**1963** **2024**

**ST JOHN BOSCO GAC**

**Annual General Meeting**

***Cruinniu Bliantuil Ginearalta***

Monday 9 December 2024 at 7.30 pm

Social Club Water Street

A Chara,

St. John Bosco GAC Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on **Monday 9th December 2024** commencing at **7.30 pm** sharp.

As a Club member you are entitled to attend and a copy of the Agenda and Secretary’s Report are enclosed. The financial Statement will be circulated at the AGM.

*Is mise, le meas*

**Damian O’Bradaigh**

*Rúnaí*

**CLAR OIBRE**

1. Miontuairiscí an Chomdhala Roimhe – Minutes of last A.G.M
2. Glacadh le Gnathrialacha – Adoption of Standing Orders
3. Oraid an Chathaoirligh – Chairman’s Address
4. Tuarascail an Chisteora – Treasurer’s Report
5. Tuarascail an RunaI – Secretary’s Report
6. Toghadh na nOifigi – Election of Officers
7. Ruin – Motions
8. Gno ar Bith Eile – Development Update & AOB

**GNATHRIALACHA**

**(Standing Orders)**

1. The proposer of a motion or an amendment may speak for 5 minutes, and not more than 5 minutes.

2. A delegate speaking to a motion or an amendment must not exceed 3 minutes.

3. The proposer of a motion or an amendment may speak for a second time for 3 minutes before a vote is taken, but no other Delegate may speak for a second time on the same motion.

4. The Chairperson, may at any time, if he considers a matter has been sufficiently discussed, call on the Proposer for a reply and when that has been given a vote must be taken.

5. Standing Orders shall not be suspended for the purpose of considering any matter not on the Agenda, except by the consent of the majority equal to two-thirds of those present and voting.

**MINUTES OF ST JOHN BOSCO GAC**

**AGM 2nd December 2023**

Apologies received from Martin McAlinden and Maria Fox

Chairperson opened with a minute’s silence for all deceased members and particular mention to Down LGFA fixtures secretary Sean McCashin who passed away last night.

Previous meetings agreed proposed by D Boyle and N McCoy.

Standing Orders adopted by show of hands.

No matters arising.

**Chairperson’s Address**

Chairperson Joe Ryan welcomed all to the AGM and explained the importance of the annual meeting. He thanked everyone that participated in club business during the year, our players for their ongoing commitment, Team Mentors for volunteering their time, parents, Sub-Committees and the outgoing Executive Committee for their continued support.

Joe told members there are still many challenges to overcome and one message he wanted members to leave the meeting today with was the need for more volunteers both at committee level and with the coaching of our youth teams.

The club’s fundraising activities are essential and he expressed thanks to those who purchased weekly lotto tickets, Down Draw tickets and made direct debit membership payments. Thanks also to the Club’s sponsors and all local shops/businesses who supported the Club during the year.

**Secretary’s Report**

The Secretary’s Report was delivered to members by Secretary Damian Brady. His report summarised the range of footballing activities of the senior men/ladies, G4M&O as well as the underage boys’ and girls’ teams along with the many events off the pitch.

Highlighted areas of concern for discussion at the meeting:

* Juvenile Coaches – shortage of volunteers to assist with our teams
* Social Club – we require volunteers to sit on the Social Club Committee and promote the use of the Social Club
* Fundraising – the Treasurer’s Report will highlight our need to plan significant fundraising activities for the year ahead
* Club Referee – we urgently require someone to take up the whistle

**Treasurer’s Report**

Chair expressed his thanks to outgoing Treasurer Damian Ruddy and wife Valerie. Liam Quinn presented the Finance Report.

Bar: Gross profit slight increase. Expenses however have increased. Rates, Repairs and Maintenance contributed to this.

Football: Income significantly reduced from last year. Deficit of approximately £9,000 overall.

Lotto: Reduction in sales down approximately £3,500

Development Account: Increased income due to pitchside signs and the Ulster GAA grant.

Overall balance at 30 Sept similar to last year £49,500.

Recommendations from Finance Report:

* Need for online banking
* Club mandate for signatories
* VAT quarter should be aligned with year-end accounts
* Management accounts for Social Club should be prepared quarterly
* Income and expenditure accounts for all club accounts monthly

Meeting approved for the new Treasurer to open on-line banking with Ulster Bank on behalf of the Club. The following authority was approved:

* Club cheque signatories and access to manage accounts:

Lorraine Tumilty, Aine Magill and Maurice Rooney

* Access to view accounts:

Joe Ryan, Damian Brady and Liam Quinn

**Election of Executive Committee**

Cathaoirleach Joe Ryan

Leas Cathaoirleach Pol McCormack

Runai Damian Brady

Leas Runai Vacant

Cisteoir Lorraine Tumilty

Leas Cisteoir Aine Magill

Cultural Officer Maire Nic Cathmhaoil (Co-opted)

Registrar Michelle Hughes

CP/Safeguarding Nicole McCoy

Development Liam Quinn

PRO/IT Officer Niall Tumilty

Players’ Rep Ronan Haughey

Oifig Na Cluichi John Tumilty

Coiste Vincent Rocks

Pearse Mulholland

Maria Fox

Kieran Tumilty

Maurice Rooney

Ciaran Mackin

Ionadai Na Contae Coiste Pat McParland

Chairperson expressed special thanks to CP/Safeguarding Officer Davy Doyle who is stepping down this year.

**AOB**

M Rooney provided an update on the activities of the Healthy Club Team over the past year and plans going forward as they work towards the GAA Healthy Club Silver award over the next 2 years.

D Larkin proposed a charity walk from Croke Park to Jack Mackin Park in aid of MND.

Amalgamate Finance and Development Committee.

Meeting closed at 3.35 pm

**SECRETARY’S REPORT 2024**

It was a year of reasonable success on the playing front with our Senior footballers maintaining their place in Division 3 and securing Intermediate Championship status for 2025. Our Minor footballers bridged a 22 year gap to reach the all-county Minor championship final in Pairc Esler but just lost out to defending champions Mayobridge and our U14 boys won the All-County Shield. It was a great honour for our Club to have players contributing to our County’s All-Ireland success with Dara Og McCoy collecting an U20 All-Ireland winners’ medal and Lorcan Lynch and Fionn McCaul All-Ireland Minor championship winners’ medals.

A full review of our football season is outlined below in my Report.

Looking back at last year’s Report I highlighted a few issues that I felt needed addressing in the year ahead.

* Juvenile Coaches – shortage of mentors to assist with our teams
* Club Committees – we require more volunteers to sit on our club Sub-Committees
* Fundraising – the Treasurer’s Report will highlight our need to plan significant fundraising activities for the coming year
* Club Referee – we urgently require someone to take up the whistle

Unfortunately, it is disappointing to report that a year later we remain in the same position with little progress across all fronts. We urgently need more volunteers to come forward to help with the running of our Club. We simply do not have enough team coaches to cater for our juvenile players. We need more of our current senior players and past players to become more involved in the coaching of our youth players.

We urgently need a Club Referee – a new county byelaw comes into force next season which will see the club fined £50 for every game we are unable to provide a referee.

I can report the appointment, by Down GAA, of a full time Newry Urban Participation Coaching Officer. The coach will work with the local schools and Newry clubs with the aim of increasing participation levels in gaelic games within the city. We have held an introductory meeting with County Officials and we will be involved in the development of this project. This initiative is to be commended and St John Bosco GAC will play its part to ensure the success of this initiative.

It was all change in our Social Club during the last year. After 10 years as our Bar Manager Eamonn stepped down and I would like to pay thanks to Eamonn for his service over the years. There was a considerable period when we had no bar manager in place and the Bar Committee of Nicki, Kieran and Declan stepped up to ensure our social club could open each week. We owe our Bar Committee, casual bar staff and volunteers a really big thank you!

The work of our Healthy Club Team overseen by our Health Club Officer Mo Rooney continues to grow and develop, coming out of 2024 as a Foundation Award Club; the hard-working Healthy Club Team now have their sights set on achieving their Silver Award Status in 2025. A summary of the past year’s activities follows below.

The promotion of our Irish Language and Culture has flourished in the past year under the leadership of Maire Nic Cathmhaoil and her Cultural Committee. A review of last year’s progress can be found below.

It is extremely important to continue to stress our sincere thanks and appreciation to all our fantastic volunteers – to all those within the club who give up their time to carry out their roles, including team coaches, members of the Executive Committee, Sub-Committees, our groundsman Pearse, lotto sellers, those who provide assistance on match days particularly Felix and our own match-day Club Photographer Laura McCaul – the list could go on and on, but it really does take a small army to keep our club operating! All of these roles are voluntary in nature and command a significant amount of work, all of which is for the benefit of our club.

To all our generous sponsors – again, a massive thank you for your continued support. Without this financial support the club would not be able to function as effectively as it does so our sincere gratitude for your ongoing and continued support.

From my own perspective, I would just like to note my thanks to all those who I have worked closely with over the years in my role as Club Secretary, both within and outside our club. A note of thanks to our Coaching and Games Officer John Tumilty who steps down today.

On a final note, we take a moment to sympathise with all those within our Club who have lost a loved one in the past 12 months.

List of deceased include: Mickey Faloon (father of Kevin), Gary McLoughlin (father of Matthew), Tom Grant (father of Gary and Conor), Eddie McElroy (father of Brian) and John Joe Fearon (father of Gillian).

To all, Ar dheis Dé go raibh a nanamacha.

**2024 FOOTBALL REVIEW**

**Senior Men** (Micky, Paddy, Declan & Physio Sean)

Following promotion from Div. 4 it was acknowledged that our senior team would be facing a highly competitive Division 3 season ahead. The fixture schedule wasn’t kind to the team as they opened the 2024 season against two of the pre-season favourites in Glenn and Clann na Banna. Despite an encouraging performance in both games we didn’t pick up any points.

The next game on 26 April was a must win game away to Aughlisnafin who were also promoted from Division 4. On the night we played some great football scoring 4 goals and recording our first points of the season.

Our next 3 games against Annaclone, Tullylish and Drumaness brought defeats and confidence was low when we faced old rivals Drumgath on 23 May. Despite playing some of our best football of the season we fell to a narrow defeat but the confidence gained from this performance carried through to next game with a win over Atticall. The good form continued into the following game away to Ballymartin but heartbreak struck at the end of the game when we lost out to a late score.

Defeats to Drumgath, Glenn and Clann na Banna left the team facing the real threat of relegation. With 4 games remaining every match was crucial for survival. Home fixtures against Tullylish and Drumaness saw comfortable wins and a final day success over Ballymartin secured the teams Division 3 status for another year.

In the first round of the Intermediate Championship we were drawn against Teconnaught and in a game we controlled from the start, we were successful on a scoreline of 3-13 to 1-08 and in doing so secured our Intermediate status for next season.

On 29 August we played Clann na Banna under lights in Clonduff for a place in the quarter-finals. A slow start left the team trailing at half time and after conceding an early score in the second half the game looked over. A remarkable last 15 minutes seen the team score 2 goals and lead by a point as we entered injury time. Unfortunately, 2 late points from Clann na Banna saw us fall by the narrowest margins on a scoreline of

2-09 to 0-17. The disappointment from this match carried over into our back door game against St Johns where we underperformed and suffered a comprehensive defeat.

After 3 years with our senior footballers the Senior Management team decided to step down. Under the management of Micky, Paddy and Decky the team brought silverware to the club in winning the Division 4 league title and with it promotion to Division 3. There is no doubt the senior team has progressed under their management and I would like to place on record a massive thanks to each of them for their contribution to our Club.

**Links with the local Primary Schools**

The Club has well-established links with two of the local primary schools. In St. Patrick’s Primary School from September to June, Maria and Joe have been visiting St Patrick’s each Friday afternoon to take an after-school GAA coaching session with the pupils. Dependent on the weather the sessions are either on their grass pitch, the tarmac playground or in the hall. During the year P4/P5 and P6/P7 age groups are catered for with numbers ranging from 20 – 30 girls and boys attending the sessions. Some of the kids are already club members while others are unaffiliated to a specific club. The aim is to introduce the pupils to gaelic games and then to encourage them to attend our own club coaching sessions.

In St. Joseph’s Convent Primary School Larry McAlinden has over 200 children attending his weekly coaching sessions with the majority of the kids all playing for our Club. The school’s Girls Team won the Cumann Na Bunscoil County title this year for the first time in the school’s history with the majority of the team playing for our Girl’s U12 team.

**YOUTH TEAMS**

**U8 Boys/Girls** (Michelle, Aine, Nicole, Pol & Joe)

The group met each Friday in the Bosco Youth Club or Jack Mackin Park for fun and games. The numbers of boys and girls was very healthy throughout the year and the age range covered Nursery – P3 kids. The emphasis was on the teaching of basic movement and fundamental skills. Off the pitch the kids enjoyed a Hallowe’en Disco and a Film Show in our own Clubrooms. A special word of thanks to the parents who were very supportive throughout the year.

**U10 Boys** (Matthew, Adrian & John)

The U10 Boys trained weekly at St. Colman’s College and participated in games against local clubs. Numbers were small and the Club needs to recruit more players at this age group. The group enjoyed an end-of season celebration with ten-pin bowling at Sheepbridge.

**U12 Boys** (Kenny & Michael)

U12 boys had over 20 registered players this season and played in the South Down group format in the League. There were signs of good progress with some of the boys but as discussed at Team Mentors’ meetings it was felt a lot of the boys lacked in the basic skills for this age group. Another issue that arose during the year was poor attendance at away fixtures and this is an issue that needs addressed with parents. As always there was a lack of Team Mentors to effectively manage this group of players.

**U14 Boys** (Richie, John, Marty, Peter & Brian)

The team started training on the 18 February with a panel of 22 boys and our last game was on 22 September. Over the course of the season the team played approximately 20 matches.

The League campaign saw the team finish Runners-Up and as a result were placed in the U-14 Shield Championship. In the group stages the team was undefeated and following convincing victories over Bredagh and Mayobridge faced Glenn in the Final on 22 September. An outstanding performance in the Championship Final saw the Bosco team run out comprehensive winners by 6-13 to 1-07.

Of the 22 boys on this year’s panel 12 are now overage and will be moving to U-16s. It was a very enjoyable year for the players and they had their medal presentation on Sunday 10 November in our own Social Club.

**Minor Boys** (compiled by Team Manager Rory)

It was a great honour to be the Minor Manager of my club this season. Having Captained the club to our last All County Minor Championship and League Double in 2002; from the moment of my appointment it was firmly within my plan to follow in the footsteps of my dad and prepare our young minor footballers to mount a successful Minor Championship campaign.

Despite a disappointing Division 2 League Campaign where we suffered some heavy and narrow defeats which hurt even more than the heavy ones; we could see a glimmer of light in our victories over Warrenpoint and Saval and used that positivity to commence our Championship running training in earnest in early June – which included some additional lunchtime sessions which the boys firmly committed to with no questions asked. We also worked hard both players and mentors to recruit back a lot of our players who had previously turned their back on Gaelic games; which improved player morale and confidence that we could compete with anyone in the County on our day.

It was clear from my first game managing the team versus Crossmaglen Rangers in February that we had a ‘Talented’ group of players; however the key ingredients of ‘attitude’ and ‘work ethic’ would make this a ‘Great’ team come the summer months.

We spoke a lot about Culture and instilled an inner Belief and encouraged the young players to lead on the pitch in a positive manner with their actions and words. The history of St John Bosco and the birth, success and decline of St John Mitchel’s and integration of some of those Mitchel’s families back into this Bosco team was also discussed, because it was important to demonstrate to our young footballers that we as a ‘Newry’ team can and should be competing at all levels every year in County Down and it was within our DNA to do so and we should fear no team.

In the end despite some memorable Championship wins from Carryduff in Jack Mackin Park, to Bryansford in Newcastle – with a performance like no other I’ve witnessed in my time when the boys defeated Kilcoo in a pulsating top end championship match in Saval in September despite the best efforts and perceived influence of our own County manager Conor Laverty; it wasn’t to be when we were narrowly defeated by an impressive Mayobridge outfit in late September.

The Bosco Minor Team of 2024 from bottom of the 2nd Division in July to top of the Mournes by September; were a team like no other and will be one for the ages.

It was a memorable year for me personally and to be involved and lead this team along with great mentors and friends in Johnny Carville, David McCaul and my former team mate Larry (Jnr) McAlinden meant as much to me as the 3 minor winners medals I hold dear from 2001 and 2002 as a player and Captain. Also thanks to helpers on match days Dara & Adrian.

Let’s hope other players both boys and girls, mentors and teams within our club are inspired by the journey our Minor Boys had this summer and that we see our talented Minors represent our club at Senior level in 2025 and lead the push back to the First Division where ‘they’ and ‘we’ belong.

A story of why we should Never (ever) Give Up!

**U10 Girls** (Michaela, Aoibheann & Maria)

The team trained regularly throughout the year and participated in various local tournaments.

**U12 Girls** (Orlaith, Rhoda, Maria & Damian)

The team trained regularly throughout the year and participated in the Down U12 League with home/away games each week.

**U14 Girls** (Roisin, Cathy & Lorraine)

The team trained regularly throughout the year and participated in the Down championship and U14 League with home/away games each week.

**U16 Girls** (Larry Sen., Cathy & Lorraine)

The team trained regularly throughout the year and participated in the Down championship and U16 League with home/away games each week.

**Minor Girls** (Gillian, Lorraine & Larry Sen.)

The team trained regularly throughout the year and participated in the Down championship and Minor League with home/away games each week.

**Gaelic 4 Mothers & Others Team** (Compiled by Team Manager Ronan)

The G4M&Os had a great season yet again, on and off the field.  The team attended blitzes all over the country in Down, Armagh, Louth and Antrim. They had the opportunity to represent the club in team trip to the New York Tournament all funded by incredible fundraising efforts by team members via sponsorship, bucket collections and quizzes.

They hosted another successful St. John Bosco Blitz of their own, raising much needed funds for the club. With a squad of 40 players ladies gaelic games is standing strong and they take great pride in it.

Our awards night proved to be another great success with Tracey O'Connor winning best endeavour, Eimear McCaul most improved player, Cathy Larkin players player of the year and Niamh Maguire player of the year.

**Healthy Club (**Compiled by Healthy Club Officer Maurice)

Our ‘Feet on the Street’ and ‘Walk and Talk’ programme continues to expand with over 80 registered walkers. Every Thursday night the streets of the city are adorned in our Club colours and the Social Club has now become a hub for social activity. During the year the ‘Feet on the Street’ Committee, led by Ciaran Mackin, secured funding for two very memorable day trips to Malahide and to Carlingford/Whitestown.

This year 2024 saw the birth of our new ‘Dads & Lads’ team, which although slow to get off the ground, through the enthusiasm shown by a gallant few soon galvanised others to don the Bosco jersey. After a few training sessions the team had a great day out in the Tullylish Blitz but the highlight of the inaugural season was taking part in the ‘Dads & Lads’ All Ireland Blitz. To the team’s credit, they secured sponsorship for a new strip, kit bags and polo shirts. A renewed recruitment push is planned in the New Year.

In recent weeks, our new Mental Health and Well-Being through Sport programme commenced. The programme looks at Well-Being , highlighting the ‘Take 5 Steps,’ we also look at Bullying , Choices and Consequences and Goal Setting, many thanks to members of our Dads & Lads and G4M&Os for volunteering to take part in Phase 1 of the programme, Phase 2 will see some of our underage teams following the same programme.  
The coming year 2025 is building up to be another busy year as we strive towards our Healthy Club Silver Award.  
May I conclude by thanking my very hard working Healthy Club Team and to all those businesses, organisations and individuals who provided assistance throughout 2024.

**Irish Language & Cultural Activities** (Compiled by Cultural Officer Maire)

The past year 2024 was a hugely successful year for the club’s Cultural Committee. Irish Language classes which began in September 2023, continued until the end of May when six students from the Meánrang were examined by Séamus Mac Dhaibhéid of Conradh na Gaeilge and were awarded their Silver Fáinne. Eight students from the Bunrang were awarded the ‘Cúpla Focal’ badge. The classes finished for the summer at the end of May but began again in September and are ongoing. There are now three classes – a class for complete beginners (Bunrang 1), a class for those who were in the Bunrang last year and who are preparing for their Silver Fáinne next year (Bunrang 2), and an intermediate class for those who have their Silver Fáinne (Meánrang). There are 25 students in all attending the classes this term. The teachers are Máire Nic Cathmhaoil, Kevin Hegarty and Pádraig Mac Mathúna.

The Committee also decided promote Céilí Dancing within the club. A Céilí was held in the Club Rooms in March to celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge. Céilí dancing classes began on a weekly basis thereafter and are still held between 8-9 on Tuesday nights in WIN Business Park with Sinead Nolan.

The first Traditional Music session was held in the club on Friday 12 April and it was a great success. This has taken place on a monthly basis since and is proving popular, particularly among younger musicians. There was a session on Saturday 24th August in the Club as part of Iúr Cinn Fléadh. They provided the musicians and it was great to be asked to be part of this up-and-coming festival and to be recognised as a club which promotes Irish music and culture.

A grant for €240 was received from *Fondúireacht Sheosaimh Mhic Dhonncha* to help fund the third teacher for the Irish classes. The club is to contribute €120 to this also, as is stipulated in the conditions of the grant.

**ELECTION OF CLUB OFFICERS**

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| --- | --- |
| ***EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE*** | ***Nominations 2025*** |

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| --- | --- |
| **CHAIRPERSON**  **VICE-CHAIR**  **SECRETARY**  **ASSIST. SECRETARY**  **TREASURER**  **ASSIST. TREASURER**  **REGISTRAR**  **IRISH LANGUAGE/CULTURAL**  **COACHING/GAMES**  **SAFEGUARDING**  **DEVELOPMENT**  **IT OFFICER**  **HEALTHY CLUB**  **COMMITTEE MEMBER**  **COMMITTEE MEMBER**  **COMMITTEE MEMBER**  **COMMITTEE MEMBER**  **PLAYERS’ REP**  **CO. BOARD REP** | **Joe Ryan**  **Ciaran Mackin**  **Damian Brady**  **VACANT**  **Lorriane Tumilty**  **Aine Magill**  **Michelle Hughes**  **Maire Nic Cathmhaoil**  **VACANT**  **Pol McCormack**  **Liam Quinn**  **Niall Tumilty**  **Maurice Rooney**  **Maria Fox**  **Declan Boyle**  **Vincent Rocks**  **Kieran Tumilty**  **Ronan Haughey**  **Pat McParland** |

**Nominations will also be taken from the floor at the AGM**

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| --- | --- |
| **SUB-COMMITTEES (5)** | |
| **Social Club Committee** |  |
| **Development Committee** |  |
| **Finance Committee** |  |
| **Coaching and Games Committee** |  |
| **Field Committee** |  |

**MOTIONS**

To change the current club rule which distributes the Club’s All Ireland Football final tickets to the advantage of those members actively contributing to the running of the Club. Opportunity to purchase a ticket should be open equally to all paid-up members.

*(Kerry McVeigh)*

**DEVELOPMENT UPDATE & AOB**

Development update

An opportunity to discuss and debate possible solutions to issues and items raised during the meeting.