the scoreboard as the half time whistle sounded. The second half was very much a case of using the wind advantage which the girls did really well, we were able to keep Errigal at arm's length and secured another victory, though this was one which we had been forced to work really hard for.

At this point in the season, we were top of the table, our next game was scheduled to have been against the team placed second in the table, Aghaloo. Unfortunately, however the game was postponed and was refixed to be played as the last league game of the season. This gave us an opportunity to regroup after the Errigal game and address some of the challenges we had faced in that game. The girls responded superbly and our next fixture, an away game to Badoney saw another convincing win by the girls. Another home game followed against Loughmacrory, a team who although they were in the lower half of the league table at this point, were very unlucky not to have secured victories over some of the higher placed teams, not least Aghaloo. A somewhat lethargic performance from our girls ensued and it was clear to the management that perhaps too much time was being spent by the girls analysing league tables and results from other games, and at this point in the season the biggest threat to us as a team was ourselves.

An away trip to Cookstown would be our next challenge. And while this game would bring our only defeat of the season, it was perhaps the game that we can look back on and say that was the night we won the double. Cookstown refused to put the scoreboard on for the game, claiming they didn't want to be embarrassed by the final score. The game started at a frantic pace and two things were immediately clear, the first being that Cookstown weren't as bad a side as their mentors had made them out to be and secondly, our girls had fallen for the scoreboard stunt!!! We were struggling all over the pitch and the opposition were full value for the lead they had at half time, though truth be told we had gifted them

three goals in that first thirty minutes of play. The break gave us a chance to regroup and make a few positional changes and while we played much better in the second half, we were still struggling to cope with the pace of the Cookstown half forward line. All credit to our girls though they never gave up, with seven minutes left on the clock we were five points down and yet with less than a minute to go we were a point up thanks to a penalty converted by goalkeeper Anna Harper. As fate would have it, the next attack from Cookstown resulted in them being awarded a penalty of their own which they duly converted, while it looked a very harsh penalty call from the referee, we look back now and think he might just have done us a favour.

The defeat was new ground for our girls, they hadn't experienced it at all during the season, we took time at training to discuss the game with the girls and their reaction was just as we expected it to be. They went out in the next game and recorded their biggest victory of the season in a game where they managed to hold their opponents, Moy, scoreless. The last league game of the season was to be the game against Aghaloo which has been postponed earlier in the season, however with both teams sitting first and second in the table it was agreed between the clubs that there was little point in playing the league fixture and instead the game would be played as the league final.

The final was played on 6th June in Clogher, the league table would indicate this was going to be a close affair and that's exactly how it turned out. It was clear from the outset that nerves were having an impact on the performance of both teams. While our defence was playing superbly well, the forwards were missing a lot of chances at the

other end, shots that on any other day were hitting the target were drifting wide or dropping short. Our cause wasn't helped by the loss of Aoibh Tracey after twenty minutes, this forced us into a quick reshuffle of personnel and all credit to the girls they responded superbly well to the challenge, as the second half commenced we managed to get in front and while we would never relinquish the lead for the remainder of the game we could never get enough daylight between ourselves and our opponents to make things more comfortable for ourselves. As the game approached the final few minutes there was only a single point separating the two sides, a fantastic interception at one end by our goalkeeper Anna Harper was followed at the other end by what was arguably the score of the game from Leah Daly, this gave us a two-point lead and thankfully the ref's whistle sounded to bring the game to an end and we had secured the Grade 2 League title on a scoreline of 1.10 to 1.08 much to the delight of all the players and the large number of supporters who had travelled to Clogher.

With the league title secured it was straight into championship action the following week, an away game to Moy was the first hurdle we were faced with. Amongst the management team we felt this game had the potential to cause an upset. There was no doubt we were overwhelming favourites, but the questions remained, had the winning of the league diminished the hunger in the girls and had the high scoring win over Moy in the league left us underestimating our opponents. The Moy team that took the pitch for the game was very different to the one we had played in the league and they really put it up to our girls, the game was played in extremely warm conditions which saw the return of the water breaks, breaks that we were more

than happy to take advantage of given the pressure we were under for large parts of the game. Our cause wasn't helped by the loss in the first half of Aebha Devlin to a very nasty head injury. Thankfully though we were able to see the game out to win by the narrowest of margins on a score of 1.08 – 2.04. The semi-final of the championship saw us up against Errigal Ciaran at home again, another tense battle ensued and while the scoreline of 3.05 – 2.06 would suggest a close game it was one where we always had the upper hand and were in front on the scoreboard for the whole game.

Another County Final saw us up against the same opposition we faced in the league final Aghaloo. The game was played on 27th June in front of a large crowd in Tattyreagh. Ahead of the final, nerves were a massive factor, more so than before the league final, though given that some of these girls had lost a championship final the previous year this was understandable. Our preparations weren't helped by the fact we were going to have to play the game without our centre half back Leah Daly and were forced into another change just before throw in when Aebha Devlin was unable to start due to illness.

The game started much as we expected, Aghaloo played with the wind and nerves were evident from both teams, the Cappagh girls probably had the better of the first half but as we approached half time the teams were level on four points each, our last attack saw a high speculative ball from captain Ella McBride hit the back of the net to give us a three point lead at half time. The second half was one we completely dominated, we added 3.04 to the scoreboard and managed to restrict Aghaloo to a single score, a goal scored in the dying seconds to leave a final score of 4.08 – 1.04.

As the final whistle sounded, the Grade 2 League & Championship double had been secured, just rewards for the girls for the efforts they had put in all year.

The management team would like to thank club referees, Fearghal McDonald & Conal McGinn for refereeing challenge games, and Mary Rafferty and Kieran McMullen for generously giving up their time to take photographs and video games during the season. We would also like to pass on our thanks to the club and a very generous parent for the pizzas and refreshments provided for the girls after both finals.

### **Under 16 Girls**

Coaches. Cathy McCloskey, Emma Mitchell and Lindelle McCrory.

The U16 ladies' season was one of transition from grade 2 to grade 1 football. 34 members of the team embraced the steep step up to grade 1 by further developing their skills and fitness levels in order to compete against the 6 top teams in the county. While the girls didn't win their matches in the league and championship, they won all challenge matches with teams in grade 2 and grade 3 and grew in confidence as the season progressed.





## Minor Ladies

Coaches. Davy Chisholm and Aine O'Connor. Myself & Aine had the pleasure of coaching these girls this year and I honestly think that these girls gave everything this year commitment wise. Results didn't go our way on the field but that didn't stop this determined wee group showing up week in week out for each other & the jersey. Our numbers for training/games were excellent all season and going forward I believe this group is building which will only get stronger.

## Senior Ladies

Coaches. Conall McCann, Terry McCann and Davy Chisholm. Backroom Team, Fiona Maguire and Patricia McCrory.

Grade: Intermediate - Division 2. League Performance: Intermediate League Champions 2023, 10 games played, 2 opponents forfeited, 1 draw, 8 won, 1 lost.

Championship Performance: Intermediate Championship Runners Up 2023, 3 wins, 1 lost.

Team Comments: Another extremely positive year for Cappagh Senior Ladies. The introduction of new management brought a massive boost to the entire squad, with almost 100% of players returning for another season, plus the addition of a few more. High numbers, high team morale and an uplift in confidence left the girls in a really strong position heading into the league campaign. A tough first outing against Edendork which ended in a draw gave the girls the motivation to push on and build from there. An extremely drawn-out league campaign saw a wide variety of girls getting game time and with fantastic effort being put in at training both on and off the pitch the girls found their winning ways. 7 wins from 8 heading into their final league game the girls had secured their place in a league semi-

final. Unfortunately, things didn't go their way against Moy, with this being the only league points dropped all season.

Championship brought some new challenges for the girls with the loss of centre half forward, and captain, Caitlin Kelly, but it provided an opportunity for many others to step up to the mark and they didn't disappoint. A brilliant championship run with impressive wins over Donaghmore, Clonoe and Loughmacrory saw the girls return to the Intermediate Championship final for the third consecutive year in a row. The result wasn't to be for the girls on the final day, however the resilience and determination shown by the girls to bounce back year on year and strive for the best is commendable. This was shown in threefold as the full squad returned to training days after their final loss, regrouped and put their shoulder to the wheel to seek out a league title. A fantastic team performance in the league final saw the girls emerge worthy champions over a strong Edendork side. Senior football awaits the Cappagh Senior Ladies for the 2024 season.

The girls would like to take this opportunity to thank the management team, who brought a new life to the squad and built each girl in confidence throughout the year, and the club for their backing and support all along.

Wishing both Caitlin Kelly, and Cora Cox a speedy recovery.

## Gaelic 4 Mothers & Others

Kate McAleer The G4MO's had a somewhat quieter season than usual during 2023. The ladies trained throughout the year with a few new additions to the team. A small blitz was held in June with teams from Drumragh and Beragh both travelling to Ballinamullan. Although a lot less was happening on the pitch for the ladies, they are no strangers to the club with many of them helping out throughout the club in all areas. Some ladies have been involved with the youth coaching, the shop, the kitchen and anywhere they can lend a hand. It is fantastic to see, and long may it continue. The year was topped off for the ladies when they were crowned Killyclogher's Family Fortune's Champions..

## Handball

Paula Clarke - Handball in both 40x20 and Wallball has flourished in 2023. Numbers increased in adults and juveniles. Mother's and Others is a big success, training has continued all year and the ladies are now playing in Challenger competitions bringing home silverware. Some have also completed the Foundation Level in coaching and their Safeguarding. Congratulations to Conor and Jerry Keenan winning both Tyrone Leagues and Championships. Dads and lads have started Wallball, interest and numbers are growing every week. Senior footballers will be back in 40x20 for winter training. Many of our juveniles have taken part in Tyrone leagues and championships also bringing home silverware, Daithi McMullen won the League and was runner up in the Championship, Amy Corcoran and Leah Daly also won Leagues. Well done to all our juveniles. Shay Carland has been travelling to national competitions with great success. Thank you to all the handball coaches who give up of their time to keep handball thriving in Killyclogher.



## Referees

Once again, we are indebted to our referees Kevin Taggart, Conal McGinn, Brian McGinn and Frankie Sweeney for carrying out refereeing duties for the club, not only did they cover the requisite league and championship games for the Co Board, but they also covered numerous challenge game that enabled both our male and female teams prepare for their relevant competitions. Every year it appears to be getting harder to attract referees and there are clubs in the County who have no referees so a big thank you to Kevin, Brian and Frankie for refereeing for the club.

If you are reading this and would like to get involved in refereeing don't hesitate to contact the Chairman or Secretary of the club and you'll be pointed in the right direction.

## Grounds and Buildings

Dónal Mac Aoidh - Since the Club Convention of 2022 much further progress has been made in relation to the development of the physical facilities at the club. Car Park & New Entrance. As is now clearly visible the works to reinstate the old Gaelscoil site are now fully completed. We have decided that this area will only be brought into use for parking purposes on days when parking capacity needs are required. The only major item to be completed is the area at the rear of Dún Uladh. Agreement on what works needs to be done has been agreed between Dún Uladh and the Department of Education and this work is currently in the final stage approval between Dept of Education and Dún Uladh. All the lighting, security and general safety, completed driveway and fencing at the new entrance is now complete.

## Flood Bank

Additional drainage is still to be provided before any real use can be taken from the space at the bottom of the training field. The drains are already made at the ball stop end and along the face of the flood bank. The intermediate drains are now required. Planting trees along the bank will add to strengthening it and this work will be completed at the earliest convenience.

## New Terracing

Spaces remain for groups or families to 'purchase' steps at the terracing where their names or family names will be engraved and remain as a permanent fixture acknowledging the overall development of the club.

## Grounds Maintenance

At the beginning of the first lockdown the normal grounds maintenance plan was significantly reduced due to the financial constraints which followed the curtailment of fund-raising activities. In the past year much of the full maintenance work has been completed. The damaged areas on the training field have been repaired and are currently in good condition following the 2023 season.

## Grounds Clean up

Thanks is extended to the members who attended the annual grounds clean up prior to the start of the season. There has been a huge improvement in the proper disposal of the large numbers of plastic bottles which had been discarded at random round the grounds.

### Walking Path

Plans to complete the walking path have been given serious consideration and the layout of this facility is well established and now awaits a funding development to complete its installation. Negotiations are at an advanced stage in relation to completing another section of the walking path from the 'Kissing Gate' on Farmhill Road to the vehicle entrance at Creary's Crossroads.

### Entrance / Exit – Ballinamullan Road

As reported at last year's convention the bridge at the scoreboard was virtually wiped out in flooding. The old bridge has since been completely replaced and much thanks is due to those members who provided voluntary labour and professional advice to replace the bridge completely.

### Additional Works

The pedestrian and vehicle entrances and hedge along Farmhill Road needs to be secured especially when the club is hosting inter-club championship games. These games form an important income stream for club funds and need to be protected.

A further development of the river side of the grounds in the form of terracing and covered spectator accommodation needs to be installed and completed.

At times during the year some difficult decisions needed to be taken, in order to protect the grounds from unnecessary use. By and large I would like to acknowledge the support of the vast majority of team managers and coaches for their help and co-operation in keeping our grounds up to the high standard at which they are. With the club no longer having access to Duddy's Field there is an area at the bottom of the training field which needs to be properly drained and fully developed.

My thanks also go to Kieran McFadden, Eamon McGrath, Barry O'Connor and Tony Colton for their help and advice in this area of club life.

A small working group has been appointed to examine the overall physical development of all the facilities at Ballinamullan. This will include looking at work which remains unfinished and any other additional work which needs to be done. A full report on this will be provided to the incoming committee in early spring. If any of this work is to be completed a proper plan for acquiring funding needs to be put in place.

### Buildings

I would like to acknowledge the work done by Mairead McCann in keeping the insides of all the buildings in the manner in which they are kept - very much spic and span.

### Scoreboard

The scoreboard has now been fully developed and is controlled largely by a laptop located in the main committee room in the old building. A number of our members have been fully trained in its use. A very useful addition and an appropriate memorial to the memory of Tommy Nugent who was instrumental in the fund raising to install the board.

### Match Announcements

Acknowledgement and thanks are due to Lorraine McCusker and Patricia McCrory for their work during the season.

### Floodlighting – Training field

The provision of replacement LED floodlighting on the training field is at an advanced stage and should be well advanced in time for the beginning of the new season. This will, of course, reduce the

cost of electricity dramatically as well as improving the overall training facilities at Ballinamullan.

#### Ball wall improvements

The improvements to the ball wall should be complete by the time of this convention. The wall at the front of the building, cladding, six windows, two double doors and plastering will have been completed. The completion of this work has already made a massive difference to this building which will allow it to be used all year round. A small committee will be appointed to handle its general maintenance and usage during the year.

#### Club Shop

It has now become very clear that the club shop has become a significantly valuable asset not only as a source of income but also as a source of refreshments at any of our games. A special word of thanks is due to Anne Kelly and the other ladies who help run the shop, which is open at all our home games irrespective of what age groups are involved.

#### Safety Area for Children

Despite many attempts to complete this task we are at a stage where this will become a priority for the incoming committee.

#### Pitch Marking

As you may all be aware our playing fields have always been marked out properly for any and all competitive games at Ballinamullan. This task was carried out religiously for all our games by the same group of people. This group has now decided to call time on their gracefully retire. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Joe Lowry, Kenny Laing and Paddy Brogan for their efforts for very many years. These men

will now need to be replaced so if anyone would like to volunteer for the job they will be most welcome.

#### General

From when this site was initially acquired in the late 1970's only a very small area now remains to be developed. This must be regarded as a truly phenomenal achievement and credit to the membership of this club, past and present, to be able to make a statement such as this. To complete the entire site by 2030 would be a realistic objective and achievable given what has been done in the past forty years. What a legacy this would be to the GAA community in the parish of Cappagh.

#### Conclusion

My sincere thanks to all our membership, from the very youngest to the very oldest, for their efforts to maintain the standards at Ballinamullan we have become so used to. Our continued support and help from all, however small will always be greatly appreciated.

#### **Lotto/Halftime Draw**

Mary Meenan - The club lotto continued as before with Eamon doing the live draw every Monday night & Cathal helping out when he's not available. Liam checks the contributions through Klubfunder & passes the information to Antoinette who checks the computer & informs me of the winners. Margaret & I make sure all winnings are distributed. Kevin Green continues to sell some lottos every week, for that we thank you Kevin.

To the people who contribute to the lotto through direct debit cash payments & Klubfunder we thank you for your loyalty since it first began many years ago.

Your financial help goes towards the upkeep & development of the club.

The halftime draw at the home games in the league & games we hosted raised a lot of funds this year. A number of very willing people made themselves available, so if you think you could help come along & join the team, the same goes for the lotto, if you could help to promote it you'd be more than welcome.

### **Merchandise**

Brenda Kerr and Mary Meenan - Another busy year for the merchandise shop as there is always a big demand for playing & supporters gear. Unfortunately, everything has gone up in price, but people keep on buying. Brenda and I appreciate all the help we got at busy times during the year.

### **Health and Well-being**

Geraldine McCrory - Internal monthly check and quarterly external QC check of Defib monitor continues.

Confidential support continued to be available to anyone who is impacted by incident or tragic event. Link made available to any player, family member or community member would like to avail of online support or the option to speak to a member of the incident support group.

Printed GAA leaflets made available in Clubrooms throughout the year. Available at: <https://tyronegaa.ie/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Normal-Responses-to-Abnormal-Incidences.pdf>

December 2022 we held a very successful 'Keeping Cappagh Cosy' campaign, raising £2520 for Killyclogher St. Vincent de Paul, providing home heating fuel vouchers for those in need in our local community.

January 23rd 2023, GAA Critical Incident Training completed by committee members. January 31st we hosted Cruse bereavement training session by Linda Warwick of Cruse. 'Understanding Children/Young People's Bereavement' We invited Beragh and Trillick club members due to recent tragic events in both their clubs.

February 22nd Health and Wellbeing Fair, Hospital Road Community Centre promoted. February 25th Health and Wellbeing Fayre promoted, arranged by Errigal Ciaran GAC.

February 26th, Health and wellbeing group members supported a Health and wellbeing information stand at Registration Day.

March 2023 The Cairde Cuppa!! We hosted a social evening in the clubrooms kitchen. All local community and club members were invited to call in for a cuppa and a friendly chat around our welcoming stove.

March 23, Club coaches were informed of cardiac screening available through CRY. The scheduled cardiac screening event was held in Mossley Mill, Carnmoney Road, Newtownabbey on Saturday 20th May and Sunday 21st May 2023.

Saturday May 6th. Our club invited our community and club members to join us for our annual Pieta Darkness into Light walk. This year's chosen official local charity is AWARE NI. The event was well attended and we all enjoyed a welcome cup of tea in the clubrooms and successfully raised over £2,367 for AWARE NI.



May 23rd, links were made available for The Western Health and Social Care Trust's virtual Asthma, Diabetes and Epilepsy awareness evening to educate those involved with young people outside of school, about these conditions. This awareness event was for anyone who is a leader or supervisor of young children at youth groups or sports clubs. Those who attend were provided with specialist advice delivered directly by Specialist Nurses, with a question and answer opportunity included.

May 2023: Social media promotion during Mental Health Awareness week as follows.

May 17th. Inspire. Positive Mental Health and Wellbeing for Adults session held in Anderson House.

Positive Mental Health and Wellbeing Sessions which took place in Omagh through the Omagh and Fermanagh Council, as follows:

·Thursday 18th May 7pm-9pm (MACCA Resource Centre, Omagh) – Adults

·Tuesday 23rd May 11.30am - 1.30pm (Strathroy Community Centre, Omagh) – Adults.

·Tuesday 6th June 7pm-9pm (CKS Community Centre, Omagh) – Adults.

June 3rd. Killyclogher 10k. Health and wellbeing group supported the First Aid Point with local Paramedics and HWB group members in attendance including Medical professionals.

June 4th. Wellness Festival in Glaslough, Monaghan promoted.

June 2023, we promoted an Open College Network accredited course on Stress Management in association with Boys and Girls Clubs NI for 13/14+ age group.

This OCN was accredited which will be excellent for the participants to use in future CV's and help them to further their experiences in other courses to help them with part-time jobs, Colleges or University. Subjects covered included:

- Understand what is meant by stress.
- Understand the impact of stress on an individual.
- Understand stress management techniques.
- Understand the benefits of using relaxation techniques. Also having fun and a trip included.

World Mental Health Day (10 Oct) is a day to talk about mental health and show everyone that mental health matters. It's also a day to let people know that it's okay to ask for help, no matter what you're going through. Social media and online information on mental health including self-help tools available on <https://www.mindingyourhead.info/> and the community wellbeing hub <https://communitywellbeing.info>

October 17th 2023, promotion of a Breast Cancer awareness evening hosted by Strathroy Community Association.

October 28th Northern Ireland chest heart and stroke hosted an online vaping information session. Links promoted on Social Media platforms.

November 2023. Transform Your Trolley innovative and exciting new course! A campaign developed by Safefood and delivered in partnership with the Healthy Living Centre Alliance and Omagh Healthy Living Network. If you want to transform your eating habits, your shopping trolley is just the place to start.



November 2nd £250 was presented to Zest from funds raised during the Killyclogher 10k. The donation will go directly into supplying client services in Killyclogher, Omagh and the surrounding area. Zest offers supportive care to people suffering emotional pain and hurt with the aim to provide a place of genuine acceptance, active safety, and living hope, to those who don't feel accepted, who don't feel safe and are losing hope. They promise you acceptance, respect, understanding and compassion. Its most ok to be you.

Cost of Living Help available at <https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/services/community/cost-of-living-help/>.

### **Registration**

Registrar. Kate Tierney - In 2023, the club membership continues to grow. In total, there are 822 members, 430 Youth members and 392 Adults. The number of adult playing members is 135.

Members registered directly through [foireann.ie](https://foireann.ie) or at the registration day and registration evenings held at the club. There were a number of people getting in contact by email and phone on how to register, and they were guided through the process. Also, there were a number of people who needed to be registered throughout the year. Members are encouraged to use [foireann.ie](https://foireann.ie) to set up an account (if they don't already have one) and register themselves and any family members. This enables the member/s to have control over their personal information including any medical history or allergies that would need to be known.

Members who are involved within ANY of the club's activities (this includes all committee members, adult members, coaches, youth and senior players, representatives of the club, team management and anyone involved in the backroom teams) need to be registered on the Foireann database and membership paid yearly. This will ensure that these members are covered by the club.

As per official GAA requirements ALL members have to be registered by the end of March each year to entitle them to membership benefits.

### **Children's Officer**

Mairead McMullen - During the past 12 months, I am pleased to report that Coill an Chlochair N Mhuire has continued to implement the National GAA Code of Behaviour (Underage) incorporating: Child Safeguarding Statement; Recruitment Policy for those working with children; Child Safeguarding Training Requirements; Anti Bullying Statement; and Social Media Policy. As Children's Officer I have continued to develop good practice procedures in the recruitment and selection of persons working with young people in the Club. Part of this involves overseeing the implementation of Access NI. Throughout the year Access NI vetting and re-vetting continued to take place for all club coaches and volunteers, this work is an ongoing task due to the requirement for re-vetting every 3 years. The club and the GAA have been absolutely clear that each coach/volunteer must be vetted on the Access NI system and this focus will continue in 2024. As the Club Children's Officer and DCSO I maintain and report regularly to the Club Executive Committee on the club register for Access NI and coaches/volunteers who have undertaken the necessary GAA Safeguarding



courses. In preparation for the 2024 season, we will be implementing a proactive programme between now and the new games season to ensure all Coaches/volunteers and any new coaches/volunteers have got their Access NI clearance and notified of upcoming Safeguarding Courses and Coaching Courses in partnership with all codes.

During the year I completed the mandatory bi-annual GAA Safeguarding Risk Assessment for all codes within the club. At the start of the games season, I issued notification and roll out of 9 sessions of Code of behaviour for underage workshops for all age groups and parents across all codes. The purpose of these workshops were to increase knowledge and understanding for youth players and parents on the code of behaviour for underage, the content of the policy and how to adhere to it. Through these workshops the Give Respect, Get Respect initiative was also highlighted. These were well attended across the age groups, so sincere thanks to children and parents for their attendance. Over the reporting period complaints and any breaches of the GAA code of behaviour have been investigated and dealt with in a sensitive manner. I have offered support and guidance to the Youth Officers and Executive Committee as and when required.

Targets for 2023-2024.

1. To continue to ensure that all new volunteers / coaches complete Access NI in advance of their ratification.
2. To organise Safeguarding workshops for new coaches/volunteers and update briefings for existing coaches who are required to do the Safeguarding online refresher workshop.
3. To liaise with all sections to ensure that coaches and volunteers complete the

relevant coaching courses.

4. To keep club Safeguarding Statement updated to reflect current best practice.
5. To liaise with the youth Officer on meetings for all coaches / volunteers to enable them to familiarise themselves with the club's Code of Behaviour (Underage) and ensure this is adhered to.
6. To initiate a raise awareness campaign for a new club Speaking Up Policy.
7. To review targets and actions agreed in the GAA Safeguarding Risk Assessment which was completed in April 2023.
8. To maintain and report to the Executive Committee on the club register for Access NI, completion of Safeguarding Workshop and club Coaches Courses.
9. To fully co-operate with the County Children's Officer, the Ulster GAA Safeguarding Manager and the National GAA Children's Officer when appropriate.
10. To establish a youth committee that has representation across age groups and codes to feed into the Club Committee and have input into policy and practice that affects youth players within the club.

Finally, this year we want to continue to ensure that every child's experience that trains or plays for our club, is full of pride, respect and most importantly fun and enjoyment. This can only be achieved by working together through consistency of practice and ensuring that the code of behaviour is being implemented effectively by our coaches and volunteers.

Is mise le meas, Mairead McMullen,  
Children's Officer & DCSO.

## Fundraising

We have had another successful year with our fundraising. Once again we had record numbers entered for our 5k/10k this year. Huge credit goes to our volunteers who make this event such a success and we look forward to next year already.

Our annual golf classic once again brought a record entry of teams and this has become established as one of the big days in the golfing calendar. This would not be possible without the continued support from all our sponsors and the extra incentive of live stream from our very own Mac AV. Thanks once again to our hard-working team who make this possible every year.

We hosted a very successful social/fundraising night on Saturday 11th November in the Silverbirch Hotel. Our "Family Fortunes Night" will always be remembered not just for the fundraising side but to see our club members and others come together for what was a wonderful night of fun and laughter after a long break due to covid. To all our sponsors and to James McGinn we are grateful for your support which made this night such a great success.

To all our other club members who helped fundraising in any other way this year we thank you and we look forward to another successful year in 2024.

## Cairde Cappagh

A big Thanks to our 150 plus members who provide vital financial support through Cairde Cappagh to continue to enable Killyclogher GAA provide the best facilities and resources so that our players get quality training and coaching to enable them to enjoy Gaelic Games and strive to be the best they can be. After careful modeling and sizing a new jacket was chosen to promote the Cairde Cappagh brand and its great to see it being worn by the members at games and functions run by the club. If you would like to join Cairde Cappagh and help to keep this club great don't hesitate to get in touch with any of the Committee or our Cairde Cappagh coordinators Pat McCrory and Peter O'Kane. Its £20 per month and will be money well spent.



## Cultural Committee

### Scór na Óg

Our young competitors competed in 4 events. Rince Foirne /Ceili Dancing: qualified to County Final level. Rince Seit/Set Dancing - qualified to County Final. Amhranalocht Aonair /Solo Singing - successfully attained County Championship and qualified to Provincial Final. Aithriseoireacht / Recitation: successfully attained County Championship and qualified to Provincial Final.

### Scor Sinsear

Rince Foirne /Ceili Dancing - unsuccessful at County level. Rince Seit /Set Dancing - successfully attained County Championship and qualified to Provincial Final. Overall, the club had a successful year in Scor in view of the challenges bringing together potential participants with rehearsal arrangements, travel both to rehearsals and to the various venues. Sincere appreciation to all who contributed to ensuring our club was represented. This includes participants, organisers, coaches, parents, and club officers. We also acknowledge the participation of our singers in providing Amran na bhFiann at numerous games throughout the year. Go raibh maith agat to Dun Uladh for accommodation.



## Sponsors

Once again, a big thank you to all our sponsors, to those who have been sponsoring us through thick and thin and to the many new ones who came on board in 2023 you are very generous, your sponsorship provides much needed financial support to Killyclogher GAA. We would not have the facilities we have without your support. It really is appreciated. Thank you.

## Condolences

I would like to extend my condolences on behalf of the club to all those who lost loved ones in the past year. This is a difficult time for you all and our thoughts and prayers are with you. *Go ndeana Dia trocaire ar a anam.*

## A5 - Enough Is Enough Campaign

This time last year our club was in devastation following the passing of our beloved player, John Rafferty.

The pain in our community was echoed much wider than our Parish boundaries. This is a testament to the man that John Rafferty was and the esteem in which the Rafferty family are held. We promised to wrap a collective arm of support around them and we hope that we have tried to do that.

Our club took a leading role in the Tyrone GAA campaign "A5 - Enough Is Enough" with Niall McKenna chairing the group and Peter Dolan and Eamon McGrath providing powerful recollections at the launch night in January. Kieran McMullen provided expert service to the campaign also. Our club members came out in great strength to the launch night in Garvaghey, the information night in the Silverbirch Hotel and the Public Inquiry in the Strule Arts Centre and Gortrush.

The sight of so many our members (including our school children) at these events, especially the Road Safety session on week two of the Public Inquiry was truly incredible. Most importantly, the evidence provided by John's father Felix Rafferty was harrowing and heart-breaking but so powerful.

We, as a club, call on the decision-makers to expedite the dualling of the A5 Road with great urgency. It is long overdue, too many lives have been lost and too many families have been devastated. It took the death of John for us all to say ENOUGH IS ENOUGH - and perhaps that is John's great legacy.

To the Rafferty family we say - we will always be there for you.











For further information visit:  
[www.killycloghergaa.com](http://www.killycloghergaa.com)