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## ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CAMOGIE FINAL

### Galway fail to hit their best form in final loss to lively Rebels

CORK	1-13
GALWAY	0-9

DARREN KELLY  
AT CROKE PARK

IT was heartbreak for Galway's senior camogie team last Sunday as Cork emerged triumphant in the All-Ireland final to secure their 26th crown and successfully retain the title.

In a contest where the Tribeswomen just simply didn't get going, Cork's experienced players dictated throughout the 60 minutes before Briege Corkery's goal six minutes from time ensured despair for Tony Ward's charges.

From the opening exchanges, Galway were coming out second best in intensity and were chasing the contest. However, the maroon and white never reneged from their workrate but just couldn't catch the necessary break to overturn the Rebels' momentum.

After a season where Galway were league champions and went 11 games unbeaten, their inability to get to grips with this decider was puzzling and a failure to marshal tighter the consistent clearances from Cork centre back Gemma O'Connor couldn't be ignored. But in their efforts to restore parity after falling behind in the second minute, some decision making, efforts on goal and link up play never matched the heights they'd achieved over the previous seven months.

An early miss from Siobhan Coen allowed Ashling Thompson open the scoring for Cork but the Ballinacorney wing back went on to have a quality performance in her first All-Ireland final. Already, Paudie Murray's charges had a game plan they executed well. Thompson and Orla Cotter occupied midfield and took the game to their opponents finding team-mates quickly. Likewise, Julia White initiated the pressure on the resilient Galway defence while Corkery also got involved.

Cotter took Corkery's pass in the fourth minute for the second score but Galway looked ready to settle when they opened their account two minutes later. Susan Earner played a short puck-out to Heather Cooney on the left before the St. Thomas' player picked out

Clodagh McGrath on that flank. The Sarsfields midfielder made the run before finding her sister Niamh (McGrath) who sent over a fine effort.

While McGrath would leave an impression with some excellent free taking and seven further points, Cotter was equally efficient and two Cork frees left it 0-4 to 0-1 on eight minutes.

Galway were trying to find their attack only to run into a Cork half-back line led by O'Connor that wasn't in a generous mood. But a strange mix-

**The challengers were rattled and Amy O'Connor nearly had another goal chance only for Earner to produce a good save**

up in officiating on nine minutes certainly robbed the Tribeswomen of a rallying score.

What actually prevailed was hard to judge after what looked like Molly Dunne offloading for a fine Ailish O'Reilly point.

The linesman on the Hogan Stand side was waving indicating that the Eyrecourt full forward had stepped over the line before referee Ray Kelly signalled a free in. McGrath kept her cool to split the posts only for the Kildare official to blow again and decide to throw the ball in.

Kelly, who wasn't helped by his linesman, attempted to be fair throughout the game but was guilty of some strange calls. Even though Galway shaded the free count (12-11), two harsh challenges on Aoife Donohue went unpunished while Dunne may have been

impeded chasing a potential goal eight minutes from time. And his lateness in stopping play following a collision between Corkery and Lorraine Ryan in the second half was concerning.

McGrath did get her second score in the 13th minute. Niamh Kilkeny got a run at the Cork defence before sending a dangerous delivery towards Dunne. Cork full back Laura Treacy conceded the free at the expense of a yellow card and Galway's deficit was 0-4 to 0-2.

Cotter and McGrath traded further frees but Cork's mobility was telling. Orla Cronin finished off a move provided by

O'Connor and Cotter; Thompson forced a foul off Sarah Deravan which Cotter converted; and Corkery found the target to make it 0-8 to 0-3.

Cork were finding space while Galway were running into cul-de-sacs but they stayed in touch and McGrath pointed after Kilkeny won another placed ball to leave just four between them at half-time.

The game was still in the melting pot and Galway got a massive lift upon the restart when McGrath's free from outside 65 metres sailed over the crossbar. Galway were ready to seize the initiative but couldn't manage scores from play. The

pressure yielded frees, however, with McGrath converting two to reduced arrears to just 0-8 to 0-7 and the western supporters were sensing this contest turning.

However, Cork had been threatening and provided ominous signs. A dropped ball from Earner gave White a goal chance which Cooney stopped and a Cotter free saw Amy O'Connor find the net only for a square ball to save Galway. But when the Galway rearguard spilled possession attempting to clear in the 44th minute, Cotter picked up the breaking ball to point and Cork were 0-9 to 0-7 ahead.

It was their first point of the second half and they added another within three minutes with a Cotter free. But Galway were creating chances and had two poor misses before the 50 minute mark.

The game shifted permanently between the 52nd and 54th minute. Jessica Gill's delivery just wouldn't break for Dunne though Cork keeper Aoife Murray seemed to be restricting her; Donohue found space for a superb point that left it 0-10 to 0-8; but Cork's matchwinning goal in the 54th minute determined the destination of the O'Duffy Cup.

Galway's defence tried to



Galway Ailish O'Reilly is challenged by Cork's Pamela Mackey during Sunday's All-Ireland camogie final at Croke Park.



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Galway's Fiona Keeley comes under pressure from Cork's Rena Buckley during Sunday's All-Ireland camogie final at Croke Park. PHOTOS: CATHAL NOONAN/INPHO



Galway's Aoife Donohue is chased by Cork's Meabh Cahalane during Sunday's All-Ireland senior camogie final at Croke Park.

# BEST



Galway midfielder Clodagh McGrath prepares to strike as Cork's Gemma O'Connor closes in.

move the ball out of danger along the half-back line. But when Shauna Healy's attempted pull was intercepted by Corkery, the 14-time All-Ireland winner called on all her experience to find the net giving Earner no chance.

The challengers were rattled and Amy O'Connor nearly had another goal chance only for Earner to produce a good save. But the St. Vincent's forward took the breaking ball to raise a white flag and the Munster outfit were now 1-11 to 0-8 in front.

A McGrath free skimmed over the crossbar in response but the elusive major never

came. And with Cork in the ascendancy, Thompson and Katrina Mackey troubled the umpires to allow the Rebels emerge deserving winners with a seven-point margin.

Breathtaking in the league, battle hardened in the championship, Galway just never found their season rhythm as their one defeat in 2015 was their most costly. Despite this, they never reneged from soldiering for the cause but the pain from this loss will be felt over the winter months.

Earner was solid in goal; the defence worked hard with Derivan, Cooney, Coen and Ryan standing out; Kilkenny and

Donohue left everything on the field regards running; while Niamh McGrath's scoring kept Galway in touch before the Cork goal.

**Galway:** S. Earner, T. Manton, S. Derivan, H. Cooney, S. Coen, S. Healy, L. Ryan, N. Kilkenny, C. McGrath, A. Donohue (0-1), N. McGrath (0-8, seven frees), F. Keeley, C. Finnerty, M. Dunne, A. O'Reilly. Subs: J. Gill for Finnerty (HT), S. Cahalane for Healy (58 mins), R. Hennelly for C. McGrath (60 mins).

**Cork:** A. Murray, P. Mackey, L. Treacy, L. O'Sullivan, R. Buckley, G. O'Connor, M. Cahalane, O. Cotter (0-7, five frees), A. Thompson (0-2), J. White, O. Cronin (0-1), K. Mackey (0-1), H. Looney, B. Corkery (1-1), A. O'Connor (0-1). Subs: E. O'Sullivan for Looney (35 mins), M. Walsh for L. O'Sullivan (60 mins).

**Referee:** R. Kelly (Kildare)

## Deflated Galway camp struggle to come to terms with sluggish showing on biggest day of all

DARREN KELLY

"THIS is the game we wanted to win," said manager Tony Ward as Galway came to grips with All-Ireland final heartache. "We really wanted to win and the girls were well up for it. It just didn't happen for us on the day."

"I suppose our first half performance let us down a small bit. But look it, nobody went out to lose that game intentionally. They gave it what was their best and just wasn't to be."

"The goal was the killer. But they fought to the bitter end. Every single one of them. Even the girls that came off the bench. They fought, fought, fought. They just didn't want to be beaten. It was a great trait of this team all year. Defeat really, really hurt. You'd hear a pin drop in that dressing room. They really took the defeat bad," said Ward.

Despite the hurt that Galway's players were feeling following a ten game undefeated streak ending, the manager was positive that they would use this loss to come back again.

"It's different to a few years ago when we lost an All-Ireland or two," added Ward. "The team was maybe a bit older. Every girl out there had either an intermediate or senior medal and had the experience of 2013. And in the dressing room afterwards, they regrouped and said that we'll come back. We know what it's like to win. Now we felt what it's like to lose and we don't want that feeling again."

The captain Niamh Kilkenny echoed those sentiments as they tried to get their heads around another Croke Park loss. "It was a very disappointing day," said the Pearses midfielder. "You're playing it over and over now in the head trying to see



Galway captain Niamh Kilkenny.

where it went wrong. But I suppose we'll have a while now to think back on it, but we're extremely disappointed."

"We were very consistent this year putting wins back-to-back and winning the league for the first time in ten years. But this is the big one. The All-Ireland final is the one you want to win and unfortunately we weren't so lucky."

Nine of Galway's All-Ireland winning team from 2013 started this game, but Kilkenny was confident that the new players will learn from this defeat.

"I think there are a lot of girls that will learn a lot," added the four-time All-Star. "It was a big day out for them. Their first day playing an senior All-Ireland final in Croke Park playing an experienced Cork team. They definitely will learn a lot and hopefully they'll bottle the feeling of disappointment in the dressing room and drive it on for next year."



## Game at a Glance

### Main Player

Lorraine Bray (Waterford): Central to Waterford's comeback, hurling oceans of ball and scoring three points from play. Clodagh Flanagan and Angela Lyons shone for Kildare.

### Top Score

Susie O'Carroll's 55th minute point on the run offered a glimpse of the Celbridge star's quality. It was a towering effort but unfortunately too little too late.

### Turning Point

Beth Carton's goal after half time. Coming so soon after the break and directly from a free made it a five-point game and in as tight an encounter as this, that was critical.

### Highlight

This being for Kildare purposes, it was undoubtedly Noelle Earley's goal. It was a great start. The manner in which the defence performed is praiseworthy too.

### Lowlight

The two goals, especially Carton's. And the defeat.

### Teams and Scorers

#### Waterford

Scorers: B Carton 1-2 (1-1fs); L Bray 0-3; A Power 1-0; T Jackman (f); J Simpson, N Morrissey, N Rockett 0-1 each

Team: D Brennan, K McMahon, C Whyte, V Falconer, J Simpson, C Maher, I Heffernan, T Jackman, L Bray, C McGlone, N Morrissey, B Carton, D Power, N Rockett, A Power. Subs: S Curran for D Power (26), V O'Brien for Rockett (46), Rockett for Morrissey (48), C Murphy for McGlone (56)

#### Kildare

Scorers: N Earley 1-0; S O'Carroll (ff), M Lyons 0-2 each; E Reilly 0-1

Team: R O'Connell, C Flanagan, C Nolan, F Trant, A Lyons, R Gorman, C Farrell, C Ferde, O Bambury, L Keatley, S Hurley, E Reilly, S O'Carroll, N Earley, M Lyons. Subs: H McDonnell for Ferde (50), D Byrne for Trant (52)

Referee: J. Byrne (Dublin)



Noelle Earley on the attack for Kildare against Waterford the Liberty Insurance All Ireland Camogie Intermediate Final at Croke Park



Kildare's Siobhan Hurley gets away from Berth Carton and Vikki Falconer of Waterford the Liberty Insurance All Ireland Camogie Intermediate Final at Croke Park



Orla Bambury of Kildare against Waterford in the Liberty Insurance All Ireland

# No glory for determined Kildare - this time HEARTBREAK AT THE FINAL

<b>WATERFORD</b>	<b>2-09</b>
<b>KILDARE</b>	<b>1-05</b>

By **DARAGH Ó CONCHUIR**  
Sport@leinsterleader.ie  
@Leinster\_Sport

**"The true winners accept that defeat is always a possible outcome. The highest achievers are those who are unafraid of failure. The very best are those who use their losses to propel them to victory." - Unknown.**

This is not for the purposes of the Kildare camogie panel. Competitors hate platitudes. Even logical commentary on progress and development cannot be broached with them in the immediate aftermath of defeat.

Yet the sense leaving Croke Park on Sunday was

that this was just another overnight camp on the journey Kildare have taken since the beginning of 2009.

Back then, this was a Division 4 team operating in the junior A championship. They experienced league glory that year and since then, have bounded up the levels, adding the Division 3 title and reaching a Division 2 final last year.

More important has been the championship advancement, with two All-Ireland successes, most recently in the premier junior decider at HQ in 2013.

To reach an intermediate final just two years later is no mean feat. Of course, when you are there, it is all about winning. But for context, consider Waterford, who had fallen at the semi-final hurdle three times in succession since their 2011 premier

junior success. The Déise were infused by fresh blood this year, with five minors, many of them accustomed to winning at underage level. They had beaten Kildare twice already this term and confirmed the form book on Sunday.

Defeat should hurt but Kildare's trajectory suggests that they will be back and are the team to beat next season as long as they can retain their key players and perhaps blood a couple of more young guns.

You look back on the game and feel that while Waterford were deserving winners in the end, having recovered well from a lightning Kildare start to exert their authority, it was the goals just before and after half time that ultimately decided the game.

Had they been avoided - and they could have been

- Stephen Fleming's crew could not have looked as comfortable as they did in the final quarter especially.

"We'd a good spell in the first 15 minutes into the game," said Kildare manager, Stephen Dormer afterwards. "It seemed after that we were forcing it."

"They dropped two people back into the half-back line and snuffed out the space in front of the full-forward line and we never got to grips with that area. We were chasing the game after the goal just before half time."

There was no hint of nerves as the Lilywhites-turned-All Blacks (due to the similarity of colours with Waterford) tore out of the blocks.

Noelle Earley had starred at Croke Park with Clodagh Flanagan 11 years previously when Kildare won an All-

Ireland junior ladies football title and was back in the fold after a lengthy absence.

The former football All Star hand-passed to the net in the third minute after good work from Susie O'Carroll and points quickly followed from Melissa Lyons and Emer Reilly.

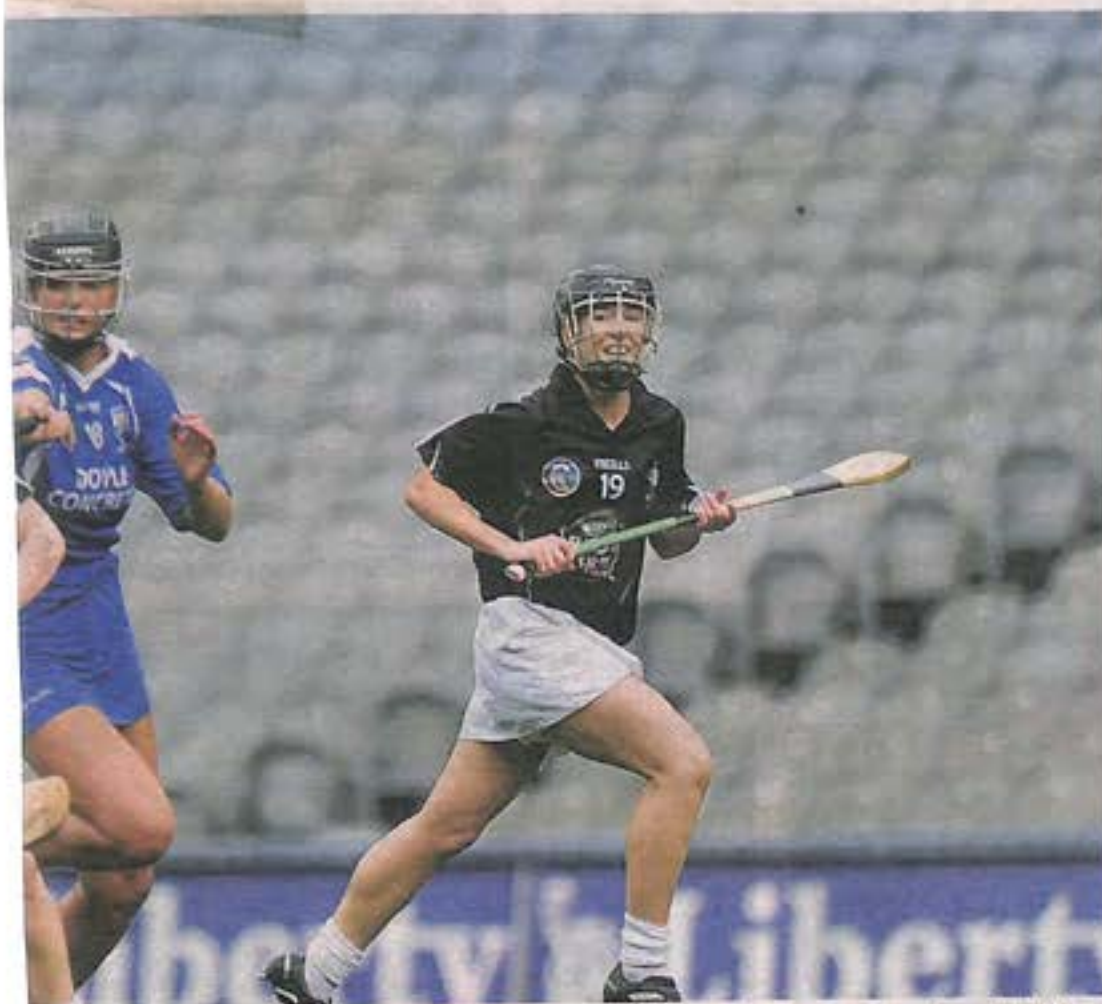
They could not have asked for a better start but Waterford dropped Niamh Rockett into the middle and funnelled players back to cut off the supply to Kildare's threatening forwards. Once Leaving Cert student Beth Carton shot a classy point over her right shoulder, the favourites began to settle.

That score was the first of an unanswered 2-4 that swung the game completely in Waterford's favour.

Kildare still led by a point when Aisling Power showed good strength to hold off Car-



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Intermediate Final at Croke Park on Sunday

Photo: Adrian Mella

## Reaction



Noelle Earley of Kildare tackled by Charlotte Raher of Waterford, in the Liberty Insurance All Ireland Camogie Intermediate Final at Croke Park

Photo: Adrian Mella

# 'Kildare camogie is back on the map and out of the doldrums' - Dormer

By DARAGH O'CONNOR  
Sportswriter/leader  
@Leinster\_Sport

Stephen Dormer credited Waterford for the manner in which they reorganised after being torn apart early on by Kildare.

The Munster side's management ensured that there was no space in which to send ball into Noelle Earley and Susie O'Carroll in particular. They squeezed the middle and with more bodies, hoovered up possession.

"We were at a bit of sixes and sevens around midfield and the half-back line. They dropped out their full-forward into the middle of the field and had an extra couple of players in there and we never got to grips with that area. Orla Bambury and Caroline Forde worked really hard but it just didn't happen."

"Waterford had their homework done on Susie. They had two players playing in front of her and we got it very hard to get ball into her. We tried to bring her centre-



Kildare manager Stephen Dormer

forward in the second half to try to get her on a couple of balls but it just didn't happen for her."

If Aisling Power's goal just before the interval hurt, Beth Carton's strike less than two minutes after the restart was too much to recover from.

"It was a bit of a kick in the teeth for us I suppose. We were switched off a little bit. They thought she was going to tap it over and she went for it. It's just one of those things that

happens."

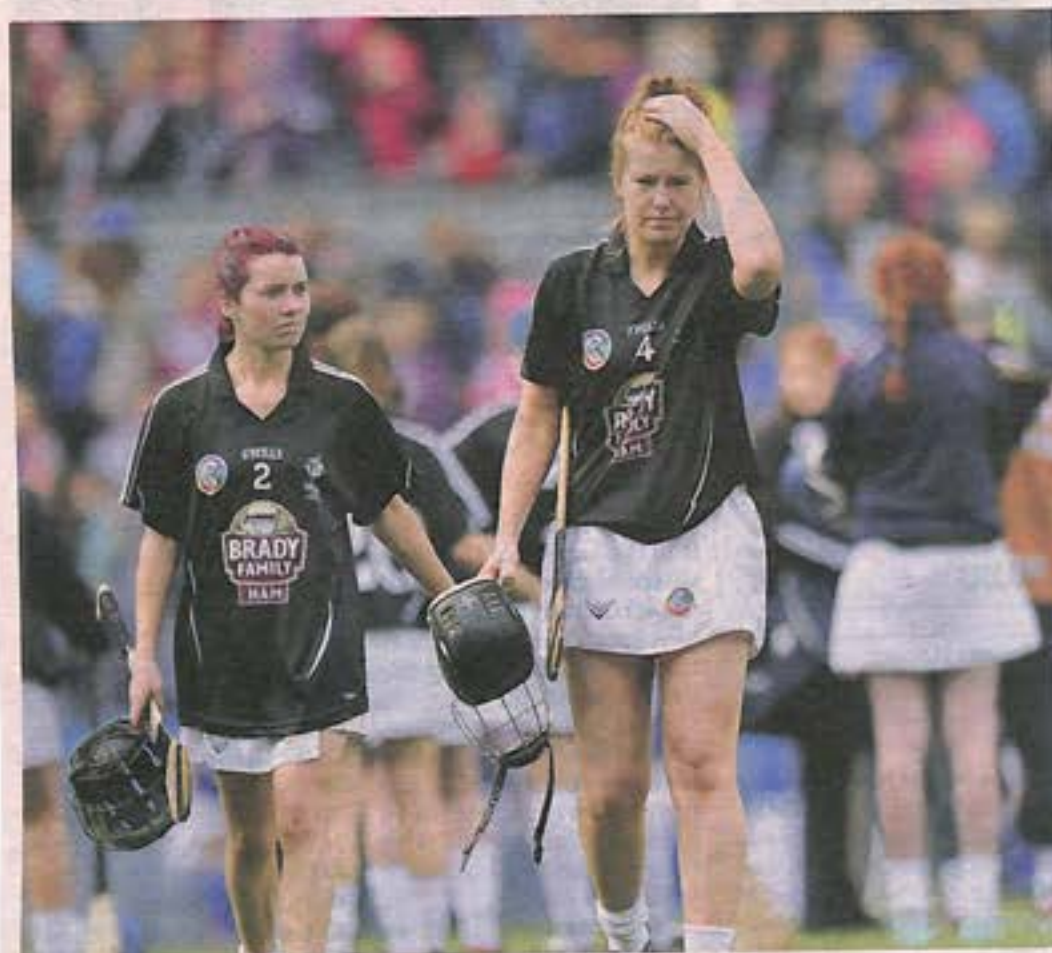
Dormer may be a Kilkenny native - and brother of Noreside star Colette - but he knows all about this team's odyssey, married as he is to Kildare midfielder Orla Bambury. When he speaks of the players' commitment, he could be talking about his wife, who was back training in April after giving birth to Conor in January.

He is though, talking about them all.

"These girls have put in a massive effort. Credit to them they worked really hard. It's disappointing for them today but they should be very proud of the way they've performed all year and how they're after coming on over the last couple of years."

"You'd be very disappointed today but when you look back on the last couple of years, the journey these girls have been on has been absolutely unbelievable. Even during the week, all the clubs, everyone giving their support."

"Kildare camogie is back on the map and out of the doldrums. They're there now and hopefully they'll stay there."



Kildare's Clodagh Flanagan and Aoife Trant leave the field after defeat to Waterford in the Liberty Insurance All Ireland Camogie Intermediate Final at Croke Park

Photo: Adrian Mella

ol Nolan and goal on the turn in the 29th minute.

It was Carton's strike from a 20m angled free two minutes after the resumption that really drove the stake through Kildare's heart though.

They fought but could not get the major they needed to breathe new life into their challenge. Lyons and O'Carroll notched up points

but Waterford were dominant in the middle third and midfielders Lorraine Bray and Trish Jackman got the last two scores.

The Kildare defence was magnificent in general play, with Angela Lyons, Flanagan and Regina Gorman shining. Afterwards, manager Dormer described Flanagan, the 2013 captain, as an inspirational figure who would

make any senior team in the county.

These are the type of characters that have brought Kildare from obscurity to the brink of the big time. They have ensured that a culture is now in place that is embraced by the next generation. We can say that, even if they cannot see any green shoots in this dark hour. But the dawn is coming.



## ALL IRELAND SENIOR CAMOGIE FINAL

Cork 1-13  
Galway 0-9

DARRAGH Ó CONCHÚIR  
Croke Park

IT was considered improbable by most observers at the beginning of the season but champions Cork made it two Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior camogie titles in a row with a resolutely professional performance at Croke Park.

Having lost 13 players from the panel that scaled the summit 12 months ago, nobody gave them a prayer of making a return. Only managing to emerge from their group in third place after defeats to Wexford and Galway, who had also accounted for them in the league decider, seemed to confirm that notion, but not for the first time, they showed their mettle once it came to the knock-out stages.

Briege Corkery settled the game with a 54th minute goal and brought her individual tally of All-Ireland senior medals to 15, six of which have come in camogie. That record is matched by teammate Rena Buckley and the pair will be pursuing number 16 in the ladies football final in two weeks.

Cork also move joint top of camogie's championship roll of honour, with this victory bringing them alongside Dublin on 26 titles. The Leesiders produced a wonderfully committed performance, with a number of stand-out showings.

Gemma O'Connor and Orla Cotter were the real stars though, while Laura Treacy and team captain, Ashling Thompson produced wonderful displays too. Thompson hailed the undying spirit of Paudie Murray's squad.

"Unless you break your legs, you have to keep going," she smiled.

"This is what we came here to do. Every team gets a purple patch and we said that at half time. It was nil-nil again. Some people don't even know the score. We never take any notice.

"We never threw in the towel and that's the difference between Cork camogie and anyone else. When the going gets tough, who's going to throw the towel in first and that certainly wasn't us so we got the result we wanted today."

Cork dominated the first half completely and should have led by more than four points (0-8 to 0-4) at the change of ends. Galway certainly seemed off the pace slightly in the first half as O'Connor hoovered up possession effortlessly, while Cotter came up with some big plays. Had they offloaded a little earlier having created a number of overlaps, they might have put Galway away.

Thompson got the champions off the mark with an early point and

Cotter notched up the first three of seven points, with Niamh McGrath landing a brilliant equaliser from the left wing from Galway.

That was to be the Tribeswomen's only score from play until Aoife Donohue struck and they never carried a sufficient offensive threat. McGrath, who scored all bar that Donohue point for Galway, kept Tony Ward's team in touch but with Cotter and Corkery doing the business at the other end, it was double scores at the break.

Galway thundered into the fray after the resumption though and three pointed frees McGrath, including one from just short of the 65m line, reduced the margin to one. The challengers were in full flow now with Lorraine Ryan in no mood to yield, while Heather Cooney made a stunning block to deny a certain goal.

Julia White also had a goal correctly ruled out for a square ball but Cotter came up with a big point from play to stop the rot and Cork never really looked back. Once Corkery intercepted Shauna Healy's attempted clearance and raced through to slot calmly to the Galway net, Cork opened their shoulders and Thompson landed a monstrous score late on, followed by a Katrina Mackey point to signal the start of the celebrations.

"We love being the underdog," said Thompson.

We should all really know better.

### Scorers

CORK: O Cotter 0-7 (5fs); B Corkery 1-1; A Thompson 0-2; O Cronin, A O'Connor, K Mackey 0-1 each

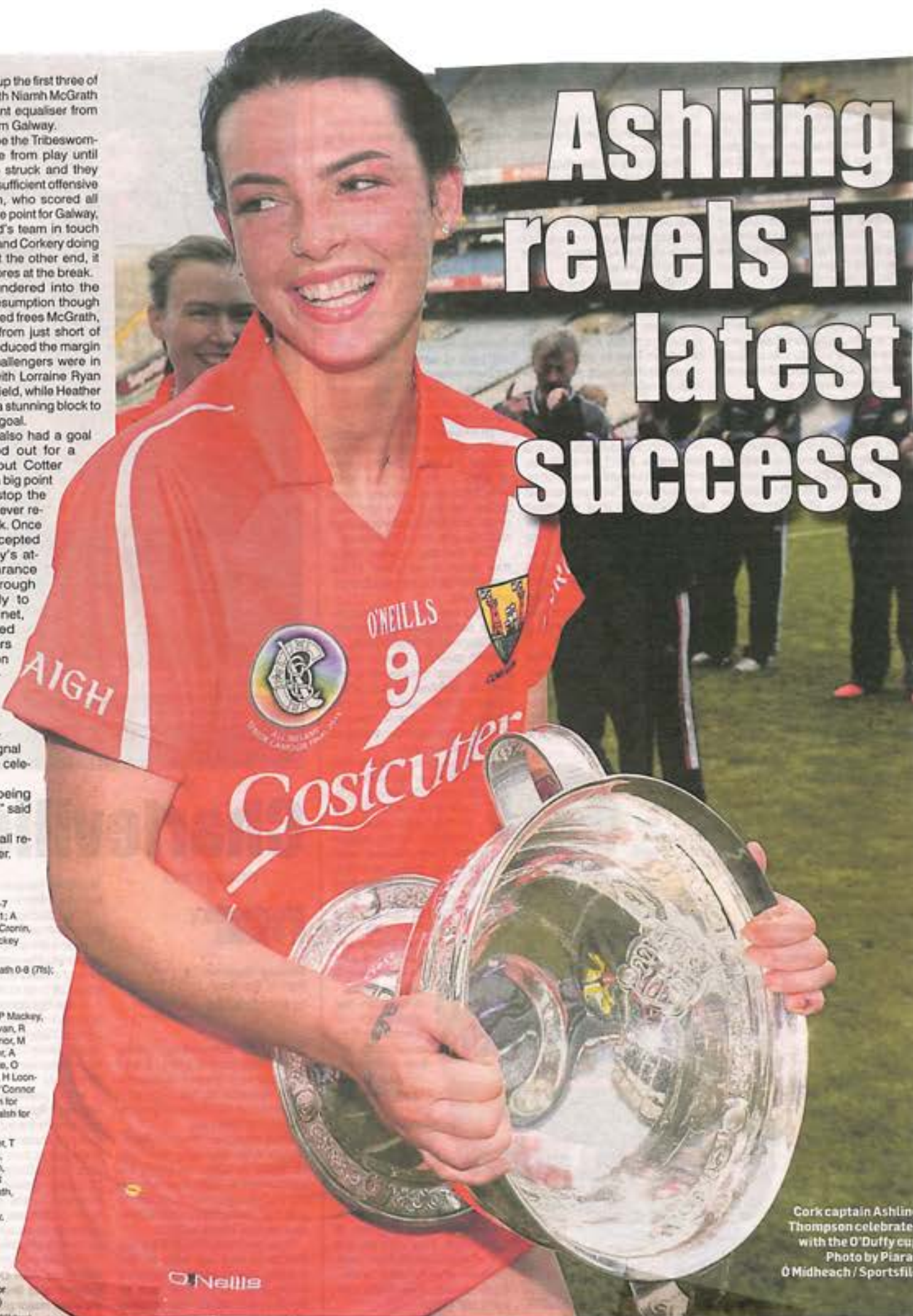
GALWAY: N McGrath 0-8 (7fs); A Donohue 0-1

CORK: A Murray, P Mackey, L Treacy, L O'Sullivan, R Buckley, G O'Connor, M Cahalane, O Cotter, A Thompson, J White, O Cronin, K Mackey, H Looney, B Corkery, A O'Connor Subs: E O'Sullivan for Looney (35); M Walsh for O'Sullivan (50+2)

GALWAY: S Eamer, T Marlon, S Devlin, H Cooney, S Coen, S Healy, L Ryan, N Kilkenny, C McGrath, A Donohue, N McGrath, F Keesley, C Finnerty, M Dunne, A O'Reilly Subs: J Gill for Finnerty (16), S Cahalan for Healy (58), R Hennelly for C McGrath (60+1)

REFEREE: R Kelly (Kildare)

# Ashling revels in latest success



Cork captain Ashling Thompson celebrates with the O'Duffy cup  
Photo by Piaras Ó Midheach / Sportsfile

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## Second Best

IT was always going to be difficult for the Galway camogie team to inflict a third competitive defeat on Cork in 2015 in last Sunday's All-Ireland final and that's how it turned out as the injury-hit Tribeswomen stumbled to a seven point defeat. They can have no complaints either as the reigning champions were clearly the superior force and largely dictated the exchanges from the throw-in.

Apart from the third quarter when three Niamh McGrath frees helped reduce the deficit to 0-8 to 0-7, Galway were second best for long periods. They only managed two points from play, with McGrath brilliantly landing their first score from the left-hand sideline and Aoife Donohue finding the target in the second-half, while their defence was under serious pressure at times.

Cork arguably possessed the three best play-

To Galway's credit, they never threw in the towel but too many of their key players just didn't have the desired impact

ers on the pitch in Gemma O'Connor, Ashling Thompson and Orla Cotter, and also looked the hungrier outfit. The champions probably deserved to be more than four points clear at the break such was the flow of play to the Galway posts, but when Tony Ward's charges subsequently pared the deficit to the minimum, the Rebels were able to raise the ante again in pulling clear over the closing 15 minutes.

The decisive score came six minutes from the end when the Galway defence failed to clear their lines adequately, allowing veteran Briege Corkery almost an unhindered run through before the Cork dual player beat Susan Eamer from close range. The title holders then confirmed their mastery with three subsequent points from Amy O'Connor, Thompson and Katrina Mackey. Having headed into the final as

league champions and undefeated this year, Galway had stood on the brink of their most successful season ever in camogie history, but Cork improved throughout their campaign and obviously also had an edge in motivation travelling to Croke Park. Furthermore, Tony Ward also had to plan without three key players in Ann Marie Starr, Orlaith McGrath and Emma Kilkenny, while overall they lacked the winners' athleticism on the day.

To Galway's credit, they never threw in the towel but too many of their key players just didn't have the desired impact on the action. Their forwards were well held, while they

were also living off scraps around the midfield sector where Niamh Kilkenny was tightly marked. Full back Sarah Dervan, Heather Cooney, Siobhan Coen and Lorraine Ryan battled manfully in their rearguard, but they found Cork's dynamic running difficult to counteract. All-told, it was a progressive year for Galway camogie even if the big prize eluded them.



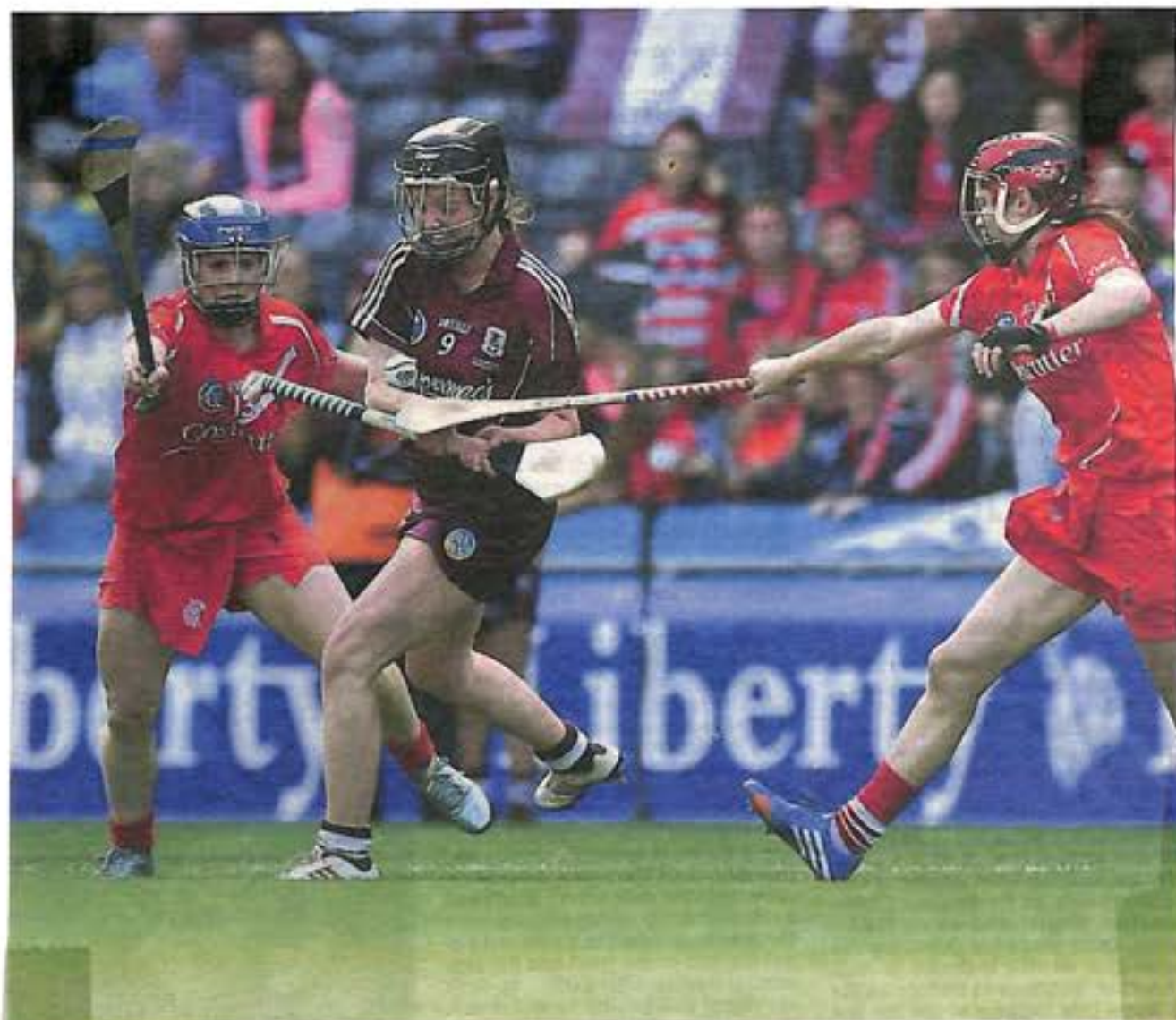
## All-Ireland camogie finalists



The Galway senior camogie team which was defeated by Cork in the All-Ireland final at Croke Park last Sunday. Back row, left to right: Emma Kilkelly, Laura Mitchell, Annmarie Starr, Therese Manton, Niamh McGrath, Siobhan Coen, Susan Earner, Sarah Dervan, Heather Cooney, Finola Keeley, Dearbhla Higgins, Niamh Hanniffy, Sinead Cahalan, Aoife Callanan, Shauna Burke, Ciara Murphy, Aoife Donohue, Siobhan Gardiner, Orlaith McGrath, Jessica Gill. Front row: Sarah Keenan, Emma Helebert, Tara Kenny, Ailish O'Reilly, Molly Dunne, Niamh Kilkenny, Shauna Healy, Lorraine Ryan, Catherine Finnerty, Clodagh McGrath, Rebecca Hennelly, Maria Cooney.



**TWICE AS NICE:** Cork captain Ashling Thompson celebrates with her teammates after victory over Galway in the Liberty Insurance All Ireland Senior Camogie Championship Final on Sunday. Cork made it back-to-back titles and are now level with Dublin at the top of the Roll of Honour, with 26 titles each. The FT score was 1-13 to 0-09 with Briege Corkery sealing the win with her goal in the closing stage of the game. PHOTO: DAVID MAHER



Cork's Briege Corkery and Katrina Mackey block down Galway's Clodagh McGrath during the All-Ireland senior camogie final at Croke Park. Despite retirements, the Rebels retained their crown. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

## Packed weekend of club action

### CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick

NOW that the O'Duffy Cup is safely tucked away in Leeside it's back to club action and an action-packed weekend it is.

There are four Senior championship games down for decision, and the Senior B final between Sarsfields and Mallow, the two Intermediate championship semi-finals and the Junior B and Junior C finals take place.

St Catherine's, victors over Ballinhassig in their opening round with an impressive score of 1-19, face Ballygarvan, playing their first championship game of the season.

St Catherine's are favourites but Ballygarvan, back in the top flight, won't be found wanting.

Douglas are expected to advance against Cloughduv in Ballyanley with Katrina and Pam Mackey, Julia White, Jessica Kavanagh and Sarah Fahy the back-bone of the side. As always the Corkerys will be required to produce the goods but it is hard to see how they'll cope with the scoring power of the city side.

Heading for their fourth consecutive title Milford are undoubtedly favourites against the Glen but don't underestimate the girls from Blackpool. Leanne O'Sullivan, Lydia Cunningham, Jennifer Hosford, Denise Luby, Aisling Wallace and Lauren Callanan are all fine players, growing in confidence every year under the guidance of Ger Riordan and Sandie Fitzgibbon.

St Finbarr's and Killeagh also meet on Sunday. The Barrs haven't had the best of success in recent times. Defeated by Milford in their opening round this is a big game for them against a young Killeagh side possessing plenty of expertise in Hannah Looney, Laura Treacy, Rebecca Sheehan and Leah McEvoy. If Killeagh curb Gemma O'Connor, they should advance.

It's very impressive that Sars have reached the Senior B final their first year up but an array of underage talent and the leadership of Emer Fennell has them a force to be reckoned with. Mallow had a very good semi-final win over a fancied Eire Og side. Sars, however, should enter top status again.

It's hard to determine who will win both Intermediate semi-finals with little between the final four teams.

#### Weekend Fixtures:

**Senior A Championship:** Saturday, St Catherine's V Ballygarvan, Castleroad, 6.15pm; Cloughduv V Douglas, Ballyanley, 6pm. Sunday, Milford V Glen Rovers, Mourneabbey, 2.30pm; Killeagh V St Finbarr's, Castleroad, 3pm.  
**Senior B Championship Final:** Sarsfields V Mallow, Saturday, Castle Road, 3.30pm.  
**Intermediate Championship Semi-Finals:** Brian Dillons V Blackrock, Saturday, Ballinlough, 5.45pm; Enniskeane V Tracton, Saturday, Bandon, 2pm.  
**Junior B Final:** Banteer V Cobh, Saturday, Castleroad, 12 noon.  
**Junior C Final:** Millstreet V Ballyhen, Saturday, Doneraile, 5pm.



# 'Paudie likes a challenge so he will stay on'

Eight-time All-Star, four-time All-Ireland winner and Southern Star columnist Jennifer O'Leary gives her big match verdict

**Kieran McCarthy (KMC):** Cork certainly saved their best 'til last?

**Jennifer O'Leary (JOL):** It was their best performance of the championship. From one to 15, they really gelled. Their work-rate was immense. They didn't stop from the word go. The defence was brilliant – Galway got to their half-forward line but they just couldn't penetrate Cork then. Everything went well.

Yes, there were patches when Cork drifted out of the game, like the start of the second half, but there was never any stage that I thought they were in trouble; it was a very impressive performance.

**KMC:** How important was Brieghe Corkery's goal after 54 minutes? The winning of the game?

**JOL:** Brieghe's goal spurred them on and it was a turning point, but even without it I don't think Cork were in trouble. Cork's start to the game was unbelievable. That was something, a fast start, that they hadn't done all year so that gave them an early foothold in the game. They never looked back. Maybe Cork should have been more ahead at half time, but they were just so much more impressive than Galway, who never got going.

**KMC:** Two of your former teammates, Brieghe Corkery and Rena Buckley, won their 15th All-Ireland medals last Sunday. Is there anything left to say about these greats of the game?

**JOL:** I was speaking to them after the final on Sunday and they were just so humble about it all. I was asking them how they felt about winning their 15th All-Ireland but they wanted to talk about the team, not their own achievements. What makes them fantastic athletes and people is that they have stayed the same throughout all their success. They work so hard, they love what they do and long may it continue.

**KMC:** A new wave of young players is coming up through, taking up the baton from the old guard. Is this the start of a new era for this Cork camogie team?

**JOL:** There were massive changes in the panel after last season but as the year went on, this team got better with every game. You could see those young women in Croke Park on Sunday weren't fazed by the occasion. They looked so composed, and the way they won it was never in doubt, so I do feel this is the start of something big. They will definitely go for the three-in-a-row next year, and be favourites for it. Some people have said the championship wasn't as tough this year as other years but I don't believe that. You have to play the teams in front of you; Cork did that, and they won.

**KMC:** How important is it that Paudie Murray stays on as manager?

**JOL:** Everyone would have said to Paudie that this year would be his hardest with the team being in transition, but he stuck with them. I think he will stay on as manager because he always likes a challenge and he sets the bar high for himself. He knows the girls well, they know him, and there's a familiarity and a trust there – plus the three in a row is an incentive as well.

But even if he doesn't decide to stay on, hopefully the management that was in place this year stays on because they have played a big role in this success as well.



On top of the world: Ashling Thompson and the Cork players celebrate with the O'Duffy Cup after the Liberty Insurance senior camogie championship final win against Galway in Croke Park. (Photos: Cathal Noonan/INPHO)

## Cork defy all the odds to top the charts again

CORK	1-13
GALWAY	0-9

### DARAGH Ó CONCHÚIR REPORTS

IT was considered improbable by most observers at the beginning of the season but champions Cork made it two Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior camogie titles in a row with a resolutely professional performance at Croke Park.

Having lost 13 players from the panel that scaled the summit 12 months ago, nobody gave them a prayer of making a return.

Only managing to emerge from their group in third place after defeats to Wexford and Galway, who had also accounted for them in the league decider, seemed to confirm that notion but not for the first time, they showed their mettle once it came to the knockout stages.

Brieghe Corkery settled the game with a 54th minute goal and brought her individual tally of All-Ireland senior medals to 15, six of which have come in camogie. That record is matched by team-mate Rena Buckley and the pair will be pursuing number 16 in the ladies' football final in two weeks.

Cork also move joint top of camogie's championship roll of honour, with this victory bringing them alongside Dublin on 26 titles.

The Leesiders produced a wonderfully committed performance, with a number of standout showings.

Gemma O'Connor and Orla Cotter were the real stars though, while Laura Treacy and team captain Ashling Thompson produced wonderful displays too.

Thompson hailed the undying spirit of Paudie Murray's squad.

'Unless you break your legs, you have to keep going,' she smiled.

'This is what we came here to do. Every team gets a purple patch and we said that at

half time. It was nil-nil again. Some people don't even know the score. We never take any notice.

'We never threw in the towel and that's the difference between Cork camogie and anyone else. When the going gets tough, who's going to throw the towel in first and that certainly wasn't us so we got the result we wanted today.'

Cork dominated the first half completely and should have led by more than four points (0-8 to 0-4) at the change of ends.

Galway certainly seemed off the pace slightly in the first half as O'Connor hoovered up possession effortlessly, while Cotter came up with some big plays. Had they offloaded a little earlier having created a number of overlaps, they might have put Galway away.

Thompson got the champions off the mark with an early point and Cotter notched up the first three of seven points, with Niamh McGrath landing a brilliant equaliser from the left wing from Galway.

That was to be the Tribeswomen's only score from play until Aoife Donohue struck and they never carried a sufficient offensive threat.

McGrath, who scored all bar that Donohue point for Galway, kept Tony Ward's team in touch but with Cotter and Corkery doing the business at the other end, it was double scores at the break.

Galway thundered into the fray after the resumption though and three pointed frees McGrath, including one from just short of the 65m line, reduced the margin to one.

The challengers were in full flow now with Lorraine Ryan in no mood to yield, while Heather Cooney made a stunning block to deny a certain goal.

Julia White also had a goal correctly ruled out for a square ball but Cotter came up with a big point from play to stop the rot and Cork never really looked back.

Once Corkery intercepted Shauna



Mastermind: Cork manager Paudie Murray celebrates Cork's 26th All-Ireland senior camogie win.

Healy's attempted clearance and raced through to slot calmly to the Galway net, Cork opened their shoulders and Thompson landed a monstrous score late on, followed by a Katrina Mackey point to signal the start of the celebrations.

'We love being the underdog,' said Thompson.

We should all really know better.

### Scorers

**Cork:** O Cotter 0-7 (5f), B Corkery 1-1, A Thompson 0-2, O Cronin, A O'Connor, K Mackey 0-1 each.  
**Galway:** N McGrath 0-8 (7f), A Donohue 0-1.

**Cork:** A Murray; P Mackey, L Treacy, L O'Sullivan; R Buckley, G O'Connor, M Cahalane; O Cotter, A Thompson; J White, O Cronin, K Mackey; H Looney, B Corkery, A O'Connor.  
**Subs used:** E O'Sullivan for Looney (35); M Walsh for O'Sullivan (60).  
**Galway:** S Eamer; T Manton, S Dervan, H Cooney; S Coen, S Healy, L Ryan; N Kilkenny, C McGrath; A Donohue, N McGrath, F Keeley; C Finnerty, M Dunne, A O'Reilly.  
**Subs used:** J Gill for Finnerty (42), S Cahalan for Healy (58), R Hennehy for C McGrath (60).  
**Referee:** R Kelly (Kildare).



## Senior B final to be close contest

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

TWO clubs with contrasting histories come face to face in Castle Road this afternoon to decide the destination of the Senior B championship.

Sarsfield's, one of the counties oldest clubs, dropped down to junior where they worked hard to rebuild their club and have steadily made progress. Last year they won the intermediate title and now in their first year at senior B they are just 60 minutes away from returning to senior grade where they annexed the title in 1989.

Mallow enjoyed success at junior level before progressing to intermediate where they took the title in 2010 and since then they have plied their trade at senior B level hoping to annex their first title. They took league honours in 2011 but a championship title has eluded them.

Sars have been one of the county's most successful clubs in recent times. The huge population growth in their area has helped grow their club and the hard work being put in is paying huge dividends with significant underage success coming their way in recent years. The products of this work are now coming through with huge volumes of underage players progressing to adult teams.

In their section of the championship Sars recorded victories over Kilbrittan/Timoleague, Carrigaline and Aghabullogue but were defeated by Barryroe but with three victories out of four it was enough to see them advance to a semi-final meeting with Eire Og. In a close contest just two points separated the sides at the full-time whistle.

In that encounter Sars answered all the questions posed by a determined Eire Og side but now they will have to do it all again as they face a determined Mallow outfit.

Unlike Sars, who are in their first year in the senior B grade, Mallow have seen a lot of teams come and go from the grade as they continue to battle for their first title. They drew with Valley Rovers in their first game before losing out to Eire Og, but with victories over Clonakilty and Fr O'Neill's, Mallow grabbed the runners-up spot in the group. They recorded a comprehensive victory over Barryroe, the only team to have defeated Sars.

It will be a close final. Both have plenty of talented players capable of turning a game in their favour. Mallow's Michele Browne, Bronagh Ganley, Sinead O'Connor and Kathleen O'Brien are very experienced players and are strong performers. Emer Fennell who has given wonderful service to the Sars club, continues to be one of their leading players while Ellen Murphy, Chloe Casey, Lucy Allen and Katie Barry won't be unsettled by the occasion.

# Clubs now get a chance to shine



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

**I SAT down mid-week to watch the final again comfortable in the knowledge that Cork were All Ireland champions.**

You won't catch everything when watching live, particularly if you're reporting on the game, taking notes, trying to watch what's going on off the ball as well as on it. So I always enjoy watching it a second time.

I picked Gemma as my *Evening Echo* Player of the Game. She was outstanding.

There was little between herself and Orla Cotter, who received the RTE Player of the Match. But outside those two, Julia White was also brilliant, her work rate exceptional, her offloads equally impressive. She's had a great season.

Ashling Thompson, Orla Cronin, Rena Buckley's crucial blocks, Pam Mackey and Laura Treacy all had fine games; really all over the pitch Cork were on top. Eimear O'Sullivan's introduction was hugely influential - her pace always going to be a telling factor.

Meabh Cahalane was very composed working the ball out of defence. Alongside her, Leanne O'Sullivan's All-Ireland debut couldn't have gone better. Both defence's it must be said had fine games.

The Galway back six couldn't do anymore, they were beaten at midfield and up front, thereby coming under constant pressure and with Cork's forward's hunting in packs they really felt the hour.

How Ashling Thompson has grown into such a great leader is very impressive. She matured almost overnight and was exceptional in both the run up to the final, the game itself and the post-match requirements.

Had Cork goaled earlier in the game I think the floodgates would have opened.

It was a final I enjoyed as I never felt the outcome was in doubt. Even when Galway reduced the deficit to a point I wasn't concerned. I felt Galway were living off scraps, Cork in total control.



Cork camogie players Briege Corkery, Ashling Thompson and Gemma O'Connor with Grace Curtin, 16 months, from Middleton, with the O'Duffy Cup. Picture: INPHO/Cathal Noonan

And as expected the last ten minutes belonged to the Rebels.

Briege's goal was very well taken. To gather one handed at such pace, to shrug off and cross the path of Therese Manton thereby breaking her stride was excellent.

The poor weather conditions possibly affected the crowd in the South Mall on Monday evening but the crowd was similar to previous years and the players and management received an enthusiastic reception worthy of their achievement.

After the high of the All-Ireland, it's back to club action and Cork's players will take to the field with their clubs with a spring in their step.

Tomorrow champions Milford face the Glen in Mounseabey. The Glen

will need to stand tall against a physically strong side and will need to avoid pumping the ball into the danger area where the experienced Elaine O'Riordan, Anna Geary, Katie Galvin and Lisa Healy will hold fort.

Milford remain a star-studded side with Maria Walsh and the Watson's coming back into the side having missed the opening round, and the ever dangerous Marie O'Neill.

The Glen have made huge strides at underage this past number of years with some great talent now matured onto the senior squad.

Senior B champions in 2013 they had a good start to life in the top flight again with a draw against Cloughduv, only to lose the replay.

They shipped a heavy defeat to In-

niscarra in the back door but had a very good league run in 2015, clocking up some impressive scores along the way and losing the semi-final by a single point to Inniscarra; 3-11 to 2-13.

Milford are undoubtedly favourites to reach the quarter-final against Ballincollig.

The Glen will need to come out of the blocks with all guns blazing and maintain that intensity for the full hour.

It's a hard ask.

Killeagh and St Finbarr's will be a close call.

Killeagh, who expect to have Angela Walsh back in action, are certainly on the ascendancy against a St Finbarr's side still relying hugely on Gemma O'Connor and Lynda O'Connell and the experience of Rachel Myers.

## Bumper weekend with Junior B title up for grabs

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Niamh O'Leary possess huge ability. They have already overcome today's opponents in the round robin series of the competition with five points to spare. Blackrock still enjoyed a good campaign and Kaitlin Hickey, Hayley Ryan, Michelle Murphy, Aileen Nagle, Carol Ryan and Roisin De Faoite are key players for them.

Just a point separated Tracton and Enniskeane in the round robin series of this championship and another close encounter is on the cards. Enniskeane will look to Cork senior Orla Cronin to bring the good form shown all year to the fore as they aim to reverse the one-point deficit from the last meeting.

**Junior B Final:**

League champions Cobh and Banteer get proceed-

ings under way at 12pm on a busy day in Castle Road.

Banteer have continued their impressive march from winning the junior C league and championship last season to make it to the B final. They were strengthened two seasons ago when several players from the Castlemagner club joined. They overcame Glen Rovers in the semi-final and players such as Rosie Twohig, Aine Cott, Karen O'Keeffe and Gemma Cashman will play a big part in their quest for victory.

Cobh are a club who have worked hard at junior B level and they beat Ballinascarty to secure their place in today's final. They also won their four games in their section to top the group and in each outing they were impressive. Captain Aileen Tallon is out due to a cruciate knee ligament injury sustained recently, but Chloe Smith, Marie Moynihan and Aoife Harte will battle hard to ensure the double is secured.



# Have your say on the future of camogie

## CAMOGIE

THE National Development Plan for 2016 onwards is in its research and planning phase.

The Camogie Association and Ard Chomhairle invite club members, committees, schools and colleges to a regional meeting to give input into the future of camogie.

Maeve Buckley from Line Up Sports will be running a workshop for all those who are interested in the long-term future of the game.

The workshops will be for two hours and will be interactive so attendees can give their views to help build the sport for the future.

This is an open call to participate so players, mentors, coaches, referees, supporters, teachers, parents, and administrators in clubs, schools, and colleges are very welcome.

### Date

The local date to remember is Thursday, October 1 at 7pm in Mal-low GAA Complex.

There is also an online survey on [www.camogie.ie](http://www.camogie.ie) where you can tell the development committee what you think about the future of camogie.

Go to [camogie.ie](http://camogie.ie) and have your say by taking part in the National Development Plan Survey. It's your sport so tell the association what you want.

### TODAY

Junior B Championship final: Banteer v Cobh, Castle Road, 12pm.

Senior B Championship final: Sarsfields v Mal-low, Castle Road, 3.30pm.

Senior Championship: St Catherine's v Ballygar-van, Castle Road, 6.15pm; Cloughduv v Douglas, Ballyanley, 5.45pm.

Intermediate Championship semi-finals: Brian Dillon's v Blackrock, Ballinlough, 5.45pm; Ennis-keane v Tracton, Brinny, 2.30pm.

### TOMORROW

Senior Championship: Glen Rovers v Milford, Mourneabbey, 2.30pm; Killeagh v St Finbarr's, Castle Road, 3pm.



Edel Sheehan, captain of the Éire Óg U10 team holds the Declan Crowley Cup aloft recently, watched by Mary Crowley and Richard Ennof, Kinsale Lions Club president.

# Cork U14s set tone on big day

WITH all the excitement and euphoria of Cork's thrilling All-Ireland win last weekend, another hugely successful victory was somewhat overshadowed.

The Cork U14 Division 1 development squad set the tone of the weekend as they lifted the trophy on Saturday last in a hugely successful and well organised event which saw over 1,200 girls participate, as 51 teams from 29 counties entered the five divisions.

Cork entered Division 1 and they were grouped with Wexford, Dublin, Clare and Limerick. After a couple of wins over Wexford and Dublin,

## CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

Clare beat them 0-7 to 0-1. Cork found their form in the last game, 2-8 to 1-4, and to secure a place in the semi-final against Kilkenny.

The Cats made a great start and led by four points at the interval, but it was all systems go as Cork gave it their all in a superb second-half. With Emma Murphy and Laura Doyle fighting for every ball at mid-field it ensured a steady supply up top where Fiona Keating grabbed three goals in quick succession.

Goalkeeper Lisa O'Riordan denied Kilkenny with some excellent saves to set up a rematch with Clare, who defeated Tipperary 0-8 to 1-1 to book their spot.

Cork showed huge fighting character and determination from the throw-in as they took the game to Clare. Notching up the scores Cork opened up a five-point lead before Clare responded and at the break Cork led 0-5 to 0-1.

On the restart the Banner forced a penalty, but Cork's Jennifer Murphy denied them on the line with a great save. Again they pressed but another great save from keeper Lisa O'Riordan was key.

Orla Cremin, Rachel O'Regan and

Fiona Keating were all working hard and they grabbed a vital break from a long clearance up the field with captain Emma Murphy slotting home the game's only goal to seal victory on a 1-5 to 0-3 scoreline.

Huge credit to every one of the Cork team who played as a unit and gave superb performance to ensure the weekend got off to a perfect start.

It was wonderful to be in Croke Park on Sunday and see the Cork girls lead the parade of counties into the stadium proudly carrying the Mary Moran All-Ireland Division 1 All-Ireland trophy, a sight that gladdened the hearts of the huge Cork following.

## HONOURS LIST: The decorated duo on the verge of history

### MEDAL BREAKDOWN

2004 Munster ladies football championship, ladies football All Star.

2005 Munster ladies football championship, ladies national football league, All-Ireland (both codes).

2006 Munster ladies football championship, national league (both codes), All Ireland (both codes), All Star (both codes).

2007 Munster ladies football championship, national camogie league, All-Ireland ladies football championship, All Star (both codes).

2008 Munster ladies football championship, ladies national football league, All Ireland (both codes).

2009 Munster ladies football championship, ladies national football league, All-Ireland (both codes).

2010 Munster ladies football championship, ladies national football league.

2011 Munster ladies football championship, ladies national football league, All Ireland ladies football championship.

2012 Munster ladies football championship, national camogie league, All-Ireland ladies football championship, ladies football All Star.

2013 National league (both codes), All-Ireland ladies football championship.

2014 Munster ladies football championship, national ladies football league, All-Ireland (both codes), camogie All Star.

2015 National ladies football league, All-Ireland senior camogie championship.

Having matched Kathleen Mills' record of 15 All-Ireland medals in last Sunday weeks camogie decider, Cork dual pair Rena Buckley and Brieghe Corkery bid to write their names into Irish sporting history this weekend. A 16th All-Ireland medal on Sunday would crown the pair as the most decorated sportswomen in GAA history.

### RENA BUCKLEY

CLUBS Inniscarra (camogie)/Donoughmore (ladies football)

AGE 27

HEIGHT 5'7

OCCUPATION Physiotherapist

### HONOURS

13 National league medals (nine ladies football, four camogie)

15 All-Irelands (nine ladies football, six camogie)

7 All Stars (four ladies football, three camogie)

Both players have achieved All-Ireland success in eight different positions (four in either code), both also captaining Cork to ladies football glory. Corkery has been involved in every minute of each of the 15 successful finals. And all this achieved before their 28th and 29th birthdays respectively. A remarkable haul, remarkable women.

### BRIEGHE CORKERY

CLUBS Cloughduv (camogie)/St Vals (ladies football)

AGE 28

HEIGHT 5'3

OCCUPATION Farmer

### HONOURS

13 National league medals (eight ladies football, five camogie)

15 All-Irelands (nine ladies football, six camogie)

13 All Stars (eight ladies football, five camogie)

2012 Ladies football Player of the Year

### MEDAL BREAKDOWN

2003 National camogie league.

2004 Munster ladies football championship.

2005 Munster ladies football championship, ladies national football league, All-Ireland (both codes), ladies football All Star.

2006 Munster ladies football championship, national league (both codes), All Ireland (both codes), Camogie All Star.

2007 Munster ladies football championship, national camogie league, All-Ireland ladies football championship, ladies football All Star.

2008 Munster ladies football championship, ladies national football league, All Ireland (both codes), All Star (both codes).

2009 Munster ladies football championship, ladies national football league, All-Ireland (both codes), All Star (both codes).

2010 Travelling.

2011 Munster ladies football championship, ladies national football league, All Ireland ladies football championship, ladies football All Star.

2012 Munster ladies football championship, national camogie league, All-Ireland ladies football championship, All Star (both codes).

2013 National league (both codes), All-Ireland ladies football championship, ladies football All Star.

2014 Munster ladies football championship, national ladies football league, All-Ireland (both codes), All Star (both codes).

2015 National ladies football league, All-Ireland senior camogie championship.



## Sars back on top with B final win

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

**Sarsfields** 1-10  
**Mallow** 1-8

JUST 12 months after winning promotion to Senior B grade Sars have won the right to re-join the elite as they overcame Mallow in the Evening Echo Senior B final in Castle Road on Saturday.

Over the hour they were the better team but they were made fight to the finish by a Mallow side that relied heavily for scores on Michelle Browne who contributed all but one of their tally whilst Sars had seven players on the score sheet.

Aided by the strong wind in the opening half Sars raced into a four point lead but with Michelle Browne pointing two frees Mallow were on the score board with eight minutes to the break.

Applying huge pressure they hit the front Michelle Browne grabbing the game's opening goal with a superb stroke to the corner of the net but crucially for Sars they failed to panic and when Emer Fennell found herself in space she made no mistake from close range to restore her side advantage to a two point interval lead.

From the restart Mallow tore into the game and inside seven minutes Browne had them level, Holly Herlihy who enjoyed huge freedom on the wing edged Sarsfield's back in front and again Browne tied the sides up from a free.

As the game entered the last quarter Sars' enjoyed dominance and with their substitutes bringing fresh legs to their challenge they took control to hit three points without reply but Mallow fought back Michelle Browne pointed a free and one from play before Maura O'Connell levelled matters with five minutes remaining.

Absorbing a lot of pressure the Sars defence was excellent with Michelle Barry, Jenny Murphy and Ellen Murphy all to the fore as they stood their ground before Keane and McCarthy sealed the deal with two points to return the Sars' girls to Senior grade for 2016.

Long serving Sarsfield's player Emer Fennell was named as Player of the match after another superb display. **Scorers for Sarsfield's:** E Fennell 1-3 (0-2fs), M McCarthy 0-2, C Holland, A O'Kelly, Lynch, H Herlihy, O Keane, M Mullins 0-1 each.

**Mallow:** M Browne 1-7 (0-5fs), M O'Connell 0-1.  
**SARSFIELDS:** C Casey, L Casserly, K Barry, J Murphy, N Hickey, E Murphy, K Lyons, L Kelly, N O'Callaghan, H Herlihy, E Fennell, S O'Kelly-Lynch, C Holland, L Allen, M McCarthy.

**Subs:** E Lonergan for L Casserly (290), M Barry for K Lyons (36), M Mullins for L Allen (45), O Keane for C Holland (54).  
**MALLOW:** S O'Connor, M O'Connor, J O'Donnell, B O'Sullivan, K Healy, A O'Rourke, E Coakley, M Byrne, L Willis, J Fitzpatrick, E Forde, K O'Brien, B Ganley, M Browne, K Coakley.

**Subs:** M O'Connell for J O'Donnell (20), K Buckley for B Ganley (11).  
**Referee:** Ian Thomas (Carrigaline).

# Early goals set up Killeagh win



Camogie

Rory Noonan

**Killeagh** 2-13  
**St Finbarr's** 2-6

**KILLEAGH** are through to the quarter-final of the Evening Echo Senior Camogie Championship, after their win over St Finbarr's at Castle Road yesterday.

They were the better side, with outstanding displays from Laura Treacy, Jessica O'Shea, Chloe Sigerson and Hannah Looney. They were also boosted by the returning Angela Walsh.

The East Cork side got two goals in the first three minutes, and from here the Barrs were always chasing the game. To their credit, they did and with Gemma O'Connor, Meabh Cahalane, Keeva McCarthy and Rachel Myers leading by example, they were just two points down at half-time.

But Killeagh, with Treacy dominating, upped their game after the break and restricted the Barrs to two points, hitting seven themselves to come out on top.

The game was barely on when Leah McEvoy played a great ball to Sigerson, who found the back of the net. A minute later and Walsh showed she hasn't lost her touch, when she set up Rachel Sheehan for their second goal. Looney added a point to increase their lead, before O'Connor got the Barrs' first score, with seven minutes gone.

Ciara Daly and Looney scored for Killeagh, with McCarthy replying for the Barrs, to make it 2-3 to 0-2, with 11 minutes played. Sigerson pointed again, before the Barrs enjoyed their best spell of the game.

O'Connor pointed and McCarthy got a goal to reduce the deficit, and when McCarthy was on target again there was only a goal in it, 2-4 to 1-4.

Daly pointed for Killeagh, but with two minutes to half-time Ciara Keating got the Barrs' second goal, to put only a point between them. Lucy O'Gorman got the last score of the first-half, as



St Finbarr's Ciara Keating shoots from Killeagh's Laura Treacy during the Evening Echo Cork senior camogie championship at Castle Road yesterday. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Killeagh led 2-6 to 2-4 at the break.

Early points from Looney and Sigerson extended their lead, before Keating pointed for the Barrs. Sigerson and McCarthy exchanged points, to make it 2-9 to 2-6, with 41 minutes gone.

From here to the end, Killeagh were in control, with Treacy superb at centre-back. Two points from Looney extended their lead, with O'Gorman scoring, to make it 2-12 to 2-6.

Fittingly, Sigerson set up O'Shea for the last score of the game for Killeagh, as they now march on to a quarter-final meeting with Inniscarra.

**Scorers for Killeagh:** C Sigerson 1-3 (2f), R Sheehan 1-0, H Looney 0-5, C Daly, L O'Gorman 0-2 each, J O'Shea 0-1.

**St Finbarr's:** K McCarthy 1-3 (1-3f), G O'Connor 0-2, C Keating 0-1.

**KILLEAGH:** C Motheway, A Walsh, N O'Keefe, E O'Neill, G O'Gorman, L Treacy, L McEvoy, J O'Shea, C Sigerson, L O'Gorman, H Looney, R Sheehan, N O'Donovan, A Walsh, C Daly.

**Subs:** C Barry for N O'Donovan, K Murphy for R Sheehan.

**ST FINBARR'S:** C McCarthy, L O'Connell, C Ryan, J Keating, A Shannon, R Finn, S Punch, G O'Connor, M Cahalane, K McCarthy, C Keating, E Ryan, R Myers, C Spelman, P Finn.

**Sub:** G Cahalane for C Spelman.

**Ref:** Walter Cole, (Buttevant).



Killeagh's Chloe Sigerson bursting through St Finbarr's Gemma O'Connor and Rachel Finn. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

## Strong St Catherine's survive stern Ballygarvan test

**St Catherine's** 0-12  
**Ballygarvan** 1-6

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

WITH 12 minutes remaining in this Evening Echo Senior Championship clash in Castle Road on Saturday it looked as if Ballygarvan, making their return to senior grade after an absence of just two years, were about to cause the upset of the championship but St Catherine's greater experience just about got them over the line in the end.

A strong opening and closing 10 minutes in each half helped the champions of 2009 make it to the quarter-final, helped by the excellence of Finola Neville and Orla Cotter when the need was greatest.

Finola Neville and Isobel O'Regan exchanged early points but after striking three-in-a-row, Neville had the Saints three ahead as they dictated the early stages. Rebecca Murphy fired over two Ballygarvan

points as Orla Cotter added one to the St. Catherine's tally but a steadily improving Ballygarvan battled for every ball with determination and it was rewarded when Rebecca Murphy finished to give them a 1-4 to 0-6 half-time lead.

With both defences on top, scores were at a premium and it was 10 minutes into the second half before Orla Cotter pointed a free to level matters. Still, Ballygarvan played with confidence and they edged back in front with two Catriona Kelly pointed frees.

With Orla Cotter beginning to gain a grip around the middle, St Catherine's began to win more possession and Evelyn Ronayne showed her strength breaking through the Ballygarvan defence for a score that signalled their fightback.

Digging deep, they began to run at a tired Ballygarvan defence with Cotter slotting over two frees to edge her side in front with six minutes remaining.

Ballygarvan came in search of scores but couldn't get the vital possession they needed.

St Catherine's finished strongly and points from Finola Neville and Rachel O'Callaghan sealed their place in the last eight after a stern test.

**Scorers for St Catherine's:** F Neville 0-5, O Cotter 0-5 (0-4 f), R O'Callaghan, E Ronayne 0-1 each.

**Ballygarvan:** R Murphy 1-2, C Kelly 0-3(f), I O'Regan 0-1.

**ST CATHERINE'S:** V O'Donnell, A M Rohan, N Mulcahy, Y O'Neill, O Neville, C Motherway, M O'Keefe, R O'Callaghan, F Neville, M Walsh, M Tobin, E Ronayne, A Fitzgerald.

**Subs:** M Rohan for M Walsh (11).

**BALLYGARVAN:** L Condeit, A Moynihan, L Kennelick, A Keohane, M E O'Donovan, E Ryan, M Moynihan, C Murphy, R Keohane, I O'Regan, C Kelly, M Buckley, E McAndrew, R Murphy, C Keohane.

**Subs:** E Martin for R Keohane (11), L Browne for C Keohane (51).  
**Referee:** Andrew Larkin (Douglas).

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## Excellent-Douglas progress to semis

CAMOGIE

■ Olan Allen

Douglas	1-14
Cloughdub	0-7

DOUGLAS advanced to the semi-finals of the Evening Echo Senior Camogie Championship with an impressive win over Cloughdub at Ballynalyon on Saturday.

Cork star Katrina Mackey was the hero for Douglas with a contribution of 1-4 and she was involved in setting up several of her side's other scores.

Cloughdub's Brieghe Corkery was well marshaled in the opening half but when she was switched to midfield at the start of the second half Cloughdub came more into the game.

Early Douglas pressure was rewarded with two points from Grace McNamara and Sarah Foley. Slowly Cloughdub began to get a grip of the game and full-forward Joanne Down showed her skills with two excellent points to level.

Pamela Mackey and Amy Curtin were defending superbly and Muiread Mulrooney put Douglas back in front with a point on 10 minutes. When Douglas moved Katrina Mackey into corner-forward and brought Amanda O'Regan out they had Cloughdub on the defensive.

The ball was constantly coming to Katrina Mackey and she set up Foley for her second point, before hitting 1-2 in a three-minute spell.

Niamh O'Leary hit two pointed frees to keep Cloughdub in touch, but points from Katrina Mackey and Fahy had Douglas 1-8 to 0-4 ahead at half-time.

Early Cloughdub pressure at the start of the second half saw O'Leary and Mairead Corkery hit two quick points.

Sensing a comeback, Douglas replied with two points within a minute from Katrina Mackey and Amanda O'Regan. Douglas goalkeeper Jess Kavanagh pulled off saves from Clara O'Leary and a superb effort by Brieghe Corkery when she was clean through on goal.

At the other end, Aoife Murray produced a marvellous save to deny Katrina Mackey a second Douglas goal. Douglas finished the stronger and points from Amanda O'Regan, Fahy and Julie White saw them finish comfortable winners.

**Scorers for Douglas:** K Mackey 1-4, S Fahy 0-4, A O'Regan 0-3 (0-15), G McNamara, M Mulrooney, J White 0-1 each. **Cloughdub:** J Down 0-3, N O'Leary 0-3 (0-25), M Corkery 0-1.

**DOUGLAS:** J Kavanagh; S Long, A O'Brien, A Curtin; R Sheehan, P Mackey, L O'Regan; E Kavanagh, M Mulrooney; G McNamara, K Mackey, C Duggan; S Fahy, A O'Regan, J White.

**CLOUGHDUB:** Aoife Murray; G O'Sullivan, E Dunne, A Kelleher; N McCarthy, C Foley, A Corkery; A Barry-Murphy, M Corkery; N O'Leary, B Corkery, R Hurley; A Ryan, J Down, B Hennigan.

**Subs:** C O'Leary for Hennigan (14 inj), Anne Murray for Hurley (45), A Dunne for O'Sullivan (45).

**Referee:** C McAllister (Aghada).



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

Milford	5-10
Glen Rovers	1-6

IN WET, slippery and windy conditions Milford advanced to the semi-final of the Cork senior camogie championship with a goal scoring spree in Mounseabey yesterday.

The Glen were holding their own in outfield play but their full back line, despite the magnificent effort of Lauren Callanan, were struggling to hold a lethal full forward line of Marie O'Neill, Emer and Maria Watson. With the aforementioned trio constantly roaming and switching positions, three goals in the first half were a killer blow for the Glen who were level 20 minutes in at 1-3 apiece.

Milford went for the jugular from the outset, heading straight for the square in a bid to rattle a young Glen Rovers side. The Glen however managed to withstand the onslaught and in fact went three points to two in front after 12 minutes, thanks to tenacity and two well taken frees by Denise Luby.

Ashling Thompson was doing a lot of damage to the Glen, defending and attacking with equal enthusiasm, highly influencing matters.

Maria Watson netted goal one of her hat trick 13 minutes in after Marie O'Neill had again slipped her marker. However a Luby free deflected to the net minutes later and the Glen were level.

In difficult conditions credit must go to both teams for a hard physical game played in a sporting manner.

A clash ball in front of the Glen goal resulted in goal number two for Watson and when she struck her third on thirty three minutes the Glen were somewhat unfortunate to be trailing eight points at the break.

The distribution and teamwork of Milford was as ever impressive, on the road now a long time with each other and instinctively knowing where each other is on the pitch.

Lauren Callanan, who was giving it everything at left corner back, moved to centerfield as the Glen chased the game.

But there was no way through a solid Milford defence where once again Elaine O'Riordan was outstanding, even though she possibly met her fastest and niftiest opponent ever in Aisling Wallace.

The Glen never gave up despite the game running away from them. O'Riordan defended well and cleared to Maria Watson where another fluent move involving O'Neill and Emer Watson saw Milford strike their fourth major eight minutes after the restart.

Marie O'Neill who was so influential

# Milford goal spree sees off the Glen



Milford's Ashling Thompson clears ahead of Nicole O'Brien and Kelly Fitzgerald from Glen Rovers during their Evening Echo Senior Camogie Championship clash at Mounseabey, yesterday. Picture: Jim Coughlan

hit her side's fifth goal entering the final ten minutes and with points from Maria Walsh, Maria Watson, Laura Stack and Aoife Dillon the champions finished in style.

You're always learning in sport, always growing, and for a young Glen Rovers side, a side that are getting better and maturing every year they can hold their heads high, take both the positives and negatives from the game and come back stronger. For Milford they march on.

**Scorers for Milford:** M Watson 3-2, E Watson 1-3 (0-15), M O'Neill 1-1, L Stack 0-2, M Walsh and A Dillon 0-1 each.

**Glen Rovers:** D Luby 1-5 (1-4 1, 0-1 45); K Walsh 0-1.

**MILFORD:** R Finn; D Hayes, K Galvin, L Healy; E O'Riordan, A Watson, A Geary; A Thompson, L Hanley; O O'Mahony, C O'Connor, M Walsh; M Watson, M O'Neill, E Watson.

**Subs:** L Stack for M O'Neill (blood sub-23); M O'Neill for L Stack (h/t); L Stack for M O'Neill (54); A Dillon for C O'Connor (55); E O'Neil for O O'Mahony (59).

**GLEN ROVERS:** K Lee; Z Buckley, L O'Sullivan, K Fahy; L Callanan, L Cunningham, K Fitzgerald; J Hosford, K O'Connell; D Luby, N O'Brien, A Wallace; S Fahy, M Hyde, K Walsh.

**Subs:** N Gowen for Z Buckley (h/t); C Boland for K Fitzgerald (h/t); S Hayes for S Fahy (47); D O'Neill for K Walsh (inj 50).

**Ref:** Diarmuid Kirwan (Eire Og).



Elaine O'Riordan, Milford and Aisling Wallace, Glen Rovers battling for the ball. Picture: Jim Coughlan

## Battle for last four takes place tomorrow

■ Mary Newman

TOMORROW

Evening Echo Senior Camogie quarter-final: Carbery v St Catherine's, Castle Road, 2pm.

ST CATHERINE'S had to dig deep last weekend in round two to keep their Evening Echo championship aspirations alive against a tough Ballygarvan side but no doubt the game will have stood to them as they face Carbery tomorrow in a battle for a place in the last four.

Last Saturday last it took a strong closing 10 minutes before they finally got a grip on proceeding to edge it with three points to spare.

In the finish it was St Catherine's greater experience and the strength of their inter-county duo of Orla Cotter and Finola Neville that got them safely over the line.

Orla Cotter was hugely influential when

the need was greatest as she dropped back into their defence and cleared an amount of ball and carried possession forward as only she can do with style and speed to set up attack after attack. Finola Neville dominated the early stages of the game striking four points in a row and she continued to be a hand full for the Ballygarvan defence all through.

Evelyn Ronayne has strength and is influential up front but St Catherine's will be hoping to get more out of attack as last day out Orla Cotter and Finola Neville accounted for 10 of their 12 scores. No doubt but a lack of championship match practice was a factor and they will have benefited hugely from the game as they face another tough contest in this quarter-final clash.

Carbery, the only division to have fielded in championship, showed they

meant business when they overcame the challenge of Killeagh in round one and they were full value for their five-point victory margin.

They are a well organised side and with Barryroe having re-graded down to senior B this season they a force to be reckoned with. They can call on players from three senior B clubs Clonakilty, Barryroe, Kilbrittan/Timoleague, Intermediate side Enniskeane and junior clubs Newcestown and Ballinascarty. With a lot of the clubs finished their own championship involvement it allows Carbery plenty of time for preparation.

Former Cork senior Sile Burns is joined by current senior player Orla Cronin, county intermediate players Hazel O'Regan, Aine Crowley, Libby Coppinger, Claire Sexton Sinead Curtin, county minors Mary Hurley and Maebh Sexton, and county U16 players Ciara Ryan, Claire Crowley, and Maebh Lynch.



# Lyons clinches Tracton final slot

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Tracton	3-5
Enniskeane	0-11

TRACTON continue the hunt for their first intermediate championship title and they took a step closer when they overcame Enniskeane in last weekend's semi-final clash.

Both defences were on top in the opening quarter and it was 12 minutes before the first score was recorded, Orla Coughlan opening the Enniskeane account.

Tracton replied with a Jennifer Griffin point and it was a case of free-takers on target in the hunt to take the lead. Orla Cronin pointed three long-range efforts for Enniskeane, but Jennifer Griffin twice did likewise as Tracton remained in the hunt.

Tracton went level with an Aoibhinn Kidney point but Katie Buttimer gave Enniskeane the advantage with a point to ensure they held a slender 0-5 to 0-4 lead as they turned to play against the wind in the second half.

Enniskeane extended their advantage to three points, with Katie Buttimer and Orla Coughlan on target, and when Cork senior Orla Cronin pointed a long-range free, they were four points clear. Now was the time to press for home but Tracton were in no mood to allow this and began to control the middle of the field, applying pressure on the Enniskeane defence.

This told when Kidney found the net to leave a point between the sides.

Kate McCarthy pointed to again put Enniskeane two ahead, but Tracton hit the front for the first time with a Kidney goal with seven minutes left.

Now it was Enniskeane who had to fight back and Coughlan levelled matters as the clock ticked towards full time. With the game there to be won, it was Tracton who seized the opportunity with an Aine Lyons goal to secure their place in the final.

Scorers for Tracton: A Kidney 2-1, J Griffin 0-4 (0-3 f), A Lyons 1-0.

Enniskeane: O Cronin 0-4, O Coughlan 0-4, K Buttimer 0-2, K McCarthy 0-1.

TRACTON: R Walsh; E Kingston, R Good, N Mullane; J A Kingston, J Kelly, C Lynch; J Griffin, K O'Sullivan; J Lynch, A Kidney, C Castleton; A Kiley, L Murphy, M McGuinness.

Subs: S Sinclair for L Murphy; J Dempsey for N Mullane, A Lyons for M McGuinness.

ENNISKEANE: A O'Driscoll; K Scannell, C O'Mahony, K O'Shea; S Curtin, O Cronin, D Carroll, L Duggan; S O'Driscoll, M O'Regan, O Coughlan, C O'Donovan, R Scannell, K Buttimer.

Subs: JA Hayes for R Scannell, K McCarthy for A Crowley, L Mannix for M O'Regan (inj), D Curtin for L Duggan, S Duggan for S O'Driscoll (inj).



Eire Og, the U12B County Champions.

# Late Blackrock rally earns draw

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Brian Dillon's	1-12
Blackrock	1-12

**BRIAN DILLON'S and Blackrock must meet again after three Rockies points without reply ensured it ended all square in Sarsfield's last Saturday.**

Both teams gave it their all and everybody agreed a draw was a fair result. Blackrock settled fast and were on the scoreboard with two points, but Dillon's got into the game with points from Caoimhe Rodgers, Lauren Barry and Essie O'Connell.

The game went point for point as two evenly matched teams refused to give way. Susan Kate Brosnan pointed a Dillon's free before Therese Drummond added to their tally with 1-1.

With Dillon's retaining the upper hand, Caoimhe Rodgers pointed for a 1-6 to 0-7 interval lead. Sinead Mills, operating at full-forward for the second half, added two quick points to extend the lead for the northside girls.

Blackrock upped the pace though,



Sars, the U12A County Champions.

and grabbed a vital goal when Grace Mulqueen's long-range effort from a free proved unstoppable.

Dillon's worked hard and settled with points from Shauna Cronin and Sinead Mills to hold the lead which was extended with points from Lauren and Caoimhe Rodgers to put them three up with 10 minutes remaining.

Blackrock never allowed their heads

drop and as the game began to slip away, they rallied with a strong finish led by Katelyn Hickey and Michelle Murphy and hit three points without reply to secure a replay.

Scorers for Blackrock: K Hickey 0-7, G Mulqueen 1-2, M Murphy 0-2 R De Faoite 0-1.

Brian Dillon's: T Drummond 1-1, C Rodgers, S Mills 0-3 each, L Barry 0-2, S Cronin, E O'Connell, S K Brosnan (f) 0-1 each.

**BRIAN DILLON'S:** S Walsh; C O'Connor, N O'Leary, D Keane; A Dorgan, E Sharpe, E O'Connell; S Cronin, S K Brosnan; L Barry, R Brosnan, S Mills; S Deane; C Rodgers, T Drummond.

Sub: R Carroll for S Deane (h-f).

**BLACKROCK:** C Coughlan; T Cummins, C Kelleher, A McCurtain; C Ryan R DeFaoite, M Hurley; A Nagle, K O'Brien; K Hickey, M Murphy, H Ryan; G Mulqueen, D Ni Mhuire, C O'Keefe.

Subs: S Broderick for C Ryan, E McCooey for R De Faoite (inj).

# Superb Twohig steers Banteer to title and promotion

Banteer	1-9
Cobh	0-5

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

BANTEER reversed the result of their league final encounter with Cobh to take the *Evening Echo* Junior B championship title in Castle Road.

Just 12 months after being crowned Junior C champions they will now make the step up to A grade where they will no-doubt hold their own.

Cobh made the better start and led by two points Chloe Smith and Kate Ronayne settling them into the game with early scores. Banteer's Una Twohig put her side level with a pointed 45 and a free, but Cobh responded with a Katelyn Quinn point.

As play swung from end to end Banteer replied, Una Twohig pointing from play before slotting over

a free to leave her side a point ahead at the break.

Two minutes into the second-half Una Twohig pointed a free to stretch the Banteer lead. We had to wait 14 minutes for the next score from Mary Buckley after good work from Shelly Twohig ensured Banteer were now three points clear.

Erica Field denied Banteer a goal with a superb save from Aine Cott but Aoife Howard then goaled putting the title out of Cobh's reach.

Katelyn Quinn pointed a 45 with a minute of normal time remaining as Cobh still searched for the vital scores, but in injury time Banteer finished strong, Una Twohig pointing a free before Lynda

Dunlea and Lisa Howard pointed to ensure the Banteer's celebrations could get under way.

Player of the Match, Michelle Twohig, Banteer was presented with a memento by Sile Golden, secretary of the Cork Camogie Board.

Scorers for Banteer: U Twohig 0-6 (0-4 f, 0-1 45), A Howard 1-0, L Howard, M Buckley, L Dunlea 0-1 each.

Cobh: K Quinn 0-2 (0-1 f), C Smith 0-2 f, K Ronayne 0-1.

BANTEER: T Sheehan; Y Coleman, K O'Donoghue, E O'Donovan; A Foley, G Cashman, L Murphy; R Twohig (c), M Twohig; L Howard, A Cott, E Twohig; K O'Keefe, U Twohig, L Dunlea.

Sub: M Buckley for K O'Keefe (13).

COBH: E Field; M Damery, M Moynihan (c), A Richardson; E Spriggs, A Harle, N Meaney; A Higgins, S McKeown; C Mc Grath, E O'Regan, M Foley; K Quinn, C Smith, K Ronan.

Sub: N Sawani for E O'Regan (50).

Referee: Cathal Egan (Glen Rovers).

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Camogie

Linda Mellerick

**AS DIARMUID O'Donovan** stated two weeks ago, in September there's only two places you want to be, in Croke Park on a Sunday and 'The Mall' on the Monday.

We had a great night on the Mall two weeks ago and hopefully are in for another this coming Monday.

Everything that can possibly be said about the ladies footballers at this stage has been written; although I'm sure we'll get further insight when Mary White's book on this squad is launched in November.

Breige and Rena of course are record breakers in their own right. They've matched Kathleen Mills for All Ireland senior medal haul yet the comparison to Mills' record isn't exactly like for like.

Kathleen Mills is the only person to hold 15 All-Ireland medals in the one sport—a record that isn't beyond the possibility of being matched or surpassed if Cork ladies footballers continue to dominate their sport.

It would take someone starting their senior inter-county career at 17 and finishing at 34, allowing for the drop off of two All-Irelands in between. Eimear Scally comes to mind. What a difficult record to break though.

Breige and Rena's record is unique in its own right – because while the longevity may not be required, combining two sports at the top level is a more difficult task again and to hold so many All-Ireland medals in both codes is really incredible.

The girls are going for their 6th double which is phenomenal. And who's to say if Cork are victorious tomorrow that they won't win the 'Double/Treble' in 2016. Now this is a record I don't believe will ever be surpassed. And the most pleasing aspect about it all is that the two girls must be the most unassuming and friendliest people you could hope to meet. Diamonds really.

So the very best of luck to Eamonn Ryan and his wonderful squad once again.

With Douglas through to the senior championship semi-final after their win over Cloughduv, three quarter-final ties remain. St Cather-

# On 'The Mall' is the place to be



The Sars team who were last week crowned Senior B County Champions.

ine's and Carbery meet today in Castle Road at 2pm. Carbery are certainly the dark horses of this year's campaign and a close encounter is expected here.

Milford and Ballincollig and Kill-eagh v Inniscarra compete on the weekend of October 3. I expect a ding dong battle between Milford and Ballincollig if Ballincollig bring their A game to the table. While Milford are strong all over, and based on their performance against the Glen last Sunday, they will take some beating.

The semi-final and final dates are down for the weekend of October 11 and 18 respectively. The date for the Munster senior club championship

semi-final for the winners of Tipperary v Cork is October 24 at a Tipperary venue.

Congratulations to Sars on making it back to the top flight after their senior B win over Mallow last weekend. A great achievement after winning the Intermediate championship last year.

Oulart the Ballagh claimed the 42nd Kilmacud Crokes All-Ireland Camogie Sevens two weeks ago (sponsored by Cork company SE Systems). The Wexford outfit edged former winners Clonoulty/Rossmore by just a point on a 1-14 to 2-10 score-line in the final.

Both teams had their periods of

dominance with Oulart firing the first three points but an Ireena Fryday goal provided Clonoulty's first score and levelled the contest. Clonoulty went on to take a 1-4 to 0-3 lead but Oulart fought back with an Ursula Jacob goal and the Wexford side led 1-7 to 1-5 at the break.

A second Fryday goal saw Clonoulty take a 2-6 to 1-8 advantage on the restart but Oulart dug deep for victory. Clonoulty-Rossmore's Cáit Devane took the Player of the Tournament award.

Our condolences go to Gemma O'Connor, her brother Glenn and father Donal on the passing of her mother Ger last Thursday. Our con-

dolences too to all the Geaneys.

When you're involved in a sport, for many years you see familiar faces and get to personally know them. When they are no longer around you miss them even if all you do is have a five minute chat before or after a game. You'd still miss seeing Tommy Golden inside every pitch gate, he often comes to mind.

This year we didn't see Ger at so many games and she was sorely missed. Ger was everywhere Gemma, the Barrs and Cork were. Great to discuss games with, great for a craic, we all thoroughly enjoyed Ger and we will miss her.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam.

## BRIAN DILLON'S

Our U15 team produced an impressive performance with a comprehensive victory over Bishopscourt which was held at the Tank. Final score was 9-4 to 0-1. Our goals came from Hannah, four; Anna, two; Shannyn, Katie and Kate. Our distribution and finishing was excellent and overall it was a great team performance. We then played away to the Glen in the Seandún. The match was played in atrocious weather conditions and credit to both teams for their efforts. The Glen proved too strong winning on a scoreline of 6-7 to 2-1. Shannyn, Molly, Rebecca and Hannah were excellent for Dillon's.

Our U16 team were beaten by Ballinhassig in the championship. The final score of 4-5 to 0-5 did not reflect the game. Dillon's gave it everything and didn't get any breaks. At H.T. we were four points down and well in the game. Ballinhassig got some soft goals and we couldn't recover. Our points came from Kate, Shannyn and Siola. We had some great performances. Captain Caroline was superb, Kate worked really hard and Steph coming back from injury ran herself in to the ground. But it was Shannyn's performance that stood out; she was immense and was certainly the best player on the field. It was a hard match but played in the best of spirits. Ballinhassig are a good team and we wish them well in the championship.

In the intermediate championship Brian Dillon's and Blackrock must meet again after an exciting draw.

## BRIDE ROVERS

U16 Camogie: Bride Rovers 5-10 Trac-

ton 3-7. On Wednesday evening, Bride Rovers lined out at home to Tracton in an under 16 championship match. Two early goals from Siobhán and Sarah gave the home side a good start. The team settled well and maintained a strong lead throughout the first half with tight marking in defence, good fielding all over the pitch, and accurate passing going forward. Bride Rovers led at half-time on a score of 4-6 to 1-2. In the second-half, Bride Rovers were showing signs of tiring and Tracton capitalised on this to notch up a tally of 2-5 to 4 points. With just minutes to go there were only two goals between the teams and Tracton continued to pile on the pressure. However, Siobhán scored a last minute goal and Bride Rovers were the deserved winners after a very good all round and solid team performance. Well done girls.

**Team:** Rachel O'Flynn, Sarah Geaney, Emily Larkin, Emma Barry, Aisling Finnegan, Emma Hazelwood, Fiona Barry, Grace Culloty (0-3), Aislinn O'Connor (0-1), Katie Quirke, Caoimhe Hazelwood (1-1), Anna Murray, Siobhán O'Sullivan (3-3), Sarah Murphy (1-2) U12 Camogie: On Saturday morning, Bride Rovers hosted a camogie blitz for the under 12s. Many thanks to Mitchelstown, St Catherine's and Carrigrohilly who travelled to participate in the event. Although the girls struggled in their first game against Carrigrohilly, they got stronger as the

games progressed and gave their usual courageous and spirited performance with close marking and battling for every ball. This was a very enjoyable day for the girls; they are a team who are improving with every outing and they have certainly come a long way from their first foray into camogie just a few short months ago when they started out with just nine players. A huge thank you to the parents who worked tirelessly in the club room providing tea, coffee and refreshments to the players and their supporters.

**Team:** Ciara O'Flynn, Naoise McCarthy, Alice Murray, Kate Larkin, Michelle Geaney, Allana Broderick, Shauna Hayes, Abby Keating, Niamh O'Sullivan, Caoimhe Barry, Cliona Edmonds, Amy Kennedy, Ruby Hicks, Zoe Howard Daniels, Mollie O'Connell, Ava Barry, Lily Murray

## Clothes Collection:

First Friday collection of old clothes, shoes and handbags will be taken at the Community Centre on Friday October 2 from 7.30 to 8.00pm.

Don't forget you can stay in touch day to day with all the latest news on Twitter, @roversgaa, and on Facebook.

## EIRE OG

**County U14 Quarter Camogie Final:** A match which was played in awful conditions on Friday September 7 in Ballinhassig had a great outcome for Eire Og

after a terrific struggle.

With a lot of surface water on the field this was always going to be a struggle and Ballinhassig coped better with the conditions in the first half to lead at half time by two goals leaving Eire Og with a lot of work to do in the second-half. However on the resumption Eire Og upped their work rate and slowly played back the lead to lead by three points with time running out. Ballinhassig were attacking to try and level the match when Eire Og broke downfield to score a goal at the other end and Aisling Murray completed the scoring with a great point. A great win for this team and they now go on to play Enniskeane in the semi-final at Beggan on Sunday September 20 at 5pm. Eire Og camogie club U14s participated in a blitz on September 12 at Inniscarra where they played four games and performed at a very high level, showing great commitment.

Our U9 camogie team played our near neighbours Cloughduv in a highly competitive and exciting game on Saturday September 12. The girls showed great spirit and skill and showed how much they have developed since the start of the year.

## U12B Camogie County Champions:

Saturday Sept 19 in Ballinhassig saw the meeting of Eire Og and Valley Rovers in the U12B county final. The ideal playing conditions added to the great excite-

ment. The game was very evenly matched in the first-half and we ended one point down 1-1 to 1-2. The second-half saw us getting a stronger hold on the game as we played our way into the lead. We finally held on to our two point lead despite Valley Rovers attempts for goals, final score 1-5 to 1-3. This was a great reward for the hard work put in all year by our panel of players: Patricia Holmes, Indie Sheehan, Aoibhinn Goulding, Olivia Lynch, Aisling Desmond, Eimear Murphy, Emily Coffey, Eimear O'Donovan, Orla Beechinor, Ava Halligan, Ella Foley, Kate Healy, Cait Malone, Niamh O'Shea, Roisin Murphy and Sadhbh McGoldrich. We were also delighted that our own Orla Beechinor was selected as Player of the Final.

Great celebrations were later held back in the club where family and friends and former Cork footballer and current AFL player Ciarán Sheehan joined the players in celebrating a very special victory.

## SARSFIELDS

Our U12A team had a great win against St Finbarrs in the recent county final held in Ballinhassig. It was end-to-end stuff with both teams giving it everything. After a shaky first quarter Sars settled into the game and eventually got some crucial scores to leave it 1-2 to 0-4 at half-time, the goal coming from a ground stroke by Eve McMahon.

On the resumption, Barrs scored a goal and added another point from a free. Some positional changes in the forward line resulted in an equalising goalmouth scramble for Sars. Some minutes later Gaby Cashman finished strongly with a well taken goal and added the insurance point for good measure! Final score, Sars 3-3 Barrs 1-5.

Faye Loneragan was very reliable in goal and her puck-outs launched many a Sars attack. All the backs defended solidly but Liz Twomey and Saoirse Desmond deserves special mention. Midfielders and forwards worked very hard throughout the game and their fitness levels were exceptional. Both teams gave it their all, proving very difficult to pick a Player of the Match but Olivia McAllen shaded it. Joint captains Amy McNamara and Gaby Cashman accepted the O'Halloran Cup.

Most of the panel went on later that day to claim a U12A county football title with sister-club, Glanmire. A great achievement. Thank you to St Finbarrs for facilitating us with the earlier start.

**Panel:** Faye Loneragan, Julia Kelleher, Liz Twomey, Amy McNamara, Aisling McAllen, Gaby Cashman, Saoirse Desmond, Olivia McAllen, Emma Mulcahy, Eve McMahon, Caragh Byrne, Orlaith Roche, Amy Cashman, Karyn Sheehan, Cliona Lynch, Lauren Murphy, Megan Murphy, Aoife Rodgers, Zoe Callanan, Erin Kelleher & Ella O'Brien.

**Cork U14 All Ireland Blitz:** Congratulations to Molly Lynch, Nikki Barry and Becky Morgan all members of the Cork U14A All-Ireland winning panel. Aine Mullins represented us on the B panel.

SEPT. 2015



# Healy goal sees Inniscarra into semi

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

Inniscarra	1-14
Killeagh	0-10

A CLIONA HEALY ground shot to the corner of the net three minutes before the interval helped Inniscarra into an Evening Echo Senior Championship semi-final against Milford.

Up until then it had been a shoot-out between the sides as they swapped points on several occasions at Castle Road with neither gaining control. The goal was vital as Inniscarra moved into a 1-6 to 0-7 interval lead and never looked back.

All through the contest there were several key battles. Rena Buckley at centre-back policed Hannah Looney well and Laura Treacy was a tower of strength in the Killeagh defence. Aoife Kavanagh and Healy did trojan work for Inniscarra as did Jess O'Shea and Rachel Sheehan for Killeagh.

It was in the second half that Inniscarra did all the damage as they tore into the game and never took their foot off the pedal.

Joanne Casey was superb for Inniscarra, particularly in the second half, striking three points in a row to stretch their advantage before the hard-working Ciara Daly got one back for Killeagh.

Chloe Sigerson pointed a Killeagh free but with Inniscarra winning all the fifty-fifty balls they continued to pick off the points. Joanne Casey Aoife Kavanagh and Treasa McCarthy led the way with long range efforts.

Killeagh switched full-forward Angela Walsh to their half-forward line and she began to trouble the Inniscarra defence winning a lot of possession. Laura Treacy and Katie O'Mahony swapped points and with four minutes remaining Ciara Daly was denied a goal by Sinead Ni Riain in the Inniscarra goal.

Again Killeagh came in search of a goal and won a penalty but Chloe Sigerson was denied by the crossbar to the sound of the full-time whistle as Inniscarra march on to the last four and a meeting with champions Milford.

**Scorers for Inniscarra:** J Casey 0-8 (0-2 f, 0-1 45), C Healy 1-0, K O'Mahony, T McCarthy 0-2 each, O Healy A Kavanagh 0-1 each.

**Killeagh:** C Sigerson 0-6 (0-5 f), J O'Shea, R Sheehan, C Daly, L Treacy 0-1 each.

**INNISCARRA:** S Ni Riain, M Buckley, A Sheehan, D O'Callaghan, C Looney, R Buckley, R O'Mahony, A Kavanagh, K O'Mahony, C Healy, J Casey, O Healy, T McCarthy, E Looney, M Cosgrave.

**Subs:** N McCarthy for O Healy (45), C Cronin for D O'Callaghan (58), L Brennan for C Looney (62).

**KILLEAGH:** C Motherway, A Walsh, N O'Keefe, E Benaim, G O'Gorman, L Treacy, L McEvoy, J O'Shea, C Sigerson, L O'Gorman, H Looney, R Sheehan, N O'Donovan, A Walsh, C Daly.

**Subs:** C Barry for L O'Gorman (49), K Murphy for N O'Donovan (53), E O'Neill for E Benaim (58).

**Referee:** Cathal Egan (Glen Rovers).

## CAMOGIE

Olan Allen

Brian Dillon's	3-4
Tracton	0-8

THE Nano Nagle Cup is on its way to Tank Field after Brian Dillon's won the Evening Echo Intermediate Camogie Championship with a hard-fought victory over Tracton at Castle Road yesterday afternoon.

Brian Dillon's have now done the double having already defeated Tracton in the league final earlier in the year and this win makes up for last year's defeat by Sarsfields and they will now be playing in the Senior B Championship next year.

It was heartbreak for the girls from Tracton having now lost three of the last five finals and they will rue the first seven minutes of the game when they conceded two goals and were always facing an uphill battle after that.

To their credit, Tracton never gave up and played a lot better playing into the strong wind in the second half and, had their captain Jennifer Lynch goaled from a penalty attempt in the 36th minute, there might well have been a different outcome.

Brian Dillon's coach Linda Mellerick was thrilled with her side's win.

"It was a tough game. We knew it would be. Any previous meetings between the two sides would count for nothing today. The wind played a huge factor on the game.

"I thought we were very jittery for a lot of the game but that was nerves and this win meant a lot to the girls and they wanted it so much. Nerves came into it but I think we held our composure and we are delighted with the win. Tracton really put it up to us as we knew they would but it means a lot to the girls who put in a ferocious effort since last February.

"It was very disappointing to lose last year's final against Sars. We felt we did not turn up on the day and I felt we did not do ourselves justice.

"All you can do is come back and try to right that wrong the next day and thankfully it worked out for us today.

"It was a great year to do the double."

Despite playing into the strong wind in the opening half, Brian Dillon's got off to the perfect start when a free by Caoimhe Rodgers was hit to the net by Therese Drummond in the opening minute.

Tracton's Jennifer Griffin gave an excellent display from placed balls and hit some delightful sideline cuts.

After early pressure Lynch opened Tracton's account with a point after five minutes. Minutes later the Tracton defence was opened up when a move involving Emma Sharpe and Sinead Mills saw a shot from Shauna Cronin being blocked by Tracton 'keeper Rosalie Walsh and the inrushing Rodgers found the net.

Twice in as many minutes Tracton came close to a goal but shots from Mary McGuinness and Julie Ann

Kingston were well blocked by the Dillon's goalkeeper Shauna Walsh.

Slowly Tracton brought themselves back into the game with two frees and a 45 from Griffin and a point by Aoife Kidney. Then a minute before half-time Dillon's pressure was rewarded when Rodgers struck for her second goal from a penalty. Griffin struck another free to leave the City side leading 3-0 to 0-6 at the interval.

With the advantage of the wind in the second half, everyone expected Dillon's to drive on and they had their first point when Claire Dooley hit an excellent point from the sideline.

Kingston were well blocked by the Dillon's goalkeeper Shauna Walsh. Slowly Tracton brought themselves back into the game with two frees and a 45 from Griffin and a point by Aoife Kidney. Then a minute before half-time Dillon's pressure was rewarded when Rodgers struck for her second goal from a penalty. Griffin struck another free to leave the City side leading 3-0 to 0-6 at the interval.

With the advantage of the wind in the second half, everyone expected Dillon's to drive on and they had their first point when Claire Dooley hit an excellent point from the sideline.

Tracton hit back and a move involving Aoife Kiely and McGuinness saw Erin Harrington being fouled but Lynch hit a poor penalty shot and Dillon's cleared their lines. Aoife Kiely and Mills then exchanged points.

Griffin was finding it difficult to find the target playing into the strong wind and Walsh's long puck-outs were proving a great advantage for Dillon's.

With Emma Kingston and Julie Ann Kingston dominating matters down the middle a free by Griffin left a goal between the sides with three minutes left. Dillon's finished stronger though and points from Essie O'Connell and a

Rodgers free sealed the win. **Scorers for Brian Dillon's:** C Rodgers 2-1 (1-0 pen), T Drummond 1-0, C Dooley, S Mills, E O'Connell 0-1 each.

**Tracton:** J Griffin 0-5 (0-4 f, 0-1 45), A Kiely 0-2, J Lynch 0-1.

**BRIAN DILLON'S:** S Walsh, S Mangan, N O'Leary, D Keane, A Dorgan, E Sharpe, E O'Connell, S Cronin, SK Brosnan, L Barry, R Brosnan, S Mills, C Dooley, C Rodgers, T Drummond.

**Subs:** J Dooley for Drummond (41), S Deane for R Brosnan (51 in).

**TRACTON:** R Walsh, R Good, E Kingston, J Kiely, K Lynch, J Kingston, N Mullane, K O'Sullivan, J Griffin, A Kidney, J Lynch (capt), C Castleton, M McGuinness A Kiely, E Harrington.

**Sub:** L Murphy for Harrington (47).

**Referee:** W Cole (Buttevant).

# Dillon's win to complete the double



Brian Dillon's Claire Dooley hand passes out of defence against Tracton in the Intermediate Camogie final at Castle Road yesterday. Picture:Des Barry

## Story of the Game

**Player of the Match:** While they were a few contenders Brian Dillon's Susan Kate Brosnan and Emma Sharpe caught the eye as did Tracton's Julie Ann Kingston and Jennifer Griffin.

It is Brian Dillon's netminder Shauna Walsh who gets the honour after making some fine saves at vital times of the game and her long puck-outs in either half gave her side an added edge.

**Entertainment:** Despite the strong wind that blew down the pitch both sides played better against it. If Tracton had been able to find the net it could have been a different result

and the big attendance were kept in doubt right up to the final whistle. 7/10.

**Turning Point:** It could have been Dillon's two early goals but Jennifer Lynch's failure to find the net from a penalty early in the second half gave the city side a big boost.

**Score of the Match:** While none of the scores really stood out an excellent point by Brian Dillon's Claire Dooley three minutes into the second half caught the eye.

She won the ball out by the side line just inside the Tracton half and despite being pressurised struck a delightful shot.

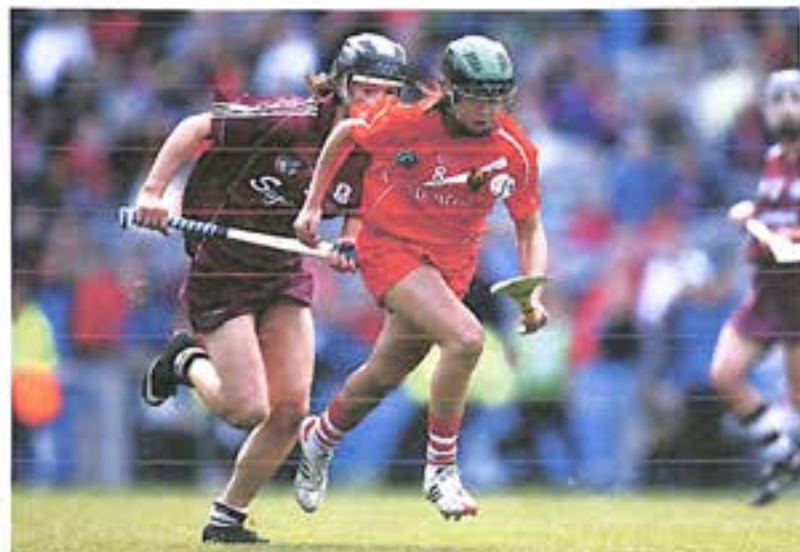


Tracton's Erin Harrington is tackled by Stephanie Mangan of Brian Dillon's in the Intermediate Camogie final at Castle Road yesterday. Picture:Des Barry



## Cork and Galway dominate All-Stars nominations

By Camogie Association  
Posted 30/09/2015



All-Ireland champions Cork and finalists Galway dominate the 2015 Camogie All-Stars shortlist. The final team will be announced at the All-Stars banquet, sponsored by Liberty Insurance at Citywest Hotel on November 7th.

Cork, who successfully defended their All-Ireland title, received 23 nominations. Goalkeeper Aoife Murray, defenders Pamela Mackey, Leanne O'Sullivan, Laura Treacy, Rena Buckley and Gemma O'Connor are amongst the nominees. Cork captain Ashling Thompson and Julia White have both been nominated at midfield while Orla Cotter, Orla Cronin, Bríge Corkery, Amy O'Connor and Katrina Mackey are amongst the forwards.

Galway, who won the Division One National League final, earlier this year, received 21 nominations. Goalkeeper Susan Earner, defenders Heather Cooney, Sarah Dervan, Siobhán Coen and Lorraine Ryan have all received nominations. Emma Kilkenny and Niamh Kilkenny have both been nominated at midfield while Aoife Donohue, Niamh McGrath, Molly Dunne and Alish O'Reilly are amongst the forward nominees.

Wexford have received six nominations: goalkeeper Laura Brennan, defenders Clara Storey, Mary Leacy and forwards Shelley Kehoe, Kate Kelly and Katrina Parrock. Kilkenny have received five nominations: defenders Edwina Keane, Claire Phelan, midfielder Aisling Dunphy and forwards Anne Dalton and Katie Power.

Tipperary, Dublin, Derry and Offaly have all received two nominations. Dublin duo, Ali Maguire and Sarah O'Donovan, in defence and in the forward line respectively while Tipperary's Ann Eviston is listed amongst the defence and Cait Devane in the forwards. Derry's Karen Kieft is listed amongst the forwards and Mábh McGoldrick is named in defence. Offaly's Jean Brady and Michaela Morkan make the shortlist in defence.

Limerick and Clare received one nomination each with Niamh Mulcahy named in midfield for the Treaty Union and Chloe Meehan in the forward line.

Dave Cuddy (Laois), Seán Fleming (Waterford) and Paudie Murray (Cork) are amongst the nominees for Manager of the Year, which will be announced on the night along with the 2015 All-Stars team.

2015 All-Stars list sponsored by Liberty Insurance

Goalkeepers: Aoife Murray (Cork), Susan Earner (Galway), Laura Brennan (Wexford)

Defenders: Full-Back Line: Pamela Mackey (Cork), Jean Brady (Offaly), Ann Eviston (Tipperary), Leanne O'Sullivan (Cork), Edwina Keane (Kilkenny), Laura Treacy (Cork), Heather Cooney (Galway), Sarah Dervan (Galway), Clara Storey (Wexford)

Half-Back Line: Rena Buckley (Cork), Mábh McGoldrick (Derry), Claire Phelan (Kilkenny), Siobhán Coen (Galway), Lorraine Ryan (Galway), Ali Maguire (Dublin), Mary Leacy (Wexford), Gemma O'Connor (Cork), Michaela Morkan (Offaly)

Midfield:

Niamh Kilkenny (Galway), Niamh Mulcahy (Limerick), Aisling Dunphy (Kilkenny), Julia White (Cork), Emma Kilkenny (Galway), Ashling Thompson (Cork)

Forwards: Half-Forward Line: Orla Cotter (Cork), Sarah O'Donovan (Dublin), Orla Cronin (Cork), Anne Dalton (Kilkenny), Shelley Kehoe (Wexford), Aoife Donohue (Galway), Kate Kelly (Wexford), Karen Kieft (Derry), Niamh McGrath (Galway)

Full-Forward Line: Bríge Corkery (Cork), Katrina Parrock (Wexford), Molly Dunne (Galway), Katie Power (Kilkenny), Amy O'Connor (Cork), Chloe Meehan (Clare), Katrina Mackey (Cork), Cait Devane (Tipperary), Alish O'Reilly (Galway)



Glen Rovers and Cork All-Ireland winning Camogie players, Jennifer Hefford, Leanne O'Sullivan and Lauren Callanan brought the O'Duffy Cup to the launch of the Glen Rovers GAA Night at the O'Duffy Cup launch on Friday 19th, November. Included is Mary O'Brien, Chairman Glen Rovers Camogie Club. Picture: Mike English

## Milford victory never in doubt

Camogie

■ Linda Mellerick

Milford 2-11  
Ballincollig 0-6

THE outcome was never in doubt for Milford in Coachford on Saturday as they booked their senior championship semi-final spot with Inniscarra next weekend.

Milford were hungry from the outset and raced into a three point lead by the third minute. This game had plenty of tough physical exchanges, particularly in the opening 10 minutes of the second half.

Ballincollig had trailed by 1-7 to 0-2 at the break but as expected came thundering back out. Denise Cronin and Sam Coomey got two quick points before Anna Geary settled Milford back down with a well taken point.

When Marie O'Neill goaled a minute later after, again, some sweet teamwork. Ballincollig's challenge was over.

Ballincollig weren't creating many chances in the opening half. Linda Dorgan and Maria O'Donoghue were doing their very best to penetrate Milford's defence but they needed greater support as Milford were just too strong all over. With Elaine O'Riordan sweeping, Katie Galvin very impressive at full-back and Anna Geary at left wing there was no way through.

Outfield Maria Walsh was doing good work at left half forward while inside Milford's full-forward line of O'Neill and Maria and Emer Watson proved a handful.

Ballincollig were keeping the margin respectful but, in truth, Milford were superior and when Marie O'Neill unselfishly offloaded to Maria Watson on 26 minutes and she billowed the net they were full value for their eight-point half time margin.

It was a passionate second half with huge commitment from both sides, but Milford are so strong all over and playing with an energy and hunger that makes it very difficult for any side to dethrone them. Certainly Ballincollig have closed the gap on their previous meeting but it was a bridge too far.

**Scorers for Milford:** M Watson 1-2, E Watson 0-5 (0-2 f), M O'Neill 1-1, R Finn 0-1 (p), M Walsh 0-1, A Geary 0-1 each.

**Ballincollig:** D Cronin 0-3 (0-1 f), S Coomey 0-2, T Buttner 0-1.

**MILFORD:** R Finn, D Hayes, K Galvin, L Healy, A Geary, A Watson, E O'Riordan, A Thompson, O O'Mahony, L Stack, C O'Connor, M Walsh, M O'Neill, E Watson, M Watson.

**Subs:** L Hanley for L Stack (49), A Dillon for C O'Connor (54), E O'Friel, N O'Connor, D O'Callaghan for M O'Neill, A Thompson and L Healy (58).

**BALLINCOLLIG:** D O'Keefe, K O'Donoghue, A Coughlan, L Weste, E Harrington, T Buttner, J Hennigan, A Cotter, E Casey, M O'Donoghue, L Dorgan, D Cronin, S Coomey, S Callaghan, N O'Leary.

**Subs:** S Buckley for O O'Leary (27), A Lovett for S Callaghan (48), L Copper for M O'Donoghue (54), L Murphy for A Coughlan (55).

**Ref:** Andrew Larkin - Douglas

## Douglas, Milford the likely decider

Camogie

■ Linda Mellerick

Evening Echo Cork Senior Camogie Championship semi-finals: Castle Road, Saturday.

Douglas v St. Catherine's, 1.30pm, Milford v Inniscarra, 4.30pm.

A riveting afternoon is in store in Castle Road tomorrow with a senior championship camogie semi-final double header.

At the outset one would have tipped Milford, Douglas and Inniscarra in the semi-final. Ballincollig would have been another favourite and as always St. Catherine's were in with a chance. Unfortunately for Ballincollig they met the champions last weekend and saw their season end at the quarter final stage.

Douglas had a two point victory over Ballincollig in their opening encounter, an additional time goal securing them a quarter final tie with Cloughduv whom they saw off with a 1-14 to 0-7 scoreline.

St. Catherine's have also taken the direct route with a comfortable first round victory over Ballinhassig, a 0-12 to 1-6 win over Ballygarvan and an impressive 0-18 to 2-5 winning margin over Carbery. One would expect that with the Mackeys and Julia White in great form in addition to Sarah Fahy, Amanda O'Regan and Rebecca Sheehan that Douglas will have too much all round strength for Catherine's. If Orla Cotter is marshalled at midfield and Douglas are disciplined then they should advance but never underestimate a great St. Catherine's work ethic where Fiola Neville is also on form.

The other semi-final could be a cracker. Milford are on fire this season. They haven't been troubled yet this season with victories over St. Finbarrs, Glen Rovers and Ballincollig. Ballincollig are a fine side yet Milford's victory was never in doubt last Saturday and they are expected to advance to another final.

Milford have the added advantage of an extra game. It was a master stroke slotting Katie Galvin into full back and Maria Walsh to half forward to replace the incredibly hard working Deirdre O'Reilly who's distribution was always impressive.

Both players are doing well in their new roles. Unquestionably Inniscarra will need to be at their best to cause an upset. They are also well balanced with Rosie O'Mahony, Rena Buckley, Aoife Kavanagh, Treasa McCarthy, Joanne Casey and Katie O'Mahony.

With wins over Courcy Rovers and Killeagh they'll go into this semi-final with confidence. Milford will have their work done and have the defenders to marshal Joanne Casey who is Inniscarra's main scoring threat so they'll have to be capable of spreading the scoring up front.

## Deaths

**O'Connor** (Connolly Road, Ballyphehane and formerly of Liam Healy Road, Farranree): On September 24, 2015, peacefully, at Marymount, GERALDINE (nee Geaney), beloved wife of Donal and loving mother of Gemma and Glenn, dear daughter of Betty and the late John. Sadly missed by her loving husband, daughter, son, mother, brothers, sisters, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends. May she rest in peace. Reposing at Sullivan's Funeral Home, Turners Cross. Rosary on today (Friday) at 7.00pm. Removal on tomorrow (Saturday) at 6.45pm to Church of the Assumption, Ballyphehane. Requiem Mass on Monday at 12.15pm. Funeral afterwards to Rathcooney Cemetery. Family flowers only, please. Donations in lieu, to Marymount.

### CAMOGIE

**Munster Colleges SAC:** Coachford 4-13 Our Lady's Templemore 2-11, Ursuline Thurles 1-4 Carrick-on-Suir 0-13, St Flannan's 3-9 Laurel Hill 4-8, St Mary's Nenagh 2-7 Pres Thurles 5-12, Colaiste Dun lascaigh Cahir 0-8 St Mary's Charleville 6-12.

**Cork Colleges SAC semi-finals:** Colaiste Cholim 1-11 St Mary's Charleville 2-9, Coachford College 9-10 Christ the King 0-5.

**SBC semi-finals:** Sacred Heart Clonsilla 6-8 Kinsale CS 2-8, Carrigaline CS 7-4 Colaiste an Phiarraigh 1-8.

**IAC semi-finals:** Pobalscoil Youghal 2-14 St Aloysius Carrigrohilly 4-7, Carrignavar 4-8 Glanmire CC 2-2.

**IBC semi-final:** Loreto Fermoy 7-12 Millstreet CS 0-6.

**ICC quarter-finals:** Ballyphehane 5-12 St Brogan's Bandon 1-2, Colaiste Mhuire Cobh 9-7 Ballincollig CS 6-1, GC Mhuire AG 5-13 Pres Mitchelstown 1-5.

**JAC semi-final:** Colaiste Cholim 3-8

**JBC semi-finals:** Christ the King 3-3 Colaiste Na Phiarraigh 3-8, Sacred Heart Clonsilla 8-5 Hazelwood Dromcollogher 2-2.

**JCC quarter-finals:** Carrignavar 7-10 Blarney 2-6, Kinsale CS 3-7 Colaiste na Toirbhirthe Bandon (B) 4-4, Pobalscoil Youghal 1-1 St Mary's Middleton 5-8.

**U16% IAC quarter-final:** St Mary's Malin 1-1 Buttevant 4-13.

**Katie Crowley U16% quarter-finals:** Col Treasa Kanturk 8-7, St Aidan's 2-2, Pres Mitchelstown 3-3 Col Mhuire Crosshaven 6-6, Coachford (B) 2-1 GC Mhuire AG 1-5.

OCT. 2015



## Board seeing funds at final

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

MANY hands make light work and tomorrow the Cork Camogie Board are looking for as many people as possible as they take up their annual collection at half-time at the county hurling final.

The collection is a source of much-needed income and is one of the biggest fundraisers for camogie in the county.

As in previous years, collectors are urgently required to come down early and help the board.

This year is more important than ever, with the new pitch development now having reached the last stages with the planning permission granted for the dressing room development. It really is all systems go. The many clubs that have played on the pitch have had nothing but praise for the facility.

However it all takes money and Sunday is a chance for the GAA public to show their support for the huge work and also a chance to pay tribute to the superb achievement of the Cork senior team in taking both All-Ireland titles.

The county board are now driving on and with their plans to build a pavilion and dressing rooms.

All of these plans need to be financed and the annual collection is a major fund raiser every year for the county boards. Players, former players, mentors and supporters are urged to come along and give up just ten minutes of their time to help in the venture.

Collectors are asked to meet at the Pass Gate into Páirc Uí Rinn, which is the double brown doors, at 1.30pm where they will be escorted through the gates and given a spot in the grounds where they can view the game from and then take up the collection at half-time.

With the four clubs involved in the hurling games there will be a huge crowd but it will be easier to collect this year as Páirc Uí Rinn is more compact so collectors are urged to help.

Meanwhile, former Galway manager John McIntyre has put his neck on the block by naming the four players who met Anthony Cunningham last week and told him they wanted change.

Writing in the Connacht Tribune, McIntyre - who is sports editor of the Galway weekly newspaper - reveals that Joe Canning, David Burke, David Collins and Andy Smith were the four players who were delegated to tell Cunningham that he was no longer wanted as manager.



**CORK'S YOUNGEST FAN:** At just 10-days-old Charlotte Rose, daughter of Glen Rovers mentor Carol Bridgeman, was on hand at to welcome the club's Cork camogie players Lauren Callanan, Leanne O'Sullivan and Jennifer Hosford, and the O'Duffy Cup.

# Return of U12 finals popular

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

**THE huge work being put in by the county juvenile board ensures that camogie is continuing to grow in all corners of the county.**

Since late February competitions at all levels, both in Go Games and competitive league and championships, have ensured all young players were well catered for.

Massive credit is due to all involved in looking after so many clubs and players from all across Cork.

In recent weeks there have been a lot of competitions completed and this week we will take a look at the winners and the updated positions in the U16 championships and league competitions.

For the first time in several years there was a competitive U12 competition.

Despite the best effort of the juvenile board to hold these under the camogie

rules they had to be played under Go Games rules.

Never the less they were a huge success. In total three competitions were held in the U12 A, B and C grades.

In the U12 A competition a thrilling final saw Sarsfield's fulfil their pre-competition tag of favourite as they took the title at the expense of an excellent St Finbarr's side on the score line of 3-3 to 1-5.

The U12B final was an equally thrilling and exciting contest.

There were just two points were between the teams at the full time whistle as Éire Óg captured the title over Valley Rovers where it ended 1-5 to 1-3 in

the Ovens girls favour.

The destination of the U12 C title will be decided this afternoon when Kilbree and Sarsfield's 2 meet in Ballyanley at 2pm.

The U14 competitions were a huge success, with good participation levels and some fantastic finals to round off the season.

In the A league final Ballincollig gave it their all to hold off the change of a strong Carrigaline side and in end it was Ballincollig who emerged winners 3-9 to 1-5 the score at the full time whistle.

Three points separated the sides in a huge scoring U14 B final where we had six goals and 13 points scored in a game where the action was end-to-end over the hour.

In the finish last season's Cork Féile winners Newcestown were crowned champions on a 4-5 to 2-8.

Blackrock celebrated a great league season with the U14 C title coming

their way Inniscarra were their final opponents but Blackrock notching up 4-6 to Inniscarra's 2-2 took the crown.

There are still a lot of games to be decided in both U16 league and championship and with a lot of clubs also heavily involved in minor competitions at present, a lot of the U16 competition may drag out a little.

To look at championship first it is down to the quarter-final stages in the A completions for six clubs.

Kilbrittan/Timoleague are the first team through to the last four following their 5-8 to 1-2 win over Charleville.

The quarter-final pairings are as follows: tomorrow at 3pm in Coachford, Aghabullogue meet the combination of Milford/Ballyhea.

Also tomorrow at 4.30 pm in Cloughduv the home side take on Ballygarvan.

On Tuesday in Cloughduv at 7.30pm, Inniscarra and Newcestown are in opposition for a place in the semi-final.

## Youghal edge out Clonakilty in the U16 B quarters

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

THE U16 B championship is well advanced.

Youghal overcame Clonakilty to secure their semi-final spot and they are waiting for the winners of the Fr O'Neill's versus Ballinhassig quarter-final which is down for decision tomorrow at 11.30am in Fr O'Neill's.

St Catherine's and Dougourney will have to meet again after it finished level in their quarter-final meeting on Thursday last. No doubt the replay will be just as closely contested.

Ballinascarty travel to Courcey Rovers tomorrow for a 12 noon throw in their bid for a semi-final spot.

**U16 C**

In this competition Barryroe are through to the U16 C camogie semi final after they defeated Erin's Own.

However there are still three other quarter-finals to be finished before we know the last four of the grade. St Colum's and Mallow are in action tomorrow in Ballyanley at 12 noon, while Bride Rover and Buttevant meet in Bride Rovers today at 4pm.

Valley Rovers and Rockbawn will be in action next weekend as the last semi-final spot is filled.

**LEAGUE**

The U16 leagues are down to quarter-final stages in all grades.

There are still plenty of lively games on the horizon as the season heads towards its conclusion

In the A grade Carrigaline will play Aghabullogue, and Milford/Ballyhea are through to a meeting with Sliabh Rua.

Kilbrittan/Imoleague will play the winners of the Sarsfield's versus Glen Rovers clash.

Ballygarvan are through to the semi-final following their victory over St Finbarr's on a 2-16 to 3-2 scoreline. In the U16 B league quarter-finals, Dougourney meet Na Piarasigh tomorrow at 11.30am in Na Piarasigh. After that is concluded the winners head towards a meeting with Inniscarra.

Ballincollig and St Catherine's meet today at 5pm in St Catherine's, with the winners going on to face Brian Dillon's.

In the U16 C league Ballinascarty, Tracton and St Colum's are into the semi-finals, with Barryroe and Mallow to battle it out for the last semi-final spot.



# Club scene badly needs an overhaul



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

**THE senior championship has an enthralling semi-final double header in Castle Road today with Douglas and St Catherine's, and Milford and Inniscarra going head-to-head.**

Douglas and Milford are expected to advance to a riveting final but Inniscarra could give Milford a scare.

Sarsfields have won the senior B title in their first year in the grade. A great achievement for them and not a huge surprise. They are a fine side with an abundance of talent coming.

Brian Dillon's won the intermediate league and championship double. A drawn semi-final and replay against Blackrock and a tough final with Tracton was a demanding three weeks but the girls responded brilliantly and having not lost a competitive game all season their victory was just reward last weekend. Dillon's lost both finals, last year to Sars, and Tracton were on a similar receiving end this year.

My consoling words for them is; what a difference a year can make and to keep striving for glory.

Looking back on the club scene here in Cork I think it needs an overhaul. With Cork so prominent at inter-county level and entering teams in U16 A and B competitions, minor A, intermediate and senior, club players are left hanging. It's a problem in all GAA codes and it'll probably never be fully satisfactory, but I feel we could still improve a bit here on Leaside.

The senior championship was disappointing this year for Ballygarvan, Glen Rovers and Cloughduv. Due to the fact that Carrigrohoun, Imokilly and Seandún pulled out of the competition the week they were due to play their opening rounds, it left the three clubs without a first round game. For Ballygarvan and the Glen to train for nine months and get just one championship game was unfair.



The victorious Brian Dillon's team that won the County Intermediate Camogie Championship at Castle Road.

Picture: Joe Madden

With most clubs training three times a week, plus exams, work, and dual commitments, it is getting more and more difficult to get players committing to divisional sides. They need to rest too. In order to prevent the above happening again, any divisional side interested in participating in the senior championship should have a panel of players signed up in February and at least a couple of training sessions under their belt.

Trying to round up a squad a few weeks before championship is too late. They should also have their own divisional championship competition in April and the winner of that group moves into the senior championship proper.

We have to stop putting off games for weddings, holidays, other sports etc. We've all utilised every excuse in the book. The dates should be distributed in December for the following year and set in stone. If these dates are given as early as December and people know that under no circumstances will they be changed then there is plenty of time to make the right holiday and work arrangements. The current situation is that even when dates are given there is no guarantee when you plan around them because more often than not they will change.

In order to prevent clashes with ladies football, both county boards should sit down early December (as-

suming both national fixtures have been distributed) and decide that from March 1, one week is football, the following is camogie and so on.

The request for game changes is a nightmare for the county board. One player should not be allowed put a game on hold for two or three weeks. There should be just one week's grace given to club players playing with their county team up to senior level.

At senior level it should only be a week up to the knockout stages. After that two weeks is fair enough. Anyone named outside the first 20 players should be free to play with their club up to 48/72 hours before their Cork game, at all levels.

The biggest drop out in both male and female players, in any sport, is between 15 and 18, yet our underage competitions in Cork really do come last in the order of priority. The minor league could possibly start in March and finish in early May and the championship start in July/August.

The evenings are long. Yes there are players at minor playing intermediate and senior and for player welfare they need a break but it could work. It will initially be a logistical headache with a multitude of conundrums but we should start somewhere and try and get it as near to successful as we possibly can over the coming seasons.

## Milford and St Catherine's reach decider

Therese O'Callaghan  
Camogie

Four-in-a-row-seeking Milford booked their place against St Catherine's in the Cork senior camogie championship final following victories over Inniscarra and Douglas at Castle Road on Saturday. The titleholders hit a sequence of late scores, including a goal from Maria

Watson, to see them through to the decider next Sunday.

Yet, there was no denying they were the better team (1-18 to 2-6). Their dominance was built on a strong half-back line of Anna Geary, Aine Watson and Elaine O'Riordan and the industrious Ashling Thompson at midfield. In attack Maria Watson, Maria Walsh, Marie O'Neill and Emer Watson picked off their scores.

Inniscarra put it up to them following Treasa McCarthy's goal in the first half, after which Milford led 0-9 to 1-4. When Niamh McCarthy netted five minutes from time it left the score 0-16 to 2-6, but Milford — managed by Limerick football boss John Brudair — had the nous to close out.

It was a dramatic 1-12 to 1-8 win for Denis Walsh's St Catherine's against Douglas.

Rachel O'Callaghan's goal got the east Cork team off the mark and with Orla Cotter making a big contribution from frees and general play, they led at the break 1-8 to 0-5.

Douglas hit back through a Katrina Mackey goal and when Julia White pointed at the three-quarter stage it brought them within three points. However, St Catherine's — who last won the title

in 2009 — worked exceptionally hard and Joanne O'Keeffe's second point put them back in the driving seat.

It made for a frenetic finish as Douglas threw everything at them but Orla Cotter's sixth point ensured they progressed. Goalkeeper Vanessa O'Donnell, Ann Marie Rohan, Yvonne O'Neill, Meave Walsh and Evelyn Ronayne exerted a strong influence on the result.

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Loretta Hanley, Milford, gets in her clearance in an earlier round as Kelly Fitzgerald, Glen Rovers, comes in to challenge.

Picture: Jim Coughlan

## Champions Milford make sure of their spot in the final

Mary Newman

CAMOGIE

**Milford 1-18**  
**Inniscarra 2-6**

**CHAMPIONS** Milford advanced to the Evening Echo senior camogie championship final as they turned in another confident semi final display to overcome the challenge of an Inniscarra side that tried to the finish but could never match the strength of the champions.

In every sector they were strong their inside forward line of Maire O'Neill and the Watson sisters Emer and Marie causing endless problems for the Inniscarra defence.

Cork captain Aisling Thompson was superb at midfield partnered by the excellent Orlaith O'Mahony and they dictated the game and set up numerous attacks.

The distribution and positional awareness of every Milford player was superb and on this business like display it will again make it hard for anybody to bet against them not retaining their title as they go in search of four in a row.

In defence they were comfortable and closed down the Inniscarra attack, never allowing them any time on the ball and as a unit they did everything right.

Erin Looney gave Inniscarra an early lead with a fourth minute point but once Milford kicked into gear they began to dominate. Emer Watson fired over three points in a row, Marie O'Neill added two and with Marie Watson and Maria Walsh on target they opened up a six point lead.

Inniscarra were finding it hard to get the ball to their inside line as Aisling Thompson seemed to be everywhere, plucking ball out of the air and setting up attack after attack, and with their forwards on top Milford picked off their scores.

Inniscarra narrowed the gap when Treasa McCarthy finished Joanne Casey's long range effort to the net and spurred on by this Inniscarra upped their game. Joanne Casey narrowed the gap pointing a free and twice the

sides exchanged points to leave Milford 0-9 to 1-4 ahead at the interval.

Marie Watson and Casey had early second-half points and, for an eight minute spell, Inniscarra threw everything at Milford as they clung to their two point lead. But, with the Milford defence solid Inniscarra could not get through for the vital score they needed. In a blazing twelve minute spell Milford showed their class with five unanswered points before Cliona Healy got one back for Inniscarra.

With five minutes remaining Niamh McCarthy recently recovered from two serious knee injuries was introduced and with her first touch she threw Inniscarra a life line as she gathered possession took on a beat her marker before finishing superbly to the net and now with just four points between the sides the game was again there to be won. McCarthy almost grabbed a second goal but the Milford defence did well to dispossess her and clear their lines but one must wonder why the Inniscarra back room team left it so late to introduce a player who certainly had the ability to cause problems for the Milford defence.

Having survived a mini Inniscarra revival Milford hit the next three scores the Watson's Marie with two points and Emer with one closing the game out as their side continue their march to the final and a meeting with St Catherine's.

**Scores for Milford:** M Watson 1-4, E Watson 0-5 (0-3fs), M Walsh 0-4, M O'Neill 0-3 A Thompson 0-2.

**Inniscarra:** T McCarthy, N McCarthy 1-0 each, J Casey 0-3 (1fs), E Looney C Healy A Kavanagh 0-1 each.

**MILFORD:** R Finn, D Hayes, K Galvin, L Healy, E O'Riordan, A Watson, A Geary, O O'Mahony, A Thompson, M Walsh, C O'Connor, L Stack, M O'Neill, E Watson, M Watson.

**Subs:** D O'Reilly for C O'Connor (50), L Hanley for L Stack (54).

**INNISCARRA:** S Ní Raibe, M Buckley, R Buckley, A Sheehan, D O'Callaghan, R O'Mahony, C Looney, A Kavanagh, K O'Mahony, O Healy, E Looney, C Healy, M Cosgrave, J Casey, T McCarthy.

**Subs:** L Hayes for M Buckley (43), N McCarthy for O Healy (52).

**Referee:** Cathal McAllister (Aghada).



Pamela Mackey, Douglas, in action against St Catherine's during their Evening Echo sponsored Cork Camogie Senior Championship semi-final at Castle Road.

Picture: Larry Cummins

# Saints are full value for win



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

**St Catherine's 1-12**  
**Douglas 1-8**

Was this result an upset?

It was anything but. St Catherine's were full value for their four point victory over favourites Douglas in Castle Road last Saturday and have reached another senior county final in seven seasons. In fact the winning margin could have been more.

St Catherine's took this game by the scruff of the neck from the throw in, racing into a 1-3 to no score lead within seven minutes. They never relinquished that lead and Douglas spent the hour chasing the game against a team that seemed to want it more.

Behind by six at the break 1-8 to 0-5 and coming back out with a strong wind at their backs Douglas would have still believed. Katrina Mackey gave them the dream restart, goalling inside three minutes but two responsive points by Finola Neville and Rachel O'Callaghan were crucial, nullifying its effect. Huge credit must go to Katrina Mackey who lived off scraps in the full forward line yet was hugely effective with everything she got, finishing the game with 1-5.

But the day belonged to St Catherine's. All over the field their physicality, work rate, off the shoulder support and distribution was top class. Orla Cotter was immense in the opening half with Finola Neville, Evelyn Ronayne, Carolyn Motherway, Michelle Tobin, Joanne O'Keeffe and Rachel O'Callaghan equally impressive.

O'Callaghan had St Catherine's only goal of the game five minutes in after a long ball from Cotter was batted out by Jessica Kavanagh and Rachel was on hand to hit home.



Katrina Mackey, Douglas, looks for a way past St Catherine's half-back Maeve O'Keeffe during their Evening Echo s Cork Camogie Senior Championship semi-final.

Picture: Larry Cummins

Douglas played deep in the opening half against the wind. St Catherine's held their defensive positions and Douglas were struggling to break through. Their first score came from Katrina thirteen minutes in.

Douglas' distribution out of defence was poor, twice instead of delivering they opted to carry, were dispossessed and it resulted in two points given away. Their speed on the ball was a level below St Catherine's.

Rachel O'Callaghan who had a storming game, finishing with 1-3, was unlucky not to connect another to the net against the advancing Jessica Kavanagh but she pulled high over the ball.

On thirty seven minutes Douglas almost had a second goal but a Louise O'Regan strike saw Vanessa O'Donnell dive full length across the goal to save brilliantly.

Early in the final quarter St Catherine's held a four point advantage. Douglas had opportunities but tried to run the ball into the net from outfield and it was never going to work against a resolute defence.

Picking off points with still a bit of time to go would have seemed a better option. Mackey and Cotter swapped final points and Douglas were out of this year's championship after what was for them a disappointing display, up against a far better team on the day and they can have no complaints.

Once again St Catherine's defy the underdogs tag. A team that epitomises belief, workrate, teamwork and skill. You can be sure that Catherine's won't be just filling the numbers next Sunday when they face Milford in the final.

**Scores for St Catherine's:** R O'Callaghan 1-3, O Cotter 0-6 (0-3fs), J O'Keeffe 0-2, F Neville 0-1.

**DOUGLAS:** K Mackey 1-5, J White 0-2, A O'Regan 0-1.

**ST CATHERINE'S:** V O'Donnell, M O'Keeffe, N Mulcahy, Y O'Neill, A M Rihan, C Motherway, E Ronayne, O Cotter, O Neville, J O'Keeffe, F Neville, M Walsh, M Tobin, R O'Callaghan, A Fitzgerald.

**Subs:** M Rihan for A Fitzgerald (58).

**DOUGLAS:** J Kavanagh, S Long, A O'Brien, A Curtin, G McNamara, R Sheehan, M Mulrooney, P Mackey, C Duggan, J White, A O'Regan, S Fahy, K Mackey, L O'Regan, E Kavanagh.

**Subs:** A Cremin for C Duggan (11), G Kelliher for M Mulrooney (52).

**Referee:** John O'Leary (Mallow).



# O'Connor is one of



Gemma O'Connor at her furious best against Kilkenny. She has always delivered on the big days at Croke Park.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

**HER interview after the All-Ireland senior camogie final was probably one of the most honest, insightful, tearful 90 seconds of my sporting year.**

And it says so much about our autumn quarterly winner Gemma O'Connor.

Just after the Ballyphehane woman had led Cork to back-to-back All-Ireland titles with an inspiring display at centre back, she was asked about her mum Geraldine, who at the time missed the final due to illness, and has since past away.

Gemma's response was incredible and showed how strong a person she is.

The composed way she spoke about her mum, her hero, being ill, will remain with me and everyone who saw the interview forever.

Gemma was not born with strength and composure like that.

None of us are. Yes, her training in the Army has helped, but for those who know her, that strength came from her mum Geraldine.

Geraldine was a leader of women, a great character who did everything with a smile and she would have been drilling that sense of self-worth, self-esteem, self-confidence into Gemma and her brother Glenn since they were born.

And Gemma has displayed that courage since she first picked up a hurley many years ago in Scoil Maria Assumpta, Ballyphehane, under the guidance of Mrs Fitzsimons, then a teacher, now the principal of the school.

She recalls a young Gemma O'Connor, who first tasted success on the camogie field as part of the school's first winning Sciath Na Scol team, that also included her friend and St Finbarr's team mate Lynda O'Connell.

"We were honoured to have someone like Gemma start her Camogie career with our school," Mrs Fitzsimons said.

"My earliest memories of Gemma was seeing this tiny stature of a child along with Lynda (O'Connell) tog out for the school team when they were just in second class.

"Both of them so small amongst the sixth class girls, however, seeing them get stuck in and hurl like they did, I knew I no longer had to fear them getting hurt.

"I now feared for the opposition," joked Mrs Fitzsimons.

"We had some great years with the school teams and are very proud of the girls who went onto play at inter-county level, but equally as proud of those who went to join the local clubs having gained a love for the sport through our coaching.

"Clubs like Ballyphehane and St Finbarr's always provided great opportunities for the kids and this was always great to see as I truly believe sport is so important in a child's life.

"They make life-long friendships and normally lead a healthy and happy lifestyle when involved in sport.

"I was lucky enough to have the support of many parents help me coach the school teams.

"The likes of Patsy Foolkes, Margo Kenny, Ann Kelleher and of course Gemma's mom Geraldine.

"Geraldine not only coached when Gemma attended the school, but continued to do so for many years after.

"Probably almost 15 years in fact. Geraldine was incredible with the time and effort she gave to our school and once again it was sport that brought a great friendship between me and Ger and in her honour I will always keep sport going in the school for as long as I can." Another person who is proud of what Gemma has achieved is her brother Glen, himself a hurler with St Finbarr's.

Gemma O'Connor has always been made of tough stuff. Here Barbara O'Connell talks to those who know her best about what drives her to be the best



"I have always been so proud of Gemma," Glenn O'Connor said.

"From an early age we saw at home that Gemma really had something special to offer.

"I look up to her and even now when I watch her play I learn so much from her.

"I suppose when I was younger the hurl didn't come as natural to me and seeing her success definitely drove me on to work harder.

"People admire Gemma's dedication and commitment to camogie particularly so over the past few months when at a time she was trying to cope with the agony of seeing our mum ill, however, I wasn't surprised at her dedication, for the simple reason, because I know Gemma.

"I wasn't surprised, but I did admire her and her commitment.

"Gemma is a passionate person and gives it her all no matter how tough it gets.

"GAA is a huge part of our family, the last year was so tough for us and I remember my mam telling us when she got diagnosed that she wanted us to go about playing GAA as normal and for us to do ourselves and her proud.

"I think GAA did help us, it helped all of us to have a bit of normality even if it was just for 60 minutes.

"It's good to keep yourself going and I know GAA kept my mam going, and it made it all worth the while when my mam got to see Gemma and the girls lift the cup.

"Gemma has a lot of awards, but each one means the world to her and I know this one will mean just as much to her as her first.

"I cannot stress how proud I am of Gemma, I go to all her games.

"I see how hard she works as an athlete, she is so passionate about family and sport and I'm delighted for her to get this award.

"Gemma's tough when it comes to taking a hurley to the shins or a slap across the knuckles when going for a high ball, but Gemma is definitely the biggest softie I know, anyone that knows Gemma knows how emotionally soft she is.

"Myself and Gemma are really close, and family means everything to us.

"I have always looked up to her as a



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# our greatest Gems



Gemma O'Connor and Orla Cotter, the two standout players in the All-Ireland final last month, lift the O'Duffy Cup together.

Picture: INPHO/Cathal Noonan

player and a person and I am proud to call her my sister." Another person proud of what Gemma has achieved is her coach at St Finbarr's Colette McCarthy.

"Most people will know Gemma from her performances on a national stage for Cork," Colette McCarthy said.

"Her near perfect display in this year's All-Ireland final truly sums up her playing abilities.

"Her reading of the game, distribution of the ball, calmness under pressure, but more importantly her incredible strength of character.

"I genuinely don't believe any other team in the country has a player to match her.

"So how lucky are we in the Barrs to be able to call her one of our own.

"Gemma's twitter name @blues4reds and that shows where her heart lies.

"In recent years I've been involved with Gemma as a selector and as a committee member, but my mum, Harriett Carey and Gemma's mum, Ger, have been great friends for many years through their involvement with the camogie section in the Barrs.

"Gemma's numerous achievements over the years have been celebrated almost as vigorously in our house as in her own.

"Gemma was lucky enough to win a senior county medal with the Barrs in 2006, but since then the club has been re-building.

"The majority of this year's senior panel are U21 and they could not have a better role model than Gemma.

"My own daughter Keeva is one of a new crop of players, who will be lucky enough, in years to come, to say that they played in a blue jersey with Gemma.

"In 2012, just a couple of days before her 14th birthday, Keeva got her first chance to play with Gemma.

"It was a senior challenge game in the Barrs and due to a variety of reasons we had just 14



Gemma O'Connor has set a very high standard for herself to be judged by over the years and yet she continues to deliver.

players.

"At 13, Keeva was too young to be on our senior panel, but she was put in corner forward to make up the numbers.

"My abiding memory of the game is that every opportunity Gemma got, she drove the ball into Keeva's corner.

"Due to her age and size Keeva struggled, but each ball Gemma sent her way built her confidence and she eventually got a point from play and that was thanks to Gemma.

"My mum and Gemma's Mum Ger were on the sideline that day and I'm not sure which of them was prouder.

"Gemma gives 100% every time she steps on the pitch but she is also incredibly generous of her time with our juvenile and Street Leagues sections in the Barrs.

"When approached, she always makes herself available to present medals or take a training session.

"She brings the O'Duffy Cup to the club after each All-Ireland victory and will spend hours interacting with our younger girls, signing hurleys and jerseys and standing for countless photographs.

"Gemma is the player that these girls aspire to be.

"This year was a particularly tough one for Gemma and her family and it was important to us in the Barrs to show our support any way we could.

"On All-Ireland final day the club had two busloads of supporters in Croke Park to cheer on both Gemma and Meabh (Cahalane).

"On the day both Barrs girls played their part in Cork's victory, but Gemma showed incredible inner strength and literally played her heart out.

"We're definitely biased, but there's no doubt for us that she should have been awarded player of the match.

"After the final whistle and before the presentation of the cup we shared a few minutes with Gemma, there were lots of hugs and tears, but my overwhelming emotion was definitely one of pride.

"I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this Evening Echo Ladies Sports Award than Gemma.

"She has set a very high standard for herself to be judged by over the years and yet she continues to deliver.

"In every respect she is the benchmark for her teammates both at club and county level.

"I'm certain of one thing, they are all happier to be playing with her rather than against her."

Evening Echo

LADIES SPORTSTAR AWARDS

NEWBRIDGE silverware

RPH ROCHESTOWN PARK HOTEL



# Three heroes who are



Evening Echo Ladies Sportstar quarterly winner Brieghe Corkery with family at The Rochestown Park Hotel, (left) Jason McCarthy, parents Kitty and Michael Corkery, sister on right, Siobhan Twomey with her children Siun and Bridgin. Picture: Larry Cummins



Barbara O'Connell

**THREE** of Cork and Ireland's best female athletes were honoured at a function in the Rochestown Park Hotel in front of a select group of family and friends.

The trio, Brieghe Corkery, Lizzie Lee and Gemma O'Connor all picked up one of the three Evening Echo Ladies Sports Star Quarterly awards for their performances for Cork in terms of Gemma and Brieghe in All-Ireland finals and for Lizzie Lee, it was for qualifying for the Olympics in Brazil next year in the marathon.

Brieghe Corkery is no stranger to picking up Evening Echo Ladies Sports Star awards. She is a previous supreme winner and her performance for Cork in the All-Ireland football win over Dublin, which saw her win her 16th All-Ireland medal sees her rewarded with an Echo gong.

Gemma O'Connor was superb for the Cork camogie team in their All-Ireland final win over Galway. Her performance from centre back was a highlight of the win and she too is a deserving winner of an Echo award.

Our final quarterly recipient is athlete and mum of one Lizzie Lee. Lee has been in superb form all year, winning races of various distances all over the country and recently qualified for the Olympics with a superb marathon run in Berlin.

All three were presented with their awards by co-sponsors Finbarr Cotter of Newbridge Silverware and Dermot Vaughan of the Rochestown Park Hotel.

The *Evening Echo* were represented by John McHale and Eamonn Murphy of the sports department and Lisa Coughlan and Karen O'Donoghue from the marketing department.

Sports editor John McHale was full of praise for the talented trio.

"We in the Echo are thrilled to be able to honour these three ladies, who besides being great players and athletes, they are great role models for all those who follow their careers," McHale said.

"All three are currently on top of their own particular sport and we are delighted that as a community newspaper, we are able to report on their successes on a regular basis."



Evening Echo Ladies Sportstar quarterly winner Gemma O'Connor with family and friends at The Rochestown Park Hotel. Picture: Larry Cummins



Quarterly winner Gemma O'Connor with friends Lynda O'Connell and Barbara O'Connell at The Rochestown Park Hotel. Picture: Larry Cummins



Quarterly winner Gemma O'Connor with Mary Newman, Cork Camogie Board and Paudie Murray, Cork coach. Picture: Larry Cummins



Quarterly winners Gemma O'Connor and Brieghe Corkery with competition judges Tim Murphy, Cork City FC and John McHale, Sports Editor *Evening Echo*. Picture: Larry Cummins

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# rightly celebrated



Evening Echo Ladies Sportstar quarterly winners Briege Corkery, Gemma O'Connor and Lizzie Lee with Eamonn Murphy and Lisa Coughlan of The Evening Echo at The Rochestown Park Hotel.  
Picture: Larry Cummins



Quarterly winners Briege Corkery, Gemma O'Connor and Lizzie Lee with Finbarr and Patrick Cotter of co-sponsors Newbridge Silverware, presenting the winners with a silver necklace.  
Picture: Tony O'Connell



Finbarr McCarthy, presenting the Cork 96FM/ C103 GAA Sports Star of the Month Awards to Briege Corkery and Rena Buckley. Also in the picture are Neilus Carroll, chairman of the Cork County Ladies Football Board, Sheila Golden, Secretary, Cork Camogie Board, Kieran McGeary, Ger Lane, Marion McCarthy, chairwoman of Cork Camogie Board and Diarmuid Vaughn, Rochestown Park Hotel.  
Picture: Tony O'Connell



Sarah Sexton, Milford Captain, lifts the Cup after the win over St. Catherines

Photo by Jim Coughlan



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# Milford maintain their high standard

## COUNTY CAMOGIE FINAL

Milford 2-15  
St Catherines 0-9

DIARMUID SHEEHAN  
Castle Road



IT was a glorious display of confidence and professionalism from Milford last weekend as they collected their fourth successive County Senior Camogie title against St Catherine's at Castle Road on Saturday.

Milford may have gone into the clash as hot favourites but they never let complacency get the better of them as they set about their task right from the off and never looked in danger of being turned over.

"They are brilliant, magnificent; I

can't praise them enough for what they have done," John Brudair, Milford manager, said on the final whistle.

"I took control of this side earlier this year and straight away I was impressed by the attitude in the camp. These girls have won lots over the past few years but that hasn't dented their ambitions one bit. They are dedicated in training and during every game. They have a ferocious will to win."

And win they did and Brudair is happy that his side is now in good shape heading into the Munster series.

"The girls are fit and determined as always. They know what they want and because they have been in this situation many times at this stage they know what is required if they are to progress. St Catherine's were tough but every opponent from here on in will be

getting tougher but the girls will give it everything they have."

Ashling Thompson was the stand out name on the starting line-up for the champions with Anna Geary, the Watsons, Maria and Emer, and Marie O'Neill giving a very familiar and solid look to a side that made their way to the county grounds determined to get the job done.

Milford also had a formidable middle partner for Thompson with Orlaith O'Mahony given the task of partnering up with the Cork star – a job she was more than happy to accept.

Aine Watson at centre back and Geary on the left wing both played really well with Geary in particular looking really good in her role by the line. Kate Galvin at full-back also shone throughout, mopping up any goal threat that made it through to the danger zone.

Orla Cotter was the stand out performer for St Catherine's with the half-forward line of Joanne O'Keefe, Fiona Neville and Annette Fitzgerald also acquitted themselves really well with O'Keefe's battle with Geary a real highlight of the encounter.

The full-back line of Anne-Marie Rohan, Noreen Mulcahy and Yvonne O'Neill also performed admirably however few line-ups could have held the rampant Milford front three on the day.

Milford started this game as one would expect, well, and eased into a 1-2 to 0-1 lead by the 10th minute, mainly thanks to the goal of Emer Watson which stunned a previously confident looking St Catherine's side that are managed by Cork legend Denis Walsh.

More points from Emer and Maria as well as a tasty score from Walsh saw Milford ease out into

a six point lead with Catherine's only scoring response a second free from Cotter.

O'Keefe and Cotter added two points shortly before the break to cut the gap to a more manageable four however a 60 second brace from the Watsons snapped back the six point advantage as the sides headed for the interval, 1-7 to 0-4.

A pair of brilliant points from O'Neill and another free from Emer inside five minutes had the bookies closing the betting on this one as Milford upped the ante on the resumption and began to cruise.

Cotter continued to hit back, adding four points in the second half however she was outgunned by the girls in blue and white who were now totally in their stride.

The game was y over on the three quarter mark when player of the match Maria Watson bagged

a terrific goal however credit must go to St Catherine's for the way the battled on.

Milford are deserving champions and will take some beating heading into the Munster series where they will be keen to flex their collective camogie muscles against whatever opponents they face.

**MILFORD:** R Finn; D Hayes, K Galvin, L Healy; E O'Riordan, A Watson, A Geary; O O'Mahony, A Thompson 0-1; L Stack, C O'Connor, M Walsh 0-1; M O'Neill 0-4, E Watson 1-6 (65), M Watson 1-3. Subs: D O'Reilly for C O'Connor (49), E O'Neil for L Stack (22), S O'Connor for M O'Neill (54), L Hanley for L Healy (57).

**ST CATHERINES:** A O'Regan; A M Rohan, N Mulcahy, Y O'Neill; E Royane, C Moherway, M O'Keefe, O Neville, O Cotter 0-7; J O'Keefe 0-1, F Neville 0-11, M Walsh; M Tobin, R O'Callaghan, A Fitzgerald. Subs: M Rohan for A M Rohan (55), A O'Keefe for M Tobin (55), J Hurley for O Neville (55), A Mulcahy for M Walsh (58).

**REFEREE:** D Kiwan (Eire Og)



Maria Watson, Milford, receives the Player of the Match trophy from Diarmuid Sheehan, on behalf of the Evening Echo, after Milford's win over St. Catherines in the County Senior Camogie Championship Final. Photo by Jim Coughlan



Katie Galvin, Milford, and Finola Neville, St Catherine's, in the Evening Echo Senior Camogie Championship Final, at Castle Road, Cork. Picture: Jim Coughlan



# FOUR NOT OUT FOR MILFORD

MILFORD.....2-15  
ST. CATHERINE'S.....0-9

All conquering Milford were crowned Cork senior camogie champions for the fourth year in a row following a convincing victory over St. Catherine's at Castle Road last Saturday.

It was a memorable day not only for the club but for the Watson sisters Emer and Maria who were the scourge of St. Catherine's and accounted for 2-9 of their side's total between them.

The respective sides were managed by heavyweights with Limerick football manager John Brudair in the Milford corner and former Cork senior hurling manager and current Ballygunner manager Denis Walsh in the St. Catherine's corner.

The opening exchanges were pretty even until Milford got into gear spurred on by an Emer Watson goal and by half time, the defending champions were in command 1-7 to 0-4.

While Cork star Orla Cotter kept the scoreboard ticking over for St. Catherine's, there was unrelenting momentum with Milford in the second half. With Cork All-Ireland winning captain Ashling Thompson in fine form, Milford began to press home their advantage and four points from Marie O'Neill and the champions' second goal, a cracking effort from Maria Watson on 48 minutes put the game beyond St. Catherine's reach.

The campaign for a fourth Munster senior camogie title in a row will kick off on Saturday week when Milford take on

Tipperary champions, Burgess.

Scorers: Milford: Emer Watson 1-6, 6f; Maria Watson 1-3; Marie O'Neill 0-4; Ashling Thompson, Maria Walsh 0-1 each.

St. Catherine's: Orla Cotter 0-7, 7f; Finola Neville, Joanne O'Keefe 0-1 each.

Milford: Rebecca Finn; Deirdre Hayes, Katie Galvin, Lisa Healy; Elaine O'Riordan, Aine Watson, Anna Geary; Orlaith O'Mahony, Ashling Thompson; Laura Stack, Christine O'Connor, Maria Walsh; Emer Watson, Maria Watson, Marie O'Neill.

Subs: Deirdre O'Reilly for O'Connor (48), Emer O'Friel for Stack (53), S O'Connor for O'Neill (54), Loretta Hanley for Healy (59).

St. Catherine's: Aine O'Regan; A M Rohan, Noirin Mulcahy, Yvonne O'Neill; Evelyn Ronayne, Carolyn Motherway, Maeve O'Keefe; Orna Neville, Orla Cotter; Joanne O'Keefe, Finola Neville, M Walsh; Michelle Tobin, Rachel O'Callaghan, Annette Fitzgerald.

Subs: Aisling O'Keefe for O. Neville, J Hurley for Tobin, M Rohan for A M Rohan, A Mulcahy for Walsh.

Referee: Diarmuid Kirwan, Eire Og.



Sarah Sexton, captain receives the cup from Marion McCarthy, chairperson Cork County Board.



John Brudair, manager and John Stack.



Milford players: Emer Watson, Aine Watson, Elaine O'Riordan, Anna Geary and Maria Watson.



The Healy family



Deirdre O'Reilly and Deirdre Hayes.



Maria Watson being presented with the Player of the Match Award.



MILFORD SENIOR A CAMOGIE CHAMPIONS

Back row: Geraldine O'Connor, Emer Watson, Deirdre O'Brien, Aisling Thompson, Aoife Dillon, Darina O'Callaghan, Aine Watson, Marie O'Neill, Anna Geary, Deirdre Hayes, Katie Galvin, Loretta Hanley, Aoife Galvin and Rebecca Duggan.  
Front row: Orlaith O'Mahony, Maria Watson, Eimear O'Friel, Rebecca Finn, Maria Walsh, Sarah Sexton, captain, Elaine O'Riordan, Lisa Healy, Christine O'Connor and Laura Stack.



Maria, Emer and Aine Watson.



# Watson stays modest

## CAMOGIE

■ Diarmuid Sheehan

**MARIA WATSON** is far from the biggest camogie player you are likely to meet, but when it comes to heart, talent and sheer will-to-win this girl has few equals.

After receiving the player of the match performance at last Saturday's Evening Echo sponsored Cork County Senior Camogie final, Maria beamed with joy but it was clear the job is still far from complete.

"It is brilliant, it is so difficult to describe what it feels like. Winning another county title is such a great feeling. To be able to do it here with the girls again is fantastic. We know that there are bigger battles ahead if we want to get back to the top but we will just take it one day at a time and today is a really good day."

Milford cruised past St Catherine's on Saturday, in large part because of Watson's display in the full forward line but, modestly, this is not the way she sees it.

"It is great to play well and to score but this is something that happens because of all the hard work out the field. When I get the ball inside it is because someone has done a great job to get it to me. The praise needs to be shared around. Up front you get all the praise and of course it is great to get the goal and some points along the way, but there is a team of us and today we worked well together and thankfully we won."

For Watson and her team mates the challenges step up from here but that is not something that is likely to phase this talented forward.

"We have been here before and we know the hard work it takes to get the job done from here. That is the great thing about this team and the success we have had. Most of us know what to expect that makes it a little easier but just a little. We will need to step it up another level if we are to go further but this group of girls won't be found wanting there."

Milford now head into a Munster championship where they are likely to face stiffer opposition.

The North Cork club don't have the luxury of being able to fly under the radar anymore and will now be the target for clubs all over the country. However, with Watson, Anna Geary, Ashling Thompson and Emer Watson in their ranks, this Milford side could have a long and rewarding journey ahead as they look to claim back the All-Ireland camogie crown.



Milford celebrate their win over St Catherine's Evening Echo Senior Camogie Championship final at Castle Road.

Picture: Jim Coughlan



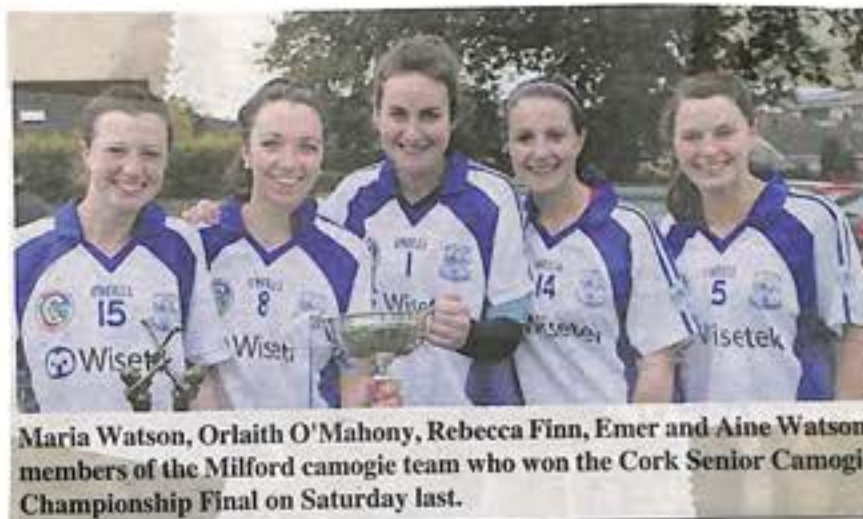
Maria Watson, Milford, receives the Player-of-the-Match Trophy from the Evening Echo's Diarmuid Sheehan after their win over St Catherine's.

Picture: Jim Coughlan



Milford captain Sarah Sexton receives the Cup from Marian McCarthy, Chairperson Cork Camogie Board.

Picture: Jim Coughlan



Maria Watson, Orlaith O'Mahony, Rebecca Finn, Emer and Aine Watson, members of the Milford camogie team who won the Cork Senior Camogie Championship Final on Saturday last.

OCT. 2015



Rena Buckley: Honoured by UCD.

## UCD Foundation Day Awards honour for GAA star Rena

CORK GAA superstar Rena Buckley will be recognised by UCD at its Foundation Day Awards next month. She will be among 15 notable alumni of the university who will be honoured for outstanding achievements within their chosen professional field post graduation. Rena won her 16th All-Ireland medal this year, and is one of the most decorated players in GAA history.

The chair of UCC's governing body, Dr Catherine Day, will receive the President's Foundation Day Medal for her impact on the European Union landscape. She is one of only three women to have held the position of director general in the commission and recently stepped down as secretary-general of the European Commission after 15 years.

## Congratulations Gemma WGPA Player of the Month

There were a number of stars for Cork in their All-Ireland Final win over Galway, but Gemma O'Connor shone as the outstanding performer in the centre half-back position she has made her own. In one of the finest displays of her career, O'Connor was the dominant figure, breaking up Galway attacks, mopping up possession and continually distributing an excellent supply of ball to the Cork forwards. Her composure throughout was characteristic of Cork's control of the game, restricting Galway to two points from play. This was the seventh All-Ireland medal O'Connor has claimed on the back of consistently excellent performances over the season. (Sunday Independent, 11.10.15)



# Extra time goes Newmarket's way

**Newmarket 1-14**  
**Inagh-Kilnamona 2-7**  
(AET)

**Sports Editor**  
**Seamus Hayes**

TRAILING by four points, with less than 10 minutes to play, favourites Newmarket looked to be in difficulty in the Clare Senior Camogie Championship final.

However, calling on all of their experience, they fought their way back and captain, Róisín McMahon converted an injury-time free to send the game to extra time, where they proved too strong for first-time finalists, Inagh-Kilnamona.

They have little time to celebrate their win at Clarecastle on Sunday, as they will be back in action on Saturday, when they travel to play Granagh-Ballinagarry in Limerick in the Munster Championship.

Newmarket's win didn't seem likely throughout most of the second half. Having led by a point at half-time, the champions found themselves four behind early in the second half and this was still the position with just nine minutes to play.

Inagh-Kilnamona will wonder why they couldn't manage a score in the final quarter, when the greater experience of their opponents shone through.

They got off to a dream start and took the lead inside a minute, when Fiona Lafferty's 20m free crept over the line.

Newmarket opened their account in the seventh minute when centre-back, Róisín McMahon converted a 25m free and further points from Ann Marie Hayes and Rachel Kelleher in the next two minutes brought the sides level for the first time.

The winners went in front in the 10th minute when Nikki Kaiser had her first point of the final but they were level again five minutes later, when Amy Keating converted a 45'.

Jenny Kelly and Carol O'Leary edged the winners ahead by the 20th minute, before Aoife Keane pulled one back for Inagh-Kilnamona. Nikki Kaiser and Aoife Keane swapped points in injury time at the end of the half to leave the winners ahead by the minimum margin, 0-7 to 1-3.

Two minutes into the second half the teams were level for the third time, when Amy Keating pointed. Five minutes later, Inagh-Kilnamona followers were in full voice when Sinéad Quinn crashed home a superb goal and when Fiona Lafferty followed with a point from play, it looked like history was going to be made as the first-time finalists went four points clear.

The Kaiser sisters, Iris and Nikki, caused a lot of problems for the Inagh-Kilnamona defence throughout and after a great run by Iris in the ninth minute, Nikki saw her flick over the advancing Rebecca Keating just go over the bar.

At the turn of the final quarter,



Amy Keating converted a 30m free for a score that put her side four clear again and this was still the position five minutes later, when Nikki Kaiser hit her fourth point.

A further five minutes went by before the next score, which was a Róisín McMahon point from a 25m free, which closed the gap to two points. Wing-back Aimee McInerney came upfield a minute later and she landed a point to leave the minimum between the teams. This was still the

position as two minutes of additional time were signalled and the first of these had been played when Róisín McMahon levelled the tie by converting a 35m free.

The Newmarket skipper struck again three minutes into the first period of extra time, when her effort from a 60m free took a deflection off an Inagh-Kilnamona defender and ended up in the Newmarket net. It proved to be a crucial score, which Inagh-Kilnamona never recovered from. Nikki



■ (Clockwise from top left) Aoife Griffin tackles Inagh-Kilnamona's Sinéad Quinn. ■ Amy Keating of Inagh-Kilnamona in action against Carol Kaiser. Clare camogie board chairman Joe Robbins presents the McMahon Cup to Newmarket captain Róisín McMahon. ■ Newmarket's Aimee McInerney under pressure from Tara Rynne. ■ Iris Kaiser and Fiona Lafferty battle for possession.

Photographs by John Kelly

Kaiser added a point and just before the teams switched sides for the second period, Róisín McMahon converted a 30m free to give her side a five-point advantage, 1-14 to 2-6.

There was just one score in the second period, which was an Aoife Keane point just before the final whistle.

In the end, the greater experience of the Newmarket side proved decisive on a day when the McMahon sisters, Róisín and Laura, Nikki and Iris Kaiser and the O'Learys, Jane and Carol, did well.

Clare Hehir, Fiona Lafferty, Sinéad Quinn, Aoife Keane, the O'Keeffe sisters and Amy Keating

did well for Inagh-Kilnamona.

**Newmarket:** Carol Kaiser; Jane O'Leary, Laura McMahon, Aislinn Keogh; Aimee McInerney, Róisín McMahon (captain), Aoife Griffin; Ruth Kaiser, Joanne Walsh; Iris Kaiser, Carol O'Leary, Rachel Kelleher; Jenny Kelly, Nikki Kaiser, Ann Marie Hayes.

**Subs:** Gemma McInerney for A Keogh (42) and Aileen Kilmartin for I Kaiser (injured, 65).

**Scorers:** Róisín McMahon (1-4f), Nikki Kaiser (0-5), Aimee McInerney, Carol O'Leary, Rachel Kelleher, Ann Marie Hayes and Jenny Kelly (0-1 each).

**Frees:** 18; **wides:** 11.

**Inagh-Kilnamona:** Rebecca Keating; Sinéad Power,

Clare Hehir, Orlaith Cotter; Teresa O'Keeffe, Fiona Lafferty, Michelle Wynne; Andrea O'Keeffe, Jane Fitzgerald; Sinéad Quinn, Aoife Keane, Tara Rynne; Laura Rynne, Helen Hehir, Amy Keating.

**Subs:** Clare Commene for Wynne (45), Chloe Foudy for T Rynne (25), Tara Rynne for L Rynne (65) and Marie O'Looney for H Hehir (70).

**Scorers:** Fiona Lafferty (1-1, 1-0f), Amy Keating (0-3, 2f), Aoife Keane (0-3) and Sinéad Quinn (1-0).

**Frees:** 15; **wides:** 9.

**Bookings:** Amy O'Keeffe (48).

**Referee:** Kevin Walsh, Wolfe Tones.





Camogie

Linda Mellerick

GEMMA O'Connor, Orla Cotter and Galway's Niamh Kilkenny have been shortlisted for the Camogie Association/WGPA Players Player of the year award, the winner to be announced at the Liberty Insurance sponsored All-Star banquet.

The event takes place next Saturday night in the Citywest Hotel where Brent Pope is guest speaker.

As mentioned last weekend, Briege Corkery and Rena Buckley are shortlisted for the footballer's Player of the Year alongside Dublin's Lyndsey Davey. Four out of six nominees is an incredible return and best of luck to all four.

As the momentum for women in sport continues the departments of Justice and Equality and Transport, Tourism and Sport, teamed together to host a 'Conference on Women in Sport' last Wednesday in Dublin Castle.

Keynote speakers on the day were from a wide range of sports from Rugby to Athletics and included CEOs from Swim Ireland and ladies golf union who gave presentations on how they increase ladies membership, volunteers and safeguard children. Fiona Coghlan, former captain of the Irish Women's Rugby team was the keynote speaker.

This was a major Government sponsored conference looking at 'levelling the playing field' for women and girls in sport in Ireland. The conference was about building up the structures in developing ladies sport within Ireland. Its purpose was also to recognise women's sport for what it is, as well as for what it's not, and not just by drawing comparisons with the men.

However some comparisons were inevitable. Fiona pointed to the disparity raised by Dr Anne Looney, chief executive of the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment, who highlighted the fact that according to a recent survey of Australian sport, 81% of their media coverage centred on men's sport and the remaining 19% on women's.

However, that 19% of women's media coverage was unanimously successful or positive. That was an interesting statistic. Why shouldn't women's sport be criticised in the same way as men's is?

When recounting her gradual rise through the ranks with the Irish women's rugby team Coghlan reflected that for years they got no media coverage whatsoever. When they won the 2013 Six Nations however they were inundated with it. Then, after beating New Zealand to make the 2014 World Cup semi-finals, only to be heavily beaten by England,

# Cork stars lead GAA shortlists



Ashling Thompson, Milford, challenges Orla Cotter, St Catherine's, in the county final. Picture: Jim Coughlan.



Fiona Coghlan, former captain of the Irish Women's Rugby team, Women and Girls in Sport in Ireland - Let's Level the Playing Field conference. Picture: Colm Mahady/Fennells

they found themselves glamorised by still glowing reports, when actually they'd been given a hard beating.

"We weren't happy getting beaten like that, against England," she says. "And some of the media were still describing us as an overnight success when it actually had taken 10 years."

"And there were people before me too who had done so much to develop women's rugby and didn't enjoy any success. But since that World Cup, in 2014, the IRFU has taken on the women's team under the high performance, so they have an all-year programme. We also have autumn internationals now. And they've taken to hosting the 2017 World Cup. So all of that is encouraging, to have

something of that context, not just for Irish women's rugby but Irish women's sport."

Opening the conference Minister Ring said: "Today's conference has been a great opportunity to highlight the good work that is happening through the Women in Sport programme and to reflect on the positive results that have been achieved in recent years where women's participation in sport has grown from 40.9% in 2011 to 42.7% in 2013. This is equivalent to over 750,000 women and girls aged 16 and over participating in sport on a weekly basis."

"I am very hopeful that these numbers will continue to rise and that more and more women and girls

can enjoy the health and social benefits that come with participation in sport and physical activity. My department will shortly be undertaking a consultation on a new National Sports Policy, following which we will develop a framework for sport for the next ten years, including a framework for further increasing women's participation in sport."

Minister Joan Burton stated: "I'd like to welcome everybody here this morning and say how pleased I am to see this timely and important conference taking place on women's participation in sport. It may seem a bit odd then to start by mentioning the men's Rugby World Cup. But a couple of weeks ago, during TV3's

coverage of the quarter-finals of the tournament, they featured Fiona Steed as part of their panel to analyse one of the key games."

"Fiona describes herself on her Twitter account as 'mother of three, wife, chartered physiotherapist, ex-international and rugby coach, occasional co-commentator and rugby analyst and now U10 camogie coach'."

"I think every woman here today will immediately appreciate the multi-tasking involved there. I think every woman here will welcome the fact that Fiona was on that TV3 panel. And I think every woman here will look forward to the day when such an event is routine, and no longer an item newsworthy in itself."

## Big weekend for clubs as finals approach

their victory after a hard fought battle they now meet Kilbrittan/Timoleague.

There were three minor B quarter-finals on the agenda last weekend as Fr O'Neill's had already booked their semi final spot with a victory over Ballincollig. Douglas travelled over the link road to meet St Finbarr's where the home side continued their good run to book their semi final spot.

Eire Og beat Ballinhassig whilst Ballygarvan were too strong for Enniskeane.

In the minor C championship St Vincent's are through to the semi-final courtesy of

their one point victory over neighbours Na Piarasigh. The other quarter-finals saw Charleville defeat Sliabh Rua, and Newcestown got the upper hand on Inniscarra in Ballyanley. Cobh saw off the challenge posed by their divisional neighbours Youghal to ensure they are still around.

In U16 B championship on Saturday last in Ballinlough Courcy Rovers got the upper hand on St Catherine's in high scoring semi final 6-9 to 3-11. There are plenty of games still to be decided as minor championship semi-finals and underage league competitions

continue to progress.

Today is a busy one for the juvenile board as they continue their U16 championships and leagues. The U16 B league semi-finals will see Na Piarasigh travel to Ballyanley to meet Inniscarra whilst Brian Dillon's host St Catherine's at Tank Field. In the U16 C championship semi-final Bride Rovers and Mallow battle it out in Ballinlough for a place in the final.

In the U16 C League semi final Ballinascarty and Tracton meet in Ballinascarty.

Five minor championship semi-finals make for a busy

Sunday as the A, B and C competitions come to the fore.

Kilbrittan/Timoleague and holders Sarsfield's will be a close affair in Cloughduv, both sides have strong performers and they will battle to the finish for a place in the final where Killeagh awaits.

The minor B semi-finals have St Finbarr's meeting Fr O'Neill's in Castle Road while Ballygarvan and Eire Og meeting Ballincollig. The minor C semi-finals both go ahead in Castle Road, St Vincent's meet Cobh and its Newcestown against Charleville.

With the three finals down

for decision on November 8 the clubs will battle to the finish to get over the line and be there for a tilt at the titles.

TODAY

160C Championship: Bride Rovers v Mallow, 11.30am, Ballinlough.

U16 B League semi-final: Inniscarra v Na Piarasigh, 1.30pm, Ballyanley.

U16 C League semi-final: Ballinascarty v Tracton, 12pm, Ballinascarty.

TOMORROW

Evening Echo Minor A championship semi-final: Kilbrittan/Timoleague v Sarsfield's, 11.30am, Cloughduv.

Evening Echo Minor B championship semi-final: St Finbarr's v Fr O'Neill's, 1.15pm, Castle Road; Ballygarvan v Eire Og, 2.45pm, Ballincollig.

Evening Echo Minor C championship semi-final: St Vincent's v Cobh, 10.45am, Castle Road; Charleville v Newcestown, Castle Road, 3.15pm.

U16 B League semi-final: Brian Dillon's v St Catherine's, 12pm, Brian Dillon's.

U16 C League semi-final: Ballinascarty v Tracton, 12pm, Ballinascarty.

U16 B League semi-final: Inniscarra v Na Piarasigh, 1.30pm, Ballyanley.

U16 C League semi-final: Ballinascarty v Tracton, 12pm, Ballinascarty.

A BUSY weekend of minor championship games saw the A, B and C championships reach semi-final stages and these will take place this weekend with the finals all down for decision on November 8.

Killeagh had to go to extra time before securing their place in the minor A final as they overcame Aghabullogue with four points to spare in Killeagh. In a close contest 60 minutes failed to find a winner but in added time Killeagh showed that extra bit of desire to go on and record a victory.

Sarsfield's made the journey down on Sunday morning to meet the combination of Milford/Ballyhea and the holders were full value for





Maria Watson, (left) Milford winner of the Reardens GAA senior county camogie player of the match award with Anna Lapot, marketing manager Reardens. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

# Milford star Maria a first among equals

**THE most surprising fact that can be attributed to Maria Watson's, Reardens Bar Player of the Match award in the senior county camogie final earlier this month, is that it is the first such award in GAA that this talented Milford corner-forward has received.**

After putting in the standout display against St Catherine's, the 30-year-old national school teacher was the unanimous choice of not only all the journalists at the game, but also the vast majority of the knowledgeable fans in attendance. Watson plays camogie as it should be played, with no histrionics, no fear and a will to win that is infectious to all around her. She has won one player of the match award once before, however the code it was in is a little surprising.

"Myself and a couple of work colleagues set up a tag rugby team seven or eight years ago and I got a player award back then. Not the same thing I can assure you."

"I was delighted to be picked this time, I genuinely never thought I would be picked for this. There are so many great performers in our team and against Catherine's there were a host of great displays from some of our well-known players as well as from the less well known ones."

Maria is joined on the team by her sisters Aine and Emer, who has also picked up a few prizes for her exploits, and nothing means more than playing and winning honours with her siblings. They're on quite roll these days, as this year's

## CAMOGIE

■ Diarmuid Sheehan

Cork title was Milford's fourth in a row, while they've also captured three Munster crowns and two All-Irelands.

"There are three of us there and it is brilliant to play with the girls. We love camogie in our area. I've been playing since national school and my sisters the same."

"It is great to have them with me when we win and the same when we don't. They are both great players and a credit to the jersey."

"Like all the players on our team, everyone gives it their all. It's great to be picked out as player of the match in any game, it is even better in a county final, but to be picked ahead of the talent that we have on our team and on our bench is the best bit. They are all stars and all perform like stars every time they go out to play."

While winning the Reardens Player of the Match in the county final is clearly an honour cherished by Maria, there is the small matter of the Munster Championship on the horizon, and first up is Tipperary's Burgess Duharra next Saturday.

"We played this team in two out of the last three years we came out of Cork and we beat them both times. They were close games and there is no doubt that they will be gunning for us this time."

"They are a side with the likes of senior star Eimear McDonnell in their ranks and they won't fear us one bit. We will need to be on top of our game if we are to get

through this one."

Milford have added a new trick to their already bulging quiver of tricks with manager current Limerick senior football manager John Brudair now in the corner. One of their previous mentors, Frankie Flannery, was this week appointed Cork senior hurling coach.

"John is brilliant, he is not just a great physio but he also is a great manager. Of course when he took over our set-up he had a few adjustments to deal with like the differing strengths of different sides."

"John would be used to stronger athletes than he would have found at a camogie team like ours. He adapted really well though and is a great addition to us as a team."

"There is a mutual respect between the players and the manager and it is great that we can go to John if we think something needs to be adjusted. We have great leaders like Anna (Geary), Ashling (Thompson) and Deirdre O'Reilly who is back in great form, while some of the other girls are also really vocal, that is a great thing in our team, and people can say what they think as long as it is for the good of the team. We are all very critical of our own performances and of the way we train ourselves."

Watson, Brudair and co will get a chance to test their new found partnership next weekend as Milford take on the Tipperary champions in the premier county side's own patch.

This will be a big test for all concerned at the north Cork club however it is not a test that they are likely to shy away from anytime soon.

## Honours for Cork sports women

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

FOLLOWING on from the success of the Cork senior team in retaining their All-Ireland senior title, several players have been recently honoured with awards and it is wonderful to see these girls who have put some much into the game being honoured.

Too often it is just lip service and polite applause that greet female sports women's tremendous achievements.

This fact is borne out by the small numbers that turn out at the homecoming for our own Cork teams both in camogie and ladies' football despite the huge success both sides have and are enjoying.

The South Mall should be packed every year as the women succeed while the men struggle, but that's simply not the case.

However, it is wonderful to see these girls being acknowledged and feted on the same stage as their male counterparts and picking up these awards where on some of the occasions they were in opposition to high profile male athletes.

Laura Treacy was honoured with the East Cork Middleton Park Hotel Award for September in a joint presentation with the Dungourney GAA team who captured the East Cork junior hurling title.

Gemma O'Connor and Brieghe Corkery were honoured by the *Evening Echo* with the Ladies Sports Award in association with the Rochestown Park Hotel and Newbridge Silverware, Oliver Plunkett Street. Corkery and Rena Buckley were the joint winners of the 96FM and C103 GAA Award for September.

Amy O'Connor was named as the winner of the Youth Award for September by the Metropole Hotel in association with John Buckley Sports.

These are exciting times indeed as we head towards the week of the All-Stars and with no fewer than 13 Cork players nominated we will expect to see plenty of honours coming Leaside on Saturday next.

Added to this both Gemma O'Connor and Orla Cotter are in the running to be named the WPGA Players' Player of the Year in a ballot that will be announced at the All-Stars.

The players will choose who their own Player of the Year was and no doubt both Gemma and Orla would be worthy winners of this accolade.

With the season drawing to a close there are sure to be further honours for many of Cork camogie players but for now we acknowledge and applaud those who have been honoured in the last few months.

We also wish our All-Star nominees all the best, and of course Cork manager Paudie Murray who will surely be chosen as manager of the year next weekend.





Cork All-Ireland camogie star Amy O'Connor (St Vincent's) receives a City and County Youth Sports Star Award from Roger Russell, General Manager, Metropole Hotel in the company of John Buckley (John Buckley Sports, sponsors), Deputy Lord Mayor, Cllr. Thomas Gould and Deputy Co. Mayor, Cllr. Kevin Conway, parents Tracy and Connie O'Connor.

**VERSATILE** and talented Amy O'Connor reveals a crop of exciting sport talent is coming through the ranks and rewarded after a stunning season helped Cork retain the All-Ireland senior camogie title.

Ball-winning and pace are vital traits to the young St Vincent's player's game and a real menace for opposition defenders to dispossess her once she gets on the ball. Time and again, the creative play of O'Connor has helped grab key scores that ultimately helped the return of the O'Duffy Cup to Lee-side.

Her commitment and skills across a range of sports merits Amy the monthly City and County Youth Sports Star Award at a function in the Metropole Hotel.

O'Connor gained a call up for the Cork Senior panel in May 2014 following an eye-catching performance in the Munster minor final. Unfortunately, at the time she couldn't commit because due to her u19 soccer commitments with Ireland.

Cork coach Paudie Murray persisted and a few weeks later, O'Connor accepted a place on the panel that culminated on two All-Ireland senior medals and nominated for an All-Star award.

"It's difficult at times to play two games but I love camogie, it's probably my favourite sport. I put camogie number one this year, once you get older, one has to make decisions and I managed to take the correct call," said Amy. "Paudie is a brilliant manager, absolutely trusts the involvement of players under 20 years on giving us the opportunity to enhance our careers."

The skillful O'Connor holds plenty of experience at international soccer. First called up at

# O'Connor has diverse talents

## CAMOGIE

■ John Tarrant

the age of 14 years and played up to U19 level with 50 caps to her credit.

"For the new year, UCC are fielding strong teams in both the Ashbourne Cup in Camogie and Intervarsity football. Hopefully, I can be involved in both panels and enjoy good runs", said Amy.

### Fantastic

"The St Vincent's camogie club are fantastic, offering terrific encouragement. At every Cork game, this year, the St Vincent's support was phenomenal with bus loads of supporters present."

Deputy Lord Mayor Cllr Tho-

mas Gould and Deputy County Mayor Cllr. Kevin Conway extended congratulations to Amy on her achievement and acknowledged with the City and County Youth Sports Star Award organised in association with John Buckley Sports.

Metropole Hotel Manager Roger Russell commended the role played by the young star on retaining the All Ireland title.

"We're delighted to be involved and acknowledge the brightest and best talent within the county. Well done to Amy and her Cork colleagues on maintaining their dominance in camogie", he said.

Sponsor John Buckley commended Amy on her dedication and workrate that yielded ultimate honours.

"The awards are a fantastic op-

portunity to recognise the talents of Cork's young sporting stars and thanks are extended to the Metropole Hotel for recognising the talent of youth such as Amy", he said.

## U16 titles are still up for grabs

### CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

THE Minor and U16 championships are the last trophies up for grabs this season and all championships in A, B and C level.

Sarsfields and Milford/Ballyhea clash in round two this weekend as do Killeagh and Aghabullogue, Kilbrittan/Timoleague travel to Cloughduv.

The winners of the Killeagh and Aghabullogue clash go through to the final with the winners of the other two games meeting in the semi-final, which is down for November 1.

The final is scheduled for November 8.

The Minor B championship already has one team through to the semi-final as Fr O'Neill's secured their place defeating Ballincollig on Thursday; there are two quarter-finals this weekend.

Today it's an all city clash when Douglas travel to Togher to meet St Finbarr's at 10.30am, while tomorrow Ballinhassig host Eire Og, the last quarter-final Ennis-keane versus Ballygarvan is to be fixed.

In the Minor C championship St Vincent's are through to the semi-final courtesy of their one-point victory on Thursday last over neighbours Na Plarsaigh in a thrilling contest.

The other quarter-finals will be decided tomorrow when Sliabh Rua travel to Charleville to meet the home sides and Newcestown travel to Ballyanley to meet Inniscarra.

Cobh over came Barryroe to set up a meeting with their divisional neighbours Youghal this will also go ahead today, all three games are at noon.

A lot of U16 championship and league competitions have been put on hold as the minor championship continues with several clubs still involved in both. In the U16 A championship it finished all square between Aghabullogue and Milford/Ballyhea and the sides will do it again to find a winner to play Ballygarvan in the semi-final while Newcestown will meet Kilbrittan/Timoleague.

In U16 B at semi-final stage Courcey Rovers are through to the semi-final and they will meet St Catherine's today in Ballinlough at 1pm and in the second semi-final Youghal and Fr O'Neill's will clash in all East Cork derby.

In U16 C championship its down to semi-finals Barryroe will meet Valley Rovers and its Mallow versus Bride Rovers.

Once the U16 championship kicks into gear again we can expect some terrific matches between very well-match teams.



Orla Cronin, Cork Camogie.

## ANNA HONOURED BY HER ALMA MATER



The University of Limerick Alumni Association (ULAA) bestowed the Association's highest honour on three of their outstanding graduates at the 10th Annual UL Alumni Awards Gala Dinner last Saturday. This annual event celebrates the outstanding achievements of Graduates of the University. The three were: award-winning former Cork Camogie Captain Anna Geary (Bachelor in Business Studies 2009) who is pictured; Irish artist Alice Maher (BA in European Studies 1978), Entrepreneur, Founder and CEO of BD-GenCell Kieran Curran (BEng in Mechanical Engineering 2002 and PhD 2005).



Cork and Galway share seven places each on 2015 All-Stars team

By Camogie Association  
Posted 08/11/2015



Gemma O'Connor collects inaugural Camogie Association/WGPA Senior Players' Player of the Year

All-Ireland Champions Cork and finalists Galway dominated the 2015 All-Stars team sponsored by Liberty Insurance, taking seven places each on this year's selection presented by special guest Brent Pope and Camogie Association President Catherine Neary at Citywest on Saturday, November 7th.

Gemma O'Connor of Cork also collected the inaugural Camogie Association/WGPA Senior Players' Player of the Year award. Patricia Jackman of Waterford was the recipient of the Intermediate accolade while Kate Nolan of Carlow was chosen as the Junior Players' Player of the Year. All three were selected from a shortlist as compiled by the WGPA after voting by inter-county players. The awards are sponsored by Liberty Insurance.

O'Connor collected her ninth All-Star award at centre-back while team-mate Aoife Murray was selected in goals; Pamela Mackey and Rena Buckley were named in defence; Cork captain Ashling Thompson was selected in midfield and Orla Cotter and Briege Corkery were named in the forward line.

Galway received seven awards. Defensive duo, Sarah Dervan and Heather Cooney, were named at full-back and corner-back respectively. Lorraine Ryan was selected at wing-back and Galway captain Niamh Kilkenny took a place at midfield.

Niamh McGrath was named at centre-forward while Molly Dunne and Alish O'Reilly were named at full-forward and corner-forward. Wexford's Kate Kelly completed the team at left-wing forward.

Cork manager Paudie Murray was named as the Liberty Insurance Manager of the Year after guiding his county to successive All-Ireland titles.

Speaking at the event Camogie Association President Catherine Neary said:

"The Liberty Insurance Camogie All-Star awards are an important date in the camogie calendar. It provides us with the opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate our players and I congratulate all of our award winners."

Nov. 2015

They have entertained us all during the 2015 season with their skill, athleticism, determination and commitment. To win an All-Star Award or a Soaring Star Award is a wonderful achievement for any player and I have no doubt the players would be the first to acknowledge the role of their teammates. Congratulations also to the 2015 Manager of the Year, Paudie Murray of Cork.

This year saw the introduction of the Camogie Association / WGPA Players' Player of the Year award and we have three fantastic winners. This award is a reflection of the esteem that the winners are held in by their fellow players who voted on this year's recipients."

John Coffey, Sponsorship & PR Manager, Liberty Insurance said:

"The Camogie All-Stars recognise the outstanding achievements of this year's players across all levels, and are one of the highlights of the sporting calendar.

We are delighted to sponsor the awards, and are looking forward to celebrating with this year's recipients.

We are also pleased to support the inaugural Player's Player of the Year award and congratulate all of this year's winners."

Aoife Lane, Chairperson of the WGPA commented:

"We would like to extend congratulations to all of the nominees for these inaugural awards, and in particular to the three worthy winners; Gemma O'Connor, Patricia Jackman and Kate Nolan.

Each are excellent athletes and are strong role models in their club and county for the ambition and commitment they display on and off the field.

It is great to be a part of such a worthwhile venture on a special night for the Camogie Association. Congratulations to all nominees and winners at the 2015 All-Stars event."

The 2015 Soaring Stars at Junior and Intermediate level, which were announced earlier in October, were also presented last night (November 7th).

Laois trio, Sarah-Anne Fitzgerald, Laura-Marie Maher and Louise Mahony collected awards following their All-Ireland winning exploits with the O'Moore County while All-Ireland Junior finalists, Roscommon were awarded two Soaring Stars with Susan Spillane and Rachel Fitzmaurice. The final place on the 2015 Junior Soaring Stars selection went to Pamela Greville of Westmeath.

The Intermediate selection was led by Waterford with Beth Carton, Lorraine Bray and Patricia Jackman. Kildare duo Susie O'Carroll and Melissa Lyons each collected awards and the final spot went to Jane Dolan of Meath.

Photographs from the 2015 Camogie All-Stars event sponsored by Liberty Insurance are available FDC from Inpho Photography.

The 2015 All-Stars team sponsored by Liberty Insurance

Aoife Murray, Cork, Pamela Mackey, Cork, Sarah Dervan, Galway, Heather Cooney, Galway, Rena Buckley, Cork, Gemma O'Connor, Cork, Lorraine Ryan, Galway, Niamh Kilkenny, Galway, Ashling Thompson, Cork, Orla Cotter, Cork, Niamh McGrath, Galway, Kate Kelly, Wexford, Briege Corkery, Cork, Molly Dunne, Galway, Alish O'Reilly, Galway.

2015 Intermediate Soaring Stars sponsored by Liberty Insurance  
Susie O'Carroll, Kildare, Melissa Lyons, Kildare, Lorraine Bray, Waterford, Beth Carton, Waterford, Patricia Jackman, Waterford, Jane Dolan, Meath.

2015 Junior Soaring Stars sponsored by Liberty Insurance  
Susan Spillane, Roscommon, Rachel Fitzmaurice, Roscommon, Laura-Marie Maher, Laois, Louise Mahony, Laois, Sarah-Anne Fitzgerald, Laois, Pamela Greville, Westmeath.

2015 Manager of the Year sponsored by Liberty Insurance

Paudie Murray, Cork

2015 Camogie Association/WGPA Players' Player of the Year sponsored by Liberty Insurance

Senior Players' Player of the Year: Gemma O'Connor, Cork

Intermediate Players' Player of the Year: Patricia Jackman, Waterford

Junior Players' Player of the Year: Kate Nolan, Carlow



STARRY EYED: Galway full-back Sarah Dervan receives her Camogie All-Star award from Catherine Neary, president of the Camogie Association; with Judy Mullane, brand and communications manager of Liberty Insurance; and special guest Brent Pope at a gala dinner at the Citywest Hotel, Dublin, over the weekend.  
Picture: Cathal Noonan/Inpho

Camogie All Stars Finalists dominate

All-Ireland champions Cork and finalists Galway dominated the 2015 All-Stars team sponsored by Liberty Insurance, taking seven places each on this year's selection.

Gemma O'Connor of Cork also collected the inaugural Camogie Association/WGPA Senior Players' Player of the Year award. Patricia Jackman of Waterford was the recipient of the Intermediate accolade while Kate Nolan of Carlow was chosen as the Junior Players' Player of the Year.

Galway received seven awards. Cork manager Paudie Murray was named as the manager of the

year after guiding his county to successive All-Ireland titles.

All-Stars team: Aoife Murray (Cork), Pamela Mackey (Cork), Sarah Dervan (Galway), Heather Cooney (Galway), Rena Buckley (Cork), Gemma O'Connor (Cork), Lorraine Ryan (Galway), Niamh Kilkenny (Galway), Ashling Thompson (Cork), Orla Cotter (Cork), Niamh McGrath (Galway), Kate Kelly (Wexford), Briege Corkery (Cork), Molly Dunne (Galway), Alish O'Reilly (Galway).  
Senior Players' Player of the Year: Gemma O'Connor (Cork).





Camogie

Linda Mellerick

**IT WAS** superb to see Paudie Murray pick up the 'Manager of the Year' award at the All Star banquet last Saturday.

After the phenomenal effort he has put into the Cork senior squad over the past four seasons, it's very well deserved. I was thrilled when Gemma O'Connor collected the inaugural Camogie Association/WGPA Senior Players' Player of the Year award. If I was to pick a camogie player of the decade it would be Gemma.

Her athleticism, strength, hurling skill and brain has been a constant highlight even when the silverware wasn't won. And as she mentioned herself afterwards, to be selected by your peers is very special. Many congratulations to her.

Gemma collected her ninth All-Star award at centre-back while Aoife Murray was a certainty between the posts. Pamela Mackey and Rena Buckley were named in defence and it was just reward for Pamela who failed to get nominated last year.

Cork captain Ashling Thompson was selected in midfield while Orla Cotter after picking up a couple of Player of the match awards during the season, including the All-Ireland final, was another that wasn't a surprise. Briege Corkery was named up front, her first of two All Stars this season no doubt.

Julia White can feel very hard done by. She was outstanding in Cork's quarter final victory which set Cork on the road and was brilliant in the final.

Galway received seven awards. Defensive duo Sarah Dervan and Heather Cooney were named at full-back and corner-back respectively. Lorraine Ryan was selected at wing-back and Galway captain Niamh Kilkenney took a place at midfield.

Niamh McGrath was named at centre-forward while Molly Dunne and Ailish O'Reilly were named at full-forward and corner-forward. Wexford's Kate Kelly completed the team at left-wing forward.

Patricia Jackman of Waterford was the recipient of the Intermediate accolade while Kate Nolan of Carlow was chosen as the Junior Players' Player of the Year.

Camogie All-Stars: Aoife Murray (Cork); Pamela Mackey (Cork); Sarah Dervan (Galway); Heather Cooney (Galway); Rena Buckley (Cork); Gemma O'Connor (Cork); Lorraine Ryan (Galway); Niamh Kil-

# Rebels really were worthy winners

kenny (Galway), Ashling Thompson (Cork); Orla Cotter (Cork); Niamh McGrath (Galway); Kate Kelly (Wexford); Briege Corkery (Cork); Molly Dunne (Galway); Ailish O'Reilly (Galway).

Senior Players' Player of the Year: Gemma O'Connor. Intermediate Players' Player of the Year: Patricia Jackman (Waterford). Junior Players' Player of the Year: Kate Nolan (Carlow).

Manager of the Year: Paudie Murray

It was a memorable weekend for Patricia Jackman who was presented with her seventh All-Ireland Poc Fada title in advance of the All-Stars. A Soaring All Star, a Poc Fada title and the WGPA Intermediate Players' Player of the Year in one day; it

doesn't get much better than that.

A few interesting findings emerged from the association's online survey as they develop their strategic development plan 2016.

In total there were 913 respondents of which 22% were male. The age profile of the respondents was quite balanced overall - with 12% under the age of 17 and 1.5% aged 60 or over.

35% of respondents combined camogie with football 32% of respondents have been involved in Camogie for 20 years or more 20% of respondents have been involved for less than five years

45% of respondents listed themselves as a club player with 46% also listing themselves as a coach/official. 76% of respondents felt there should be closer ties with the GAA

and Ladies Gaelic Football particularly with regards to fixtures planning. 77% of respondents said that they would like to see efforts focussed on promoting camogie in both primary and secondary schools.

Respondents felt that the issue with teenage retention is one that is universal and across other sports, with Camogie no different. However, a need for role models in camogie was highlighted as a means to engage teenagers.

59% of respondents felt a greater allegiance to their club than to their county, citing friendships with club colleagues as one of the primary reasons. 66% of respondents felt that there should be a greater utilisation of TV.

62% highlighted social media as

vital. Co-promotion with the local GAA club was extremely important to 65%.

The survey, was carried out with a number of regional meetings, one-on-one meetings and the findings will be used in the formulation of the next plan which is underway.

Meanwhile, three recently-released GAA autobiographies have been nominated for the Bord Gáis Energy Sports Book of the Year award.

They are Henry Shefflin - The Autobiography, Until Victory Always, a memoir by Jim McGuinness and The White Heat: My Autobiography by former Kerry footballer Tomás Ó Sé. Also shortlisted are Ireland soccer goalkeeper Packie Bonner's The Last Line, Peter Stringer's autobiography Pulling The Strings and Sean McGoldricks's story of Irish Olympic boxing, Punching Above Their Weight.

Voting is open to the public, closing midnight November 19 and votes can be cast at IrishBookAwards.ie.



Cork camogie manager Paudie Murray with team captain Ashling Thompson last month. Picture: Eoin Noonan/SPORTSFILE

**“After the phenomenal effort Paudie Murray has put into the Cork senior squad... it was well deserved**

## CAMOGIE AWARDS Paudie Manager of the Year



Cork senior camogie team manager Paudie Murray is presented with the 'Manager of the Year' award, sponsored by Liberty Insurance, by Catherine Neary, President of the Camogie Association. Paudie's sister, Cork goalkeeper Aoife Murray, also received an All-Star award, along with six other members of the All-Ireland-winning team, at the Citywest Hotel in Dublin last Saturday night. (Photo: Cathal Noonan, INPHO)



# Goal blitz sees Killeagh claim title

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

**Killeagh** 3-11  
**Sarsfield's** 1-10

THIS close battle went down to the wire before the two late goals secured the Evening Echo Minor A Championship title for Killeagh overcoming holders Sarsfield's at Castle Road on Sunday.

A lot of over night and early morning rain made underfoot conditions slippery but both sides served up a classic.

Sars, aided by the strong wind in the opening half, hit the front early with a goal from Maeve McCarthy. However the Killeagh response was quick with Sinead Landers finding the net.

Cork senior Hannah Looney and Caoimhe Harney added points, but 20 minutes in Sarsfield's began to get a grip and three points without from Edel Lonergan and Claire Mullins had them back in the contest.

Killeagh responded as Chloe Sigerson converted a 45. Looney pointed to edge Killeagh two clear but Lonergan hit a 45 before the interval to leave just a point between the sides at the break 1-5 to 1-4 in favour of Killeagh.

Sars introduced Lucy Kelly at half time. She did not start due to an injury and she had a telling impact on the game and her side were level thanks to Michelle Barry. Sigerson pointed a free to edge Killeagh and was very accurate throughout.

Kate Mary Cullinane had to be at her best to deny Sars a goal, but they still levelled through points from Barry, Lucy Kelly and Lonergan. They took the lead a Kelly free and now it was Killeagh chasing.

Sigerson levelled the game again from a difficult angle but Sars' free-taker Lonergan was also on target.

As the clock ticked towards full time the excitement was fierce Katie Aherne edged Killeagh in front.

Killeagh got the break with Clara Barry grabbing a vital goal. Now four points clear they were not going to be denied and when Sinead Landers struck for her second goal the title was going to Killeagh. A superb effort and team performance ensuring they finally realised their dream after several years of trying.

**Scorers for Killeagh:** C Sigerson 0-6 (0-4 f, 0-1 45), S Landers 2-0, H Looney 0-3, C Barry 1-0, C Harney, K Aherne 0-1 each.

**Sarsfield's:** E Lonergan 0-5 f, M McCarthy 1-0, M Barry 0-2, L Kelly 0-2 f, C Mullins 0-1.

**KILLEAGH:** K M Cullinane, R Fogarty, N O'Farrell (c), N O'Brien, E Treacy, L McEvoy, A Benaim, C Sigerson, L O'Gorman, C Barry, H Looney, K Aherne, G Tyrrell, C Harney, S Landers.

**SARSFIELD'S:** C Casey, J Lyons, K Barry, A O'Leahy, K Lyons, E Lonergan, E Casey, R McCarthy, H Herlihy, S Costello, M McCarthy, M Barry, C Tobin, Lauren Casserly, Claire Mullins.

**Subs:** L Kelly for C Tobin, C Tobin for A O'Leahy, D Kerrigan for L Casserly.



The Cork All-Stars with Brent Pope: Gemma O'Connor, Aoife Murray, Mary Buckley, receiving on behalf of sister Rena, Pamela Mackey, Orla Cotter, Ashling Thompson & Briege Corkery

# Blackrock and the Glen triumph

**Blackrock** 5-6  
**St Finbarr's** 1-6

**BLACKROCK** emerged winners in this U13 A Seandún final, though it was closer then the scoreline suggests.

Sadbh McCarthy hitting 2-1 midway through the second half was key to this victory, while Aisling Hegarty and Anne Golden also scored to seal it. The Barrs battled hard, but with Maeve Cashman superbly marshalling a strong defence, Blackrock led 3-3 to no score at the break.

Katie Lee grabbed a goal and a point for the Barrs after the restart, and with Clara Hurley, Ciara Olden and Amy O'Herlihy also on target, they cut the Blackrock lead.

Sadbh McCarthy steadied Blackrock with her 2-1 haul in five minutes as they had to be at their best against the St Finbarr's rally. Blackrock's Anna Lucey and Aoife Casey working hard

**CAMOGIE**  
■ Mary Newman

throughout, Cashman and Hegarty shone too, but McCarthy was player-of-the-match. For St Finbarr's, captain Amy O'Herlihy, Ciara Hurley, Kate Corcoran, Katie Lee and Ciara Golden gave it their all.

**Scorers for Blackrock:** S McCarthy 4-2, A Hegarty 1-1, A Golden 0-2, A Lucey 0-1.

**St Finbarr's:** K Lee 1-1, C Golden, A O'Herlihy 0-2 each, C Hurley 0-1.

**BLACKROCK:** H O'Connell, F Buckley, E O'Riordan, A Grimley, A Walsh, M Cashman, R O'Mahony, A Lucey, A Casey, A Golden, A Hegarty, L Geurin, S McCarthy, E McCarthy, C Cashman.

**Subs:** L Nason for C Cashman, F Fitzgerald for R O'Mahony, E O'Syme for E McCarthy, A Ni Sulleabhain for A Grimley.

**ST FINBARR'S:** K Corcoran, G Clehane, J Naughton, S Kearney, N Olden, A O'Herlihy (c), M McTieran, CA Sexton, C Crowe, K Lee, C Golden, E Barrett, M Manning, L Murphy, C Hurley.

**Subs:** A McCluskey for L Murphy, M Murphy for CA Sexton, L Duff for G Clehane, K Walsh for C Hurley, J Diedrick-Games for E Barrett, S Wisniewska for M Manning.

**Glen Rovers** 2-1  
**Douglas** 1-3

**IT WENT** down to the wire in this Seandún U13 B final in the Cork Colleges Grounds, Castle Road.

Douglas opened the scoring with an Aisling Walsh free. Glen Rovers centre-back Lisa O'Riordan then took on the Douglas defence and sent an unstoppable shot to the net.

A superb save from Glen goalkeeper Amy Cuthbert kept the scoreline at 1-0 to 0-1 at half-time despite the best efforts of Anna Murphy and Aisling Walsh.

Lisa O'Riordan stretched the Glen led with a pointed free and it took a tremendous save from Douglas 'keeper Jane Stoker to deny O'Riordan a second goal.

Douglas swept upfield and a goal from Walsh brought them back into the game, while she followed up with a point.

Digging deep, the Glen kept the pressure on and a goal from Jess Conway put them two points clear.

With captain Tara McCarthy playing a sweeper role in defence they held their lead.

Douglas pointed to cut the deficit to a point and despite huge Douglas pressure, the Glen defence held their lines to take the title after an excellent game by two committed teams.

Lisa O'Riordan was named as player-of-the-match after giving a tremendous display.

**Scorers for Glen Rovers:** L O'Riordan 1-1 (0-1 f), J Conway 1-0.

**Douglas:** A Walsh 1-1, J O'Sullivan 0-2.

**GLEN ROVERS:** A Cuthbert, C Brosnan, E O'Meara, S Simons, Carol Halpin-Hurley, L O'Riordan, O Lennon, E Akinoulis, M Martin, E Buckley, T McCarthy (c), S Cotter, A Newman, J Conway, A McCarthy.

**Subs:** R O'Halloran for A McCarthy, I O'Meara for A Newman, E Coughlan for O Lennon.

**DOUGLAS:** J Stoker, K Hartnett, A Baldwin, A Roche, A Cottrill, E Corby, B Casserly, M Twohig, A Murphy, K Twomey, A Lynch, A Walsh, H Tett, J O'Sullivan, L Powell.

**Subs:** C McCarthy for K Twomey, A Mullins for H Tett, K Daggar for K Hartnett, R Smith for A Roche.

# Newcestown take Minor B championship title

**Newcestown** 3-7  
**Cobh** 1-2

A GOAL separated the sides in this curtain raiser in Castle Road in difficult weather conditions as the sides battled it out for the Evening Echo Minor B championship title.

Eabha Walsh's goal divided the sides after she finished to the net, reacting quickly to the rebound from the Cobh keeper Tibbets' save in a half where scores were hard to come by, given the difficult conditions.

Olive O'Mahony was on target with a point from a free and one from play for Newcestown, whilst Kate Lynn Quinlan was on target with two Cobh points as they kept pace with their opponents through an evenly contested first-half.

**CAMOGIE**  
■ Mary Newman

From the start of the second-half Newcestown worked to build on their lead goals from Olive O'Mahony and Chloe O'Leary.

Cobh battled hard but a strong Newcestown defence held firm, aided in no small way by the excellent play of corner-forward Ashling O'Donovan, who came out to play a sweeper role around midfield/half-back line and thwarted attack after attack as Cobh pressed to get into the game.

Toni Butler breached the Newcestown defence for a Cobh goal but Olive O'Mahony replied with two pointed frees and one from play.

Amy Murray and Maeab O'Donovan were also on target as Newcestown held firm to add the Minor C championship title to their Junior A championship and league titles rounding off a tremendous season for their club.

**Scorers for Newcestown:** O O'Mahony 1-5 (0-3 f), E Walsh, C O'Leary 1-0 each, M O'Donovan 0-1, A Murray 0-1.

**Cobh:** T Butler 1-0, K Quinlan 0-2.

**NEWCESTOWN:** O Dineen, K Barrett, B O'Leary, C Hayes, M Lynch, M McSweeney, V Kenneally (c), Z Griffin, M O'Donovan, E Walsh, C O'Leary, E Murphy, A O'Donovan O O'Mahony, A Murray.

**Subs:** A O'Sullivan for M McSweeney, R Shorten for E Walsh, A Buckley for Z Griffin, M Kenneally for M Lynch, M McSweeney for K Barrett.

**COBH:** C Tibbets, J McCarthy, N Meaney, E Moran, M Damery, S McKeown, E O'Regan, A Higgins, K Quinlan, R Crotty, M Foley, A O'Connor, T Butler, K Ronan, N Damery.

**Subs:** C McGrath for N Damery, C Cashman for E O'Regan, L Stafford for A O'Connor, E Stafford for T Butler.

Nov. 2015



## BRILLIANT O'CONNOR PICKS UP CAMOGIE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 G+1

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 09, 2015

LEESIDE legend Gemma O'Connor is going to pull on the Cork camogie gear again in 2016.

St Finbarr's club ace O'Connor collected the Player of the Year award on Saturday night having inspired Cork to back-to-back All-Ireland titles, and has committed to another campaign in red. Paudie Murray was named the Manager of the Year at the event, while Cork received seven All-Stars: O'Connor, Aoife Murray, Pamela Mackey, captain Ashling Thompson, Orla Cotter and dual players Rena Buckley and Brieghe Corkery.

The powerhouse centre-back was voted as the MVP by her fellow inter-county players, and while she already has seven All-Irelands and nine All-Stars she isn't finished yet.



"I think there's something special about your peers having the final say," she revealed on RTE Radio 1. "Playing for so long, you try to not think about that because you go out to try to win at all costs, but when you play against someone so long you always think in the back of your head 'what does that player think about me?'."

"To get that award is incredibly humbling and I can't really describe it - it's the best award to get. The best accolade to get is from your peers.

"I started in 2002, we're now in 2015 and the years in between have been heartbreaking, joyous and everything in between. You ask yourself time and again 'when are you going to give up?'. I came up with the answer that I will give it one more year and that will definitely be it."

This campaign was especially demanding as her mother Geraldine passed away after a battle with cancer.

"My mam was diagnosed just over 12 months ago and so many people are touched by this disease," she said.

"When that person is such a massive part of you and such a massive part of your life, you don't know anything else only having that person alongside you.



"You don't know anything else only having her alongside you. I would not be here today only for her. She was an amazing person and her heart is what drove me on.

"I want to go out on a high (next year), but if it doesn't work out on the field I don't want to be

## Camogie honours its top stars

### CAMOGIE

#### ■ Éamonn Murphy

GEMMA O'CONNOR and Paudie Murray were recognised with the top prizes at the 2015 Camogie All-Stars awards at Citywest.

Sponsored by Liberty Insurance, O'Connor, collected the inaugural Camogie Association/WGPA Senior Players' Player of the Year award, while Murray was named as Manager of the Year. Making the Barrs' club woman's gong particularly special was the fact she was selected from a shortlist as compiled by the WGPA after voting by inter-county players.

O'Connor collected her ninth All-Star award at centre-back while team-mate Aoife Murray was selected in goals; Pamela Mackey and Rena Buckley were named in defence; Cork captain Ashling Thompson was selected in midfield and Orla Cotter and Brieghe Corkery were named in the forward line.

Galway received seven awards. Defensive duo, Sarah Dervan and Heather Cooney, were named at full-back and corner-back respectively. Lorraine Ryan was selected at wing-back and Galway captain Niamh Kilkenny took a place at midfield. Niamh McGrath was named at centre-forward while Molly Dunne and Ailish O'Reilly were named at full-forward and corner-forward. Wexford's Kate Kelly completed the team at left-wing forward.

Cork manager Paudie Murray was named as the Liberty Insurance Manager of the Year.

Speaking at the event, Camogie Association President Catherine Neary said: "The Liberty Insurance Camogie All-Star awards are an important date in the camogie calendar. It provides us with the opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate our players and I congratulate all of our award winners. They have entertained with their skill, athleticism, determination and commitment. To win an All-Star Award or a Soaring Star Award is a wonderful achievement for any player and I have no doubt the players would be the first to acknowledge the role of their team-mates. Congratulations also to the 2015 Manager of the Year, Paudie Murray of Cork.

"This year saw the introduction of the Camogie Association/WGPA Players' Player of the Year award and we have three fantastic winners. This award is a reflection of the esteem that the winners are held in by their fellow players."

Aoife Lane, chairwoman of the WGPA, commented: "We would like to extend congratulations to all of the nominees for these inaugural awards, and in particular to the three worthy winners: Gemma O'Connor, Patricia Jackman and Kate Nolan."

### CAMOGIE

Leinster Club SCC: Oulart-The Bellsagh (Wexford) 0-12 Naomh Uinsinn (Dublin) 2-5;

ICC: Tullaroan (Kilkenny) 0-8 Myshall (Carlow) 1-4.

## Player of the Year O'Connor signs on for Rebels in 2016

LEESIDE legend Gemma O'Connor is going to pull on the Cork camogie jersey again in 2016.

St Finbarr's club ace O'Connor collected the Player of the Year award on Saturday night having inspired Cork to back-to-back All-Ireland title. Paudie Murray was named the Manager of the Year at the event, while Cork received seven All-Stars: O'Connor, Aoife Murray, Pamela Mackey, captain Ashling Thompson, Orla Cotter and dual players Rena Buckley and Brieghe Corkery.

The powerhouse centre-back was voted as the MVP by her fellow inter-county players, and while she already has seven All-Irelands and nine All-Stars she isn't finished yet.

"I think there's something



Gemma O'Connor: Humbled.

### CAMOGIE

special about your peers having the final say," she revealed on RTE Radio 1. "Playing for so long, you try to not think about that because you go out to try to win at all costs, but when you play against someone so long you always think in the back of your head 'what does that player think about me?'. To get that award is incredibly humbling," she said.



University College Cork, Ireland  
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

PROUD OF MY COUNTY,  
PROUD OF MY COLLEGE



Amy O'Connor  
UCC and Cork Camogie Player  
2 time All-Ireland Senior Medal Winner  
2nd year Pharmacy

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## O'Connor honoured as player of year

Eoghan Cormican

Cork's Gemma O'Connor won the inaugural Players' Player of the Year award at Saturday night's Camogie All Star banquet. The long-serving Cork defender edged out All-Ireland winning captain Ashling Thompson and Galway captain Niamh Kilkenny for the top prize. O'Connor was named at centre-back on the All Star team, her ninth All Star trinket. Thompson and Kilkenny were selected as the midfield pairing, with champions Cork and finalists Galway collecting seven All Stars.

Cork dual stars Rena Buckley won her seventh camogie All Star and Brieghe Corkery her sixth.

Wexford's Kate Kelly, picked up her seventh All Star, the sole All Star winner outside Galway and Cork.





The Enniskeane U12 camogie team that defeated Kilbrittain in the West Cork final last weekend. Back row, from left: Aoife Sheehan, Emily Corcoran, Laura Cullinane, Katelyn Sheehan, Eimear O'Brien, Molly O'Boyle, Labhaoise McCarthy, Caragh Hennessy, Sinead Coomey, Ruth Forbes, Abigail Shorten, Claire Forbes, Katelyn O'Brien, Kirsty Baldascino. Front row, from left: Erica O'Driscoll, Orla Moore, Kylie Ann Hurley, Laoise Markey, Deirdre Browne, Saoirse Fleming, Sophie O'Donovan, Lauren Corcoran, Miracle Hayes, Aine Corish, Noelle Jennings, Hannah Buckingham, Katelyn Mannix.

## Watson points way for Milford

### CAMOGIE

**Milford 0-18**  
**Burgess/Duharra 1-13**  
(after extra time)

EMER Watson scored eight points, five coming from frees and one a 45, in a gigantic struggle that saw Milford over the line by two points in a game that went to extra time to see off the North Tipperary club Burgess/Duharra in the Munster Senior A Camogie Championship semi-final on Saturday.

The relatively young Burgess/Duharra club sprang a huge surprise on the well-seasoned Cork side Milford, who struggled to the final whistle in a very tough game that will set them up for a return to the final, where they meet the Clare champions, after missing their chance last year against Galway side Mullagh.

**Scorers for Milford:** E Watson 0-8 (0-5 f, 0-1 45), M O'Neill 0-4, M Watson 0-2, A Thompson, A Geary, L Stack, M Walsh 0-1 each.

**Burgess/Duharra:** J Grace 1-5 (1-5 f), A Kennedy 0-3, E McDonnell 0-3, R Barry 0-1.

**MILFORD:** R. Finn, D. Hayes, K. Gavin, L. Healy, A. Watson, A. Geary, E. O'Riordan, O. O'Mahony, A. Thompson, M. Walsh, C. O'Connor, D. O'Reilly, M. O'Neill, E. Watson, M. Watson.

**Subs:** L. Stack for Gavin (31); E. O'Friel for Walsh (42).

**BURGESS/DUHARRA:** C. Holohan, E. King, A. Cremin, A. Egan, G. Grace, T. O'Halloran, M. Moloney, R. Barry, Cladhna Maher, C. McKeogh, J. Grace, A. Kennedy, Caoimhe Maher, E. McDonnell, T. Kennedy.

**Subs:** L. Reid for McKeogh (52).

## Newmarket-on-Fergus chasing Munster glory

Newmarket-on-Fergus are bidding to become only the second Clare club to secure Munster senior camogie honours when they face champions Milford in today's provincial decider, (Kilmallock, 1pm). Requiring extra-time against Inagh-Kilnamona in the county decider, Newmarket-on-Fergus stunned Granagh-Ballingarry in the Munster semi-final three weeks ago.

The 1-12 to 1-6 win in Balingarry was all the more impressive, considering county final player-of-the-match Carol O'Leary received a red card 10 minutes into the game. O'Leary's suspension was overturned on Wednesday, freeing up the Clare senior for today's contest. Other key figures in their set-up include McMahon sisters, Roisin and Laura, and the Kaiser sisters, Ruth, Iris, Carol and Niki. Not since Wolfe Tones lost to Toomevara in the 1995 decider has there been Clare representation in the final, while Sixmilebridge, in the late 80s, are the only Clare club to have achieved Munster glory. "Very few Clare clubs have been in the position that we find ourselves in, so we are massively determined to make the most of this opportunity," said Newmarket-on-Fergus manager Darren Hayes.

"The win over Granagh/Balingarry was a big result. To go down to them, have one of our main players sent off after 10-minutes and still come away with the win, was fantastic. It showed the character of the players."

Hayes has huge respect for today's opposition. "We saw Milford against Burgess in the other semi, their full-forward line is fantastic. Then they have Anna Geary and Ashling Thompson, whose experience holds everything together at the back. They are going to be favourites."

"If we get the performance right, we believe we can beat any team."

Words: Eoghan Cormican

Nov. 2015

## Stronger than ever Milford look good

### CAMOGIE

#### TOMORROW

Munster Club senior camogie semi-final: Milford v Burgess Duharra, Burgess Duharra GAA, Tipperary, 1pm.

UNQUESTIONABLY Milford are hot favourites heading into their Munster semi-final meeting with Burgess Duharra tomorrow, writes LINDA MELLERICK.

While it's a tag they'd prefer not to have, it's richly deserved. Based on their experience of last season, when they fell short at the All-Ireland semi-final stage to Mullagh, regardless of the tag, I don't envisage them getting caught again.

A Milford/Oulart the Ballagh All Ireland final was what everyone wanted to see last March but it didn't happen and Oulart coasted to victory against the Westerners.

Many felt that Oulart would have won that clash had it occurred, with Milford not firing on all cylinders last season. But it's all speculation and worth nothing. They're firing on all cylinders now.

It reminds me of Glen Rovers in the 90s. All Ireland champions in 1990, crazily went on a three week trip to the US in 1991, came back to an All-Ireland semi-final and beaten by a point after playing well below par.

That hurt carried us to the next three All-Ireland finals; winning the first two and losing the third to Lisdowney after leading midway through the second half by nine points.

It's monotonous at this stage to speak about desire and mental approach but it's frightening the amount of titles teams throw away by not wanting it enough on the day. It's as time goes by that the regret runs deeper.

Frank Flannery set the standard for Milford, James McGrath carried it on and now John Brudair is the man at the helm. When a successful manager (s) moves on it's always a difficult task to fill their shoes.

Unless you win the title, whichever title that may be, you leave yourself open to criticism and comparison. Only an All-Ireland title will do Milford. And John Brudair knows this.

Milford have been very fortunate to secure three such top managers; the standards haven't dropped.

Milford, in my opinion, are stronger and better this year than they have ever been. That comes of course with experience, familiarity, strength and conditioning over a long period of time.

With more or less the same backbone, they should be better. Confidence and hunger, of course, are another two key ingredients and they have both.

While Burgess have the extremely talented Emer McDonald still playing at a very high level, they are a relatively young side. They have won the last four county titles at the expense of Drominch, the most recent 1-11 to 0-5, but have yet to win a Munster title. Tipperary senior players Caoimhe Maher and Gemma Grace are the big names to add to Emer McDonald but it doesn't look enough to stop Milford.

Hugely impressive all season it's difficult to find a weak link to Milford, young Laura Stack more than adding value when introduced and now getting a starting slot.

Milford's full-forward line of Marie O'Neill, Maria and Emer Watson is the best in the country. It's a mighty challenge for Burgess.

## Milford look to add a fourth provincial title in a row

### TOMORROW

Munster camogie championship final: Milford v Newmarket On Fergus, Kilmallock, 1pm.

CORK champions Milford bid to make it four in a row of provincial titles when they take on Clare's Newmarket on Fergus who enter the Munster arena for the first time.

The challengers shocked Limerick standard bearers Granagh-Ballingarry as they recorded a six point victory in their semi-final, with a blend of youth and experience. They played with 14 for the majority of the game and with nine minutes remaining just a point separated the sides before they hit six without reply.

Milford had to also show determination to shake off the challenge of Tipperary's Burgess-

### CAMOGIE

#### Mary Newman

Duharra last weekend where it went to extra time. Emer Watson's late pointed free deep into added time threw them a life line and they grabbed it.

Milford on their record alone will go in as raging favourites. In their Cork campaign they retained their title with huge confidence as they brushed aside all the challenges posed. Their Munster semi-final clash was the strongest test they have faced since losing out in last year's All-Ireland semi.

Newmarket on Fergus are a club that have battled hard to reach the heights they are pres-

ently enjoying. They took their first senior county title in 2001 and players such as Aileen Kilmartin, Jane O'Leary, Claire Arthur and Ruth Kaiser that were part of that panel are still going strong. They contested their fourth Clare county final in five years and the victory over Granagh-Ballingarry marked a huge milestone for them as they become the first Clare team in over 20 years to contest a Munster senior club final.

Milford are a star-studded outfit. Elaine O'Riordan, Marie O'Neill, and the Watsons, Emer, Aine and Marie, would comfortable grace any inter-county side. Their Cork duo of Aisling Thompson and Maria Walsh continue to impress and the work-rate of players such as Marie O'Neill and Christine O'Connor is huge.



Nov. 2015



OUTSTANDING IN HER FIELD! Briege Corkery in Ear To The Ground next Tuesday

# Down on the farm with Cork GAA legend Briege

**S**HE is one of the most decorated GAA players in the country, with 16 senior All-Ireland medals in both camogie and football.

As well as that, Cork legend Briege Corkery has 13 all-star awards and was named National Female Sports Person of the year in 2005 – and she still hasn't reached the age of 30.

Not only that, but Briege is also a qualified stonemason and dairy farmer and features on the next episode of *Ear To The Ground* on RTE1 on Tuesday at 8.30pm.

■ John Dolan

In the episode, Ella McSweeney heads to Cloughduv in mid-Cork to meet Briege on the farm and see what life is like for her off the pitch.

## CAMOGIE

All Ireland Junior Club Championship Semi-Finals: Johnstownbridge 2-20 Clonmawke 1-5, University of Limerick



Barryroe's Under 12 Camogie team which won the U12 B league.

## Barryroe GAA

# U12 girls win camogie league title

BARRYROE entertained Ballinascorthy in the final of the U12B league on Saturday. The game was played in sunshine, but the pitch was a bit soft.

The visitors opened the scoring, but the Blues soon took over, driven on by skipper Jessica McCarthy. Clair Delea had a goal, Jessica McCarthy added a point and Clair Delea again found the net to leave Barryroe leading by 2-1 to 0-1 at the break.

Ballinascorthy needed an early second half score, but instead conceded a goal and a point to the Barryroe captain. When Eimear Sheehy struck for a goal, it was game over as a contest.

Róisín McCarthy and Tara Fleming had further goals for Barryroe and though Bal kept going to the end, they just could not breach a strong Blues' rearguard. Captain Jessica McCarthy received the Gerard O'Donovan Memorial Cup from James Tobin, chairman of Carbery Under-

age Camogie, before a tour of the parish with horns blowing and lights flashing.

This was followed by well-deserved refreshments for all the team and their families in the Grange Tavern. It was a great send-off for the girls who, will move up to U14 grade next year.

Barryroe squad: Jessica McCarthy (captain), Eimear Sheehy, Ciara Collins, Lauren Tobin, Aine Moloney, Mira Collins, Róisín McCarthy, Claire Tobin, Ava McCarthy, Aishling McKeogh, Holly Collins, Imelda Whelton, Chloe Fleming (injured), Claire Dullea, Esther Scallan Dowd, Alison McCarthy, Tara Fleming, Ellen O'Riordan, Cliona O'Brien and Emma Collins.

## Ibane Gaels

Ibane added the Rebel Óg West A league title to their championship triumph with a 3-12 to 2-8 win in the final over a gallant Dohenys team. Ibane were out in the county

semi-final at Cill na Martra just two days later, last Saturday, against Sliabh Luachra Gaels a combination of Kiskeam-Ballydeanmond in the county, but it proved just a step too far for them, losing by 1-10 to 1-7.

Ibane Gaels lost nothing in defeat, as the lads fought till the end and can look back on a successful year in which they claimed a West league and championship double. It shows how much they have improved under trainer Paul Holland, who has given the team the benefit of his coaching experience, bringing them on enormously.

There was no winner of the club lotto jackpot at the weekend, when the numbers drawn were 7, 14 and 38. Consolation prize went to Pat Lawton, Cois Fharraige; Joan Dineen, Butlerstown; Pat and Christy Cronin, Bantry; John Barry, Ring; Siné Crowley and Aoife Fleming, Lackarour.

Next draw will be in Barry's, Ring, where the jackpot will be €19,000.



# Milford march on for fourth title

## CAMOGIE

■ Fiona Casey

**Milford 5-18**  
**Newmarket on Fergus (Clare) 1-9**

**THIS** Munster club camogie championship final had to be re-fixed for Ballyagran on Sunday after it was postponed on Saturday due to the weather conditions in Kilmallock and thankfully the pitch at the Limerick venue held up well given the overnight rain.

Nevertheless conditions were hard on both teams as the high winds and intermittent rain and drizzle made it difficult.

Milford won the toss and they elected to play into the gale force wind that was blowing.

Newmarket on Fergus — the first Clare club to reach a senior provincial decider in 22 years — had it all to do and perhaps the weight of expectation rested on them uneasily.

They had no time to settle as Milford tore into the game from the start and they scored a goal and a point in the opening five minutes with Player of the Match, Cork senior captain Ashling Thompson, and Maria O'Neill on target, O'Neill finding the net for the games opening goal as Milford quickly showed what they were capable of.

Deirdre O'Reilly named at number 25 was always going to start causing endless problems for the Clare champions as she ran at the Newmarket on Fergus defence setting up further scores for Emer and Maria Watson.

Newmarket on Fergus with the wind and the slope in their favour settled down and by the end of the opening quarter had a goal and a point with captain Roisin McMahon and Iris Kaiser leading the way.

Milford are not champions for nothing, they didn't panic and with Emer Watson fed some marvellous ball, they kept tacking on the points and with Marie O'Neill and Deirdre O'Reilly prominent they added goals to leave them in a comfortable half-time lead of 3-10 to 1-5.

The second half started in a similar fashion to the first with Milford fast off the mark and they had again 1-1 on the score board inside the first five minutes courtesy of Maria O'Neill.

Newmarket on Fergus to their eternal credit never gave up the fight and Roisin McMahon slotted over three frees with Jenny Kelly pointing from play.

There was to be no way back for them when Deirdre O'Reilly netted for the Cork side on the fortieth minute. Never taking their foot off the pedal Milford were relentless from the back line to the forwards, working tirelessly despite the result never being in any doubt.

Milford marched on to collect their fourth Munster senior club title on the trot and in doing so they sent out a clear message to their opponents in the All-Ireland club semi-final Wexford's Oulart the Ballagh that they mean business.

After another superb display, Cork senior captain — the inspirational Ashling Thompson — was named as



Milford celebrating their four in a row on Leaside. Yesterday they were far too strong for their opponents to replicate that achievement in the Munster arena.  
Picture: Jim Coughlan.

## Win for Johnstownbridge in the AIB All Ireland Junior Club Championship Final

By Camogie Results  
Posted 22/11/2015



AIB All-Ireland Junior Club Championship Final

Athleague 0-07 Johnstownbridge 2-10

Athleague Scorers: Kelley Hopkins 0-03, Annette McGeeney 0-01, Fiona Cornell-Jones 0-01, Rachel Fitzmaurice 0-02

Johnstownbridge Scorers: Jane O'Donoghue 0-01, Louise Codd 0-05, Siobhan Hurley 0-04, Roisin O'Connell 1-00, Clodagh Flanagan 1-00

Player of the Match: Louise Codd

Player of The Match, a richly deserved accolade.

Scorers for Milford: M O'Neill 3-4; E Watson 1-7; D O'Reilly 1-1; A Thompson, M Watson 0-2; L Stack 0-1 (0-15); D O'Callaghan 0-1.

Newmarket on Fergus: R McMahon 0-7 (0-4 f); I Kaiser 1-1; J Kelly 0-1.

MILFORD: R Finn; D Hayes, K Galvin, L Healy; A Watson, A Geary, E O'Riordan; O O'Mahony, A Thompson; M Walsh, D O'Reilly, L Stack, M O'Neill, E Watson, M Watson.

Subs: L Hanley for D O'Reilly (50); D O'Callaghan for E O'Riordan (53).

NEWMARKET ON FERGUS: C Kaiser, J O'Leary, L McMahon, A Keogh, A McInerney, R McMahon (c), A Griffin, R Kaiser, C O'Leary, R Kelleher, J Kaiser, J Walsh, AM Hayes, N Kaiser, J Kelly.

Sub: A Keogh for G McInerney.

Referee: Kevin O'Brien (Limerick).

## ULSTER CLUB CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIPS

### SENIOR

#### FINAL

Loughiel (Antrim) 1-14  
Sligothorpe (Derry) 1-09  
October 25

### INTERMEDIATE

#### Semi-final

Watty Graham's Glen (Derry) 1-17  
Madden (Armagh) 3-10  
October 11, Glen, 2pm

Listroin (Down) 0-3  
Eglis (Tyrone) 1-9  
October 11, Listroin, 2.30pm

#### FINAL

Watty Graham's (Derry)  
v  
Eglis (Tyrone)  
TBC

### JUNIOR

#### Quarter-final

Bella (Down) 2-9  
Aghasillon (Armagh) 3-5  
Derryloaghan (Tyrone) 2-4  
Loughiel (Antrim) 7-0

#### Semi-final

Bella (Down) 2-4  
Loughiel (Antrim) 2-8  
October 11, Loughiel, 1.30pm

Lacken (Cavan) 2-12  
Castletown (Monaghan) 2-0  
October 11, Lacken, 2pm

#### FINAL

Loughiel (Antrim) 1-8  
Lacken (Cavan) 2-4  
Sunday, October 18



# Milford make it four on bounce

## Munster Senior Camogie Club Championship final

Milford (Cork) 5-18

Newmarket-on-Fergus (Clare) 1-9

Eoin Brennan

Ballyagran

Milford maintained their firm grip on the Munster Senior Camogie Club Championship with a comprehensive victory over Newmarket-on-Fergus to complete a four-in-a-row of titles in Ballyagran, Limerick on Sunday.

With the fixture being postponed by 24 hours due to the inclement weather, the holders wasted no more time in putting the newcomers to the sword as Maria O'Neill's brace of goals pushed her side

into a third minute lead that they would never look like relinquishing.

The eight-time Clare champions did hit back with a goal through Ann Marie Hayes three minutes later but it was only a brief reprieve as Emer Watson added 1-6 to ensure that the Cork champions held a 3-10 to 1-5 advantage by the break, despite playing against the wind.

Any glimmer of hope Newmarket harboured of a fightback on the restart was quickly quashed as Milford continued their rampage with 1-3 without reply in the opening six minutes, with Cork dual star Deirdre O'Reilly claiming the goal.

A superb move led to their fifth in the 40th minute for Maria Watson, a score which allowed the back-to-back All-



**HIGH POINT:** Milford's Anna Geary makes a catch under pressure from Newmarket-on-Fergus' Niki Kaiser in yesterday's Munster Senior Camogie Club final in Ballyagran.

Picture: Caroline O'Keefe

Ireland champions to empty their bench and still ease up to another bite at national honours despite a strong finish from Newmarket.

**Scorers for Milford:** E Watson (1-7, 5 frees); M O'Neill (2-2); D O'Reilly, M Wat-

son (1-1 each); L Stack (0-3); A Thompson (0-2); A Dillon, E O'Friel (0-1 each).

**Scorers for Newmarket-on-Fergus:** R McMahon (0-6, 6 frees); AM Hayes (1-0); R Kelleher, I Kaiser, J Kelly (0-1 each).

**MILFORD:** R Finn, D Hayes, K Galvin, L Healy, E O'Riordan, A Watson, A Geary, O O'Mahony, A Thompson, L Stack, D

O'Reilly, M Walsh, M O'Neill, E Watson, M Watson.

**Subs:** C O'Connor for Galvin (half-time), E O'Friel for O'Reilly (44), L Hanley for A Watson (47), A Dillon for M Watson (50), S Sexton for O'Riordan (53).

**NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS:** C Kaiser, J O'Leary, L McMahon, A Keogh, A Mc-

nerney, R McMahon, A Griffin, R Kaiser, C O'Leary, R Kelleher, I Kaiser, J Walsh, AM Hayes, N Kaiser, J Kelly.

**Subs:** G McInerney for Keogh (18), A Kilmartin for Walsh (42), A Feehily for Hayes (55), K O'Flanagan for A McInerney (57), M McMahon for Kelleher (59).

**Referee:** Kevin O'Brien (Limerick).



Briege Corkery solos past Shauna Healy of Galway in the league final which Cork lost earlier in the year. Cork got sweet revenge in the final to claim an other All-Ireland crown.

Picture: INPHO/Cathal Noonan



Nov. 2015

## Guinane goals are boost for Bally girls

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

Ballygarvan 2-11  
St Finbarr's 1-6

AIDED by the gale force wind in Castle Road, St Finbarr's led by just a point 1-5 to 1-4 at half-time and it was never going to be enough.

Conditions made it difficult for both sides but never the less they both gave it their all in quest for the Minor B championship title. In the end victory went to Ballygarvan, worthy winners no doubt, but the two teams gave it their all.

In a close opening half there was little between the sides. Keeva McCarthy found the net for a Barrs goal and as the sides traded scores, Michaela Buckley, Isobel O'Regan, Alison Anthony and Eimear McAndrew were on target with Ballygarvan points.

Keeva McCarthy kept the scoreboard ticking over with points for her sides assisted by Beda Mupada, Ciara Keating and Megan Fitzpatrick, who applied a lot of pressure on a Ballygarvan defence that held their lines well against the elements.

With goalkeeper Sarah Ahern and the full-back Shannon Wynne impressing, and with centre-back Michaela Buckley clearing her lines under pressure, Ballygarvan were doing well.

They got a boost just before the half-time whistle with a great goal from Elizabeth Guinane and they were happy to be just trailing at the interval by a point given the strength of the wind that they were turning to play with in their favour.

On the resumption Isobelle O'Regan hit three points in a row. Keeva McCarthy kept the Barr's girls in the hunt converting twice but with their defence in command Ballygarvan closed down the St Finbarr's attack.

Eimear McAndrew added two points before an Elizabeth Guinane as the game entered the final quarter consolidated Ballygarvan's position.

Michaela Buckley added two points from frees one a long distance effort from almost midfield as Ballygarvan ran out winners on a day where both sides must be complimented for their efforts given the difficult wind conditions that prevailed.

**Scorers for Ballygarvan:** E Guinane 2-0, I O'Regan 0-4, E McAndrew 0-3, M Buckley 0-3, A Anthony 0-1.  
**St Finbarr's:** K McCarthy 1-5 (0-2 f, 0-1 45), B Mupada 0-1.

**BALLYGARVAN:** S Ahern, A Hourihan (c), S Wynne, N Lyons, E Murphy, M Buckley, S J Brady, E Bateman, E O'Regan, E Guinane, I O'Regan, G Kelleher, A Bowen, E McAndrew, A Anthony.

**Subs:** C O'Grady for G Kelleher (h-t inj), R Looney for C O'Grady (inj 45).

**ST FINBARR'S:** O Keane, L Sweeney, A Egan, C Cotter, A Shannon, O McCarthy, E Ryan, G Cahalane, K Crowley, C Keating, M Fitzpatrick, T Callanan, K McCarthy, B Mupada.

**Subs:** N Rooney for T Callanan, T Cotter for G Cahalane.



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

AS THE sporting year draws to a close, with many county's attentions already on 2016, it's a good time to reflect.

It's important to celebrate the wins, regardless of how small. There can be many wins even if the shelf still bears no silverware. Progression is a win.

For the senior GAA ladies of Cork it was a tremendous year once again, as the footballers now strive for six in a row and the camogie players, three.

At the outset of 2015 it looked pretty bleak for the female hurlers with the loss of Jennifer O'Leary, Anna Geary, Joanne O'Callaghan and Angela Walsh from their victorious All-Ireland winning side.

On top of that, a number of experienced panellists also called it a day such as Sarah Hayes and Joanne Casey.

Many managers would have moved on, leaving it to someone else to rebuild.

Paudie Murray choose to stay and with a number of retirements also arising on the management team he set about on rebuilding at both ends. Not an easy task. September seemed a long way away. The manager of the year accolade a fortnight ago was a fitting acknowledgement of a job extremely well done.

The Cork team had their victory dinner last night and it was a wonderful night of celebration.

Paudie used the national league to blend in his new panel, players like Amy Lee, Leanne O'Sullivan, Maeve Cahalane, Lauren Callanan and Amy O'Connor.

Wins over Clare, Kilkenny, Dublin and Derry saw Cork see off Limerick in the semi-final 1-12 to 0-10 and set up a final appearance with Galway.

Galway were the in-form team. The game was played as a curtain raiser to the league final between Cork and Waterford.

When you're given the opportunity of such home support you want to perform well and the pressure was on Paudie to bring back in his more experienced players for the final, such as Gemma O'Connor and Aoife Murray who sat out much of the league.

But he didn't, he remained true to his young brigade, his long term plan and the fact that the experience of Semple Stadium would prepare his young players well for Croke Park.

The girls did indeed get a big match day baptism of fire as Galway raced into an 11-point lead. To Cork's credit they pulled that lead back to three and had the momentum when time ran out on them.

How mentally important that comeback proved to be later in the season.

One criticism directed at the Cork management post the game was Cork's slow delivery, losing the ball as they attempted to run at Galway from deep in their own half. Very few Cork players, when in possession, let it go first time.

Cork's style had worked 12 months previously but it wasn't working early season. Paudie held firm in his belief that it would work once the new players got used to it.

Championship time came. With the current system you could drop points and Cork knew that the quarter final was the target. So preparations were geared towards that. Cork received another setback with an injury to Emer O'Sullivan which kept her out for a number of weeks.

A first round defeat to Galway was encouraging. There were signs in Cork that the cohesion was coming between the old and the new.

While Galway won by two points there wasn't anything new or exciting about them.

# Players now aim for three titles in a row



Rena Buckley, left, and Brieger Corkery, both Cork, with their All-Star ladies football awards. They had another amazing year in both codes, helping to integrate the newcomers to the camogie team.

Wins over Limerick and Offaly led to a highly-anticipated encounter against Wexford on July 18 and while this game wasn't a determining factor it was a game which would tell Cork where they were at.

A good first half display fell apart in the second. Cork's work rate or physicality wasn't enough when the going got tough.

They failed to adequately compete for the 50/50 ball as Wexford's physicality won out, particularly with the

aerial balls.

That three-point defeat proved to be Cork's turning point.

Players and management sat down and talked, put their cards on the table and their shoulders to the wheel.

Their next outing, their quarter final against Tipperary, saw a transformed team take to the field.

Cork were superb. We had moved into August. Was this new squad starting to click when it counted, was the strategy working?

We got our answer two weeks later in the semi-final when they absolutely blitzed Kilkenny with a devastating performance.

All the pre-match hype about Kilkenny and their 21 goals and 72 points was blown away as Cork tore their opponents apart: 4-10 to 1-10 Cork unbelievably were back in the All-Ireland final. It was an exhilarating time.

They faced their league opponents again but this time Cork were the favourites. They were never going to lose and ran out comfortable All Ireland champions 1-13 to 0-9.

It was an incredible year, an incredible achievement from a fantastic manager, backroom team and group of players who claimed Cork's 26th title. The three-in-a-row beckons.

“Players and management sat down and talked, put their cards on the table and their shoulders to the wheel”





GAA referee Peter Downey.

## Ref fights for his life

ONE man is fighting for his life and another has been killed after two separate workplace accidents in Cork.

Well known GAA referee, Peter Downey from Inniscarra, was injured when he fell from a scissors lift in Capwell on Monday afternoon.

Mr Downey was rushed to Cork University Hospital where he remains critically ill.

A spokesman for the Health and Safety Authority said the agency is investigating two workplace accidents in Cork on Monday. In the second accident, a 64-year-old man from Dunmanway was killed when working on a farm outside Macroom. He was Jeremiah O'Connell, from Aultagh, Dunmanway.

The HSA confirmed an investigation is still underway into an explosion in Youghal on November 18. Donal Scanlon, who was 21 and from Waterford, died at Cork University Hospital following the explosion at B&C Services.

### CAMOGIE

All-Ireland Club JCC final: Johnstownbridge (Kildare) 2-10 Athleague (Roscommon) 0-7;

Scorers for Johnstownbridge: L Codd 1-4, S Hurley 0-5 (0-2), R O'Connell 1-0, J O'Donoghue 0-1;

Athleague: R Fitzmaurice 0-3, K Hopkins 0-2 (0-1), A McGeehey, F Connell-Jones (0-1) 0-1 each;

JOHNSTOWNBRIDGE: T Johnson; E McEvoy, E Hurley, F Blake; C Farrell, J Murphy, A Holton; L Codd, C Flanagan; A Trant, J O'Donoghue, C Hurley; R O'Connell, S Hurley, C Mooney; Sub: S Beatty;

ATHLEAGUE: P Daly; N Conway, E Daly, E Coyle; N Brandon, K Hopkins, N Brennan; M Brennan, R Fitzmaurice; R Brennan, A McGeehey, C Whyte-Lennon; L Kelly, R Fallon, F Connell-Jones; Sub: L Keenan;

Referee: E Cassidy (Derry).

# Leanne is our camogie queen

**GLEN ROVERS** Leanne O'Sullivan emerged as one of the shining lights of Cork's triumphant march towards retaining the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship.

Pace and ability to read the game as well as her quality as a defender added to the growing reputation of this young player. She nailed down a regular position on the starting side and was recognised as a monthly recipient to the North City and District Sports Awards at a pleasant function in the Metropole Hotel.

Representing the Glen on Cork teams from underage up to senior, initially, Leanne lined out with the Division 2 team and played a big role in her first adult year of inter-county camogie on collecting an All-Ireland medal as a substitute last season.

However, 2015 proved to be a great year, O'Sullivan winning a regular place at corner-back on Paudie Murray's senior team that bettered Galway to ensure the O'Duffy Cup returned to Leeside.

"I was thrilled to be involved, its difficult to win an All-Ireland and more so to add back-to-back titles was special. Coming into the panel in 2013, its terrific to put in the hard work and obtain a reward," she said.

"We regrouped after the league final defeat to Galway, a case of determining whether we wanted to return to winning ways for the championship. All involved got down to business and picked up the tempo towards achieving our goal and the rest is history."

A member of the UCC camogie team, a second year Arts student, O'Sullivan is highly involved in all aspects of Glen Rovers and is a coach with the club's thriving underage academy where girls from five years upwards are coached by a dedicated group of coaches.

"That's a feature across many clubs and evident with underage success for Cork teams this season. For myself as a young player, team manager Paudie Murray was most encouraging as were the experienced players on the side," she said.

"It's always great to go back to the club and become involved to a set up that's treating great strides. For 2016, hopefully, the Glen senior squad can make inroads toward landing county honours."

Deputy Lord Mayor Cllr Thomas Gould and Roger Russell, General Manager, Metropole Hotel extended congratulations to Leanne that merited the North City and District Sports Star selection in association with Singleton's SuperValu, Hollyhill.

Glen Rovers chairwoman Mary O'Brien lauded the contribution of the club's inter county star who is



Roger Russell, Metropole Hotel, presents the North City and District Sports Star, award to Leanne O'Sullivan, Glen Rovers and Cork Camogie Star with Onoir O'Brien, Red FM, Paudie Murray, Cork manager, and Deputy Lord Mayor Cllr Thomas Gould.

Picture: John Tarrant

## CAMOGIE

■ John Tarrant

ever calm and assured, a role model for young players.

"Leanne helped guide the fortunes of the U10 team in the last year but she is also there to coach any of the age groups from the young five-years-olds up to the 12-year-olds. This is wonderful for Glen Rovers, willing to give something back shows Leanne is influencing the young players, well deserving of another All-Ireland medal and an

All-Star nomination," she said.

Amongst the attendance at the function were club president Nora Newman, parents Ann and Bill O'Sullivan, Mary Newman-McCarthy, Paudie Murray, Cork camogie manager, Onoir O'Brien, RedFM, and Glen Rovers club representatives.

Memorabilia: O'Sullivan

## Bride win battle of the Rovers U16s by just a goal

■ Mary Newman

**Bride Rovers** 3-3  
**Valley Rovers** 2-3

In a close U16 C championship final in Castle Road just a goal separated the sides at the full-time whistle as Bride Rovers edged out Valley Rovers in a thrilling contest witnessed by a large crowd at the county camogie grounds.

Sarah Murphy settled Bride rovers into the game with a goal and

### CAMOGIE

with Grace Culloty adding a point. Valleys were back on level terms thanks to a goal from Sinead Dart-O'Flynn was quickly followed by a point from Daire Kelly.

Siobhan O'Sullivan edged Bride Rovers in front with a goal but this was matched by Dart-O'Flynn with a goal to tied it up once again.

Gaining the upper hand Valleys hit two points without reply with Daire Kiely and Eimear Kiely.

Bride Rovers began the second half in determined fashion with two frees from Sarah Murphy to level, before a goal from Murphy gave them a crucial edge.

Despite intense pressure the Bride Rovers defence held their lines and kept Valley Rovers scoreless in the second half as they held onto their slender lead which was enough to give them the title.

Bride Rovers Eimma Barry was named as Player of the Match after

turning in a superb performance.

Scorers for Bride Rovers: S O'Sullivan 2-0, S Murphy 1-2, A G Culloty 0-1.

Valley Rovers: S Dart-O'Flynn 2-0, D Kiely 0-2, E Kiely 0-1.

BRIDE: R O'Flynn; E Larkin, F Barry, A Finnegan; E Hazelwood, E Barry, G Culloty (c); A O'Connor, K Quirke; C Hazelwood, A Murray, S O'Sullivan; S Murphy, A O'Flynn, C Hickey.

Sub: C Murphy for A O'Connor.

VALLEYS: S McCarthy; A O'Sullivan, R O'Donovan, N Hurley; A O'Brien, G Dart-O'Flynn, C Cremin; S Lynch, S McCarthy; E Kiely, J O'Donovan, D Murphy; K O'Halloran, S Dart-O'Flynn, D Kiely.

Sub: E Fennelly for K O'Halloran.



Cork star Amy O'Connor was a City and County Youth Sports Star Award winner.





**Gemma O'Connor — Player of the Year**



**Paudie Murray—Manager of the Year**



**Cumann Camogaiochta  
Chontae Chorcaí**

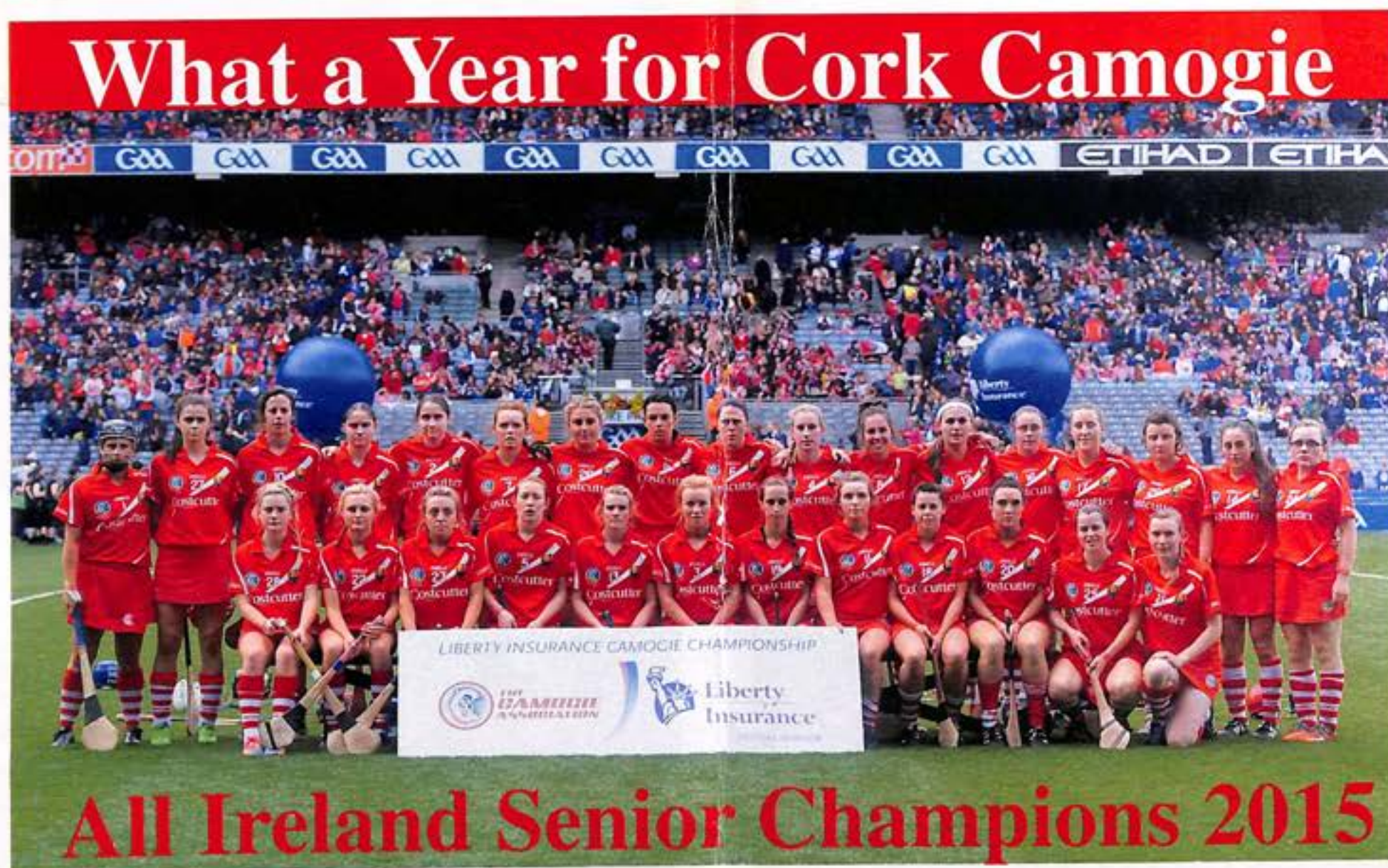


*A CELEBRATION OF 2015*



**Achievements**

- All Ireland Senior Championship
- Munster Senior Championship
- Munster Intermediate Championship
- Munster Minor Championship
- All Ireland Under 16A Championship Finalists
- Munster Under 16B Championship



**All Ireland Senior Champions 2015**

Paudie  
Murray

Niall  
Collins

Sean  
Cremin

Michael  
Carroll

George  
Fitzgibbon

Kevin  
Mulcahy

Damien  
Murray

Dr Wesley  
O'Brien

Teddy  
O'Dono







**GET THE LOOK:** Ashling in Maje leather skirt, €295, Karen Millen polo neck, €150, ankle boots, Kurt Geiger, €205, bag, Stella McCartney, €1,140



**GET THE LOOK:** Marie in dress by Maje, €245, coat by Harris Wharf, €435, bag by Karen Millen, €225



**GET THE LOOK:** Ashling in Maje leather jacket, €295, Karen Millen polo neck, €150, Suncoo coat, €195



**GET THE LOOK:** Marie in Victoria Beckham dress, €845, Michael Kors bag, €250, Carvela shoes, €165

■ Cork's female GAA stars pulled off another stunning All-Ireland double in 2015.

■ The camogie team defeated Galway 1-13 to 0-9 in the final at Croke Park in September to retain the O'Duffy Cup and rack up their 26th success – they are now tied on most wins with Dublin.

■ A few weeks later, the Rebelettes won their tenth ladies' football All-Ireland in 11 years, defeating Dublin 0-12 to 0-10, and now trail Kerry in the overall roll of honour by just one.

■ SARAH HORGAN got a star from each of the teams together for a special *Holly Bough* fashion shoot to talk Christmas, style and Barbie dolls...

**T**HE forwards she has faced and repelled this season may find it hard to believe... but Cork ladies' football star Marie Ambrose has an angelic side. It comes to the fore every Christmas, when the corner-back who helped the Rebels to All-Ireland glory this year turns up at her local church, in Rusheen, near Macroom. "I'm a member of the choir so I usually sing with them at the church on Christmas Day, which is really lovely," said Marie, 19.

It's fair to say the St Val's player is a different proposition on the sporting field!

I persuaded Marie and Cork camogie captain Ashling Thompson to take part in a fashion photo-shoot in Brown Thomas, Cork, especially for the *Holly Bough*, so we could check out festive styles and chat about the forthcoming festive season.

"Brussel sprouts are a big thing in our house at Christmas," adds Marie. "I've never been a fan of them so I'll usually just eat one for the day that's in it!"

But the brunette, who is in second year at UCC studying PE, was never one to let a few sprouts dampen her festive experience.

"I've always loved Christmas," she beamed. "The best present I ever got from Santa was a baby. I still have her to this day, even if she is tucked away in the press of my bedroom," she laughed.

"As a child I can also remember seeing pieces of fluff floating on top of a glass of milk which I'd left out for Santa the night before. My family told me they were pieces of his beard."

Ashling took a break from trying on some styles to chip in with her festive memory.

"I asked for a particular type of Barbie but when I opened the box it was the wrong one. That must have been the only time that Santa got it wrong!"

Ashling, 25, had the honour of lifting the O'Duffy Cup when the Rebels retained the All-Ireland title this year.

Both she and Marie freely admit their off duty uniform normally comprises track-suit bottoms and a sweater.

But when the occasion calls for it, they love nothing more than sporting eye-catching high heels and lashings of

lipstick and relished trying on clothes for our shoot.

Ashling's sense of style goes back a long way and she displayed her rebellious nature at 15 when she convinced her mother to let her acquire her first tattoo.

Now, inkings grace much of her body, like badges of honour.

"I actually had my first one when I was 15 but I had parental permission," she laughs. "I was worried about what my mum would think as she's a primary school teacher, so I told her it was just going to be a tiny one."

"When I arrived home it was this huge tribal tattoo on my back but my mum ended up actually really liking it."

The fur stoles and wool jumpers on show at Brown Thomas fuelled festive anticipation, even though it was only October.

However, Ashling, from Newtownshandrum, who is a sports massage therapist, is acutely aware that the festive season can be a hard time for many people.

Indeed, she may even rival Santa in the postbag stakes this year as she receives so much correspondence from people after bravely speaking out about her own life's problems during the year.

She revealed how she had to overcome depression and the suicide of a partner. By communicating her difficulties and embracing her love of sport, she overcame them.

"I've hit rock bottom and come back through sport," said Ashling.

For the thousands of Irish people touched by depression, her comments were as much a cause for celebration and hope as any All-Ireland triumph.

"For some of the people who write to me experiencing difficulties, I'm their only gateway, which is why I feel so strongly about responding to as many people as I can," she explained.

"Facebook can be hard to keep on top of as there are so many messages, but I like to answer as many of the handwritten letters as I can."

"I had my first tattoo when I was 15. I was worried about what my mum would think as she's a primary school teacher."

# You did it, girls, and



Nov. 2015

# CREDITS

**Photography:** Michael O'Sullivan  
**Stylist:** Brown Thomas personal shopper, Dee Newman  
**Hair:** Ikon Hair Design, Oliver Plunkett Street  
**Make-up:** MAC in Brown Thomas

*A special **Holly Bough** thank-you to Brown Thomas manager Adrienne Deasy.*

**GET THE LOOK:** Ashling (left) in Needle & Thread Dress, €265, and Marie in Needle & Thread Dress, €130 and Carvela bag, €125

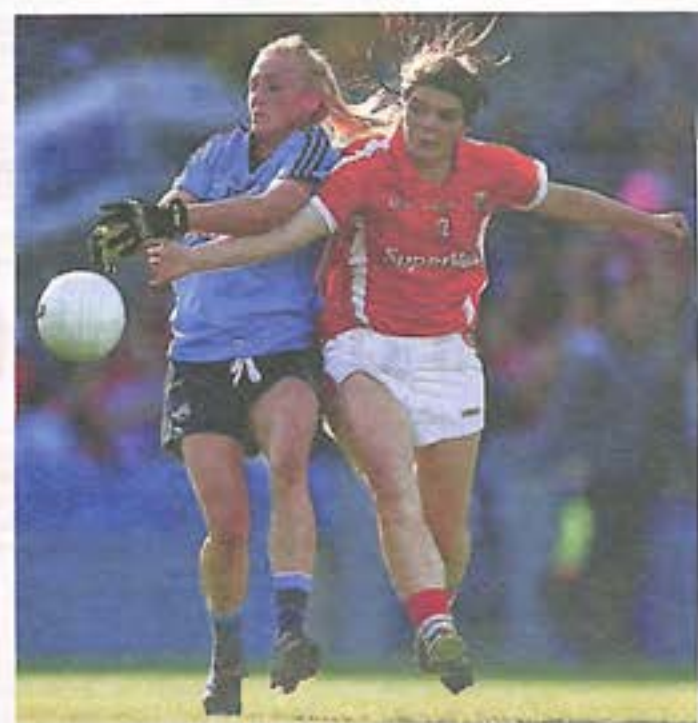


**LEFT:** Ashling Thompson (left) and Marie Ambrose at the Holly Bough shoot in Brown Thomas after the two played starring roles in Cork's All-Ireland victories in the camogie and ladies' football this year.

**BELOW:** Camogie captain Ashling (left) with the O'Duffy Cup at Croke Park, and Marie (below) tussles with Dublin's Carla Rowe on the way to winning the All-Ireland ladies' football final



**GET THE LOOK:** Ashling in Karen Millen dress, €325



# you did it in style...



## Jeffery guides Courceys to fine win

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

**Courcey Rovers 2-11**  
**Fr O'Neill's 2-6**

WITH two former inter-county senior players at the helm in each camp both sides were well prepared for this U16 B championship decider at Castle Road.

Mags Finn guided the fortunes of Fr O'Neill's, while Sara Hayes was the driving force behind the Courcey girls, and both mentors can be proud of their charges, who gave it everything.

In a tight opening half Courcey Rovers got the first score with a Saoirse McCarthy point inside the opening minute. Fr O'Neill's replied with a Clodagh Finn point but again Courcey's took the lead with Siobhan O'Donovan on target.

Fr O'Neill's gained the upper hand thanks to Aisling McAllister, but in reply Lorraine Collins and Saoirse McCarthy gave Courceys a two-point advantage. A Clodagh Finn goal and a point gave O'Neill's a two-point advantage with eight minutes to the break but a strong response from Courceys with a Siobhan O'Donovan goal was quickly followed by a Grainne Hannon effort.

Again Fr O'Neill's responded with Chloe O'Keeffe on target with a point. Lorraine Collins and Saoirse McCarthy added to the Courcey tally to leave them three points clear at the break 1-7 to 1-4.

Grainne Hannon gave Courcey Rovers the perfect start to the second half with a goal to stretch their advantage to six points. Fr O'Neill's never panicked and fought back and within a minute responded with a Chloe Finn goal and a point.

Grainne Hannon and Saoirse McCarthy each pointed twice and by the three quarter stage had restored Courceys' six-point advantage.

Fr O'Neill's applied huge pressure on the Courceys defence but they failed to breach a strong line where Player of the Match Abbie Jeffery was superb, ably assisted by Molly O'Donovan, Michelle Collins and Caoimhe Hannon. Fr O'Neill's did add to their tally with a late point but after a great battle between the two committed sides Courceys maintained their lead to the full time whistle to be crowned county champions.

It is great to see former players such as Mags Finn and Sara Hayes-Walsh giving something back to the younger players in their clubs. Special mention to Sara who is due to have her first baby shortly but this did not a player who has and is still giving so much to her club.

**Scorers for Courcey Rovers:** G Hannon 1-3, S McCarthy 0-5, S O'Donovan 1-1, L Collins 0-2.

**Fr O'Neill's:** C Finn 2-3, C O'Keeffe 0-2, A McAllister 0-1.

**COURCEY ROVERS:** E Maguire, M O'Donovan, A Jeffery, C Hannon, J Murphy, D O'Reilly, Michelle Collins, S O'Sullivan, S McCarthy, L Collins, C O'Reilly, E Payne, G Hannon, S O'Donovan, Mary Collins.

**Sub:** C Galvin for J Murphy.

**FR O'NEILL'S:** A Hurley, C Milerick, J O'Sullivan, M Cowling, D Concoran, A Higgins, K O'Dwyer, C O'Keeffe, M Steele, C Finn, N Cowling, H Belton, C Manning, R O'Brien, A McAllister.

**Sub:** K A Leahy for D Concoran.



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

**REARDENS** host their annual player of the year awards next Wednesday night for the club hurlers, male and female footballers and camogie players of Cork.

Three nominees are in the running for the camogie award; St Catherine's Orla Cotter and Milford's Marie O'Neill and Ashling Thompson. Once again Milford dominated the local scene winning their fourth title on the trot.

Ashling had a tremendous season both at intercounty and club level. Unquestionably she has enjoyed her best season to date.

To the forefront of Milford's All-Ireland success of 2013, having an outstanding All-Ireland final, her consistent performances for Milford this season surpassed that. She became a leader both on and off the field.

Marie O'Neill, one third of a lethal full-forward line ran every opposition ragged. Alongside Maria and Emer Watson, Milford's inside line is as strong as many inter-county sides and it was a huge ask for any club to curtail them for an hour.

Marie's unselfish and intelligent distribution is as impactful as her ability to grab points from every angle.

Orla Cotter was flawless for St Catherine's as again they defied the odds to reach their third final in seven seasons.

What a tremendous club player she is. Her work-rate is phenomenal and despite being targeted she still manages to make a significant influence on games.

While St Catherine's are a fine side with some very good hurlers Orla is undoubtedly their leader and she delivers time and time again for them. From five games she accumulated a massive total of 38 points (12 from play).

It's a close call as to who will be crowned the 'club camogie player of the year' next Wednesday night.

The 2015 season started off on a disappointing note due to Seandún, Imokilly and Carrighoun withdrawing at the eleventh hour, leaving Glen Rovers, Ballygarvan and Cloughduv without a first round competitive game. That's something that will be prevented from happening again I'm sure.

But it picked up from there. Douglas v Ballincollig and Inniscarra v Courcey Rovers served up electrifying opening rounds. Both Douglas and Ballincollig received setbacks during their hour of play but each refused to drop their heads and came back to turn the tables on each other and give spectators an absorbing hour.

An injury time goal by Aine O'Donovan saw Douglas win out by a single point.

A nail-biting finish separated Inniscarra and Courcey Rovers. Level five times in the opening half and neither side scoring for 15 minutes of the second period it took a brilliant goal from Joanne Casey to create daylight between the sides. Rovers had a chance to level the game in the fourth minute of additional time but Linda Collins was brilliantly denied on the line by Inniscarra's last line of defence.

Both Ballincollig and Inniscarra fell to Milford thereafter. Ballincollig at the quarter-final stage and Inniscarra in the semi-final. Outside of Milford, St Catherine's proved to be the team of the season with a direct route to the final after wins over Ballinhasig, Ballygarvan, Carbery and Douglas before succumbing to Milford.

# Milford had another great year



Ballinascorthy U16 captain and Player of the Match Clara Crowley accepting the U16 league trophy from Mary O'Sullivan, chairwoman of the Cork Juvenile Camogie Board. Picture: Kate Crowley

Milford were simply outstanding with comfortable wins all through. Their closest rivals were St Finbarr's in the opening round but Milford were without a number of key players at that early stage.

They are worthy champions. Ballygarvan and Glen Rovers will be extremely disappointed with having just one championship game this season. It was out of the board's control what occurred with the divisional sides at such short notice.

Regardless of that we do need to revisit our club structure and try and give club players more games earlier in the season. Possibly the biggest shock of the season was St Catherine's victory over Douglas in the semi-final. Douglas were fancied by many to give the title a real shot.

But it was very clear who wanted it more on the day and St Catherine's four-point margin was well deserved.

**CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP 2015**

**First round:** Ballygarvan, Glen Rovers, Cloughduv received walkovers; St Catherine's 1-19 v Ballinhasig 1-2; Douglas 3-10 v Ballincollig 2-11; Carbery 2-10 v Killeagh 1-8; Inniscarra 1-10 v Courcey Rovers 1-6; Milford 1-9 v St Finbarr's 1-3.

**Second round:** Ballincollig 1-8 v Ballinhasig 0-6; Killeagh 2-13 v St Finbarr's 2-6.

**Third round:** Cloughduv 2-12 v Courcey Rovers 0-6; St Catherine's 0-12 v Ballygarvan 1-6; Milford 5-10 v Glen Rovers 1-6; Douglas 1-14 v Cloughduv 0-7.

**Quarter-finals:** Milford 2-11 v Ballincollig 0-6; Inniscarra 1-14 v Killeagh 0-10; St Catherine's 0-18 v Carbery 2-5; Douglas 1-14 v Cloughduv 0-7.

**Semi-finals:** St Catherine's 1-12 v Douglas 1-8; Milford 1-18 v Inniscarra 2-6.

**Final:** Milford 2-15 v St Catherine's 0-9.

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“Milford were simply outstanding with comfortable wins all through... They are worthy champions”



# Winning team links up at UCC



Ladies Football

Mary White

**TOP** leaders in women's sport gathered this week for a seminar on Women, Sport & Leadership in Cork Gaelic Games in UCC.

Close on 150 people attended the seminar organised by the UCC Sports Department, the WGPA and event sponsors PWC on Monday evening in the Western Gate Building.

Among those who organised the event were UCC sports lecturer Dr Wesley O'Brien, WIT lecturer and chairwoman of the Women's GPA (WGPA) Dr Aoife Lane, and Mona Mai Griffin of PWC, while Dr Fiona Chambers of UCC opened the evening with a number of poignant questions: when would we see a female president of the GAA, and when would we see a female officiating a hurling All-Ireland final in Croke Park?

Speakers included 10-time senior All-Ireland-winning Cork ladies football coach Eamonn Ryan, former Cork camogie captain and *Evening Echo* columnist Linda Mellerick, dual star and holder of 16 senior All-Ireland medals, Rena Buckley, and former Cork camogie keeper Aoife Murray.

A large number of students and those involved in GAA games across the county attended the seminar, which included talks from all four guests, and a Q&A after on what exactly it is about Cork that produces so many leaders in both administration and on the field of GAA across the country.

Six-time All-Star winner Aoife Murray spoke about the uniqueness of the position of goalkeeper and how far specific training has become, and recounted one such goalkeeping session she did with former Clare goalkeeper Davy Fitzpatrick, which was so gruelling, she got sick afterwards.

Six-time All-Ireland camogie medal winner and three-time senior club All-Ireland winner with Glen Rovers,



Linda Mellerick, Eamonn Ryan, facilitator Mary White, dual star Rena Buckley, chairwoman of the WGPA Aoife Lane, and Cork goalkeeper Aoife Murray at the UCC, WGPA and PWC-organised Women in Sport seminar.

Linda Mellerick spoke of how playing camogie influenced her business career. "If it wasn't for camogie, I wouldn't be where I am today," said the former company chief executive and now Bank of Ireland employee.

Joining Linda and Aoife on stage was dual star Rena Buckley, who spoke about the challenges of organising a busy lifestyle in not only playing two codes, but also running her own physiotherapy practice.

The Donoughmore and Inniscarra dual star and double 2015 All-Star winner also received a round of ap-

plause when asked what it felt to be the most successful GAA player ever.

Last to speak was Cork senior ladies football coach Eamonn Ryan, who passed on nuggets of wisdom on how he puts the player at the centre of all his training sessions in order to get players to return time and again.

Mona Mai Ryan of PWC — partners with the WGPA — spoke of what employers like PWC seek in athletes.

Nov. 2015

## CAMOGIE PLAYER OF THE YEAR NOMINEES



**AOIFE CASSIDY**  
(Slaughtneil)

Aoife Cassidy was one of the stars of the show as Slaughtneil maintained their grip on the Derry title, despite some extremely formidable challenges, before giving Loughgiel a real run of it in Ulster. Although they succumbed to a second successive provincial final defeat at the hands of their Antrim opponents, Cassidy certainly could not be faulted as she gave her all for the Slaughtneil cause, maintaining the high standards of performance with which she has been synonymous over recent years. She's a hallmark of consistency, effort, and no shortage of skill, and would be one of the first names on the teamsheet for any club in the country.



**CAITRIN DOBBIN**  
(Loughgiel Shamrocks)

She might be only 18 years old, but Caitrin Dobbin has already proven herself to be one of the hottest young properties in Ulster camogie. This season saw her establish herself as a real leader in the Shamrocks attack, winning possession and more often than not also on hand to hit the crucial scores as her side marched to another Antrim and Ulster Championship double. Playing alongside a host of established household names in what is a stellar Loughgiel line-up, the young attacker was far from fazed, and instead embraced the opportunity to give the province a glimpse of what this exciting young talent is capable of.



**CIARA DONNELLY**  
(English)

She may play her club camogie in Tyrone and her county camogie for Armagh, but there is no doubting her allegiances when Ciara Donnelly pulls on the English camogie shirt. She starred as English turned in a huge performance to blow away the challenge of Liatroim in the provincial Intermediate Championship semi-final in what was a landmark victory for the Tyrone outfit, as they booked their place in another provincial decider. Always in the thick of the action, Donnelly is the heartbeat of an English side who continue to grow on the provincial stage. Another hugely impressive Championship from a proven campaigner of real quality.



DEC 2015

## CAMOGIE

■ Diarmuid Sheehan

MILFORD'S camogie stars may have dominated most things this year but one accolade which had evaded the girls from North Cork was the Rearden's Bar Club Hurler of the Year award which went to one of the St Catherine's side that they beat in the County final earlier this season.

Having said that, it would be no surprise to see that the top hurler of the year award was given to Cork star Orla Cotter, considering some of the display's given by the dynamic inter county star this season.

"This is a great honour to get this award from Rearden's Bar," Orla said, accepting the award at a packed Rearden's Bar on Wednesday night. "It is great to be recognised for all the hard work, all the effort that you put in, but I genuinely accept this award on behalf of my St Catherine's teammates without whom I would never have been able to get this award. We all put in a load of hard work and it is great when that pays off on the field and this year it was a very good year for us at St Catherine's and for me personally."

While the loss to Milford was clearly a disappointment to Cotter and her team-mates she was adamant that there were plenty of positives to take from yet another successful county campaign.

"Of course we will benefit from the experience of playing in another county final. That will help most of us come along and particularly the younger girls. We have got a lot of new talent into the club this year and that game, as well as the others, should benefit them immensely."

"We have lots of even younger talent coming through and hopefully some of those will be able to train with the senior squad and come through to make us an even better and fresher side. They will bring a little more competition to the side and that can only be a good thing. It won't be easy and we have plenty to work on to reach the heights of Milford but we will give it our all and hopefully we can get there."

She was full of praise for the side that saw them off in the county decider but felt her team went into the game with optimism, hope, but also fully aware of the task that lay ahead.

"Of course we were hopeful, we were confident going in there but of course we knew what Milford bring to the table. We were well aware of the strength they bring in, they are no joke after winning four in-a-row now. They have experienced Cork, Munster and All-Ireland success, so we knew it was going to be an unbelievable battle. You go in positive but you know at the end of the day you are fighting a battle and credit to us we did fight that battle. We didn't come out on the right side but we gave it our all on the day. The first half we could have got a few more scores when we had possession and the chances arose, but they just didn't come off. However at the same time they were the better team and you just can't deny that."

"You want to focus on your own side, your own preparations but in saying that you can't forget the opposition. Milford have loads of stars in their line-up and they are there for a reason. Milford have strength all over the pitch. They know what they need to do and how to do it. They represent this county superbly and we will support them in that but we will hopefully get to challenge them again next season."

Cotter is also hoping that former Cork senior hurling manager Denis Walsh will still be the club's manager come the start of the 2016 season. "Hopefully Denis will still be there. I

# Orla: This one's for my teammates



Cork's Orla Cotter bursts through midfield leaving Kilkeny's Ann Dalton in her wake.

Picture: Larry Cummins



St Catherine's Orla Cotter with Cork camogie manager Paudie Murray and Fergal Ryan, Club Energise, at the Reardens GAA All Star Awards.

Picture: Denis Scannell

haven't heard otherwise but hopefully he will still be there with us. He has had a huge influence on us and he is great for the side and the club."

It would be reasonable to think that Orla's enthusiasm for the game might waver a little after a hard season but nothing could be further

**"I can't wait to get going again. Success makes you want more and playing with Cork and St Catherine's is a joy"**

from the truth for the star who just can't wait to get going again in 2016. "Of course the break is good but I just love playing the game. I love being

with my team mates and I can't wait to get going again. Success makes you want more and playing with Cork and St Catherine's is a joy for me. The All-Ireland was of course the highlight of the year for me this year but we will have to start all over and try to win it again. There are so many sides out there trying to knock us off so it will be even harder than last year, but that is why we do it." Before any talk of heading back into battle with her club and her county Cotter is adamant that there is a festive season to enjoy.

"I will really look forward to Christmas. It is a great time and after a hard, and a great year it is important to enjoy it. There is loads of time to think of next season and that will be around soon enough but for now it is time to relax and enjoy this time of year."

Cotter will surely be a key figure for the county and for St Catherine's next season and if she can be half as influential in 2016 as she was in 2015 then yet again she will be vying for trophies and awards right the way through the year.



# Inniscarra claim league title in style

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Inniscarra	5-8
St Catherine's	0-9

A close opening half saw Inniscarra lead St Catherine's by a goal in this Under 16B league final played in Castle Road.

Weather conditions were not the best but that did not hinder two determined sides battling it out for the title.

In the finish a strong second half display from Inniscarra, where they added four goals and four points to their tally, saw them secure the title.

With the sides evenly-matched Aisling O'Reilly's first half goal was the difference as Inniscarra kept their noses in front.

Aoife Hurley and Caoimhe Galvin were each on target with two St Catherine's points in an opening half where Aisling O'Reilly had three for Inniscarra with Rebecca Keane adding one as the Inniscarra girls held the advantage to the half time whistle.

Inniscarra enjoyed the better of the second half exchanges with Brid Holland to the fore adding three goals and a point.

St Catherine's defence was under huge second half pressure but they battled hard and never gave up the fight.

Aoife Hurley had three St Catherine's points and with Laura Hayes adding two they kept their challenge going.

Goals proved crucial for Inniscarra and with Rebecca Keane adding a goal and two points one from a free and Julie Burke and Aine O'Regan with a point each Inniscarra were worthy winners.

Inniscarra had excellent displays from Rebecca Quigley who was named Player of the Match whilst Aisling O'Reilly, Brid Holland, Rebecca Keane and Ciara Ring were very much to the fore in what was a superb team display.

Scorers for Inniscarra: B Holland 3-1, A O'Reilly 1-3, R Keane 1-2 (0-1), A O'Regan J Burke 0-1 each.

St Catherine's: A Hurley 0-5, C Galvin, L Hayes 0-2 each.

INNISCARRA: N Hamill; B O'Sullivan, C Cronin, A Browne; G Collins, R Quigley, C Ring; R Keane, M O'Reilly (c); A O'Reilly, A O'Regan, J Burke; A Harkin, B Holland, E Heelan

Subs: C Buckley for N Hamill, A Lynch for G Collins, O Dineen for E Heelan, T Twomey for A Harkin, A Daly for J Burke.

ST CATHERINE'S: N O'Regan; L O'Donnell, S Corcoran, S O'Callaghan; S Barry, C Hayes, E O'Keefe(c); B Shanahan, E Walsh; C Condon, L Hayes, G McCarthy, A Hurley, A Dineen, C Galvin.

Subs: S English for L O'Donnell, M Draper for S Barry, N Mulcahy for A Dineen N O'Donovan for E Walsh.

# McCarthy fires courageous Coachford to title

Coachford	2-9
Colaiste Na Toirbhirte	2-7

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

COACHFORD overcame the challenge of Colaiste Na Toirbhirte, Bandon in the Cork Colleges Junior A camogie championship final replay recently. The sides had to do it all again after Coachford came from a 12-point deficit to draw the first meeting of the sides.

Cliona Healy gave Coachford an early lead with a pointed free, Bandon responded immediately with Maebh O'Donovan on target. Maeve Lynch converted a free before Ciara O'Sullivan put Bandon four points clear, grabbing the game's opening goal. Coachford were really under pressure when Maebh O'Donovan added a point to the Bandon tally.

But Coachford dug deep to reduce the deficit as Bandon held a two-point advantage, 1-5 to 0-6 at the break.

On the resumption Bandon added to their tally with Sarah O'Sullivan converting two frees but Ciara McCarthy replied with her long-range strike putting a goal between the sides.

Coachford got back level as Ciara Moynihan linked up well with Maeve Moynihan who tied the game up with a goal.

Bandon responded to the challenge with Sarah O'Sullivan restoring their lead with a goal. Cliona Healy converted a 45 and a free to cut the gap.

With both teams continuing to display great determination, Ciara Twomey denied Bandon with a superb save from Sarah O'Sullivan's effort.

O'Sullivan gathered the rebound but her tremendous effort was again blocked at the expense of a 45

with Miriam Cotter showing great skill.

Bandon failed to convert the resulting 45 and Coachford won a free from the puck-out.

Katie McCarthy's delivery found Ciara McCarthy and her ground pull rattled the Bandon net for a match winning score.

Despite late Bandon pressure there was no way through as Coachford held on to take the title after a great contest.

Scorers for Coachford: C Healy 0-5, L Moynihan 1-2, C McCarthy 1-2.

Colaiste Na Toirbhirte: S O'Sullivan 1-2, C O'Sullivan 1-0, M O'Donovan, M Lynch 0-2 each, K Wall 0-1.

COACHFORD: C Twomey; L Dineen, C Ring, M Cotter; J Tarrant, K McCarthy, C Sheehan; C Healy, M O'Reilly (C); J Burke, T Clifford, C McCarthy; R McElroy, E Tarrant, L Moynihan.

BANDON: O Dineen; S Kelleher, L Cullinane, K Barrett; S O'Sullivan, A Buckley, C O'Leary, K Wall (C), M Lynch; Z Griffin, M O'Donovan, S O'Sullivan; S Hurley, N Collins, C O'Sullivan.

Referee: Andrew Larkin (Douglas).



Camogie star Laura Treacy receives an East Cork Sports Star Award from Patrick Shields, Middleton Park Hotel, while Dungourney Junior A Hurling captain Kevin Rohan receives his award from Amy Horgan, in the presence of Deputy Lord Mayor Cllr Mick Nugent and Deputy County Mayor Cllr Kevin O'Keeffe.



BALANCING ACT: Third year Arts student and Cork camogie player Amy O'Connor with Kilkenny and UCC hurler John Power at the Quercus Talented Student Scholars 2015/16 induction day. PHOTO: CLARE KEOGH



New Avondhu GAA Chairman Barry Aherne makes a presentation to Cork Camogie captain Ashling Thompson in recognition of their All-Ireland success



Cork's Rena Buckley and Briege Corkery embrace after clinching their second All-Ireland in a fortnight in the TG4 All Ireland ladies football final, making it 16 All-Ireland medals apiece.

Picture: Eddie O'Hara

## Mallow Camogie AGM

MALLOW Camogie club recently held their AGM and the following officers were elected for the coming year:

Honoury President Billy O'Connell, Chairman Brian McCarthy, Vice Chairman Joe Dalton, Treasurer Ann Barrett, Secretary John O'Riordan, Registrar Ann Barrett, PRO Aoife O'Rourke, Vice Treasurer Jimmy Fitzpatrick, Vice Secretary Sinead Murphy, Child Welfare Officer Ann Ganley, Players Representative Aoife O'Rourke, Senior Club Delegate Jimmy Fitzpatrick, Junior Club Delegate Kevin Cagney, Avondhu Club Delegate Brian McCarthy, Management Club Representative Sean Murphy and committee members Eamon O'Donnell, Frank Roche, Eamon Coakley, David Ellis, Martin Nagle and Adrian O'Connor.

The coach and selectors for the U/8s are Mary Murphy and Kathleen O'Brien, Mick McCormack, Paul O'Connell and Kevin Cagney (U/10s) Martin Nagle, Cathal O'Callaghan, Joe Dalton and Martin O'Keeffe (U/12s) Noel Murphy, Brian McCarthy, Rodney O'Callaghan and Ann Walsh (U/14s) Brian McCarthy, Kathleen O'Brien, Frank Roche and Tadhg Sheehan (U/16s) Cathal O'Callaghan, Esther O'Leary and Kevin O'Regan (U/18s) and David Ellis, Eamon O'Donnell, Cathal O'Callaghan and Brian McCarthy (Seniors).

Players of all ages are welcome to join the club at anytime and anyone interested in helping in anyway on the activities of the Camogie Club please ring Brian at 086 4023404.

The club wishes to wish all those involved a very Happy Christmas.



## U16A final expected to go to the wire

U16A championship final

■ Mary Newman

Milford/Ballyhea  
v Newcestown;  
Today, Castle Road, 12  
noon.

THE Juvenile camogie board hold their last final of the season today when Milford/Ballyhea and Newcestown meet to decide the destination of the U16 A championship title in Castle Road at 12 noon.

Milford/Ballyhea are a strong combination of clubs and they will make a bold bid for honours. They overcame a fancied Ballygarvan side to book their place in the final. Leading by two goals at the break, 2-1 to 0-1, they had to withstand a strong Ballygarvan revival before running out winners with a point to spare, 3-2 to 2-4 the full-time score. All through the game it was nip and tuck as the sides battled it out.

Ballygarvan asked all the questions and dug deep to take the lead and they were ahead by two points with the clock ticking towards full-time.

But the combination side grabbed a vital goal to ensure they reached the final.

Ballyhea/Milford can call on Laura Stack — who is a vital player — Jade Hooper, Eimear O'Gorman, Aoife Galvin, Moira Fitzgibbon, and Roisin Killeen.

Those six talented stars are amongst the squad that will be hoping to bring the title to the joint club side for the first time.

Being able to call on the best of both clubs is a huge advantage and having been together several years they have been moulded into a side that resembles a club team and they will be fancied to go all the way.

Newcestown are enjoying a superb year already. The Junior A championship and league titles and the Minor C championship title have all been secured and they will be hoping to take their first U16 A championship to round off a splendid season for the progressive club who have worked incredibly hard to rebuild.

Two years ago this side won the Cork Feile Na NGael and since then they have showed steady improvement. They had to overcome neighbours Kilbrittain/Timoleague in a semi-final outing where in the finish they had five points to spare as they ran out 2-7 to 1-5 winners.

Maebh Lynch, Zerica Griffin, and Aisling O'Donovan will spearhead the Newcestown challenge.

This time of the year conditions are going to be tough. Castle Road is still in superb condition under foot but over head conditions have a huge bearing on games at this stage in the season.

There is little between them and it will be a mighty battle before the title is secured.

# Sad few days for Cork camogie

## CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

THE camogie world in Cork was plunged into mourning last week with three Cork clubs experiencing bereavements in a short few days. Brian Dillon's, Sarsfield's and Inniscarra clubs lost loved ones in what was a sad few days.

Inniscarra club man and chairperson of the National Camogie Referees committee Peter Downey lost his battle for life last Friday evening following a tragic accident the previous Monday. Ironically, we learned of Peter's passing as we were leaving the removal of former Sarsfield's and Cork player Ellen McCarthy, both coming just a few days after Brian Dillon's lost former secretary and club member Marion Horgan.

Peter Downey was a referee of note in both GAA and Camogie circles off the field of play Peter was a husband to Geraldine who herself is hugely involved in the Inniscarra club and as an umpire for Peter she was one of the first ladies to officiate at GAA matches.

Peter's four and his six adored grandchildren were the centre of his life, he worked hard at his business building it up steadily and the GAA was his sporting passion.

A hugely diligent referee he carried out his duties to the letter of the law. On Sunday last, as we stood and said a prayer for Peter at his removal still in shock and disbelief, I was waiting for him to any second reprimand me as was my club colleague who stood with me as we expressed our sympathy to his family.

Geraldine laughed as we both relayed to her our last meeting with Peter when both of us let's just say were "not good girls" in Peter's eyes, but Geraldine laughed and quickly assured us "A sure what harm was that I am sure he wasn't bothered afterwards".

A lot of stories are told when someone passes away. One of our club mentors recalled she knew Peter had a sweet tooth so every time he came to us to referee she always slipped him a few jellies which he always enjoyed. But it never had a bearing on the game, he treated everybody the same.



Referees who officiated over Rebel Óg football finals at the Central Region Rebel Óg Referees Annual Medal Presentation dinner in the Carrigaline Court Hotel recently. Standing from left:- Mark Maher, Brian Conry, John Collins, Jim Forbes, Chairman Central Region; Andrew Whelton, David Murnane and Peter Downey with seated l to r: Gene Buckley, Pearse Murphy, Cork Co Board; Brian Murphy, John Purcell, Chairman Bord na nÓg and John Ryan.

Picture: Howard Crowley

Sadly this will be no more and we will miss him when the new season come around we will miss the way he would brush our protests aside and not entertain us and our moaning and groaning.

Peter's loss to the game of camogie will be huge but the loss to Geraldine, his sons, mother and his extended family is indescribable.

As he blows the whistle up there in heaven I'm sure he will keep a tight rein on proceedings just as he always did in the Muskerry, Cork and beyond.

Rest in Peace Peter We will all miss You, May the Sod of St Senans Rest Lightly on your Soul.

Sarsfield's lost one of its finest ever camogie players with the sad passing of Ellen McCarthy, a young players with a huge future ahead of her when, at just 21 years of age, she received

injuries in an accident that would see her hospitalised for over 37 years before her passing last week.

A sister of the legendary Teddy Mac, Ellen was a superb camogie player and was the holder of a county Junior championship medal with Sars in 1973 at just 15 years of age.

Her performances and ability during that campaign brought her to the attention of the Cork U16 selectors and she played a huge role as the Munster title was secured. Cork went on to contest the All Ireland final but lost to Down in Croke Park.

Ellen's passing has severed another link with that side as earlier this year team goalkeeper Kathleen Costine from Cloyne passed away. It was lovely to see Ellen's former team mates from Sars form a guard of honour at her removal to show she was never

forgotten by her beloved club and Lillian Zinkant reminisced "It was a pity we never got to see her fulfil her full potential she was some player".

May Ellen now find eternal rest and peace.

Brian Dillon's club were also in mourning as they lost a great worker in Marion Horgan, always willing to lend a hand Marion served as under age secretary to the GAA club in former years whilst also lending a huge hand to the camogie club where her daughter was a player.

Club members and friends were deeply saddened at her untimely passing, May She Rest in peace.

Sport is sometimes hard and this week more than any show us at the end of the day that it is only a game, to the families and clubs go our sincere thoughts and prayers.

## Barr's and Glen clash in final decider of the season

### CLUB NEWS

■ Mary Newman

final and it also kept the leagues alive for every club.

The U15A final next weekend bring the curtain down on a very busy season where the U15B title was won by Blackrock who beat Grenagh, who entered the city division competitions this season or the first time. The U15 shield was won by Brian Dillon's when they defeated Bishostown.

Both U13 finals were exciting contests and the U13 A title went to an excellent Blackrock side with a victory over St Finbarr's, Glen Rovers held off the challenge of Douglas to take the U13 B crown and there were celebrations for Nemo who defeated Brain Dillon's to win their first trophy since the club reformed as they took the U13 shield.

The division presented Player of the Match awards

in all their finals and this added to the excitement. The U15 B player of the match award went to Blackrock's Anna Lucey, who showed tremendous skill as her side overcame Grenagh. The U15 Shield player of the match with an impressive display was Brian Dillon's Mollie Garvin. The U13 A Player of the Match awards went to the hard working Sadbh McCarthy, Blackrock and in the U13 B final Glen Rovers Lisa O'Riordan was a worthy recipients with an excellent performance, Robin Fraher Nemo Rangers was to the fore in the Shield final.

Gary McCarthy trophies Trammore Road has been a huge support to Seandún and his sponsoring of the divisions Player of the Match awards is welcome.

The division also held an U10 fun day hosted by Nemo Rangers and this was a huge success. And, as the curtain comes down next weekend on their season, Seandún can look back on a year's work well done.

THE Seandún divisional committee continue their drive to get everything completed before the Christmas break and next weekend Glen Rovers and St Finbarr's meet in Castle Road at 11am to decide the last final of the season, the U15 A final.

Under the leadership of chairman Donnacha Broderick and secretary Louise Whelton, Seandún have been hugely active. They have organised their competitions with efficiency, have achieved their targets and must be complimented on their work throughout the season.

Competitions in U13 and U15 grades were organised with all city clubs participating in one league divided into two sections. The top two in each went forward to contest the A semi-finals and the next four went to the B semi-finals. The last two in each group were not forgotten and were catered for with a shield final which was a good idea as everybody get a chance to play in either a semi final or a





Finola Neville, Cork intermediate captain, with the Munster Intermediate Cup. Included are her parents Billy and Eileen Neville, St Catherine's GAA.  
Picture: Jim Coughlan



Katie Sexton, U16 B captain; Ashling Thompson, senior captain; Chloe Casey, minor captain; and Finola Neville, intermediate captain, with the hard-earned silverware.  
Picture: Jim Coughlan

# Trophies aplenty at Cork camogie event

## CAMOGIE

■ Marion McCarthy

**CORK camogie recently celebrated another very successful season at the Rochestown Park Hotel.**

Over 300 people attended a gala dinner and presentation of medals to the victorious Cork teams with pride of place going to the Cork senior team and management who this year won the All-Ireland senior Championship for the 26th time.

Cork now join Dublin at the top of the roll of honour and it was a fitting tribute to all involved that the O'Duffy Cup returned to Leeside in 2015, a year Cork Camogie proudly celebrates 110 years since its foundation. Chairman of the County Board Marian McCarthy welcomed all present and paid special tribute to the senior team.

She said: "I am so proud of the way you represented your county and the manner you won the All-Ireland. Your victory was a special one in a historic year for Camogie in Cork".

Marian also had huge praise for senior manager Paudie Murray and his backroom team of Dr Wesley O'Brien, Sean Cremin, George



Christine O'Regan, Marian McCarthy, Katie Sexton, Mary McSweeney, Noreen Daly, Sheila Golden, and Sheila O'Brien at the victory dinner.  
Picture: Mike English

Fitzgibbon, Niall Collins, Kevin Mulcahy, Damien Murray, Teddy O'Donovan, Mike Carroll, and physios Aoife McMahon and Jess Barry. She also thanked sponsors the Barry Group, Mallow, Costcutter for their outstanding sponsorship and support over the past three years.

Also honoured on the night were the Cork intermediate and minor teams on their back-to-back Munster final victories and the Cork U16A and B teams.

Speakers on the night included

Joan O'Flynn, CEO of the Camogie Association, the Deputy Lord Mayor, Cllr Thomas Gould, Paul Ring representing Costcutter, senior manager Paudie Murray and captain Ashling Thompson.

Joan O'Flynn presented the

medals to the victorious Cork players and the board made presentations to all the management teams.

It was truly a magnificent night of celebration and brought the curtain down on another hugely successful year for Cork Camogie.

**WALSH (Cork):** On December 15, 2015, peacefully, at the Mercy University Hospital, ELIZABETH (BETTY), Dorgans Road, dear sister of the late Patricia, Jim and Billy. Sadly missed by her loving nephews, nieces, relatives and friends. Lying in repose at her residence on today (Wednesday) from 5pm followed by removal at 6.30pm to the Church of the Immaculate Conception, The Lough. Requiem Mass at 1pm on tomorrow (Thursday). Funeral afterwards to St Finbar's Cemetery. May she rest in peace.

DEC. 2015



Cllr Thomas Gould, deputising for Lord Mayor; with Marian McCarthy, chairperson Cork County Camogie Board; Rose Malone, chairperson Munster Council; and Joan O'Flynn, CEO Camogie Association.



Dual stars Rena Buckley and Aoife Murray, and Camogie captain, Aisling Thompson, at the RTE Sport Awards, where Cork's Senior Camogie and Ladies Football teams were nominated for the team of the year award.  
Picture: Diarmuid O'Mahony/Canal5



# New rule comes in for young players

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

THE juvenile camogie board brought their season to an end recently when they held their annual convention in the Rochestown Park Hotel.

A large attendance of delegates reviewed another successful underage season where over 60 clubs were catered for in graded from U8 Go Games up to and including three U16 grades in both league and championship.

Chairwoman Mary O'Sullivan in welcoming delegates firstly asked everybody observe a minutes silence in memory of three camogie members Peter Downey, Ellen McCarthy and Marion Horgan who had passed away that week and she sympathised with the clubs and families.

The meeting was addressed by the senior county board treasurer Mary McSweeney, who had huge praise for the juvenile board and the work they do promoting camogie.

Mary who will take over the role of county chairperson on Monday next: "The work the juvenile board do is superb and we in the county board value your huge contribution to Cork camogie."

A lot of discussion took place about a motion put to the floor which was eventually passed, which now means that any club with two underage teams participating in the same grade will have to name 18 players in their first squad. These players will be automatically graded to the higher grade for both league and championship and cannot play in a lower grade.

The next team in the club in the same grade will also have to name their 18 players and these will be tied to the second team. However if any of these players move up to play either league or championship they cannot return to the lower grade team.

This is a huge change to the grading as previously only a player who was named in the higher grade team was tied to this team and fringe players could play higher grade league and still maintain their status of playing with the second team until championship.

Chairwoman Mary O'Sullivan paid tribute to outgoing GPC members Marie Harty and Ger Sheehan. She welcomed new member Ger Corcoran, Enniskeane, who is a hugely experienced official.

The outgoing officers were re-elected as follows: chairwoman: Mary O'Sullivan (Bishopscullen), vice-chair: Jan Foster (Carrigrohane), secretary: Tina Sheehan (Douglas), treasurer: Tracy Sheehan (Sarsfield's), child welfare officer: Maria Dinan (Sarsfield's), registrar: Eileen Healy (Aghabullogue). The board GPC committee is: Billy O'Sullivan (Bishopscullen), Ger Corkery (Enniskeane), Wayne Carroll (St. Finbarr's), Linda Egan (Sliabh Rua) and James Gleeson (Inniscarra).



Inniscarra were the winners of the U16 B League.

# Inniscarra were worthy winners

UNDERAGE camogie continued to be to the fore in Cork in what was a busy season.

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Despite the huge efforts put in, there are two U16 A competitions to be decided, and the county final between Ballyhea/Milford and Newcestown had to be postponed until the new year.

At U16 A level in the league Sarsfield's will meet Kilbrittan/Timoleague in the quarter-final, with the winners meeting Milford/Ballyhea. Ballygarvan are already through to the final having defeated Carrigaline in the semi-final.

The U16 B championship title went to Courcsey Rovers who had to hold off the very strong challenge of Fr O'Neill's before the title found its home. With two former inter-county senior players at the helm in each camp both sides were well prepared.

Mags Finn guided the fortunes of O'Neill's while Sara Hayes-Walsh was the driving force behind the Courcsey

girls. With Abbie Jeffery named Player of the Match Courcsey's held on to take the title despite a strong Fr O'Neill's display. This win is a big one for Courcsey's and augurs well for the clubs with several of the girls now making the step up to minor and adult levels.

In a close U16 C championship final just a goal separated the sides as Bride Rovers edged out Valley Rovers in a thrilling contest witnessed by a large crowd. Valleys led by two points at the break but Bride Rovers worked their way back into the game and a second goal from Sarah Murphy gave them the boost needed to go on to win out.

Bride Rovers' Emma Barry was named as Player of the Match after turning in a superb performance. A much welcomed win for the Bride Rovers club, where huge work is going

in by their committee and mentors.

The league competitions at all levels were hugely competitive some sections having to go to play-off before quarter and semi-finalists emerged.

The U16 B league title was won by Inniscarra as they powered themselves to victory over a St Catherine's side who battled to the finish. Goals were important and with Brid Holland grabbing three and Rebecca Quigley turning in a Player Of The Match display Scarra were champions.

The U16 C league was won by Ballinascarty, who defeated Mallow in the final at Castle Road. Clara Crowley Ballinascarty, was named as Player of the Match.

As there is no U14 championship, the U14 leagues are hugely competitive and 2015 was no different at all levels as they were hotly contested.

The U14 A title went to Ballincollig who defeated Carrigaline in a superb game. The U14 B title went to Newcestown as they got the upper hand on Eire Og in the decider.

Blackrock are also a club making strides and they won the U14 C league title with an impressive performance as they overcame Inniscarra.

The juvenile board also endeavoured to re-introduce the U12 competitions but at the last minute had to revert to the Go Games ethos as permission was not forthcoming to play under normal camogie rules. Never the less clubs got stuck in and some excellent games were enjoyed.

The U12 A final between Sarsfield's and St Finbarr's saw Sarsfield's carry home the honours after a highly entertaining contest. Eire Og made up for the disappointment of the U14 B final by taking the U12 B at the expense of Valley Rovers and it took a replay before Sarsfield's 2 edged out Kilbree to be crowned U12 C winners.

A huge programme of game but the hard working juvenile board are to be complimented on a hugely successful season they can now take a well-earned rest before it all starts back again.

# Board looking for a standout camogie volunteer

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

THE County Board are seeking nominations from clubs for the Cork Club Volunteer of the Year for the season 2015.

Now in its fourth year previous Cork winners have been Sheila Spillane (Killeagh), Oliver Hallahan (Ballygarvan), Deirdre Sutton-Coleman (Glen Rovers) and Maria Dinan (Sarsfield's).

The award acknowledges the huge effort and contribution put in by many people in all clubs within the county during the year and Cork will choose their volunteer of the year from the nominations received and the overall winner will be selected and honoured by the Cork County Board. The award winners from each county will also be honoured at a special lunch at the All-Ireland Club final day in Croke Park on Sunday, February 20.

Each participating board must select a winner for

their county for 2015 before Friday, January 22.

Clubs are asked to nominate one person from their club for consideration and by now all club secretaries should have received information on this. Nominations must be returned to the board secretary and clubs should ensure that their forms are properly filled out and signed by the club secretary and that there is only one nomination from their club.

The selection process will be based on Guidelines detailed to each county by An Cumann Camógachta and these will be strictly adhered to and the guidelines are as follows:

Only one nomination will be accepted from each club and the nomination to the County Board must be submitted by the club secretary only. Nominations from clubs will be considered under any or all the following criteria Games Development/Promotion, Administration, Facilities Management/Support and Club Support.

The nomination form should detail the role held by the nominee within the club and the impact of the nominee on the club in developmental terms. Any additional information deemed necessary to support the nomination can also be added.

Clubs are advised to get their nominations into the county board as soon as possible as they will have to notify the National Volunteer and Officer Support Committee in Croke Park of the Cork Award Winner by January 31.



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Brian Dillon's camogie awards 2015 winners: U16 Most Improved Player Michelle Broe, U16 Player of the Year Shannon McHale, U18 Player of the Year Essie O'Connell. Picture: Derek Connolly



U12 Most Improved Player Ellen Brady, U12 Player of the Year Olivia Gibson, U14 Most Improved Player Mary O'Sullivan and U14 Player of the Year Eve O'Connor. Picture: Derek Connolly

# Plenty left in the Tank for the Dillon's ladies

## CAMOGIE

**BRIAN DILLONS' annual awards night was held last Sunday evening.**

Once again it was a tremendous success with a huge turnout of players, coaches, mentors, family and friends.

Numbers attending the event have increased significantly over the past few years which is testament to the growing underage section in the club.

But as was advised on the night, with a relatively small catchment of youth in the area it's hugely important that everyone in the club keeps their foot on the pedal and encourages as many children as possible to come up to the Tank Field.

With a number of new underage coaches putting in a tremendous amount of work over the past few years, the returns are starting to materialise. The club would welcome any parent willing to lend a hand if only for an hour a week.

Chairperson Mary O'Sullivan was MC on the night and she thanked all the players and mentors for making 2015 another successful year for Brian Dillons.

Awards were presented across the spectrum, from most improved



Paul Mills, Linda Mellerick and Tom Myers of the team management with U18 Brian Dillon's Camogie Player of the Year 2015 Essie O'Connell. Picture: Derek Connolly

players, to player of the year awards to the overall clubperson of the year.

Having won the Minor B championship in 2014 the club, despite losing nine of that panel, opted to play Minor A for the 2015 season as they further challenge themselves. President Con Aherne made presentations to five players who represented Cork this year namely, Eve O'Connor and Hannah Roche at U14, Stephanie Mangan at U16 and Sinead Mills and Niamh O'Leary at Minor level.

Vice chairperson Veronica Deane then presented a special award to Shauna Cronin who brought tremendous honour to the club in winning the All-Ireland minor football championship with Cork.

Club person of the year went to the very popular Susan Kate Brosnan

who continues to give a huge commitment both as a player and underage coach.

The Intermediate league and championship winning team will be presented with their medals at their victory Dinner on January 16 at the Ambassador Hotel.

The Intermediate player of the year will be announced on the night. Tickets are currently on sale.

Tim Horgan of Brian Dillon's GAA has compiled a magnificent 2016 club calendar consisting of historic and current memories. Former and current camogie players also feature heavily. It's a perfect Christmas stocking filler and can be purchased for €6 from club stalwart Donie Lyons - 086 2796313.

## Brian Dillons Camogie 2015 Annual Award Winners

- U12 Most Improved Player - Ellen Brady.
- U12 Player of the Year - Olivia Gibson.
- U14 Most Improved Player - Mary O'Sullivan.
- U14 Player of the Year - Eve O'Connor.
- U16 Most Improved Player - Michaela Broe.
- U16 Player of the Year - Shannyn McHale Minor Player of the Year - Essie O'Connell.
- Club Person of the Year - Susan Kate Brosnan



Mary O'Sullivan, chairperson of Brian Dillon's camogie, presents Susan Kate Brosnan with Club Person of the Year 2015.



Brian Dillon's camogie players who represented Cork camogie teams: Niamh O'Leary, Sinead Mills, Eve O'Connor, Hannah Roche, Stephanie Mangan. Picture: Derek Connolly





# Buckley and Corkery reap reward for their dedication

Women's football and camogie duo each has 16 All-Ireland medals

Taoiseach pays tribute to each of monthly winners for their achievements



**Ian O'Riordan**  
Reports

Such was this year's broad scale of excellence, there couldn't only be one winner.

So when Briege Corkery and Rena Buckley were both recognised with the *Irish Times*/Sport Ireland Sports Woman of the Year award for 2015, there couldn't be any complaints either.

It was entirely fitting given their achievements were simply inseparable: Corkery and Buckley played starring roles in the Cork teams that won both the All-Ireland camogie and women's football titles last September, and with that wrote their names into the annals of Irish sporting history.

It brought their individual All-Ireland medal tallies to 16 – six each in camogie and 10 each in football – and no GAA player has ever won more than that.

by players Sophie Pierce and Niamh Briggs, and jockey Katie Walsh.

"You're always wondering who would come up as the winner, so when both our names were called out, it was a shock, to be honest," said Corkery, who was actually the previous outright winner of the award all of 10 years ago.

"I definitely didn't expect it," Buckley agreed entirely. "Sure it's an honour just to be in this room with all these athletes," she said. "We're hugely honoured to be in amongst them."

Their careers have been largely inseparable too, both playing together for the first time as fifth-class primary school students in Cork. Their commitment is equally complete too, and although essentially amateurs (Buckley works full-time as a physiotherapist, Corkery as a dairy farmer), there is simply no let-up in their schedule.

"It would be hectic, I suppose," Corkery told the awards luncheon at Dublin's Shelbourne Hotel. "Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday is camogie, then Wednesday, Friday, Sunday is football. And on the Monday we both try to turn up to club training, as often as we can."

## Dual thing

"But we're used to people talking about the whole dual thing, and try not to take any notice of it. I suppose I didn't think at all about the 16th medal. I was more worried about playing Dublin again, in the football final."

Both still only 28, and there's every chance they'll be hunting for All-Ireland medals 17 and 18 in the summer of 2016.

"Well, I haven't fully made up my mind yet," said Corkery.



**Athlete Catherina McKiernan who received the Outstanding Contribution to Women's Sport 2015 award.** PHOTOGRAPH: NICK BRADSHAW

always keep you hungry. But everyone involved in sport knows that it is hard work that gets you places like that. And next year when you start back training it's about trying to forget days like this, and get back into the hard training again, start afresh. That's the key to it really."

All of the monthly winners were present at the awards (including two joint-monthly winners), and speaking via video link from the European Council in Brussels, Taoiseach Enda Kenny paid tribute to each of them for their achievements and also for the encouragement they give to women in sport at all levels.

"The number of women and young girls involved in sport is rising year on year," said Kenny. "This is great news and we want that number to rise even further. And with your example and your encouragement, it will."

“

It [the schedule] would be hectic, I suppose . . . Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday is camogie, then Wednesday, Friday, Sunday is football. And on the Monday we both try to turn up to club training, as often as we can. But we're used to people talking about the whole dual thing, and try not to take any notice of it

*Times* for its vision and tenacity, in honouring our sportswomen, and promoting women's sport in general. I want to congratulate everyone of the recipients. Good luck in all you do, and from the Government and the people of Ireland, well done. Take a bow, and thank you."

Malachi Logan, sports editor of *The Irish Times*, pointed to the improved coverage of women's sport across all media platforms, but added that more could be done.

"Participation levels in women's sport continue to increase and interest levels are also forging ahead," he said. "Now it's our job in the media to reflect that growth, and although things are improving, it's still not good enough."

"Addressing the inequity in coverage of women's sport compared to its male counterpart should not be that difficult."

"Let's be honest, appreciating the athletic endeavours of half the world's population shouldn't require an evangelist. If this problem is going to be fixed, men – particularly those in the media – are going to have to get over themselves. Me included."

## Dedicated pages

"In mitigation, for our part in *The Irish Times*, we recently launched dedicated pages every Thursday to women's sport and these have been very well received. They offer a great insight into our top sportswomen and the dedication, ambition and passion they bring to their disciplines."

"This significant step in developing our sports coverage wouldn't have happened without the support of my editorial colleagues, particularly those

Joint winner of *The Irish Times*/Sport Ireland Sports Woman of the Year Cork's Rena Buckley – who shared the award with teammate Briege Corkery – and June's monthly award winner Katie Taylor enjoy a lighter moment with Tánaiste Joan Burton during the awards ceremony in Dublin yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: CATHAL NOONAN/INPHO

Sport Ireland, and said their bold and imaginative approach was the main reason the profile of women's sport continues to grow and grow.

Catherina McKiernan was also honoured with the Outstanding Contribution to Women's Sport 2015 Award.

The Cavan woman dominated cross-country running in the early 1990s, winning silver in the World Cross Country Championships four years in succession between 1992 and 1995, as well as claiming gold in the inaugural European Cross Country Championships in 1994.

McKiernan later won the London, Berlin and Amsterdam marathons, and still holds the Irish record with her time of 2:22:23.

"Talent is nothing really without hard work," said McKiernan. "And also self-belief."

Perfectly summing up the often hidden backdrop to the broad scale of excellence achieved by each of the monthly winners.

## Inside: page 5

- Buckley and Corkery the first among exalted equals
- High achievers have



# Buckley and Corkery the first among exalted equals

Cork pair share award following another outstanding year of success

Rebel duo have now each won 16 senior intercounty championships



Malachy Clerkin

There's a story in Mary White's book *Relentless* that begins with Rena Buckley driving through Macroom on a Saturday night in 2011. It's just short of midnight and the streets are teeming with the usual post-pub, pre-club crowd. Buckley's eye is caught by two figures moving faster than everyone else down the hill at the far end of the town.

A pair of women in their early 20s, zipping down the footpath on rollerblades, ducking through the hordes. Steadier on their feet than most of those in Saturday night shoes, they slalom their way through the crowds and finish by skating straight through the front door of the nightclub at the bottom of the hill.

Next morning, Buckley runs in to Briege Corkery and falls into stitches telling her about the daredevil duo from the night before.

"You should have seen them!" she laughs. "Twas gas!" "Yeah?" replies Corkery with a big smile. "Sure, wasn't I one of them!"

It is not a story that would surprise anyone who has come across either of the joint winners of the 2015 *Irish Times/Sport Ireland* Sportswoman of the Year Award.

Rena Buckley and Briege Corkery are night and day, just about as different as people as it is possible to be. Yet they will be forever entwined nonetheless, holders of a record that it's high on impossible ever to see broken.

When they hugged on the pitch at the end of this year's All-Ireland football final victory over Dublin, they became the first players in the history of Gaelic games to reach the milestone of 16 senior intercounty championships. Ten in football, six in camogie, passing the record of 15 held by Dublin camogie player Kay Mills.

## Heaving mantelpieces

Mills won her last All-Ireland in 1961 at the age of 38 so her record stood for 54 years. Buckley is still just 28 and Corkery only turned 29 on Wednesday last. Who knows how much longer they'll both play for? Or how many they'll have against their name when the time comes?

Numbers can be blinding but it's worth laying them out here all the same. In terms of titles, they have those 16 All-Irelands



■ Main photograph – Back row (from left to right): Sarah Byrne, Sophie Spence, Jenny Egan, Katie Walsh, Niamh Briggs, Kytie Murphy, Noelle Lenihan, Madeline Perry, Gráinne Dwyer. Front row (from left to right): Ann Marie McGlynn, Briege Corkery, Catherine McKiernan, Rena Buckley, Katie Taylor, Leona Maguire. Left: Cork's Rena Buckley and Briege Corkery (overall winners). Right: Malachy Logan, Sports Editor, *The Irish Times*, February's winner Sophie Spence (Rugby) and Kieran Mulvey, chairman Sport Ireland at *The Irish Times/Sport Ireland* Sportswoman of the Year awards at the Shelbourne Hotel, Dublin yesterday.

PHOTOGRAPHS: CATHAL NOONAN/PHO AND NICK BRADSHAW



plus the following – four camogie leagues each, nine football leagues for Buckley and eight for Corkery (on account of Corkery having gone travelling in 2010 and missing that year).

Individually, they have their own heaving mantelpieces to point to.

Corkery has nine football All Stars, six camogie All Stars, two Footballer of the Year awards and in 2008, she took home the Texaco award for camogie.

Buckley has five football All Stars and four for camogie.

Both have led the walk up the steps of the Hogan Stand to lift the Brendan Martin Cup on All-Ireland football final day – when Buckley took the microphone in 2012, she delivered a word perfect speech in Irish.

The perennial juggernauting of the football team over the years has tended to obscure the fact that one of the great camogie teams in history has been hiding in plain sight.

Cork have won six All-Irelands in 11 years, a record matched only by a couple of

## Month-by-month The award winners

December  
**Ann Marie McGlynn** (Athletics)  
January  
**Gráinne Dwyer** (Basketball)  
February  
**Sophie Spence** (Rugby)  
March  
**Niamh Briggs** (Rugby)  
April  
**Katie Walsh** (Horse racing)  
May  
**Leona Maguire** (Golf) and



June  
**Katie Taylor** (Boxing)  
July  
**Sarah Byrne** (Basketball)

August  
**Jenny Egan** (Canoeing)  
September  
**Rena Buckley and Briege Corkery** (Camogie and Gaelic football)  
October  
**Noelle Lenihan** (Discus)  
November  
**Kytie Murphy** (Soccer)  
(awards run from December 2014 to November 2015, inclusive)

teams since camogie began as an organised sport. Mills's Dublin teams did it a couple of times and the great Kilkenny side of the 1980s managed it too.

It's all the more admirable when you take into account their rocky start. Buckley and Corkery have never lost a football match in Croke Park but their initial introductions to the big house were not happy ones.

A 16-year-old Corkery came off the bench in the 2003 All-Ireland camogie final de-

feat to Tipperary, while a year later a 17-year-old Buckley was wing-back as Cork came up short once again to Tipp.

Few, if any, saw one of the best camogie teams of all time rising out of back-to-back All-Ireland final defeats but rise they did, with Corkery and Buckley at the heart of them.

## Individual personalities

On the pitch, they are both the physical expression of their individual personalities.

Buckley is the calming presence, unfussy in possession, invariably taking the right option with football or slíotar.

Corkery is more of a wild card, perpetual motion the length and breadth of the pitch. She plays almost like a rugby number seven – wherever the action is, she is.

If all they did this year was hang around and pick up their 15th and 16th All-Ireland medals, it would still have been some achievement.

What sets them apart, however, is just how crucial they both were to the titles Cork won in 2015.

Corkery was Player of the Match in the All-Ireland quarter-final and final in football and scored the winning goal in the camogie final. Buckley was the dominant midfielder of the year in football and didn't concede a single score to the players she marked in the knock-out stages of the camogie championship.

Both of them were All Stars in both codes. To put that achievement in context, only one other player has ever managed to win football and camogie All Stars in the same year, their erstwhile teammate Mary O'Connor. Yet this was Buckley third time to do it and – unbelievably – it was Corkery's fifth.

With neither of them yet turned 30, there's simply no telling where they will end up. For now, they are the first ever joint winners of the Sports-woman of the Year award. Long may they roll.



# ANNA GEARY



## Fight for what you believe in

**W**AS having a conversation last week with some friends and the topic of women's sports came up or, rather, the challenges we face.

For some of my non-sporting friends, it fell on deaf ears while others rolled their eyes quietly muttering "not this again".

The only potential boring thing about this debate is how many times we've heard it. But it needs to be heard. Again and again.

I remember going to Senior All-Ireland Camogie Finals growing-up. A group of us would be taken every year to experience the atmosphere and to see first-hand the skill and passion in the teams as they ran around Croke Park. It was so exciting to get your picture taken with these players afterwards. These women were, in my eyes, heroic. They were women I wanted to emulate and aspire to be like. I couldn't understand why they were almost unknown in the wider sporting world. This problem still exists today.

There might be a difference in how women compete but does that mean we are inherently different athletes, or inferior athletes? Realistically, there is a difference in size, in strength, in speed perhaps. But not in the skill, commitment, athleticism or sporting intellect.

Recently, I was at the inaugural event organised by Seifa Ireland, 'Supporting Elite Irish Female Athletes', which was set up to address the increased need for support for our elite Irish sportswomen. On the night, a charity Vintage Couture calendar unveiled 16 powerful and striking athletes. These leaders in their respective sporting fields have the potential power to influence, to inspire and to elicit a change in the perceptions within our society. Yet at the moment, many of them are unknown to most.

These athletes are wonderful role models for everyone, young or old; male or female. They possess the characteristics necessary to succeed in life, not just in sport. That needs to be celebrated. They need to be celebrated.

But how often do you see them? Why does that need to change? Well, to quote one of the core messages of Women's Gaelic Players Association: "If you can't see it, then you can't be it".

Having awards specifically dedicated to women like The Irish Times Sportswoman of the Year awards are not in place with the purpose to segregate sportsmen and sportswomen. They were

In her second column for The Corkman, columnist **Anna Geary** delves into the issue of women in sport. While it may be an age-old argument, Anna believes it has never been fully addressed as many excellent sportswomen remain under the radar. Yet excellence is not gender specific and it's in fully understanding this that we can give the daughters and granddaughters of the future every opportunity to succeed in their chosen areas...



Anna collects her 96fm/C103 Sportsperson of the Year award for captaining Cork to the All-Ireland camogie title, an award she says belonged to every one of her team-mates

introduced because women are seldom chosen above men for awards in the sporting world.

I won't say never, it's just a rare occurrence. But this has a lot to do with how recognisable our sportswomen are compared to their male counterparts. A lot of the time you don't hear about the sportswomen and their achievements.

Look at women's rugby. People only started to take notice of the incredible Irish Women's rugby team when they defeated the All Blacks in the World Cup in Paris last year. They were doing Trojan work for their country for years prior to that, albeit behind the scenes. To think that same Irish team had no sponsor during their Six Nations Grand Slam-winning season in 2013!

In 2014, I was privileged to win the 96fm/C103 Sportsperson of the Year award for captaining Cork the All-Ireland title. I accepted it on behalf of my fantastic teammates. The award belonged to each of us. I was in shock as I heard my name being announced. Not just because I was honoured - along with Ladies Football Captain Brieghe Corkery - but because the nominees for this award were both male and female and yet a women still triumphed.

There were formidable sportsmen nominated too but the judges had the vision to acknowledge that winning senior inter-county All-Ireland titles should get the nod ahead of the rest. That is progress.

Let me throw something out there to women before I finish. Are we our own worst enemy when it comes to sport? Do we support our sportswomen even if we don't play ourselves? Are those of us who don't have interest in sport engaging in the debate or do we care?

But what about if you have a daughter or granddaughter in the future and she wants to participate in sport. Perhaps she will be a talented camogie player, hockey or rugby player and have the potential to achieve great things, maybe be an Olympian.

Would you not want her to grow up in a society where she has a chance to train full time as a top class athlete where opportunities are available, regardless of gender?

Excellence is not defined by gender but by itself. If you don't remember anything else, remember that.

### Born winners Cork stars sportswomen of the year

'Irish Times'/Sport Ireland Sportswomen of the Year Rena Buckley (left) and Brieghe Corkery (right), who have a combined 32 All-Ireland medals in football and camogie for Cork, with athlete Catherina McKiernan, who received the outstanding contribution award.

Reports: Sports Saturday  
Photograph: Brenda Fitzsimons







The Cork Camogie U14A squad, 2015 All-Ireland winners.



The Cork U14 C squad, pictured at the recent function in the Blarney Golf resort.

# Cork U14s celebrate their great season

## CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

**THE four Cork U14 squads celebrated recently when they held a presentation function in the Blarney Golf Resort.**

Cork senior Maebh Cahalane was on hand with the O'Duffy Cup and pride of place went to the Cork U14 A squad who took All Ireland honours. Cork fielded four panels at U14 level this year, divided into A, B, C and C white squads and participated in several blitzes and tournaments. Training commenced in March and continued to May with two sessions in September before the U14 A All-Ireland competition. All the emphasis was on technical skill proficiency and team play with no fitness training.

Without doubt the U14 A have been the most successful of the squads capturing the All-Ireland title and also adding the Limerick blitz title to their haul. The U14 B team won the Limerick blitz and the Clare A Plate and James Hurley A Plate titles. The U14 C team won Limerick, Waterford and Tipperary blitzes.

Selection of players is in tandem with school, club and divisional games and the annual Divisional U13



The Cork U14 B squad pose with the collection of trophies.

and U14 Blitz on St Patrick's weekend is used to finalise panels.

A total of 51 teams from 29 counties took part across five divisions and eight Dublin venues hosted the Division 1 competition. Cork were grouped with Wexford, Dublin, Clare and Limerick, with Clare the only

side to defeat them, before a semi-final against favourites Kilkenny.

Kilkenny made a great start and led by four points. Cork gave it their all in a superb second half and got to grips with Emma Murphy and Laura Doyle dominant at midfield, while Fiona Keating grabbed three goals.

Keeper Lisa O'Riordan denied Kilkenny to set up a rematch with the Banner.

Cork showed huge fighting character and determination as they took the game to Clare to lead at the break Cork 0-5 to 0-1.

With Jennifer Murphy and Lisa

O'Riordan on form there was no way past the Cork rearguard. Cork held firm and it was hard work that saw them grab a vital break from a long clearance, as captain Emma Murphy gained possession and slotted home the game's only goal to seal victory on 1-5 to 0-3 scoreline.



The Cork senior team who won the All-Ireland this September.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare



The Cork U14 C White squad, who enjoyed a memorable 2015 campaign.

DEC. 2015



# ANNA GEARY



## Relationships at core of sport

**HAVE** played camogie for over 20 years. I have played on many teams and subsequently had many managers during my camogie career.

When you hear of successful teams, the old age debate ensues: 'Is the success a result of the talent and dedication of the players, or is due to the shrewdness and strategic genius of the manager?'

Look at Brian Cody and the Kilkenny hurling team. There is no question that Brian Cody is a top class manager, but would he be as successful if he didn't have the conveyor belt of talented players at his disposal? Equally, when he steps down as manager, will the Cats continue to get the proverbial cream as frequently?

The importance of a good manager should never be underestimated. In my opinion, a manager's first and foremost responsibility is to develop a closeness to players. They need to look beyond and learn about the person behind each player and that's necessary when trying to motivate individuals to get the best out of them.

Also, mutual trust is paramount. All the tactics in the world will not work for a manager unless he or she gets the players to 'buy in'.

We lost three senior county finals with Milford before we won our first title. The personnel on the panel remained - more or less - the same each season. The talent was there, the will to win was there, but we could not get over the finish line.

Each year we placed so much pressure on ourselves to win and it ultimately cost us again and again. It was heartbreaking to fall short so many times. We had lost belief in the capability of our team. Until, that is, we found a new manager in Frank Flannery (the new coach of the Cork Senior Hurlers for 2016).

Frank came to us with fresh ideas and a new way of thinking. He broke the team down and built it back up from scratch. He made us understand and believe that, as individual players, we were strong but, together, we could be unstoppable. It wasn't about 'my hook' nor was it 'my score' - every positive thing we did was for the team.

In his first training session with Milford he told us we would win the Senior Club All-Ireland title if we believed in what he was doing. We thought he was mad. Maybe he was, but it was just what we needed.

Trust became the foundation upon which our squad was built. In that first year, not only did we win the county final with an incredible 27 points to spare, we also went on to win the Munster title and the All-Ireland title for the first time.

It was the most incredible feeling knowing we

It's all about teamwork and in her exclusive column for The Corkman, columnist **Anna Geary** this week takes a personal look at the relationships between team members and management throughout her camogie career. But the subject matter crosses all sports - just look at José Mourinho and his spectacular fall from grace last week - so there are lessons for everyone... in all walks of life...



**Anna believes that while individuals are strong, true teamwork can be unstoppable**

did it working as a team. While we were the players on the pitch doing what needed to be done, he was the one that showed us the correct way to do it.

If a player is under-performing, you cannot just assume they're not trying hard enough or not putting in the required effort. You need

to look deeper. Alarm bells should be going off if a player starts acting against his or her character. It could be a sick parent, pressure of exams or a challenging time at work but without open and honest communications existing between a manager and player, it's very hard to uncover the truth.

In 2005 I was given my first Championship start with the Cork Senior Team. I was also in sixth year at St Mary's Secondary School in Charleville. I was studying hard for my exams, but no pressure came from the Cork set up. Instead, I was met with understanding and compromise.

This allowed me to give my attention to my exams and then my focus switched entirely to camogie. My manager, John Cronin, gave me the number seven jersey for the first round of Championship only a handful of days after I finished my Leaving Certificate Music exam.

We played Galway in Páirc Uí Rinn and I will never forget the feeling of respect that I had amassed for him. He believed in me and trusted me to do my job that day. In return I trained as hard as I could all season and played my heart out for the team. I won my first Senior All-Ireland medal and All-Star that year.

Lack of confidence in a manager can manifest itself in a fall in team morale or in performance. If a manager loses the dressing room, then they are in trouble. Look at the Chelsea soccer team.

Seven months ago Chelsea were crowned League Champions and José Mourinho was at the helm. Now as they lie in 16th place, close to the relegation zone, José was left with no choice but to depart Stamford Bridge. Was it the players or was it Mr Mourinho? Blame is irrelevant when there is a problem, the only thing that matters is the solution.

Eamon Ryan took over as Cork ladies football manager in early 2004, and has overseen 10 All-Ireland victories for Cork in 11 seasons. What a remarkable achievement. With Eamon Ryan's move to the Cork Senior Footballers now confirmed, the journey ahead for the ladies footballers will be interesting to follow. How will they fare without him?

This extraordinary group of players have had in Eamon a natural and charismatic leader for over a decade. He exuded a great belief in his players. They, in turn, repaid him with both class and consistency in their performances.

When I think of the word 'team' in sport, it encompasses the entire squad plus management. For me, the letters in the word team stand for 'Together Everyone Achieves More'.

Phil Jackson of the New York Knicks sums it all up: "Good teams become great ones when the members trust each other enough to surrender the 'me' for the 'we'".

The quality of the relationship between a manager and his/her players largely determines if this can become a reality.

DEC. 2015



The Cork team which defeated Kilkenny in All-Ireland Senior Camogie final in 1972 and 12 months later completed the four in a row. Back: B Sugrue, P Moloney, L Garvan, A McAuliffe, M Sweeney, M McCarthy, D Sutton, R Hennessy. Front: A Keane, A Comerford, N Guilly, H Dineen, M Whelton, S Dunne, M Costine. Subs not in picture: S Dunne, N Guilly, A Keane.

## Cork win last gym frocks final

### CAMOGIE

CORK completed a three-in-a-row of All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championships when they defeated Kilkenny in the 1972 decider at Croke Park.

Kilkenny looked resplendent in their new camogie uniform but Cork, for old time sake, opted to wear the traditional gym frock for the last time.

It was by no means a classic and the champions, coached by Mary Moran, were deserving 2-5 to 1-4 winners over the Cats for whom the legendary Angela Dowling made her All-Ireland final debut.

Angela, arguably the greatest camogie player of all time, won 12 All-Irelands and six All-Ireland club titles with her club St Paul's.

She had to wait two more years for her first All-Ireland medal as the Cork defence, with Deirdre Sutton, fronting Hannah Dineen, Maire Costine and Mary Whelton completely stifled the life out of the Cats.

Liz Garvan (1-3), Ann Phelan (1-1) and Marion Sweeney (0-1) were the Cork scorers.



# Buckley and Corkery named joint winners of Sportswoman of the Year

## Milford discus thrower receives award for October

CORK dual stars Brieghe Corkery and Rena Buckley have been crowned joint winners of *The Irish Times* Sport Ireland 'Sportswoman of the Year Award 2015'.

The Cork camogie and Gaelic football players won the award for their record breaking achievement in becoming the most medalled women in the history of Gaelic Games.

The duo were joint winners of the Sportswoman of the Month award in September when they each won their 16th All-Ireland medals in Cork's football victory over Dublin. A fortnight earlier they had equalled the amazing record of Dublin camogie player Kathleen

Mills', when Cork beat Galway in the camogie final.

Corkery, a dairy farmer, and Buckley, a physiotherapist, have won 10 football and 6 camogie medals. The 28-year olds have also amassed over 20 All Star awards between them.

The duo, who have played together since they were children train and play matches six days a week. They have committed to both codes for 2016.

Buckley said they were really surprised when their names were called out. "We never really thought about winning this award as the girls we were up against have achieved so much. We've

done quite well over the last few years but I just love being part of the teams. There's a great spirit there. Eamon Ryan the football manager has inspired us not just as footballers but as people and we have learned so much about life from him."

Corkery, who is due to get married to Diarmaid Scannell on January 8, described it all as a fantastic journey. "We've been on amazing teams, had great management and a bit of luck at times. I want us as a team to play to the best of our ability and achieve all we can together and that's what we'll be looking to do in 2016."

This is the 11th year of the

awards and the Cork players were among 14 sports stars nominated for the 2015 title.

Meanwhile, 16-year old Noelle Lenihan from Milford near Charleville was presented with her award for October following her silver medal at the IPC Paralympic World Championships in Doha.

This was Danielle's first year competing internationally and to come out of it with a world silver - she was only beaten by reigning Paralympic champion Na Mi of China - was a phenomenal achievement. Danielle's next target will be Rio next September.

One of Ireland's greatest runners, Catherine McKiernan was

presented with the Outstanding Contribution to Women's Sport 2015 Award.

Guest of honour Tánaiste Joan Burton congratulated all the award winners on their magnificent sporting achievements and wished them continued success into the future.

"Each and every one of them is a role model and an inspiration. They have given us all many moments to cherish and to celebrate. They have left us with some great sporting memories and have helped to lift the spirits of the nation."

"I'd also like to congratulate *The Irish Times* and Sport Ireland for

organising the awards. They have gone from strength to strength, and women's sport in this country is doing likewise."

Kieran Mulvey, Chairman of Sports Ireland said: "The continued success of Irish sport is so important for the country in terms of recognition, reputation and morale. It is the dedication and commitment of all our athletes, their coaches and support teams that put Ireland on the map in such a positive way. Sport Ireland is proud to be part of today's awards which recognises the incredible contribution of Irish women in sport."



The Irish Times Sport Ireland 'Sportswoman of the Year Award 2015' presentations, pictured were Cork Stars Noelle Lenihan (Paralympics Discus) with Rena Buckley and Brieghe Corkery (Camogie and Gaelic football). Photo by Nick Bradshaw



County champions: Rose Desmond (right) presenting a county medal to Frances Deasy, of the junior A camogie team.



Ladies in red: Rose Desmond (right) presenting a county medal to Suzanne Deasy, captain of the junior A camogie team.



Cork Camogie players, from left, Rena Buckley, Aoife Murray and Aisling Thompson, whose team was nominated for the RTE Sports Team of the Year award, at the RTE Sports Awards.  
Photo by Piaras Ó Midheach / Sportstime



## Sars are back at the top table

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

SARSFIELD Camogie ticked another box on their return to senior A status for 2016 after landing County B championship honours.

The road to the top ranks in Cork is long and the bends acute but Sarsfield are delighted after adding to the intermediate grade won in 2014. Back to back county titles confirms the conviction and energy paraded by the side that earned recognition at the monthly Glanmire Business, Community and Sports Awards at a function hosted in the Fitzgeralds Vienna Woods Hotel.

Having reformed in 1969, Sars enjoyed success before lean years followed either side of the millennium.

However the emergence of a strong underage structure under the perseverance and foresight of Maria Dinan and Marie Kearney, helped by the mushrooming numbers in Glanmire ensured a healthy growing underage structure.

And with a conveyor belt of talented young players coming through, dividends followed at U14/16 and minor level.

Driving forces behind the scenes Bryan O'Leary and Tadhg Óg Lynch steered the club to phenomenal success last season with major silverware in the Intermediate, Minor A and U16A championship categories in addition to reaching a Munster Club Final.

Captain Claire Holland expressed delight on a triumphant path maintained in 2015, the excellent facilities within the club has also mirrored the Sars hurlers dominance for much of the past decade.

"We were back training last January and gave it everything at Senior B.

"To win county titles back to back was special, something the Sars' hurlers haven't been able to do so, that's one up on them but no doubt, Sars' hurlers will be back," quipped Claire.

And the captain spoke of the challenges that lay ahead on elevating to senior A ranks yet they are grounds for optimism after bettering Mallow in the Senior B final.

"It will allow us focus on new challenges, everybody realises the dedication that's required, even more than that pushed us over the line towards lifting co. intermediate and senior B titles over the past two years," she said.

Deputy Lord Mayor Cllr Mick Nugent and Deputy Co. Mayor, Cllr. Deirdre Forde congratulated Sarsfield on their consistent rate of success. Michael Magner, Fitzgeralds Vienna Woods Hotel and Gillian Grimes, Chairperson, Sars Camogie hailed the attributes of players and managements for their dedication and promotion of the game.

## PAST PUPIL MEADBH INSPIRES PUPILS



Scoil an Athair Maitiú past-pupil, Meadbh Cahalane, on right, celebrates with Mary O'Connor after defeating Galway in the All-Ireland final. Recently she visited the school with the O'Duffy Cup.

## Camogie star brings O'Duffy Cup to her former school

STUDENTS from Scoil an t-Athair Maitiú were recently visited by Meadbh Cahalane, a past-pupil of the school.

Meadbh is a sister to two of the present pupils and a member of the Cork camogie All-Ireland winning team.

She paid a visit to her old school with the O'Duffy Cup.

Principal Karen O'Sullivan explained: "Meadbh visited us before the All Ireland and we wished her well on that date with a promise to return to us with the cup should they be victorious so she fulfilled

that promise on this visit.

"She spoke to the Toghur Girls and Boys school of the dedication required to make it to a county team and the enjoyment of being part of the team. We are very proud of her and her sporting success."

DEC. 2015



## CAMOGIE PLAYER OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

### AOIFE CASSIDY (Slaughtneil)

Aoife Cassidy was one of the stars of the show as Slaughtneil maintained their grip on the Derry title, despite some extremely formidable challenges, before giving Loughgiel a real run of it in Ulster. Although they succumbed to a second successive provincial final defeat at the hands of their Antrim opponents, Cassidy certainly could not be faulted as she gave her all for the Slaughtneil cause, maintaining the high standards of performance with which she has been synonymous over recent years. She's a hallmark of consistency, effort, and no shortage of skill, and would be one of the first names on the teamsheet for any club in the country.



### CAITRIN DOBBIN (Loughgiel Shamrocks)

She might be only 18 years old, but Caitrin Dobbin has already proven herself to be one of the hottest young properties in Ulster camogie. This season saw her establish herself as a real leader in the Shamrocks attack, winning possession and more often than not also on hand to hit the crucial scores as her side marched to another Antrim and Ulster Championship double. Playing alongside a host of established household names in what is a stellar Loughgiel line-up, the young attacker was far from fazed, and instead embraced the opportunity to give the province a glimpse of what this exciting young talent is capable of.

### CIARA DONNELLY (Eglish)

She may play her club camogie in Tyrone and her county camogie for Armagh, but there is no doubting her allegiances when Ciara Donnelly pulls on the Eglish camogie shirt. She starred as Eglish turned in a huge performance to blow away the challenge of Liatroim in the provincial Intermediate Championship semi-final in what was a landmark victory for the Tyrone outfit, as they booked their place in another provincial decider. Always in the thick of the action, Donnelly is the heartbeat of an Eglish side who continue to grow on the provincial stage. Another hugely impressive Championship from a proven campaigner of real quality.



## Munster Colleges & Cork Colleges Senior Finals Fixtures

MUNSTER COLLEGES & CORK COLLEGES SENIOR FINALS FIXTURES  
JANUARY 7TH



A busy weekend of 2nd level activity ahead!

A busy weekend indeed for our students with a feast of Camogie to look forward to! NEWS

Munster Colleges Senior A Final: Saturday 9th January @ 12.30pm in Ahane GAA Club (Limerick)

Presentation Thurles (Tipperary) v St. Josephs Tulla (Clare)

Munster Colleges Senior B Final: Saturday 9th January @ 1pm in Raheenagh GAA Club (Limerick)

Scoil na Tríonoide Naofa Doon (Limerick) v Hazelwood College (Limerick)

Munster Colleges Senior C Final: Sunday 10th January @ 1pm. Venue TBC

Carrigaline Community School (Cork) v Colaiste na Phairsigh (Cork)

Munster Colleges Senior D Final: Saturday 9th January. @ 1.30pm Ardmore GAA Club (Waterford).

Colaiste an Chroí Naofa Carrignavar (Cork) v St. Augustine's College Dungarvan (Waterford)

Rescheduled Fixture:

Cork Colleges Senior A Final: Friday 8th January at 2.30pm in The Cork Camogie Grounds, Castle Road, Mahon. (POSTPONED) Unplayable pitch.

Coachford College v St. Mary's Charleville.

## The death has occurred of Veronica FEELY

Marino, Dublin



Feely, Veronica (Marino) – 5th January, 2016, peacefully at the Mater Hospital, much loved sister of Joan, Brian, Jim and the late Ann. Veronica will be sadly missed by Paddy, her brothers and sister, nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews, extended family, friends and neighbours.

Reposing at the Kirwan Funeral Home, Fairview Strand with removal on Thursday evening to the Church of St. Vincent de Paul, Marino arriving at 5.45pm. Funeral on Friday morning after 11.30am Requiem Mass to Glasnevin Crematorium. Family flowers only please.

"May she rest in peace"





Cork manager Paudie Murray with the team in Semple Stadium for their Senior Camogie Championship quarter-final against Tipperary in August. Cork won by 13 points on their way to retaining the All-Ireland. Picture: James Crombie

# ‘We are by no means the finished article, but we’ve come a long way’

**P**audie Murray is unable to stand in the middle of the dressing room. It bothers him. A quarter of an hour out from Cork’s national league semi-final and Murray’s focus, along with that of his players, is distracted by the stream of water pouring through the centre of the dressing-room ceiling.

On a wet Sunday at Kilmallock in April 2013, the Cork senior camogie team edged past Clare to secure their place in the league decider. Not a single drop of hot water is to be got from their



Greater equality for players — not just silverware — is what drives Cork camogie boss Paudie Murray, who tells **Eoghan Cormican** why things have got to change

did a fair bit of it myself when I came in first. But I am not so sure now. I think the majority of referees go out to do a good job. The problem is that the current rules make life very difficult on them. They have to bring the rules back towards hurling. *The Camogie Assoc*

Not exactly the exposure Murray was referring to. “Camogie has to come under the GAA umbrella. If camogie and ladies football were under the one umbrella then there would be no more of these fixture clashes.

because the players expect and demand certain standards. It has gone full circle. We have girls coming to team meetings now with notepads whereas I remember going to a meeting a number of years ago, there was a speaker in and

are looking at a close to 15% improvement.

“We had to be patient and give the new girls a chance. If we went out in the first championship game and Orla Cronin is getting cleaned at centre-forward.



return to the dressing room and so, aside from the handful of players brave enough to endure a cold shower, the majority slump onto the team bus cold, damp, and dreary.

The Cork manager cuts a disgruntled figure on the journey home. He simply cannot make peace with the second-class treatment of camogie's elite.

His sister Aoife has been Cork's first-choice goalkeeper since 2004 and while he'd have heard from her the odd tale or two before taking up the position of manager in the winter of 2011, it wasn't until staring down at the pool of water gathering at his feet in the Kilmallock dressing room that he fully appreciated what inter-county camogie players have come to expect as the norm.

Sipping on his americano during lunch hour in the Kudos restaurant of the Clarion Hotel, Paudie Murray casts an eye over his four years as Cork boss.

First mention is not of back-to-back All-Ireland glory, rather his disappointment at how little has changed in the treatment of the game's elite players and the below-par standards accepted by top-brass.

He's lost count of the number of times he's turned into a venue for a league game only to be greeted by "half a foot of grass" inside four poorly drawn white lines. Even more galling, he remarks, is that referees are not obliged to bring their own linesmen for round-robin league fixtures.

The Cloughduv native has been involved with the Cork intermediate side for the past two years and there has hardly been a single match, league or championship, where neutral linesmen were in place.

One intermediate championship game from the 2014 campaign continues to bug him. Two linesmen were plucked from outside the fence minutes before throw in. Over the hour, two contentious line balls were contested; a 'home decision' given on both occasions. Cork lost by a point.

This year's All-Ireland senior final was blotted by 28 frees. The decider produced 23 scores; less than half of which arrived from open play. Cork may have departed Jones Rd with the O'Duffy Cup again resting on the front of the team bus, but Murray has no qualms in admitting it was a poor game, a poor advertisement for the sport.

The All-Ireland final is one of three camogie matches broadcast live on television each year and so, for the majority of GAA enthusiasts, their opinion of the game is based around the 60 minutes they are treated to on September's second Sunday.

Murray wants more championship games broadcast live, but first port of call, he says, must be a dramatic redrawing of the rulebook. This 'no contact' concept infuriates him.

"The rules are farcical," he remarks, straightening in his chair. "Granted, people will give out about referees and I

action has gone down the road where they are trying to bring in non-contact. Now, when you have 15 on 15 on a pitch, with sticks, well then there has to be contact. It is just impossible not to have contact.

"The way referees are assessed has to be looked at too. I can't understand, with the technology they have today, that every game isn't videoed and then shown to the referee afterwards as opposed to bringing in an assessor who marks the referee during a match. It is only when you sit down and watch the game back that you see the things you missed.

"The All-Ireland final was a bad game. The referee did a good job within the rules, but the rules are wrong. You are either going to go completely non-contact or you are going to let the game flow.

"Take the All-Ireland semi-final, now that was a cracking game, with plenty of flow. But sure, who saw it? Only the couple hundred that were there. There is a serious problem there. The game needs more exposure. They are going to have to start pumping more money into the promotion of the game."

**C**amogie, calling a spade a spade, rarely finds itself on the back page or at the top of the radio bulletin, and yet three times this summer, much to Murray's dismay, and many more along with him, the Camogie Association was thrust front and centre.

First, there was the furore over the staging of Cork's All-Ireland championship encounter against Offaly and the county's Munster ladies football final against Kerry on the same day, forcing Rena Buckley and Brieghe Corkery to play two games in the space of five hours.

There followed the coin toss controversy involving Clare and Dublin; not forgetting of course the decision of the Wexford County Board to appeal the result of their All-Ireland semi-final defeat based on a contentious '45 and their anger at the six-minutes of injury time played.



Joanne O'Callaghan was one of Paudie Murray's finest players but has quit the scene. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

"I am a member of the St Finbarr's club and we are all one up there. When it comes to fundraising, the ladies side normally bring in the main chunk. And yet we are separating them at national level.

"I have two daughters growing up at the moment. They have a local outlet to play which wasn't there in a lot of places 20 years ago. If there was a small bit of effort put into it, it could be boom-time for camogie as it is a great game to play. It is quite cheap to play too. I have a daughter in gymnastics. Now, that's expensive."

What bothers him, though, more than fixture clashes, a stone-age rulebook, poor television coverage, absent linesman, and cold showers is that camogie players tolerate the second-class treatment. "Go back to the league semi-final in Kilmallock, a big game, and there was literally water pouring through the roof. That is acceptable to the girls. They know no different.

"No one will give you respect. You have to get it. How can you get it if you tolerate that?"

"I brought that to the attention of someone in Croke Park and they did nothing about it. We have gone into pitches where the grass is a half a foot long and it is considered acceptable.

"The issue with linesmen is acceptable by Croke Park because surely they have to know what is going on. It is something that I have raised on a couple of occasions and nothing has been done about it. It is unfair on the girls."

Standards. High standards, rather. It is the sole currency Paudie Murray deals in. He knows his position, though. He is a manager, not an administrator. The standards he has focused on improving over the past four years have been exclusively confined to the Cork camogie panel. As he says himself, they were in desperate need of attention when he stepped into the job in December of 2011.

Cork had not lifted the O'Duffy Cup since 2009. A two-year absence from the toptable hardly represented a crisis. But in Cork, it constituted a famine.

To put it into perspective, one would have to return to the 1985-86 deciders to locate successive finals which did not involve the red and white.

The team's confidence had lagged, preparation was poor, expectation was low, and the collective attitude was simply indifferent. This wasn't the Cork with which he had seen Aoife win four All-Irelands.

"We laugh about it now, but we had girls going to concerts on the night before championship matches.

"We had girls coming to training with one hurley, coming to championship games with one hurley. And if they had two hurleys, the second one was pulled out of the bag, was way too heavy for them, and no grip on it.

"We have come to a situation now where the pressure is on me to deliver

two players nudged each other saying 'we have heard all this before'. That wouldn't happen today.

"Take a typical midweek training; Orla Cotter will be there 40 minutes beforehand practising her frees. That didn't happen four-years ago.

"There wasn't a whole pile of them doing gym work four years ago. They are all doing it now. We are by no means the finished article, but they have come a long way."

Murray recalls one training session in Castle Road where a gale-force wind made hurling next to impossible. Those unfortunate enough to have to play into the elements were making little or no ground when striking.

"Aoife came over and had a right go at management. We told her we didn't control the weather, but this was the kind of standards they had now reached. They wanted everything perfect."

Said mentality contributed to the All-Ireland final win over Kilkenny in 2013, but the stampede to the departure lounge in the subsequent months meant there weren't many predicting a second O'Duffy Cup during his tenure.

When the revolving door eventually ground to a halt last May, the Murray Browne Auctioneers employee had lost six of his finest troops.

First off the carousel were Jenny O'Leary and Joanne O'Callaghan. Once the final whistle had sounded on the 2013 final win, Murray knew he had seen the last of the long-serving pair. Sara Hayes was third to announce her retirement in the days after the final. Then came the conversation with Angela Walsh in November where the dual star revealed she was pregnant with her first child and so would be sitting out the 2014 campaign.

With the right corner-back slot and two positions in the half-forward line to be filled, Murray cast the net far and wide for the following year's league. Starting positions were handed to relative newcomers Lauren Callanan, Leanne O'Sullivan, Méabh Cahalane, and Amy O'Connor.

The new-look side fought their way to a league final, but had been found out by half-time; 2-10 to 0-5 they trailed Galway. Two days later and All-Ireland-winning captain Anna Geary was gone. The retiring group had reached six by the close of May with Joanne Casey, a nurse at CUH, unable to commit.

A week out from their opening All-Ireland championship encounter in mid-June and 2013 final player of the match Eimear O'Sullivan ruptured her posterior cruciate ligament.

"There was no point panicking. What was there to be gained from panicking," asks Murray.

"If you were a betting man, though, and were looking at all the players leaving and the young, inexperienced players replacing them, you would say it is going to be extremely difficult.

"I looked at it from the point of view that if each of these new players could improve by 1% in each match come the quarter-final, then we'd have a chance.

"By that stage, you'd have four championship games, two Munster championship games, and six league games under their belt. That is 12 games so you

the worst thing you could do is take Orla Cronin off. If you are going through a bad patch, that player might want to get taken off. They could be saying in their head, 'Will he ever take me out of my misery?' If you leave her on, though, she has to either figure her way out of it or continue to allow herself be cleaned. That is the way I viewed it. I didn't panic."

The loss of so many experienced players rang true in the group stages as Cork emerged second-best against

both Galway and Wexford. The 0-13 to 0-10 defeat to Wexford at Riverstown in mid-July turned their season.

"I did say to them at the start of the year that it takes a very good team to retain an All-Ireland because most teams who fail to string back-to-back All-Irelands fail because of a lack of hunger. That is a mental thing more than anything else. I questioned after the Wexford game if the hunger was there, if the real desire was there. We all spoke about this after the Wexford game."

Murray received his answer in the three knock-out games that followed; Tipperary, Kilkenny, and Galway put away by margins of 13, 9, and 7 points respectively. Cork's stay atop camogie's summit extended.

**F**rom the All-Ireland matchday squad, 10 of the 14 subs sitting in the Hogan Stand were in their first year with the panel. On the field, Leanne O'Sullivan, Méabh Cahalane, Orla Cronin, Hannah Looney, and Amy O'Connor were playing in their first All-Ireland final. Not bad for a team supposedly in transition.

"The transition phase was overcome by a weekend we spent in Spike Island between league and championship.

"With the way things have gone, you get your senior players showing up for training on a Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Of the two hours they are training, the girls are probably talking for 10 minutes of them two hours. The getting-to-know period is very small. When you are inside in a tent on a cold Spike Island for 12 hours and the life probably frightened out of you before you go to bed because you have just been told you'll be marching the island at a very late hour, you wouldn't be long in getting to know people then."

Given Cork haven't achieved the three-in-a-row since '72, will Paudie Murray hang around for 2016? Then again, one Murray has already announced her retirement from the inter-county scene. Could another be tempted to follow suit?

"The level of time and workrate that goes into this is pretty extraordinary. I am looking at the championship draws and the likelihood is that I will have 10 weekends on the trot from the middle of June to the middle of August, if we keep winning. That is 10 weekends in a bus going somewhere. That doesn't give you much time for family life. Then you have those 6am starts on the exercise bike where the television is on in front of you and you are studying videos of the team and the opposition. It is pretty relentless. There is a three-in-a-row there and that is the carrot. I talk to the girls about loyalty. It mightn't be so great if I walked away."



Hannah Looney, one of the new faces on the Cork team.



# Mighty Milford show

## CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

ONCE again the Evening Echo showed huge support as they came on board with the sponsorship of all the adult camogie championship competitions and Castle Road proved vital for hosting matches, a ground kept in top condition by Joe Quinn.

At senior level, champions Milford entered the race bidding to make it four-in-a-row. Many thought they were a bit vulnerable, as they were almost caught in the semi final last year by Douglas.

With the city club lifting the league title at the expense of Inniscarra in early May they looked the side best equipped to have a rattle off the champions. But it didn't happen and no one truly got close to Milford.

They got their campaign off to a winning start as they overcame St Finbarr's but not without a stern test, six points separating the sides at the full time whistle.

St Catherine's overcame Ballinhassig, Douglas held off the challenge of Ballincollig, Inniscarra defeated Courcye Rovers and Carbery defeated Killeagh.

Newly promoted Ballygarvan, along with Cloughduv and Glen Rovers, were dealt killer blows when divisional sides Seandún, Imokilly and Carrighoun failed to field, throwing the first rounds into disarray.

The three club sides were then put into a draw in a separate group with two winning teams, St Catherine's and Milford, and one losing team, Courcye's, with no second chance at that point. Milford defeated Glen Rovers and St Catherine's overcame Ballygarvan.

Meanwhile, the four remaining losers from round one played off with Ballincollig holding off a strong Ballinhassig challenge and Killeagh accounting for St Finbarr's.

The quarter-finals produced some excellent games. Carbery made St Catherine's fight to the finish before the Saints made it to the last four. Milford overcame Ballincollig, Inniscarra proved too strong for Killeagh, and Douglas held off the challenge of Cloughduv.

With Orla Cotter in superb form.



Maria Walsh, Milford, closes in on Orla Cotter, St Catherine's, who was outstanding all season, in the county final.

Picture: Jim Coughlan.



Louise O'Regan, Douglas, breaks through the Ballincollig defence during the Cork Senior Camogie Championship game.

Picture: Denis Scannell



Killeagh's Chloe Sigerson shoots as St Finbarr's Erin Ryan closes in during the Evening Echo Senior Camogie clash at Castle Road.

Picture: Eddie O'Han



# no signs of relenting



**WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS:** Milford celebrate their win over St Catherine's in the 2014 county final. They were on top again this season, retaining the title to make it four-in-a-row.

Picture: Jim Coughlan

driving her side on, St Catherine's upset the predictions to defeat Douglas.

Milford were on fire as they issued a statement of intent in their nine point's semi final winning margin over Inniscarra and so the scene was set for the final.

The opening 10 minutes were close as St Catherine's squandered a few chances and it was Emer Watson and Marie O'Neill who settled the champions with points.

Orla Cotter got one back for the challengers but, in a move which opened up the St Catherine's defence totally, O'Neill gave a perfectly timed

hand pass to Emer Watson who found the net and from here on it was a game of catch up for St Catherine's.

Cotter's close-in free brought a few gasps as it almost caught the Milford defence asleep 13 minutes in and had the Saints managed a goal at this early stage it would have boosted their hopes.

Despite playing their hearts out Catherine's could not break down a solid Milford defence and it is a reflection of their dominance that all but one of St Catherine's points came from frees.

Aine Watson, Anna Geary and Elaine O'Riordan were strong under

every ball and St Catherine's could never get enough ball to their inside line.

Cork captain Aisling Thompson larded it at midfield, ably assisted by Orlaith O'Mahony, but this was no reflection on Orla Cotter's efforts.

O'Neill notched up four second-half points but contributed enormously setting up Watson for the opening goal.

Minor player Laura Stack replaced Sarah Sexton in the starting 15 as the captain was unable to start due to an injury and the youngster was superb.

Maria Walsh was strong and

confident while alongside her Christine O'Connor worked hard and kept the ball moving.

At half time, Milford looked comfortable with a six-point lead and early in the second-half they effectively closed the game out with five points on the trot before Marie Watson added their second goal.

It's a sign of good champions that despite a complete new management team they continue to be hugely successful.

Last season two All-Ireland campaigns in a row finally took their toll and they lost out at semi-final stages.

Now the focus is on Oulart-the Ballagh and winning themselves a place in the All-Ireland Club final.

Are they good enough to do it again? Oulart will test them to their limits but this is a side on mission. The good times are set to continue.

On the local front it's up to the rest of the clubs to rise to their standards, which don't look like dropping any time soon.

**Senior Team of the Year:** Milford.

**Championship Player of the Year:** Orla Cotter, St Catherine's.

**Young Player to Watch:** Championship: Laura Stack, Milford.



**Katrina Mackey, Douglas looks for a way past St Catherine's half-back Maeve O'Keeffe, in the county semi-final.**

Picture: Larry Cummins



**Samma Long, Douglas, blocks Sinead O'Callaghan, Ballincollig, during their tie in Ballinlough. It was one of the games of the year.**

Picture: Denis Scannell



# BRIEGE MEETS HER MATCH



Pupils from the nearby Rusheen NS congratulate the newlyweds.

MARIA HERLIHY

THE Cork Camogie and Ladies' football star, Brieghe Corkery walked down the aisle with Diarmuid Scannell last Friday and was greeted with an overspill of guests and many of her fans from her local GAA club at Rusheen.

The service, which started at 12.30pm and finished up at approximately 2.30pm in the full to capacity church, was live streamed at the nearby Rusheen GAA Club to facilitate to overflow.

Brieghe and Denis were also treated to a guard of honour by her Cork colleagues before the bride and groom headed for the Rochestown Park Hotel.

Brieghe who is the holder of 16 All Ireland medals - 10 for football and six for camogie was congratulated throughout the day on her nuptials.

After the couple return home from their honeymoon in Dubai, Brieghe who is a qualified stonemason will gear up for another busy year - milking 500 cows a day. Recently, Brieghe said with a smile that "mornings are a killer."

She said both her and Denis have ventured into the New Zealand style of farming - share milking. She explained the farmer is given a percentage of the milk cheque but pays a percentage of the bills across the farm



The newly weds emerge smiling.

Photos: John Delea



Groomsmen & Bridesmaids for the wedding of Brieghe and Diarmuid at St John The Baptist Church, Rusheen.

## Record-breaker Brieghe finally meets her match



Brieghe Corkery, the Cork GAA star and record-breaker, shares a kiss with Diarmuid Scannell following their wedding in Rusheen yesterday. The church was full to capacity and the wedding was streamed live to the nearby GAA club.

Picture: John Delea

Tony Leen

Record-breaking dual GAA star Brieghe Corkery kick-started 2016 as she finished last year - with a big match.

The Cork camogie and ladies football star wedded Diarmuid Scannell in her local St John the Baptist Church in Rusheen yesterday with an overspill of guests watching the ceremony on a streamed feed into the local GAA club.

Corkery, 29, made history in September with Rena Buckley by claiming a 16th All-Ireland winners medal, 10 for football and six for camogie.

A guard of honour, formed by her Cork colleagues, greeted the couple as they left Rusheen church in Mid-Cork for a lavish reception in the Rochestown Park Hotel.

Diarmuid and Brieghe will honeymoon in Dubai before she turns her thoughts to another season of dual commitments with Cork. "I'll see what happens," she admitted recently. "If I'm not playing well in one code, I might stick to the other."

Images: GAA



# Brilliant Buckley wins Muskerry GAA Supreme Sports Star award

## Cork ladies' GAA ace hails Eamonn Ryan's influence

BY KIERAN MCCARTHY

THE newly crowned Muskerry Supreme Sports Star of the Year, Rena Buckley, and her Cork football teammates have a new challenge this year: to win an All-Ireland senior title without Eamonn Ryan.

The legendary Cork ladies' manager stepped down from the role late last year to take up a position as selector with the Rebel men's footballers, bringing an end to his reign that oversaw ten All-Ireland ladies' football wins in 11 years.

'We knew that Eamonn couldn't stay training us forever and that this day would come. We knew we'd have to move on at some stage,' Rena told *The Southern Star*.

'He has given us so much on and off the field over the years, and we are grateful for the time he gave us for so long. I'd like to wish him the very best.

'The challenge now is to win an All-Ireland without Eamonn. It's a big challenge and hopefully we will be up to it.'

Last Saturday night, the dual Cork camogie and ladies' football star was crowned Muskerry Supreme Sports Star of the Year after her exploits in 2015 that saw her win All-Ireland senior medals in both codes, bringing her total haul to a record 16, which she shares with dual teammate Briege Corkery – the inaugural winner of this Muskerry GAA award last year.

'It's a great award to receive and I'm delighted with it,' Rena said.

'This is the second year that this award has been handed out, and Briege won it last year,

so it's amazing to think that two females have won the award. It's a huge honour and it was a great occasion.

'It's nice to win an award like this, especially when it's at home and it's where you have grown up, where you live, where you work and where your life is.'

Rena received a standing ovation from the huge crowd of over 400 people at these Auld Triangle and Muskerry GAA awards. Also on the night, the 2015 Muskerry hurling and football teams were honoured.



Simply the best: Rena Buckley, Inniscarra and Cork camogie, Donoughmore and Cork ladies' football, was chosen as the Muskerry GAA/Auld Triangle Supreme Sports Star for 2015 at a gala awards evening at the Oriel Hotel, Ballincollig. Included here are her parents, Helen and Tim, and sister, Mary. (Photo: Mike Fritsch)



## Sports stars tie the knot

TWO Cork sporting stars walked down the aisle yesterday. Left: Cork football and camogie star, Briege Corkery, one of the most decorated GAA players of all time, married Diarmuid Scannell in Rusheen.

## ASHBOURNE 2016 KICKS OFF THIS WEEK

Posted by: sportswoman on 28th November 2015 in Camogie, Latest News  
Comments: 0 on Ashbourne 2016 kicks off this week

Share This:

by Ann Marie Guinan

The pinnacle of the third level camogie calendar begins this week as the top tier camogie teams set their sights on their bid for the Ashbourne Cup.

The first game of round one sees Mary Immaculate College take on University College Dublin in Mary Immaculate Sports grounds. MIC will be going into this game very eagerly as their fresher counterparts were crowned All-Ireland Champions last week and will be sure to feature a number of this up and coming stars. The Limerick side also won two of their league campaign games against UCC and NUIG. Taking on MIC, UCD ran a poor league campaign only winning one of their three games over their neighbours DIT. Freshly promoted from Purcell cup MIC will be hoping for a victory given their new Ashbourne status while UCD will be keen to show the new kids on the block the jump in standard at the top tier.

Wednesday hosts the remaining three games of round one. UCC host NUIG in Mardyke Park in the first game of the evening at 6:30pm. During their league campaign both UCC and NUIG meet in round 3 as the Cork side registered a huge scoreline of 8-13 to 0-13 and will be hoping for a similar victory on Wednesday evening. UCC ended mid-table from their league campaign with victories over NUIG and 2015 Ashbourne Champions WIT. NUIG have yet to register a win for the Connaught side. The Galway college will be hoping for their first win of the year as they host the Ashbourne 2016 weekend away.

The second game of the evening welcomes DCU to WIT as the 2015 winners aim to retain their crown as Ashbourne champions. WIT ended their league campaign in second place of group 2 after a shock UCC win prevented the Waterford side to progress further in the league. DCU ended bottom of their table in group 1 and will be determined to get a win under their belt after the Dublin college managed a single win over their neighbours UCD.

In final game of the night, University Limerick will take on Ulster University Jordanstown in a neutral venue of Ballykelly GAA grounds in Kildare. An unbeaten UL will be hoping to continue their winning streak as the League finalists are strong contenders for the Ashbourne title. Building on their success at also reaching the Fresher All-Ireland final, UL will also hope to factor in some of these new talented players. UUJ narrowly missed out on UL's league final spot as UCD cut their hopes for a league final spot mid-November and will be hoping to get off to a winning start against the 2015 Ashbourne finalists.

Keep up to date with match results and fixtures by liking CCAO - 3rd Level Camogie on Facebook or following us on Twitter @3rdlevelcamogie

## 2015 WEST CORK SPORTS STAR AWARDS



Future star: Talented camogie player Claire Sexton, winner of the February monthly award for her exploits with Sacred Heart Secondary School in Clonakilty, pictured with her parents Michael and Finola Sexton, grandmother May Sexton, Eoin Sexton and Evan Shorten at the West Cork Sports Star awards night.



A great occasion: All-Ireland winning Cork camogie star Orla Cronin (centre), winner of the September monthly award, pictured with her parents Bernie and Humphrey, Daniel Cronin and Karl Preston at the annual Celtic Ross West Cork Sports Star of the Year awards last Saturday night. (Photos: George Maguire)



JAN. 2016

# Jennifer O'Leary

The voice of experience tackles the topics that matter



## Gemma is the toughest of all

Our eight-time camogie All-Star columnist ranks her top ten hardest opponents

IT'S a new year, but he's the same old hard taskmaster, as the Sports Edset another difficult task – to rank my top ten toughest opponents on the camogie field.

This got me thinking. A lot. Finally, I got there, but it was a difficult selection process.

Each player I have chosen individually stands out in my memory for various different reasons and each one made me slightly jealous that I didn't possess the calibre they displayed on the pitch.

I have played home, abroad and now up in the North, so there may be players you may not know yourself, but following my breakdown of why I dreaded playing against them, you will find yourself learning quite a lot about what they brought to the game and why they are to be admired.

### 10. Ciara Donnelly (Armagh/Eglish)

I only recently witnessed what this player can actually do on the pitch. Ciara is a member of the Eglish team from Tyrone but plays county camogie with Armagh. We played her club in a challenge game last year a few times and marking her at midfield position was a very difficult task. She could score effortlessly from just inside the halfway mark and could win a game all on her own.

Her speed, her ability to lift her team's performance and her sheer determination really impressed me. She's a name you will hear in the future as Armagh strives to achieve junior All-Ireland honours this year.

### 9. Keira Kinahan Murphy (Kilkenny/Sydney Central Coast)

I played alongside Keira in University of Limerick and we won two Ashbourne camogie titles together but when I wasn't playing with her, I had to mark her as we were often paired up in college training. She has pace, athleticism, natural skill and was a very clever marker that could easily dispose a forward.

Keira also played with Kilkenny seniors for a number of years and we found ourselves often clashing and tackling each other.

Her desire to travel in her early 20s led her to Australia to play with the Sydney Central Coast team. For a year I, again, got the pleasure of playing alongside Keira, but alas we were once again face to face against each other in training, this time in the scorching heat. I can't say I enjoyed these battles

but one thing I can safely say is she pushed me to my limit and improved my game. She is a good friend and is definitely flying the camogie flag high in Australia with her brilliant style of play.

### 8. Sile Burns (Cork/Barryroe)

My lucky number eight and a name you are all familiar with. She was a stalwart of Cork camogie and an excellent footballer also. Sile will laugh when I say she inflicted a lot of pain on my former club Barryroe, but that was before she thankfully joined us in 2012 – a day that really enriched the community of Barryroe in so many ways.

Sile was a terror to play against and could individually win a game for her former club Rockbáin with relative ease. There was one particular game where we played Rockbáin in the championship and she scored at least four goals in quick succession at full forward. No matter what we did as a team we couldn't counteract the powerhouse that is Sile Burns.

Proficient off her left and right side she can strike a ball brilliantly and her strength on the ball itself means that she is rarely dispossessed.

### 7. Pamela Mackey (Cork/Douglas)

Pam is a famous twin and a fiercely determined player who lives for the game. While I played alongside Pam for Cork she was always someone who trained hard and there always seemed to be a friendly competition between herself and her twin sister Katrina. They pushed each other, marked each other and paired up together as much as they were allowed to get away with. They were a great influence on each other.

Pam is a back who rarely gives you a chance to even get a sniff on the ball because of her pace and her touch-tight system of marking. When playing against her at club level she rarely allowed a high scoreline to tot up against her. She is a consistent player with more to come for Cork and club.

### 6. Claire Grogan (Tipperary/Cashel)

Claire is a player who has gone down in history as being one of the youngest to ever play at senior inter-county level – she was just 14 years of age when she made her debut with the

Tipperary senior team. She was a part of the Tipp squad who experienced a dominant period in the late 1990s, early 2000s and she certainly was a player I admired.

She had it all: physicality, a natural carrier of the ball, intelligent in play and an excellent free taker. She had the raw ability to destroy her opposition and notch up many scores from her centre half forward position. While she retired at a relatively young age she will remain a name well known in camogie circles.

### 5. Joanne O'Callaghan (Cork/Cloughduv)

I can safely say that I know Joanne's style of play like the back of my hand. The amount of games we played together, against each other at club level, the

number of times we trained together and the many conversations we have had about camogie must now run into thousands!

Yet, despite my knowledge of how she plays with her sticky marking, her amazing fast feet on the training ladders and her lightning touch on the ball, it didn't allow me to get the better of her as she marked me on endless occasions. I know she despised marking me but I can tell you I detested being marked by her.

She didn't give you an inch and it was infuriating because she was so nice about it as well. If she hit you a knock by accident she would apologise!

### 4. Jill Horan (Tipperary/Cashel)

Now a face you see featuring on *The Sunday Game* commenting on camogie, Jill was a brilliant player who lit up the camogie field with her classy play in midfield and forward lines. She had a fantastic change of pace and fooled opponents with her dummies and shimmies to avoid being dispossessed.

I often saw her tearing defences wide open with her speed and effortless control of the sliotar. She played with Tipperary in their glory days and captained her county in 2011.

### 3. Therese Maher (Galway/Athenry)

Therese was a formidable centre back who orchestrated her backline with sheer class. She ended her illustrious career on the biggest of highs when she finally achieved All-Ireland glory after 16 years of trying.

She was a player who improved year in year out and on her retirement she was the fittest I have ever seen her. Therese was a back any team would love to have in their arsenal

and I was delighted she finally won a senior All-Ireland final when they defeated Kilkenny in the 2013 final.

### 2. Kate Kelly (Wexford/St Ibars)

The list of accolades awarded to this Wexford inter-county star would amaze you. She is the complete athlete with incredible fitness, a motivated mind set and she exudes class when it comes to performing any skill in the camogie game.

Kate is also a well-known voice in the WPGA, which strives to make positive change and support for ladies football and camogie inter-county players.

She is someone I came into contact with many times in All-Ireland finals and at the height of championship seasons. She regularly received player of the match awards and most definitely always got her name on the scoreboard.

One skill that always left me mesmerised was her ability to strike long-range points on the run from the most awkward of angles. She will definitely go down as one of the greats.

### 1. Gemma O'Connor (Cork/St Finbarrs)

What can I say about this player that hasn't already been said? She makes me proud to be from Cork. She is not only a fantastic camogie player but a unique, one of a kind individual.

If you had Gemma on yo

ur team, you certainly had the best chance of winning but if against her – as I was many times at club level from underage level up – you certainly wouldn't forget it.

I think the first time I ever met Gemma was in her home pitch when we played her club in the league at U14 level. She was a name everyone was talking about afterwards. For someone so young she displayed excellent ability and never stopped running.

As each year progressed she got stronger, fitter, leaner and developed an inspirational way with words. At training, nobody wanted to be paired up against her as she was always going to beat you in a sprint, overwhelm you in a physical battle and the commitment to getting to a ball first was never mastered more than by her.

The 2015 Camogie Player of the Year is still producing top class camogie and there's plenty more gas in the



One of the greatest: Star columnist Jennifer O'Leary has picked Cork's Gemma O'Connor (pictured) as her toughest ever opponent.



# ANNA GEARY



## Ask not what your community can do for you but what you can do for it

Sport helps to develop a sense of connection, particularly in a small community and Corkman columnist **Anna Geary** believes such human interaction is increasingly important in our technology-driven world....

**A**S Van Morrison says: *'Oh my Mama told me, there'd be days like this.'*

On Saturday, November 3, 2012, history was made. Milford Senior Camogie Team were crowned Munster Club Champions. It was a great day, the greatest day of all for Milford Camogie Club, as we etched our name in the Hall of Fame.

Some 31 girls stood strong to claim their first Munster title and it's a stand out memory for me because we became only the fourth Cork team ever to achieve this feat, against the odds.

In less than ideal conditions, the gallant supporters from Milford came in their droves, to fly the blue and white flags in Latin, County Tipperary. It was a day where conditions made free-flowing hurling difficult but it was also a day when spirit, belief and heart shone bright.

I am not just talking about the people on the pitch, those off it were equally brilliant as our supporters pucked every ball with us that day. They acted like the 16th player on the pitch, driving the team with every cheer that echoed through the stand.

When I was tired and didn't want to chase my opponent,

visions of the banners, bunting and signage that decorated Milford village and surrounding areas, flashed in my mind. I thought of the effort put in by the community in preparation for this huge occasion.

That day was not just about cups and titles, it delved deeper than that. It was a day for the Milford parish and for all those who followed Milford Camogie. The players and management had invested a lot but so too had all the people of Milford, who stayed loyal when we were starved of trophies. It was their day too!

Four years on, after securing our fourth Munster title in recent months, I am still saying the same thing about our community.

Sport has obvious health and wellbeing benefits but it also, and crucially, helps to develop a sense of connection among people. Sport helps to bind families through shared experiences and shared achievements. Think of all the members of a community that get involved in training teams because their children or siblings play.

Whether you talk about tactics and team selections around the kitchen table or after Mass with friends, ultimately it gets people communicating.



Celebrating Milford's Senior Camogie Munster win

**I'M NOT JUST TALKING ABOUT THE PEOPLE ON THE PITCH, THOSE OFF IT WERE EQUALLY BRILLIANT AS OUR SUPPORTERS PUCKED EVERY BALL WITH US THAT DAY**

And in this technology driven world, where social media tempts and torments in equal amounts, human interaction is now more important than ever.

The GAA is the lifeblood of many communities throughout the country. As a friend of mine (from Kerry, of course) put it: "it's the alluring call of the leather ball" that gets us every time.

**S**PORT can give people something to cling to in times of hardship. It can evoke emotions of hope and positivity when teams are playing in their respective championships.

Every last sinew of what we are about in sport revolves around the debates, the predictions, the banter and the 'over

the ditch' rivalry.

Sport creates snippets of action to be dipped into while your children, or maybe grandchildren, are happily resting upon your knee, long after you hang up your boots.

You can give so much back just by wearing your parish colours, and if you ever get the honour of throwing on your county 'geansaí', the pride that

can be felt from your community will be palpable. They will feel a part of it, just by you being involved.

Never underestimate the impact you can make on your community just by playing sport.

Remember: Ask not what your community can do for you, but what you can do for your community.



# Rena celebrates 98 years young in Rylane

RENA CYCLED FROM KILGARVAN TO MACROOM AND BRED PIGS FOR SALE

MARIA HERLIHY

IT has been said the folk from the Kingdom are a hardy bunch. However, living in the Rebel county has obviously suited 98 year-old Rena Buckley, who marked the occasion by having a right little hooley in Rylane.

Rena, a proud Kerry woman, hails from Gurtlehard in Kilgarvan and she was born on January 1, 1918 in the same house as the father of the Bishop of Cork and Ross, Dr John Buckley.

On January 1 this year, Rena was delighted to have Bishop John Buckley along with a number of cousins from Kilgarvan celebrate her special day in Rylane. She was joined by seven of her eight children - Mary, Susan, Con, Diarmuid, Michael, Margaret and Tim as well as 20 of her 27 grandchildren.

Bishop Buckley complimented his cousin, Rena, on her long life, loyalty to her faith and dedication to her family and on looking so well on the night.

Also present was her granddaughter and namesake, Rena - who is the holder of 16 All Ireland medals.

With a smile, Rena who works as a physiotherapist told The Corkman that her grandmother is "a pure lady." She moved from Kilgarvan to Rylane in 1951 when she married

Jerry Buckley. She settled into farming life and was no stranger to hard work and raising a family. She had a special interest in raising and selling pigs.

"She has a great interest in people and some might say that it is like they are being interviewed once she gets going with the questions," laughed Rena, her grand-daughter.

"She would know all about her grandchildren and their friends and she would ask us how so and so is doing and she would remember everyone's names. In the last 10 years or so, she has become interested in TV and she reads the paper every day from cover to cover," Rena told The Corkman.

Rena is also a big fan of watching the news and the hard-hitting Judge Judy holds a special place in her heart.

Sprightly Rena always goes to mass and she goes back to Kilgarvan to attend funerals or other family occasions.

Coupled with keeping tabs on her grandchildren and family in Cork, astute Rena also keeps tabs on her cousins in her native Kilgarvan.

Tim Buckley, Rena's son told The Corkman that they have held a big party for their mother every year since she turned 80. He described his mother as a very hard worker and she has a willingness to pass on all her wisdom.



Bishop of Cork and Ross, Dr. John Buckley, meets his cousin, Mrs. Rena Buckley at her home in Rylane, Co. Cork on the occasion of her 98th Birthday. Also present was her granddaughter, also Rena, of Camogie and Gaelic Football fame. Picture: Mike English.

With a smile, Tim also said that his mom is "very astute with money." He explained that in the 1930s, Rena's father, Con Kelleher bought a shop in Castle Street in Macroom for his eldest daughter, Rena who was the youngest of six children would cycle from Kilgarvan to Macroom and bring eggs and butter with her. However, along the way, she got to know all the people on

the stretch of road. Rena has also played a key role in raising all of her 27 grandchildren.

Tim said his mother never drank and has always had great faith. "We have been enjoying the big family parties since my mother turned 80 as it gives the family a chance to get together and have a meal and a sing-song. Sure, my mother loves it," said Tim.

## Coachford beat St Mary's to secure special double

GAA: Coachford defeated fancied opponents St Mary's Charleville 1-11 to 1-3 at a windswept Mannix College to achieve an historic Cork Colleges Camogie Senior and Junior A double. Cloughduv star forward Niamh O'Leary contributed six points in an inspirational performance to ensure the Muskerry school brought home the Merriman Cup, a competition first held in 1918. Clara Ring, Aileen Hennessy and Katie

Verling dominated their full back line while Katie McCarthy was rock solid in cutting out any danger from the Avondhu school. Charleville captain Rebecca Noonan billowed the roof of the net just before full time for Charleville but the Muskerry school ran out eight-point winners.

Coachford: Katie Ward (C), Katie Verling, Aileen Hennessy, Clara Ring, Katie O'Sullivan, Katie McCarthy, Aileen Buckley, Megan McCarthy, Clara McCarthy, Rachel McElroy, Niamh O'Leary (0-6, 0-3 free), Marie O'Reilly, Aoife Twomey, Cliona Healy (0-3, 0-1 Free), Jenny Burke (0-1). Subs: Clara Twomey (1-0), Ellen Tarrant, Bronagh Hartnett, Tara Clifford, Kate.

Charleville: Chloe Keogh, Eimear Morrissey, Eimear O'Gorman, Aine Sheehy, Aoife Galvin, Tanya McNamara, Michelle.

Jones, MaryClaire Carroll, Beibhinn O'Neill, Leah Riordan, Maedhbh Buckley, Laura Doyle, Rachel Harty (0-1), Rebecca Noonan (1-2, 0-2 free), Emma Hogan, Subs: Fiona Neelan.



Kevin and Angela Walsh at the wedding reception at the Rochestown Park.

## Murray will stay on with camogie team

CAMOGIE

PAUDIE MURRAY is staying on at the helm of the Cork camogie team as they pursue three All-Irelands in a row, writes LINDA MELLERICK.

Murray excelled last season as he had to overhaul the side due to a number of retirements, and Cork peaked to defeat Galway in the final at Croke Park. That display came 12 months after an outstanding win over Kilkenny.

One of Murray's greatest strengths is ensuring he has a top-class backroom team and once again he has secured some excellent coaches for the coming season.

Blackrock's Jamie Harrington comes in as hurling coach alongside Wesley O'Brien. Harrington is currently involved with Christians senior hurlers, has worked with Cork's underage development squads, and Blackrock's senior hurling team.

He comes with a strong reputation in Cork hurling quarters.

The strength and conditioning coach is Adam McCarthy of Cobh, who has experience with both the Waterford and Tipperary senior hurlers.

They replace Kevin Mulcahy and Sean Cremin, who both did magnificent jobs in 2015 in ensuring Cork won



Camogie boss Paudie Murray.

back-to-back titles.

Maintaining consistency through the manager, the fact that Cork's backroom team has seen a bit of reshuffling since 2013 due to personal commitments hasn't impacted them at all.

Everyone has new ideas and something different to say and the turnover in Cork's set-up seems to have complemented the team over the past two seasons.

The invaluable Niall Collins remains as statistician in addition to the large support network Paudie has with him on match day.

Cork begin their national league campaign on February 21 away to Limerick and the defence of their All-Ireland title commences on June 18 with an away game to senior debutants Waterford.



Cork ladies dual star Brieghe Corkery and Diarmuid Scannell emerge from St John The Baptist Church, Rusheen, Co Cork, as husband and wife. Picture: John Delea

JAN. 2016



**GAELIC LIFE ULSTER CLUB ALL STARS 2015**  
**CAMOGIE PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**Caitrin Dobbin**  
(Loughgiel)



Camogie Player of the Year Caitrin Dobbin, Loughgiel Shamrocks, receives her award from David Bell, GPS Colour. Also pictured are Steven Burns, theGAAstore.com (far right) and Raymond McGinn, Gaelic Life (far left).



Camogie Player of the Year merit award recipients Ciara Donnelly, Eglis (second from left) and Aoife Ni Chaiside, Slaughtneil (second from right) are pictured with David Bell, GPS Colour (centre) Steven Burns, theGAAstore.com (far right) and Raymond McGinn, Gaelic Life (far left).

**CAMOGIE PLAYER  
OF THE YEAR AWARD**

**GPS**  
TO THE POWER OF PRINT

A BRIEF break from preparations for the forthcoming All-Ireland semi-final gave Caitrin Dobbin the chance to look back on a season that saw her win the Ulster Camogie Player of the Year award.

Aged just 18, the Loughgiel Shamrocks player produced the goods big time as they captured the Ulster title. Their final against Slaughtneil in Armagh proved the ideal advert for the sport and Caitrin was delighted at earning this individual accolade.

"It's an honour and a privilege to have won this, especially since I was nominated alongside two great players in Aoife Cassidy and Ciara Donnelly," she said.

"We were disappointed after losing last year and the aim was to prove ourselves again in Ulster and the All-Ireland.

"Our final against Slaughtneil was very nervous. Slaughtneil are an excellent team, but all of us knew that it was going to be a tough battle and what was ahead of us.

"The girls did themselves proud and I think that game was the moment in the year when we knew we were making progress.

"Everything seemed to go our way and the result was a good one for us.

"Another thing that stood out for me was the large crowd at Armagh for the final. It was surprising for a camogie match, but Slaughtneil are known for their strong support."

Now Loughgiel are getting set for the

All-Ireland semi-final against Killimer of Galway and the opportunity to make amends for the disappointment of a year ago.

If Caitrin can continue her fine form, then the Antrim girls could be on course for more historic success in the next few months.

"Our hurlers have won two All-Ireland Clubs and it would be great to follow them by doing the same," she added.



Congratulations to **Caitrin Dobbin**  
on winning **Camogie Player of the Year**



## Carraig dominate Munster semi-final

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

**Carraig Na BhFear 5-6  
Loreto Fermoy 0-5**

WITH several of the sides that contested the senior final back on duty again, Carraig Na BhFear took on Loreto Fermoy in the Munster Junior D semi-final, at the Old Mon Field, on Tuesday.

From the throw-in, the Carraig girls showed fierce determination and a Nora O'Riordan goal settled them into the game. O'Riordan also added a point and, linking up well with Emma Murphy, on their inside line, caused the Loreto defence a lot of bother.

Emma Murphy was superb at full forward, adding a goal and two points to stretch her side's lead. The Loreto girls applied a lot of pressure on the Carraig defence. But with Kayleigh Bridgeman, at centre back, controlling matters, and Myra O'Sullivan and Elizabeth McGrath prominent, they kept the pressure on Loreto.

Between the 23rd and 30th minutes, Carraig Na BhFear put the game beyond Loreto. Emma Murphy scored three goals, after twice winning possession from long clearances from a strong Carraig defence, and at the break it was 5-3 to 0-0.

The second-half was a much closer affair, as the Loreto girls upped their game and battled hard. Laura Hayes put them on the score sheet, converting a free, and they kept Carraig goalkeeper, Lisa O'Riordan, busy as they battled for goals, but she held her line under a lot of pressure.

Nora O'Riordan had three points in a row for Carraig, but again Loreto dug deep. Laura Hayes and Emma Barry added points, before Hayes added another for a battling Loreto side.

However, thanks to their strong first-half display, Carraig Na BhFear had done enough to secure their place in the final.

**Scorers for Carraig Na BhFear:** E Murphy 4-2 (0-1), N O'Riordan 1-4 (0-1).

**Loreto:** L Hayes 0-4 (0-1), E Barry 0-1.

**CARRAIG NA BHFEAR:** L O'Riordan, E McGrath, C Martin, S Connolly, A O'Driscoll, K Bridgeman, M O'Sullivan, T McCarthy, K Buckley, N Sheehan, C Collins, N O'Riordan, J Whelan, E Murphy, R Dag.

**Subs:** L O'Donovan for C Collins, A O'Connell for E McGrath, L Lee for R Dag, K Lynch for J Whelan, B Mulcahy for N O'Riordan, J O'Leary for E Murphy.

**LORETO FERMOY:** N O'Regan, A Dunne, E Fitzgerald, A O'Connor, C Hayes, B Sheehan, A O'Flynn, L Hayes, K Quirke, S Murphy, G McCarthy, C Cronin, L Mc Nulty, S O'Sullivan, E Barry.

**Subs:** S Norman for A O'Flynn, O N Mhicachain for S Murphy.

**Ref:** Ger Sheehan (Douglas).

# Coachford double delight in colleges

## COLLEGES CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

**Coachford College 1-11  
St Mary's Charleville 1-3**

**COACHFORD COLLEGE** defeated fancied opponents **St Mary's Charleville** at a windswept **Mannix College** to achieve an historic **Cork Colleges Camogie Senior and Junior A double** for the year.

Cloughduv star forward Niamh O'Leary contributed six points to ensure the Muskerry school brought home the Merriman Cup, a competition first held in 1918.

Ciara Ring, Aileen Hennessy and Katie Verling dominated their full back line for most of the afternoon, with Katie McCarthy's positional sense a major asset in cutting out any impending danger from the Avondhu school.

O'Leary opened with a point into the breeze after six minutes and added another from a free when Cliona Healy was robustly tackled bearing down on Chloe Keogh's goal. Charleville's Michelle Jones and Aine Sheehy were effective in the opening quarter and, after good approach work from the stylish wing forward Laura Doyle, Rebecca Noonan converted a 45.

Cliona Healy responded immediately with a free after a passage of astute combination play from Katie O'Sullivan, Ciara McCarthy and Marie O'Reilly which placed her in the clear.

Interestingly, Coachford managed their match-ups with more success with Megan McCarthy and Aileen Buckley minimising the effect of star players Mary Claire Carroll and Rachel Harty whilst Niamh O'Leary was a class apart and gave Tanya McNamara a torrid afternoon.

Charleville's Beibhinn O'Neill was busy at midfield and her pass allowed Rachel Harty to add a second point, the same player added another 45 to put the sides level.

Coachford captain Katie Ward's accurate puck outs to wing forward Rachel McElroy alleviated the pressure, her delivery to Aoife Twomey released O'Leary who duly added her third point before half-time.

Charleville introduced the lively



The Coachford College team who defeated St Mary's Charleville in the Cork Colleges Senior A Final at Mannix College.

Fiona Neligan while Coachford brought on Ciara Twomey and Bronagh Hartnett — all of whom made an immediate impact. Eimear O'Gorman and Michelle Jones continued to forage for possession whilst Harty, Galvin and Carroll improved their work rate.

Charleville had three goal-scoring opportunities in succession but were denied by the clinical Coachford full back line and the excellent Katie Ward. Referee John O'Leary commented after the contest that points may have been a more prudent option at that juncture, but noted that Niamh O'Leary was a star in the making.

Coachford weathered the onslaught and regained the lead with O'Leary converting a 70m free. Ciara McCarthy

caught the resultant puck out and put Healy through for another point. Chloe Keogh made a good save but Ciara Twomey was on hand to pull on the ball to the net from an acute angle to put five points between the sides.

Coachford lost Rachel McElroy when two Charleville players clattered into her but coach Rob Lott introduced Kate Sheehan, Tara Clifford and Julie Verling who added energy to a tiring Muskerry side.

Jenny Burke scored a wonderful point on the back leg after a poor clearance from Charleville with Healy and Leary adding further points. Charleville captain Rebecca Noonan billowed the roof of the net just before full-time but the Muskerry school ran out eight point winners.

Charleville coach Ger Donovan congratulated Coachford on their Senior A win and their Junior victory over Coláiste Bandon before Christmas and complimented referee John O'Leary for his customary excellent standard of refereeing.

**COACHFORD:** Katie Ward (C), Katie Verling, Aileen Hennessy, Ciara Ring, Katie O'Sullivan, Katie McCarthy, Aileen Buckley, Megan McCarthy, Ciara McCarthy, Rachel McElroy, Niamh O'Leary (0-6, 0-3 frees), Marie O'Reilly, Aoife Twomey, Cliona Healy (0-3, 0-1 Free), Jenny Burke (0-1).

**Subs:** Ciara Twomey (1-0), Ellen Tarrant, Bronagh Hartnett, Tara Clifford, Kate Sheehan.

**CHARLEVILLE:** Chloe Keogh, Eimear Morrissey, Eimear O'Gorman, Aine Sheehy, Aoife Galvin, Tanya McNamara, Michelle Jones, Mary Claire Carroll, Beibhinn O'Neill, Leah Riordan, Maedhbh Buckley, Laura Doyle, Rachel Harty (0-1), Rebecca Noonan (1-2, 0-2 frees), Emma Hogan.

**Subs:** Fiona Neligan.

## Carraig na bhFéar girls fate sealed by late Déise goal

**St Augustine's College (Waterford) 2-5  
Carraig na bhFéar 0-7**

A KAIESHA TOBIN goal with one minute remaining sealed this Munster Senior D final in Rathpeacon on Saturday last. In a highly entertaining contest the younger Cork side took the game to their physically stronger opponents and they were full value for their 0-6 to 0-3 interval lead.

Mollie Curran pointed two frees to edge the Waterford side in front, Nora O'Riordan replied twice and with Emma Murphy adding a third Carraig edged in front.

Shauna McGrath denied Emma Murphy with a superb save but three points in-a-row from O'Riordan had her side in control before Waterford inter-

county player Mollie Curran converted a free.

The Waterford side applied strong pressure from the start of the second-half and with their defence beginning to get tired, Carraig were now under pressure.

Mollie Curran cut the deficit with a pointed free before a good move saw Kaiesha Tobin carve open the defence and find the net to give her side the lead for the first time in the game 10 minutes into the second half.

Nora O'Riordan pointed a long-range free to level matters and it was deadlocked with five minutes remaining. Both sides had chances to take the lead,

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

The St Augustine's defence stood firm as Carraig foraged for a score. A break down field saw St Augustine's win a free, Curran converted and for the remaining minutes they were under pressure but they stood firm.

With time almost up Kaiesha Tobin settled the outcome with a superb goal to ensure St Augustine's took the title but not before a strong test from a very young Carraig na bhFéar side.

**Scorers for St Augustine's:** K Tobin 2-0 M Curran 0-5 (f's).

**Carraig Na BhFear:** N O'Riordan 0-6 (0-3f's), E Murphy 0-1.

**ST AUGUSTINE'S:** S Mc Grath, S Dugan, S Morrissey, K O'Connor, R Donnelly, M Dunford, A O'Connor, D Shanley, C Dwyer, C Hahessy, M Curran(c), A O'Neill, S Morrissey, K Tobin, S Morrissey.

**Sub:** A O'Neill for S Morrissey (34).

**CARRAIG NA BHFEAR:** L O'Riordan, S Goggin, A Founy, C Martin, M O'Sullivan, K Bridgeman, R Carey(c), K Buckley, N Sheehan, T McCarthy, N O'Riordan, E McGrath, J Whelan, E Murphy, R Dag.

**Referee:** Andrew Larkin (Douglas).



# Jacobs experience intercounty career highs and lows

While Rory retires with Leinster title, sister Ursula looks to add to four All-Ireland haul

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Malachy Clerkin

[@MalachyClerkin](#)

Wexford camogie star Ursula Jacob, who is embarking on her 16th year with the county team. Photograph: Ryan Byrne/Inpho

Parallel lives, lived along different lines. Rory Jacob has just recently walked away from it, melting back into civilian life after 14 seasons playing inter-county with Wexford. His sister Ursula is still there, tilting away, the first down payments on her 16th season with the county camogie team already filed.

They are two of four Jacob siblings to have played for Wexford since the late 1990s. Their father is Mick Jacob, three-time All-Star centre back in the 1970s. Brother Michael and sister Helena have had their days as well in the purple and gold. For a few years, all four were engaged in active service at the same time.

"It was just a way of life," says Rory. "You come home in the evening, you pick up the gear bag and you go out and you go to training. You wouldn't see each other maybe only for a quick second before you'd go away out the door.

"You might see each other again before you go to bed and you might have a quick bit of a give out about how things went at training, but that would be the extent of it. The girls were notorious for taking our gear. There's a lot of missing jerseys gone over the years."

In fairness, it would have been strange if that hadn't been the case. Whereas an intercounty hurler can barely find hot press space for training tops and tracky bottoms, a camogie player has to be a lot more penny-wise. Things aren't as bad as they once were, but there's still a fair way to go.

"I never really had a jealousy of what the lads had because I'm pretty easygoing with stuff like that," says Ursula. "As long as there's a decent pitch and you can get a shower afterwards – I don't mind if we're not getting a freshly home-cooked meal afterwards. As long as we get a sandwich or something, I'd be happy enough. I'm not too demanding.

## Positive experiences

"Being fair to the camogie board, we generally had good, positive experiences. Maybe when I was starting out things were a bit unprogressive. But the first year I really noticed that there was a level of professionalism and equality between the squads was in 2007, when we won our first All-Ireland. We were looking for better facilities, we were looking for food after training, nice gear – all the stuff that the lads would get. And definitely in the last seven or eight years, things have come on."

You can't miss what you never had, and all that. But looking in from the outside, it strikes her brother that however sanguine camogie players are about it, they're still being short-changed.

"I wouldn't say we were ever treated like kings," says Rory, "but we were never short of anything we needed. If we wanted a bit of gear, we'd get a bit of gear. If we wanted boots, we'd get boots. We were fed after training, we were provided with gyms for training in, and all that. Everything was there to help us.

"Whereas with the girls, they were on their own with things like that. When it came to gear, they never got too much of it. I'd have box full of stuff at home going back 10, 15 years, whereas if Ursula got something, she'd have to hang on to it for a good while. And expenses? I don't think the girls ever got any expenses. That type of thing has to be improved for them.

"The least they deserve is expenses to cover getting to and from training or whatever. They're making money for the Camogie Association and the GAA along the way. Expenses would only be a small thing, but it would help them. Girls are travelling a long way for training and games and that will only last so long if it's costing them money."

Ursula started playing for the county when she was 15, so for the first few years, she was being ferried to and from training. Eventually, though, she made her own way, and through all her years living, studying and working in Waterford, making her own way mostly meant paying her own way. Hurlers get mileage, camogie players don't. Again though, she sees it as a fact of life more than anything.

"Up until recently, I would have been commuting from Waterford to Wexford two or three times a week for training and for games. And look, the county board would do their best to cover some of the cost of that. But I'm understanding too – they're restricted with their funding.

## Personal gain

"I'd rather that the team gets the benefit of whatever bit of money is going rather than the general expenses of the team be helped out than mine. It's my choice to play and I'm not in the game to see what freebies I can get out of it.

"That's the sacrifice and the commitment that you make to it. You recognise that, look, sometimes it does get hard and sometimes you do get to the end of the month and your bank balance isn't looking great. But you reap rewards too – if you're successful, if you win an All-Ireland, it makes it all worthwhile."

On that score, there's no contest. Ursula has won four All-Irelands and has four All-Stars to find room for. Rory retired with a Leinster medal and the thin gruel of a Division Two title to show for his labours.

"From a success point of view, Ursula has won four All-Irelands. You wouldn't be jealous of that exactly, but it would have been something I'd have set out on my career hoping to come close to. I played in big games, but I never got to play in an All-Ireland final. That would have been something that I'd have been envious of, I suppose – that she was on a team that was capable of reaching those heights."

## Flipside

Some days similar, some days not. In camogie, you spend a lot more time with your club, even at the height of the inter-county championship. Rory often watched Ursula come home from a championship game with Wexford on a Sunday and shook his head in disbelief as she went out the door to training with Oulart-The-Ballagh on a Monday.

On the flipside, Ursula looks at the way hurling championship is structured for men and wonders how any team is supposed to grow or develop when it all comes tumbling down so quickly once the summer starts. Camogie has a round-robin phase before it gets to pure knockout.

"There would have been hard years where Kilkenny might have been beating them at times and the criticism they were receiving was harsh," she says.

## NEWCESTOWN GAA VICTORY DINNER



Glitz and glamour: The Newcestown team that won the 2015 county camogie junior A championship were presented with their medals by Rose Desmond at their victory dinner at Fernhill House Hotel.

The camogie medals were presented by Rose Desmond, long-serving member of the camogie club. Those who received medals included Suzanne Deasy (captain), Lisa O'Sullivan, Mairead Crowley, Frances Deasy, Mary McSweeney, Maeve Lynch, Alison Crow-

ley, Therese McCarthy, Karen Murphy, Amy Murray, Evelyn Crowley, Grainne Cronin, Hilda O'Mahony, Colleen Twomey, Zerica Griffin, Collette Desmond, Emma Murphy, Brid

O'Leary, Olive O'Mahony, Victoria Kenneally, Chloe Hayes, Claire Collins, Eimear Murphy, Cathy Lordan, Grace O'Mahony, Eimear Hurley, Jennifer O'Donovan and Julie Walsh.





Cork camogie star Ashling Thompson at the launch of the Wings for Life World Run in Dun Laoghaire. This is the third year of the global charity run that sees more than 100,000 people run at the same time in 34 locations worldwide on May 8, in aid of spinal injury research. Registration is open at [www.wingsforlifeworldrun.com](http://www.wingsforlifeworldrun.com)

## CONNACHT SCHOOLS SENIOR A CAMOGIE FINAL



The St Brigid's College, Loughrea senior camogie squad which defeated Presentation, Athenry in the Connacht A final in Kinvara on Saturday. Back row, left to right: Sinead Healy, John Breheny, Grace Whiriskey, Joanne Daly, Eva Kelly, Cianna Reidy, Tara McNally, Sarah Spellman, Shannen Ridge, Caoimhe Reidy, Emma Waters, Caoimhe Gaffney, Sarah Healy, Annie Nevin, Michelle Prendergast, Miranda Comer, Mary Larkin, Sinead Cannon, Ger Lyons. Front Row: Patricia Manning, Katie Donoghue, Aoife Brennan, Emma Byrne, Alice Whiriskey, Fiona Burke, Siobhan Skehill, Tara Murphy (Captain), Emma Reynolds, Aisling Connolly, Katie Manning, Niamh Brennan, Ciara Prendergast, Tegan Canning.

# Healy is St. Brigid's ace

■ Loughrea girls prove too strong for Athenry rivals in difficult conditions

ST. BRIGID'S	0-10
PRES COLLEGE	0-6

NIALL CANAVAN  
IN KINVARA

ST. Brigid's, Loughrea claimed the Connacht Post-Primary Schools Senior A camogie title at Kinvara on Saturday. The winners were wind aided in the opening half with three late Sarah Healy points ensuring them an interval lead on a 0-8 to 0-5 scoreline.

This advantage seemed insufficient as Presentation Athenry carried a lot of threat in the opening half with the probings of Leanne Freaney and Nicola Lawless ensuring that they were well in the tie when John McDonagh blew his half time whistle.

However, for the duration of

the second half, Pres. Athenry played with an extra player in defence and as such conceded the advantage to St. Brigid's who funnelled players back into their own half with Patricia Manning, in the sweeper role, particularly impressive.

Pres College started the better with the aforementioned duo of Lawless and Freaney running at the St. Brigid's defence to good effect with Freaney pointing a free while Eimear Keane and midfielder Grace Cahill hit scores from play. St. Brigid's replied with Sarah Healy pointing a free.

With Tara McNally and Shannen Ridge coming more into the game, the Loughrea girls eventually established a foothold on proceedings. That said, they relied totally on Sarah Healy for scores in the opening half and three additional Healy points from the placed ball edged them

into a 0-4 to 0-3 lead by the end of the first quarter.

By the 21st minute, the sides were level at five points apiece. Leanne Freaney landed two

Healy pointed two 45s, the second of which came after Megan McDonagh had saved well from Katie Manning, while Healy also landed an excellent score from play after taking a pass from Tara McNally.

In the second half, scores were hard to come by as the conditions deteriorated with both sides battling bravely to overcome the tough underground terrain.

It was St. Brigid's who opened the scoring with Healy pointing for the ninth time after the hard-working Sarah Spellman was fouled, while lively substitute Emma Reynolds also found the range as they opened up a significant 0-10 to 0-5 lead on 40 minutes.

Leanne Freaney then replied with a pointed free for Presentation Athenry, three minutes later, a score that amazingly proved to

be the final score of the game and their only score of the second period.

In the final quarter, Athenry pushed hard for the scores that would ignite their challenge but the closest they came was when a Freaney free dropped short, but it was repelled by an alert St. Brigid's goalkeeper Tara Murphy.

In the end, St. Brigid's did enough to carry the day - they defended stoutly in the second half with centre back Patricia Manning impressive in a unit where Siobhan Skehill, Sinead Cannon and Caoimhe Garvey also did well. At midfield, Tara McNally and Shannen Ridge got through an amount of work while Sarah Spellman and Sarah Healy were lively in attack. Emma Reynolds also had her moments when introduced.

Megan McDonagh, the Presentation Athenry custodian, did

well between the sticks for her side while in defence Niamh Keane and Leah Burke were to the fore with Grace Cahill, Nicola Lawless, Leanne Freaney and Eimear Keane most prominent further upfield.

St. Brigid's will now play St. Joseph's, Tulla in the All-Ireland semi-final on Saturday, February 13, but they will be acutely aware that improvement is required if they are to make an impression in the All-Ireland series.

**St. Brigid's:** T. Murphy; S. Skehill, C. Reidy, F. Burke; S. Cannon, P. Manning, C. Garvey, T. McNally, S. Ridge, E. Waters, S. Spellman, K. Donoghue; K. Manning, S. Healy (0-9, 0-6 frees, 0-2 45s), A. Connolly, Sub: E. Reynolds (0-1) for Donoghue.

**Pres Athenry:** M. McDonagh; H. Rab-bittie, N. Keane, S. Walsh; S. Kearney, L. Burke, K. Stephens; A. Tobin, G. Cahill (0-1); N. Lawless, L. Freaney (0-4 frees), N. Donnellan; L. Gilligan, E. Keane (0-1); M. Dunphy, Subs: R. Joyce for Walsh, A. O'Farrell for Stephens; N. Nilland for Dunphy.  
**Referee:** John McDonagh (Kinvara).

In the final quarter, Athenry pushed hard for the scores that would ignite their challenge

Pres. frees with Sarah Healy responding for St. Brigid's.

However, after Freaney's third score of the half, the Athenry girls were to go 22 minutes without a score. This ensured St. Brigid's the initiative - Sarah



## ALL-IRELAND CLUB SENIOR CAMOGIE SEMI-FINAL

# Killimor tipped to get the better of Loughgiel rivals in senior semis

■ Callaghy's charges in good heart for Clones collision with Antrim champs

DARREN KELLY

KILLIMOR return to the national stage for the first time in three years when they face Antrim's Loughgiel Shamrocks in the All-Ireland Senior Club camogie semi-final in Clones on Sunday (2pm).

After dominating the domestic scene at the turn of the decade, Tommy Callaghy's charges secured their fourth county crown in November when they came through Ardahan (2-5 to 1-6) and now seek a third Croke Park appearance since 2011.

That first outing at headquarters saw Killimor clinch national glory when they overcame Cork's Inniscarra (3-18 to 1-4) but their second decider saw Milford take the spoils in 2013.

In route to that game, Ulster opposition provided the hurdle at the semi-final stage when goals from Susan Keane and Aisling Brehony helped the Galway champions overturn an

early deficit to win 2-9 to 0-12 and another formidable test awaits on Sunday.

Loughgiel Shamrocks were disappointing in their All-Ireland semi-final 12 months ago when Oulart-the-Ballagh recorded a 1-15 to 0-8 victory, but a proud parish known for their hurling successes secured a fourth Ulster title in the winter.

**Sinead Fahy and Maolicia Callaghy have broken into the starting side on the left flank of the defence**

Captained by Una McNaughton, they've unearthed a new threat in Caitrin Dobbin and can call on Lucia McNaughton, Charlene Campbell and Aisling McFadden to trou-

ble the umpires. Naughton anchors the defence along with Laura and Emma Connolly and they will hope to be tighter than that first half against Oulart-the-Ballagh.

They'll need to be against a Killimor attack that has impressed all season, but the East Galway side will know that a strong performance will be required to justify their favourites tag.

Nine of the team lined out in their All-Ireland success five years ago with Helen Campbell the steady minder between the sticks. Sinead Fahy and Maolicia Callaghy have broken into the starting side on the left flank of the defence with sisters Serena and Karen Brien anchoring the full-back line, with Brehony and former Galway star Ann Marie Hayes lining out at 5 and 6.

Injuries hampered them at stages in 2015 but the midfield unit of Emer Haverty and captain Anne Marie Starr are considered among the best partnerships in the country and if they dictate the middle third,



Sisters Serena and Aisling Brehony who will be part of the Killimor team bidding to reach the All-Ireland Club senior camogie final when they face Loughgiel Shamrocks on Sunday.

Killimor have the artillery to make their possession count on the scoreboard.

Keane was the county final hero with two goals either side of half-time providing an eight point cushion. But former All-Star Brenda Hanney, Martina Conroy and Serena Brehony also raised green flags during

the knockout stages that saw Killimor defeat St. Thomas (2-10 to 1-7) in the quarter-final before accounting for Athenry (3-13 to 1-11) in the semi.

Claire Conroy and Denise Starr can provide danger as well and Loughgiel's defence will have to be alert. With two wins from their previous three

All-Ireland semi-finals, Killimor should have the know-how to guarantee a third Croke Park outing on March 6.

Loughgiel Shamrocks, however will be determined to improve on their loss in 2015, and expect a strong effort from the Ulster champions before Killimor take control.

## ALL-IRELAND CLUB JUNIOR CAMOGIE SEMI-FINAL

# Eyrecourt aiming to make it Galway double with win in junior semi-final

DARREN KELLY

EAST Galway could be celebrating on the double when Eyrecourt take their place in the All-Ireland intermediate camogie semi-final against English of Tyrone in Kinnegad on Sunday (2pm).

The Ulster champions have faced Galway opposition before, falling to Mullagh in the 1991 final. Formed in 1966, they'll be looking to mark their golden jubilee with a second national decider.

But Eyrecourt, managed by Mark Dunne along with former Galway hurling goalkeeper Damien Howe and Sinead Gilligan, celebrate their 30th birthday this year and will hope to reward their faithful supporters.

After many near misses, they finally secured Galway intermediate honours in October as goals from Paula Kenny, Molly Dunne, Cora McEvoy and Laura Loughnane (2) helped them to a 5-14 to 2-11 victory over Mountbellew/Moylough.

And that scintillating form was maintained in the Connacht Final when they brushed aside Roscommon's Athleague (8-15 to 1-8) with Dunne scoring five goals and Loughnane adding another brace.

Maureen Burke struck the other major and she is one of the young performers who have made their mark this season. Aisling Downey will form the full-back line with Orlagh Feehan and Megan McDermott while Alison Ryan, Avril McEvoy and Niamh McCormack make up the half-backs.

Two-time All-Star Susan Eamer provides the experience behind them with former Galway intermediate captain Kenny partnered by Louise Loughnane in midfield. Captain Dunne will lead the attack; Laura Loughnane is the scorer-in-chief, with Burke, McEvoy, Laoise Stones and Amanda Lynch among their attacking threats.

English defeated Derry's Glen comprehensively in the Ulster Final and players like Ciara and Leanne Donnelly, Ciara McGreal and Maria Jordan need to be watched.

But with the championship curse lifted, Eyrecourt are strong contenders in this All-Ireland series and like their neighbours Killimor, a strong supply to the attack should carry the day.

# Loreto seek historic 'A' title

THE LORETO (Wexford) Junior camogie team will be aiming to create history in New Ross at 12 noon on Saturday when they take on Loreto (Kilkenny) in the Leinster championship final.

The Wexford girls edged past Presentation College (Kilkenny) by 2-5 to 2-2 to qualify for their first-ever provincial 'A' grade camogie decider.

This team is unbeaten in this campaign, having seen off St. Mary's (New Ross) and St. Brendan's (Birr) before accounting for Presentation (Kilkenny). Loreto started brightly in the semi-final and were a goal up inside five minutes when Rachel Bennett scored from close range after Anna Hennessy sent a long ball in. Clodagh Jackman, Ciara O'Connor and Ella O'Connor got on a lot of ball early on but the Loreto forwards couldn't find the scores that their dominance deserved, racking up five wides in the first 15 minutes.

Presentation then caught Loreto on the break for two goals in quick succession against the run of play. A Lettie Whelan free settled Loreto again and Ann-Marie Bennett scored a great point from the right wing to make it 2-0 to 1-2 at half-time to Presentation. Loreto looked much sharper at the start of the second-half, with Megan Carty and Aisling Halligan beginning to dominate in the full- and half-back lines.

This dominance set a strong platform from which Loreto could attack and Emma Codd benefited from this, picking up a loose ball to score a great point after a long solo run. Lettie Whelan then added her second point from a free to put Loreto a point up.

Presentation equalised with a point before Rachel Bennett produced the score of the match; now playing at centre-forward, Bennett turned the centre-back, ran straight for goal and whizzed the shot past the goalkeeper into the top right corner of the net.

Lettie Whelan scored her third pointed free to put Loreto four ahead with five minutes to play after a great solo run by Ella O'Connor who was fouled going through on goal.

Presentation piled on the pressure but the Loreto defenders held firm to stop any goal chances, with important interventions from Sadhbh McCarthy, Caitlin Carroll and Lára Campbell in the closing minutes.

Team: Hannah Quirk; Caitlin Carroll, Sadhbh McCarthy, Megan Carty; Anna Hennessy, Lára Campbell (capt.), Aisling Halligan; Ciara O'Connor, Clodagh Jackman; Lettie Whelan, Emma Codd, Ella O'Connor; Ann-Marie Bennett, Rachel Bennett, Niamh O'Connor. Subs: - Ashling Alout, Emma Rath, Eva Creane, Rebecca Barville, Anna Mulligan, Ciara Barville, Michelle Carthy, Amy O'Leary, Becky Hamilton (in.), Mikaela Lanigan (in.).



## Family affair



Camogie Award winner Niamh McGrath with her parents Michael and Geraldine and her sisters Orlaith and Clodagh, at the Medtronic Galway Sports Stars Awards at the Galway Bay Hotel. See full coverage in Tribune Sport.

## Humdinger of a semi is as good as it gets

CAMOGIE

SUNDAY

All-Ireland senior club semi-final: Milford v Oulart-The Ballagh, WIT, 2.30pm.

IT IS widely felt that the winners of Sunday's All-Ireland club semi-final tie between Milford and Oulart-the-Ballagh will become All-Ireland champions on March 6, with both chasing a third title, writes Linda Mellerick.

It's the 2013 and '14 champions Milford versus the '12 and '15 champs from Wexford, and it's an eagerly awaited clash between two of the club scene's top clubs. It was hoped that the two would meet in last season's final but it didn't happen.

February 2015 and Milford were hot favourites to reach their third All-Ireland final in a row, having won the previous two. A 2-5 to 0-9 defeat to a dogged Mullagh side shocked both players and spectators alike.

No doubt they felt that if only they could turn the clock back and go at it again. As expected, Oulart, reached the decider and enjoyed a comfortable All-Ireland final win over Mullagh; 3-13 to 0-7 with just a single point coming from play for the Galway side.

2013 was the last time these sides met with a flawless and blistering opening 30 minutes by Milford all but embarrassing Oulart on their own patch. The home side had a late onslaught but Milford were in control from the outset, playing with a fierce hunger and insatiable appetite.

Oulart stuttered over the line in their county final replay against Rathnure this season and followed that with a miraculous comeback victory over St Vincent's. Many feel that Oulart's best days are behind them.

Is there a final hurrah and one more All-Ireland title in this group which still holds such names as Ursula Jacob and Mary Leacy with Una Leacy recovering from another knee ligament injury. Karen Atkinson, Stacey Redmond, and Louise Sinnott are incredibly seasoned at this stage.

Shauna Redmond has stepped up to the mark but other youngsters will need to join her if Oulart are to get the better of Milford. There is no doubt that the success of Oulart's hurlers in the Leinster championship will have injected huge excitement into the club.

Yet it may not be enough against a side that, although getting a fright in the Munster semi-final from Burgess Duharra, trounced Newmarket-on-Fergus 5-18 to 1-9 in the final.

All the recognisable stars are still doing the business for the Cork representatives; Aisling Thompson, Anna Geary, the Watsons, Elaine O'Riordan, and Marie O'Neill.

This fixture is the most mouth-watering tie you could hope to get in camogie circles.

It promises to be a humdinger with no favours asked for or given and little between them at the finish.

## Oulart face the acid test

DEAN GOODISON

Sports reporter

IF ONE is for history, a second is for validation, then a third is for legacy. These Oulart-The Ballagh players are two steps from their legacy being triple All-Ireland Club camogie championship winners.

For every young girl that picks up a hurl around the county, the Oulart-The Ballagh reality is their ultimate dream. The Leinster champions now face Cork side Milford at Carrigrohane on Sunday (2.30 p.m.) in a bid to continue to inspire.

Undoubtedly 2015 was a great year for Oulart-The Ballagh, great but strange nonetheless. It started in stunning fashion, with the second national crown in four years, but ended with a stuttering county final replay win over Rathnure and a miraculous come-from-behind Leinster final victory against St Vincent's of Dublin.

Will the real Oulart-The Ballagh appear in time for this Sunday's last four clash against the side which won back-to-back All-Irelands between the Wexford club's

pair? They probably couldn't answer that question themselves, but what is for certain is that they still have most of the components that saw them hit those dizzying heights.

The All Stars are still in situ; Ursula Jacob, Mary Leacy and even Una Leacy is pushing for a return from a knee ligament injury, although to expect much if she does play some part is folly given the short time she has been back in light training and the severity of her injury.

The reliables are there - Karen Atkinson, Stacey Redmond, the Kehoe twins, Diane Ryan, Shauna and Louise Sinnott - and can all be counted on for a performance. But it's elsewhere that Oulart-The Ballagh need a little more.

The youngsters have been thrust into the big time for Oulart-The Ballagh in the last few months and they have shown in patches what they are capable of. Bridin and Shauna Redmond, plus the Katies, Murphy and Gallagher, have all played their part but one of them might need to be the heroine if their side is to head to Croke Park on March 6.

In the battle to face either Loughgiel Shamrocks of Antrim or Galway club Killimor, Oulart-The Ballagh otherwise have a clean bill of health. They know how to peak at the right time and reports from training suggest they are ready for the challenge.

Milford know what this type of occasion is all about. They announced themselves on the scene when racing into a 1-12 to nil lead against the then All-Ireland champions in Oulart in 2013. They won that championship and retained it the following year.

In the Munster final the Rebel women butchered Newmarket-on-Fergus by 5-18 to 1-9. They boast several players who have been in and around the county set-up, with dynamic midfielder Aisling Thompson and Anna Geary their most recognisable stars.

Three years have passed since the Cork side embarrassed Oulart-The Ballagh on their own patch, and this is the chance to put that horror show to bed, a chance for redemption and to create their legacy. Oulart-The Ballagh can pull it off but expect there to be little in it at the full-time whistle.



Sheila Golden, Noreen Daly and Bernie Murphy from Cork Camogie Board, with the O'Duffy Cup, which Cork won for the second year-in-a-row.

JAN. 2016

## Leacy aiming to keep Oulart on course for double joy

CAMOGIE

Daragh Ó Conchúir

It is all happening for Oulart-The Ballagh. The camogie and hurling teams completed a Leinster double before Christmas and now dream of welcoming two AIB All-Ireland trophies by the end of March.

The teams have much in common, although the camogie representatives are

further down the road. Mary Leacy and her team-mates have won two AIB All-Ireland camogie titles in the past four seasons, one on either side of the two-in-a-row achieved by their rivals in Sunday's All-Ireland Senior Camogie Club Championship final, Milford.

They also boast a number of players that have won at the highest level with Wexford. Leacy, Karen Atkinson, and Ursula Jacob have all been winning captains. Leacy's

younger sister Una, who has played no part in this campaign due to a cruciate knee ligament injury, was the fourth. Leacy was particularly pleased the hurlers ended provincial heartache and identifies with their travails.

"Both of our successes are mirrored off each other," says the recently-married Leacy. "We lost five Leinster finals before we won our first one as well. The difference, probably, was that a lot of us were very,

very young, and were coming up against Freshford, who were a very experienced team at the time. The fellas have had some very tough opposition too."

The point is that while defeats like that leave scars, the girls' belief was total, based on the still unmatched five consecutive Féile Division 1 titles from 1998 to 2002. It would come, and it did.

You never forget that breakthrough though, just as the

club went ballistic when the hurlers finally ended their torment. "Everyone was so happy for the lads because they've taken so much stick, particularly from within the county. To win five county championships (2009-2013) was some achievement and they were the only team to have ever done it. Like us, they stuck at it."

Ironically, the hurlers are managed by Frank Flannery, the man who masterminded

Milford's march to their two All-Ireland successes in 2013 and 2014. "He's kind of keeping his head down. They don't train the nights we're training but in saying that, he's been very supportive over the last few months."

Flannery has moved on but Milford remain serious opposition, having garnered a fourth consecutive Munster title. "We're expecting a very tough, dogged game. It's down to who wants it more."



# Double delight for Buckley and Corkery who are Cork Supreme Sports Star winners

BY JOHN TARRANT

CONSISTENCY of performances made sporting icons Brieghe Corkery and Rena Buckley popular selections as joint winners of the 96/c103FM Cork GAA Supreme Sports Star of the Year at a gala banquet in the Rochestown Park Hotel, Cork on Friday night last.

A host of the county's top footballers, ladies footballers, camogie and handball stars were applauded at the star studded event that's reached its 12th annual staging.

Another amazing season allowed Corkery and Buckley be part again of the 'Double Double' All Ireland successes in Camogie and Ladies Football. By the close of September, the pair have become the most medalled players in the history of GAA, equalling Kathleen Mills 15 medall tally when they helped Cork to

victory over Galway in the camogie final against Galway. And two weeks later, they elevated to the top of the list after the Rebellettes defeated Dublin to claim a five-in-a-row and their 10th title in 11 years in football.

That brought Buckley and Corkery's collection to 10 All-Ireland football medals and six camogie accolades. Unfazed by the honour, the dual stars took delight on being a part of a triumphant Cork team.

"We've done well over the last few years and I just love being part of the team. There's a great spirit, Eamon Ryan inspired us not just as footballers but as people and we have learned so much about life from him," said Rena.

Colleague Brieghe made it to the function on return from her honeymoon, nobody typifies Cork's work ethic than the ever consistent St. Vals and Cloughduv player.

"We've been on amazing teams, had great management in both camogie and ladies football, enjoying a bit of luck at times. I want us as a team to play to the best of our ability and achieve all we can together and that's what we'll be looking to do in 2016 on attempting to gain a return from new incentives", she said.

Outstanding young Dúnghoney talent Ryan Denny collected the Kieran O'Driscoll Memorial Award for Young Player of the Year with former Cork great Tomás Mulcahy inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Mulcahy is regarded as one of Cork's outstanding servants, an impressive trophy cabinet including five Munster SHC, three All Ireland SHC medals, two All Star awards and a National League title.

From his schooling days at the North Monastery, Mulcahy arrived on the inter-county scene at the

age of seventeen when he first linked up with the Cork minor teams as a dual player before later joining the under-21 sides.

Making his senior hurling debut during the 1983 championship, Mulcahy became a regular member of the starting fifteen and climaxed a terrific career on captaining Cork to complete the All Ireland double.

As a member of the Munster inter-provincial team on a number of occasions, Mulcahy won two Railway Cup medals. At club level he is a one-time championship medallist with Glen Rovers from 1989. Throughout his career Mulcahy made 27 championship appearances. His retirement came following the conclusion of the 1994 championship.

On accepting the award, Mulcahy paid tribute to the input of North Mon, Glen Rovers and former Canon Michael O'Brien.

"After the Glen won the county

in 1989, it was a privilege to be nominated as Cork captain for the following season. I dedicate the award to the late Canon, he was the driving force behind the team and crucial to the All Ireland triumphs of 1984 and 1990," he said.

In recognition of the part that the late Canon Michael O'Brien played with Cork teams, a presentation was made to his brother Dermot.

Monthly winners for the popular Cork GAA awards included Seán Powter, Rochestown College that enjoyed a great run in both Dr Harty Cup and Corn Uí Mhuiri SFC series; Cathriona Casey from Ballydesmond on her handball excursions; Colm O'Neill, Ballyclough, key contribution to Cork in their Allianz NFL march to decider; Seamus Harnedy, St. Ita's put together industrious displays towards Cork reaching Allianz NHL Final; Asling

Hutchings, Fermoy, vital cog to Cork retaining their National Ladies Football Division 1 league title; David Brosnan, a great stalwart to St. Nicks GAA; Kevin Kavanagh, Carrigaline, inspiring captain to Cork regaining Munster IHC title; Gearoid O'Goldhe, contributed to Cill na Martra County U-21 'B' FC triumph; Graham Callanan, lead by example towards Glen Rovers epic march to bridge 26 years to land County SHC title; Colin O'Brien, ever industrious towards Nemo Rangers return to the top of County SFC summit; Ashling Thompson, inspiring Cork Camogie captain and key to Milford retaining county and Munster titles.

Prior to the commencement of proceedings a pictorial tribute was paid to the late John Corcoran, the former Cork and UCC football selector which culminated in a round of applause for a great Gael.



Cork GAA Sports Star of the Year recipients Tomás Mulcahy (Hall of Award), Rena Buckley, Brieghe Corkery (Supreme Sports Stars) and Ryan Denny (Youth Award) pictured at the annual 96FM/c103FM GAA Banquet hosted in the Rochestown Park Hotel, Cork



The Brian Dillon's squad with guest speaker Eamonn Ryan, former Cork Ladies Football manager.



# Dillon's dinner signs

## CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

**BRIAN DILLON'S** camogie club held their intermediate victory dinner at the Ambassador Hotel recently.

Hugely supported, the room was decked out in blue and white with a slideshow of the team in action projected on a screen. As a magnificent centre piece, their hard fought league and championship trophies gleamed in front of the stage.

Derek Connolly provided MC for the night and did a fantastic job. Yvonne Brady, secretary of Brian Dillon's, welcomed camogie president Con Aherne; Jack Corcoran, president of Brian Dillon's; and chairman Alan O'Sullivan.

Manager Linda Mellerick was next to speak and she thanked all the supporters for attending the event and expressed her pride for what they had achieved. She said the players had worked extremely hard over four years and won U16 and Minor B Championships before becoming Intermediate champions. She paid particular tribute to Thomas Farrell and Kieran O'Sullivan for their support on the training ground. She finished by asking the question: "why do coaches coach?" and she answered "after four years of working with such a great bunch, I have my answer."

The legendary Eamonn Ryan was guest speaker and told some wonderful stories of coaching young kids over the past 30 years. He stressed the importance of being healthy and happy and achieving your potential. Tom Myers recounted the highs and lows of the season which were documented in a magnificent book presented by Anna Myers to the entire squad.

Words of thanks were expressed to the committee, Donie Lyons, and all those who went beyond the call of duty when asked. The Player of the Year accolade went to Amanda Dorgan to rapturous applause.



Claire Dooley, Susan Kate Brosnan, and Ruth Brosnan at the Brian Dillon's dinner.

Picture: Brian Loughheed



Shauna Cronin and Essie O'Connell at the Brian Dillon's dinner at the Ambassador Hotel, Cork.

Picture: Brian Loughheed



Caroline Craughan, captain; Essie O'Connell, vice-captain; and Amanda Dorgan, player of the year, at the Brian Dillon's dinner at the Ambassador Hotel, Cork.

Picture: Brian Loughheed



# Brudair rallies Milford for massive Oulart test

Therese O'Callaghan

Milford camogie manager John Brudair is happy how preparations have gone ahead of tomorrow's crunch All-Ireland semi-final clash with Leinster champions Oulart-The-Ballagh in Carriganore.

Two of the greatest club rivals in the modern era — sharing the last four titles — the expectation is that this will be another classic encounter.

The Wexford side is bidding for back-to-back titles so Brudair knows his team will have to be at their very best if they are to succeed.

"We played them in a challenge match during the summer and there was nothing in it. I know conditions will be different this time but

I'd be hoping that would be the case again. Both of these teams have been mainstays of the club championship for the past few years and this is the battle of the big guns once again.

"The girls are very dedicated. They got through the winter months no problem. Sourcing pitches, or course, was difficult at times but we were lucky enough to be able to sort that out.

"We have had a nice run of challenge matches and they have been really beneficial to us. The conditions will be a factor as well and we will need a bit of luck too if we are to get through.

"This is a big game for us. Nobody remembers the semi-final. It is all about getting to the final.

"We have to get there.



John Brudair: 'This is a big game for us. Nobody remembers the semi-final. It is all about getting to the final.'

Picture: Inpho

Everything that has been asked of the girls they have done. We need one more big

performance." Because of his commitment to the Limerick senior footballers, Brudair

won't be in attendance at the Déise venue. He will be patrolling the sideline in Kilmallock for the Shannonsiders first round of the NFL against Tipperary, throw-in here is just a half an hour before the 2.30pm start in Waterford.

"We did try to get the camogie match changed but that was not possible.

"It is well highlighted that I was with Limerick first day so it is not a dilemma as such.

"We have brought in Deirdre Murphy from UL and she will work alongside selectors Pat O'Riordan and Joe Daly."

Murphy is no stranger to the big day and will not want for experience.

She was a key component of the Clare camogie team for a long number of years and was awarded the Clare camogie

player of the decade in 2014. Currently she fills the role of GAA Development Officer at the University of Limerick.

A date with either Killimor (Galway) or Loughgiel Shamrocks (Antrim) awaits the winner and if the north Cork outfit was to reach the March 6 decider, it would cap an incredible spell since the club — founded in 1997 — made their senior breakthrough in 2012. They have gone on to collect all four Munster club titles and twice were crowned All-Ireland champions (2012 and 2013).

Oulart-The-Ballagh claimed All-Ireland honours in 2011 and 2014 so it is pretty safe to assume that very little separates these two fine sides as they prepare to lock horns in this much-anticipated showdown.

## O'Leary gets the decisive score

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Coláiste Choilm 1-7  
Doon, Clare 1-6

ANOTHER provincial colleges title came to Cork recently as Coláiste Choilm from Ballincollig captured the Munster Junior B title with a hard-fought victory over Doon.

In a game where little divided the sides over the hour Doon led by two points at the interval, 1-4 to 0-5 after converting a penalty midway through the half.

Coláiste Choilm captain Ciara Hughes did huge work as she led by example with two vital opening-half points and with Eimear Kiely also to the fore they hung in there as Doon edged ahead and held it to the interval.

Choilm applied huge second-half pressure on the Doon defence. Hannah O'Leary and Hughes pointed from frees but Doon maintained their two-point advantage.

With time running out Doon were in front, but the Choilm girls worked away and never allowed their heads drop.

It was this spirit and determination that saw them rewarded in the dying minutes as the clock ticked towards full time.

With their defence repelling a Doon attack Coláiste Choilm worked the ball up field to Kiely, but her shot for goal took a deflection off the keeper, however Hannah O'Leary was in the right place and finished smartly with a ground shot to the net.

Now leading by a point, they had to hold their lead but they dug deep and held on, much to the delight of their coach Hilda Mahony and their supporters.

For Doon it was huge disappointment but all credit to Coláiste Choilm, who battle to the end and were justly rewarded.

**COLÁISTE CHOILM:** C Buckley; L Ni Riordán, C Doyle, R Quigley, E Quigley, O Ni Chéitinn, I Sheehan; C Ni Aodha, C Dooley; D Ni Chadha, M Kelly, O Mac Carthaigh; E Ni Chadha; H O'Leary, K Dooley.

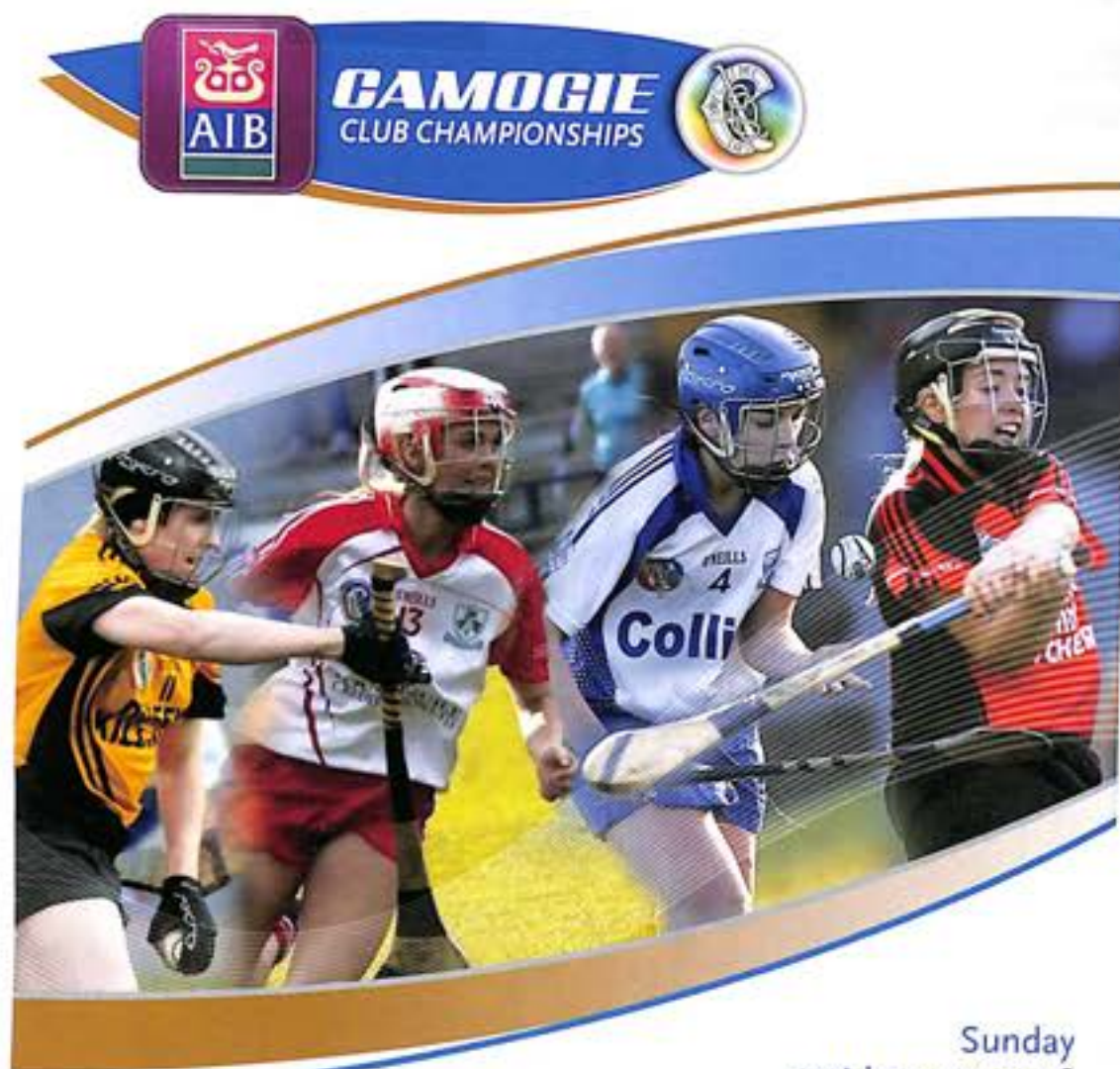
**Subs:** A O'Regan for E Quigley, A Kelly for O McCarthy, M Kelly for C Keane, F Sheehan for K Dooley.

JAN. 2016



Kelly Fitzgerald; Kelly Falvey; Lydia Cunningham; Karen O'Connell; Zoe Buckley, and Denise Luby at the Glen Rovers victory dinner dance.

Picture: David Keane



Sunday  
31st January, 2016

AIB All-Ireland Senior Club Championship Semi-Finals

Killimor v Loughgiel Shamrocks

2:00 pm • St. Tiarnach's Park, Clones, Co. Monaghan

Milford v Oulart-The Ballagh

2:30 pm • Carriganore (WIT), Waterford

Clár Oifigiúil • Luach €2

*John O'Shea*  
And Stourhead



# Oulart-The Ballagh

(WEXFORD)

Dathanna: Dearg agus Dubh

# Milford

(CORK)

Dathanna: Gorm agus Bán

1	Sharon Kehoe	S. Nic Eochaidh
2	Ciara Storey (Capt.)	C. Ní Stóirí
3	Karen Atkinson	C. Nic Aidicín
4	Shauna Redmond	S. Réamonn
5	Stacey Redmond	S. Réamonn
6	Mary Leacy	M. Ní Laitheasa
7	Louise Sinnott	L. Sionóid
8	Shelly Kehoe	S. Nic Eochaidh
9	Shauna Sinnott	S. Sionóid
10	Katie Murphy	C. Ní Mhurchú
11	Diane Ryan	D. Ní Riain
12	Aoife Dunne	A. Ní Dhoinn
13	Stacey Kehoe	S. Nic Eochaidh
14	Ursula Jacob	U. Iacób
15	Aideen Brennan	A. Ní Bhraonáin

## IONADAÍ

16 Niamh Sinnott	19 Aishling Moran	22 Rachel Sinnott	25 Aine Sheridan
N. Sionóid	A. Ní Mhóráin	R. Sionóid	A. Ní Shírideáin
17 Bridín Redmond	20 Laura Sinnott	23 Mairéad O'Brien	26 Aoife O'Connor
B. Réamonn	L. Sionóid	M. Ní Bhriain	A. Ní Chonchúir
18 Katie Gallagher	21 Leanne Nolan	24 Una Leacy	
C. Ní Ghallchóir	L. Ní Nualláin	U. Ní Laitheasa	

Manager: Philip Rossiter Selectors: Margaret Leacy, Ciara Scallan, Hughie O'Connor  
First Aid: Bridget Moran Physio: Thomas Storey

1	Rebecca Finn	R. Ní Fhinn
2	Deirdre Hayes	D. Ní hAodha
3	Maria Walsh	M. Ní Bhreatnach
4	Lisa Healy	E. Ní hÉill
5	Elaine O'Riordan	E. Ní Ríordáin
6	Aine Watson	A. Nic Uait
7	Anna Geary	A. Ní Ghadhra
8	Orlaith O'Mahony	O. Ní Mhathúna
9	Ashling Thompson	A. Nic Thomáis
10	Laura Stack	L. Stac
11	Deirdre Reilly	D. Ní Raghallaigh
12	Christine O'Connor	C. Ní Chonchúir
13	Marie O'Neill	M. Ní Neill
14	Emer Watson	E. Nic Uait
15	Maria Watson	M. Nic Uait

## IONADAÍ

16 Rebecca Duggan	19 Eimear O'Friel	22 Geraldine O'Connor	25 Brid Flannagan
R. Ní Dhugáin	E. Ní Fhril	G. Ní Chonchúir	B. Ní Fhlannagáin
17 Sarah Sexton (Capt.)	20 Aoife Dillon	23 Loretta Hanley	26 Eimear O'Gorman
S. Ní Sheasáin	A. Ní Dhiolún	L. Ní hÁinle	E. Ní Ghormáin
18 Katie Galvin	21 Nicole O'Connor	24 Aoife Galvin	
C. Ní Ghealbháin	N. Ní Chonchúir	A. Ní Ghealbháin	

Manager: John Brudair  
Selectors: Pat O'Riordan, Joe Daly, Deirdre Murphy  
First Aid: Ann Watson

## Milford end Oulart's double dream

### Daragh Ó Conchúir Camogie

Oulart-The Ballagh's dreams of a unique AIB All-Ireland club double were dashed at Carriganore in Waterford, after Milford narrowly beat them 1-9 to 1-8 in their senior camogie semi-final.

The 2013-2014 champions were pushed all the way by the titleholders, whose hurlers also won the Leinster championship at the end of last year. Milford will now play 2011 champions Killimor, after the Galwegians accounted for Loughiel Shamrocks at St Tiernach's Park in Clones, by 2-7 to 1-5.

The intermediate final will be contested by Cahir and Eyrecourt, after the Tipperary girls beat Tullaroan, 1-8 to 1-5, and Eyrecourt's goal power accounted for Eglis, 3-6 to 0-5.

Milford always held the upper hand in their heavy-weight match-up involving the winners of the last four national club senior titles.

Emer Watson slotted two placed balls for the Cork unit and though Ursula Jacob responded in kind, a Laura Stack goal, followed by another couple of points, put the winners in a strong position. Jacob kept her side in touch and they trailed by just a point, 1-4 to 0-6, at the break.

Watson and Deirdre Reilly helped open up a four-point gap as the second half progressed and that was significant, as it rendered the late goal from Una Leacy — playing her first game since having a cruciate knee ligament injury operated on last July — of consolation value only.

Brenda Hanney rolled back the years with a superlative display to help Killimor keep Loughiel Shamrocks at bay. The former Galway star scored 1-3 in a player-of-the-match performance and with Susan Keane adding 1-2, the westerners were able to maintain control. As expected, Rachel McCarty provided the main threat for Shamrocks, providing 1-2 of their tally, and the Antrim contingent rallied well but could not reel in their gritty opponents.

### Camogie

All-Ireland Club SCC semi-finals: Oulart The Ballagh (Wexford) 1-6 Milford (Cork) 1-9, Loughiel Shamrocks (Antrim) 1-5 Killimor (Galway) 2-7.

All-Ireland Club ICC semi-finals: Tullaroan (Kilkenny) 1-5 Cahir (Tipperary) 1-8, Eglis (Tyrone) 0-5 Eyrecourt (Galway) 3-6.

Munster PPS JACC final: Coachford College (Cork) 2-6 St Joseph's Tulla (Clare) 1-3.

Scorers for Coachford College: C Healy 1-6, C McCarthy 1-0.

Scorers for St Joseph's Tulla: C Halpin 1-0, B Dinan 0-2, S Conlan 0-1.

COACHFORD COLLEGE: C Twomey, C Sheehan, C Ring, M Cotter, J Tomanik, K McCarthy, A Buckley, C McCarthy, M O'Reilly, J Burke, C Healy, J Verling, E Foley, L Moynihan, R McElroy.

ST JOSEPH'S TULLA: K Baker, E Dally, O McInerney, A Smith, A Vaughan, A Ryan, C Halpin, B Dinan, C Kelly, O Nash, S Conlon, R Conway, E Whitney, N O'Gorman, M Boland.

# Killimor

(GALWAY)

Dathanna: Dubh agus Ómra

1	Helen Campbell	L. Nic Chathmhaoil
2	Serena Brien	S. Ní Bhriain
3	Karen Brien	C. Ní Bhriain
4	Sinéad Fahy	S. Ní Fhathaigh
5	Aisling Brehony	A. Nic an Bhreithiúnaigh
6	Anne Marie Hayes	A.M. Ní hAodha
7	Maolicia Callagy	M. Ní Challaigh
8	Emer Haverty	E. Ní hAbhartáigh
9	Anne Marie Starr (Capt.)	A.M. Starr
10	Brenda Hanney	B. Ní hAnnaigh
11	Claire Conroy	C. Ní Chonraoi
12	Denise Starr	D. Starr
13	Susan Keane	S. Ní Chéin
14	Martina Conroy	M. Ní Chonraoi
15	Serena Brehony	A. Nic an Bhreithiúnaigh

## IONADAÍ

16 Kate Moran	19 Emer Porter	22 Clara Brien	25 Mairéad Mooney
C. Ní Mhóráin	E. Póirtéir	C. Ní Bhriain	M. Ní Mhaonaigh
17 Helen Quinn	20 Lisa Hanrahan	23 Sandra Brehony	26 Sasha Hoary
L. Ní Choinn	L. Ní hAnracháin	S. Nic an Bhreithiúnaigh	S. de hÓra
18 Sinéad O'Hara	21 Clara Fahy	24 Lorraine Keary	27 Niamh Larkin
S. Ní hEára	C. Ní Fhathaigh	L. Ní Chiara	N. Ní Lorcáin

Manager: Tommy Callagy Coach: Liam Gordon  
Selectors: Noeleen Reilly, Liam Gordon  
Medic: Clara Mooney



# Milford and Killimor set up 2013 repeat

By Camogie Press  
Posted 31/01/2016



The AIB All-Ireland Senior Club Championship Final will be a repeat of the 2013 decider, when Milford annexed their first championship at the expense of 2011 victors Killimor.

Milford dashed Oulart-The Ballagh's dreams of a unique club double at Carriganore in Waterford, with a 1-9 to 1-8 win. The 2013-2014 champions were pushed all the way by the titleholders, whose hurlers also won the Leinster championship at the end of last year.

Killimor got off to a good start and that platform was sufficient to see off Loughiel Shamrocks at St. Ternach's Park in Clones by 2-7 to 1-5.

The intermediate final will be contested by Cahir and Eyrecourt, after the Tipperary girls beat Tullaroan, 1-8 to 1-5 and Eyrecourt's goal power accounted for Eglish, 3-6 to 0-5.

Milford always held the upper hand in their heavyweight match-up involving the winners of the last four AIB All-Ireland senior camogie finals.

Emer Watson slotted to placed balls for the Cork unit and though Ursula Jacob responded in kind, a Laura Stack goal, followed by another couple of points put the winners in a strong position. Jacob kept her side in touch though and they trailed by just 1-4 to 0-6 at the break.

Watson and Deirdre Reilly helped open up a four-point gap as the second half progressed and that was to prove significant, as it rendered the late goal from Una Leacy - playing her first game since having a cruciate knee ligament injury operated on last July - of consolation value only.

Brenda Hanney rolled back the years with a superlative display to help Killimor keep Loughiel Shamrocks at bay. The former Galway star scored 1-3 in a player-of-the-match performance and with Susan Keane adding 1-2, the westerners were able to maintain control.

As expected, Rachel McCarry provided the main threat for Shamrocks, providing 1-2 of their tally, and the Antrim contingent rallied well, but could not reel in their gritty opponents.

Dual star Róisín Howard slotted six points as a young Cahir unit booked their place in the intermediate decider. Laura Fitzpatrick's goal was a key score for the Tipperary gang, who have experienced a meteoric rise, having been playing junior B camogie in 2012.

They are certain to face a stern examination from Eyrecourt in the final. The Galway team have earned a reputation for heavy goalscoring and showed that it was well earned against Tyrone contenders, Eglish.

Ironically, the country's best known raker of green flags, All Star Molly Dunne wasn't amongst the trio to hit the Eglish net. Instead, it was Cora McEvoy, Laura Loughane and Laísle Stones that registered the defining three-pointers.



Leanne O'Sullivan, Lauren Callanan, and Jennifer Hosford from Dublin Hill at the reception at County Hall.

JAN. 2016



Special Achievement Award winner Brieghe Corkery (who jointly won with Rena Buckley), with niece Bridginn at the Evening Echo Ladies Sportstar Awards at the Rochestown Park Hotel. Picture: Larry Cummins



Julie Ní hAilín, Meadh Nic Charthaigh, and Lucy Ní hAilín, from Coláiste an Phiarsaigh, Glanmire, attending the Rebel Óg Annual Awards at The Clayton Hotel, Silver Springs Cork.



Camogie

Linda  
Mellerick

# Milford dig deep to shake off Oulart

## Milford back in club final

CORK camogie champions Milford are back in the AIB All-Ireland club senior final after they defeated titleholders Oulart-The Ballagh, 1-9 to 1-8, at Carriganore in Waterford last weekend.

2013-2014 champions Milford will now play 2011 champions Killimor in the All-Ireland final next month – a repeat of the 2013 decider that Milford won. The Cork team always held the upper hand in their heavyweight match-up against Oulart-The Ballagh that involved the winners of the last four AIB All-Ireland senior camogie finals. Emer Watson slotted placed balls for the Cork unit and Laura Stack goaled, as Milford led 1-4 to 0-6 at the break.

Watson and Deirdre Reilly helped open up a four-point gap as the second half progressed and that was to prove significant as Milford advanced.

FEB. 2016

Milford 1-9  
Oulart the Ballagh 1-8

WHEN two great teams meet, rarely does the game match the hype. But in this case in Waterford IT yesterday, for intensity, passion and unwavering commitment from both sides this All Ireland Club camogie semi-final reached expectations.

An Una Leacy goal almost three minutes into additional time added to the drama but, justifiably, time ran out. Credit referee Karl O'Brien for not being tempted to play on, based on the stoppage time during the second-half time was up. Milford were the better team and deserved the victory but they found it hard to shake a dogged Oulart challenge. They went three points up but just a point separated the sides at the break and when a brilliant free from Ursula Jacob drew the sides level six minutes into the second-half the tension was palpable.

The free-taking from both Emer Watson and Jacob was brilliant, each just missing one throughout the hour and finding the target from great distance and difficult angles.

Anna Geary lay the foundation of passion with her very first ball, breaking out at speed, taking a hard tackle and clearing. That set the tone for the day from both sides as the 50-50 balls weren't for the faint hearted.

Ashling Thompson, covering miles again, was hugely influential with young Laura Stack outstanding. Maria Walsh followed Ursula Jacob, playing at centre-forward, and had a very good hour.

While Leacy got a potentially match-changing goal in injury time one would have to question the logic of playing a player not yet six months past her cruciate operation. Limping at the first ball that came her way she was struggling and from a personal and team point of view it didn't make sense.

She needed to be at her fittest to match Elaine O'Riordan, who really wasn't threatened. At one point Una managed to catch a high dropping ball but couldn't turn. She did cross two excellent balls from the left corner midway through the opening half but Katie Gallagher was too slow on both occasions as Milford swarmed and cleared.

Milford were spreading Oulart up front, with Maria Watson rounding comfortably. One of her runs led to Milford's only goal, finished off by Emer on 12 minutes. Oulart were relying too much on key players who gave all they had. Stacey



Milford's Marie O'Neill tries to find a way past Oulart-The Ballagh's Ciara Storey in the All-Ireland Club camogie semi-final yesterday. Picture: INPHO/Ken Sutton

Redmond was playing a blinder in defence, well assisted by Mary Leacy. Shelly Kehoe was also doing everything for her team's cause.

As expected Oulart threw all they had at Milford immediately after half time. They drew level but Milford kept their composure. A four minute spell where Emer, Maria and Deirdre O'Reilly pointed deflated the champions' fightback however as they were working so hard for every break.

With Anna Geary, Ashling Thompson, Maria Walsh and Laura Stack leading the way Milford were heading for their third All-Ireland final in four years. But Oulart refused to wilt. Heavy knocks were taken by the 30 on the field but every player stood tall. A brief moment of worry for Milford when Leacy

scored but it was fleeting. They were in control and deservedly advanced to meet Killimor of Galway in the All-Ireland final on March 6.

**Scorers for Milford:** E Watson 1-7 (0-7 f), M Watson, D O'Reilly 0-1 each.

**Oulart the Ballagh:** U Jacob 0-7 (0-6 f), U Leacy 1-0, Stacey Kehoe 0-1.

**MILFORD:** R Finn; D Hayes, M Walsh, L Healy; E O'Riordan, A Watson, A Geary; O O'Mahony, A Thompson; L Stack, D Reilly, C O'Connor; M O'Neill, E Watson, M Watson.

**Subs:** B Flanagan for C O'Connor (43), E O'Friel for M O'Neill (50).

**OULART THE BALLAGH:** Sharon Kehoe; C Storey, K Atkinson, B Redmond; S Redmond, M Leacy, L Sinnott; Shelly Kehoe, S Sinnott; K Murphy, U Leacy, K Gallagher; Stacey Kehoe, U Jacob, A Brennan.

**Subs:** D Ryan for B Redmond (27), L Nolan for A Brennan (38), A Dunne for Stacey Kehoe (47), S Redmond for K Murphy (58), L Sinnott for K Gallagher (62).

**Referee:** Karl O'Brien (Dublin).



Brid Redmond in action against Deirdre Hayes. Picture: INPHO

## Daly delights as Milford 'bring A game'

### REACTION

■ Linda Mellerick

asked of them."

Daly was quick to give credit to Brudair and what he had done with the team.

"This is down to John and the massive work he has put in. We've a great sideline team too, in Deirdre (Murphy) and Pat (O'Riordan). We've a massive lot done on the sideline but it's all about the 15 on the pitch and the 25 players we have.

"They're the best girls you've ever seen to put in an effort in training. They're outstanding," he gushed.

The passion certainly showed with

the display on the pitch, in what was a well-fought game despite the poor conditions.

"It was a brilliant game of hurling and Oulart did their bit as well. They're outstanding champions and they really put us to the pin of our collar."

Referring to the onslaught from Milford after half-time, Daly acknowledged that they knew that would come.

"We needed everyone to do their bit, the subs that came on as well. We knew Oulart would come at us and they did, but our girls stood up, and we're absolutely delighted.

"It's just fantastic to be in another All-Ireland final."



Christine O'Connor of Milford at full speed.



# Jennifer O'Leary

The voice of experience tackles the topics that matter



## 'I'm not a woman that's an athlete, I'm an athlete'

**MOST of you will never have heard of Skylar Diggins.**

She's an American basketball star – a starting guard for the Dallas Wings – who has achieved great things. She's a two-time WNBA All-Star, a five-time USA basketball gold medalist, a four-time college All-American, and a role model for aspiring young sportswomen.

'I'm not a woman that's an athlete, I'm an athlete,' Skylar once said. And I'm 100 per cent in agreement.

That's a positive (and correct) way to look at women in sport today. It's 100 per cent true.

We are athletes, not women who are athletes.

We are living in a time where women are really pushing the boundaries in sport. Women are showcasing what training hard can do and their ability to inspire the world over is becoming quite a regular part of the time we live in.

Skylar is coming back from an ACL injury and she has set herself a target – to become the best in the world. She's talented, confident, committed and inspiring, and a generation of young women look up to her.

Women like our own Katie Taylor and Jessica Ennis are modern sportswomen who have demonstrated their natural talent in sport. They have captured the public imagination and their success is being recognised as it truly should be.

Clearly there are many women in sport who are truly inspiring today, and there were lots of female sportspeople I looked up to and admired when I was growing up.

My heroes weren't given as much recognition as they deserved. They spanned from local camogie players, to national athletes, to world champions and international superstars.

But no matter how much coverage they received in the media or the success they achieved in their chosen sport, they were inspiring to me for various reasons and made me want to try

my very hardest in whatever sport I was destined to play.

Back when I was nine or ten, I remember the excitement I felt leading up to the Wimbledon tennis tournament. My brothers, sisters and myself were often found in the local tarmac tennis court in Barryroe, practising day-in day-out like we were about to feature in this famous tournament.

That was the dream – to be a professional tennis player, to be talent-spotted by some visiting professional tennis coach who would admire our ability to smash and volley the ball (with relative ease, I might add!) over the net. We didn't need to be coached, we had raw, natural talent – sure, you can't teach that!

And I guess that is why Monica Seles really grabbed my attention and admiration all those years ago.

Okay, leaving her annoying 'grunt' to one side for a while, Seles was a figure I truly admired and wanted to be. She was a huge part of my life growing up. I loved watching her in action and her two-handed style of play was so unusual at the time but so effective in her game.

I didn't know anyone who had a shot as powerful as her and her ground strokes over the ball were a deadly advantage in her game. I used to practice her type of two-handed shot nearly every day in the summer, when it felt like we actually had the feel of the warm summer sun. Remember those days?

They were great times. It was great to get lost in the moment, to dream I actually was Monica Seles. Her speed and agility defeating names like Sabatini, Sanchez Vicario and Graf (aka my sister, who used one of these names, while I was Seles) always amazed me.

But the main reason I found her inspirational was because she was so determined and tenacious. She went to each ball with guts and tried her very best in each game she played.



**A real hero: Cobh and Irish running legend Sonia O'Sullivan was a female sportswoman that our columnist Jennifer O'Leary looked up to and drew great inspiration and strength from when she was growing up in West Cork.**

And even in defeat she was gracious and accommodating to her fans. For such a young player to have achieved so much I admired her, and the fact that she didn't give up following her shocking stabbing attack in 1993, it showed me that you cannot allow your dreams to dissipate even when life's trials test you to your limit.

Closer to home, a heroine who made me feel proud to be Irish – but more importantly a proud Cork woman – was Sonia O'Sullivan. She is a household name, a sporting legend, who won national, world and European titles.

I will always remember watching her in the Sydney Olympics in 2000 where she

was defeated by less than a second in the 5,000m by Romanian Gabriela Szabo.

I was glued to the TV in secondary school where the final was shown on a big screen by our teachers in the study hall. I'll never forget the tension in the room as she sprinted her final 200m, her trademark kick when she needed to give it her all to overtake or outpace her opponent. There were many lips bitten and teeth gritted that day and despite her narrowly losing out in the end, she will forever remain a true inspiration to me.

She is living proof that hard work pays off and while we don't always win, we can certainly make a lasting impression on

people. What really struck a chord was how she mentally prepared herself to train on her own. It's such a lonely sport and it has to test your mindset.

How did she keep herself so positive and driven all the time? She was such a talented runner so she must have trained extremely hard but the majority of the time she would have been solo. I find this remarkable. Her mental strength really amazed me.

It's often difficult to exercise with a group, you can easily convince yourself to drive home instead of stopping off at the gym and it's too easy to have too many chocolate biscuits in the comfort of your own home. But for her to excel at her sport,



**Inspiration: Monica Seles.**



**Role model: Skylar Diggins.**

she had to sacrifice a lot. She had to sacrifice human contact, resist tempting treats, and her extreme lean physique shows her determination to push her body to the limit for her sport. Not only this, she always had a smile on her face, pre and post races. She seemed like a real down to earth person. I liked this, I wanted to be like her, I wanted to train hard like her.

We all need role models to look up to. We are lucky that there are so many amazing sportspeople out there that fit the bill, who inspire us to strive to be the best we can be. They keep us focused and grounded and allow us to challenge ourselves not only in our sport but in every facet of our lives.

Remember, we are not women who are athletes, we are athletes.





North City and District Sports Awards monthly winner Linda Mellerick, Cork camogie legend and coach of Brian Dillon's Intermediate camogie team, receiving the award from Joe Kennedy, General Manager Maldron Hotel Cork (main sponsors) in association with RedFM and Singleton's SuperValu Hollyhill. Picture: Ger Bonu

**DELIVERANCE** day finally arrived for Brian Dillon's Camogie Club on landing a much sought after county intermediate championship title.

For a club steeped in the game, Dillon's grinded out a series of terrific wins under the guidance of outstanding coach Linda Mellerick, the former Cork great and celebrated team of the century player.

To land county accolades is a tribute to the dedication on the field and the management excellence of the inspirational Linda earned fitting recognition with the North City and District Sports Star Award at a reception in the Maldron Hotel.

Mellerick's camogie playing senior inter-county career spanned 18 seasons, winning six senior All Ireland medals, three All Ireland Senior Club titles, Camogie Player of the Year in 1993 and 1998 and was named on the Team of the Century in 2004.

The former Cork great started coaching Brian Dillon's in 2012, taking on successful U16 and minor teams before progressing on to the intermediate side.

"We have come a long way over the past three years, there is a re-energised feeling in the club. The underage structure is boosted by outstanding young coaches with the older players also involved at underage level", she said.

"Going out and keeping the players is hard work but made all the more easier after the success from recent years.

"Overall, there is terrific goodwill, its been a collective

# Just reward for Dillon's coach Linda

## CAMOGIE

■ John Tarrant

efforts from the players, management and the club", said Linda.

Following defeat in the 2014 Intermediate County Final, Brian Dillons began 2015 with a grit and determination to succeed, winning the league to overcome Tracton that acted as encouragement for the bigger goal that lay ahead.

From the championship, Dillon's overcame Sliabh Rua, Blackrock, Enniskeane and Tracton in the group series. A close battle developed in the semi-final, Dillons beating Blackrock in a

replay.

Again Tracton provided the opposition, much to enthuse about Dillons on putting together a convincing performance to win by five points under the captaincy of Caroline Craughan.

That allowed the Nano Nagle Cup to be escorted back to the famed Tank Field with a huge convoy of supporters celebrating the end of a 22 year drought.

"To see the joy on winning was incredible, skilful and a talented group of players whose behaviour on and off the pitch is exemplary always showing the utmost respect for the opposition and officials.

The squad met for training and matches on 110 occasions, the skills improving on the pitch and it

gave me just as much satisfaction as winning All Ireland titles with Cork", said a delighted Linda.

Lord Mayor Cllr. Chris O'Leary and Joe Kennedy, General Manager, Maldron Hotel extended congratulations to the Brian Dillon's team and coach Linda Mellerick after securing the North City and District Sports Star selection in association with Singleton's SuperValu, Hollyhill.

The attendance at the function included Brian Dillon's vice-chairman Veronica Deane, mentors Paschal Luby and Tom Myers, players Saoirse Rodgers, Amanda Dorgan, captain Caroline Craughan, along with Linda's parents and extended family and Tomás Singleton, Singleton's SuperValu Hollyhill.



Camogie players Claire Sexton, Rosemarie Dullea, and Rebecca McCarthy, from Sacred Heart Secondary School, Clonakilty, at the Rebel Óg Annual Awards at The Clayton Hotel, Silver Springs Cork. Picture: Larry Cummins





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Hall of Fame recipient Sheila Spillane of Killeagh GAA, pictured with family and friends, at the Evening Echo Ladies Sports Star Awards. Picture: Larry Cummins



Army colleagues Capt Claire Spelman and Cork camogie star Gemma O'Connor attending the Evening Echo Ladies Sports Star Awards. Picture: Larry Cummins



Sheila Spillane, Killeagh GAA Club, who received the Hall of Fame award at the Evening Echo Ladies Sports Star Awards, with her family Con Spillane, Kevin Fennelly, JJ Fennelly, and Mary Motherway, at the Rochestown Park Hotel, Cork, last night. Picture: Larry Cummins



Rory Noonan, The Evening Echo and guest speaker Anna Geary attending the function yesterday in the Rochestown Park Hotel.



GAA players Sarah Fahy, Eimear O'Sullivan, Hannah Looney, and Orla Cronin at the reception.



Niall Collins from Dunmanway and Orla Cotter from Ballynoe.





EBEL YELL: Cork dual star Rena Buckley, holder of 27 national titles.

Picture: David Keane.

# 27 not out as dual star Buckley still clocking up the titles

**IT'S some sporting cv — 27 national titles from 35 finals, which averages out at one for every year the popular physiotherapist has been on this planet.**

The medal haul includes 14 All-Irelands, nine in football, and Rena has been a dual player for a dozen years, now. Why then has it taken so long to be recognised by this particular stable? Judges, sure what do they know?

Anyway, two minutes from the end of the Galway game and the sides tied at 0-13 to 1-10, Rena underlined her importance to the Cork cause by popping up to score the winning point, her second of the game.

The Connacht girls became the latest victims of another Cork late, late show after the pair couldn't be separated in a thrilling 3-8 to 1-14 draw in the first game.

"The one thing in the back of my mind was that I didn't want extra-time," says Buckley.

"I remember we had the ball out to the side, but Galway had us blocked off.

"It came across to me and I was able to go in the other direction and create enough space to have a go.

"I was about 30m out from goal and it was reaching the stage that someone had to shoot and it fell to me. I wouldn't be noted for scoring so that made it all the more pleasing.

"Galway were down to 14 players at the time and we won the kick-out which allowed us run down the clock," Rena recalled.

Rena's accuracy clinched her ninth league medal, a remarkable eighth success on the bounce and Cork's 11th in 12 years.

Her versatility is such that Rena has played across every position in defence, apart from goalkeeper, and now forms a formidable midfield partnership with fellow camogie star Briege Corkery. "My favourite positions would be centre-back or midfield."

The one downside, however, was the game clashed with the Munster championship final in camogie between Cork and Tipperary, which had a 4.30 throw-in in Cashel, with the football replay starting three hours later in Portlaoise.

"That was very disappointing. Mind you it wasn't the first time it happened because you'd have league clashes, which is understandable enough.

"It's usually just Briege and I who are af-

**I'm lucky to be part of two unbelievably successful Cork teams**

fect, but Meabh Cahalane is involved now, too.

"What normally happens is that I'd play one game and Briege the other, but that was the most serious clash until recently, when it happened again, this time in the championship, however.

"I suppose everything is based on the importance of the game. Back then, the football was a replay of a national final and while the camogie was a Munster final, there's a separate All-Ireland, which is obviously more important.

"It would be very difficult for either of us to have to make the call, but either way it's hugely disappointing, especially as we're 12 years involved with both teams.

"What's even more frustrating is that the situation doesn't appear to have improved at all.

"You can understand league games clashing, but not at this time of the year, the height of the championship.

"You'd imagine there'd be some compromise by moving one of the games to a Friday night or Sunday," Rena commented.

The commitment shown by all involved with Cork is well documented and Rena wouldn't have it any other way.

"I love playing. I know it means being out six nights of the week whether training or playing, but anyone playing inter-county is doing it anyway.

"You have to give up a lot, but that's by choice. We're not being forced into anything. "There are things you miss like holidays,

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Our May recipient is dual football and camogie star, Rena Buckley, who is honoured for the first time following her exploits in the National Football League final replay win over Galway. She spoke to Mark Woods



**DETERMINED:** Cork's Rena Buckley battles with Wexford's Ursula Jacob in the All-Ireland series. Picture: Jim Coughlan

weddings and hen parties but what you gain throughout the year more than compensates.

"For example I don't take holidays during the summer and I'd usually go in winter.

"Last year we had a trip with the football and that was fine. The previous year I went skiing. There's always something to do.

"I'm lucky to be part of two unbelievably successful Cork teams. I think that extra bit of commitment from people has helped us achieve what we have done.

"People prioritise and that comes from not only the players, but the managements as well. Everyone realises the importance of what's involved and that's critical.

"Everyone puts in a great shift, especially in training, when there's a consistent high standard and that's very important in achieving success.

"It's not good enough just to show up a couple of weeks before the championship and put in a big effort."

Rena's longevity is a direct result of her dedication and it's no coincidence that she's remained practically injury-free.

"I've been very lucky over the years. I had one bad injury to my shoulder, which kept me out for a month to six weeks.

"I missed the first county final with Inniscarra, but I made it back for the replay.

"That was in 2010, a year which didn't go well with Cork so I didn't miss out on anything with them.

"Being a physio gave me an advantage. Exercise is the most important thing and I knew what to crack on with, in terms of getting back playing again.

"I think minding yourself in the winter is very important as well. Obviously, you can let your hair down a bit, but you can't let yourself go, either.

"You'd probably end up too far be-

## 30-second timeout

**Name:** Rena Buckley

**From:** Inniscarra

**Age:** 28

**Sports:** Ladies football and camogie

**Occupation:** Physiotherapist

**Family:** Parents Tim and Helen, brother Jerry and sister Mary

**Twitter handle:** @renabucks

**Top three people you follow on Twitter:** The usual GAA people, but mostly physios for work-related matters

**You'd do 10 extra laps to avoid doing:** Writing up notes at work.

**All-Ireland football medals:** 9

**National League medals:** 9

**All-Ireland camogie medals:** 5

**All-Stars:** 7

hind and that's when injuries can start creeping in, but you must have an appetite for training, when it comes round again.

"You have to switch off and I think peaking is very important as well because there's no point in reaching that level in March or April and being sick of training by July and August."

Rena works with Brian O'Connell and they've two physiotherapy clinics in Ballincollig and Macroom.

Work isn't a typical Monday-Friday, nine to five stint, instead it regularly extends into the evenings and at weekends, too.

"You have to be flexible to cater for the client and we also look after some

GAA teams.

"I worked with Dolphin in the last rugby season. It took me a while to get used to it, but I really enjoyed some of the matches. It was different.

"There are certain aspects of rugby I really like, notably the sportsmanship.

"When the game is over, it's over. In the GAA, we tend to hang on to an element of bitterness from what happened maybe five years ago."

Now another championship is roaring ahead with Rena one All-Ireland shy of the late Kathleen Mills, who won a record 15 with Dublin in camogie.

Will Kathleen's record endure? I doubt it.



**TRUE GRIT:** Cork's Rena Buckley holds off Tyrone's Maria Donnelly during a NL game.

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# O'Connor is one of



Gemma O'Connor at her furious best against Kilkenny. She has always delivered on the big days at Croke Park.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

**HER interview after the All-Ireland senior camogie final was probably one of the most honest, insightful, tearful 90 seconds of my sporting year.**

And it says so much about our autumn quarterly winner Gemma O'Connor.

Just after the Ballyphehane woman had led Cork to back-to-back All-Ireland titles with an inspiring display at centre back, she was asked about her mum Geraldine, who at the time missed the final due to illness, and has since past away.

Gemma's response was incredible and showed how strong a person she is.

The composed way she spoke about her mum, her hero, being ill, will remain with me and everyone who saw the interview forever.

Gemma was not born with strength and composure like that.

None of us are. Yes, her training in the Army has helped, but for those who know her, that strength came from her mum Geraldine.

Geraldine was a leader of women, a great character who did everything with a smile and she would have been drilling that sense of self-worth, self-esteem, self-confidence into Gemma and her brother Glenn since they were born.

And Gemma has displayed that courage since she first picked up a hurley many years ago in Scoil Maria Assumpta, Ballyphehane, under the guidance of Mrs Fitzsimons, then a teacher, now the principal of the school.

She recalls a young Gemma O'Connor, who first tasted success on the camogie field as part of the school's first winning Sciath Na Scol team, that also included her friend and St Finbarr's team mate Lynda O'Connell.

"We were honoured to have someone like Gemma start her Camogie career with our school," Mrs Fitzsimons said.

"My earliest memories of Gemma was seeing this tiny stature of a child along with Lynda (O'Connell) tog out for the school team when they were just in second class.

"Both of them so small amongst the sixth class girls, however, seeing them get stuck in and hurl like they did, I knew I no longer had to fear them getting hurt.

"I now feared for the opposition," joked Mrs Fitzsimons.

"We had some great years with the school teams and are very proud of the girls who went onto play at inter-county level, but equally as proud of those who went to join the local clubs having gained a love for the sport through our coaching.

"Clubs like Ballyphehane and St Finbarr's always provided great opportunities for the kids and this was always great to see as I truly believe sport is so important in a child's life.

"They make life-long friendships and normally lead a healthy and happy lifestyle when involved in sport.

"I was lucky enough to have the support of many parents help me coach the school teams.

"The likes of Patsy Foolkes, Margo Kenny, Ann Kelleher and of course Gemma's mom Geraldine.

"Geraldine not only coached when Gemma attended the school, but continued to do so for many years after.

"Probably almost 15 years in fact. Geraldine was incredible with the time and effort she gave to our school and once again it was sport that brought a great friendship between me and Ger and in her honour I will always keep sport going in the school for as long as I can." Another person who is proud of what Gemma has achieved is her brother Glen, himself a hurler with St Finbarr's.

Gemma O'Connor has always been made of tough stuff. Here Barbara O'Connell talks to those who know her best about what drives her to be the best



"I have always been so proud of Gemma," Glenn O'Connor said.

"From an early age we saw at home that Gemma really had something special to offer.

"I look up to her and even now when I watch her play I learn so much from her.

"I suppose when I was younger the hurl didn't come as natural to me and seeing her success definitely drove me on to work harder.

"People admire Gemma's dedication and commitment to camogie particularly so over the past few months when at a time she was trying to cope with the agony of seeing our mum ill, however, I wasn't surprised at her dedication, for the simple reason, because I know Gemma.

"I wasn't surprised, but I did admire her and her commitment.

"Gemma is a passionate person and gives it her all no matter how tough it gets.

"GAA is a huge part of our family, the last year was so tough for us and I remember my mam telling us when she got diagnosed that she wanted us to go about playing GAA as normal and for us to do ourselves and her proud.

"I think GAA did help us, it helped all of us to have a bit of normality even if it was just for 60 minutes.

"It's good to keep yourself going and I know GAA kept my mam going, and it made it all worth the while when my mam got to see Gemma and the girls lift the cup.

"Gemma has a lot of awards, but each one means the world to her and I know this one will mean just as much to her as her first.

"I cannot stress how proud I am of Gemma, I go to all her games.

"I see how hard she works as an athlete, she is so passionate about family and sport and I'm delighted for her to get this award.

"Gemma's tough when it comes to taking a hurley to the shins or a slap across the knuckles when going for a high ball, but Gemma is definitely the biggest softie I know, anyone that knows Gemma knows how emotionally soft she is.

"Myself and Gemma are really close, and family means everything to us.

"I have always looked up to her as a

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# Our greatest Gems



Gemma O'Connor and Orla Cotter, the two standout players in the All-Ireland final last month, lift the O'Duffy Cup together.

Picture: INPHO/Cathal Noonan

player and a person and I am proud to call her my sister." Another person proud of what Gemma has achieved is her coach at St Finbarr's Colette McCarthy.

"Most people will know Gemma from her performances on a national stage for Cork," Colette McCarthy said.

"Her near perfect display in this year's All-Ireland final truly sums up her playing abilities.

"Her reading of the game, distribution of the ball, calmness under pressure, but more importantly her incredible strength of character.

"I genuinely don't believe any other team in the country has a player to match her.

"So how lucky are we in the Barrs to be able to call her one of our own.

"Gemma's twitter name @blues4reds and that shows where her heart lies.

"In recent years I've been involved with Gemma as a selector and as a committee member, but my mum, Harriett Carey and Gemma's mum, Ger, have been great friends for many years through their involvement with the camogie section in the Barrs.

"Gemma's numerous achievements over the years have been celebrated almost as vigorously in our house as in her own.

"Gemma was lucky enough to win a senior county medal with the Barrs in 2006, but since then the club has been re-building.

"The majority of this year's senior panel are U21 and they could not have a better role model than Gemma.

"My own daughter Keeva is one of a new crop of players, who will be lucky enough, in years to come, to say that they played in a blue jersey with Gemma.

"In 2012, just a couple of days before her 14th birthday, Keeva got her first chance to play with Gemma.

"It was a senior challenge game in the Barrs and due to a variety of reasons we had just 14



Gemma O'Connor has set a very high standard for herself to be judged by over the years and yet she continues to deliver.

players.

"At 13, Keeva was too young to be on our senior panel, but she was put in corner forward to make up the numbers.

"My abiding memory of the game is that every opportunity Gemma got, she drove the ball into Keeva's corner.

"Due to her age and size Keeva struggled, but each ball Gemma sent her way built her confidence and she eventually got a point from play and that was thanks to Gemma.

"My mum and Gemma's Mum Ger were on the sideline that day and I'm not sure which of them was prouder.

"Gemma gives 100% every time she steps on the pitch but she is also incredibly generous of her time with our juvenile and Street Leagues sections in the Barrs.

"When approached, she always makes herself available to present medals or take a training session.

"She brings the O'Duffy Cup to the club after each All-Ireland victory and will spend hours interacting with our younger girls, signing hurleys and jerseys and standing for countless photographs.

"Gemma is the player that these girls aspire to be.

"This year was a particularly tough one for Gemma and her family and it was important to us in the Barrs to show our support any way we could.

"On All-Ireland final day the club had two busloads of supporters in Croke Park to cheer on both Gemma and Meabh (Cahalane)."

On the day both Barrs girls played their part in Cork's victory, but Gemma showed incredible inner strength and literally played her heart out.

"We're definitely biased, but there's no doubt for us that she should have been awarded player of the match.

"After the final whistle and before the presentation of the cup we shared a few minutes with Gemma, there were lots of hugs and tears, but my overwhelming emotion was definitely one of pride.

"I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this Evening Echo Ladies Sports Award than Gemma.

"She has set a very high standard for herself to be judged by over the years and yet she continues to deliver.

"In every respect she is the benchmark for her teammates both at club and county level.

"I'm certain of one thing, they are all happier to be playing with her rather than against her."

Evening Echo

LADIES SPORTSTAR AWARDS

NEWBRIDGE silverware

RPH ROCHESTOWN PARK



# 'Every year is just as



Off the field, Brieghe Corkery and her fiancé Diarmuid Scannell run a farm and are getting married next January.

Picture: Kieran Harnett

**THE popular Saw Doctors song wonders what it's like 'To Win Just Once':**

"To win just once against the odds,  
"And once be smiled on by the Gods,  
"To race with speed along the track,  
"Break the tape and not look back,  
"To never have considered losing,  
"As if to win is by your choosing..."  
That ditty certainly wasn't about Brieghe Corkery. After this September, it's 16 All-Irelands and counting for Corkery and the equally indomitable Rena Buckley. Together they broke the record of 15 set by Dublin's Kathleen Mills.

That's 16 senior All-Irelands, so when you factor in underage, club and individual accolades, and consider neither are 30 yet, by the time they're finished they'll need trophy cabinets big enough to fit in what most clubs fill across the generations. The pair of them are down-to-earth characters. A bit like the Kilkenny hurlers strutting around isn't their style.

Buckley picked up an *Evening Echo* Ladies Sports Star award already this year for kicking the winning point in the ladies football league final against Galway. Corkery got the nod this time round by virtue of her goal in the camogie All-Ireland against the Tribe, and another herculean effort in the football decider against Dublin which earned her the TG4 Player of the Match gong.

It almost seems futile to open up the line of questioning by wondering if these All-Irelands were sweeter than any of the others. Or indeed how they can be ranked over such a lengthy spell of success?

"You'd hear people saying it, but sure every year is special. If it wasn't you wouldn't be so driven. We'd difficult times in the camogie and the football this season, in the middle of the summer you wouldn't have been too confident of getting back to Croke Park so it probably made it very enjoyable that we did."

She goes through the football first. In the hunt for a second five-in-a-row across 11 seasons and 12 astonishing campaigns with Éamonn Ryan at the helm, they were raging favourites going into the Munster final against Kerry. They'd been beaten by their neighbours in 2013 – recovering with an All-Ireland semi-final win – and this time they were torn asunder. The scoreboard read 2-13 to 2-4 at the finish.

"We were almost in disarray afterwards. We'd hit a bad patch but it seemed worse than that really. There were lots of phone calls made after and a lot of hurt. Work-rate and honesty, the things we pride ourselves on, were missing. We were way below against Kerry and it was a blunder from one to 30-plus on the panel."

"Funnily enough training had been going immense. So definitely complacency was a factor."

A training camp over the June Bank Holiday weekend was always used as a barometer of where they were really at, but it was postponed for two weeks this summer to facilitate the U21s and it turned out to be a watershed.

They trained in Ballincollig on the Friday night before heading to UL for two days, staying over on the Saturday.

"Éamonn changed it up. There wasn't too much hard running because it wasn't what was needed. We'd a great night on the Saturday at dinner, it cleared the bad air. We were buzzing again after."

As the seasons tick by, more and more of the core who were on the field when Mayo were beaten in the first All-Ireland in 2005 drift away. Juliet Murphy and Elaine Harte opted out after '13, Angela Walsh and Nollaig

Éamonn Murphy sits down with 16 time All-Ireland senior champion Brieghe Corkery to discuss another magnificent year for one of the most decorated sport stars in Irish history



Cleary for this campaign.

Corkery, Buckley, Brid Stack, Deirdre O'Reilly, Geraldine O'Flynn and Valerie Mulcahy are still standing, but to fill the void the likes of Marie Ambrose, Aisling Barrett, Aine O'Sullivan, and Ashling Hutchings came into the team, while Martina O'Brien, Róisín Phelan, Vera Foley, and Eimear Scally were vital cogs in the final.

"Any team that goes for while has younger players standing up. You'd miss the likes of Angela and Hartey around, that's only natural, but look at how Róisín Phelan played when she came on for Ger in the All-Ireland final..."

O'Flynn, who kicked the winning point with glacial cool in 2014, tore her cruciate in the first half. However, she still played a part at half-time, with a rousing speech to the players.

"Ger put it all in perspective for us. Any of us could have been the players gone off. She spoke and rose us all. We knew we'd to make the most of the next 30 minutes. In fairness Éamonn came in then and he was excellent too. He calmed us down a bit, got us to think about our roles. You don't want to be too hyped going on the field."

Come the final whistle they were champions again. Corkery as dynamic as ever in midfield, Buckley equally as good by her side with her reading of the play and faultless distribution.

They'd been there two weeks earlier with the camogie team. Retaining the O'Duffy Cup despite losing stalwarts like Walsh, Anna Geary, Joanne O'Callaghan and Jennifer O'Leary over the winter. In doing so they avenged a league final defeat to Galway, with a textbook team performance of ferocious effort from the front back.

"You saw the hooking and blocking that Julia White, Amy O'Connor and Pamela Mackey did. It's not all about the scores anymore. Paudie Murray gave us a stat before the game that Kilkenny's players who do the most tackling are their two corner-forwards."

"The game has changed – and so has football – and it's about getting the hurley in, the hand in. Deirdre O'Reilly did it in the

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# special as the last'



Briege Corkery solos past Shauna Healy of Galway in the league final which Cork lost earlier in the year. Cork got sweet revenge in the final to claim an other All-Ireland crown.

Picture: INPHO/Cathal Noonan

football final, if she hadn't got a hand in Dublin would have definitely got a goal.

"You have to want to put that effort in. That's what teamwork is all about."

Corkery wasn't too thrilled with her own performance in the camogie showdown, despite the goal.

"Nothing seemed to go my way. I ran left and the ball went right. As for the goal," she laughs, "sure I topped it. A pathetic goal really because if I connected it would have gone straight at the goalie. Still it helped see us over the line so I'll take it!"

Like the footballers, the camogie team had wavered a bit during the summer, losing at home in the round robin series to Wexford. The players and managers told a few home truths at a subsequent meeting.

"The intensity at training went up straight away. We'd been cruising, playing well in the first half of games, not doing it in the second half. That was only going to end in tears."

They picked up the pace against Tipperary and then headed into an All-Ireland semi-final against a Kilkenny team still smarting from the previous September.

"We peaked at the right time really. We'd nothing to lose and the pressure was on them to try and beat us. We went five points down and didn't panic for a second."

The only panic had come when the camogie and ladies football board's fixed championship matches on the same day. She took a call from 96FM to go on the air to talk about the issue and reluctantly had her say.

"I'm not into making big statements. I rang Éamonn before I went on and he reckoned enough was enough. To be honest we probably got sidetracked with all that stuff."

It's a testament to Corkery and the Rebels on both panels that they still emerged as the Queens of September again.



Grace Kearney and Rhona Ni Bhuachalla lift 16 times All-Ireland senior medal winner Briege Corkery after they saw off Dublin to win the All Ireland football title in Croke Park last September.

For the next few months she'll be occupied working on their dairy farm out past Cloughduv with her fiancé Diarmuid Scannell.

"It's going well. We're still talking anyway!" Then there's the impending nuptials in January. Perfectly-timed of course, to fit in with the

GAA schedule.

After all, there are more games to be played and trophies to be won.

Evening Echo

LADIES SPORTSTAR AWARDS

NEWBRIDGE silverware

RPH ROCHESTOWN PARK





Banteer camogie celebrate back-to-back county championship titles at a function in Springfort Hall, Mallow.

Picture John Tarrant

**BANTEER** Camogie acknowledged another outstanding season at a victory function hosted at Springfort Hall, Mallow. Joining the attendance for a special night was Milford and county player Marie Walsh.

Tributes were extended to the players that completed back-to-back county titles after adding the B title to the C championship won the previous season.

"The club is creating inroads, contesting its fifth county final in three years which culminated in another championship victory," club chairman Donncha Foley said.

Special guest Marie Walsh lauded the success, saying the emerging talent were the future of Banteer club. "It takes a good team to win a title but a great side complete back-to-back wins," she said.

Manager John Howard hailed the efforts of the players who overturned a league final defeat to Cobh before focusing on the championship to better Ballinascorthy, Ballinhassig, Glen Rovers and turning the tables on Cobh in the decider.

"Their confidence and enthusiasm was unbelievable, the winning sequence sees the team now elevated to A grade, capable of adding more honours", he said.

Team captain Rose Twohig applauded the efforts of all concerned, particularly the encouragement of team management John Howard, Donal Roche and Angela Murphy, in addition to the support of medics Eileen O'Donoghue and Sheila Foley.

Angela merited a special mention for her unselfish dedication to the club over the past decade. Her work is inspirational.

The management had a special

# Banteer toast county successes

## AWARDS

John Tarrant

mention for Karen O'Keeffe who attended the most training sessions. With the outgoing management bowing out at the top, best wishes were extended to the incoming selectors, Mike Withers, Gabriel Tully and Imelda Vaughan.

**The Banteer panel:** Rose Twohig, Elaine O'Donoghue, Kate O'Donoghue, Yvonne Coleman, Tara Sheehan, Lauren McGeough, Laura Murphy, Linda Dunlea, Vicky Withers, Una Twohig, Imelda Vaughan, Grace Lane, Anna Foley, Shelly Twohig, Mary Buckley, Karen O'Keeffe, Aisling O'Keeffe, Lisa Howard, Gemma Cashman, Eleanor Twohig, Aine Cott, Mairéad Withers, Denise Fallon, Aoife Leader and Maria McAuliffe.



The Twohig sisters Rose, Eleanor, Shelly and Una played key roles for Banteer in their County Camogie Championship title success.

Picture John Tarrant

The Management & Staff of the

**RPH**  
**ROCHESTOWN PARK**  
HOTEL

would like to congratulate

*Siobhan Quirke & Seán Óg O'hAilpín*

and

*Briege Corkery & Diarmuid Scannell*

on their recent wedding celebrations  
at the Hotel.





**St Joseph's:** Tulla: K Baker; E Daly, O McInerney, A Smith; A Vaughan (captain), A Ryan, C Halpin; B Dinan, C Kelly; O Nash, S Conlon, R Conway; E Whitney, N O'Gorman, M Boland.  
**Subs:** S Lennihan, A Leyden, C Close, G Ryan, K Cahill.



## Ashbourne Cup Countdown - Players to Watch

By Camogie Association  
Posted 09/02/2016



Pamela and Katrina Mackey (UCC and Cork)

Ashbourne Cup Semi-Final v Mary I

The Mackey twins have been laying waste to opposition defenders and forwards wherever they have gone, be it for Douglas, Cork or UCC.

Pamela is the complete defender, whose marking skills are renowned. Invariably, she is given the task of nullifying the opposition's major scoring threat and more often than not, it is a task she carries out successfully.

She is also a skilful operator however, good in the air and on the deck and has been known to link up well with Katrina, who plies her trade at the opposite end of the field.

Katrina is lightning quick and relishes the direct route, with goals invariably the first aim, and points taken only when the major option no longer exists. Her directness tends to draw many frees.

The siblings have shared four All-Stars, both received the same year, making history in 2012 and repeating the feat at the end of last season, a year in which they both bagged their second All-Ireland senior medals with Cork.

Saturday February 13th  
Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence, Belan, Co. Mayo

3pm Purcell Cup Semi-Final CIT v DIT / Carlow IT

3pm Purcell Cup Semi-Final Maynooth University v DIT / Carlow IT

3pm Fr. Meachair Cup Semi-Final AIT v IT Tralee

4.45pm Ashbourne Cup Semi-Final WIT v UL

Links Community 5

4.45pm Ashbourne Cup Semi-Final UCC v Mary I

4.45pm Fr. Meachair Cup Semi-Final UT v Trinity

Sunday February 14th  
Gort GAA, Co. Galway

11am Fr. Meachair Cup Final

1pm Purcell Cup Final

3pm Ashbourne Cup Final

# Southern Star wins national award for camogie coverage

MUCH like the Cork camogie team in recent times, *The Southern Star* has proved itself to be in a league of its own after we scooped a major national camogie award.

*The Southern Star* has been selected as the Mick Dunne Local Newspaper of the Year for 2015 in the annual Camogie Association media awards, which will be presented at the Referees, Volunteer and Media Awards dinner on February 20th in Croke Park.

Number one for sport in West Cork, *The Southern Star* has now been recognised on a national level for its 'fantastic work and contribution to camogie' in the past 12 months, including coverage at local and inter-county level, and for variety and quality.



Delighted: Sports Editor Kieran McCarthy.

'We are absolutely thrilled to have won the Local Paper of the Year award,' Sports Editor Kieran McCarthy commented.

'We are continually looking

to improve our sports coverage and take it to the next level. Last year we were delighted to bring on board eight-time camogie All-Star and four-time All-Ireland winning Cork legend Jennifer O'Leary as our camogie columnist. She has been a fantastic addition and has helped to take our camogie coverage to the next level.'

*Southern Star* MD Sean Mahon added: 'We're honoured to be chosen as the Local Paper of the Year. Much of the credit must go to our Sports Editor, Kieran McCarthy, who works tirelessly to make sure that all local sports get the coverage they deserve and that our local sportspeople, whether they're male or female, young or old, are recognised.'

# Redundancy triggers renaissance!

■ Killimor star wins Club Player Award – after job loss lured her out of retirement

BEING made redundant isn't normally seen in a very positive light – unless losing your job frees you of the shackles that forced you to quit your sporting career.

Which is why Galway camogie star Susan Keane wasn't that devastated to be told twelve months ago that her job in a call centre in Waterford was gone.

"I got made redundant and I was so happy about it!" remembers the 29-year-old with a laugh. "You have no idea!"

Because earlier last year the Killimor stalwart had as good as given up camogie, resigning herself to the fact that she probably wouldn't line out for her beloved club ever again.

"I actually had retired because I was living down in Waterford," she says.

"It was nothing to do with having done enough – that was never me. I always wanted to do more. I think I was just in a position living in Waterford where it got really stressful and I was finding it too hard to please everyone."

"You can't be in two places at once. I tried for ten years and it's just not possible."

"Training with the team is so much more beneficial than doing

found that hard; not being with them all the time. So I was giving it up," she says.

Not alone did redundancy bring sporting renaissance, it has now led to her selection as the AIB Connacht Camogie Club Player of the Year – with the chance of even greater success to come in the All-Ireland Club Final. Susan herself is now working as a care assistant close to home and she's also a student yoga teacher, which she's hoping can help prolong her career.

Her Killimor club remains the last team other than Milford or Oulart-the Ballagh to win an All-Ireland club senior camogie title, which was back in 2011.

The Cork and Wexford outfits have shared the four crowns since and Keane is keen to break up their party, with Killimor taking on Milford in the final on March 6.

"It's 2013 since we were in a final. Milford beat us that day so we've plenty of motivation," she said.

"We didn't really turn up against them in 2013 so we're very much looking forward to getting another chance."

"I've suppressed the memories of that day!" she joked. "No, it was a tough day because as I say



Pictured is Susan Keane from Killimor, who picked up the award for The Toughest Connacht Camogie player at the AIB GAA Provincial Player Awards. PHOTO: RAMSEY CARDY / SPORTSFILM

very disappointing. It was kind of one of those games that you forget ever happened.

time and we were only thinking about that the other day. Two or three of our players are in different counties now and they've

grown hugely in every sense.

"They're after really driving on so I think in a lot of ways we're really stronger than we were back

then. We've had defeats in county semi-finals as well to deal with the last two years. Hopefully that stands to us."



# Limerick camogie sides in Ashbourne Cup quest

LIMERICK sides Mary Immaculate and UL play in camogie Ashbourne Cup semi finals this weekend.

On Saturday at 4.45pm in the Connaught GAA centre in Ballyhaunis, Mary I play UCC, while UL play WIT in the other semi final. The decider is on Sunday in Gort at 3pm.

If last weeks Ashbourne Cup quarter-final appearance was uncharted territory for the Camogie players of Mary Immaculate College then their victory over NUIG in that game has catapulted them on to another level altogether.

When the Ashbourne Cup was founded in 1915 it featured three teams and having already dispatched two of the Originals in NUIG and UCD, the Limerick girls will have to complete the hat-trick to advance to Sunday's final.

UCC are the old traditionalists of the Ashbourne, second on the role of honour with 32 titles and while they haven't added to that since 2003 they are coming to Galway this weekend with a team loaded with experience.

Indeed the Mardyke girls have seven of the Cork starting team which won the

senior All-Ireland in 2015 with All-Stars Pamela and Katriona Mackey and Orla Cronin the stand out names.

Mary I will have benefited greatly from a tough battle against NUIG in Martinstown last Thursday night, a game which they lead all the way before needing two late goals for victory following a stirring Galway come back lead primarily by Maria Cooney, daughter of Galway legend Joe.

Mary Immaculate will start with a very young side that features no less than six of the first year side who annexed the Fresher 'A' All-Ireland title before Christmas but also have an experienced spine.

Caoimhe Costelloe and Rebecca Delee are experienced Limerick senior players while Tipperary contribute four of their senior side namely Megan Ryan, Shauna Quirke, Julie Ann Bourke and Mairead Teehan.

Cork's UCC have the largest representation with six of the starting fifteen and it is testament to the strength of camogie in the Rebel county that of these only Linda Collins is currently a part of Paudie Murray's senior squad.



Limerick camogie star Caoimhe Costelloe will be a key player for Mary Immaculate College in the Ashbourne Cup this weekend

Manager Adrian O'Sullivan refuses to play the underdog card and is adamant that they are travelling on Saturday with nothing but victory on their minds.

"We have been down to Cork this year and won in the league, gave UCC a real trimming down there," said O'Sullivan.

"Of course championship is different but we have a young squad packed with winners and we fear no one. If we loose to UCC nobody will bat an eyelid, they will find it hard to go back to Cork having exited to Mary I. That's the arrogance that exists in this competition. UCD had it, NUIG had it and UCC have it."

He added: "We have nothing to loose and we are absolutely hopping for it, can't wait."

There is also Limerick involvement in the Purcell and Fr Meachair Cup.

## MILLSTREET MATTERS

**CAMOGIE:** All-Ireland Post Primary Senior semi-finals.  
**Senior A:** St. Brigid's Loughrea v St. Joseph's, Tulla, Kilmadema, 2pm.  
**Senior B:** St. Raphael's, Loughrea v SNT Doon, Kinvara, 1pm.  
**Senior C:** Mercy Roscommon v Carrigaline CS, Roscommon venue, 2pm.  
**Senior D:** Loreto Balbriggan v St. Augustine's, Dungan, O'Dwyer's GAA, Balbriggan, 1.30pm.

## Special guests for camogie function

THE Millstreet Camogie Club Social on this Saturday night in the Wallis Arms Millstreet welcomes County Board officers Marian McCarthy and Sheila Golden in addition to dual All Ireland ladies football and camogie winner Rena Buckley.

The occasion will salute the driving force behind Millstreet Camogie Club, Joan Casey after being selected by the

Cork County Camogie Association, as their recipient of the "Volunteer of the Year Award" for 2015.

Joan goes forward as the Cork representative for the National Volunteer of the Year award in Croke Park on February 20.

This award is an acknowledgment of her dedication to Millstreet Camogie Club and also for being the face

of Millstreet Camogie Club at county board level. Joan's role extends from the mundane job of jersey washing to the complexity of co-ordinating matches, while always having the girls best interests at heart.

Held in high esteem by all in the club from the U8's to parents, trainers and all in the committee, and is the person everyone turns to for advice.

Indeed thanks to Joan, the club has developed greatly number wise, as well as winning many county titles and being well represented on the field on various county teams.

Many past and present members and their families are attending this great celebration. Its also an opportunity for past members to reminisce on times past, playing with the club.

FEB. 2016



# I hope we've proven ourselves to the players, says Lane

**Michael Moynihan**



**A**oife Lane has just completed a year as head of the Women's Gaelic Players Association. Twelve months of lessons learned. How has it been?

Tough. Affirming. Often at the same time.

"A year on I'm delighted we did it, because it was absolutely the right thing to do. There were tough times but I hope we've proven ourselves to the players, who are the most important part."

"As for the public — I don't know if we even exist to the wider public, really."

"Personally, I work within my own environment here in the college (Waterford IT) with students and so forth, whereas engaging with the commercial sector, the media, all of that — it's been tough, but I've loved it."

Case study number one: The camogie controversy, when it looked like the participants in an All-Ireland senior quarter-final would be decided on a coin toss. That pitched Lane into the middle of the maelstrom.

"You talk about learning... I don't think we dealt with that perfectly but we did the best we could, we represented the players with the best intentions at heart, to support them and to get a positive outcome."

"The outcome was positive enough — it wasn't ideal, but what happened was better than what was in place."

"What I found was that people can be very trusting if you're up front with them — not being naive, but being honest and saying, 'I don't know what the answer is', particularly the print media."

Case study number two: She's generous towards this newspaper but found the media's general apathy towards the WPGA a surprise.

"We struggled to get people interested early on. You nearly had to put stories in people's laps before they'd write them. It was new to me that you had to work hard to make a story, and it was fine once I learned that."

"We worked hard to find stories but we found them, and we probably doubled or trebled the coverage because we were there."

"There's goodwill once you do the work. We go to events with the GPA, joint scholarship announcements, and I'm never asked a question by a journalist, nor are our players."

"The journalists go to Dessie (Farrell, chief executive of the GPA) or Sean (Potts, GPA head of communications), or the male players."

"That's still difficult, and a challenge. I'd like to move further and have a journalist — as you're doing — just



ONE YEAR ON: WPGA chairperson Aoife Lane, centre, with Anna Geary of Cork, Wexford's Kate Kelly, Clare's Deirdre Murphy, Valerie Murphy of Cork, Mayo's Fiona McHale and Tyrone's Gemma Begley at the launch of the Women's Gaelic Players Association in Dublin last year. Picture: Ryan Byrn

come up and ask how it's going, what's happening."

"The women involved in the games are as interesting as their male equivalents."

In that context Lane credits Mary White's book on the Cork ladies footballers with helping to raise awareness and consciousness ("About sport, not just women's sport").

"Anything we do online and so on, it has a huge reach. There's an interest and if the stories are there. With the GPA events... I don't know if the media would go at all if it were just us."

"When you're a minority you need allies, and the GPA is a very strong ally for us. We lean on them and I love working with them because they've been very helpful, opening doors for us and so on."

"You might as well be realistic. We had a scholarship launch last year in

Carton House, fabulous afternoon, sent out the release to everybody and no media came. There's no point in being naive." Or in ignoring realities.

**L**ane acknowledges, for instance, that women's rugby is attracting footballers: "There's a greater good but there are also your responsibilities to ladies football and camogie."

"Everyone has to look after their own, but there's a respect there as well, and as long as things are done properly it's fine. A few players have gone into rugby, but some have also come back, and that's part of our job — to ensure standards are high enough to make sure there's as much reward in our sports."

"I know the international aspect is a huge opportunity, and putting yourself in those shoes, it'd be hard to say no, but

you'd like to make the decision a bit more challenging. That it'd be easier to stay."

The positives have been huge: For Lane personally, getting to know the players has been a high point. So have the counselling services.

"Not that many have been in touch but if you make a difference to six lives, that's important. We have 16 scholarships, eight players who've gone through the leadership programme."

"The players are so decent and grounded. Kate Nolan of Carlow won junior player of the year. When she came onto the stage she said to me, 'this doesn't happen to people from Carlow', and she was in tears." Year two will bring its own challenges.

"These girls are very motivated," says Lane. "It's not about external reward, which isn't their priority — it's about being the best they can be, and

when they're not getting the best chance to do that, then that's our priority."

"To get top coaches, strength and conditioning, dietary supports — if we quantify them as elite athletes then we need to think about how we make that happen."

"I don't know the answer but learning is stage one for us, and then coming up with solutions."

"Finance is a barrier for us and we're trying to overcome that. There's no point glossing over everything and saying it's all fine."

"We still have a lot of work to do to improve the experience of the county player; we haven't made a huge dent in that but it's our core focus. You have to respect the fact that they invest so much but are we giving them the chance to be their best?"

More questions. More lessons.

Kilmeen-Kilbree GAA

## Dorgan takes over as chairperson

MARIE Dorgan is the new chairperson of Kilbree Camogie club, following her election at last Friday night's AGM.

An action-packed 2015 was effected on, with secretary Deirdre O'Leary outlining the activities of the club for the year and thanking of the coaches, mentors and those that helped in any way in the smooth operation of club activities. Outgoing chairperson Claire Collins was singled out for the excellent work she did during her term, and she will be a hard act to follow.

On the field, the U14 girls won their county group and qualified for the county quarter-final, where they were unlucky

to lose to Blackrock, the eventual champions. These girls also played a number of blitzes.

The U12 girls were thrilled to be the only West Cork club to be invited to take part in a Munster blitz in Semple Stadium in April. This was followed by an even more special trip to Croke Park in July, to play in an All-Ireland blitz. The U12 girls qualified from their county group to compete in a county quarter-final, where they beat Buttevant and Castlelyons before unfortunately losing to Sarsfields after a final replay. The U8 and U10 groups played blitzes and a number of matches against neighbouring teams.



New chairperson: Marie Dorgan.

Treasurer Geraldine Twohig presented the financial report and pointed out that initiatives such as the race night, fun-cycle, cake sale and clothing col-

lection are crucial. The club wishes to thank all members and parents who supported these events.

The following officers were elected: chairperson, Marie Dorgan; secretary, Deirdre O'Leary; treasurer, Geraldine Twohig; PRO, Marie Dorgan; children's officer, Anna O'Neill.

Team managers/coaches were elected for the year as follows: U8, Geraldine Twohig, Geraldine O'Donovan, Margaret McCarthy, Denis O'Donovan; U10, Brendan McCarthy and Mary Roche; U12 & U14, Deirdre O'Leary, Anna O'Neill, Tony O'Neill, Aidan O'Shea and Marie Dorgan.

FEB. 2016



## Camogie triumphs



The Oranmore-Maree minor camogie team which defeated Kilmoe 2-7 to 1-4 in the 2015 Minor B Final in Kinvara on Sunday. Back row, left to right: Tara Holland, Amy Connolly, Orna Loughnane, Fiona Whelan, Eimear O'Donovan, Maria Tarpey, Rachel Burke, Sarah Hanniffy (Vice Captain), Lauren O'Dea, Aoife Carr, Annie Debrecenti, Angela Moran (management). Front row: Tony O'Donovan (management), Niamh Black, Rebecca Grealish, Ailish Carr, Cian Geraghty, Roisin Black (Captain), Rachel Hanniffy, Eva Lulmeas, Aisling Corry, Sorcha Hanniffy (management).



Sean Geraghty, Treasurer of the Galway Camogie Board, presenting the Minor B Cup to Oranmore-Maree captain Roisin Black.



Catherine Kilkelly, Assistant Treasurer of the Galway Camogie Board, presenting the Player of Match trophy to Oranmore-Maree's Eimear O'Donovan.



The St Brigid's College, Loughrea Junior A camogie squad and management who defeated Presentation Athenry on a scoreline of 3-9 to 1-6 in the Connacht A Final in Kinvara on Saturday. Back row, left to right: John Brennan, Emily Fallon, Sinead Keane, Leigh Daniel, Clara Prendergast, Eva Kelly, Claire Blake, Emma Waters, Grace Whiriskey, Miranda Comer, Cianna Reidy, Michelle Prendergast, Sinead Cannon, Mary Larkin, Sarah Healy, Sinead Healy. Front row: Getyons, Alice Whiriskey, Aoife Brennan, Joanne Daly, Emma Reynolds, Avril Donoghue, Shannen Ridge (Captain), Annie Nevin, Niamh Brennan, Katie Manning, Tegan Canning.