

Suncroft GFC Annual General Meeting 2013

Agenda

- ✓ Opening Address
- ✓ Minutes of Last years AGM
- ✓ Secretary's Report
- ✓ Treasurer's Report
- ✓ Chairman's Address
- ✓ Election of Officers & Executive Committee
- ✓ Election of Team Managers/Selectors
- ✓ Ratify under age and Ladies Committee's
- ✓ Community & Culture, PR & Communications
- ✓ Finance & Fundraising
- ✓ Coaching & Games
- ✓ Development & Facilities
- ✓ AOB

Secretary's Report for year 2013
Presented by Club Secretary:
Shane Kavanagh

Club Executive for year 2013

Presidents	Fr Barry Larkin, Rose Brannock, Tom Dillon, Val McDonagh, James Dillon, Eamon Ryan & Leo Robotham
Chairman	Des Brannock
Vice Chairman	John Moore
Secretary	Shane Kavanagh
Vice Secretary	James Keane
Treasure	Pat Sutton
Vice Treasure	Mary V Dillon
PRO	Seamus Dillon
County Board Delegate	Shane Kavanagh
Registration	Shane Kavanagh
Child Welfare Officer	Mary Keane
Pitch Coordinator	Denis King
Coaching & Dev Officer	Mark Prendergast
Irish Officer	Dermot O'Connor

Introduction

The AGM has come around again and today we hold the Clubs 124th Annual General Meeting. As Club Secretary I welcome you all here today and it gives me great pleasure to deliver the following report for the past 12 months.

Team reports

Underage

I will start this year with the underage and 2012 was another busy year on the playing fields, with the year commencing in February and running right through to the end of November. Our coaches continue to work hard and maintain solid coaching and training programmes for all teams. Mark Prendergast was the Chairman for the year and under his stewardship and with the help and commitment of all team managers the club can be proud as we celebrated winning the following list of honours over the last 12 months.

- ✓ Under 13 South Board Blitz Group 2 Shield Winners.
- ✓ Under 14 League Division 5 Winners
- ✓ Under 15 Shield Winners
- ✓ Under 16 League Division 3 Winners
- ✓ Under 16 B Championship Winners

As you can see Suncroft had success at underage level from all age groups up to under 16's. This bodes well for the future and I would like to thank all the managers and coaches who gave their time and worked tirelessly to ensure these teams all managed to taste success and win silverware. With so many other attractions for young people its vital that we encourage as many as possible to become coaches and mentor in order to assist other coaches.

I would like to thank John Brown, Dean Slattery, Paddy Phillips, Pat Sutton, Mark Prendergast, John Stac, Kevin Brannock, John Browne, John Duffy and Ollie Brannock all of who played their part with the above teams and helping them to achieve and deliver success.

Minors

Manager: Denis King
Selectors: Alan Troy, John Brown, Dean Slattery

Our minor team put in some very competitive League performances and made their way to the Semi finals of the League only to be beaten by St Laurence's. Final Score in the Semi Final ended St. Laurence's 1-12 Suncroft 0-8. While it was disappointing to exit the league and not make to the final it must be noted that this team never lost faith and kept with training programme and played a lot of challenge games while waiting for the Championship to begin.

The Championships was put on hold due to Kildare Minors success in the Leinster Championship which meant that this competition was late starting, which to be fair was not in the best interests of the clubs. Once again we see a situation where clubs are playing second fiddle to the county teams.

2013 Minor Football League Div 2

Team	Pld	Won	Draw	Lost	For	Against	Diff	Points
<u>Clane</u>	7	6	0	1	95	50	45	12
<u>St Laurence's</u>	7	5	0	2	93	79	14	10
<u>Suncroft GFC</u>	7	4	1	2	104	88	16	9
<u>Balyna</u>	7	4	1	2	86	51	35	7
<u>Confey</u>	7	3	1	3	64	87	-23	6
<u>Carbury GAA</u>	7	2	1	4	58	89	-31	5
<u>Castledermot</u>	7	0	2	5	19	36	-17	1
<u>Kill</u>	7	0	2	5	35	74	-39	0

Minor Championship

Once the Minor championship began it turned out to be very exciting and once again we reached the quarter finals after 3 impressive wins over Lexilip, Rehban and Confey in the Group Stages. Sadly in the quarter final Confey got the better of us. This match was played exactly one the day after our Under 16's won the Championship which was not fair on the players or the club. In end it was heartbreaking for the players to suffer defeat however the players showed Great Spirit, determination and pride for the Suncroft Jersey. The Club would like to thank the players, Denis King, Alan Troy, John Brown and Dean Slattery for their work and commitment during the year.

Minor B Football Championship

Team	Pld	Won	Draw	Lost	For	Against	Diff	Points
<u>Monasterevan</u>	3	3	0	0	69	35	34	6
<u>Suncroft GFC</u>	3	3	0	0	60	39	21	6
<u>Rathangan</u>	3	3	0	0	57	42	15	6
<u>Clane</u>	3	2	0	1	62	39	23	4
<u>Killard</u>	3	2	0	1	45	33	12	4
<u>Eadestown</u>	3	2	0	1	48	37	11	4
<u>Confey</u>	3	2	0	1	53	45	8	4
<u>St Laurence's</u>	3	2	0	1	51	58	-7	4
<u>Aylmer Gaels</u>	3	1	0	2	54	50	4	2
<u>Castledermot</u>	3	1	0	2	38	66	-28	2
<u>St. Mary's Football Club Leixlip</u>	3	0	0	3	33	50	-17	0
<u>Raheens</u>	3	0	0	3	40	58	-18	0
<u>Carbury GAA</u>	3	0	0	3	48	74	-26	0
<u>Rheban</u>	3	0	0	3	26	58	-32	0

Under 21's

Manager: Alan Middleton

Selectors: John Brown & Shane Kavanagh

Suncroft has a very young U21 side and indeed most players will be underage for next year's championship. Alan Middleton was manager and both John Brown and I worked with Alan. Their first match was against Sallins and at half time the teams were level unfortunately the second half went in Sallins favour who managed to hit the net 3 times they say goals win matches and unfortunately this was the case here with the final score reading Sallins 3-10 Suncroft 0-10.

This meant the team competed in the Shield Competition and the First game in the Shield was at quarter final stage against Ballykelly where Suncroft won on a impressive score line of 7-04 to 1-02 and progressed to the Shield Semi Final against Roberstown (without the service of Fionn Dowling who had his tonsils removed that week and was in recovery) Suncroft won this entertaining battle on a score line of 1-08 to 0-09 and in doing so secured a place in the Shield final against Monasterevin. The Final was played Hawfield and Suncroft played a Monasterevin side who on the day were stronger but credit to our lads they never gave up and displayed great character in defeat. The Final Score was Monasterevin 3-13; Suncroft 1-05.

The club wishes to thank Management and players for the effort and commitment they gave to this competition. It's also worth nothing the strength of this Club to be able to field an Under 21 team.

Senior Team

Manager Seamus Dillon
Selectors: Ollie Brannock & Des Brannock

In January Mick Stynes (Hiker) confirmed that he was not in a position to take on the Senior Team due to family commitments and a search began to find a new manager. A number of approaches were made (6 in total) however for varies reasons all these men were not in a position to give the commitment needed or else the club hadn't the funds to cover the expenses which was sought. Seamus Dillon made himself available to take on the role and at a meeting in early February Seamus was ratified as Senior Manager.

Aldridge Cup

The Aldridge Cup was our first official competition and while we did not progress to the group stages we did manage to bring on some young players on to the squad.

2013 Aldridge Cup Group C

Team	Pld	Won	Draw	Lost	For	Against	Diff	Points
<u>Sarsfields</u>	3	3	0	0	67	29	38	6
<u>Naas</u>	3	2	0	1	42	30	12	4
<u>St. Mary's Football Club Leixlip</u>	3	1	0	2	56	38	18	2
<u>Suncroft GFC</u>	3	0	0	3	24	92	-68	0

Senior League Division 2

Suncroft got off to a bad start and were playing catch up right throughout this league campaign and in the end only recorded 4 wins and one draw. Sadly this wasn't good enough to avoid being regulated to Division 3. Being regulated to division 3 was a serious wake up call for the players considering only a year earlier Suncroft was close to promotion of division 2.

Keadeen Hotel Senior Football League Div 2

<u>Team</u>	<u>Pld</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Draw</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Diff</u>	<u>Points</u>
<u>Raheens</u>	15	13	1	1	254	156	98	27
<u>Round Towers</u>	15	13	1	1	264	155	109	27
<u>Kilcock</u>	15	12	2	1	231	129	102	26
<u>Straffan</u>	15	8	3	4	217	194	23	19
<u>Rathangan</u>	15	8	2	5	216	192	24	18
<u>Ballymore Eustace</u>	15	7	3	5	196	160	36	17
<u>Ellistown</u>	15	7	2	6	194	157	37	16
<u>Eadestown</u>	15	6	2	7	186	196	-10	14
<u>Kill</u>	15	5	3	7	185	197	-12	13
<u>Sallins/Na Solláin</u>	15	6	1	8	211	241	-30	13
<u>Ballyteague</u>	15	5	1	9	207	202	5	11
<u>Robertstown</u>	15	5	1	9	208	246	-38	11
<u>Caragh GFC</u>	15	5	0	10	168	236	-68	10
<u>Clogherinkoe</u>	15	4	1	10	189	220	-31	9
<u>Suncroft GFC</u>	15	4	1	10	169	207	-38	9
<u>An Grainseach</u>	15	0	0	15	118	325	-207	0

Championship

Having been regulated to Division 3 all players gave a commitment to increase their efforts and put in a strong performance with the ultimate aim of maintaining our senior status.

The first round seen us draw Maynooth and to be fair Maynooth were happy to get away with a win as Suncroft were well prepared and put in a excellent performance on the day unfortunately it was extra fitness that let us down in the end us with the final score reading Suncroft 1-09 Maynooth 0-14

Due to the Kildare Senior team progress in the All Ireland qualifiers the club championship was once again put on hold. The second round was against Allenwood and this game was played in Newbridge County Grounds like the Maynooth match Suncroft started very sharp however luck went against us and we lost Fionn Dowling to Injury and Trevor Moran who's sending off was a big blow to Suncroft and in the

end we paid the ultimate price as Allenwood managed to get the better of us midway through the second half. Losing meant Suncroft would have to play in the regulation semi final. Final Score was Allenwood 1-15 Suncroft 0-11

The Regulation Semi Final seen Suncroft draw St Kevin's sadly there is not much to report on this match as St Kevin's beat us by a score of 1-16 to 0-09

This result meant Suncroft were now in the dreaded regulation final and on the night our worst fears became a reality Ballymore Eustace survived and avoided regulation beating us on a score line of 0-12 to 0-09.

It's no coincidence that we have been in the regulation competition for the previous number of years. Senior football is a massive challenge for a small club and in order for a small club to survive serious effort and commitment is needed and sadly we lacked this commitment. We are now competing in the Intermediate Championship and as we will see in a few moments serious commitment will also be required and perhaps its time to look at a 3 year plan for our senior team.

Disappointing as it is to be relegated it's not the end of the world and we cannot forget the work & effort that was put in this year by some. The team met for 124 times between training and matches however it saddens me to report that on 30 occasions the numbers in attendance at the training sessions was 8 or less. The training varied during the year. The team had a number of sessions in Cill Dara Rugby club with the help of Ger Moore, we also had the use of the Gables Gym in Newbridge on 3 occasions and training took place on the Curragh plains as well as the pitch. Anthony Rainbow took on the squad training when he finished his management season with Carlow in July and this went for a 9 week period until the Championship ended. The Club appreciates the effort put in by management during this difficult year. The Club would like to take this opportunity to thank the team manager Seamus Dillon, team selectors Ollie Brannock, Des Brannock, Anthony Rainbow for taking the training during the year and finally the one and only Eamon Ryan who is never lets the club or the team down.

Looking forward competing in the Intermediate Championship for 2014 will bring its own excitement and with plenty of underage success in recent years the club has a lot to forward to, as I have already suggested perhaps with the right plan and effort it will only be a matter of time before we are back senior again.

The intermediate Championship will consist of the following teams:

Caragh, Clogherincko, Round Towers, Raheens, Kilcock, Sallins, Kill, Castledermot, Robertstown, Rathangan, Ellistown, Nurney, Ballyteague, Eadstown, Two Mile house & Suncroft.

Looking at the above list of clubs each one of them will fancy their chances of winning the Intermediate Championship so it's vital that Suncroft draws a line under this year's disappointment and rebuilds to ensure that we stop the slide. We all

collectively need to rise to the challenge this is not the first time we have found ourselves in this position so as a club we have the experience and know how to work our way back to the senior ranks once again.

Senior B Team

Manager: Shane Kavanagh
Selectors: Noel Flood & Des Brannock.

The Senior B team was a mixture of youth and experience and we used the League to develop many of our young players for senior football. It was also very useful for injured players who are in rehabilitation and working their way back to play competitive football. The League table shows that we recorded 3 wins however this was not the case as the 3 wins happened came from 3 walkovers. We had a lot of numbers out on occasions and in Ellistown we had 35 Players togged out which was a record for an away junior match. This team has potential however they need to be training and perhaps the club can look at ways of including both senior teams as part of a training schedule for 2014.

Senior Football League Div 5 South

Team	Pld	Won	Draw	Lost	For	Against	Diff	Points
<u>Ellistown</u>	8	6	1	1	169	85	84	13
<u>Ballymore Eustace</u>	8	6	0	2	72	47	25	11
<u>Castlemitchell/Caisleán Mhistéalaigh</u>	8	5	0	3	122	100	22	10
<u>Kilcullen</u>	8	5	0	3	75	72	3	9
<u>Sarsfields</u>	8	4	0	4	96	76	20	7
<u>Suncroft GFC</u>	8	3	0	5	41	107	-66	6
<u>Rheban</u>	7	2	1	4	45	63	-18	3
<u>Nurney</u>	8	2	0	6	32	95	-63	2
<u>Ballykelly GFC</u>	7	1	0	6	40	47	-7	-2

Championship

The team made it to the Quarter Final of the Championship after recording a excellent win over Carbury however it was Straffan who beat us in the Quarter Final in a very competitive match either side could have won it however in the end the final score was Straffan 3-11 Suncroft 2-10. I would personally like to thank the players, Noel Flood and Des Brannock for their help, work and commitment during the year.

Ladies

All Girls under 12's had 6 non competitive matches which consisted of younger girls all aged between 9 and 12. All these girls got game time and the club welcomed some new members. The Under 13's Won division 2 county final after a very long and hard season with training commencing in late January. The under 14's under the stewardship of Derry Enright & Karen Ennis also started training at the beginning of the year. They won all their games during the year until they reached the semi final and sadly lost to Sarsfields. The under 15's got to the final of Division 5 unfortunately they were beaten on the day. The under 16's team pulled out due to lack of commitment from the girls at the beginning of the season, having to compete and prepare for exams was too much to ask at this age. The Ladies minor team did compete this year but they had very success however we did have a number of young players who moved up to Minor this year and showed some great promise for next year. Our Senior Ladies had to withdraw from the Championship this year, we had a number of girls sitting exams and a number out due to injury as a result we struggled to get enough players to turn up for training so it was decided to withdraw from the competition which is very disappointing after last year success.

Representation to the County

Suncroft Ladies has a massive representation with the County Squads and this year was no different. Six girls attended the County trials for the Under 12 team in early February; four girls were successful and enjoyed a great season. Ashlinn Dooley, Colette Keon, Eve Kehoe and Risa Ennis. All four girls represented the County in two Leinster blitz during the year and congratulations to each of them on winning Leinster medals. On the under 13's County Development squad we had 2 girls representing Suncroft Rachel McDonald and Carla Ennis. Both girls enjoyed representing their county in a Leinster blitz in October. Congratulations to Nicole Dooley who represented our County for the Under 14's. Nicole won a Leinster medal but unfortunately was on the losing side of a very strong Cork team in the All-Ireland Final. Two girls attended the County trials for the Under 14's county team for 2014 hoping to continue in Nicole's footsteps and Carla Ennis was successful in making the final cut with Rachel McDonald just missing out. The under 15's County Development was attended this year by Nicole Dooley, Abbie Poole, Anna O'Modhrain, Sophie Hobbs, Mary Howe, Sarah Browne and Carol Kenny all girls ended up playing in Leinster blitz. Nicole Dooley, Abbie Poole, Anna O'Modhrain and Sophie Hobbs still awaiting confirmation that they made the County under 16's team so best wished to them. Congratulations to Ellen Dowling on making Captain of the Minor team and for Rebecca Johnson for also making the team and finally both Rebecca McGuire & Trina Duggan played senior ladies football for Kildare seniors this year an excellent achievement for both girls. On behalf of the club I want to congratulate all the above girls their families and indeed the coaches for the hard work in preparing the girls so successfully that they are all able to represent the county.

I want to thank both Eamonn O'Modhrain and Karen Ennis for taking over the ladies committee this year. I wish the both all the best I am sure you will all agree the Ladies will only prosper under the stewardship of Eamonn and Karen. Eamon and

Karen took over from Alan Phelan and Evelyn Poole and I want to thank Alan and Evelyn for the hard work they put in over the year. I also want to thank Kevin Murphy, Claire Durkan and Sandra Johnson, Derry Enright and indeed all the coaches who have worked with these girls in the past 2 years. The county representation is a testament to the work that has been done at coaching level in recent years. Finally I wish all the players, coaches and mentors all the best for 2014 in our ladies section of the club.

County players

Once again we had a number of County Players, senior, Junior, Under 21's, Development squads and underage who have represented the Club at County Level. These players have represented our club with great pride. The Club on behalf of the community wish to take this opportunity to formally thank these players.

Congratulations to Fionn Dowling who won a Leinster U21 Championship medal and who also represented Kildare in an Under 21 All Ireland Final against Galway. On again on behalf the club we want to thank Fionn who represented Suncroft and Kildare with pride.

Killian Brennan & Anthony Rainbow

Two of our stalwarts retired from senior football this year. Both men have played and captained Kildare county team and have given tremendous services to both Suncroft GFC and Kildare. The Club honoured both men by holding an end of year golf classic which was followed by presentations at the Dog night held last November. On behalf of the club I would like to wish both men well in the future.

Child Welfare Officer

Suncroft GFC is committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for all young people who wish to participate in our Gaelic games and activities. Nothing is more important than looking after the young people in our care. Early 2013 we set out to recruit a person who we felt would take on this role and give it the attention and commitment that the role requires. We surpassed all expectations when Mary Keane agreed to take on the role. The Role of the Club Children's Officer is an extremely important one for the club and I am sure you will all agree we are very fortunate to have a person with the calibre of Mary on board. I want to thank Mary for taking on the role and I wish her every success and I hope everyone in the club gives Mary the respect and help that she may need when working in this role. The Executive committee is also recommending Mary's Nomination for this role for the year 2014.

Discipline

During 2013 incidences have taken place at our matches including juvenile matches. These incidences have been brought to the attention of the Club, County Board and our Children's Welfare officer. Thankfully we did not receive any fines this year however if such behaviour continues it's only a matter of time. Sadly there is a common occurrence with these incidences usually involving parents/mentors/coaches/officials and supporters. This goes against our Code of

Behaviour and the Give Respect Get Respect initiative. From time to time things will happen that we may not agree with however we are all leaders and pillars of this club and the community we represent and it's everyone's responsibility to set an example to our young members. There is often times we may not like or agree with decisions that are made however its vital that at the very least we show discipline and have full respect for each other, at the end of the day it's a voluntary organisation and everyone is a volunteer.

Discipline on the pitch

Over the past few years situations where a player is assaulted has resulted in a court appearance and trends are beginning to increase in this area. Its worth nothing in all instances where a situation ends before the courts a compensation sum is paid out and is paid by the player responsible for the assault. The Club or indeed the GAA will never be responsible or share any cost that arises in such instances. I feel it's important that this be highlighted and brought to the attention of all managers, supporters and players.

Black Card

January 2014 sees the introduction of the black card. This is a timely reminder of this up dated disciplinary measure that has been introduced by the GAA.

UPDATED DISCIPLINARY SYSTEM

	<p>Player ordered off and NOT replaced by substitute</p>		<p>Player sent off and replaced by substitute</p>			<p>Player cautioned (warned and name taken)</p>
+	=		Player sent off and NOT replaced by substitute			
+	=		Player sent off and NOT replaced by substitute			

Gum Shields

Since January 1st 2013, it has been mandatory for players in age grades up to and including minor to wear a mouthguard in all Gaelic football practice sessions and games. From January 1st 2014, this rule will apply to Gaelic footballers in all age grades.

Key Points

- Gaelic footballers in all age grades must wear a mouthguard from January 1st 2014
- It is the responsibility of each individual player to use a mouthguard
- A properly fitted mouthguard is the best available protective device for reducing the incidence and severity of sports-related dental injuries
- Players can be sent-off in a game for not wearing a mouthguard
- Players will not be covered under the GAA player injury scheme if they don't comply with the mouthguard rule
- No Mouthguard? - No Game!

Game Changing

At last weeks county Convention the issue of game changing was raised. In 2013 1,300 matches were played (excluding Bord na og fixtures) only 66% were played on the time as scheduled. In other words 840 were played as scheduled and 475 were changed. This leaves a huge work load behind the scenes for county board, local media, referees etc.... who are all affected by a match change. The County Board will be clamping down on changing matches in the year 2014 and again I just want to highlight this in advance.

Coaching & Games

In 2012 as part of our strategic plan the club agreed to form a committee to deal with the coaching and development of our games. Once the committee was formed it would then be charged with monitoring and implementing best practice coaching standards across the club along with the appointment of a club officer who would take responsibility for player retention and monitor participation and development. It as also agreed to target all local schools with a view to increasing player numbers and membership along with developing a Suncroft Style of play. This is a vital are of our strategic plan that needs urgent attention to ensure as a club we achieve the targets we set for ourselves in 2012.

National Youth Forum

Suncroft was represented this year at the National Youth Forum in Croke Park by Jack Setright. Jack was one of 3 Kildare Representatives and I want to thank Jack for giving up his time to attend and represent Suncroft.

Dermot Earley Youth Leadership Initiative.

On the same day that Paul Earley led the Irish International Rules team to victory over Australia, 60 young GAA members arrived in Croke Park to participate in a pilot programme dedicated to the honour of his late brother, Dermot.

Brought together by the National University of Ireland, Foróige, and the GAA, the Dermot Earley Youth Leadership Initiative aims to inspire a new generation of young Irish leaders by engaging them with the values and ideals Dermot epitomised on and off the field of play.

The Earley family were represented on the day by Dermot's wife, Mary, and three of their six children, Dermot Jr, Anne-Marie, and Paula.

Once again Suncroft was represented in no small way with Eoghan Brannock, DJ Brannock and Aaron Keon attending and representing the club. I would like to thank the lads and their parents for taking the time to attend this worthwhile initiative.

Gate Collection's

Alan Tobin, Val Dillon and Padar Kane have done a fantastic and I might add at times thankless job looking after match gate collections. These men have never let the club down and their work and commitment is fully appreciated by the Club and I want to thank each of them for their time doing the collections.

Dressing Rooms

Kevin Murphy has done a thankless job of maintaining our dressing rooms he consistently keeps the rubbish at bay and maintains our changing facilities and on many an occasion I have had to call Kevin this year seeking his assistance let it be putting up nets or locking up Kevin has always obliged and I want to thank Kevin for his assistance during the year.

PRO

This role is one which once again has been neglected this year. Seamus Dillon agreed to take on the role at last years AGM and as things developed Seamus also took on the demanding role of Senior Team manager and therefore the work load of being PRO took second place. I understand it would be unfair to expect Seamus to give PRO the attention required under these circumstances. This is a vital role and while we have done well on Facebook and Twitter communicating to our members unfortunately our presence in the Local press is non existence. The updating of the Club website has also been neglected and again it's a vital communication tool for the club if it's updated regularly. This area of the club needs a serious overhaul and the club is open to suggestions as to improving this area.

Fundraising and Sponsorship

The Club ran a number of fundraisers including a Golf day, Suncroft Festival, Dog Night, Club Sponsorship competition, half time draw in St Conleth's Park and Table Quiz in the Bush Pub run by the under-age committee.

There are many people who contributed to the fundraising efforts in the Club during the year and we thank each and every one of you. Thank you to the volunteers who gave so generously of their time.

Special thanks to the following people in particular who contributed so generously

- ✓ Sponsors of Dog night, John Moore of Moore's Well, Sean Murphy Tony Howard, Alan & John Troy of Troy Electrical, Suncroft Supermarket, Alan Middleton, Pat Sutton of O'Kelly Sutton, and Morton Rennick of Ark Finance.
- ✓ Everyone who bought and sold tickets for our very successful Dog Night in Newbridge last November.
- ✓ All who paid to take part in the golf classic and sponsored tee boxes
- ✓ All who purchase weekly lotto tickets pay online lotto or paid upfront lotto contributions
- ✓ The Murphy family in Suncroft and UK for the Suncroft festival contribution
- ✓ Val Dillon and Colm Keane for renting the land from the club
- ✓ Anyone else who put their hand in their pocket for the benefit of the Club in 2011.

I would like to thank everyone who helped out on the night at the dogs and I would also like to pay particular thanks to Seamus Dillon for his help with the Golf Classic for Anthony and Killian.

Lotto

The Lotto has been a our main source of income over the past few years and I am happy to report ticket sales have improved this year however the initiative incorporating the club membership and lotto online has decreased. This initiative gives our members two ways to pay one being €250 up front payment for year and the second being a €25 standing order for the year.

The Lotto requires a lot of work, commitment and dedication. Week after week Mary Val Dillon, Des Brannock and Liam Troy do the work, consistently give the commitment and ensure the Lotto is done weekly. I want to thank Mary, Des and Liam in particular for their Trojan work again this year. This area needs attention and this is your club and I am asking you to get involved and help out please. I would also like to thank Padar Kane, Eamon Ryan, Betty Bradley (Bush Pub), John Dowling, Paddy Behan, Mary James Dillon, Val McDonagh, John Stack and Kevin Murphy for their help with ticket sales. Thanks to John Moore for use of his facilities during the year.

DO NOT USE THE WORD "FUNDRAISING"

FACT if I use the word fundraising in a text in relation to a meeting we are guaranteed to have a very small attendance **WHY??**

The reality is the club needs money to survive and unless we **FUNDRAISE** we will never be able to develop or improve this club the way we want to.

Make no mistake **FUNDRAISING** requires effort and it doesn't just happen we have to make it happen. That means everyone needs to be on board, if everybody pulls their weight then it easier for everyone and it doesn't become the burden it currently is for the few who do the work.

2014 was a disappointing year for fundraising our accounts will show that we raised €31,212 this year compared to €37,492 in 2012. This shows a difference in excess of €6,000 for the year. There is only one reason that we haven't raised the funds and that's effort. As one senior player said to me recently "we want everything but we want to do nothing" This sums up the fundraising efforts of some and only some of our members imagine if everyone pulled together and actually put in the effort what we could manage to achieve.

I have attached a fundraising Plan for the year ahead and this document will be open to discussion at today's meeting. It will be an opportunity for everyone to give their feedback hopefully by the end of the meeting the club will have a fundraising plan for the year ahead which everyone can buy into.

Suncroft Community Development Group will also be fundraising during the year and it's important that we play our part and support this group with its fundraising efforts as well.

Kildare GAA are also looking for all clubs to help out with their fundraising for 2014 and they have promised to work with clubs so that any effort the clubs makes to raise money for Kildare GAA will be shared with the Club who does the work in other words the funds will be split 50/50. Once again I will be seeking a view from the Club members as to whether we are going to support Kildare GAA in with fundraising.

As you can see FUNDRAISING is critical to success for everything we want to achieve both in our parish and for the wider community so I would ask everyone to get involved rather than stay away.

Congratulations to James Keane on winning the Club Sponsorship Competition. I am delighted to launch our "new" Jersey here today with our New Sponsors name on the front of the jersey. "JK construction" will be the Clubs Main sponsor for the next 3 years and I don't think anyone will begrudge James winning this unique competition. James has given tremendous service to this club and worked tirelessly when he was club secretary and I feel it is quite fitting that James gets to showcase his business and will now enjoy this platform to expose his business to the wider GAA community in the county of Kildare. On behalf of the club James I wish you every success and once again congratulations on winning the competition.

Congratulations also to John Brown who won the €500 prize money at the night of the dogs.

Administration

The administration work load in every club is increasing all the time. Make no mistake running a club is like running a business and there is a constant demand on all the officers and volunteers of the club. It's no exaggeration to say this but it would be virtually impossible to calculate the time that is given to the club by all our volunteers and officers and yet from time to time there seems to be a serious lack of respect for these people by some members who seem hell bent on upsetting others.

Today is not the day to name and shame but I would plead with all members of this club to respect the work that people do on a daily basis and I will go further and challenge all our members to take on a role for the club and share the work load there is plenty to be done and many hands make light work. The sad thing is that we never hear about all the good work that gets done behind the scenes, we only hear about the problems.

In 2013 we held our usual monthly meetings and sadly the pattern of attendances did not change from the previous year with the average number of attendance at the meetings coming in at around 12 members, however if there is a problem the numbers at the meetings for some strange reason always seems to be higher. This is disappointing as work will always need to be done from the start of the year to the finish of the year and without the help nothing will ever be done. So once again I would ask you all to make the time to help out and not the excuse that you have no time. This is your club and the more you do the better the club.

Suncroft Community Development Group (SCDG)

The SCDG has been working tirelessly behind the scenes and are very close the finish line in relation to getting the final approval grant funding. As everyone is probably aware there was a slight issue with the tender and it had to be re submitted recently. This is currently under way and once this is passed we should be ready for digging early spring. This project has the backing of Kildare County Council who gave a clear endorsement at a recent meeting to provisionally approve funding for a community playground as part of the development.

If you're sick of listening to all the talk of this development and are slightly frustrated that at this stage you haven't seen more progress well you're not alone spare a thought for all who is on the board and executive of the committee. Months, weeks, days and hours has been put into this project on a voluntary basis by many and as time goes the determination of everyone involved has grown. I personally want to acknowledge the work put in by my Colleagues on the SCDG and I would ask our members to support the work that ongoing and remain patient. At the end of the day if we keep doing the right things good things will happen. Finally I would ask and appeal to our entire membership to purchase a ticket for the upcoming quantum draw which is part of the Community groups fundraising plans.

2014

Next year this club is 125 years old. This is a remarkable achievement and one that we should all be proud of. It would be a fascinating exercise to document the changes that have taken place in this club over the past century. In 2012 as part of our strategic plan we agreed to set up a committee of members with a view of producing a book reflecting our 125 year history. The time has come for us to fulfil our commitment and I also propose that we ensure we celebrate this landmark with an end of year celebration next November.

Conclusion

2012 was a busy year for the club with teams competing at all levels and with under age success from under 13 up to our under 21's the club has a lot to be proud of.

The club is entering a landmark year being 125 years old this year. It's envisaged that as part of our celebrations we will have finally secured our own ground and we have also managed to compliment our land purchase with a 99 Sub Lease along with the very kind donation of a section of Land where we are currently renting which will finally cement our future in Suncroft Village. Working closely with the SCDG we look forwards to the building of our new long awaited community centre.

It's important that we pull together to ensure success both on and off the pitch. We all have a part to play in the development of the club. When we put our shoulder to the wheel Suncroft has always punched well above its weight we are a proud club and rightly so and I call on each and every member to give that little bit extra, help play your part to make Suncroft GFC a Club that each and everyone can be proud to be associated with.

To all team managers, coaches, selectors and players who gave up their time and hard work to ensure that we are always a very competitive club, we thank you all. I would like to thank my fellow officers for their hard work, help and support throughout the year and to all who help out with day to day running of the club, including those who have obliged in doing umpire and linesmen at home and away matches and also when called on by the County Board.

A big thank you to all of our families, friends and the wider community for all you're support and commitment throughout the year.

To all members who have suffered bereavements during the year I would like to express my deepest sympathy.

I would like to thank the Chairman Des Brannock for his leadership and support during the year. Des has worked tireless as the Chairman of this club for the past 3 years. His work load includes selector for both the senior and Junior teams, he also took on the management of the under 11 team. Des along with Mary ensures the lotto draw is done week in week out, he attends countless meetings representing the club to ensure we are at the forefront of everything good about Suncroft Community along with the day to day role of being Chairman.

On a personal note I want to congratulate Des on his promotion in work this year. This promotion has brought Des many new challenges especially working in the most demanding Garda Station in Ireland that being Store Street and although we haven't seen as much of Des in recent months as we are used to he still has always put the Club first when matters of importance have arisen and I would also pay tribute to his wife Susan for her support, understanding and patience throughout the year.

I also want to thank both Pat Sutton & Mary Val Dillon for their help, support and commitment throughout the year. Managing the finances of this club can be at times testing and both Pat and Mary has done a tremendous Job and always kept the ship afloat. The level of professionalism that Pat bring to the table I am sure you will all agree has never been seen before in Suncroft GFC and Suncroft GFC is extremely lucky to have Pat as our treasurer.

In January 2014, the club will look forward to getting the show on the road again and hopefully we will win some silver way along the way. I would like to wish all our teams and their management the very best in 2014, hopefully our players will reap the rewards they deserve. We would be very grateful for your continued support as we continue to build and develop this fantastic football club that we are all so proud to be part of.

Finally I would like to wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and a successful new year both on and off the pitch.

Mise le Meas,



Sean Caomhanach

Fund raising plan for the year 2014 – Discussion Document.

125 year special offer

Suggestion celebrate this by offering our members a special once off offer of being part of Suncroft 125 year history. Special offer includes.

Membership

3 Lotto Lines weekly

A specially commissioned jacket for our 125 year history

Free entry to all club league matches this year.

All above included for a once off special price of €125 paid before 31 March 2014.

Family Membership not included.

Off the booze and on the ball challenge

Were inviting members of the Club and the wider public to kick-start their new year on a healthy footing by abstaining from alcohol for four weeks - that's the 'Off the Booze' element, then the 'On the Ball' element is taking up some health related activity or challenge or something that they can incorporate into their New Year routine that hopefully they'll carry throughout 2014

GAA Club Draw

Details to be approved by GAA.

February – March

All Memberships to be collected by end of March

April

Kildare GAA Club and County Bucket Collection will take place on the weekend of 12-13 April. I have been asked by Kildare GAA to co ordinate this for the county and I would hope that Suncroft GFC will co operate and work with me by making yourselves available for 1-2 hours over the weekend in collecting money for both club and county.

May

Suncroft Festival aim to have our Golf Classic same as last year.

July

Suncroft Fun Run/Walk

November

Special Celebration night to honour our 125 year history.

Suncroft GFC**Source of Funds 2013**

	2013		2012		
	€	€	€	€	variance
Membership		6,845.00		9,127.00	-25%
Annual	5,475.00		6,077.00		-10%
Lotto (paid through lotto)	<u>1,370.00</u>		3,050.00		-55%
Lotto		7,447.70		6,943.80	7%
Lotto upfront receipts	3,000.00		4,869.58		-38%
Lotto standing orders	3,915.00		3,780.00		4%
Lotto tickets	15,978.70		14,684.22		9%
Memberships included	-1,370.00		3,050.00		
Lotto prizes / expenses	-8,776.00		-8,140.00		
Lotto transfers	<u>-5,300.00</u>		-5,200.00		
Gate receipts		2,027.60		2,522.62	-20%
Team sponsorship competition		4,052.00		150.00	
Dogs/Golf - Nov 2013		4,430.00		5,026.10	-12%
Golf classic - June 2013		2,470.00		1,680.00	47%
Murphy weekend - May 2013		2,225.00		3,786.00	-41%
Ladies fundraising		350.00		2,446.00	-86%
Ladies sponsorships		320.00		570.25	-44%
Sponsored walk		415.00		-	
Underage quiz		500.00		-	
U16 fundraising		682.00		-	
S Factor		-		3,540.00	
Players fundraising		-		<u>1,700.00</u>	
		<u>31,764.30</u>		<u>37,491.77</u>	

