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# FORAS NA GAEILGE ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP

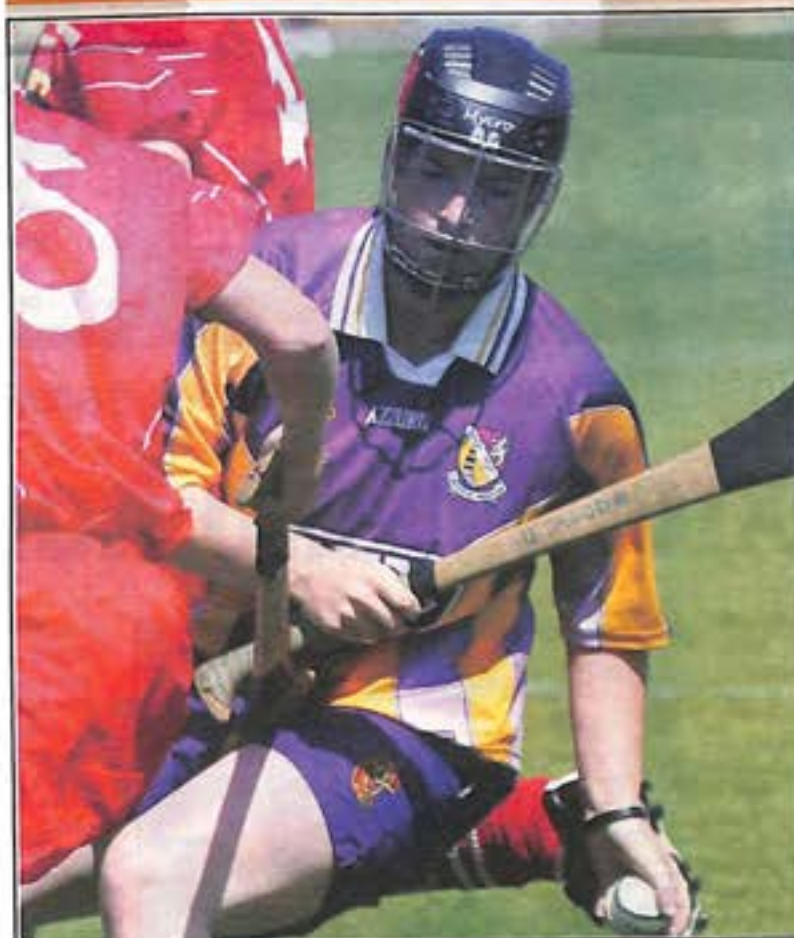
CORK 2-16, WEXFORD 2-7 - AT WEXFORD PARK



■ Centre-forward Una Leacy in action against Cork on Saturday last.



■ Midfielder Kate Kelly makes a break past Anna Geary of Cork.

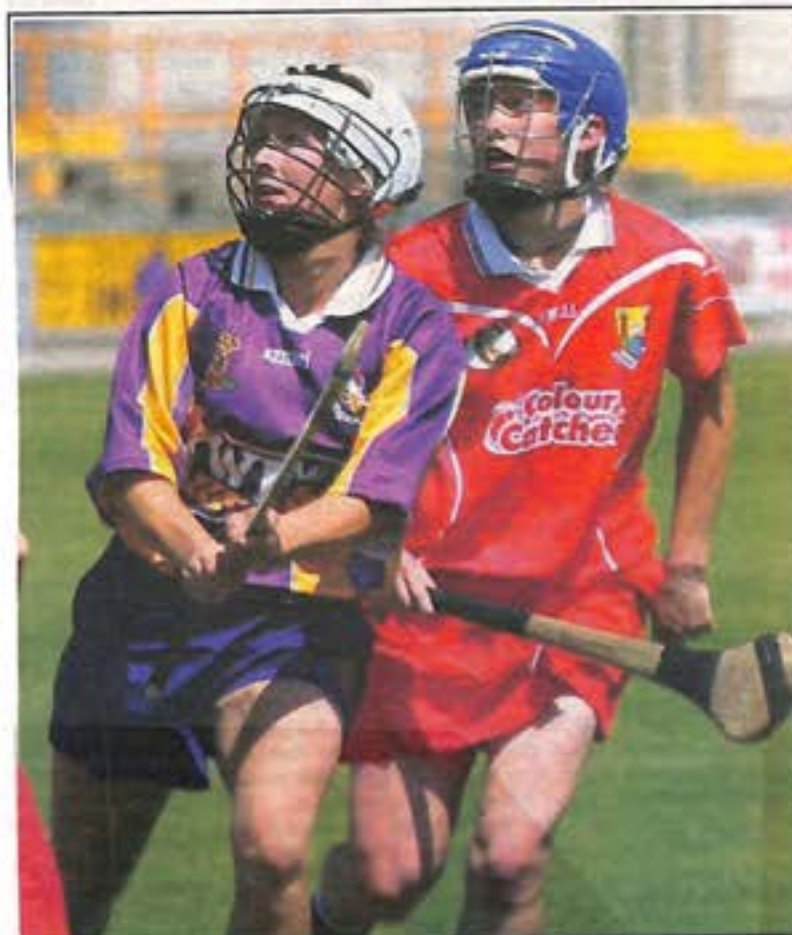


■ Wexford's Ursula Jacob sizes up her options against Cork.

## MATCH STATS

WEXFORD	G	P	W	F	'45s
First-half	1	5	2	9	1
Second-half	1	2	0	6	1
Total	2	7	2	15	2

CORK	G	P	W	F	'45s
First-half	1	4	4	4	0
Second-half	1	12	4	6	0
Total	2	16	8	10	0



■ Lennie Holohan offloads the ball during the game on Saturday.



# Ladies must regroup after second-half flop to Rebels

Alan AHERNE

**Cork 2-16, Wexford 2-7:** The worst thing the Wexford Senior camogie team could possibly do is to dwell on the bitter disappointment surrounding their second-half collapse against Cork in this Foras na Gaeilge All-Ireland championship encounter in sun-scorched Wexford Park on Saturday last.

Naturally enough the display will have to be dissected to some extent in a bid to see what went wrong, but the need for a positive approach has never been greater as their do-or-die away clash with Galway on July 30 looms large.

The Wexford players are now faced with a very simple choice. They can either wallow in self-pity and allow a glorious chance of making progress to pass them by, or they can respond to this setback in the best possible way by giving absolutely everything to the cause over the next ten days and rescuing their season on Saturday week next.

There is too much talent and potential in this squad to exit the championship race without even a whimper of protest. Clearly this defeat was a big blow, but all is most certainly not lost and it's important for the players to remember that.

They went down to Cork by a similar margin last year and bounced back with a brave and spirited display when the width of the crossbar denied them an All-Ireland semi-final success against eventual winners, Tipperary.

With Cork qualifying for the last four on the strength of this win, the game with Galway is now a quarter-final clash in effect and the loser will be out. At times like this, the character of any group of players is put to the ultimate test, and I remain convinced that the Wexford ladies can and will redeem themselves.

It's a pity that they flopped on Saturday because it truly was a memorable occasion for camogie in the county. Great credit is due to the County Board officers for doing all in their power to attract a decent attendance, with a skills demonstration by Under-12 players at half-time providing a very colourful spectacle in the brilliant sunshine.

Wexford Park was buzzing like never before for a big camogie match, and the only negative aspect of the day was the result. One clear fact was re-inforced in this game, something which always holds true - you can have all of the training sessions you like, but there is absolutely no substitute for a tough match.

Cork had been pushed to the last by Galway in their championship opener a fortnight earlier before scraping through by 2-8 to 0-13, and they played at a different tempo to Wexford who had been idle since going down narrowly to the same opponents in the league semi-final in early May.

Of course, the threadbare nature of the home side's panel was also highlighted in the second-half when changes were needed but the options were limited. A combination of defections and injuries left mentors Willie Carley, Peggy Kelly and Stella Sinnott with a mere 18 fully-fit players to choose from - the latest blow coming earlier in the week when Evelyn



■ The Wexford Senior camogie panel. Back row (from left): Louise Codd, Evelyn Quigley, Catherine O'Loughlin, Margaret D'Arcy, Aoife O'Connor, Ursula Jacob, Michelle Hearne, Kate Kelly, Mag Kelly, Una Leacy, Aine Codd, Mary Leacy (capt.). Front row (from left): Avis Nolan, Sandy Carr, Aishling Moran, Michelle O'Leary, Claire O'Connor, Lennie Holohan, Bernie Holohan, Deirdre Codd, Orla Hernan.

Quigley was diagnosed with a fractured thumb picked up while playing ladies football.

Team manager Carley was also in the wars when he sustained chest injuries in a fall on Wednesday last, and he looked on gingerly as his charges faded alarmingly after one very bright spell approaching half-time.

There was immediate cause for concern at the throw-in when Kate Kelly went down with a leg injury, but happily she was able to continue after receiving treatment for two minutes. However, the early exchanges lacked the cut and thrust one expected from a game of this nature, with both sides appearing tentative and anxious.

Nearly five minutes had elapsed when Cork captain, Elaine Burke, opened the scoring after a pass from the best player on view, wing-forward Jennifer O'Leary who gave Wexford a torrid time.

Full-back Catherine O'Loughlin then did well to cut out a dangerous delivery from Angela Walsh and earn her second free in quick succession, while netminder Margaret D'Arcy made a smart save from Emer Dillon.

Cork doubled their lead when Rachel Moloney and Angela Walsh combined to present Gemma O'Connor with an opening, but Wexford responded in the twelfth minute.

St. Ibar's colleagues combined for the score, with a centre from Kate Kelly won by Michelle Hearne who tapped it over the bar (0-2 to 0-1).

The point filled the home side with self-belief, and they drew level at the end of the first quar-

ter when Kelly converted a 65-yard free with the wind in her favour after the hard-working Claire O'Connor was impeded.

Wexford then enjoyed a major let-off when Margaret D'Arcy blocked a shot from Elaine Burke but Emer Dillon finished the rebound to the net. The goal was ruled out for a 'square' infringement though, and shortly afterwards the Slaneysiders took the lead for the first time when Kate Kelly converted a '45 (0-3 to 0-2).

It was a temporary advantage, as a short puck-out taken from a training ground routine backfired on Margaret D'Arcy in the 23rd minute. Her low ball to the left flank was cut out by Angela Walsh, and her delivery found the experienced Stephanie Dunlea who had moved from full-forward to the left corner.

She controlled the ball expertly and hammered it home to push last year's beaten All-Ireland finalists into a 1-2 to 0-3 lead. What followed was the best period of the game for Wexford as they showed great spirit to strike an unanswered 1-2 in less than two minutes.

Kate Kelly earned a free which she converted before a golden goal gave the large home support plenty to cheer about. Aoife O'Connor won the resultant Cork puck-out and embarked on a scorching run before picking out her Rathnure club colleague, Lennie Holohan.

Her tricky head-high delivery was batted clear by netminder Aoife Murray, but Mag Kelly was following up and slammed it to the net.

Wexford were briefly flying as Una Leacy set up Ursula Jacob for a point to make it 1-5 to 1-

2 in the 26th minute, although that admirable effort wasn't sustained.

Kate Kelly was narrowly wide from a free before Cork re-grouped and Jennifer O'Leary pulled back two points before the interval - the first from a placed ball before last year's All Star added a fine effort from play after a blistering solo run.

Wexford resumed with Orla Hernan moving to right half-back in a bid to keep tabs on O'Leary, while Deirdre Codd was posted at mid-field. Ursula Jacob and Lennie Holohan also swapped places on the left flank of the attack, but it was a half to forget as Cork set about sealing that semi-final spot with a sublime display of camogie.

Their half-backs and midfielders shut up shop to such an extent that Wexford didn't even strike a single second-half wide along with their late tally of 1-2 which was registered when the game was well and truly lost.

This was a clear reflection on the lack of chances created rather than good finishing on the home team's part, whereas Cork attacked relentlessly with the elements now in their favour.

The writing was on the wall once Jennifer O'Leary equalised in the fourth minute from a free. Michelle Hearne had a minor chance for a goal denied when her flick on a Kate Kelly delivery was knocked out for a '45.

Kelly returned the sliothar to the danger zone but Lennie Holohan was penalised for being in the square, and the Wexford attacks were few

and far between after that.

The lead Cork point came from Elaine Burke in the 37th minute after a scramble ensued on the '21 when Margaret D'Arcy darted from her goal.

A powerful run and clearance from corner-back Amanda O'Regan then set up Emer Dillon for her opening score before Gemma O'Connor widened the gap to 1-8 to 1-5.

Corner-forwards Mag Kelly and Lennie Holohan were swapped at the other end but the play going into them dried up completely. In contrast, the Wexford backs were faced with wave upon wave of attacks, and the floodgates were always going to open in such warm conditions.

The rampant Jennifer O'Leary struck two points from play before adding one from a free to leave Cork in a commanding 1-11 to 1-5 lead with eleven minutes to go.

Emer Dillon, Angela Walsh and Gemma O'Connor all followed suit before Wexford managed a score for the first time in 27 minutes. It came from a kicked effort by Michelle Hearne after Ursula Jacob had initially won a Margaret D'Arcy clearance, but the Cork response was swift and decisive.

Emer Dillon initially struck her third point before substitute Brieghe Corkery made it 1-16 to 1-6 shortly after her introduction. The misery was compounded with less than two minutes of normal time left when an Elaine Burke centre was palmed to the net by another new arrival, Sarah O'Donovan.

At least Wexford kept trying and received some small rewards for their efforts. A quick line ball by substitute Michelle O'Leary enabled Kate Kelly to blast home the best goal of the game from long range in added time before Ursula Jacob picked off her second point.

This was Cork's day though, and they will now meet Limerick in the semi-final on August 20, assuming that the Shannonsiders will lose to a hotly-fancied Tipperary in their last group game.

Wexford may have suffered a reversal on the first part of their journey in search of All-Ireland glory, but they are more than good enough to respond with a win in Galway. It's up to the experienced players to show leadership now and ensure that the heads don't drop, because the Model county ladies are so much better than they suggested on Saturday.

**Wexford:** Margaret D'Arcy (St. Martin's); Bernie Holohan (Rathnure), Catherine O'Loughlin (Monageer-Booleavogue), Claire O'Connor (Rathnure); Deirdre Codd (Duffry Rovers), Mary Leacy (Oulart-The Ballagh, capt.), Aine Codd (St. Martin's); Kate Kelly (St. Ibar's, 1-3, 0-2 frees, 0-1 '45), Orla Hernan (Monageer-Booleavogue); Aoife O'Connor (Rathnure), Una Leacy (Oulart-The Ballagh), Lennie Holohan (Rathnure); Mag Kelly (St. Ibar's, 1-0), Michelle Hearne (St. Ibar's, 0-2), Ursula Jacob (Oulart-The Ballagh, 0-2). Sub. - Michelle O'Leary (Rathnure) for D. Codd.

**Cork:** Aoife Murray; Joanne O'Callaghan, Rosalie Holland, Amanda O'Regan; Rena Buckley, Mary O'Connor, Anna Geary; Vivienne Harris, Rachel Moloney; Angela Walsh (0-1), Gemma O'Connor (0-3), Jennifer O'Leary (0-6, 3 frees); Emer Dillon (0-3), Stephanie Dunlea (1-0), Elaine Burke (capt., 0-2). Subs. - Brieghe Corkery (0-1) for Walsh, Sarah O'Donovan (1-0) for Dunlea, Una O'Donoghue for Harris, Paula O'Connor for Buckley.

**Referee:** John Morrissey (Tipperary).



# Tipperary see off Kilkenny challenge

July  
2005

Tipperary ..... 0-13  
Kilkenny ..... 1-06

On a very hot July afternoon Tipperary got their All-Ireland campaign off to a winning start with victory over Kilkenny in Nowlan Park.

Although at the final whistle only 4 points separated the sides, reigning All-Ireland champions Tipperary always looked in control of this game and a late goal from Kilkenny's Marie O'Connor reduced Tipperary's lead.

Kilkenny had to win to stay in the championship and as a result threw everything at Tipperary from the start. But Tipperary showed their experience and worked hard to claim a deserved victory. Kilkenny's captain Imelda Kennedy was the first to score with a pointed free but this didn't

unsettle Tipperary who quickly settled into the task ahead. Good passing in the forward line meant that Claire Grogan was picked out and she duly sent the ball neatly over the bar.

Both defences were playing well making scores difficult to come by. For Tipperary Trish O'Halloran was having an impressive game at mid-field covering lots of ground and setting up numerous attacks. While Joanne Ryan popped up in the tenth and eleventh minute with two well-taken scores. Eimear MacDonnell was being tightly marshalled but midway through the opening half she gathered possession got past her player and pointed.

At the other end Imelda Kennedy pointed her second free while Sinead Millea also raised a

white flag. Kilkenny's Gillian Maher had her hands full marking Deirdre Hughes who posed a constant threat. In the 21st minute Tipperary's captain won a clearance from Therese Brophy and turned before scoring a point. Minutes later Jill Horan pointed from a difficult angle as Tipperary continued to enjoy a good spell. At the break Tipperary led 7 points to 3 with the premier's side final point coming from Sheena Howard who was working endlessly at centre forward.

Kilkenny came out in the second half determined to narrow Tipperary's lead and did just that with two early points from Imelda Kennedy. However thanks to some solid defending by all six backs Kilkenny were unable to score again till the 55th minute, while Tipperary enjoyed 5 points

without reply from Joanne Ryan, Jill Horan, Sheena Howard and Claire Grogan. This gave Tipperary a 7 point lead with under 10 minutes to go but a Sinead Millea point was quickly followed by a goal from Marie O'Connor from an unstoppable shot on the edge of the square.

This left only 3 points between the sides on a scoreline of 12 points to 1-06. However Tipperary showed their composure and tenacious defending by Niamh Harkin and Susanne Kelly along with a point from Deirdre Hughes ensured victory. The high temperatures meant the conditions were difficult but both teams overcame this to produce an exciting game of camogie.

Tipperary's forwards worked very hard throughout the hour and took their scores from diffi-

cult angles under pressure while the opposition seemed to find scores harder to come by mainly due to some decisive defending most notably by Sinead Nealon and Susanne Kelly.

At mid-field Tipperary dominated for most of the game with Trish O'Halloran and Angie McDermot linking up well. The management will also be pleased with the fact that all 6 forwards scored but will be aware that tougher challenges lie ahead.

**Tipperary:** J. Delaney, S. Kelly, N. Harkin, J. Kirwan, S. Nealon, C. Gaynor, T. Brophy, A. McDermot, T. O'Halloran, J. Ryan, S. Howard, C. Grogan, E. McDonnell, D. Hughes, J. Horan.

**Subs:** J. Kirwan for M. Corcoran, N. Kennedy for J. Horan, E. Hayden for S. Howard.



Sinead Nealon in a race for possession watched by Clara Gaynor.

## Desmond delivers Newcestown to victory

Newcestown 4-8 By MN  
Carrigaline 1-7 Senior B camogie championship

THE switching of Cork senior panellist Colette Desmond to full-forward paid huge dividends as Newcestown recorded their first victory in the Mercury Restaurant and Lounge Senior B camogie championship round robin series game in Innishannon last night.

Indeed such was Desmond's influence on the game that she scored all but one point of her sides tally.

Just one point separated the teams at the interval, after a close opening 30 minutes, and it was Carrigaline who held the advantage five points to

four. Laura Thompson and Terri O'Keefe leading the way with points while Colette Desmond notched up all but one of the Newcestown scores from placed balls.

From the restart, Newcestown began to settle. With Hilda O'Mahony driving them on from centre-back and Evelyn Crowley and Colleen Long working hard their confidence grew. Inside five minutes of the restart the switching of Colette Desmond, now operating on the edge of the square, paid off as she latched on to a long delivery from Anna Coughlan clear-

ance to make no mistake from close range. Thirty seconds later it was a repeat as Desmond again rounded her marker to finish to the net and Newcestown began to dictate.

The sides had exchanged points before a leg injury to Carrigaline player Sarah O'Keefe held the game up for 14 minutes as the player was attended to before being removed for treatment. When play resumed, Newcestown continued to hold the upper hand with Colleen Long and Desmond pointing before Desmond grabbed two further goals. In between Carrigaline's best player on view, Laura Thompson, goaled but by now her side had been reduced to 14 players with Carrigaline O'Mahony having

been dismissed by referee Ger Sheehan for the duration of the game.

Fittingly it was Laura Thompson and Colette Desmond who brought proceedings to a conclusion each pointing with excellent free taking which both had shown all evening.

**NEWCESTOWN:** L.O. Sullivan, M. Crowley, Anna Coughlan, F. Crowley, R.O. Donovan, H.O. Mahony, U. Crowley, E. Crowley, Aileen Coughlan, L. Crowley, C. Desmond (4-7, 0-4 from frees), C.O. Mahony, E. Kennedy, C. Long (0-1), F. Deasy.  
**Subs:** T. Hurley for F. Deasy (54mins), T. McCarthy for C. Desmond (59mins).

**CARRIGALINE:** A. Keely, C.O. Mahony, Joanne O'Keefe, L. Keefe, S.O. Keefe, C.O. Keefe, J. Kieran, Jacqui O'Keefe, T.O. Keefe, L. Thompson, G. Morrissey, S. Moran, U.O. Farrell, M. Conlon, E. Egan.  
**Subs:** R. Harrington (45mins) for S.O. Keefe (51).

**Referee:** Ger Sheehan (Drogheda)



## CORK BOOK SEMI-FINAL SPOT

THE senior team booked their place in the All Ireland semi-final with a superb performance against Wexford on Saturday last.

Wexford led 1-5 to 1-4 at the interval but a superb display from Cork ensured the semi final spot was secure long before the final whistle. From the minute the ball was thrown in for the second-half Cork upped the pace considerably and with their defence giving little leeway to the Wexford forwards they proceeded to take control.

The introduction of substitutes Brieghe Corkery and Sarah O'Donovan paid dividends with both contributing to the scoreline.

Overall it was a superb team performance and one which the players and mentors can be proud of.

Certainly over the last few weeks they had lived dangerously but when the chips were down on Saturday last they answered the call as they comprehensively booked their semi-final spot against Limerick on August 20.

While there is a long way to go the performance augurs well and they can look forward with confidence to the semi final.

Hopefully clubs will get behind the team and make preparations to travel on the day and give the team some welcome support, why not organise a group from your under age section and bring them along. As soon as a venue is announced we will publicise it.

## SPONSORSHIP LAUNCH

LAST week a very pleasant function was held in the Mercury Restaurant and Lounge Washington Street and was attended by the captains of all the senior clubs in the county as Bob O'Leary hosted a reception to formally announce the sponsorship of the county championships.

It's a wonderful boost to the county board to have the championship sponsored and chairperson Marion Mc Carthy expressed the boards thanks to Mr O'Leary for his continued support to the game in the county.



Clara Healy (Bishopstown), Denise Cronin, Glen Rovers and Karen Buckley of St Finbarrs pictured at the launch of this year's Mercury Restaurant and Lounge Cork County Senior Camogie Championship campaign in Cork. Pictures: Howard Crowley

## LOCAL CHAMPIONSHIP UPDATE

ANOTHER week of non stop action as four games were decided in the Mercury Restaurant and Lounge Senior B championship while in the Senior A championship Milford and Cloughduv again had to go to extra time to find a winner.

A last gasp point from Stephanie Dunlea ensured the sides had to do it all again on Monday last and once again followers were treated to a superb game with an injury time goal from Marie Watson taking the game to extra time before two Milford advanced to round three with two goals to spare.

A notable feature of this clash was the return to camogie of former inter county player Lynn Dunlea who three years ago retired from club and county activities.

On Monday she came on as sub-

stitute for Cloughduv and will surely feature in their campaign in the coming weeks.

In the B championship Ballinhassig and Bishopstown met in St Finbarrs on Thursday and it was Bishopstown who recorded a victory with tremendous displays from Ciara Healy, Ciara Enright and Miriam Crowley.

Valley Rovers made it two wins out of two as they defeated Carrigaline, Elaine Burke and Clodagh Deasy to the fore for the Innishannon side.

St Catherine's also won their second game as they continued to impress against a Newcestown side that were playing their first game in the round robin championship series.

Ballygarvan proved much to strong for Glen Rovers when they met Catriona Kelly impressed once again turning in flawless dis-

play ably assisted by Caoimhe Dillon, inter-county players Sarah Donovan Jennifer Browne and Emer Dillon.

This week the action continues and on Wednesday evening Cloughduv, Imokilly, Carrigdhoun or Kilbrittan/Timoleague will have made their exit from the championship.

This evening the action is in Carrigtwohill and Donoughmore.

Fr O'Neills after losing to Inniscarra in round one face city representatives Seandun in Carrigtwohill while out in Donoughmore Avondhu meet an Aghbullogue side who lost out to Barryroe in round one, both start at 7.30pm.

On Wednesday next July 27 the winners of the Imokilly v Cloughduv game meet St Finbarrs while Kilbrittan or Carrigdhoun play Milford.

### FIXTURE UPDATE

IN THE Senior B championship Carrigaline meet Newcestown on Friday night in Innishannon at 7.30pm.

In the Junior "A" championship Newtownshandrum and Killeagh meet on Saturday night, while Sarsfields are in action against Douglas on Monday.

Plenty of Junior B championships down for decision with Na Piarasigh meet Brain Dillon on Saturday in Na Piarasigh at 7.30pm, while Clonakilty entertain Castlemagner at the same time.

On Monday Tracton travel to Dungourney while Blackrock make the journey to Kildorrey on Tuesday

### SATURDAY BUSY DAY OF UNDER AGE ACTIVITIES

SATURDAY is a busy day for the juvenile board in Ballinlough with several games down for decision.

Starting at 11am Douglas's second team meet Fr O'Neills in the Under 14 'B' league semi-final.

12.15 it's Newcestown meeting Newtownshandrum in the Under 14 'C' quarter-final, the second under 14 'B' semi-final is at 1.30 with Buttrvant meeting Ballygarvan and the final action of a busy day is at 2.45pm when Kildorrey and Ballinascorthy meet in the Under 14 'C' quarter final.

Hopefully the weather will continue to shine on the young stars of the future.

July 2005

# Extra time scores see Milford advance

ANOTHER thriller where it took extra time to separate Milford and Cloughduv in the Mercury Restaurant and Lounge senior "A" camogie championship replay in Coachford on Monday evening.

Last time out it was a late point from Stephanie Dunlea deep in injury time that earned the mid Cork girls a replay, this time it was Milford who held their composure as Marie Watson's late goal brought the game to extra time.

Cloughduv held the interval advantage of one point 1-5 to 1-4 thanks in the main to a powerful display from Stephanie Dunlea at full forward. Maria Watson pointed for Milford with Eimear O'Friel finishing to the net.

With both sides evenly matched it was 13 minutes before the first score of the second half arrived, but both teams are to be complimented on the commitment and dedication to their causes as they battled for supremacy. Aoife Murray denied Milford with some tremendous saves and just when it looked as if Cloughduv were safe up popped Watson to take the game into extra time. In the extra time Milford held the upper hand and two goals from Anna Geary and Emer Watson booked Milford a place in the next round against county champions Carrigdhoun.

No rest for Cloughduv and it was back to the action on Wednesday night when they face Imokilly in a bid to stay in the championship. From the start Imokilly made all the running and led at the break 0-5 to 0-1, but credit to Cloughduv who put Monday's night result behind them as they tuned in a strong second half performance with two goal from Una

vance at the expense of Kilbrittan/Timoleague on Thursday last. Three goals from Sarah O'Donovan and one from Elaine Burke ensured they held an impressive half time advantage and were not going to be denied their place in the next round.

Aghbullogue bounced back from a defeat at the hands of Barryroe to come through the back door with an impressive victory over Avondhu. In a game where the lead changed hand on numerous occasions the Aghbullogue girls sealed victory with Mary O'Sullivan Niamh O'Connell, Sinead Buckley and Nicole Moynihan superb.

City divisional representatives Seandun were back in the championship after failing to field last season and they showed tremendous determination with Ciara Healy leading the way to record a victory over Fr O'Neills.

In the Mercury Restaurant and Lounge Senior B championship which is played on a round robin series Ballygarvan proved way too strong for



Eimear Watson: late goal for Milford.

Glen Rovers. With Catriona Kelly leading the way and good displays from Emer Dillon and Mary Hallihan the Ballygarvan girls ensured another two points were se-

cured. Newcestown recorded their first victory defeating Carrigaline in Innishannon.

In the Junior B championship a goal in injury time from Clare Ryan ensured Ballincollig advanced to round two at the expense of Slabh Rua.

Another busy week ahead in the Mercury Restaurant and Lounge senior Championships, on Wednesday night in a repeat of last year final champions Carrigdhoun meet Milford in Ballyclough at 7.45pm while on the same evening Cloughduv and St. Finbarrs meet in Ballincollig also at 7.45pm.

On Thursday Seandun and Carbery meet in Carrigadrohid at 7.45pm while on Saturday in Newcestown at 3pm Inniscarra and Courcy are in opposition.

In the Senior B championship Eire OG and Carrigaline meet on Friday at venue to be named while on Saturday Valley Rovers and Newcestown meet in Bandon at 7.45pm.

# It's all or nothing for Galway against Wexford

by Therese O'Callaghan

IT'S winner takes all in Ballinasloe this afternoon when Galway entertain Wexford in a crucial Foras na Gaeilge All-Ireland senior championship tie.

Both sides lost to Cork and with only two teams advancing to the penultimate stage, the stakes are high. "Our whole year hinges on this," stressed Galway selector PJ Molloy.

"It is all or nothing. We met in the league and came out on top but as everyone knows, championship is a different scenario."

A tough challenge game against Limerick on Monday night left its mark. Influential wingback Ailbhe Kelly pulled up during the game and Ann Marie Hayes, who made a comeback after a lengthy lay-off, is recovering from a recurrence of the same injury. Top scorer Lourda Kavanagh is also doubtful with hamstring trouble.

However captain Therese Maher leads her charges in this highly significant clash and Molloy says the Athenry girl's presence alone is immense: "Therese is a magnificent player. She reminds me of John Connolly in his prime."

Meanwhile Wexford manager Willie Carley is remaining confident.

"We didn't perform at all against

Cork. When we looked at the video we saw so many mistakes. Incredibly, all their scores came from these errors. "We know we are better because we have worked extremely hard, especially on skill."

Elsewhere, Limerick take on All-Ireland champions Tipperary in Semple Stadium. Boss Ger Hegarty has an extensive casualty list but with his team already through to the semi-finals along with Tipperary, the result just dictates first and second place.

"My main objective this year is to get Limerick competing on a level with other counties. We did that against Kilkenny and will have to repeat that for this big challenge," he said. His chances are a lot slimmer though after numerous injuries from the game against Galway earlier in the week. Meadhbh Nash, captain Vera Sheehan, Marie Keating, Michelle Casey and Eimear Cregan face late fitness tests. More positive news is the speedy recovery of Eileen O'Brien from a broken thumb.

Meanwhile in the M Donnelly Poc Fada over the Cooley Mountains, Stephanie Gannon from Connacht will be unable to defend her title tomorrow due to her involvement with Galway. Laura O'Brien will take her place.

## Wexford still a force to be reckoned with, says Codd

Maire Uí Scolai  
Camogie

WEXFORD are far from finished with this year's championship, according to 2004 All-Star defender Aine Codd.

Surprise packages last year, this year Wexford have not delivered, something Codd is most aware of as her team prepare for Saturday's Foras na nGaeilge All-Ireland clash with Galway.

"Last year there was no pressure on us, and perhaps teams like Tipperary and Cork have upped their pace even more this year. But we are travelling to Galway in confidence and we are looking for a win," said Codd.

Saturday's match is a do-or-die situation for both teams as only one will go through to the All-Ireland semi-finals on August 20.

The only side safely through are Cork, while Limerick and Tipperary will also battle it out on Saturday to see who will top their group and who will be second.

While Wexford will line out again without the injured Evelyn Quigley and Avis Nolan, there is also a slight doubt about ace Galway free taker Lourda Kavanagh, but they are strengthened by the return

from injury of Ann Marie Hayes, the only Galway All-Star of 2004.

Limerick, who surprised many with their defeat of Kilkenny in the first round, will take on All-Ireland champions Tipperary in Semple Stadium.

That victory over the Cats did a lot for Limerick who this year were greatly enhanced by manager Ger Hegarty, the former Limerick

hurler, who is gradually restoring pride into the green and white jersey.

However, on form Tipperary have reached every All-Ireland semi-final since 1999 and will be odds on for Saturday.

Elsewhere, the four provinces will be in action when the Annual Martin Donnelly All-Ireland Poc Fada goes ahead in the Cooley Mountains, County Louth.



## Ulster Junior Camogie Final : Armagh 3-9 Down 3-5

The weekend 17 - 19th June was a big one for the McGeowns.

Mum Olive wore a broad smile as she lifted the Ulster Junior Cup aloft after a thrilling final in Clones on Sunday - and daughter Hannah was also a winning captain with Ballymacnab in the Armagh Primary schools' competition on the Friday. And of course Olive a full-time coach in the Primary schools with Armagh City and District Council was delighted with the double success.

Hannah's birth in the summer of 1993 meant that her mum missed that year's Ulster championship success - but she did win a fitness battle to play a part in the All-Ireland success later in the autumn.

"In 1993, we drew the Junior final with Galway in Croke Park and won the replay in Breffni Park a fortnight later and I came in as a sub in both games.

"I remember that it was really tough because I wasn't 100% fit, but I was just glad to play some part and then see Ursula (McGivern) lift the New Ireland Cup."

"That was the county's first ever win - and at the time it didn't really matter that it wasn't in Croke Park. We won the Intermediate the following year in Portlaoise and nothing since. So 12 years on I would really love to make it happen in Croke."

And the Ballymacnab player is adamant that Armagh can build on Sunday's success.

"Two years ago we weren't that far off Clare and they lost the final in a replay. Last year Down were in the final, so there is no reason why we cannot get there ourselves."

Ursula McGivern is now team manager and Olive captain and the pair were delighted to beat favourites Down on Sunday.

"We made a great start with a Ciara Hayes goal in the first minute - but Down seemed to control the rest of the first half. Basically we were glad to get in at half-time and get a break."

By that time they were trailing by 2-5 to 1-3 after a Catherine McGourty penalty goal and a great strike from Fionnuala Carr.

"We really worked hard during the second half and the game slowly started to turn in our favour."

A goal from Collette McKeever within minutes of the re-start gave them the initiative.

"It gave us the lift we needed and then we drew level and went ahead. Then Collette got her second goal, but they hit back immediately with a goal."

Karen Gribbin was the goal-scorer for the holders but they couldn't add to it. Instead Armagh finished strongly with points from Collette McSorley (2) and Collette McKeever.

"We have a good mix of experience and youth and it would be great for Ursula if we took it on from here," claimed the captain. They now have a break until the semi-final in August with the Leinster champions.

"We have really improved as we have gone through this year and I think there is more in the team."

Armagh - Bronagh Keenan, Marie Larkin, Emer Carragher, Emma Farrell, Olive McGeown, Bernie McBride, Mairead Murray, Collette McSorley (0-5 frees), Caitriona Curry, Ciara Keenan, Patricia McAvo (0-2), Bernie Murray, Julie O'Neill, Collette McKeever (2-1), Clara Hayes (1-1).

Sub : Mary Black (0-1) for J O'Neill.

Down - Theresa McGowan, Karen McMullan, Moya Maginn, Karen Murray, Ciara McGovern, Pauline Green, Deborah Kelland, Jenny Branniff, Lisa McCrickard (0-1), Caitriona McCrickard (0-1 free), Fionnuala Carr (1-0), Catherine McGourty (1-4, 1-2 frees), Kelly O'Higgins, Cathy Mulholland, Karen Gribbin (1-0).

Sub : Orla Maginn for P Green (inj).

By Seamus McAleenan



## Ulster Premier League Final 2005 : Rossa (Antrim) 4-11 Keady 2-6

**L**ast year Rossa beat Liatroim Fontenoy to claim the inaugural Ulster Premier League title. This season's league saw an expanded format with 17 teams - but again the same teams came through to contest the top spots in each group.

Liatroim and Rossa were drawn in the same section and drew with each other in a cracking league game in Fontenoy Park.

It was no surprise that both completed their schedule of games undefeated and met in a play-off for a place in the final on Friday 10th June.

This time round Rossa was the stronger side and with Jane Adams notching an impressive tally up front they were back in the decider.

Opponents Keady had gone through their section undefeated and many

expected a great game. For 45 minutes that is what the spectators got.

In near perfect weather conditions, Keady started very strong with a point from Collette McKeever in the opening minutes. Although there was a goal from Orla McCall after 9 minutes Mairead Murray and Collette McKeever took the game to Rossa and Keady went in at the break leading by 2-5 to 1-3, the goals coming from Collette McKeever and Claire Kinsella.



Within ten minute of the restart though



Rossa had turned a five-point deficit into a five-point lead with 2goals from Orla McCall in the 35th and 37th minutes.

Rossa were now in the ascendancy and they took control from then on with a series of points from Jane Adams and Kerri O'Neill.

At the back Ciara McGinley and Hannah Healy in particular turned back the best efforts of Kelly Ann Hughes and Clare Kinsella to ensure victory on a final score-line of Rossa 4-11 Keady's 2-6.

**ROSSA:** Theresa McGowan, Teresa Adams, Hannah Healy, Brónagh Bell, Ciara Gault, Ciara McGinley (capt.), Colleen Doherty, Shauneen McGourty, Seánin Daiken, Fiona Kennedy (0-1), Gráinne Connolly (0-1), Kerrie O'Neill (0-3), Jane Adams (1-6), Catherine McMahon, Orla McCall (3-0).

**Subs:** Deirdre Heatley for C. McMahon, Laura Adams, Máiréad Quinn, Jennifer Donnelly, Áine Lawlor, Brónagh McKendry, Maria Timmons, Aisling McCall, Caoimhe Quinn.



# Late strikes seal Wexford's progress to the semi-finals

**WEXFORD GALWAY**  
**3-6 0-7**  
 THREE late goals saw Wexford safely through to the Foras na Gaelige All-Ireland camogie semi-finals following their victory over Galway in Duggan Park yesterday, writes *Maire Uí Scoil*.  
 A point after just 42 seconds

from Ursula Jacob signalled what was to come from Wexford, although they went in at the break a point behind, 0-4 to 0-5. While Galway's half-back line battled hard, the scores they needed, especially in the second half, just never came. Instead it was a very determined Wexford side who

turned the tables with a much improved performance. With a point dividing them and seven minutes left, Ursula Jacob crashed the ball to the Galway net. Three minutes later, midfielder Kate Kelly drove a free all the way to the net.  
 Centre-back Mary Leacy

found her sister Una on the spot to make it goal number three two minutes into injury time.  
**TIPPERARY 5-17 0-8**  
**LIMERICK**  
 ALL-IRELAND champions  
 Tipperary are through to this year's semi-final following their 5-17 to 0-8 win over Limerick in Semple stadium.

Tipperary's talented full-back Una O'Dwyer made a brilliant comeback in her first full match of the season having been out with an injury.  
 This result was never in doubt from an early stage and the home side went into the break 2-9 to 0-5 ahead with the goals coming from Emily Hay-

den and Emer Donnell.  
 Tipp added further second half goals from Noelle Kennedy, Emily Hayden and Louise Young.  
 Limerick, as runner-up in the group, now meet Cork in the semi-final while Tipp meet Wexford in the second semi-final both on August 20.

## Milford to gain sweet revenge Camogie

**Tonight, Carrigdhoun v Milford, Ballincollig, 7.45pm.**

JUST a goal separated the sides in a high-scoring county final last year and tonight Ballincollig hosts what promises to be one of the games of the championship as County champions Carrigdhoun put their title on the line when they renew acquaintances with Milford.

The last meeting of the sides was a superb game as both served up a classic which produced 11 goals and 24 points and tonight has the making of a repeat performance.

Milford had to go to a replay and extra-time before making it through against a tenacious Cloughduv side.

The striking feature of this Milford side has been their superb fitness and determination.

They have been the counties most successful club at underage level in recent years, taking titles from under 12 right up to senior B.

They possess excellent players in Elaine O'Riordan, Anna Geary, the Watson sisters Marie, Emer and Aine. They will not fear the champions but, having been title holders so often themselves in different grades, they will be only too well aware of Carrigdhoun's determination to retain their crown.

In their opening game Carrigdhoun dealt efficiently with the challenge of Kilbrittan/Timoleague.

The game has flourished in the Carrigdhoun division with clubs such as Ballinhassig, Ballygarvan, Valley Rovers Carrigaline and Tracton all enjoying plenty of underage and adult success and such was the organisational skills displayed through last season's campaign that they looked like a club team.

It was a huge achievement to take their first title but now they must defend it.

Inter-county senior players Emer Dillon, Elaine Burke and Sarah O'Donovan are joined by Catriona Kelly, Liz Bugler and Emer O'Sullivan on a strong panel that will have all but Deirdre Daly, who is recovering from a knee operation, available since last year.

Milford have acquired the services of Emer Connery from Kilkenny and she will be a welcome addition to the squad.

The form books points to the champions advancing but in last year's county final Milford finished with fourteen players and many felt time ran out on them and maybe they should have brought the tie to a replay.

Tonight they will need their big names to perform up front while at the same time close down the threat posed by Emer Dillon, Sarah O'Donovan and Catriona Kelly.

If they manage to accomplish this they look capable of gaining sweet revenge.

## Corkery and O'Connor duel to prove vital

### Camogie

**St Finbarr's v Cloughduv, Ballincollig, tonight, 7.45pm.**

erating on the edge of the square, she is enjoying her season enormously and causing heartache for defences.

Both teams have a host of inter county players and the performance of the Barr's pair Gemma O'Connor, in attack, and Vivienne Harris, at mid field, will be crucial, while Dunlea, Briege Corkery, Una O'Donoghue and Aoife Murray will have a big say as Cloughduv set about their task.

Defensively both will be strong. Linda O'Connell, Catherine McCarthy and captain Karen Buckley will need to keep a close eye on the Cloughduv forwards while the duel at the other end between inter county team-mates Corkery, who had a magnificent hour at centre back against Imokilly, and O'Connor will be one to keep a close eye on.

Emma Dunne, Sinead Corkery and Joanne O'Callaghan know they will come under pressure from a strong Barr's attack that will be led by Valerie Maher, Jenny Duffy and Rachel Myers.

There's an added twist to to-

night's tie.

Cloughduv coach Paudie Murray has been corner-back on the St Finbarr's senior hurling squad since joining the Toghur outfit from Cloughduv three years ago.

Tonight he will try and plot the downfall of the ladies who sport the same famous blue jersey as he will wear next Sunday when the Barr's meet Middleton in the Evening Echo Senior Championship.

Experience and tradition plus the fact they are playing their fourth game will favour Cloughduv. It's likely to be close and the duel between Corkery and O'Connor may determined the outcome.

## Revenge is sweet as Milford dethrone champions

**Milford Carrigdhoun**  
**3-8 1-8**

CORK senior champions Carrigdhoun relinquished their grip on the Mercury Restaurant and Lounge Cork Senior A Camogie Championship title at the hands of Milford, the side they defeated in last season's county final.

The foundations for victory were laid in the first half as Milford hit the champions with three goals in the opening quarter. Emer Watson goaled inside two minutes and two in four minutes from Maria Watson between the 11th and 15th minute helped Milford to an interval lead of 3-3 to 0-4.

They maintained their dominance in the second half thanks to splendid defensive work from Regina Curtin and Elaine O'Riordan and they matched the champions point for point.

Carrigdhoun's Marian Jagoe's late

goal came too late to deny Milford a place in the quarter-finals.

Scorers: Milford — M. Watson 2-2, E. Watson 1-3, A. Geary 0-3.  
 Carrigdhoun — M. Jagoe 1-0, L. Bugler 0-3, C. Kelly 0-2, V. Browne, E. Dillon, E. Burke 0-1 each.

**MILFORD:** E. Lenihan; D. Hayes, E. O'Riordan, L. Healy; C. O'Gorman, R. Curtin, S. Sexton; A. Geary, E. Connery; A. Watson, J. Sheehy, S. O'Reilly; E. O'Friel, E. Watson, M. Watson.

**CARRIGDHOON:** G. Harrington (Valley Rovers); M. Hallahan (Ballygarvan), L. Hawks (Valley Rovers), E. O'Sullivan (Ballinhassig); J. Browne (Ballygarvan), D. Coomey (Ballinhassig), E. Dillon (Ballygarvan); C. Deasy (Valley Rovers), V. Browne (Ballygarvan); S. O'Callaghan (Ballinhassig), C. Kelly (Ballygarvan), L. Bugler (Valley Rovers); E. Burke (Valley Rovers), S. O'Donovan (Ballygarvan), M. Jagoe (Tracton). Sub: S.A. O'Halloran (Ballygarvan) for S. O'Callaghan.

Referee: C. Egan (Glen Rovers).

**Cloughduv St. Finbarr's**  
**1-7 0-9**

by Mary Newman

Cloughduv advanced to the

quarter final of the Mercury Restaurant and Lounge Cork Senior A camogie championship with a point to spare over a dogged St. Finbarr's in Ballincollig last evening.

A Ciara Cronin goal 18 minutes into the game was to be a decisive one and it helped Cloughduv enjoy a one point interval lead after a close opening 30 minutes.

It was nip and tuck through the half as the sides continuously traded points, Gemma O'Connor with four for the Barrs and one from Vivienne Harris were replied to by Stephanie Dunlea with three and Una O'Donoghue with two.

Two Stephanie Dunlea pointed frees stretched Cloughduv's advantage to three inside eight minutes of the restart and as play swung from end to end, scores were hard to come by as both defences held the upper hand. Gemma O'Connor and Vivienne Har-



Cloughduv's Briege Corkery tries to dispossess St Finbarr's Gemma O'Connor during the Senior A camogie quarter-final at Ballincollig. Picture: Neil Danton

ris had the deficit down to one point by the 21st minute and with both sides guilty of squandering scoring chances, play continued at a frantic pace. Seven minutes of injury time failed to produce the St. Finbarr's equaliser as Cloughduv hung on to advance.

Scorers: Cloughduv; S. Dunlea 0-5 (0-4 frees), C. Cronin 1-0, U. O'Donoghue 0-2. St. Finbarr's; G. O'Connor 0-7 (0-1 free), V. Harris 0-2 (frees).

**Cloughduv:** A. Murray; O. O'Callaghan, Sinead Corkery, Siobhan Corkery; J. O'Callaghan, E. Dunne, B. Corkery; M. Corkery, A. Buckley; U. O'Donoghue, S. Buckley, J. Lucey; C. Corkery, S. Dunlea, C. Cronin.

**ST FINBARR'S:** E. Clifford; A. McCarthy, Colette Kirby, C. Sergeant; K. Buckley, L. O'Connell, M. McCarthy; V. Harris, Clare Kirby; B. Maher, J. O'Connor, J. Duffy; B.A. Corcoran, R. Myers, V. Maher, Subs. C. Myers for B.A. Corcoran 50 mins.

Referee: P. Downey (Inniscarra).

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# Cloughduv are into last eight

Seandún may just have the slight edge

Cloughduv 1-7  
St Finbarr's 0-9

**CLOUGHDUV** survived a late surge from St Finbarr's in Ballincollig last night to advance to the quarter final of the Mercury Restaurant and Lounge Senior A Camogie Championship.

For 20 minutes of the second half Cloughduv dominated but they were forced to hold on to their slender three point lead as St Finbarr's mustered up a late challenge which saw them to reduce the gap to a solitary point.

The late surge was caused by the switch of chief scorer Gemma O'Connor to full-forward and Jenny Duffy moving to centre-forward.

The Barrs began brightly with Vivienne Harris hurling intelligently throughout the first half, and she set up O'Connor on a number of occasions to score.

Courtesy of three points from O'Connor the Barrs led by 0-3 to 0-2 midway through the first half with Cloughduv's points coming from Stephanie Dunlea and Una O'Donoghue.

Cloughduv hit the front after Katherine Corkery ground stroke forced a great save from keeper Ellen Clifford but Ciara Cronin was on hand to poach the goal. It was a lead the Muskerry side were never going to lose.

Cloughduv's keeper, Aoife Murray used her strong puck outs to full effect as they beat the Barrs half back line and caused danger.

Two Dunlea points and one from O'Donoghue eased Cloughduv into a three-point lead in response to two O'Connor points (1-5 to 0-5).

Cloughduv's back line were defending in numbers and snuffed of the threat of the St Finbarr's forwards and they were forced to go backwards in attempt to get a clear sight of goal.

Two late first half frees from Harris



St Finbarr's Gemma O'Connor sprints away from Cloughduv's Briege Corkery in the Senior A Camogie quarter-final at Ballincollig.

Picture: Neil Danton



and O'Connor left the Barrs trailing by a point at half time (1-5 to 0-7).

In the second half, Cloughduv took total control of the game but their only impression on the scoreboard was two pointed frees from Dunlea in the first and twelfth minute of the

half.

As well as having to deal with constant pressure, the Barrs struggled to make it beyond the halfway line to threaten the Cloughduv goal.

But despite all the Cloughduv pressure they failed to add to their tally and when St Finbarr's put O'Connor to full-forward, they threatened to upstage the show.

Three times the Barrs went close to scoring a goal and they had late chances but it wasn't to be.

It was obvious that Cloughduv were a sharper outfit from their previous three outings in the championship and they made full advantage of it against a Barrs side making their en-

trance to the championship after UCC pulled out of their opening clash.

Cloughduv's challenge for honours continues to build momentum and who would bet against them.

**Scorers for the Cloughduv:** S Dunlea 0-5 (0-4 frees), C Cronin 1-0, U O'Donoghue 0-2.

**St Finbarr's:** G O'Connor 0-7 (0-2 frees), V Harris 0-2 (0-2 frees).

**CLOUGHDUV:** A Murray, O O'Callaghan, S Corkery, S Corkery, J O'Callaghan, E Dunne, B Corkery, M Corkery, A Buckley, U O'Donoghue, S Buckley, J Lucey, K Corkery, S Dunlea, C Cronin.

**ST FINBARR'S:** E Clifford, A McCarthy, C Kirby, C Sargent, K Buckley, L O'Connell, M McCarthy, V Harris, C Kirby, B Maher, G O'Connor, J Duffy, B Corcoran, R Myers, V Maher. Subs: C Myers for V Maher.

**Referee:** P Downey (Innisearra).

## Milford maintain their composure to win

Milford 3-8  
Carrigdhoun 1-8

IT wasn't the classic of 12 months ago but Milford won't care.

Showing greater hunger and teamwork than their divisional opponents, they led from the second minute to the 67th, and try as they might, Carrigdhoun could not break down a determined outfit.

The north Cork side got the dream start.

After two minutes they had the ball in the net compliments of full forward Emer Watson. A minute later sister Marie pointed. Anna Geary hit over a '45 to lead by

three when a purple patch saw Milford grab two further goals in four minutes and stun Carrigdhoun.

The first was a high delivery in from Julie Sheehy. Marie Watson slipped in behind the defence and hit home. Carrig responded with a Liz Bugler point before Watson hit her second. First to react to a rebound from goalkeeper Gillian Harrington her ground stroke went all the way to the net leaving a gap of 10 points between the sides.

While Milford were lively up front, the goals were a result of poor defending in the full back line and Carrigdhoun were facing an uphill battle. The pace of scoring slowed a little and the half finished with

Milford leading 3-3 to 0-4.

The game became more of a battle in the second half. Very little free-flowing hurling saw Milford hunt in packs. Carrig came out enthusiastically and hit over two points but by the time they hit their third Milford also had two on the board.

It was point for point between the sides but Carrigdhoun could never reduce the gap below six points. Milford had a line of players behind the ball at all times, particularly around the centre of the field and their team work and inter-play was the hallmark with a team playing together for a long time.

Carrigdhoun however, did not have the match preparation coming into the game

nor, like most divisional sides, enough training sessions and it showed.

The evening belonged to Milford and after last year's bitter defeat it was sweet revenge.

**Scorers for Milford:** M Watson 2-2, E Watson 1-3 (0-2f, 0-1'45), A Geary 0-3 (0-1'45).

**Carrigdhoun:** L Bugler 0-3, M Jagoe 1-0, C Kelly 0-2 (frees), E Dillon 0-1 (f), V Browne and E Burke 0-1 each.

**MILFORD:** E Lenihan, D Hayes, R Curtin, L Healy, C O'Gorman, E O'Riordan, S Sexton, A Geary, E Connery, A Watson, J Sheehy, S O'Reilly, E O'Friel, E Watson, M Watson. Subs: E Horgan for J Sheehy (58th min).

**CARRIGDHOUN:** G Harrington, M Hallahan, J Browne, L Hawks, E O'Sullivan, E Dillon, D Coomey, V Browne, C Deasy, S O'Callaghan, C Kelly, L Bugler, E Burke, S O'Donovan, M Jagoe. Subs: S A O'Halloran for S O'Callaghan (21st min).

**TONIGHT**  
Mercury Restaurant and Lounge Senior A Championship Camogie quarter-final: Seandún v Carbery, Carrigrohoid 7.45pm

THE first quarter-final of the Mercury Restaurant and Lounge Senior A championship is an all-divisional clash between Seandún and Carbery this evening in Carrigrohoid at 7.45pm.

Seandún have already recorded a tremendous victory over Fr O'Neill's while Carbery were to play the losers of the UCC-St Finbarr's first round game but by virtue of UCC failing to field a team on that occasion they go automatically to tonight's game.

Seandún are boosted this year by the inclusion of players from Bishopstown and Glen Rovers and in their opening game with Fr O'Neill's they were worthy winners.

Jean O'Sullivan, Michelle Hegarty, Ciara Enright, Ciara Healy and Niamh Goulding have brought a wealth of senior experience to the panel and the younger players such as Charlotte Kearney played with tremendous confidence and if Seandún can repeat this display they are more than capable of progressing a step further.

Carbery have always been tough championship campaigners and they will build their team around players from the Newcestown, Clonakilty and Bandon clubs.

Senior Inter-county player Colette Desmond was in tremendous form for Newcestown in their championship game last weekend notching up much of her side's total and Seandún will have to keep a close eye on her performance as well as those of other key performers such as Hilda O'Mahony, Hazel O'Regan, Colleen Long and Anita Coughlan.

These are players with plenty of experience but the lack of an opening round game may slightly hinder the side in their preparations for this game as it's always difficult for divisional sides to gather enthusiasm and a sense of momentum at the start of a new championship campaign.

Seandún to shade it.



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## Éire Óg to compound misery for Carrigaline

By MARY NEWMAN

Camogie previews

### TONIGHT

Mercury Restaurant and Lounge:  
Senior B Championship: Éire Óg v  
Carrigaline, Douglas 7.30pm

Already Carrigaline have lost three games in this round robin series championship at the hand of Valley Rovers, St Catherine's and Newcestown but to their credit they put in a tremendous effort in their last outing against Newcestown despite the slim chances of making it to the qualifying rounds.

Éire Óg are very focused on staying in the hunt while Carrigaline will be equally determined to record a victory; given what's at stake the Ovens' girls should just about shade it but not without a tough hour of.

### TOMORROW

Senior B Championship: Valley  
Rovers v Newcestown,  
Bandon, 7.45 pm.

Valleys have been going well recording two wins to date over Éire Óg and Carrigaline. On both occasions they have had to fight hard for victory and Brendan Coleman will be looking for an improved performance where a win would practically assure his side of a place in the semi-finals.

Newcestown had also to fight hard before shaking off the challenge posed by Carrigaline and they know Valley Rovers will be equally as dogged. On the balance of what's been seen to date Valleys look set to record victory number three.

### TOMORROW

Senior A Championship quarter-final: Courcey Rovers v Inniscarra, Newcestown 5pm

Inniscarra will go in as slight favourites to advance to the semi-final of the Mercury Restaurant and Lounge Senior A Championship when they face Courcey Rovers in Newcestown.

The Mid Cork girls recorded a good victory over Fr O'Neill's in their opening game while Courcey's did like wise with a win over Kilbrittan/Timoleague.

A worry for Courcey's will be the fact that only two players got on the score sheet and they will need to improve on that if they hope to get past a strong Inniscarra side who contested the county final in 2004 losing out narrowly to Fr O'Neill's.

Since then Inniscarra have worked hard and make no secret of their desire to lift the trophy for the first time.

The loss of talented players has not been a worry for Inniscarra and they still have plenty of hurling ability at their disposal. Youngster Niamh Dilworth showed great maturity and confidently assuming the free taking duties and contributing 1-4 to the score sheet while Liz Hayes, Marie O'Connell and Rena Buckley's work rate continues to be enormous.

Again both sides will look for big contributions from their inter-county players, the performances of Rena Buckley and Rachel Moloney will have a huge bearing on eventual outcome but Inniscarra look to have more scoring ability up front to be capable of advancing but just about.

# Desmond shines in Carbery win

By MARY NEWMAN

Camogie

Carbery 4-8  
Seandun 2-10

**FOR seven minutes of the first half and 10 minutes of the second Carbery were in command of this Mercury Restaurant and Lounge Senior A Championship quarter-final.**

In between Seandun dominated, but it was not enough as it was the Carbery girls who advanced to a semi-final meeting with either Courcey Rovers or Inniscarra thanks to a storming closing five minutes.

Senior panellist Colette Desmond had 1-3 on the scoreboard before Seandun could draw their breath but steadily they got to grips with the task in hand and ably led by full forward Clara Healy their confidence grew.

By the 18th minute Doireann Ni Mhuiri pointed to give them the lead, this after Healy had sent a free to the net from an acute angle 45 metres out.

Approaching injury time Seandun had stretched the advantage to two points but a Desmond goal from a 45 deep in added time edged Carbery 2-4 to 1-6 ahead at the short whistle this after Seandun had lost impressive forward Charlotte Kearney with a leg injury.

Inside a minute of the second half Joanne Browne struck a superb equaliser with a long range shot but three minutes later Desmond had it all square when pointing a free.

Remarkably we had to wait 18 minutes before Carbery would register another score as Seandun proceeded to take control spurred on by a superb goal from the alert Healy who first-timed a Jenny



Colette Desmond scored 3-4 in Carbery's win over Seandun last night.

O'Donovan free to the net.

With their defence dealing efficiently with the threat posed by the Carbery attack, Seandun added three points between the eighth and 15th minutes to open up a five-point advantage, before Anita Coughlan pointed for Carbery.

With Desmond now operating in the half-forward line, Carbery began to win possession and it was Desmond who signalled the revival with a goal in the 24th minute; two minutes later Hazel O'Regan's shot deceived Michelle Gould in the Seandun goal and ended in the net to give Carbery the lead for the first

time in the half.

Seandun worked tirelessly to regain control but a strong Carbery finish yielded two further points and ensured no way back for the city girls who, when they reflect on it, should never have allowed their opponents a way back with six minutes remaining.

But credit to the winners also and, in particular, Desmond for guiding them when they needed it most.

**CARBERY** L O Sullivan Newcestown, M Moloney Newcestown, Anita, Coughlan, Newcestown (0-1), Aileen Coughlan, Newcestown, F. Crowley Newcestown, Hilda O Mahony

Newcestown, C O Mahony Newcestown, E Healy Enniskenne Long Newcestown (0-1), S Whelton Clonakilly, E Crowley Newcestown, O Coughlan, Newcestown, (0-1) H Coughlan, Newcestown, C Desmond Newcestown, (3-4, 1-1 from 45 metres frees, 0-3 frees, 2 goals play) H O Regan Clonakilly (1 goal), Subs: R O'Donovan, Newcestown for M Moloney (38min); J Brennan Clonakilly (0-1) for H Coughlan (38min); G Cronin Bandon for S Whelton (56min).

**SEANDUN:** M Gould Delanys, C Enright Bishopstown, C Meaney, Blackrock, Kelly Bishopstown, N Goulding Glen Rovers, E Duggan Bishopstown, M Hegarty Glen Rovers, G Mulqueen Blackrock, N O'Donovan Douglas Crowley Bishopstown, J Browne Bishopstown, C Kearney Na Piarasigh, JO Donovan Douglas, C Healy Bishopstown, D Ni Mhuiri Blackrock Subs: R de Faoith Blackrock for C Kearney (inj 28mins) C Kenny Bishopstown for G Mulqueen (57min) S O Leary (Douglas) for C Meaney (59min).

Ref Peter Downey (Inniscarra)

## Douglas romp into U14B final

ON Saturday last the city division headquarters at Ballinlough hosted four under age games starting at 11am and running through to 3.45pm.

Two semi-finals in the U14B League and two quarter-finals in the U14C League saw eight teams battle it out.

First into the action were Douglas and Fr O'Neill's in U14 B final. Scores from Aine O'Donovan, Deirdre Cotter and Kelly Humphreys had Douglas in a commanding lead at the interval.

Fr O'Neill's rallied and points from Annette Griffin and Kate Harrington had Douglas under pressure.

To their credit they failed to panic and absorbed several Fr O'Neill's attacks with goalkeeper Jessica Kavanagh in top form.

Douglas re-grouped and goals from Kelly Humphreys and Cliona O'Driscoll to clinched their place in the final 5-5 to 1-1.

The second semi-final U14 B was nip and tuck as Ballygarvan and Buttevant battled it out.

Darina O'Callaghan pointed to give Buttevant the early advantage and with Eimear Healy grabbing a goal they were in control.

Ashling Byrne pointed to open the Ballygarvan account and two goals inside a minute from Rachel Keohane had Ballygarvan ahead by the 20th minute but a superb solo run from Eimear Healy had the sides level.

Jenny Buckley grabbed a goal and an Emer Healy, point edged Buttevant

back in front before a Kate O'Sullivan goal on half-time whistle had Buttevant 3-2 to 3-1 ahead.

Orla Johnson showed her skill pointing twice from placed balls to extend the lead by the 12th minute of the second half, and despite fierce Ballygarvan pressure they failed to breach the strong Buttevant defence where Helena Coughlan, Orla Johnson and Clare Barry were superb.

Three further points without replay ensured Buttevant won 4-6 to 3-1.

A powerful second-half display ensured Newtownshandrum advanced to the semi-final of the U14 C League.

Newcestown led 1-1 to 0-1 at the break thanks to the accuracy of Aebhfinn Keane but driven on by

Siobhan Curtin, captain Mariah Ready and Avril Lane it was Newtown who won 8-4 to 2-1.

The last game of the day was a close affair before Kildorrery made it to the second semi-final of the U14C League.

Katherine Butler led the way with a goal and Emma Coughlan had a point to which Ballinascarty's Caroline Sugrue replied.

Kildorrery had a second goal from Butler and one from Elaine O'Dwyer in the second half to which Ballinascarty replied with points from Katherine Condon and Laura Hegarty before Kildorrery won 3-2 to 0-3.

It was great day's camogie and one which the juvenile board had vision to organise for the one venue.



## LOCAL CHAMPIONSHIP ACTION

IT took extra time to separate Milford and Cloughduv in the Mercury Restaurant and Lounge senior "A" camogie championship replay in Coachford on Monday evening. Stephanie Dunlea's point deep in injury time that earned the mid Cork girls a replay, this time it was Milford who held their composure as Marie Watson's late goal earned brought the game to extra time. Cloughduv held the interval advantage of one point 1-5 to 1-4 thanks in the main to a powerful display from Stephanie Dunlea at full forward. Maria Watson pointed for Milford with Eimear O Friel finishing to the net.

We had to wait thirteen minutes for the first score of the second half as Aoife Murray denied Milford with some tremendous saves before Milford brought the game to extra time. Two goals from Anna Geary and Emer Watson booked Milford a place in the next round against county champions Carrigdhoun; this game will have taken place last night (Wed) in Ballyclough.

It was back to the action on Wednesday night for Cloughduv as they face Imokilly in a bid to stay in the championship. From the start Imokilly made all the running and led at the break 0-5 to 0-1 but credit to Cloughduv who put Mondays night result behind them as they tuned in a strong second half performance with two goal from Una O Donoghue to advance to a meeting with St Finbarrs.

County champions Carrigdhoun advance at the expense of Kilbrittan / Timoleague on Thursday last. Three goals from Sarah O Donovan and one from Elaine Burke ensured they held the lead at half time and doing enough to book their next round place.

Aghbullogue put the defeat at the hands of Barryroe behind them to come through the back door with an impressive victory over Avondhu. In a game where the lead changed hand on numerous occasions the Aghbullogue girls sealed victory with Mary O'Sullivan Niamh O'Connell

Sinead Buckley and Nicole Moynihan superb.

City divisional representatives Seandun were back in the championship after failing to field last season and they showed tremendous determination with Ciara Healy leading the way to record a victory over Fr O Neills.

In the Mercury Restaurant and Lounge Senior B championship which is played on a round robin series Ballygarvan recorded their second victory when they proved way to strong for Glen Rovers. With Catriona Kelly leading the way and good displays from Caoimhe and Emer Dillon and Mary Hallihan the Ballygarvan girls ensured another two points were secured.

Newcestown recorded their first victory defeating Carrigaline in Innishannon, Hilda O'Mahony in defence was superb while up front the switching of Senior pannelist Colette Desmond to full forward paid off as she notched up four goals to help her side to their first win in the competition.

## Cloughduv take under age title

CONGRATULATIONS to Cloughduv who took the under 12 twelve a side league title defeating Ballinascarty 1 goal to 0-2 in an exciting final where a goal from Aoife Barry Murphy was enough to add the title to the under 14 twelve a side won earlier in the month by Cloughduv as they defeated Sliabh Rua.

Compliments to the juvenile board for staging four of their under age games together at the same venue on Saturday last and plaudits to the city division officers and their chairman Derek Connolly for their continued support shown to camogie by making the Ballinlough grounds available for the day.

In the Under 14 b Douglas with impressive displays from Aine O'Donovan Deirdre Cotter and Ciara Lynch booked their place in the final as they proved to strong for a Fr O Neills side for whom Annette Griffin and Kate Harrington impressed.

Buttervant will be their oppo-

nents after they through a tough test against a strong Ballygarvan side. Just one point separated their team at the break as Buttervant led 3-2 to 3-1 through the second half they upped the pace with Orla Johnson, Karen Burke, and Elaine Murphy adding further scores to secure their place in the final.

Newtownshandrum powered by the impressive Sharon Curtin, Captain Mariah Reidy and Avril Lane booked their place in the semi final of the under 14 c league as they defeated Newcestown. Just one point was between the team at the break but Newcestown had no answer to a powerful second half display from the Newtownshandrum girls.

Kildorrey with two goals from Katherine butler and one from Elaine O Dwyer advanced to the second semi final of the Under 14 c after they defeated Ballinascarty.

## Junior championships begin

DOUGLAS got and Killeagh got their campaigns in the junior "A" championship off to winning starts as they recorded victories over Sarsfields and Newtownshandrum respectively. As this championship is being played on a round robin basis of two groups it will be interesting to keep an eye on

results as the games progress.

In the Junior B championship a goal in injury time from Clare Ryan ensured Ballincollig advanced to round two at the expense of Sliabh Rua. In the same competition a good result for Na Piarraig advanced with one point to spare at

the expense of a strong Brian Dillon's side. Clonakilty had a win over Castlemagner while Tracton advanced at the expense of Dungourney.

This evening Seandun and Carbery meet in Carrigdrohid at 7.45pm while on Saturday in Newcestown at 3pm Inniscarra and Courcy

are in opposition both game in the Mercury Restaurant and lounge Senior "A" championship.

In the Senior B championship Eire OG and Carrigaline meet on Friday at venue to be named while on Saturday Valley Rovers and Newcestown meet in Bandon at 7.45pm.

## Another busy week ahead

ANOTHER busy week ahead in the Mercury Restaurant and Lounge senior Championships. This evening in the A championship its an all divisional clash as Seandun and Carbery meet in Carrigdrohid at 7.45pm while on Saturday in Newcestown at 3pm Inniscarra and Courcy are in opposition.

In the Senior B championship Eire OG and Carrigaline meet

on Friday at venue to be named while also on Saturday Valley Rovers and Newcestown meet in Bandon at 7.45pm.

**THE Munster U18 Championship Semi-final** between Cork & Limerick will take place on Bank Holiday Monday, August 1 in Ballinlough at 7.30pm

# HOLDERS Carrigdhoun fall to Milford in championship shock

by Mary Newman

THE Championship race has begun in earnest with several really surprising exits from the Mercury Restaurant and Lounge Senior A Camogie Championship.

Holders Carrigdhoun provided the biggest surprise in Ballyclough on Wednesday last, falling to Milford, the side they defeated in last year's final. Milford put on an excellent first half display. Two goals from Marie Watson and another from Emer Watson saw Milford lead 3-3 to 0-4 at half-time.

Carrigdhoun faced an uphill battle for the second half. They did rally, but Milford were stronger in all sectors and eventually won 3-8 to 1-8.

Meanwhile, another of Milford's earlier conquests, Cloughduv have availed of the back door to defeat both Imokilly and St Finbarrs, to book a semi spot against Aghbullogue. A goal from Ciara Cronin helped Cloughduv overcome the Barrs by the narrowest of margins: 1-7 to 0-9.

Carbery versus Seandun was a lively affair, with Carbery racing into a 10th minute lead of 1-3 to 0-0 thanks mainly to Colette Desmond. Seandun then rallied, with Ciara Healy and Doireann Ni Mhuiri in excellent form and led by two points until a Colette Desmond goal from a 45 deep in added time edged Carbery 2-4 to 1-6 ahead at the break.

Seandun were on level inside a minute of the restart. We had to wait 18 minutes before Carbery would register another score as Seandun took control. Driven on by a Ciara Healy goal and three more points, they opened up a five-point advantage before Anita Coughlan pointed for Carbery. Then came two Carbery goals — by Colette Desmond and Hazel O'Regan — to give Carbery the lead for the first time in the half. Seandun tried to reply, but Carbery finished the stronger to end up worthy winners.

Meanwhile, Courcy Rovers players were shell shocked by their late late



**Cork midfield pairing from Inniscarra Rena Buckley and Margaret Noelle O'Sullivan showing off the Máire Ni Cheallacháin (also an Inniscarra woman) cup after Cork won the 2005 Munster Intermediate Camogie Championship recently.**

Picture: Tim Buckley

defeat to Inniscarra. Entering injury time, Courcy's looked to be on their way to the semi-final when somehow they lost their way to allow Inniscarra to this Mercury Restaurant and Lounge Senior A Camogie Championship quarter-final. Courcy's made all the early running and were full value for their early 2-3 to 0-2 lead with goals by Rachel Maloney and Ursula Quinn. Criona Harte had an Inniscarra goal 20 minutes into the game and then dominated from here to the break. Two points from Niamh Dilworth and one from Treasa McCarthy had them back in contention. Ger Casey finished to the net to give them the lead for the first time in the contest. Casey and Maire O'Connell pointed to leave it 2-7 to 2-3 in Inniscarra's favour at the half-time whistle.

After the restart, Rachel Maloney had a rampant Courcy's on level terms. Then Niamh Dilworth pointed a 45 to give Inniscarra their first score of the second half, before Courcy's went back in front with two pointed frees. With the minutes ticking away

Inniscarra threw everything at a very resilient Courcy's defence. Twice Inniscarra squandered scoring chances but so did Courcy's who lost a glorious chance to stretch their advantage.

Just when Courcy's looked to be on their way a short clearance allowed Criona Harte to somehow bundle the ball over the line and into the net. Courcy's did have a chance to get the goal back but Inniscarra stood firm. The full-time whistle brought a sigh of relief from Inniscarra and huge disappointment for a Courcy's side who gave it there all only to lose out in the 34th minute of added time.

In the Mercury Restaurant and Lounge Senior B championship a marvellous rally which turned an 11-point deficit into a victory saw Valley Rovers record win number three and practically ensure themselves of a place in the last four. With two minutes remaining it looked as if Newcestown would hold out to record their second victory but a late Liz Bugler goal ensured victory for Valleys. From as early as the first minute Newcestown led and dictated terms as Colette Desmond and Colleen Long were causing problems for the Valley Rovers defence.

Newcestown were full value for their interval lead of 2-4 to 0-6 thanks to an Eleanor Kenneally goal on the half-time whistle after Elaine Burke Liz Bugler and Majella McCarthy had pointed for Valleys.

Newcestown made all the running from the restart as they opened up an 11-point advantage, Colette Desmond dropped a long range free to the net with further points from Eleanor Kenneally and Colette Desmond.

A goal at the mid-way stage from Liz Bugler was replied to with a point but from here to the full-time whistle Valleys took over. Between the 16th and 21st minutes Liz Bugler and Elaine Burke goaled, and a point from Mary Ann Hawkes cut the deficit.

Newcestown looked likely to hang on thanks to some great defending, but in a goalmouth scramble Elaine

Burke found Liz Bugler who made no mistake from the edge of the square.

Seconds later the full-time whistle was greeted with huge Valley Rovers celebrations, but Newcestown will look back in amazement at the way they caved in the final quarter.

Eire OG recorded their first victory in the Senior B camogie championship thanks to the contribution of 11 points from young minor player Margaret O'Herlihy. Eire OG leading 0-6 to 1-2 at the break, an Una O'Farrell goal for Carrigaline and points from Terri O'Keeffe and Laura Thompson keeping them in touch with Margaret O'Herlihy and Erin Corkery on target for the Owens girls. Eire OG continued to hold the advantage through the second half as O'Herlihy continued to picking off further points while Erin Corkery and Ellen O'Herlihy also contributing to the score sheet. Laura Thompson pointed for Carrigaline and a late goal from Grace Harrington failed to give Carrigaline the upper hand as Eire OG held their lead for a merited victory.

In the Junior A championship, Douglas were too strong for Sarsfields while Killeagh had a victory over Newtownshandrum. With this championship also being played on a round robin basis of two groups, both have plenty left to do in the weeks ahead.

The Junior B championship saw Ballincollig advance to round two at the expense of Sliabh Rua. In the same competition, a good result for Na Piarraig who advanced with one point to spare at the expense of a strong Brian Dillon's side. Clonakilty overcame Castlemagner while Tracton beat Dungourney.

In the senior A championship this Wednesday evening it's quarter-final time for Barryroe and Milford in a repeat of last year's semi-final. On Thursday Carbery meet Inniscarra in the first semi-final while it's also down to a quarter-final in the all Mid Cork clash between Aghbullogue and Cloughduv. Venues to be announced, so keep contact local clubs for details.

July  
2005



# Championship warms up with some massive ties

THINGS are hotting up. The county champions are out and we are at the latter stages of the championship with seven teams left. Without ever reaching great heights, Milford dethroned champions Carrigdhoun last Wednesday evening. Cloughduv defeated St Finbarrs; Seandun came out on top against Carbery and with the teams that are left, it is very likely we will see a Milford-Cloughduv semi-final. The two teams met in the first round with Milford emerging victorious after extra time in a replay and, with the new 'back door' system, Cloughduv also made it through. Milford are very close to their first title. I believe that when they do make the breakthrough, be it this year or next, they will be the first team since Glen Rovers to bring Munster and All-Ireland club titles back to Cork. They have a fairly balanced team and with a bit more senior experience behind them will be a force in the future. But the major task facing their mentors will be keeping the squad together. A lot of them are in their late teens and these are the delicate years. The entire team is young and I've always felt that you need the right mix of maturity and youth to keep the cycle going. If Milford are successful in this regard, then watch this space. At this point they'd happily settle for a senior county title. Cloughduv are at this stage a fairly seasoned team. Containing no less than five senior inter-county first team players and with many of the remainder having worn the Cork jersey at some stage, they look to be very strong on paper. They've had some enthralling battles to date which will stand them in good stead. It's a pity these two teams weren't on opposite sides of the draw as it would make for a great county final. This evening Courcye Rovers and Inniscarra meet in Newcestown at 5pm. Two years ago Inniscarra looked like strong championship contenders but one wonders if the momentum has slipped. They should take Rovers, who rely too much on inter county player Rachel Moloney. Should they go through it will be an Inniscarra-Carbery



Linda Mellerick

semi-final on August 4. Next Wednesday Aghabullogue take on Cloughduv and Barryroe face Milford to see what the other semi-final pairing is. Milford feel that they always find it tough against Barryroe and certainly they won't have it easy. I still expect Milford to pull through. Aghabullogue can be proud of their achievements in their first year up Senior A but this next round may be a bridge too far. The second semi-final takes place on August 10 with the final down for August 27/28. On the inter-county scene, Cork will be wishing the local championship away in a bid to get a full squad together for the upcoming semi-final clash on August 20. The gap between August 10 and August 27 gives them two weeks but the club players left would need to get the balance right and not over-do the training with both club and county combined. The All-Ireland final is on September 11 and again it doesn't give the Cork mentors much time between the county final and All-Ireland, should they reach it, to concentrate fully on the task ahead. And a task it will be. Tipperary and Limerick have already qualified for the semi-finals as a result of wins over Kilkenny and the fact that Antrim withdrew from the championship. The two teams still meet this coming Saturday in Semple Stadium and the match holds huge significance with the winners topping the group and therefore avoiding Cork to set up a meeting with Galway or Wexford who also play on Saturday to determine who goes through. One would expect, of course, that Tipperary will win this one with ease but reports from Limerick are that they are going to give this everything they have. No-one is expecting them to win so they have nothing to lose. Tipperary weren't overly impressive against Kilkenny scoring 13 points to 1-6 but that shouldn't fool anyone. Cork are gearing themselves up for Limerick and I'll be surprised if it's anybody else.

AUG. 2005

## Rebel stars to power Cloughduv

Tomorrow  
Mercury Restaurant and Lounge Senior A camogie Championship quarter-final, Aghabullogue v Cloughduv Ovens 7.30pm

IT'S an all Mid-Cork meeting between Cloughduv and Aghabullogue in the last quarter-final of the Mercury Restaurant and Lounge Senior A Camogie Championship this evening, writes Mary Newman. Both teams have had contrasting paths to tonight's encounter having lost out in round one but availing of the back door to come back into the championship. Aghabullogue have had two games to date losing out in their opening game to Barryroe but they rallied to defeat Avondhu and received a bye to the quarter-finals. Cloughduv have to date played four games going to an extra time replay with Milford before then defeating Imokilly. They then had to participate in a play-off of winners in round three when they edged out St Finbarr's by one point. No doubt but the extra games will have benefited Cloughduv while Aghabullogue have been inactive since July 21st. Last season Aghabullogue took the senior B title in impressive style and no doubt they will be pleased with the progress they have made. They are aiming high and a place in the semi-final would be a welcome reward for coach Mort Murphy and his backroom team. Against Barryroe they led at the break but the stronger Barryroe eventually wore them down. Cloughduv, powered by five inter-county senior players, Stephanie Dunlea Brieghe Corkery Una O'Donoghue Joanne O'Callaghan and Aoife Murray will be hot favourites to book a semi-final spot but no doubt Louise Murphy, Tina Roche, Sheila Marie Crowley and Niamh O'Connell will have other ideas. On the balance it has to be Cloughduv to advance but not before a testing hour from an ever-improving young Aghabullogue 15.

## Harte strikes late as Inniscarra steal it from Courcye

no way past Hayes and company who closed down attack after attack. Twice Inniscarra squandered scoring chances but Courcye also lost a glorious chance to make it three when a sloppy passing hand went astray and allowed Inniscarra clear their lines. It was from this injury time clearance that the winner eventually came — sloppy defending allowing Criona Harte to somehow bundle the ball over the line and into the net.

**INNISCARRA:** O. Murphy, R. McCarthy, E. Di-  
neen, M. Buckley, T. Murphy, R. Buckley, M. O.  
Sullivan, N. Dilworth (0-4, 2 from frees, one 45), F.  
O. Connelley, M. O. Connelley (0-2), T. McCarthy (0-1),  
G. O. Connelley, G. Connelley (1-1), C. Harte (2-0). **Subs:**  
K. Ryan for G. O. Connelley (10-11), C. O'Connell for T.  
McCarthy (40mins), S. N. Ryan for E. Hayes (45  
mins).

with two Moloney frees. With the minutes ticking away Inniscarra bombarded the Courcye goal but found

## Galway stunned by late goal blast as Wexford storm into semi-finals

Scores for Wexford: K. Kelly 1-5 (1-1 from close range, followed by a Kelly free that went past Stephanie Gannon. With time almost up, captain Mary Leacy found her sister Una, who obliged for the Modelwomen's third green flag. Elsewhere, in Semple Stadium, title-holders Tipperary turned up the heat on Limerick, winning 5-17 to 0-8. In a game that decided first and second placing in group A, goals from Emer McDonnell, Noelle Kennedy, Louise Young, Emily Hayden (two) and Louise Young ensured an emphatic victory.

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victory in Ballinasloe on Saturday that left the National League champions shattered after a disappointing display. Prior to this late onslaught, Galway were more than a match for the visitors. Despite their reliance on free-taker Lourda Kavanagh, they held a 0-5 to 0-4 lead at the break. Two points from Kavanagh stretched their advantage inside six minutes of the re-start, but they failed to score again. Inside the closing quarter, Wexford only trailed by a point, with top scorer Kelly adding two white flags. Then the floodgates opened, Jacob

restart, Rachel Moloney's unerring accuracy from frees had Courcye on level terms and with their defence giving little away, Inniscarra were finding the going extremely hard. Niamh Dilworth registered Inniscarra's first goal.

UTTER devastation for Courcye Rovers after Inniscarra all but stole this Cork Senior "A" camogie championship quarter-final at Newcestown on Saturday. Having recovered from losing impressive centre-back Marion O'Donoghue with a serious head injury five minutes into the game, Courcye dominated the opening quarter and led 2-3 to 0-2, the goals coming from Rachel Moloney and Ursula Quinn. A Criona Harte goal after 20 minutes spurred Inniscarra into action and they proceeded to dominate to the break. Points from Niamh Dilworth (2) and Treasa McCarthy were followed by a solo goal from Ger Casey to give Inniscarra a 2-7 to 2-3 interval lead. However, within 13 minutes of the

**WEXFORD:** M. Darcy, B. Holohan, C. O'Loughlin, D. Codd, O. Hernan, A. Codd, C. O'Connor, K. Kelly, A. O'Connor, U. Leacy, M. Leacy (Capt), M. Kelly, L. Holohan, M. Heame, U. Jacob.

**GALWAY:** S. Gannon, R. Glynn, S. Cahalan, N. Gannon, L. Kelly, T. Maher (Capt), A. Kelly, B. Han-  
vey, C. Gannon, A. Lynskey, A. Hillary, L. Ka-  
vanagh, B. Keane, V. Curtin, O. Kilkenny.

**INNISCARRA:** O. Murphy, R. McCarthy, E. Di-  
neen, M. Buckley, T. Murphy, R. Buckley, M. O.  
Sullivan, N. Dilworth (0-4, 2 from frees, one 45), F.  
O. Connelley, M. O. Connelley (0-2), T. McCarthy (0-1),  
G. O. Connelley, G. Connelley (1-1), C. Harte (2-0). **Subs:**  
K. Ryan for G. O. Connelley (10-11), C. O'Connell for T.  
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G. O. Connelley, G. Connelley (1-1), C. Harte (2-0). **Subs:**  
K. Ryan for G. O. Connelley (10-11), C. O'Connell for T.  
McCarthy (40mins), S. N. Ryan for E. Hayes (45  
mins).

**WEXFORD:** M. Darcy, B. Holohan, C. O'Loughlin, D. Codd, O. Hernan, A. Codd, C. O'Connor, K. Kelly, A. O'Connor, U. Leacy, M. Leacy (Capt), M. Kelly, L. Holohan, M. Heame, U. Jacob.

**GALWAY:** S. Gannon, R. Glynn, S. Cahalan, N. Gannon, L. Kelly, T. Maher (Capt), A. Kelly, B. Han-  
vey, C. Gannon, A. Lynskey, A. Hillary, L. Ka-  
vanagh, B. Keane, V. Curtin, O. Kilkenny.

## O'Herlihy inspires her side's win

Eire Og  
Carrigaline

0-14  
2-3

By MARY NEWMAN  
Camogie

EIRE OG recorded their first victory in the Mercury Restaurant and lounge Senior B camogie championship recently thanks in the main to the contribution of eleven points from Margaret O'Herlihy.

A close opening half saw Eire Og leading 0-6 to 1-2 at the break, an Una O'Farrell goal for Carrigaline and points from Terri O'Keefe and Laura Thompson keeping them in touch with the accuracy of Eire Og's Margaret O'Herlihy and Erin Corkery.

On the resumption Eire Og continued to keep their noses in front O'Herlihy stretching their advantage picking off further points while Corkery and Ellen O'Herlihy also contributing to the score sheet. Laura Thompson pointed for Carrigaline add a late goal from Grace Harrington failed to change the result as Eire Og, thanks to the ac-

curacy of O'Herlihy, were full value for their victory.  
**EIRE OG:** L. M. O'Mahony, Catriona McKenna, S. Gleeson, A. McCarthy, E. O'Herlihy (0-1), C. McCarthy, E. Kelleher, M. Corkery, Clara McKenna, L. Murphy, M. O'Herlihy (0-11), C. O'Leary, E. Corkery (0-2), C. Crowley, C. Purcell.  
**Sub:** C. O'Keefe for C. Crowley  
**CARRIGALINE:** A. Kiely, E. Power, E. Egan, L. Kelleher, R. Herlihy, J. O'Keefe, J. Kiernan, C. O'Keefe, L. Thompson (0-2), T. O'Keefe (0-1), G. Harrington (1-0), R. Harrington, U. O'Farrell (1-0), S. Moran.  
**Sub:** S. O'Keefe for E. Egan  
**Referee:** C. Egan Glen Rovers



AUG. 2005

# Late Harte strike saves Inniscarra

Inniscarra 3-8  
Courcy Rovers 2-9

**A GOAL** five minutes into injury-time sent Inniscarra through to the next round of the Mercury Restaurant and Lounge Senior A Championship in Newcestown on Saturday.

Courcy Rovers defended a one-point lead for the final five minutes of normal time but they began to tire and stand off their markers as Inniscarra continued to attack.

The breakthrough came for Inniscarra when Catriona O'Connell delivered a ball into the box and frantic scramble saw the ball fall to Criona Harte and she showed no hesitation as she buried the ball to the net.

After Inniscarra's Maire O'Connell opened the scoring Courcy Rovers raced into an eight-point lead after fifteen minutes (2-3 to 0-1).

It all came courtesy of Rachel Moloney who racked up 1-2 in the early stages and a goal from Rosemary Moloney whose shot was deflected to the net by the aid of an Inniscarra hurley.

Courcy Rovers suffered a set back after five minutes when Marian O'Donovan had to leave the action after a nasty but accidental blow to the head.

They were upset the odds but somewhere they lost their way and Inniscarra regained their composure as they came charging back into the game. Ger Casey once again standing out for an impressive performance as she ran fearlessly at the Courcy's back-line.

A move started by Marie O'Connell led to a goal for Harte to goal from the six yard line. The goal came on either side of points from Niamh Dilworth.

Inniscarra were in total control for the remainder of the half and they made their possession count with a great individual goal and



**Courcy Rovers' Claire Murphy in action against Elizabeth Hayes of Inniscarra during their Mercury Restaurant and Lounge Senior A Championship in Newcestown on Saturday.**

Picture: Donna McBride.

By PJ AHERN  
camogie

point from Ger Casey.

Courcy's should have been further behind but for excellent defending and great hear being shown by Sarah Downing.

Rachel Moloney's influence which has proved so important in recent times was fading as the sliothar by-passed her and Courcy's needed another figure to come into the limelight and while the rest of the team raised their game they struggle to live with the blistering pace of Inniscarra.

Inniscarra were four points up at the break (2-7 to 2-3).

The second half replicated the start of the first with Courcy Rovers dominating. But after their

long periods of pressure they could only yield four Moloney points, which drew them, level (2-7 to 2-7) but they struggled to edge in front.

Eight minutes from time, Inniscarra began to find their feet again and went back in front from Dilworth.

Two minutes later, Moloney restored parity with a free and she put Courcy's in front with another point a minute later.

Courcy's attempted to kill the game but their lack of confidence to go for scores cost them dearly and the persistent defending by Rena Buckley, Enda Dineen and Trish Murphy also hampered them.

The exit door beckoned for Inniscarra but they never back shrugged as they fought deep into injury time and they finally got

their reward thanks to the corner forward Harte.

Inniscarra were lucky to advance but they will now be favourites to reach the final and atone for their 2003 county final defeat, while Courcy Rovers can be proud of their efforts that left their opponents rattled.

**Scorers for Inniscarra:** C Harte 2-0, N Dilworth 0-4 (0-2 frees, 0-1 45), G Casey 1-1, M O'Connell 0-2, T McCarthy 0-1.

**Courcy Rovers:** R Moloney 1-8 (0-6 free, 0-1 45), U Quinn 1-0, C O'Neill 0-1.

**INNISCARRA:** O Murphy, R McCarthy, E Dineen, M Buckley, T Murphy, R Buckley, E Hayes, M O'Sullivan, N Dilworth, F O'Connell, T McCarthy, G O'Mahony, G Casey, C Harte. **Subs:** K Ryan for G O'Mahony, C O'Connell for T McCarthy, S N Rian for E Hayes.

**COURCY ROVERS:** J Hayes, S Allen, S Hayes, J Murphy, K Keohane, M O'Donovan, S O'Regan, M O'Regan, S Downing, R Moloney, N Collins, S Quinn, R Moloney, C Murphy, C O'Neill, Subs: U Quinn for M O'Donovan.

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

## A late goal floors Newcestown

Valley Rovers 4-8  
Newcestown 3-9

**WITH** two minutes left it looked as if Newcestown would hold out to record their second victory in the Mercury Restaurant and Lounge Senior B championship played in Bandon but a late goal from Lisa Bugler put paid to that notion and left them won-

dering just what had gone wrong.

Newcestown dictated terms all over the pitch in the first half with the twin forces of Desmond and Colleen Long causing havoc for the Valley defence and they were full value for their interval lead of 2-4 to 0-6 thanks to an Eleanor Kenneally beauty on the half time whistle, with the starring cast of Elaine

By MARY NEWMAN  
camogie

Burke Liz Bugler and Majella McCarthy having pointed for Valleys.

Entering the final minute the Newcestown defence looked to be weathering another Valleys onslaught but in a frantic goal mouth scramble Elaine Burke somehow managed to find Liz Bugler with an accurate

pass and with little or no space she turned and rattled the net.

Second later the full time whistle was utter devastation for Newcestown, Valley Rovers celebrated as if they had won the county and who could blame them.

Newcestown were left to wondering where it had all gone awry.

**VALLEY ROVERS:** G Harrington, E Cottrell, L Davis, S Deasy, A M

Murphy, C Mc Sweeney, M.A. Hawkes (0-1), C Deasy, L Bugler (3-1), M Hurley, E Burke (1-5, 0-4 from frees), O Deasy, M Cottrell, M Mc Carthy (0-1). **Subs:** A O'Donovan for L Hawkes (in 19 min), L Hawkes for O Deasy (54 min).

**NEWCESTOWN:** L O Sullivan, M Crowley, M Hurley, Aileen Coughlan, M Maloney, H O'Mahony, R O'Donovan, F Crowley, C O'Mahony, U Crowley, E Crowley, E Keeneally (1-1), C Long (1-0), C Desmond (1-2, 1-5 from frees), L Crowley. **Subs:** T Hurley for U Crowley (21 min), U Crowley for T Hurley (41 min).

**Referee:** Collette O'Mahony (St Finbarrs).

## Barryroe face their toughest challenge

By MARY NEWMAN  
camogie

TONIGHT

**Mercury Restaurant and Lounge Senior Championship quarter-final Barryroe v Milford, Ovens, 7.30pm.**

**THIS** evening sees the second quarter-final of the Senior A Camogie Championship contested between Barryroe and Milford in Ovens at 7.30pm.

Last season the sides met at the same hurdle with Milford edging it in an exciting contest. This time out Barryroe will be determined to reverse that result and take a step further in their quest for their first title.

A worry for the Barryroe backroom team will be the fact that they have been inactive since July 7, when they defeated Aghabullogue in their opening round game. They then received a bye and advanced directly to tonight's quarter-final. Milford had to go to a replay before finally defeating Cloughduv in a game that went to extra time. They then had to participate in a third round game in a playoff of winners, when they comprehensively defeated county champions Carrighoun, and in the process, have installed themselves as favourites to take their first county senior crown.

Without doubt Milford have been one of the county's most successful underage clubs annexing titles from U12 to senior B. Last year they lost out narrowly to Carrighoun in a thrilling final and they are determined to go one better this year. Regina Curtin and Elaine O'Riordan marshalled a well-organised defence, while up front the lively Marie and Emer Watson, Emer O'Friel and Julie Sheehy will cause problems for the Barryroe defence.

From the throw-in against Carrighoun, Milford laid down a marker hitting the champions with three goals inside the first 15 minutes.

If Barryroe allow this to happen they will struggle to gain parity as Milford will close ranks and not allow them play.

In their clash with Aghabullogue, Barryroe struggled through the opening half and trailed by one point at the break; however, a super second-half performance spearheaded by senior intercounty star Jennifer O'Leary helped them go on to record a 4-16 to 2-4 victory.

Without doubt, Jennifer O'Leary is their main threat and if Milford succeed in holding her, Barryroe will be in trouble. They will be strengthened by the return of Cora Keohane who missed the opening game as she was out of the country on honeymoon and the former intercounty keeper will bring a wealth of experience to the side.

Isla Dineen, Ger Collins and Karen McCarthy are others who impressed for Barryroe last time out but they face a much stronger challenge if they hope to get past Milford.

**Verdict:** Milford.



# Milford advance after easy win

Milford  
Barryroe

2-12  
1-5 By LINDA MELLERICK  
Senior camogie championship

A LACKLUSTRE display from Barryroe saw Milford advance to the semi-final of the Mercury Lounge and Restaurant County Senior A Camogie Championship in Ovens last evening.

Out first to every ball in all sections, Milford dominated play and Barryroe, who never quite got to grips with the pace of the game, had no answer.

The game started slowly with Barryroe first off the mark after five minutes with a Jennifer O'Leary free.

Even though it was another three minutes before Milford registered their first score, Barryroe goalkeeper Cora Keohane had plenty to do and brought off some good saves in the opening minutes.

O'Leary hit a '45 for the West Cork side a minute later and that was to prove their final score for the remainder of the half.

Once Maria Watson goaled for Milford after nine minutes, their play improved and they began to edge away from their opponents.

Barryroe did launch attacks but these were efficiently dealt with by an excellent defence in which Deirdre Hayes, Christine O'Gorman, Sarah Sexton and Regina Curtin stood tall. Out ahead of their opponents they won the lion's share of possession and turned defence into attack time and again.

Barryroe relied too much up front on Jennifer O'Leary who had to move out to gain possession and

was consequently too far away from goal to make it count.

Milford's play had a pattern. Long fast low balls out the wings were being met by the out-rushing forwards. Their second goal seven minutes from half time typified their play. A fast ball from outfield was met by corner forward Eimear O'Friel who once again was out first.

She caught it on the hop and turned to give an inch perfect pass inside to full forward Emer Watson who had slipped in behind the full back and hit the back of the net leaving the half time score at 2-6 to 0-2.

Barryroe took to the field with renewed vigour for the second period but it was Milford who again began the scoring with two points.

The pace of the scoring then slowed. Milford tapped over another four points to

Barryroe's 1-3.

Credit Barryroe for their never-say-die spirit and a magnificent individual goal by O'Leary with six minutes remaining was just reward for their endeavours.

But the night belonged to Milford who will play the winners of this evening's other quarter final game between Cloughduv and Aghabullogue in the county semi-final.

**Scorers:** Milford: M Watson 1-3, E Watson 1-3 (0-1f), A Watson 0-2, A Geary 0-2, E O'Friel and J Sheehy 0-1 each.

**Barryroe:** J O'Leary 1-4 (0-1f, 0-1'45), G Collins 0-1.

**MILFORD:** E Lenihan, D Hayes, E O'Riordan, L Healy, C O'Gorman, R Curtin, S Sexton, A Geary, E Connery, A Watson, J Sheehy, S O'Reilly, E O'Friel, E Watson, M Watson.

**Subs:** E Horgan for E Connery (56th min).

**BARRYROE:** C Keohane, N O'Driscoll, A M Fleming (Capt), P Moloney, C Dineen, R Holland, M O'Brien, K McCarthy, I Dineen, I Dineen, S O'Donovan, G Collins, J Cahalane, L Whelton, J O'Leary. **Subs:** L Gannon for L Whelton, E White for S O'Donovan (half time).



Milford's Sinead O'Reilly clears the ball past Barryroe's Margaret O'Brien during the Cork County Camogie Championship quarter final game at Eire Og, Ovens.  
Picture: Richard Mills.

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## Watson sisters star as Milford stroll into the semi-finals

Milford  
Barryroe  
2-12  
1-5

A SOLID display ensured it was Milford who advanced to the semi-final of the Mercury Restaurant and Lounge Cork Senior B Camogie Championship in Ovens last evening.

By the half-time break Milford led 2-6 to 0-2, the goals coming in the ninth and 26th minutes from the Watson sisters, Marie and Emer.

In between Milford went about their task swiftly and efficiently and stronger in all sectors they picked off their points with the Watson's, Emer, Marie and Aine, Anna Geary, Julie Sheehy and Emer O'Friel, all playing big roles.

Jennifer O'Leary kept Barryroe in touch with two pointed frees but her side had it all to do as they faced the second half.

On the resumption Milford continued to hold the initiative and extended their advantage.

With six minutes remaining Jennifer O'Leary grabbed a Barryroe goal and quickly followed that with a point but by now Milford had achieved what they had set out to do and on this display look to have the capabilities of going a lot further.

**Milford:** M. Watson 1-3, E. Watson 1-3 (0-1 free), A. Watson, A. Geary 0-2 each, E. O'Friel, J. Sheehy 0-1 each.

**Barryroe:** J. O'Leary 1-4 (0-1 free, 0-1 '45), G. Collins 0-1.

**MILFORD:** E. Linehan, D. Hayes, E. O'Riordan, L. Healy, C. O'Gorman, R. Curtin, S. Sexton, A. Geary, E. Connery, A. Watson, J. Sheehy, S. O'Reilly, E. O'Friel, E. Watson, M. Watson. **Subs:** E. Horgan for E. Connery (56).

**BARRYROE:** C. Keohane, N. O'Driscoll, A.M. Fleming, P. Moloney, C. Dineen, R. Holland, M. O'Brien, K. McCarthy, I. Dineen, S. O'Donovan, G. Collins, J. Cahalane, L. Whelton, J. O'Leary, M. Sheehy. **Subs:** L. Gannon for L. Whelton; E. White for S. O'Donovan (both half-time).

**Referee:** P. Downey (Inniscarra)

## CHAMPIONSHIP CONTINUES AS CHAMPIONS EXIT

**H**OLDERS Carrigdhoun relinquished their crown to the side they defeated in last year's final. The foundations for success were laid in the opening thirty minutes with three goals two from Marie Watson and one from Emer helped Milford open up a ten point lead.

Carrigdhoun faced an uphill battle in the second half but they did rally however stronger in all sectors and fired up for the task in hand Milford matched the champions score for score to advance on a 3-8 to 1-8 score line.

Re-entry via the back door helped Cloughduv recover from defeat at the hand of Milford to defeat Imokilly and it was St Finbarrs they faced on Wednesday last. It was score for score as the teams battled for a semi spot again Aghabullogue. A first half goal from Ciara Cronin was crucial as Cloughduv withstood a strong Barrs rally to hold out on a 1-7 to 0-9 score line.

The all divisional clash between Carbery Seandun was a lively affair with Carbery making all the early running thanks in the main to Colette Desmond they led 1-3 to no score by the tenth minute. Gradually Seandun got to grips eighteenth minutes into the game Doireann Ni Mhuiri pointed to give them the lead and going into injury time Seandun had stretched the advantage to two points. A Colette Desmond goal from a forty five deep in added time edged Carbery 2-4 to 1-6 ahead at the break. Seandun were on level inside a minute of the second half but again Colette Desmond had it all square pointing a free. Seandun took control and with three points between the eight and fifteenth

minute they open up a five point advantage before Anita Coughlan pointed for Carbery. Colette Desmond struck for a goal in the twenty fourth minutes and two minutes later Hazel O'Regan's gave Carbery the lead for the first time in the half. Seandun tried to get back into the game but a strong Carbery finish put paid to that.

Entering injury time Courcy Rovers looked to be on their way to the county semi final but it was Inniscarra who advanced thanks to a late Criona Harte goal. Courcy's made all the early running and led 2-3 to 0-2 by the opening fifteen minutes. Criona Harte had an Inniscarra goal twenty minutes into the game and two points from Niamh Dilworth and one from Treasa McCarthy had them back in contention. Ger Casey finished to the net to give them the lead for the first time in the contest and with Casey and Maire O'Connell pointing they led 2-7 to 2-3 by half time.

Rachel Moloney had her side on level terms inside thirteen minutes of the second half but Niamh Dilworth pointed a forty five to give Inniscarra their first score of the second half on twenty two minutes. With the minutes ticking away Courcy's edged ahead with two pointed frees and twice Inniscarra squandered scoring chances. Looking good Courcy's weathered the challenges but in a late attack Criona Harte bundled the ball over the line and into the net. Courcy's did have a chance to get the goal back but the Inniscarra defence stood firm. The full time whistle brought a sigh of relief from Inniscarra but huge disappointment for a Courcy's who gave it everything.

## CamogieChat With Mary Newman

### Wins for Valley Rovers and Eire Og

**EIRE OG** recorded their first victory in the Mercury Restaurant and lounge Senior B camogie championship defeating Carrigaline. Young Margaret O'Herlihy was the toast of the Ovens side notching up eleven points while Ellen O'Herlihy and Erin Corkery also contributed to the 0-14 to 2-3 tally. Eire OG lead 0-6 to 1-2 at the break, a Una O'Farrell goal for Carrigaline and points from Terri O'Keefe and Laura Thompson kept them in touch. On the resumption Eire Og continued to keep ahead holding their advantage to the final whistle.

With two minutes remaining it looked as if Newcestown would hold out to record their second victory in the Mercury Restaurant and Lounge Senior B championship but a late goal from Liz Bugler made it three out of three for the Innishannon side. Leading from as early as the first minute

thanks to a Collette Desmond point Newcestown were in command and led 2-4 to 0-6 by half time. They had stretched their advantage to eleven points before Valley's finally woke up a Liz Bugler goal at the mid way stage signalling their revival.

Now driving forward they were in command, between the sixteenth and twenty first minutes Liz Bugler and Elaine Burke found the net and in between they added points. Newcestown shot six wide's half of which would surely have secured victory and entering the final minute of normal time the Newcestown defence looked to be weathering another storm but a Valleys onslaught saw Liz Bugler grab the winner.

In the Junior B championship Blackrock had to much experience for a young Kildorrey side to advance on 3-7 to 1-2 score line.

## NON STOP CHAMPIONSHIP

**NO** rest for the clubs or the officials as the games continue this week already last night Barryroe and Milford will have met with one advancing to the semi final stages. This evening it's an all Mid Cork meeting between Aghabullogue and Cloughduv while Carbery are in action against Inniscarra venues for both these clashes to be announced.

In the Mercury Restaurant and lounge Senior B championship neighbours Ballygarvan and

Ballinhassig meet on Saturday in Carrigaline at 2.30pm while on Monday Eire og meet St Catherine's in Riverstown at 7.30pm.

Junior "A" championship action is also plentiful with Watergrasshill meeting Sarsfields on Saturday in Carrig na Bhfeir at 7.30.

In the "B" championship on Monday Youghal travel to meet Blackrock while Clonakilty make the journey to Tracton, both games at 7.30pm.



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Lynn Dunle, who returned to club camogie after a lapse of almost four years, had an excellent game for Cloughduv.

# Cloughduv are in flying form

Cloughduv  
Aghabullogue

3-13  
0-2

By LINDA MELLERICK

Cork County Senior Camogie Championship

A DULL, heavy night but there was nothing dark about Cloughduv's performance as they cast aside the challenge of Aghabullogue in last night's Cork County Senior A quarter-final tie in Ovens.

From the outset Cloughduv were going to win this game. They attacked from the throw-in and spent the first 30 minutes camped in Aghabullogue's half. Only for the hard working Aghabullogue defence the half-time score would have read a lot worse than the 1-7 to no score that it was.

Aghabullogue managed to launch their first real attack after 20 minutes. The play rarely went beyond Cloughduv's half-back line in which Briege Corkery dominated. Playing a sweeping role she collected any ball that managed to seep through.

Up front Cloughduv had quality.

Stephanie Dunlea, Sister Lynn, Una O'Donoghue and Katherine Corkery hit some great scores. Lynn, who returned to club camogie after a lapse of almost four years, showed that she still has the stick-work. Her quick pick-up and handpass to Stephanie led to Cloughduv's first goal after seven minutes.

Aghabullogue keeper Nicola Moynihan was under constant pressure but brought off some great saves. This, along with a half-time total of six wides reflected Cloughduv's dominance.

Aghabullogue at this stage could only fight on and fight on they did in the opening minutes of the second half. For a full seven or eight minutes they dominated with some great passages of inter-play. Tina Roche, Louise Murphy and Mary Buckley came more into the game and pressurised their opponents. This great period of play was not reflected on the scoreboard. Murphy and

Buckley did pick off two excellent long-range points but their efforts proved in vain once Stephanie Dunlea's free from 45 yards out finished up in the net.

Cloughduv regained control with Una O'Donoghue in particular causing endless problems, winning frees as well as picking off a further three points. Wayward shooting saw the inside six hit another six wides (bringing their total to 12) and on another night these may have proved costly.

**Scorers:** Cloughduv: S. Dunlea 2-4 (1-21, 0-145), U. O'Donoghue 0-4, J. Lucey 1-0, K. Corkery 0-2, L. Dunlea, C. Cronin and S. Buckley 0-1 each.

**Aghabullogue:** L. Murphy and M. Buckley 0-1 each.

**Cloughduv:** A. Murray (Capt.), O. O'Callaghan, Sinead Corkery, Siobhán Corkery, E. Dunne, B. Corkery, M. Corkery, A. Buckley, S. Buckley, J. Lucey, U. O'D., K. Corkery, C. Cronin, L. Dunlea, S. Dunlea.

**Subs:** M. Lucey for U. O'Donoghue (55 mins), L. Holland for Siobhán Corkery (56 min).

**Aghabullogue:** N. Moynihan, T. Roche, Marion Twomey, Mary Twomey, F. Buckley, S. Buckley, M. O'Leary, S. M. Crowley, O. McSweeney, C. Murphy, N. O'Connell, C. Kiely, M. O'Sullivan, L. Murphy (Capt.), M. Buckley.

**Subs:** M. Twomey for M. O'Leary (28 min).

## Deadly Dunlea leads Cloughduv charge

Cloughduv  
Aghabullogue

3-13  
0-2

CLOUGHDUV eased their way into the semi-final of the Mercury Restaurant and Lounge Cork Senior Camogie County Championship with an easy victory over neighbours Aghabullogue in a game that never rose to the expected heights.

A goal from Stephanie Dunlea, set up by sister Lynn, helped Cloughduv enjoy a 1-7 to 0-0 interval advantage.

Una O'Donoghue, Catherine Corkery, Jean Lucey and Ciara Cronin were all impressive for Cloughduv through the opening 30 minutes.

Aghabullogue started the second-half in determined fashion with Louise Murphy getting the opening point.

Working hard they strove to get into the game but hopes were dashed when Stephanie Dunlea's long range effort from a free 15 minutes into the second half went all the way to the net.

Louise Murphy added a second Aghabullogue point but Cloughduv replied with Jean Lucey adding a third goal and excellent point taking to book their place in the semi final and set up a mouth watering clash with the Milford side who already defeated



Stephanie Dunlea: her goal put Cloughduv on their way.

them in the opening round that went to a replay before Milford advanced.

Cloughduv, now having come through via the back door system, will now be confident of turning the tables in what should be a thrilling semi final on Wednesday next.

**Scorers — Cloughduv:** S. Dunlea (2-4, 1-2 frees, 0-1 45), U. O'Donoghue (0-4), J. Lucey (1-0), C. Corkery (0-2), L. Dunlea, S. Buckley, C. Cronin (0-1 each).

**Aghabullogue:** L. Murphy (0-2).

**Cloughduv:** A. Murray, O. O'Callaghan, Sinead Corkery, Siobhán Corkery, A. Buckley, B. Corkery, E. Dunne, M. Corkery, J. Lucey, C. Corkery, U. O'Donoghue, S. Buckley, C. Cronin, S. Dunlea, L. Dunlea, Subs: M. Lucey for U. O'Donoghue (50 mins), L. Holland for S. Corkery (51 mins).

**Aghabullogue:** N. Moynihan, O. McSweeney, T. Roche, M. Twomey, M. Twomey, S. Buckley, M. Buckley, F. Buckley, M. O'Leary, S.M. Crowley, C. Murphy, N. O'Connell, C. Kiely, M. O'Sullivan, L. Murphy.

**Referee:** G. Desmond (Bandon).

## Cats ready to chase the cream

Máire Uí Scolai  
Camogie

FORMER All Star Pat McLoughney of Tipperary is hoping for Lady luck to shine on the Premier county as they bid for their first All-Ireland minor title since 1993, against the Cats in the Minor All-Ireland Final on Sunday next in Parnell Park.

Both Tipperary and Kilkenny enter this final with three All-Ireland titles behind them, but the Cats were defeated there last year and will be anxious to redeem themselves.

Tipperary have a strong team behind them, with Helen Kieley, who was on the last winning Minor team, as well as Paula Ryan, who has a senior All-Ireland medal.

Pat, whose daughter will play this time, knows it will not be an easy game. "I have seen Kilkenny in the All-Ireland semi-final and they impressed me greatly, but I am hoping that we have the strength to carry us through on the day," she said.

"If players like Sarah Morrissey and Marian Ryan can hold the Kilkenny forwards and if our forwards Bonnie Kennedy, Aoife Shinnors and captain Fiona Young can find the net then we might be signing on Sunday night," she added.

Should Fiona Young lift the Corn Talteann on Sunday then it could be the start of something big for the Toomevara club as her sister Louise is on the senior team.

While Tipperary are very eager to win, so too are the Black and Ambers who lost out to Galway this time last year.

However, Kilkenny will enter Sunday's final with several players from last year's final, so it is likely that the winning margin on Sunday will be very tight.

Another highlight is the curtain raiser, which brings together Armagh and Offaly for the first time ever in the Minor 'B' All-Ireland final.



# Easy For Tipp

REPORT BY MOSSIE FINN

TIPPERARY ..... 5-17  
LIMERICK ..... 0-8

On Saturday in Semple Stadium Tipperary and Limerick played in the last of the group stages of this year's All Ireland championship. Limerick started well, and with the aid of a slight breeze were first to score, a point from Aoifa Sheehan. Within a minute Claire Grogan opened the Tipperary scoring with a point from a free on the forty, and this was followed by a fine score, a point right out on the sideline from the Limerick No 15 Vera Sheehan who was moved to mid field from the start. The Limerick defence were playing well at this stage and made a number of clearances. In the 6th and 7th minute Claire Grogan added on two more points one from play and the second a free forty meters out. Claire was getting more and more into the game and was giving the Limerick half back line a torrid time as she succeed in catching a lot of high balls and ran at the defence. Tipperary were leading by four points after ten minutes and beginning to get on top all over the field. Una O Dwyer had settled into it at full while Ciara Gaynor and Sinead Nealon were completely on top of the Limerick half forwards, and Angie McDermot had taken over at midfield. The Tipperary forwards were getting plenty of supply of good quality

ball and Noelle Kennedy, Claire Grogan, Eimear McDonnell were getting the better of the Limerick defence. In the next two minutes Tipperary added 1 goal and two points, a well-taken goal from Emily Hayden from fourteen yards out, when she pounced on a breaking ball striking it first time to the net, the second score was a brilliant individual effort from Eimear McDonnell when she pointed from way out on the wing. When Emily Hayden sent over her second point after thirteen minutes this game looked well and truly over as a contest and there looked no way back for Limerick, to make matters worse they lost Michelle Casey through injury midway through the first half. Claire Grogan and Fiona Morrissey exchanged points about twenty minutes into the half, before Joanne Ryan sent over a great point from fifty yards out. Limerick missed a couple of close in frees in the last ten minutes of the first half which would have put them back in the game, but any chance of this was well and truly over when Eimear McDonnell got on the end of a great ball from Deirdre Hughes to score an excellent goal. Deirdre was unlucky not to score a goal a minute later herself, but she was denied by some excellent goalkeeping from Sile Moynihan. Vera Shee-

han added on two more points for Limerick before halftime, but these were

replied to by two great points one from Eimear McDonnell and another



Tipperary senior camogie Management team Martin Burke, Paddy McCormack (Manager) and Olivia Hogan contemplate a move. Picture: Bridget Delaney.

from Geraldine Kinane to leave the half time score 2-9 to 0-5. Tipperary started the second half as they finished the first with points from Claire Grogan and Emily Hayden in quick succession. Aoifa Sheehan replied again for Limerick with a point, before Claire Grogan and Eimear McDonnell pushed Tipperary further ahead. Midway through the second half Tipperary replaced two of the full forward line - Geraldine Kinane with a hand injury was replaced by Sheena Howard and Deirdre Hughes was replaced by Louise Young. The home side were now cruising to victory and Emily Hayden's long ball into the square found it's way to the Limerick net to increase the lead. The Tipperary selectors made two further changes at this stage, bringing on Trish O Halloran for Angie McDermot at midfield and Michelle Shortt for Sinead Nealon at wing back. While Noelle Kennedy and Louise Young added two further goals for Tipperary, Aoifa Sheehan and Pauline McCarthy got two consolation points for Limerick to leave the final score Tipperary 5-17 Limerick 0-8. Best for Tipperary was Julie Kirwan in the full back line, Sinead Nealon on the half back line while Angie McDermot was excellent at midfield. Claire Grogan was outstanding in the forwards

and she got great support from Emily Hayden, Eimear McDonnell, and Louise Young when she came on as a sub. Limerick were best served by Rose Collins at full back who had a great game throughout, Aoifa Sheehan and Marie Keating.

**Tipperary:** Jovita Delaney, Suxanne Kelly, Una O Dwyer, Julie Kirwan, Sinead Nealon, Ciara Gaynor, Therese Brophy, Angie McDermot, Joanne Ryan, Noelle Kennedy, Emily Hayden, Claire Grogan, [0-7] Eimear McDonnell, Geraldine Kinane. Subs: Sheena Howard for Geraldine Kinane, Louise Young for Deirdre Hughes, Trish O Halloran for Angie McDermot, Michelle Shortt for Sinead Nealon, Paula Bulfin for Joanne Ryan.

**Scorers:** Claire Grogan 0-7, Emily Hayden 2-2, Eimear McDonnell 1-5, Louise Young 1-1, Noelle Kennedy 1-0, Geraldine Kinane/Joanne Ryan 0-1 each.

**Limerick:** Sile Moynihan, Carol Murphy, Rose Collins, Deirdre Fitzpatrick, Mairead Kelly, Michelle Casey, Orla Curtin, Grace McNamara, Vera Sheehan, Aoifa Sheehan, Aine O Reilly, Fiona Morrissey, Nora Collins, Marie Keating, Eileen O'Brien.

**Scorers:** Aoifa Sheehan 0-5, Vera Sheehan 0-1, Fiona Morrissey 0-1.

## MINOR MARVELS Gearing up for final showdown



Kilkenny's Lucinda Gahan and Tipperary's Fiona Young, who will meet in the the All-Ireland Minor A Camogie final at Parnell Park on Sunday, pictured at a photocall to introduce the captains at Croke Park yesterday. Pictures Ray McManus/Sportfile

On Monday evening after training Tipperary announced their Minor team to play Kilkenny this Sunday the 7th of August in Parnell Park at 3.15pm. The team is as follows:

1. Christina Kenneally Drom-Inch
2. Marian Ryan Shannon Rovers
3. Sara Morrissey Cashel
4. Geraldine Stapleton Silvermines
5. Niamh O'Connell Knockavilla
6. Fiona Young Toomevara (Capt)
7. Deirdre Ryan Cashel
8. Therese Shortt Drom-Inch
9. Catriona Maher Templemore
10. Aoife Shinnors Newport
11. Sharon Hayes - Cashel
12. Mary Gleeson Slievenamon
13. Bonnie Kennedy Toomevara
14. Siobhan McGrath Drom Inch
15. Aoife McLoughney Shannon Rovers

Aug. 2005



# Brave young ladies aim to make amends for last year's defeat

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The Kilkenny Minor Camogie Panel - Front row (from left): Nicola Butler, Emma Nolan, Marie Therese O'Neill, Katie Power, Marie Dargan, Mariga Nolan, Michelle Quilty, Eilish Cantwell, Siobhan Fahey, Niamh Quinlan. Middle Row (from left), Emma Staunton, Elizabeth Byrne, Catherine Walsh, Collette Dormer, Noreen O'Keeffe, Noelle Corrigan, Lydia Phelan, Lucinda Gahan, Regina Madigan, Marie Murphy, Edwina Keane, Paula Butler. Back row (from left): Sinead Kelly, Amy Maher, Elaine Kenny, Caroline O'Brien, Sarah Walsh, Ann Marie Walsh, Anna Farrell, Elizabeth Kavanagh, Ruth Bergin, Michelle Mulhall.

ON A Saturday afternoon in August 2004, the Kilkenny minor camogie team was brushed aside by a skilful and determined Galway in the All-Ireland final. The difference was 13 points.

It was a shattering blow, but the young kittens took it on the chin and got over it. Nine players who trooped off the field sadly that day are eligible again this season.

On Sunday they will be chasing camogie gold again when they tackle Tipperary in the All-Ireland final in Parnell Park, Dublin. The last time Kilkenny won this title was 1991.

Kilkenny travelled to Wexford in the first round of the Leinster championship. They started well, with Michelle Quilty opening the scoring with a point.

## Big part

Kilkenny midfield pairing of Lucinda Gahan and Eilish Cantwell dominated throughout and played a big part in putting together the comfortable interval lead of 1-6 to 1-2. In the second half the pressure was maintained.

Goals from Noelle Corrigan and Edwina Keane helped Kilkenny to a convincing victory.

The next game they was against to Dublin in Bennettsbridge. This was a closer affair.

Strong performances from Colette Dormer, Regina Madigan and Maria Murphy helped Kilkenny edge through by three points to earn a place in the provincial final.

In the Dublin/Wexford shoot-out, the former won and earned the right to tackle the Noreiders again.

Dublin were well prepared. They took the game

to the opposition from the start and raced into a five point lead after ten minutes.

## Held nerve

Kilkenny held their nerve. With the full back line of Paula Butler, Noreen O'Keeffe and Kate McDonald holding a rampant Dublin attack at bay, they fought their way back into the game with points from Siobhan Fahey, Katie Power and Noelle Corrigan.

The turn around was strong, and Kilkenny led by two points at the break. Determined Kilkenny maintained the pressure and retained the Leinster title with goals from Michelle Quilty, Edwina Keane and Anna Farrell.

On their day Kilkenny are a match for any side as was proven three weeks ago when they met reigning All-Ireland champions,

Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final. Again the West-erners got off to a good start, scoring the opening two points. A repeat of last year's match looked on the cards.

The spirit of the Cats shone through in the last 20 minutes of the half when they opened up the Galway defence. They made good gains and went in at the break with a nine point lead (2-8 to 1-2).

## Kilkenny rallied

The opening 10 minutes of the second half belonged to Galway. They reduced the difference to four points.

Again Kilkenny rallied. With the backline of Mariga Nolan, Lydia Phelan and Colette Dormer holding firm, and with goals from Marie Dargan, Noelle Corrigan and Katie Power they ran out convincing winners by 12 points.

On the way to Sunday's decider, Tipperary over-come Cork and Clare in Munster, and Antrim in the All-Ireland semi-final. They are formidable opponents.

The teams met three times in the past. Tipperary hold a 2-1 lead in terms of victories.

Supporters of the black and amber will be hoping to see that ratio balance out on Sunday. The action against Tipp commences at 3.10pm in Parnell Park, Dublin.



Fiona Young, Tipperary.



YOUNG GUNS: Stars of the future at Croke Park yesterday ahead of Sunday's All-Ireland A and B minor camogie finals in which Kilkenny play Tipperary and Offaly take on Armagh in Parnell Park. Inspecting the silverware were players from Dublin clubs Na Fianna and Naomh Olaf's and Na Fianna, Enfield, Co Meath, from left: Zoe Murray, Moya Caulfield, Aoife Nic Con Iomaire, Emily Lacey, Meadhbh Ni Dhálaigh, Clara O'Sullivan and Leah Divine. They helped launch the "Camogie is Cúl" wristbands. The photograph on the wall features the Dublin versus Kerry 1955 All-Ireland final.

Picture: Ray McManus



# Brave Effort Foiled By Kilkenny

Kilkenny .....4-7  
Tipperary .....2-7

On Sunday Tipperary's minor camogie team, management and supporters travelled to Parnell Park in the hope that captain Fiona Young would bring the Corn Talteann cup back to Tipperary for the first time since 1993. Unfortunately it was not to be and after an entertaining game of camogie it was Kilkenny who claimed victory on a scoreline of 4-7 to 2-7.

Two goals is very little in a game of camogie but Kilkenny who defeated Galway in the semi-final were just that bit stronger than the premier side and also led by 6 points at the break scoring 2-6 to Tipperary's 1-3.

Tipperary's corner forward Aoife McLoughney who has impressed all year was once again in flying form and got Tipperary off to a great start with an early point. Tipperary's lead was short lived as Kilkenny captain Lucinda Gahan pointed in the 5th

Tipperary following.

Despite the opposition's impressive start Kilkenny refused to panic and instead worked the ball down the field where player of the match Katie Power blasted the ball past the Tipperary keeper. Then in the 10th Kilkenny had their second goal after some great stick work by Edwina Keane who then made no mistake to raise her side's second green flag.

Kilkenny now looked to have the edge and with the partnership of Collette Dormer and Lucinda Gahan commanding midfield their forwards registered further points. Tipperary battled hard and Aoife Shinnors scored two lovely points to reduce Kilkenny's lead. At half time the cats, were the happier side leading 2-6 to 1-3 and overall playing the better camogie.

Tipperary regrouped at the break and emerged in the second half determined for success. Aoife Shinnors

fered a blow when corner forward Katie Power grabbed Kilkenny's third goal after 7 minutes.

Instead of lying down and conceding defeat Tipperary showed great resolve and produced some first-class camogie especially in the forward line where Siobhan McGrath operated effectively. Aoife Shinnors then showed her accuracy from placed balls with a pointed free and 45m. A minute later Siobhan McGrath pointed. So with 10 minutes remaining Kilkenny led by 3-6 to Tipperary's 1-7. Before long Aoife Shinnors gave a great pass to Aoife McLoughney whose excellent shot yielded Tipperary's second goal.

Kilkenny's response was good, a point from a free by Noelle Corrigan. Still only 3 points were between the sides 3-7 to 2-7 and with only injury time remaining the crowd were on the edge of their seats wondering if the Tipperary girls could get a late equaliser or would Kilkenny

the Kilkenny defence and it seemed it was to be Kilkenny's day. Kilkenny then raced down the field and Marie Dargan sneaked in goal number four to ensure victory went Kilkenny's way.

It was heart break for the Tipperary girls who worked so hard all year and came very close to capturing the All-Ireland title. They have produced great camogie throughout the year and provided lots of entertainment for their loyal supporters who once again travelled in strong numbers to Dublin. Credit must go to their fine management team of Pat McLoughney, Helen Kiely, Paula Bulfin and Paula Ryan and hopefully next year the team can go one step further.

**Tipperary: Team:** C.Kenneally, M.Ryan, S.Morrissey, G.Stapleton, F.Young, D.Ryan, T.Shortt, C.Maher, A.Shinnors, M.Gleeson, B.Kennedy, S.McGrath, A.McLoughney, Subs: A.O'Connell for S.Hayes.

**U-18 MUNSTER SEMI-FINAL**

**Too Easy For Tipp**

Tipperary 6-22  
Waterford 2-0

On Bank Holiday Monday August 1st Tipperary recorded a comfortable win over Waterford in the U18 Munster semi-final. Waterford made the journey to the Ragg hoping to book their place in the Munster final on September 5th but came up against a strong Tipperary outfit that easily defeated the visitors. At half time the match was well and truly over with Tipperary leading by 4-10 to no score. In the second half Tipperary continued to dominate and Waterford had to be content with two consolation goals.

For Tipperary Mairead Luttrell was solid at full-back while at centre back Lorraine Davis greatly impressed. The midfield pairing of Mary Ryan and Cora Hennessey worked very well together and picked off a number of points.

While in the forwards Ciara Johnston gave a great display, her points tally from frees and play going into double figures. Noreen Flanagan also showed her skill with two well-taken goals as did Katie Kennedy and Deirdre Dunne. Tipperary introduced all 5 substitutes and they immediately exerted their presence with Siobhan Bourke making a very good impact.

All in all it was a very good display and bodes well for the Munster final.

**Team:** Rosanna Kenneally, Andrea Davis, Mairead Luttrell, Ciara Heffernan, Michelle Kirwan, Lorraine Davis, Joanne Nolan, Mary Ryan, Cora Hennessey, Ciara Johnston, Ciara O'Sullivan, Noreen Flanagan, Alison Lonergan, Katie Kenessey, Deirdre Dunne.

**Subs:** Ailish Langton, Ciara Callahan, Linda Fanning, Siobhan Bourke, Ann-Marie O'Dwyer.



P.I. Aoife Shinnors attempt to goal is blocked by Kilkenny's Regina Madigan and Lydia Phelan. Pic. Rose Mannion.



Aoife McLoughney was closely marked, but here she breaks for her second point of the Minor All Ireland.

Pic: Rose Mannion.

minute. Aoife McLoughney posed a constant threat for the Kilkenny defence and minutes later she rattled the net to the delight of the

immediately pointed while Geraldine Stapleton and Deirdre Ryan began to get on top in defence. However the premier side then suf-

ny hold out. Tipperary then won a 21 yard free and Aoife McLoughney courageously stepped up to take it but her powerful shot was stopped on the line by

L.Young for M.Gleeson, T.Flanagan for N.O'Connell, N.Costigan, P.McGrath, S.Nolan, A.Kennedy, C.Ryan, L.O'Brien, R.McGrath,



Toomevara supporters prior to the game were L.to R. Joan Ryan, Margaret Young, Maura Young and Ann Gleeson. Pic: Rose Mannion.

## SENIOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

On Wednesday August 10th Drom-Inch play host to Duharra in the Ragg @ 7pm. Drom-Inch need a

win to keep their championship hopes alive while Duharra will be seeking their second victory of the

championship after a three point victory over Toomevara. Then on Thursday August 11th @

7pm in Toomevara, county champions take on Cashel. Two great games are in store.

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# Manager full of praise for young side

AFTER the game, minor manager Liam Dunne was full of praise for the way his young side came back from an early goal to lift the All-Ireland minor camogie crown.

"We had a very experienced bunch of players this year," he said. "They didn't panic, took their time to get back into the game and got on top. I'm very proud of them for what they have achieved."

The Cats sealed their fourth title at this level – they also won it in 1988, 1989 and 1991 – after coming back from an early Tipp onslaught.

Ironically, a key part of their success came from tasting defeat in last year's final.

"We were up in Navan for last year's final and suffered a very heavy defeat – we lost by 13 points to Galway," he said. "The start of the game was the very same as this year's. They got 1-1 ahead of us really quick; we were too nervous to be able to steady ourselves and get back into the game."

## Maturity

"We nearly did the same thing

against Galway in the semi-final this year – the girls from the West got the first two points of the match – so I was a bit more confident that the girls had the maturity not to panic."

Dunne also felt another reason for Kilkenny's success lay in the way the girls worked as a unit for the one goal – victory.

"The team spirit there is unreal," the manager said. "There is no club rivalry – they are all like the best of friends when they come in and train together, and they never take it easy

when preparing for games."

Kilkenny also stood up to be counted throughout the game, especially when Tipp threw everything at them in the closing stages. A Marie Dargan goal helped settle the matter, but the manager was full of praise for how his side came together to make the score.

"Before the goal, five of the girls went back to defend a 21 yard free in injury-time – I'm not sure if I would have been able to take the pressure, but they did it," he said. "They stood firm, and they pulled off

a fantastic save, which was the launch for the goal that sealed the game."

## More work

And for the future? A crack at returning Kilkenny to the top of the senior camogie cards is planned, but Dunne knows that more work has to be done.

"We would hope that this victory will be the launchpad for future success," he said. "One of the reasons we have a big panel is that the backbone of next year's team

will have already won an All-Ireland title.

"We have experienced girls on the sideline too, which means we will have another very good panel next year."

"I feel that to make a serious assault on the senior championship in a few years you have to put two All-Irelands back to back at minor level," he said.

"You have to have a steady flow of players coming through. Hopefully, we will be back here again next year."

# Hungry Kittens end minor famine



The Kilkenny camogie team, who beat Tipperary to lift the county's fourth minor All-Ireland title at Parnell Park on Sunday. Back row (from left): Niamh Quinlan, Nicola Butler, Michelle Quilty, Marie Therese O'Neill, Regina Madigan, Siobhan Fahey, Noreen O'Keeffe, Edwina Keane, Noelle Corrigan, Róisín Byrne, Catherine Walsh, Ann-Marie Walsh, Amy Maher, Caroline O'Brien, Ruth Bergin. Middle row (from left): Sinead Kelly, Marie Dargan, Katie Power, Collette Dormer, Lydia Phelan, Mariga Nolan, Marie Murphy, Eilish Cantwell, Emma Nolan. Front row (from left): Elizabeth Byrne, Paula Butler, Michelle Mulhall, Sarah Walsh, Elizabeth Kavanagh, Elaine Kenny, Anna Farrell, Kate McDonald, Emma Staunton, Ciara Lyng.

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Trevor Spillane

Kilkenny .....4-7

Tipperary .....2-7

A GOAL spree helped Kilkenny end a 14 year famine and bring home the minor 'A' camogie All-Ireland title.

Beaten finalists in 2004, the girls in black and amber fought like tigers at Parnell Park on Sunday, mauling opponents Tipp with a

high-paced display full of skill and strength.

In a game of thrills and spills, the team's resolve was tested on more than one occasion. Having fallen out of the game, Tipp gave Kilkenny some cause for concern when a late rally brought them to within a goal of the long time leaders.

With just a minute of normal time remaining, Aoife McLoughney had Kilkenny hearts fluttering. Picking off a crossfield ball from Aoife Shinnors, McLoughney drilled it past keeper Marie Therese O'Neill.

### Winding solo

Buoyed by the

addition of three minutes of additional time, it looked as if a see-saw game had finally rocked back in Tipp's favour – but it was they who were left reeling.

Eager to take some of the pressure off her backs – who had just beaten an Aoife Shinnors 21 yard free away from danger – Marie Dargan went on a winding solo run. Suddenly, a gap opened up for the Castlecomer girl.

Taking her chance, Dargan fired off a low shot. It fizzed off full-back Sarah Morrissey and sailed into the net, clinching the spoils.

The game had ended

on a dramatic note. It also started with a similarly designed twist.

For Kilkenny, the beginning of the match was not their brightest spell. After conceding a first minute point to Aoife McLoughney, the Cats were caught out by a sucker punch goal from the same player a minute later.

Panic started when Siobhan McGrath sent a lofted shot towards the Kilkenny posts. Goalkeeper Marie Therese O'Neill did well to block the first effort, but was powerless to stop McLoughney from gobbling up the rebound.

The Cats appeared to be in all sorts of trouble at that stage. Early saves from O'Neill kept them in the game long enough to draw their breath and get back into the reckoning.

### Scoring blitz

A few points would have been seen as a good way for Kilkenny to come back into the game. Instead, the Cats stunned Tipp with a seven minute scoring blitz, which saw them tear into the lead.

After a fifth minute point from captain Lucinda Gahan, the Cats didn't waste time getting back on level terms. Katie Power did the work, wriggling

past her marker to make an angle, then smashing an unstoppable shot past Kristina Kenneally from close range.

Spurred on by that, Marie Dargan added a point, then made one for fellow half-forward Edwina Keane. The St Martin's player then went one better, rounding off a storming solo run with a blistering goal on 11 minutes.

Keane then helped herself to yet another point 60 seconds later. From being four points down, Kilkenny were now six to the good and in command (2-4 to 1-1).

Clearly stunned, Tipp

managed just two more scores before the interval. Aoife Shinnors and Aoife McLoughney tacked on a point apiece, but like scores from Collette Dormer and Michelle Quilty (both frees) kept Kilkenny well in front (2-6 to 1-3).

### Comeback

Tipp were first out of the scoring blocks in the second half with a battling point from Aoife Shinnors. That paved the way for another comeback, but a third Kilkenny goal halted their charge.

The damage was once more caused by Katie Power. The Piltown forward brought off a good save from keeper Kristina Kenneally, who then denied sub Anna Farrell by blocking the rebound.

There was no third time lucky, as Power was on hand to turn

the loose ball home.

At that stage, Kilkenny seemed to have the title safely secured. That all changed when Tipp rattled off three quick points through Aoife Shinnors (2) and Siobhan McGrath.

A Noelle Corrigan free halted the one-way traffic, but Tipp gave the Cats some concern with that late goal. However, Dargan's final strike was enough to ensure Kilkenny would have some silverware at the post-match banquet.

### The scorers

**Kilkenny** – K. Power (2-0); E. Keane (1-2); M. Dargan (1-1); L. Gahan, C. Dormer, M. Quilty, N. Corrigan (0-1 each).  
**Tipperary** – A. McLoughney (2-2); A. Shinnors (0-4, 0-1 free, 0-1 45); S. McGrath (0-1).

### The teams

**Kilkenny** – M.T. O'Neill

(St Martin's), L. Phelan (Carrickschock), R. Madigan (Mullinavat), M. Nolan (St Lachtain's), E. Cantwell (St Martin's), N. O'Keeffe (St Martin's), M. Murphy (Clara), C. Dormer (Paulstown), L. Gahan (Mullinavat), S. Fahey (Emeralds), E. Keane (St Martin's), M. Dargan (Castlecomer), Katie Power (Piltown), N. Corrigan (St Lachtain's), M. Quilty (Mullinavat).  
Subs: A. Farrell (Thomastown) for Quilty, 36 mins; K. McDonald (Thomastown) for Murphy, 36 mins; E. Kelly (Piltown) for Fahey, 59 mins; P. Butler (Mullinavat) for Gahan, 60 mins.

### Tipperary – K.

Kenneally, M. Ryan, S. Morrissey, G. Stapleton, N. O'Connell, F. Young, D. Ryan, T. Shortt, C. Maher, A. Shinnors, S. Hayes, M. Gleeson, B. Kennedy, S. McGrath, A. McLoughney. Subs: A. O'Connell for Hayes, half-time; L. Young for Gleeson, 35 mins; T. Flanagan for N. O'Connell, 59 mins.

Referee – F. McNamara (Clare).



On the prowl – Kilkenny's Marie Dargan break past Tipperary's Deirdre Ryan (left) and Niamh O'Connell while in search of a score.



Cup of cheer – Kilkenny captain Lucinda Gahan lifts the Corn Tailteann after Kilkenny's victory on Sunday.



# Minors get Off to fine victory

Offaly 2-14 Armagh 3-9  
By ALAN NEARY

OFFALY made history at Parnell Park yesterday as the county's Minor 'B' camogie team recorded their first-ever success as they beat Armagh in the All-Ireland final.

The omens did not look for the Orchard County from the opening minute.

Offaly signalled their intent from the start by racing into a four-point lead thanks to scores from Michaela Morkan, Amy Dooley, Natalie McCabe and Marcella Maloney.

## Deficit

Having threatened on several occasions Armagh eventually reduced the deficit through a Corinna McKee goal.

After a lull in the scoring Armagh gradually upped the tempo to build up a two-point lead as half-time rapidly approached.

However when Offaly were awarded a penalty Siobhán Flannery fired over the upright to slash Armagh's lead to the slimmest of margins.

After the interval Flannery and Armagh's Collette exchanged scores at will to leave just a point between the teams with ten minutes left on the clock.

Armagh then increased their lead to five points before Flannery struck two goals.

The first was with the aid of a deflection and the second came after a blistering run and drive to the net.

McSorley hit back with an Armagh point however two further Flannery scores ensured a hard-earned victory and relief for Offaly.

**ARMAGH SCORERS:** C McSorley (2-5), L McGuinness (0-1), A Murphy (0-1), C McKee (1-0), N McKenna (0-2).

**OFFALY SCORERS:** K McKenna (0-1), M Morkan (0-2), S Flannery (2-5), N McCabe (0-3), A Dooley (0-2), M Maloney (0-1).

**REFEREE:** A Derham (Dublin).

# PREMIER FEEL THE POWER

Kilkenny 4-7  
Tipperary 2-7

KILKENNY made amends for last year's All Ireland Camogie Minor A final loss to Galway with this convincing defeat of Tipperary at Parnell Park.

Nine of last season's side were back for the Cats and they must have feared the worst when Tipperary stormed into a four-point lead just three minutes in.

It was Aoife McLoughney who broke the stalemate after 49 seconds and moments later she pounced on a defensive blunder to net a goal.

## Gutsy

Gutsy Kilkenny responded through a Lucinda Gahan point and then Katie Power netted an eighth minute goal to level this scrappy clash.

Next-up Edwina Keane and Marie Dargan pointed for Kilkenny before the former struck a goal.

Keane then heaped further misery upon Tipperary before Aoife Shinnors gave her side some hope with a free.

Despite another McLoughney point Kilkenny took a six-point lead into the interval.

thanks to scores from Collette Dormer and Siobhán Fahey. Kilkenny piled on the pressure after the restart as Power bagged her second goal, before Tipp's Shinnors swept over two points from set-piece plays.

Aoife McLoughney's goal gave Tipp a glimmer of hope with a minute remaining but Kilkenny were not to be denied and Marie Dargan plundered an injury time clincher.

**KILKENNY:** Collette Dormer (0-1), Lucinda Gahan (0-1), Siobhán Fahey (0-1), Edwina Keane (1-2), Marie Dargan (1-1), Katie Power (2-0), Noelle Corrigan (0-1).

**TIPPERARY:** Siobhán McGrath (0-1), Aoife McLoughney (2-2), Aoife Shinnors (0-4).

**REFEREE:** Fintan McNamara (Clare).



The Kilkenny camogie team celebrate their win over Tipperary in yesterday's All-Ireland minor final at Parnell Park. Picture: Steve Humphreys

# Easy for Kilkenny as flying Flannery inspires Offaly win

KILKENNY 4-7  
TIPPERARY 2-7

All-Ireland Minor A Camogie

KILKENNY were crowned All-Ireland Minor A Camogie champions after this richly-deserved final win over Tipperary at Parnell Park.

Tipperary raced into an early lead when Aoife McLoughney struck 1-1 inside the first four minutes. Kilkenny hit back through a Lucinda Gahan point before Katie Power levelled proceedings with a goal.

From then on there was only going to be one winner with Kilkenny taking a six-point lead into the break thanks to the accuracy of Edwina Keane, Marie Dargan, Collette Dormer and Siobhán Fahey.

The remainder of the game was a largely unremarkable affair after Power netted her second goal to effectively banish any notion of a comeback. The impressive McLoughney found the net late-on for Tipperary but classy Kilkenny responded with a Marie Dargan goal.

**SCORERS — KILKENNY:** K Power 2-0; E Keane 1-2; M Dargan 1-1; C Dormer, S Fahey, N Corrigan, L Gahan 0-1 each. **TIPPERARY:** A McLoughney 2-2; A Shinnors 0-4; S McGrath 0-1.

**KILKENNY —** M T O'Neill, L Phelan, R Madigan, M Nolan, E Cantwell, N O'Keefe, M Murphy, C Dormer, L Gahan, S Fahey, E Keane, M Dargan, K Power, N Corrigan, M Doherty. **Subs:** A Farrell for Quilty (45); K McDonald for M Murphy (45).

**TIPPERARY —** K Kenneally, M Ryan, S Morrissey, G Stapleton, N O'Connell, F Young, D Ryan, T Short, C Maher, A Shinnors, S Hayes, M Gleeson, B Kennedy, S McGrath, A McLoughney. **Subs:** A O'Connell for Hayes (30); L Young for M Gleeson (44).

**REF —** F McNamara (Clare).



Tracy Ni Fhlannagáin of Tipperary is distraught at the final whistle at Parnell Park yesterday. Picture: Steve Humphreys

OFFALY 2-14  
ARMAGH 3-9

All-Ireland Minor B Camogie

SIOBHÁN FLANNERY inspired Offaly to overcome Armagh in the Minor B decider at Parnell Park for the county's first All-Ireland camogie title.

The battle between Flannery and Collette McSorley, who both scored 2-5, ensured an enthralling encounter.

Armagh led by a point at the break and faced some incessant pressure after the interval before establishing a five-point lead with just

three minutes left. Enter Flannery, who netted twice in 60 seconds to put Offaly ahead. There was still time for McSorley level it before Flannery edged Offaly in front again in a thrilling finale.

**SCORERS — Offaly:** S Flannery 2-5; N McCabe 0-3; M Morkan, A Dooley 0-2 each; K McKenna, M Maloney 0-1 each. **Armagh:** C McSorley 2-5; C McKee 1-0; N McKenna 0-2; A Murphy, L McGuinness 0-1 each.

**OFFALY —** C Birmingham, S Daly, L-A Scully, L-A Troy, K McCann, K McKenna, A Dooley, M Morkan, A Corrigan, S Flannery, N McCabe, M Gleeson, A Dooley, M Maloney, L Keane. **Subs:** E McCrindle for Troy (0-1); A Cordal for Gleeson (0-1); K Birmingham for K McKenna (52).

**ARMAGH —** C Toner, G Kelly, S Quinn, F Bradley, C Conway, E McParland, C McGugan, N McKenna, N Conway, C McSorley, L McGuinness, A Murphy, O O'Hare, L Conway, C McKee. **Subs:** L Connsley for C McGugan (20); C Donnelly for O'Hare (47).

# Katie powers Kilkenny to minor glory over Tipperary

by Máire Uí Scolai

THE Kilkenny Cats got a real bowlful of cream yesterday when they won their first Minor All-Ireland title since 1991, defeating Tipperary 4-7 to 2-7 in the Minor 'A' All-Ireland final in Parnell Park.

Aoife McLoughney started the game well for the Premier, notching 1-1 in the first two minutes, but then the Cats, who tasted defeat in last year's All-Ireland, began to play.

With nine of last year's team available, Kilkenny's experience began to show gradually and after eight minutes player of the match Katie Power got the first of her two goals to level the game at 1-1 each.

Two minutes later centre forward Edwina Keane made it 2-3 to 1-1 for the Cats.

The gap was 2-6 to Tipperary's 1-3 at the break, and on the resumption Kilkenny carried on where they had left off, scoring a third goal seven min-

utes in, through Katie Power.

The Noreiders took their foot off the accelerator after that and when McLoughney got Tipp's second goal there was only a goal in it.

Tipp fans were on the edge of their seats when referee Fintan McNamara awarded a 13-metre free to their side on the brink of injury time.

McLoughney gave it her all but the Kilkenny defenders saved and cleared.

The Cats raced down-field and Marie Dargan goaled two minutes in-

to added time to make the game safe.

Meanwhile, the Minor 'B' final was the best All-Ireland in years, with Offaly edging out Armagh 2-14 to 3-9 to take the first ever All-Ireland camogie title to the Faithful county.

Both counties were chasing their first ever All-Ireland title and in Offaly's case it also meant they had won their first ever major camogie title.

**Scorers for Kilkenny:** K Power 2-0, E Keane 1-2, M Dargan 1-1, L Gahan, S Fahey, 0-1 each, C Dormer, N Corrigan 0-1 (0-1).

**Scorers for Tipperary:** A McLoughney 2-2, A Shinnors 0-4 (0-2 F, 0-1-4S), S McGrath 0-1.

**KILKENNY:** M T O'Neill, L Phelan, R Madigan, M Nolan, E Cantwell, M O'Keefe, M Murphy, C Dormer, L Gahan, S Fahey, E Keane, M Dargan, K Power, N Corrigan, M Quilty. **Subs:** A Farrell for M Quilty, K McDonald for M Murphy, both 45mins, E Kenny for M Dargan 58 mins.

**TIPPERARY:** K Kenneally, M Ryan, S Morrissey, G Stapleton, N O'Connell, F Young, D Ryan, T Short, C Maher, A Shinnors, S Hayes, M Gleeson, B Kennedy, S McGrath, A McLoughney. **Subs:** A O'Connell for S Hayes, half time, Laura Young for M Gleeson 44 mins, T Flannagan for N O'Connell, 58 mins.

**Referee:** F McNamara (Clare).



IT'S a pity it's not the county final but the semi-final is the next best thing.

We don't just have a good semi-final next Wednesday evening in Rathcormac, we have a great semi-final.

Milford and Cloughduv. A repeat of this year's first round tie in which the game went to a replay and extra time before Milford pulled through.

Replays rarely match up to the drawn game but this one did. Both teams are evenly matched and both teams are hungry for it.

Will it be the same this time around? I think so.

Milford, after breaking free of Cloughduv, faced Carrigdhoun in the third round.

These two teams played out a thriller of a County final last year with Milford losing out and we expected a close tie again this year. But Carrigdhoun weren't the team of last year.

They didn't have the same training or volume of matches behind them and certainly didn't look to have the hunger. Milford won more comfortably than expected.

Last Wednesday they faced Barryroe and had a facile win — 2-12 to 1-5. Now they face Cloughduv.

As I've said numerous times Milford have a very balanced team. Club teams will never have 15 star hurlers. They'll have average players who are spirited and tenacious and they add more value to a team than they are probably given credit for.

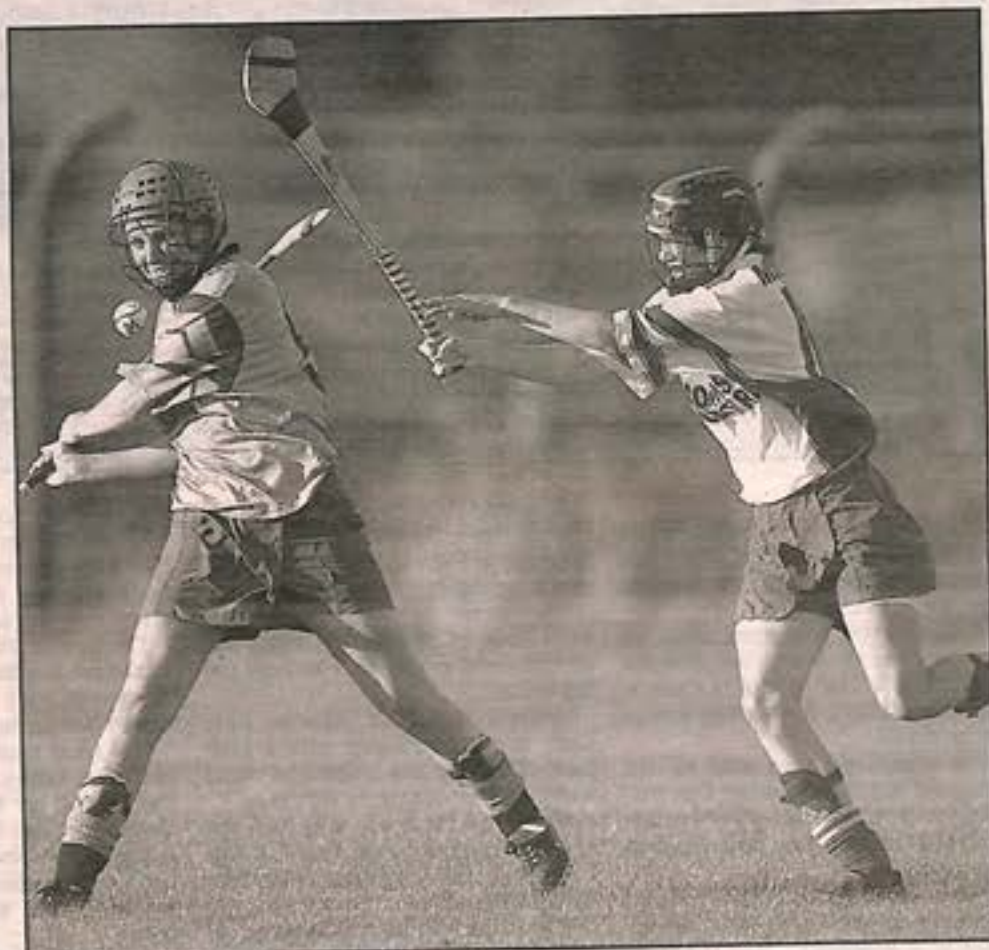
Milford doesn't have 15 hurlers. They maybe have nine or 10 and the rest is made up of what I have mentioned above. They are evenly spread throughout the team and this is what makes Milford a force. They compliment their hurlers and the blend is working.

Cloughduv took the back road and so had an extra game. They defeated Imokilly in round two and then faced a tough encounter against the 'Barrs. The game hung in the balance right to the end with the Barrs seeking the elusive equaliser or winner but it didn't happen and Cloughduv emerged victorious by the narrowest of margins — 1-7 to 0-9 points.

That game will have stood to them and as reported last evening their qtr final tie with Aghabullogue was less of a challenge.

On that note, despite suffering such a heavy defeat, Aghabullogue can be proud that in their first year playing in the Senior A Championship they reached the quarter final. They will have learnt from their experiences and what is sport if

# Milford on course for Inniscarra showdown



Barryroe's Isla Dinneen about to clear the ball as Milford's Aine Watson closes in during the Cork County Camogie Championship quarter-final game.

Picture: Richard Mills.

not a learning curve.

Cloughduv, too, have a balanced side. They certainly have more experience than Milford with five of their players playing senior inter-county camogie for a few years now and county titles under their belt.

The Corkery sisters have also represented Cork over the years. Throw in former Cork star forward Lynn Dunlea and you have a lethal potion.

It'll go to the wire and one move or call on the night will turn the game in some team's favour. I think the Milford defence is strong and should cope with Cloughduv's star forward line. On the other side the battle of Aine Watson, if centre forward, and Breige Corkery will be a great one.

Will the O'Callaghan's cope with the inside Watson

threat? Again I think they can, provided the injured Joanne is fit to play. It is at midfield that Milford may have the upper hand. If Anna Geary is on form then the supply will go in and Cloughduv will need to react quickly.

Both sets of mentors can ill afford to ignore weaknesses on the night. They will have an important role to play.

While all the talk is about the first semi-final, quietly hidden away going about their business are Inniscarra and Carbery. They meet on Saturday week and won't care that for the moment the spotlight is off them.

Inniscarra accounted for Fr. O'Neills in round 1 with a convincing 3-9 to 1-4 victory.

They progressed to round three and a meeting with Courcy Rovers. After 15 minutes they were 2-3 to 0-2

adrift but an excellent comeback coupled with a winning goal four minutes into injury time pushed them into the semi-final. Led by Criona Harte, Ger Casey and Niamh Dilworth, Inniscarra look to have the edge in this one.

Carbery have had only one game to date in the championship. They were drawn to play the winners of the UCC V St. Finbarrs first round tie but when UCC withdrew the Barrs advanced straight to round three leaving Carbery in no man's land.

They leapfrogged to the qtr final where they beat a fancied Seandun side.

That is the extent of Carbery's championship trail. Newcestown make up the bulk of the squad with one or two from both Clonakilty and Bandon. Inniscarra to advance.

## Cloughduv get a chance to turn the tables on mighty Milford

WEDNESDAY  
Mercury Restaurant and Lounge  
Senior Camogie Championship  
semi-final,  
Milford v Cloughduv  
Rathcormac, 7.30pm

IT'S a case of back to the beginning for Milford and Cloughduv when they meet this (Wednesday) evening in the Mercury Restaurant and Lounge Senior Camogie Championship semi-final.

In the first year of the back-door system there have been some thrilling games but none more so than the round one clash where Milford and Cloughduv played out a thrilling contest.

Stephanie Dunlea took the game to a replay with a point four minutes into injury time, but it was Milford who survived on the second day — a late Marie Watson goal taking the game to extra time where Milford eventually recorded a two-goal winning margin.

Cloughduv come to tonight's semi-final via the back door and the extra games will have helped them enormously. In their clash with Imokilly they had to be at their best finally shaking off the divisional side with a superb closing quarter. Against St Finbarr's they were again tested to the limits but showed tremendous character holding on to a one-point lead under severe pressure. In an all Mid Cork quarter-final encounter with Aghabullogue they never looked troubled as they booked their place in tonight semi-final.

Lynn Dunlea has made a return to camogie following a four-year absence and she is proving to be a huge asset where her experience is invaluable while sister Stephanie has been putting defences under pressure since moving to play in the attack with both club and county. Marie, Catherine and Breige Corkery are vital to Cloughduv while inter-county players Una O'Donoghue, Aoife Murray and Joanne O'Callaghan are solid club performers.

Milford have dealt efficiently with every challenge posed to date and they will be full of confidence. Having already recorded a first-round victory over Cloughduv to advance directly to round three, and in that game they disposed of county champions Carrigdhoun in a contest where they were full value for their 3-8 to 1-8 winning margin.

From the throw-in they put the champions under pressure with three first half goals and they confidently went on to a semi-final against Barryroe, where they also grabbed vital goal to book their semi-final spot.

They have been one of the county's most successful underage clubs taking titles from U12 to senior B and now the time has come to garner the big prize.

Emer, Marie and Aine Watson play huge roles for the North Cork outfit while several of their players, including Elaine O'Riordan, Regina Curtin and Anna Geary have enjoyed huge success with St Mary's, Charleville.

This year they are strengthened by the inclusion of Emer Connery, who joined the club from Kilkenny and Eiblish Horgan, who transferred from Glen Rovers.

Last year they lost in a thrilling final to Carrigdhoun and are determined to go one better this year.

The form to date points to last year's finalists making it through but with the extra games behind them Cloughduv may just turn the tables this time out. Rathcormac is the venue with a 7.30pm throw in.

AUG

2005

## Milford stunned as Dunlea sisters inspire late Cloughduv rally

Cloughduv  
Milford

3-7  
1-9

by Mary Newman

FOR 28 minutes of the second half Milford dominated, but it is Cloughduv who will contest the Mercury Restaurant and Lounge Cork County Senior Camogie Championship Final.

Two goals in the first-half from the Dunlea sisters, Lynn and Stephanie,

helped Cloughduv enjoy an interval lead of 2-5 to 0-5. The goals arrived in the 11th minute from Lynn, who then turned provider for sister Stephanie in the 29th minute.

But Milford were a transformed side in the second half and took control. However, poor shooting saw them hit seven wides and when they did find the target, they found Cloughduv keeper Aoife Murray in superb form bringing off three inspirational saves.

With four minutes remaining, Milford hit the front for the first time when Anna Geary touched Emer Watson's free to the net. At this stage Stephanie Dunlea had reverted to a midfield role and she, more than anyone, inspired Cloughduv to produce a storming finish, firing over the equaliser with two minutes remaining.

Una O'Donoghue edged them ahead from the puck-out and, in

added time, Lynn Dunlea's awareness saw her strike home the clinching goal to help Cloughduv fashion a victory that looked far from certain with four minutes remaining.

However, Milford can have few complaints as they had plenty of opportunities to put the game out of Cloughduv's reach right throughout the second-half.

Scorers: Cloughduv: S. Dunlea 1-4 (0-4 from free), L. Dunlea 2-1, U. O'Donoghue 0-2.  
Milford: E. Watson 0-5 (2 45s, 1 free), A. Geary

1-0, M. Watson 0-2, A. Watson, C. O'Gorman 0-1 each.

CLOUGHDUV: A. Murray, O. O'Callaghan, Sinead Corkery, Siobhan Corkery, J. O'Callaghan, E. Dunne, B. Corkery, M. Corkery, A. Buckley, O. O'Donoghue, S. Buckley, J. Lucy, C. Corkery, S. Dunlea, L. Dunlea.

MILFORD: E. Linehan, D. Hayes, E. O'Riordan, L. Healy, C. O'Gorman, R. Curtin, S. Sexton, A. Geary, E. Connery, A. Watson, J. Sheehy, S. O'Reilly, E. O'Friel, E. Watson, M. Watson. Sub: L. Long for Sheehy (half-time).

Referee: J. Desmond (Bandon).



# Dunleas an inspiration as Cloughduv win



Linda Mellerick

Cloughduv  
Milford

3-7  
1-9

**AS PREDICTED** it went down to the wire.

The four-point winning margin flatters Cloughduv as this game hung in the balance with two minutes remaining.

A game of two halves, Cloughduv won the first, Milford won the second, but the ability of the Dunlea sisters, Lynn and Stephanie to get goals was the deciding factor in the end.

It was the most perfect of settings for a camogie match. Rathcormac was in pristine condition. The very slight wind blowing cross field was neither an advantage nor a hindrance and the large crowd in attendance was treated to a breathtaking finish.

Cloughduv took the game to Milford from the throw-in. They were faster to the ball, physically stronger on the ball and more focused than their opponents.

Milford were a pale shadow of themselves.

Looking like a team playing together for the first time they were at sixes and sevens as Cloughduv ran at them. Lynn had the first point on the board after 60 seconds. Stephanie followed with a free a minute later. Christine O'Gorman replied for Milford.

Briege Corkery and Sinead Buckley were giving Milford a torrid time gathering ball around the half-back line and centerfield, thus ensuring their forwards got a plentiful supply.

Una O'Donoghue and a second Dunlea free edged Cloughduv three points ahead. Milford couldn't get in to their stride and further disaster struck on 11 minutes.

A high ball floated into the goal-mouth and full-back Deirdre Hayes hesitated leaving the alert Lynn Dunlea in behind to flick the ball to the net. Six points down and playing badly, Milford had it all to do.

Maria and Emer Watson responded with two excellent points only for Stephanie to reply with another pointed free.



Cloughduv's Sinead Buckley is about to shoot as Milford's Aine Watson closes in.

Picture: Neil Danton

Again Emer Watson tried to lift her team by narrowing the gap to four but then a huge Milford blunder gifted Cloughduv a second goal. Once again the high ball in caused problems. Elaine O'Riordan and Regina Curtin both challenged the dropping ball and while colliding lost sight of it. Once again Lynn was on hand to punish their error.

Picking the sliothar up she hand-passed to the in-rushing Stephanie who pulled first time giving goalkeeper Elizabeth Linehan no chance. A magnificent point from Aine Watson on the stroke of half-time left it 2-5 to 0-5.

What a transformation. Whatever manager Ted Sheehan said to his charges at half-time had the desired effect as it is hard to believe that the Milford team which took to the field for the second half was the same as that which had left it 10 minutes previously.

Emer Watson switched to centre-field and played the proverbial blinder. Milford spent the next 28 minutes of the game camped in Cloughduv's half of the pitch. They drove forward endlessly, launching attack after attack.

Credit the Cloughduv defence for withstanding such immense pressure. Oral O'Callaghan and Sinead Corkery were rock solid while goalkeeper supreme Aoife Murray was nothing short of magnificent making four saves of top quality.

Milford left this game behind them. A total of seven wides (11 in total) and their tendency to go for goals too early in the second half was their downfall. Their first-half return of five points were excellent scores from various angles.

Rather than attempt these again they continuously tried to get closer to goal and found themselves closed down by a hard-working resolute defence. Goals don't come easy when you're facing the best goalkeeper in the country, as Milford learned.

Seventeen minutes into the half Lelia Long found herself all alone in front of goal but pulled wide. After 22 minutes the score stood at 2-5 to 0-9. Cloughduv had yet to attack in the second half and the gap was narrowing all the time.

Four minutes later the crowd were on their feet. An Emer Watson free from the wing dropped into the square and Anna Geary finally beat

Murray in the Cloughduv goal. Unbelievably Milford were a point ahead.

While Cloughduv had played a defensive game for the entire second half they now realised they could no longer afford to do so.

Stephanie Dunlea and Briege Corkery moved to centre field and the pattern of play swung again. A Dunlea free levelled the game before Una O'Donoghue's great strike with a minute remaining edged Cloughduv in front by one.

The crowd held its breath with neutrals hoping for a Milford equaliser as no team deserved to lose.

What came, however, was another Lynn Dunlea goal, finishing off a free struck by sister Steph which sealed Milford's fate and gave Cloughduv a county final spot they deserve.

**Scorers:** Cloughduv: L. Dunlea 2-1, S. Dunlea 1-4 (0-4), U. O'Donoghue 0-2. Milford: E. Watson 0-5 (0-2, 45, 0-1), A. Geary 1-0, M. Watson 0-2, C. O'Gorman and A. Watson 0-1 each.

**Cloughduv:** A. Murray; O. O'Callaghan, Sinead Corkery, Siobhan Corkery; E. Dunlea, B. Corkery, M. Corkery; A. Buckley, S. Buckley; U. O'Donoghue, J. O'Callaghan, J. Lucey; K. Corkery, S. Dunlea, L. Dunlea.

**Milford:** E. Linehan, D. Hayes, L. Healy, E. O'Riordan; C. O'Gorman, R. Curtin, S. Sexton; A. Geary, E. Connery, J. Sheehy, A. Watson, S. O'Reilly; E. O'Friel, E. Watson, M. Watson. **Subs:** J. Sheehy for L. Long.

## Dunne relieved after close-run encounter

A RELIEVED Noel Dunne, manager of Cloughduv, gave his reaction to his team's great victory.

"It was a tough game. Milford made a tremendous second half of it. We just dug deep and got the vital goal in the end."

Put to him that Cloughduv really only came to life again once Milford went ahead Noel agreed: "We let them come at

us, which is a fatal mistake in a game. We had our lead and rather than going forward and building on it, sat back and defended. We brought out Steph (Stephanie Dunlea) to try and win ball and also moved Briege (Corkery) to midfield which worked for us. "The team really wanted to win tonight and I think that's

### What they said

what saw us through in the end. They're a great bunch.

"We've had a tough campaign, with very little break between fixtures. They contested every ball tonight and I'm delighted with them."

Ted Sheehan was understandably disappointed.

"This game was there for

the taking. It's very hard when you lose a game like

breaks."

Ted was unhappy with the inconsistency of the referee.

At times the crowd wondered what a free was awarded for and while penalising one team he failed to penalise the other for the same offence.

"We've trained for 12 months and all we want is consistency and fair play," he stated.

that. "We had our chances. We didn't turn up at all for the first half and a couple of silly mistakes gifted them a couple of goals."

"We're a second half team and performed in the second half but never got the

## Ballygarvan seal big win in final minutes

Ballygarvan  
Ballinhassig

3-6  
0-4

IT WASN'T until the closing eight minutes that Ballygarvan were assured of their place in the Mercury Restaurant and Lounge Senior /B championship semi final as they were made battle all to the finish by neighbours Ballinhassig.

A close opening half had Ballygarvan ahead 1-1 to 0-2 at the interval, Caoimhe Dillon's goal from their first attack the difference between the sides.

In between, a battling Ballinhassig showed tremendous determination refusing to allow the Ballygarvan girls any leeway at all.

It was Ballinhassig who made the early running from the restart and

By MARY NEWMAN  
camogie

points inside four minutes from Catriona Collins and Sinead O'Callaghan had them on level terms. Dillon and Catriona Kelly had edged Ballygarvan ahead by the 10th minute but from then on a battling Ballinhassig contained their opponents.

We had to wait until six minutes to the final whistle for another score and Catriona Kelly and Susan Lynch stretched the Ballygarvan lead to four points. Goals in the 26th and 28th from Catriona Kelly and Sarah Donovan finally killing the Ballinhassig challenge but not before a fight to the finish.

**BALLYGARVAN:** A. Moynihan, B. Browne, J.

Browne, D. Crowley, M. Hallahan, E. Dillon, S. A. O. Halloran, S. Donovan (1-0), V. Browne, M. Murphy, C. Kelly (1-4 1-1 free), C. Dillon (1-1), S. Lynch (0-1), N. Hallahan, M. Ryan.

**Subs:** L. Ryan for M. Ryan (h/t) D. Daly for M. Murphy (35mins)

**Ballinhassig:** L. Jeffers, M. Collins, C. Fleming, A. O'Riordan, C. Holland, M. Holland, D. Cullinane, D. Coomey (0-1), M. T. Cullinane, J. Cullinane, E. O'Sullivan, S. O'Callaghan (0-1), C. Finn, A. Mullane, C. Collins (0-2 from 45's)

**Subs:** B. Coleman for C. Finn (h/t) A. Lee for M. T. Cullinane (43 mins), S. Holland for A. Mullane (45mins)

Ref C. O. Mahony St. Finbarrs



# Milford book place in semis

**M**ILFORD booked their place in the Mercury Restaurant and Lounge Senior Camogie Championship semi final with a victory over Barryroe last Wednesday.

In the process they set up a mouth watering clash with Cloughdun who beat Aghbullogue the following evening.

In the first year of the back door system we have had some thrilling games but none more so than the first game in round one where Milford and Cloughdun played out a thrilling contest which Stephanie Dunlea took to a reply with a point from the last puck of the game four minutes into injury time. Second time out it was Milford who survived with a late Marie Watson goal bringing the game to extra time when Milford showed tremendous fitness to outstay Cloughdun and record a two goal winning margin.

Cloughdun were contented to come to next Wednesday's semi final via the back door. In the first game against Imokilly they received a stern test before finally shaking off the strong challenge with a superb closing quarter. Against St Finbarrs they were again severely tested but showed tremendous character holding on to a one point lead under severe pressure.

In last Wednesday's all Mid Cork encounter they never looked troubled. Lynn Dunlea has made a return to camogie following a four year absence. Sister Stephanie has been putting defences under pressure since moving to play in the attack with both club and county. The Corkery sisters Marie Catherine and Briege inter county players Una O'Donoghue, Aoife Murray and Joanne O'Callaghan are solid club performers and Cloughdun will face Milford with every confidence.

For their part, Milford have dealt efficiently with every challenge posed through this campaign. Finally shaking off Cloughdun they proceeded to round three where they dispatched county champions Carrigdhoun 3-8 to 1-8.

They confidently went on to a semi final against Barryroe where they once again grabbed vital goal to book their semi final spot. Without doubt they have been one of the counties most successful under age clubs taking titles from under 12 to senior b in a relevantly short space of time under the guidance of former

**Milford's Sarah Sexton rounding Barryroe's Cora Keohane during the Cork County Camogie Championship quarter-final game at Eire Og, Ovens. Picture: Richard Mills.**



Limerick player Anna Watson (Sheehy) whose daughters Emer, Marie and Aine play huge roles for the North Cork outfit.

Nearly all of their players have come up the line and enjoyed that enormous underage success with the exception of Emer Connery who joined the club this year from Kilkenny and Eiblish Horgan who transferred her allegiance this year from Glen Rovers to Milford. Just one title has eluded the club and that is the senior county championship.

Last year they lost by just one goal out in a thrilling final to Carrigdhoun. Many feel this is going to be there year but first they have to once again dispose of Cloughdun. Rathcormac is the venue tomorrow, with a 7.30pm throw in.

In the second semi final Inniscarra and divisional side Carbery meet on Saturday in Grenagh at 4pm. Inniscarra have also come via the winners route but only just. A goal four minutes into added time from Criona Harte booked them their place against Carbery just when it looked as if Courcey Rovers had done enough to advance.

In that game Inniscarra allowed Courceys to dictate the opening quarter but rallying they took over and led at the interval by four points, on the resumption Courceys gained the upper hand and torn in the Inniscarra led to gain parity and go ahead by two points only for Inniscarra to produce a late burst to grab a place in the semi final.

Fr O Neills fell to Inniscarra in the first round and they advance to a quarter final against Courceys — inactive for three weeks as they awaited winners to come from the losers group.

Inniscarra have been a little out of touch and certainly the return of Ger Casey and Criona Harte to their lineup has been a welcome boost and with a few more games under their belt they will continue to be a huge asset as Inniscarra seek out their first title. Two years ago they



**Milford's Regina Curtin clearing the ball past Barryroe's Jennifer O'Leary. Picture: Richard Mills.**

## Camogie

lost out to Fr O Neill in the final and they feel their time is about to come. Carbery provide the obstacle and they have put in solid displays to ensure they continue their advancement.

They went straight to the quarter final as UCC failed to field in round one against St Finbarrs and the losers of this were to play Carbery. The divisional side simply progressed to a quarter final with Seandun. Again, as in the Inniscarra/ Courcey clash, the result was decided in the closing stages in a game where Seandun made all the running and dictated play only for Carbery to come with a late charge to make it through.

Backboned mainly by players from the Newcestown club Colette Desmond has been their main player. Clonakilty's Hazel O'Regan and Hannah Coughlan are also vital players for Carbery as is Newcestown stalwart former inter county player Mahony O'Mahony. On form Inniscarra will be favoured to make it to their second final in three years but they will need to up their quarter fi-

nal performance if they are to be assured of advancement again a tenacious Carbery side that will fight to the finish to book their place in the final for the first time in their history.

In the Senior B championship the round robin series continued as Ballygarvan ensured their place in the semi final with a 3-6 to 0-4 victory over neighbours Ballinhassig. In a close opening half Ballinhassig made the winners work hard and at the interval only two points separated the side Caoimhe Dillon's opening goal in the first minute proving vital for Ballygarvan. through the second half Ballygarvan came under pressure and points from Sinéad O'Callaghan and Catriona Collins had it level inside four minutes. With both sides battling for survival Ballygarvan edged ahead thanks to points from Caoimhe Dillon Catriona Kelly and Susan Lynch, it was two late goals from Catriona Kelly and Sarah O'Donovan that finally killed off the Ballinhassig challenge after an exciting contest. Ballinhassig now await the outcome of the Bishopstown /

## Mary Newman

Glen Rovers clash on August 23rd, if Bishopstown win they go through with two wins out of three, but if Glen Rovers turn the tide on Bishopstown it will force a three way play off involving Ballinhassig/ Glen and Bishopstown as all three would have one win each.

In the other section Eire OG and St Catherines met last night. A win here would assure the Conna girls of a semi final spot while Eire Og with one win and one loss could still make it through were they to defeat St Catherines and Newcestown. Valley Rovers who are through meet St Catherines on Friday evening at Glen Rovers and this game may just be to decide first and second place in the group pending the outcome of last evening game.

In the Junior A championship a second victory for Killeagh over Ballyhea on a 2-12 to 2-3 score line this ensuring them of a place in the semi final. in the Junior B championship Buttrvant advance to the semi final after their 1-13 to 0-8 win over Delaney's, while Blackrock had a 3-7 to 1-2 win over Kildorrey to book themselves a quarter final spot against Youghal which was down for decision last night in Blackrock. Also on the agenda last night was the meeting of Clonakilty and Tracton in Tracton.

In under age activities Ballincollig in a play off game had a 7-2 to 2-2 win over Brian Dillon to secure their continued involvement in the under 16 C league, while Passage continue to make tremendous progress recording a 5-2 to 3-3 win over St Catherine's to make it to the semi final of the Under 14 C league.

Saturday next is another busy day for the juvenile board who have three games on the agenda in Ballinlough, at 11am Under 14 C league semi final Killeagh v Newtownshandrum at 12.30 it's the under 14 A league semi final Douglas v Inniscarra and at 2pm the under 14 C league semi final Kildorrey v Passage.



# CAMOGIE *world* with Olhausen



by Maire Ui Scolai

## WEB AND BANDS THE WAY FORWARD

Most organisations nowadays have a good website and Cumann Camógaiochta na Gael is no exception. After a lot of hard work the site is up

and running. It takes quite some time to upload all the required information, but recently a lot more counties are sending in items for inclusion. It is

hoped that all PRO's will make the clubs in their county aware of the facility that exists with the site, thus creating a better web presence for all.

The value of good public relations is most important and recently the PR and Communications committee organised a one day PRO Seminar in The Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise. It was well attended with representatives from most counties and it is hoped to hold these on an annual basis as the turn over of PRO'S is like that of any of the other officers of the county board. New PRO's need to be given guidelines each year to assist them in achieving the best possible coverage for the game in their county.

It is interesting to note that most counties now have their own websites while others avail of the GAA Web in the county. This year most counties had match programmes available which are a huge benefit to journalists and they



The camogie website in all its glory

also provide the spectator with a valuable record as many people collect match programmes.

## PLAYERS BAND TOGETHER

Over the next few weeks hundreds of young aspiring girls will take part in the Annual Summer camps and this year they will not go home empty handed as they will be given one of the new 'cool' camogie wrist bands which read 'Camogie is cúl!'. These wrist bands have become so popular that they are bound to be a big hit with young girls. The players will also receive posters of camogie players as well as stickers for copy books! Much of this work has been the brain child of the PR Committee and in particular Finance and Sponsorship Manager Sinéad O'Connor who has put a lot of thought into this.

To further enhance the game, very shortly three new full time employees will come on board. One position will be that of National Coaching Development Officer and two regional officers. The Leinster appointee will be based in Áras Laighean in Portlaoise while the Munster/Connacht employee will be based in Limerick. Michael McClements is already Ulster Development officer and is based in Armagh.

With Cumann Camógaiochta na nGael having had one of its best media years last year, it is important to enlarge on this in the second camogie century. And while much

work has been done over the years there is still a lot of room for improvement, however, the oldest female Gaelic Sports organisation is never afraid of new challenges.

Cork celebrate one hundred years of camogie

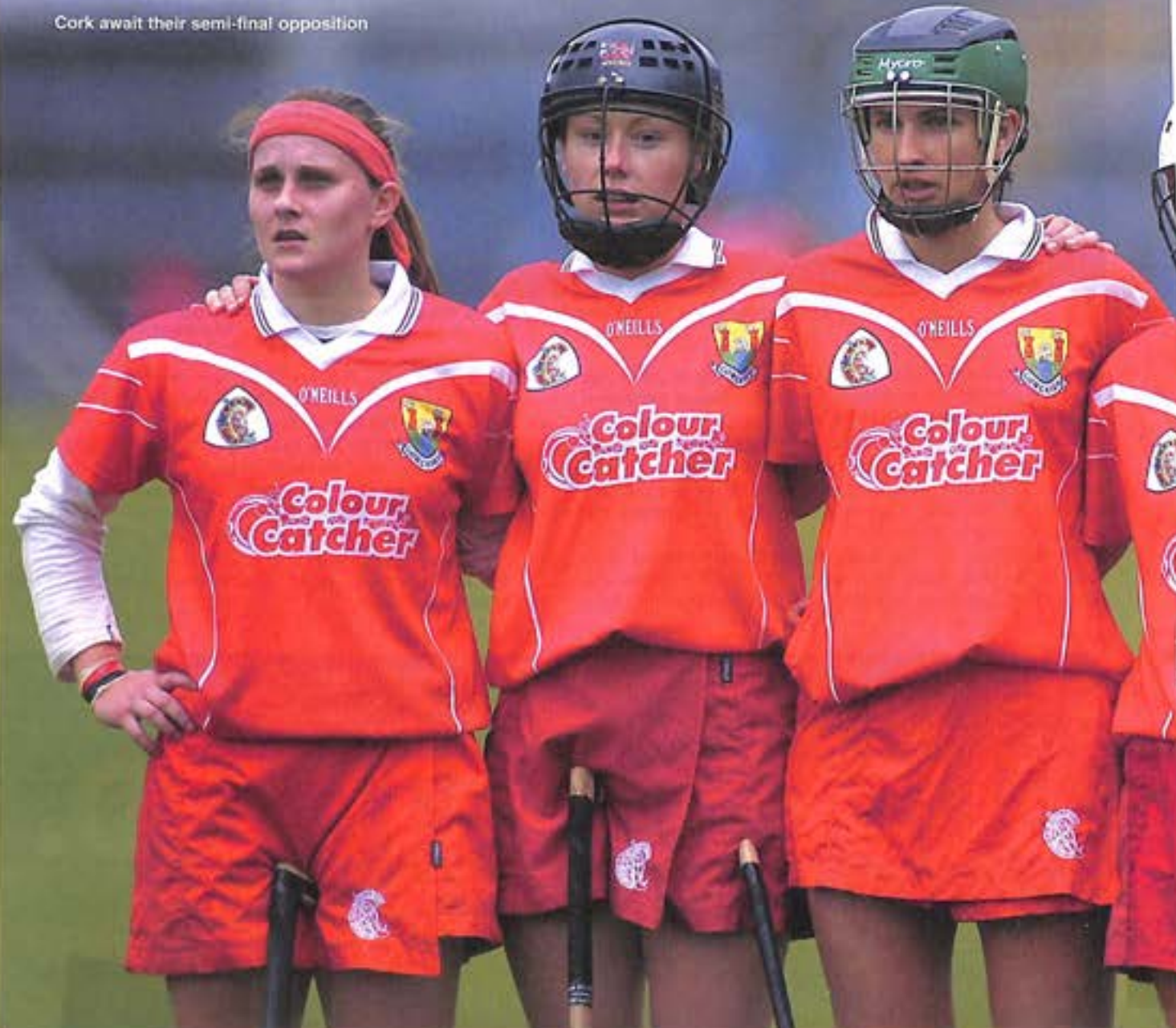
Much work will centre around the Foras na Gaeilge championship this year and with Cork celebrating one hundred years of camogie in the county, they have gone about the championship in the right way so far. Having defeated Galway and Wexford they are awaiting the other semi-finals for August 20th. In the meantime, the Junior All-Ireland semi-finals will go ahead between Dublin and Armagh, and Clare and Galway.

It is nice to see more counties coming to the fore and in the minor finals Armagh will take on Offaly in the 'B' Final, while the Minor 'A' final will feature Kilkenny and Tipperary, both of which will take place on August 7th. There are plenty of matches for the camogie fan to seek out before Croke Park on September 18th.

Going on last year's record attendance at the All-Ireland Final, it is hoped to create another carnival atmosphere on the day and thus attract an even bigger attendance. Be there to support your county or if your county is not there, go along to witness some of the top camogie stars of the day.

At all times check out [www.camogie.ie](http://www.camogie.ie) for the most up to date information.

Cork await their semi-final opposition



AUG. 2005



# Vera Sheehan

## Limerick Senior Camogie Team Captain

*With the Foras na Gaeilge senior camogie championship now at the knockout stage, HighBall spoke with Limerick captain Vera Sheehan about her county's march to the semi-final. Sheehan, a merchandiser with Lucozade in the Cork/Kerry region, is the most decorated club player in the country bar none. With her native Granagh-Ballingarry she has won three All-Ireland club camogie championships, several Munster club camogie championships and ten county championships, and she has also won national, provincial and county championships with her football club, Donaghmore of Cork.*

### How long have you been playing camogie?

My father used to play hurling so my four sisters and me would have been pucking around in the yard from a young age. All of us played camogie, although two of them have stopped playing. They've settled down.

### Have you settled down yourself?

No, not yet. *(laughs)*

### Did you play under-age with Limerick?

Yes. I played under-16s and minors and Cork were our big rivals. Even though we'd get close to them – we lost a couple of Munster finals by a point or two – we didn't have much under-age success.

### When did you make your senior debut for Limerick?

I've been playing with Limerick since 1995. In my first year we won the junior All-Ireland and the intermediate All-Ireland the following year. Things seem to have gone downhill for us since then. Tipperary won the intermediate All-Ireland in 1998 and have gone on to win five senior All-Ireland titles. That's the difference.

### Limerick have qualified for the All-Ireland semi-finals.

Yes, and we beat Kilkenny on the way to that. Everyone else probably saw that as a shock, but we knew ourselves that we had the ability to beat them. That means that we're still involved in the championship until 20 August at least. It's great to get to the semi-finals.

### What is the team doing differently this year under the new management?

The profile Ger Hegarty has as a former Limerick hurler means that the players respect him. The training sessions are different to what we've been used to and more players are coming to them. That win against Kilkenny has brought players on and hopefully it will do Limerick camogie good. There's only a puck of a ball between the teams in the last four.

### What's a typical week like for you at the height of the season?

With the county, we're out two, occasionally three, nights a week and have a match at the weekend. The club trains twice during the week and again at the weekend, so I'd be out maybe six times a week. I play football as well, and trying to keep all the managers happy is tough. My social life is curtailed at this time of the year. In fact, I don't have a social life.

### Limerick have qualified for the All-Ireland semi-final. Can you go on and win the O'Duffy Cup?

There's always hope. It's been a bonus to get to the semi-final and who knows what will happen after that? We'll definitely be trying to build on this for the next year or two.



Vera Sheehan in action in the 2005 All-Ireland Ladies club final for Donaghmore.

### You play club football in Cork. How did that come about?

There was no football club near me when I started playing. I went to college with two girls from Donaghmore and they asked me if I wanted to come up and play football. My first ever football game was with the college and I had my two front teeth knocked out and thought I'd give it up, but I persevered and survived.

At the time Donaghmore had just won their first senior county title. I've been with them for seven or eight years and we've won every county title since then, as well as a couple of Munster club titles and two All-Ireland club titles. But last year shows how fortune can change. The year before last I won club All-Irelands in both football and camogie. Last year, we were beaten in both All-Ireland finals, losing the camogie to St Lachtains of Kilkenny by four points and the football to Ballyboden of Dublin by a point on the hooter.

### Hurling folk often claim that playing football dulls a hurler's touch. Have you found that with football and camogie?

No, I think they complement one another. The senior championship in Cork doesn't start until the end of August, which is great because the county camogie has usually been over by then and all I'd have left is the club. This year is different. But I don't find mixing the two codes to be a hindrance.

### Would you ever consider playing county football with Cork?

I was asked to play senior with Cork last year, but I had to turn them down – I couldn't bring myself to put on a red and white jersey. I'd get shot down in Limerick if they saw me putting on that jersey! Cork are fairly strong in the football now and I'd say they'll win the All-Ireland in the next year or two. They have been winning so many All-Ireland minor titles in recent years, so they definitely have the players.

### Male footballers and hurlers are benefiting from endorsement deals more than ever. Do you ever see that happening in camogie?

No, not at the moment anyway. Something might happen for teams like Tipperary or Cork around All-Ireland final time, and rightly so. Fair play to them if they do get endorsements. I'd say the players wouldn't mind having something written on their boots if they were paid for it.

### Camogie doesn't get much attention in the media. Is there anything it could do differently to promote itself?

I know they are trying very hard in Croke Park to put camogie matches on before big championship hurling games, but it doesn't seem to be working at the moment. The only exposure camogie gets is All-Ireland finals day, and maybe a couple of days beforehand and a day afterwards. The championship is still in the group stages, and camogie might only get a small paragraph in the newspapers. We put in the same effort as the boys, but I don't know if the coverage will change or not. I'd love to see it change.

### Can anybody stop Tipperary?

They've been around a long time and have been a great team. Fair play to them for getting to where they are now. They can be beaten, but I don't know if it will happen this year or not. Deirdre Hughes is captain this year, so they'll all row in behind her because she's been such a great player for them for so long. It's younger she seems to be getting!

### You've won club All-Irelands in camogie and football. Tell me about them.

I've won three camogie All-Irelands with the club and two football titles with Donaghmore. I captained the team to the first All-Ireland in 1998 when we beat St Vincent's of Dublin. That was a huge thing for the club. We had won Féile na nGael and Community Games titles, they were the stepping stones to the All-Ireland, and eight players from those teams played in the first All-Ireland winning team.

That was the last ever 12-a-side game. Camogie moved to 15-a-side the following season. We lost a few players from our All-Ireland winning team, and we struggled to even get 15, but we managed to win the All-Ireland the following year and claimed back-to-back titles. It was a great achievement for such a small club. We thought that things might change for Limerick around then, but it probably doesn't happen that way.



Aug 2005



Valley Rovers' Liz Bugler and Carrigaline's Catriona O'Mahony battle for possession during the Senior B Camogie Championship game in Ballincollig. Picture: Paul Reidy

# Camogie must sort out fixtures

WHILE the majority of eyes have been focused on the senior A championship these past few weeks with the large volume of exciting ties taking place, the senior B championship is also starting to hot up.

This year for the first time a round robin system was introduced into the B championship again with the intention of giving teams more games. With only nine teams contesting, two groups were formed. Each team play each other once and the top two teams from each group advance to the semi-final.

Section One: Valley Rovers, Eire Og, Carrigaline, Newcestown and St Catherine's. Valley Rovers defeated Eire Og, Carrigaline and Newcestown and are through despite still having to play St Catherine's. Catherine's too have emerged victorious in all of their outings and the only deciding factor in their clash with Valley Rovers is to determine who tops the group.

Section Two is not as clear cut. Ballygarvan, Bishopstown, Glen Rovers and Ballinhassig battle it out here. Last year's hot favourites Ballygarvan top the group to date having defeated all three. Bishopstown beat Ballinhassig but Ballinhassig defeated the Glen. Bishopstown and Glen Rovers meet on August 23. If Bishopstown win they advance as runner-up group winners. If the Glen are victorious it will be a three-way play with Ballinhassig.

While the extra games are indeed



Linda Mellerick

welcome and clubs are active far longer the feedback from some is that the competition is like a league and holds little excitement or championship 'sting'. A suggestion of a backdoor system like that in the A Championship which is proving successful, would be preferred.

Ballygarvan are again raging hot favourites to take the title and advance to Senior A status.

The junior A and B competitions also need a revamp. We are still at a first round knockout stage and its unthinkable that one midweek game in early July sees you hang up your boots for another eight months.

The second finalist to line up against Cloughduv in the Senior A County final at the end of August will be known today at approximately 5.15pm.

Inniscarra and Carbery battle it out in Carrigadrohid this afternoon and with Newcestown, a senior B club, making up the majority of the Carbery team it is hard to predict anything but an Inniscarra win.

Cork are back action next weekend, when they take on Limerick at Nowlan Park, Kilkenny at 2pm. Tipperary play Wexford at the same venue at 4pm in a repeat of last year's semi-final.

Of course predicting a Cork annihila-

tion of Limerick is completely going against the grain of how to approach a championship game of any sort but I cannot honestly state on paper that this will be a close encounter. Cork will beat Limerick and comfortably.

Certainly, the squad's training has been hampered these past few weeks with a heavy county championship schedule in progress, so maybe a handy game against Limerick is welcome.

I still think the whole club championship has to be looked at. The Cork county board can do little about the situation as it is.

The All-Ireland club camogie finals are typically played towards the end of November. The county champions must be made known to Munster Council by the end of August. There is a couple of weeks for manoeuvring here. August-November gives three months in which to play an All-Ireland semi-final and final. Ok, the majority of September is out with the All-Ireland Camogie final but there is usually two weeks left to play around with here.

The other scenario would be to hold the All-Ireland final the following calendar year. I have to admit I think this set up is crazy. I understand why it is so but its still crazy.

By the time the All-Ireland final is played on St Patrick's Day the teams involved have probably at this stage been training for 15 months while the new season has already begun for everybody else. The chances of retaining a county title? Very slim!



## DUBS GEAR UP

AS captain Eimear Brannigan (above) is assured of her name being on the teamsheet when the Dublin camogie selectors name their side to play Armagh in the All-Ireland Junior semi-final this coming Sunday.

The St Vincent's player always leads by example and Armagh can expect some capital punishment from Eimear and her team-mates in six days' time.

While Eimear can relax knowing she will be involved, the wait for some of her team-mates won't end until Thursday, when the side to face Armagh is finally announced. The prize couldn't be bigger — a day out at Croke Park next month.

## Craobhchomórtas Foras na Gaeilge Príomh Scórait 2005

This year's top scorers.....

AINM	CONTAE	SCÓR	IOMLÁN
1 Kate Kelly	Wexford	2-08	14
2 Lourda Kavanagh	Galway	0-14	14
3 Jenniler O'Leary	Cork	0-12	12
4 Clare Grogan	Tipperary	0-09	9
5 Eimear McDonnell	Tipperary	1-06	9
6 Imelda Kennedy	Kilkenny	0-08	8
7 Emily Hayden	Tipperary	2-02	8
8 Marie Keating	Limerick	2-00	6
9 Ursula Jacob	Wexford	1-03	6
10 Stephanie Dunlea	Cork	2-00	6

## Banner ladies aim to lead by example

by Therese O'Callaghan

THE Clare junior camogie team are eager to set up an exciting weekend for the county by defeating Galway in the All-Ireland championship semi-final in Ennis tomorrow (4pm).

"It would be great," declared Banner boss Frances McMahon. "We were beaten in the All-Ireland final replay (by Galway) in 2003. We were unlucky and would love to get back. We have performed well thus far and need to keep the momentum going." However, McMahon has to contend

with the loss through injury of two of his more experienced players, Catherine O'Loughlin (leg) and Erika Minogue (thumb).

"Catherine might play a part but she is not starting, and Erika is a huge loss at wing-back. The replacements are Marie Whelan and Marie Holland."

Galway, out of the senior championship, will be difficult opposition. With Elaine Tannion and Phyllis Hayes to call upon, they start favourites.

In the other semi-final at Parnell

Park on Sunday (1pm), Dublin manager Peter Lucey has one objective on his mind: to get the Metropolitans back up to senior. A decision to re-grade backfired last season, but what a difference a year makes.

"We were very disappointed with 2004," said Lucey. "Dublin had not won a provincial title since 1991 and they have not won an All-Ireland since 1983. So, our immediate aim was to win Leinster. We beat Offaly, Wexford, Kilkenny, and Laois in the final. It was the strength of the panel and the fitness of the girls that won

through."

Regulars Emer Brannigan, Ann McCluskey, Andrea Fitzpatrick, Ciara Lucey and Louise O'Hara will back-bone the team against Armagh, and although without injured corner-back Gemma Flynn, Lucey has a strong bench to choose from.

Ursula McGivern, who captained the county to their last All-Ireland success in 1993, trains the Orchard County. Joining her from that team are players Mary Black, Bernice McBride, Colette Burn and Patrice McAvoy.



# Senior championship excitement continues **SUMMER CAMPS**

**B**y the time we go to print Milford and Cloughdun will have contested the semi final of the Mercury Restaurant and Lounge Senior Camogie Championship semi final last evening in Rathcormac. On Wednesday last Milford recorded a victory over Barryroe and in the process set up last night's mouth watering clash with Cloughdun who qualified for the semi final defeating Aghbullogue on Thursday. The back door system in its first year has worked well and we have had some thrilling games but none more so than the first game in round one where Milford and Cloughdun played out a thrilling contest which went to a reply and then extra time before Milford eventually won through.

In last Wednesday's all Mid Cork clash with Aghbullogue Cloughdun never looked troubled, Lynn Dunlea has returned to camogie following a four year absence and with every outing she looking sharper while her experience is invaluable confidence.

Milford dealt efficiently with the challenge posed by Barryroe last Thursday to book their semi final spot. Without doubt they have been one of the counties most successful under age clubs taking titles from under 12 to senior B and just one title has eluded them the senior county championship. Last year they lost by just one goal in a thrilling final to Carrigdhoun many feel this is going to be there year but no doubt Inniscarra and divisional side Carbery will have other ideas about this, they meet on Saturday in Carrigdhoun at 4pm to decide the second semi final.

Inniscarra have qualified via the winner's route defeating Fr O Neills and Courcy Rovers to reach the semi final. A goal four minutes into added time from Criona Harte helping them through just when it looked as if Courcy Rovers had done enough to advance. In that game Inniscarra allowed Courcy's to dictate the opening quarter but regained their composure to lead at the interval by four points. On the resumption Courcy's gained the upper hand only for Inniscarra to produce a late burst to grab a place in the semi final. In the first round Fr O Neills were defeated by Inniscarra

who advance to a quarter final against Courcy's, they were inactive for three weeks awaiting the winners from the losers group and the break may have hampered Inniscarra a little. Ger Casey and Criona Harte were out of the country studying and their return against Courcy's was a welcome boost and they are a huge asset as Inniscarra seek out their first title. Two year ago they lost out to Fr O Neill in the final and they feel their time is about to come, Carbery provide the obstacle to those aspirations.

Without setting the world alight Carbery have put in solid displays, they went straight to the quarter final as UCC failed to field in round one against St. Finbarrs and the losers of this were to play Carbery therefore the divisional side simply progressed to a quarter final with Seandun. The result was decided in the closing stages in a game where Seandun held the upper hand for most of the contest only for Carbery to come with a late burst to make it through. Backboned mainly by players from the Newcestown club Colette Desmond has been their trump card grabbing vital scores. Clonkilly's Hazel O'Regan and Hannah Coughlan have also impressed as has former inter county player Mahony O'Mahony. Inniscarra will be favourites to make it to their second final in three years but they know a performance similar to the one given against Courcy's will not be good enough if they are to make it to the final.

In the Senior B championship the round robin series continued with Ballygarvan and St Catherine's recording victories to ensure semi final spots. Ballygarvan had a 3-6 to 0-4 victory over neighbours Ballinhassig. Ballinhassig made the winners work hard and at the interval only two points separated the side Caoimhe Dillon's opening goal the difference. Sinéad O'Callaghan and Catriona Collins had it level inside four minutes of the second half as both sides battling for supremacy Ballygarvan edged ahead with points from Caoimhe Dillon Catriona Kelly and Susan Lynch, but it was two late goals from Catriona Kelly and Sarah O

Donovan finally ensure victory.

St Catherine's proved too strong for Eire Og on a 2-12 to 1-5 score line, Lisa Higgins, Denise and Deirdre Twomey and Orla Cotter all prominent for St Catherine's while Eire Og's Margaret O'Herlihy showed she is a name to watch out for in future years.

The meeting of Valley Rovers and St Catherine's tomorrow Friday at Glen Rovers at 7.30pm will decide first and second place in the group as both teams have qualified for the semi final.

In the Junior A championship a second victory for Killeagh over Ballyhea on a 2-12 to 2-3 score line this victory ensuring them of a place in the semi final, in the Junior B championship Buttervant advance to the semi final after their 1-13 to 0-8 win over Delaney's, while Blackrock had a 3-7 to 1-2 win over Kildorrey and then advanced to the semi final with a superb 1-15 to 1-3 victory over Youghal. In an exciting quarter final played in Tracton the home side edged out Clonakilty with two points to spare 2-4 to 2-2.

## Under age activities resume

**U**NDER age activities continue to gain momentum as the youngsters return from holidays, Passage advance to the semi final of the under 16 C league with a 5-2 to 3-3 win over St Catherine's, while in a play off game in the under 16 C league Ballincollig proved to strong for Brian Dillon's.

Saturday next is another busy day for the juvenile board who have three games on the agenda in Ballinlough, at 11am Under 14 C league semi final Killeagh v Newtownshandrum at 12.30 it's the under 14 A league semi final Douglas v Inniscarra and at 2pm the under 14 C league semi final Kildorrey v Passage.

**SUMMER CAMPS** are all the rage at the moment and on Saturday last the 96/103 FM

G.A.A. camp was held at Glen Rovers. The girls and boys who were lucky enough to win a place at the camp were treated to a superb day under the guiding eye of Cork hurling manager John Allen, Sean Og, Donal Og Cusack, Kieran Murphy (Sars) and John Gardiner and young coaches from the various clubs who were along to lend a hand on the day. Certainly the rain failed to spoil what was a truly memorable occasion for everyone, well done to the organisers for coming up with such a splendid idea and to the coaches who provided the participants with a very enjoyable day.

Out in Toghra the St Finbarrs summer camp for girls and boys is up and running this week and will continue next week again, beginning every morning at 10am where you can register on the morning or in advance. Glen Rovers are holding their camp starting on Tuesday, August 22 registrations for girls and boys at the club on Friday 17th or Monday 21st from 7pm onwards.

The county down to the Foras Na Gaeilge All-Ireland semi finals on Sat 20th August begins next week. Both games will be played in Nolan Park Kilkenny with Cork taking on Limerick at 2pm followed by Tipperary and Wexford at 3.30pm, clubs are urged to get organised and take a group along and support the girls.

# Denise 'pocs' fair and fada for victory

Kilmaley camogie star takes ladies' poc fada crown in Cooley Mountains.

by GERRY MCINERNEY

**DAVY** Fitzgerald conquered the rough terrain of Annaverna Mountain in the Cooley peninsula in 1999 to become the first Clare man to lift the All-Ireland Poc Fada crown.

But not content with the singles title, Fitz teamed up with Dunloy and Antrim hurler, Seamus 'Mushy' McMul-lan to win the doubles title and complete a collection of awards any hurler would be proud to possess.

Six years later it was the turn of Kilmaley camogie player Denise Lynch to blaze a trail. The Clare inter-county star became the first lassie from the Banner County to win the individual title, going one better on last year's second placing.

The ladies' course was over a shorter distance and Denise covered the stretch in 30 pocs.

Large crowds turned out as bonfires and champagne saluted her success. Denise is an established member of the county junior panel and of the successful Kilmaley senior team and her ability with long distance frees is a feature of her game. Her successful conversion of frees from 45 to 65 meters is close on 90% and in 2005 alone she has scored nine points in Clare's run to the All-Ireland semi final. However, Denise didn't have the limelight to herself.

Fitz may have finished fourth in the individual contest, three pocs behind previous winner Albert Shanahan from the South Liberties club in Limerick, but Clare's big hitter teamed up with Damien Fitzhenry to win the Comortas Beirte title in a combined tally of 119 pocs.

Second three pocs behind were Liam Shinnors (Tipperary) and Keith Carr (Antrim).

It was Davy's third time winning the doubles title having been successful in 1997 and again in 2002 when his successful partner was another goalie, Ballygalget hurler, Graham Clark of Down.

Poc Fada Craobh na hÉireann was sponsored once again by Cooraclare native, Martin Donnelly.

In fact, the Poc Fada began in 1961, ceased in 1969 and was revived in 1981. It continues to grow from strength to strength and is organised by a devoted and hard working committee, ably assisted by both the Louth and Armagh County Boards.

The course, over the spiritual home of the event on the Cooley Mountains, is five kilometres in length and the winner is the person to cover the course in the least number of pocs.

All-Ireland gold, silver and bronze medals are presented to the winners including The Corn Cuailnge to the outright winner.

**RIGHT: Denise Lynch who won the ladies' poc fada title at the weekend.**





# O'Leary is delighted as Inniscarra storm back

## What they said

Fergal O'Leary  
(Inniscarra selector)

THE relief and joy was etched on the face of Inniscarra selector Fergal O'Leary after witnessing his side come back from the dead to advance to the Mercury Restaurant and Lounge Senior A Championship final.

He thought his side were dealt a serious blow before half-time when Carbery scored the goal, but he credited the battling qualities of his players to turn it around.

"We were in serious trouble when Carbery scored the goal, which put us three points down going in at half-time. Turning over we were also missing Rena Buckley, who was badly injured. She is an excellent player and she came on with 10 minutes to go and we changed it around. The forwards picked it up basically but the players are a credit to the club and the selectors."

With 15 minutes remaining, Inniscarra began racing at the Carbery defence and they forced the concession of a lot of frees. Those frees, according to O'Leary were vital to resurrecting their challenge.

"We missed a lot of frees at the start of the second half and we ran at them. By running at them they fouled and it created the scores we need so desperately at the time."

Looking ahead to the final, O'Leary says his side have been riding their luck throughout the championship and will need a huge performance to overcome Cloughduv.

"Luck is with us but it might not be with us for much longer. Cloughduv are next and they are an excellent team and they are going to be hard to beat especially with Lynn and Stephanie Dunlea, who are nice hurlers."

Aidan O'Sullivan  
(Carbery selector)

A disappointed Carbery selector Aidan O'Sullivan summed up the mood in their dressing room after the game.

"Our players didn't perform today. They should have done better than that."

"We threw away the game in the last ten minutes and dropped the heads."

O'Sullivan felt it was a game Carbery lost rather than Inniscarra won.

"Oh definitely, we were the better team and we had better hurlers all over the pitch but it just fell apart with 10 minutes to go."

Inniscarra asked huge questions of the Carbery defence as they ran at them but with the game heading towards its finale.

He also felt the side's performance wasn't down to lack of preparation, which many divisions suffer from when players struggle to fully commit.

"We trained hard all year. We played several challenge matches, trained twice a week for the last month but you can't cope with leaving in two late goals in the second half."



Carbery's Colette Desmond races away from Inniscarra's Sinead Ni Riain during the Senior A Camogie semi-final at Carrigadrohid Picture: Richard Mills.

# Inniscarra's battle back for final spot

Inniscarra 3-13  
Carbery 3-8

PJ  
Aherne

INNISCARRA now seem destined to land the Mercury Restaurant and Lounge Senior A Championship as they continued to ride their luck after a win over Carbery in a thrilling semi-final in Carrigadrohid on Saturday.

Just as they did against Courcey Rovers in the last round, Inniscarra left it late to snatch victory and they did so courtesy of two smash-and-grab goals.

The introduction of Rena Buckley was crucial to Inniscarra and despite being injured she offered a new dimension to her side's game. She also brought the inspiration Inniscarra needed to kick-start their final push for the line.

It was a game Carbery lost rather than Inniscarra won as time and again when they were in a strong position they stuttered to a halt and were caught ball-watching.

Carbery began brightly and raced into a five-point lead after six minutes thanks to Colette Desmond, who scored two points and a goal.

Inniscarra hurled their way back into the contention and took nine minutes to hit the front with Treasa McCarthy netting and Niamh Dilworth and Sinead Ni Riain raising white flags (1-3 to 1-2).

The sides exchanged points before Orla Coughlan and Colette Desmond combined to set up Alison Houlihan, who was in acres of space, to score a wonderful goal.

Again Inniscarra were undeterred by the goal and drew level with three points, one of which was a superb solo point created by the swashbuckling style of Geraldine Casey.

Carbery struck again in first-half injury-time, when Evelyn Crowley's attempt for a point dipped and floated into the top corner of the net

to leave the division ahead by three points (3-4 to 1-7).

In the second half Desmond and Dilworth exchanged points before the Mid-Cork side lost further ground. Carbery were in total control for the first 15 minutes of the second half but despite their dominance, could only score four points.

Carbery had established a six-point lead but they would not trouble the Inniscarra goal for the remainder of the game.

Inniscarra dragged themselves back into the game and the Carbery defence parted like the red sea as Fiona O'Driscoll ran through but Marguerite Moloney denied her attempt on goal.

Throughout the game, Carbery's Hilda O'Mahony played a major role at half-back and her influence was crucial. Every time Inniscarra's forwards ran at the Carbery back-line, they were fouled and it presented Dilworth with chances to eat away at the lead.

With the aid of Rena Buckley and Dilworth's accurate free-taking, Inniscarra reduced the deficit to two points.

With two minutes remaining,

Cliona Harte floated a high ball into the box, which the keeper failed to hold on to, and Dilworth flicked the ball to the net.

The win was sealed in injury time when once again Harte supplied a tasty ball into the area, which Irene O'Keefe finished to the net.

Inniscarra booked their place in the final with Cloughduv and will be desperate to erase the memory of losing in the final to Fr O'Neill's in 2003.

Scorers for Inniscarra: N Dilworth 1-8 (0-4 frees, 0-2 45s), C Harte 1-2, E Hayes 1-1, G Casey 0-1, S Ni Riain 0-1.

Carbery: C Desmond 1-7 (0-3 frees), A Houlihan 1-0, E Crowley 1-0, C Long 0-1.

INNISCARRA: O Murphy, R McCarthy, E Dineen, M Buckley, T Murphy, M O'Connell, K Ryan, M N O'Sullivan, N Dilworth, G Casey, S Ni Riain, T McCarthy, F O'Connell, Elizabeth Hayes, Cliona Harte. Subs: R Buckley for S Ni Riain, M McCarthy for R McCarthy, J O'Keefe for E Hayes.

CARBERRY: L O'Sullivan, F Crowley, A Coughlan, A Coughlan, C O'Mahony, H O'Mahony, S Whelton, H O'Regan, C Long, E Healy, Evelyn Crowley, O Coughlan, A Houlihan, M Moloney, C Desmond. Subs: A Deasy for E Healy, J Brennan for S Whelton, S Deasy for C O'Mahony.

Referee: C Egan (Glen Rovers)

# Inniscarra's last-gasp goal brace sets up an all mid-Cork

Inniscarra 3-13  
Carbery 3-8

A STRONG finish which yielded two goals in the dying minutes helped Inniscarra book a place in the Mercury Restaurant and Lounge Cork Senior Camogie Championship final.

Carbery dominated the opening half and led 3-4 to 1-7 at the break, Inniscarra having clawed their way back from a disastrous opening six minutes which saw Colette Desmond strike 1-2 without reply for Carbery.

By the midway stage Alison Houlihan had struck for Carbery's second goal, but good play from Ger Casey, Niamh Dilworth and Sinead Riain helped keep Inniscarra in touch before Evelyn Crowley's long-range effort

floated all the way to the Inniscarra net.

On the resumption Carbery maintained their momentum and by the midway stage they had extended their advantage to six points.

Colette Desmond and Colleen Long were on target and in between Niamh Dilworth pointed for Inniscarra.

Inniscarra enjoyed their best spell in

the closing 10 minutes, Niamh Dilworth showing her accuracy from placed balls on three occasions, while Cliona Harte put two between the sides with her 55th-minute effort from play.

Three minutes later Dilworth was quickest to react, flicking to the net after Lisa O'Sullivan had failed to hold Harte's long-range effort.

With full-time approaching Dilworth pointed a free before Irene O'Keefe killed off Carbery's challenge with a late goal that sets up an all mid-Cork final against Cloughduv.

Scorers for Inniscarra: N Dilworth 1-8 (0-2 frees, 0-1 45), T McCarthy, I O'Keefe 1-0 each, C Harte 0-2, S Riain, G Casey, E Hayes 0-1 each.

Carbery: C Desmond 1-7 (0-3 frees), A Houlihan, E Crowley 1-0 each, C Long 0-1.

INNISCARRA: O Murphy, R McCarthy, E Dineen, M Buckley, T Murphy, M O'Connell, K Ryan, M N O'Sullivan, N Dilworth, G Casey, S Ni Riain, T McCarthy, F O'Connell, Elizabeth Hayes, Cliona Harte. Subs: R Buckley for S Ni Riain, M McCarthy for R McCarthy, J O'Keefe for E Hayes.

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CARBERRY: L O'Sullivan, F Crowley, A Coughlan, A Coughlan, C O'Mahony, H O'Mahony, S Whelton, H O'Regan, C Long, E Healy, Evelyn Crowley, O Coughlan, A Houlihan, M Moloney, C Desmond. Subs: A Deasy for E Healy, J Brennan for S Whelton, S Deasy for C O'Mahony.

Referee: C Egan (Glen Rovers)



AUG 2005

# Limerick out to upset form book in senior championship

NOWLAN PARK hosts the All Munster meeting between Cork and Limerick on Saturday at 2.15pm in the Foras Na Gaeilge All Ireland senior championship semi final. Champions Tipperary meet Wexford in the third match at the venue while Dublin and Limerick minor hurlers get proceedings under way at 12.30 in the All Ireland minor hurling semi final.

The meeting of Cork and Limerick is somewhat unusual at this stage of the competition but Limerick are there on merit, having come through their group in second place, with Tipperary topping the group. Limerick recorded a 3-5 to 1-8 win over Kilkenny to secure the place having received a walk over from Antrim and losing out to Tipperary.

While they have been out of the limelight in recent years at senior grade, they will see this as a huge stepping stone.

Based on tradition alone, Cork will go in favourites to book a place in September 10 All Ireland final but Limerick will be determined to upset the form books.

Club camogie: the county has been hugely successful, with Granagh Ballingarry annexing All Ireland club championships titles and they are the current Munster club title holders, losing out in the All Ireland final to St Lachteens, Kilkenny.

They are coached by a man who will need little introduction to hurling followers — Ger Hegarty played a prominent role in the Old Christians club and was centre back on the Limerick team that contested the All Ireland hurling final of 1994. He is

joined by fellow selectors Kay Cahill, Joe Hannon and former inter county player Pauline McCarthy.

A lot of work has gone in at under age level in the county and they are hoping to build on the success of their minor teams who took two B All Ireland titles.

They are strengthened by the inclusion of former Galway star Orla Curtin, who this season transferred her club allegiances to Killybegs.

Captained by Vera Sheehan, who needs no introduction, they also have strong players in Mairead Kelly, Eileen O'Brien, Rose Collins, Deirdre Fitzpatrick and centre back Michelle Casey, who is having a terrific season.

The sides met earlier in the season in the Munster championship where Cork recorded a comprehensive victory. However, on the night both were short many of their regulars and this result should have no bearing on what to expect on Saturday.

Two years ago Limerick went into the semi final with huge expectations only to be ripped apart by Tipperary. This time out they are ready for the task in hand and feel they are in with a chance as PRO Noel O'Connor explained: "We have prepared well and Ger has the team well focused. The victory over Kilkenny was a huge boost to us and a stepping stone in what we hope will be great days for Limerick camogie. We are determined to do well and will give it our all to secure a place in the final."

Cork are equally determined and very focused, having lost out in the league final to Wexford. They have



Cork forward Jennifer O'Leary, who lines out against Limerick on Saturday next.

come through a tough section that included league champions Wexford and Galway.

Holding their composure they rallied to come from behind to defeat Galway in what was a vital first round game. Against Wexford, Cork were very focused and certainly Wexford had no answer on the day as Cork recorded a good victory to book their semi final place.

The side is captained by Elaine Burke and the selectors will be hoping to get a clean bill of health after the weekend's senior championship semi finals.

Already having recorded a victory over Limerick, Cork will be cautious of the backlash and they know it will be a different story this time out.

The Cork management team of John Cronin, Fiona O'Driscoll, Lillian Zinkant and Ollie Hallihan have, despite losing the league final to Galway, bounced back to record vital championships victories which raised the morale in the camp.

The switching of Stephanie Dunlea to the Cork attack has worked well and certainly as the county championship has progressed she has performed superbly with her club Cloughduv. This can only augur well for the county side as her presence there brings a wealth of experience and strength to a sector where Cork had been sadly lacking somebody to take on the responsibilities.

With Dunlea now assuming this role those around her can only gain in confidence. While we wait a final team selection, major changes are not expected. Joanne O'Callaghan has been an injury worry but she came through in Wednesday night's semi final, while captain Elaine Burke, Vivienne Harris, Rachel Moloney and Rena Buckley all have huge roles to play.

Galway, having promised so much at the start of the season under the guidance of Sharon Glynn, were defeated in the last match in their group by Wexford and therefore it's last year's defeated semi finalists who have set up a repeat of last year's game when they once again face champions Tipperary. Last year only the width of the cross bar denied Wexford a place in the final. This year, we expect them to have got that right. They are young determined side and they will once again test Tipperary to the limits.

## McCluskey points way for Dubs

Maire Uí Scolai

THE dazzling Dubs are back in Croke Park on September 18 for the first time in 22 years following their 1-15 to 0-7 All-Ireland junior championship semi-final victory over Armagh in Parnell Park yesterday.

Starved of success over the years the young Dubs were two points up within four minutes thanks to points from top-scorer Gillian McCluskey and captain Emer Brannigan.

Dublin then shot their second wide before Armagh sent over their opening point of the day a '45' from Colette McSorley in the 11th minute.

While the Dubs were ahead 1-6 to 0-3 at the break the margin could have been far greater as Dublin missed two goal opportunities midway, hitting the side-netting on both occasions.

However, their perseverance was rewarded with five minutes to go to the break when Ciara Durkan smashed home the only goal of the day. Two further McCluskey points gave the Dubs a nice cushion at the break.

Armagh were desperate for a goal but when Dubs' keeper Eimear Butler denied Colette McKeever midway through the second half.

Dublin will face Clare in the final after they overcame Galway 4-12 to 2-8 in the other semi-final on Saturday in Cusack Park, Ennis.

Clare were ahead 1-6 to 0-5 at the break. The Banner goal coming from top-scorer Claire Commene three minutes into injury-time.

**SCORERS — Dublin:** G McCluskey 0-6, C Durkan 1-1, N Taylor 0-3 (2f), E Lucey 0-2, L O'Hara, E Brannigan, J Donnelly 0-1 each. **Armagh:** C McKeever (2f), B Murray, C McSorley (1 '45) 0-2 each, P McAvoy 0-1.

**DUBLIN —** E Butler, S Hanks, A McCluskey, E Ryan, A Fitzpatrick, S Cunnane, C Power, C Lucey, A Fanning, E Brannigan, G McCluskey, L O'Hara, J Donnelly, N Taylor, C Durkan. **Subs:** E Lucey for Durkan (41 mins), S Martin for Ryan.

**ARMAGH —** B Keenan, M Larkin, E Carragher, E Farrell, O McGowan, B McElride, M Murray, C McSorley, L Gribben, B Murray, P McAvoy, C Curry, M Black, C McKeever, C Hayes. **Subs:** S McFarland for Hayes (41), J Mallon for Curry (41 mins).

**REF —** P Downey (Cork).

**SCORERS — Clare:** C Commene 2-5 (0-2f), C O'Loughlin 2-1, L Linnane 0-3, D Murphy 0-2, E Gaffney 0-1. **Galway:** M Dunne 2-3, S Devlin, Y Donnelly, C Cormican, P Hayes, L Gohery 0-1 each. **CLARE —** R Lyndt, J Scanlan, D Corcoran, C McMahon, M Whelan, C Halley, E Keating, M McMahon, D Murphy, L Linnane, A O'Brien, M O'Halloran, C McMahon, F Lafferty, C Commene. **Subs:** D Lynch for Lafferty, E Gaffney for O'Brien, C O'Loughlin for O'Halloran, D Lafferty for Whelan, M O'Looney for O'Loughlin.

**GALWAY —** R Callanan, C Gil, E Burke, A Kilkenny, E Tannion, P Hayes, T Mansor, P Kenny, C Glynn, M Dunne, C Hardman, C Cormican, Y Donnelly, S Devlin, N Kilkenny.

**REF —** J Pender (Kildare).

## Girls aim to join hurlers

ALL the focus will be firmly fixed on Nowlan Park on Saturday as the camogie players aim to join the hurlers in Croke Park as Cork and Limerick meet in the Foras Na Gaeilge All-Ireland Senior championship semi final at 2.15pm.

Champions Tipperary and Wexford clash at 4pm, while Dublin and Limerick minor hurlers get proceedings under way at 12.30 in the All Ireland minor hurling semi final on an action packed afternoon.

Many Limerick are surprise contenders to supporters but they are there on merit coming through their group in second place with Tipperary coming out on top. They defeated Kilkenny in their opening game having received a walk over from Antrim but they did lose out heavily to Tipperary. They have been out of the limelight in recent years at senior grade but they see this as a huge stepping stone but it will be Cork who will go in as favourites to advance to the final on September 11th.

In the National league series Limerick failed to make it to the concluding stages but on Saturday they are not going into make up the numbers and are determined to book a Croke Park final place.

They are coached by former inter county hurler Ger Hegarty from the Old Christians club. Ger was centre back on the Limerick team that contested the All-Ireland hurling final of 1994 and is a great motivator, he is joined by fellow selectors Kay Cahill, Joe Hannon and former inter county player Pauline McCarthy.

The All-Ireland minor B title has come to Limerick twice in recent years and they are determined to build on this success. They are strengthened by the inclusion of former Galway star Orla Curtin who this season transferred her club allegiances to Killybegs and she is a huge acquisition to the county. Vera Sheehan from Granagh Ballingarry captains the side while Mairead Kelly, Eileen O'Brien, Rose Collins, Deirdre Fitzpatrick and centre back Michelle Casey will all play promi-

nent roles. Earlier in the season Cork were victorious when the teams met in the Munster championship however on the night both were short many of their regulars and this result should have no bearing on what to expect on Saturday. Two years ago Limerick went into the semi final only to lose out to Tipperary but this time out they are ready and more focused.

Cork will be equally determined to make it through and get another bash at the champions. In their section games they held their composure to come from behind to defeat Galway in what was a vital game, against Wexford Cork were very focused and recorded a good victory to book their semi final place.

The side is captained by Elaine Burke and the Cork management team of John Cronin, Fiona O'Driscoll, Lillian Zinkant and Ollie Hallihan have despite losing the league final to Galway bounced back to record vital championships victories. The switching of Stephanie Dunlea to the Cork attack has worked well and certainly through the county championship she has performed superbly with her club Cloughduv and this can augurs well for the county side as her presence in attack brings a wealth of experience and strength to a sector where Cork needed leadership. Joanne O'Callaghan has been an injury worry and while she came through last Wednesday night's county semi final the selectors may not take the chance. Captain Elaine Burke, Vivienne Harris, Brieger Corkery, Amanda O'Regan Rachel Moloney and Rena Buckley will all have huge roles to play if Cork are to become the second team from the county to book a place in Croke Park.

Last year only the width of the cross bar denied Wexford a place in the final, this year expect them to have got that right, they are young determined side and they will once again test Tipperary to the limits don't be surprised to see them do just that on Saturday.

## Cloughduv and Inniscarra set up all Mid Cork final

IN their third meet this year Cloughduv and Milford once again had supporters on the edge of their seats before the Mid Cork side came from behind with a storming finish with points from Stephanie Dunlea and Una O'Donoghue and a Lynn Dunlea goal to book their place in the Mercury Restaurant and Lounge Senior County final.

It was a game where little separated the sides but the performance of Brieger Corkery Lynn and Stephanie Dunlea was crucial to Cloughduv advancement. Corkery cleared time out of number while the moving of Stephanie Dunlea back to defence for the closing stages helped in no small way. Milford had numerous chances but their insistency in running at the Cloughduv defence in search of goals instead of taking their points proved crucial in the end while they did were also guilty of shooting seven scoreable chances wide.

Inniscarra came from behind with two late goals from Niamh Dilworth and Substitute Irene O'Keefe to book their place in final against Cloughduv. Through most of the game Carbery held the upper hand but the introduction of the injured Rena Buckley proved vital Inniscarra as she helped steady her side and they in turn grew in confidence. Carbery can have few complaints as in the end the fitter more determined Inniscarra advanced.

### UNDER AGE UPDATE

IT was another busy day last Saturday in Ballinlough as Feile champions Douglas advanced to the final of the under 14 A league with a victory over Inniscarra. In the under 14 C league semi finals Passage set up a final meeting with Killeagh as they defeated Kildorrey in a close game on a 1-1 to 0-1 score line.

All Ireland Feile na Gael section C champions Killeagh were much to strong for Newtownshandrum as they advanced comfortably to the decider. Well done again to all for a great day's camogie and to the clubs who no matter where or when make a huge effort to ensure the big winner is camogie.

With Mary Newman



Cork full back Ruarie Holland who lines out against Limerick on Saturday next in the All-Ireland semi-final.

## CHAMPIONSHIPS PROGRESS

ST. Catherine defeated Valley Rovers to top their group in the Mercury Restaurant and lounge senior B championship, while Bishopstown and Glen Rovers meet on Tuesday evening next at 7.15pm in a game that will decide the second section. St Catherine's are already through and if Bishopstown are victorious they will advance, a win for Glen would force a three way play off and see Ballinhassig back in contention with Glen and Bishopstown.

In the Junior B championship Ballincollig booked their place in the semi-final with a point to spare over Na Piarasigh.



AUG 2005

# Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael

Cluichí Leath-Cheannais na hÉireann sa Chamógaíocht  
faoi urraíocht ag Foras na Gaeilge

Foras na Gaeilge

Senior All-Ireland Camogie Championship Semi-Finals



2.00pm Corcaigh v Luimneach •  
Nowlan Park •

3.40pm Tiobraid Árann v Loch Garman  
Cill Chainnigh • 20/08/2005



Aug 2005



**Linda Mellerick**

WHEN Cork take to the field on Saturday afternoon in Nowlan Park, Kilkenny to face Limerick in this year's All-Ireland senior camogie semi-final, similarities to last Sunday's All-Ireland hurling semi in Croke Park must be to the forefront of the players' minds.

Two Munster teams contesting an All-Ireland championship game, one team hot favourites, the other with mixed displays throughout the season.

It spells one word — danger! Captain of Cork, Valley Rovers' Elaine Burke is well aware of how sour the situation could turn if her team do not approach Saturday's encounter with the right mentality.

"We played Limerick in the Munster championship and beat them, but everybody knows that when it comes to the All-Ireland championship, any previous meetings go out the window."

"They have some of the most gifted players in the country, the likes of Vera Sheehan and Eileen O'Brien. Under Ger Hegarty, they will be very well prepared," she warned.

Cork's training schedule has been severely hampered this past month due to a hectic senior county championship campaign which introduced a 'back door' system for the first time and now sees far more games than ever before. Elaine, while agreeing with the new system, is adamant that something must be done with fixture dates.

"With the running off of so many club games, our preparations haven't been ideal."

"We realise that change to the club championship was needed which would give clubs more games, but it seems as though it is expected that three or four times as many games can be run off in the same period of time as last year's championship. It doesn't make sense."

"I would like to see the club championship started in April and maybe get a couple of rounds played. When the hurlers and footballers are involved in the championship, everything is put on hold."

"The very least we should get is two clear weeks before a championship game. This year we have just about a week when the full panel is available."

"This isn't good enough when you consider that the week of a game you are winding down."

But for now the situation is as it is and the Cork squad just have to make the most of it.

Former Cork Star Fiona O'Driscoll took over the coaching of the side this year and has made an immediate impact. A physical education teacher, she numerous coaching courses behind her and having only recently retired from the game she brings a lot to the table.

Elaine is impressed: "Being a past player and having hurled with a lot of us before I suppose it wasn't easy for her coming in and taking charge but she is doing a great job."

"She knows exactly how a player is feeling coming into a game. Her training is varied and keeps all of us interested."

All-Ireland champions in 2002, Cork lost finals in 2003 and 2004. The chance to make amends for the heartbreak and the motivation must be extremely high in the camp?

"You would have to be motivated after losing these past two years. At the moment our only goal is to make it to the final and our performance on Saturday will determine that."

Cork haven't set the world on fire with their performances this year and have been duly criticised.

Their performance against Wexford in their



Stephanie Dunlea has done exceptionally well in her new position in the full-forward line for Cork.

# Burke wary of Shannonsiders

final group game was very encouraging, however, and may suggest they are hitting form at the right time.

"I suppose some of the criticism was deserved but we never go out to play badly. I think we showed great determination in coming back to defeat Galway and our determination to build on that showed on the day against Wexford," the Cork captain stated.

Full-forward Stephanie Dunlea has been faced with a commanding challenge this year. Playing at senior status with the Rebel County since 1993 in the back line and a holder of five All-Ireland medals, the mentors switched her to full-forward midway through the league campaign.

Realising that they needed some physical power up front, the Cork backroom team made a bold bid and it is paying dividends.

Scoring goals in almost every game, Stephanie's all-round ability makes her a constant threat in front of goal.

"The team's focus at the beginning of the

year was to reach another All-Ireland final," said Stephanie.

The mentors have experimented a lot trying to find the right blend, hence my move to the forward line. What I have learned is to take every game as it comes, every ball and to focus on the task at hand," she added.

Like her captain Stephanie does not even want to talk about the All-Ireland final. They are not there yet but she admits that the All-Ireland feel is there.

"The spirit is good in the camp. It's always nice training for a semi-final or a final. People get more focused. At the start of the year, it is a long road but as the fitness improves and people are getting sharper, the anticipation increases that it could be our year."

Referring to the fact that Cork are hot favourites going into Saturday's game, Stephanie says that there is little they can do about that but the game still has to be played and won.

"We played Limerick in the league but they didn't seem to have much work done at that

stage. They were in the All-Ireland semi-final against Tipp last year and really put it up to them."

We will concentrate on our own performance and how to maximise that. Obviously, we don't like going in as such hot favourites but we just have to put that behind us and concentrate on the task ahead," she said.

Cloughduv have reached the county final after a demanding five championship games.

A key member of the team, Stephanie reiterates Elaine's concerns about the timing of the games.

"Club preparations are preventing us from training with a full Cork squad. We have had club fixtures regularly for the last month, but that's behind us now, we just have to get together this week and focus on Saturday."

"Every year the hunger is there. Every year when you do not finish with a title the hunger increases. The want and need to win increases. The longer you are around the sport you realise that this might be your last shot at it."



AUG 2005



# ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP SEMI-FINAL

WEXFORD V TIPPERARY • NOWLAN PARK • SATURDAY @ 4.00 P.M.



## Kate confident as Wexford face up to huge challenge

Ronan Fagan

THESE ARE hectic times for Kate Kelly, and indeed several of her inter-county colleagues. Tonight (Wednesday) she will be in action with Shelmaliers in the ladies' county senior football championship final against holders Clonoe, before trying to recharge her competitive batteries in time for next Saturday's battle with standard-bearers Tipperary in the All-Ireland senior camogie semi-finals. A week later, it will be duty with the ladies' county junior footballers, in the national quarter-finals against Leitrim, the winners of which will be out in the last-four the following weekend.

That is without mentioning the fact that St. Ibar's will be involved in the county senior camogie championship semi-finals too. Such is a demanding schedule for anyone, particularly in terms of physical recuperation. Kate shares this sort of burden with such Shelmaliers/St. Ibar's team-mates as her younger sister Mag, and Michelle Hearne, together with Clonoe aces Caroline Murphy and Josie Dwyer, among others.

Kate wouldn't mind if the schedule was a little more flexible. But, she's enjoying it nevertheless. "It's great," confirms the current camogie All-Star, and leading All-Ireland footballer. "There's really no point in saying, 'It is a pity the way all the fixtures have fallen', we just have to get on with it, and ensure to have our minds right for each challenge: it all comes down to having the right mental attitude, a determination to play each game to the best of your abilities. It (the schedule) is not the most ideal situation. But (after tonight's county football championship decider), we will have 48 hours to recover in time for Saturday's camogie match, and for any athlete, 48 hours should be sufficient time to recover."

Powers-of-recovery are something which Kate and her fellow dual stars have recently proven they have in abundance. After the Wexford senior camogie team were crushed by Cork in the first of the All-Ireland qualifying games in early July, the purple-and-gold's chances of claiming victory away to Galway in a subsequent win-or-bust fixture were written-off by most observers. However, against one of the best organised sides this year, who were just fresh from having captured the National League first division crown, Kelly and company returned from the West victorious. A day later, she and her dual colleagues helped Wexford to the Leinster junior ladies' football title, at the expense of Dublin's second-string.

Returning to the camogie, where Kate, who was one of the few Wexford players to emerge with her reputation very much intact after the 2-16 to 2-7 drubbing at the hands of Cork, was



Kate Kelly on the offensive against Tipperary's Angie McDermott in last year's National League final. (Pic. Jim Campbell).

once again instrumental against Galway, when she, along with Ursula Jacob and Una Leacy, bagged goals inside the last 10 minutes to surprise the championship favourites by 3-6 to 0-7. As a result, Wexford face Tipperary in the last-four next Saturday, while original title-favourites Galway are left kicking their heels.

Kelly admits that the mood of the camogie dressing-room was as depressed as that of the Wexford supporters in the aftermath of the loss to Cork, a team Wexford ran so closely in the

National League semi-finals just two months earlier. "We honestly felt just like the supporters that day - disillusioned. But we knew we were much better than we had suggested in that performance. People had expected a lot more from us, especially after our results last year, and the year before."

Last year, under the charge of Aidan Breen, Aidan Moran and Kevin Murphy jnr., confidence was restored to Wexford camogie after several years of underachievement, as they pushed

playing Galway), that we are still a team to be reckoned with. There is a lot of heart in this team, which is a very positive thing."

Wexford will be rippling with a desire to try to make amends for last year's two near misses against Tipperary when battle between the two recommences in a few days time. But, Kate stresses: "Last year's result (in the All-Ireland semi-final) is far from any Wexford player's mind. This is a totally different year, a whole new ball game. We had our ups-and-downs in the

League. But we have the confidence in ourselves to put it up to Tipperary, and hopefully get one over them."

Still, she must wonder what might-have-been last year, had team-mate Evelyn Quigley's contact with a free from Kelly found the net instead of the woodwork. "That's true - it could so easily have been us in the final. But it wasn't to be." Leaving the past in the past is clearly something the 25-year-old is eager to do.

On that score, she refuses to read anything into Tipp's indifferent form in this year's League, where they lost to Kilkenny and Cork, while only managing to beat junior outfit Dublin as they relinquished their League title. "Tipp usually don't bother about the League, instead keeping themselves fresh for the championship. They plan towards the All-Ireland final in September, but not for games in February, March, April or May," she points out, before noting how Galway maybe peaked too early this year, having invested so much of their energies in winning the National League.

"Maybe Galway ran out of steam as a result, and they could not maintain the early-season momentum. But one thing which Tipperary perfected is to peak at exactly the right time of year - for the All-Ireland semi-final and final."

Kate, despite her crazy schedule, intends to be in peak shape too for Saturday's battle.



Kate Kelly, right, with fellow All-Stars and Wexford team-mates Aine Codd and captain Mary Leacy. (Pic. Sportsfile).



AUG 2005



# ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP SEMI-FINAL

WEXFORD V TIPPERARY • NOWLAN PARK • SATURDAY @ 4.00 P.M.



## Paddy is glad to have accepted the Tipp baton



**RONAN FAGAN**

THIS WEEK a year ago, Thurles-man Paddy McCormack was feeling low, as his long managerial involvement with the Tipperary minor hurlers drew to a conclusion with the All-Ireland championship semi-final loss to Galway. He had also invested his energies in the county's under-21 hurlers. With the end of his tenure as minor boss, he fully intended to take a break from the selectors' game.

Then Michael Cleary, the former Tipperary star, came knocking.

Between the late 1990s and 2002, Cleary had guided the Munster county to the very top in the camogie world, as he masterminded three All-Ireland senior championship title-successes on the trot, before they lost out to Cork in the 2002 final. He stepped down after that disappointment, before helping to recruit Raymie Ryan as his replacement.

Ryan went on to manage Tipperary to the last two All-Ireland senior titles, together with the National League Division 1 title last year. But Raymie moved on after last year's Centenary All-Ireland final win over Cork. Cleary then came to McCormack's doorstep. "Michael is involved with the Tipperary Supporters'



Wexford's Una Leacy (13) and Tipperary duo Suzanne Kelly and Una O'Dwyer (3) watch on as a late attempt by Evelyn Quigley strikes off the Tipperary crossbar in last year's All-Ireland semi-final at Nowlan Park. The counties meet in a repeat of that fixture at the Kilkenny venue next Saturday. (Pic. Jim Campbell).

Club, and he asked would I be interested in the camogie job," Paddy explains. "At the time, I was still quite eager to take a break from management. But, when the knock came to the door, it was hard to say, 'No'. I was just delighted to get the chance."

The challenge which Paddy faced was obvious. "Tipperary had been very successful over the past number of years, and I was coming in, attempting to try to keep that cycle of

success going. But that is what sport is all about - challenges." And he's enjoying this particular one.

Working with such a committed bunch makes it that bit easier for a man who helped guide his native county to three Munster minor hurling titles on the spin. "The camogie women are brilliant to work with, and they have been together for quite a while: even before their big senior breakthrough in 1999, they

were together at under-16 and under-18, before that also played junior and intermediate together, as Tipperary graduated through the ranks. They know each other so well, and are very committed."

"But, in that respect, they are no different to many other counties, with camogie having been brought to a new level in recent years; Wexford came back onto the scene big-time last year; Cork are always there or thereabouts; Kilkenny, who

were the major force for so long, are coming back again; Galway made a big burst this year, and were being talked about as the probable All-Ireland championship winners; and Dublin, who ran quite a few senior outfits, including overselves, so close in the National League, are looking well placed to win the junior All-Ireland championship, which would strengthen the list of contenders even further. Staying at the top in camogie is a struggle,

and our girls are very mindful of that."

Paddy wasn't too worried about Tipp's form last Spring, as they relinquished the National League Division 1 title, having beaten only Dublin (2-9 to 1-5) while losing to both Kilkenny (0-12 to 1-8) and Cork (1-13 to 0-5) in Division 1A. "The league results for both teams," he says, with an eye also on Wexford's form, "were a bit mixed."

The All-Ireland championship,

meanwhile, brought Tipp qualifying games away to Kilkenny and at home to Limerick. "We beat Kilkenny, but only by a few points (0-13 to 1-6). We were through to the semi-finals as a result of that, and with Limerick also having qualified, our game against them was pretty meaningless, so I wouldn't read too much into our win over them," he says, with regard to the 5-7 to 0-8 thrashing they dished out to the Shannonsiders, who now meet Cork in the curtain-raiser to next Saturday's All-Ireland senior championship semi-final double-header at Kilkenny's Nowlan Park, which brings Wexford and Tipp together at 4p.m.

He contends that Tipperary haven't faced a big test so far in 2005. "That will come next Saturday against Wexford," Paddy stresses however. "Our clash with Wexford last year was one of the games of the year, and Wexford were very unfortunate not to have maybe shaded the verdict, when we cleared a late attempt by them off the goal-line; Tipp just had that bit of good-luck on the day. But, Wexford are a year older now, and that bit more experienced, and we are facing a massive challenge."

The fact Wexford went to Galway a few weeks ago, and downed the championship-favourites, has impressed upon McCormack just how serious a test his women are now set for. "Wexford are a serious outfit, and they're rightly being treated as such. Their victory over Galway proves their performances last year were no flash-in-the-pan, and that they are again going to have a big say in this championship."

"For us, next Saturday is going to be tough. But we have been preparing very well, and we're really looking forward to it."

## Holohan sparks injury concern

Continued from Echosport Page 1

"Beating Galway was great. But," the Glynn-Barntown man stresses, "we have won absolutely nothing yet, and we'll need to apply ourselves against Tipperary exactly as we did against Galway, although we will need to capitalise on scoring opportunities much better - we missed quite a few early scores against Galway, and as a result we left it late before clinching victory."

"That was an excellent result. But, after such a fine performance, we cannot afford to go out next Saturday and fall flat on our faces. Our women proved just what they are capable of when going over to play a seriously tough Galway team and coming away with the right result."

He is happy with preparations. "Since the win over Galway, the club championship took one night away from us. But we trained

last Sunday week, as well as Tuesday, Thursday, last Saturday, and again last Sunday morning. We are winding things down now, with a session on Tuesday night of this week, and a meeting on Friday, when we will be announcing the team for Saturday's game."

Carley together with fellow selectors Peggy Kelly (St. Ibar's) and Stella Sinnott (Buffers Alley) have one major injury concern as they look to finalise plans, with Rathnure's Lennie Holohan having sustained a blow during the club championship. "The only real doubt at the moment would be Lennie, who has a rib injury. We don't know whether it is a muscular problem or a fracture. We have asked her to lay off training for a few days and see how it settles down."

"Michelle Hearne is alright," he adds, with regard to the leading full-forward, who sustained an ankle injury against Galway. "It is just a reoccurring problem, and Michelle will be okay, as will Mag Kelly (who was also nursing an ankle injury). A few of the girls

have picked up the bug which is going around. But we are expecting everybody to be fit and ready for Saturday's game, and we definitely won't be found wanting."

He greatly admires this Tipp team, having first taken note of them when former Tipperary hurling star Michael Cleary was in charge of them from the late 1990s through to 2002, when he helped the Premier County to their first-ever senior camogie championship successes, in 1999, 2000 and 2001. "I felt they were the best coached and skilled camogie team I had ever seen," Willie adds. "How good they are this year, I do not know, having not got a chance to see them so far."

"But, they are the reigning All-Ireland champions, and I am quite sure they will pose just as huge a threat as they have for the past several seasons. However, our girls are as good as anything that is out there, and we are absolutely determined to get to this year's final."



# Luimneach

Glas agus Bán



1  
**Sile Moynihan**  
Sile Ni Mhuineacháin  
Na Píarsaigh

2  
**Deirdre Fitzpatrick**  
Deirdre Nic Giolla Phádraig  
Kileedy

3  
**Rose Collins**  
Róis Ni Choileáin  
Milford

4  
**Carol Murphy**  
Carol Ni Mhurchú  
Croagh/Kilfinny

5  
**Mairead Kelly**  
Mairead Ni Cheallaigh  
Galbally

6  
**Michelle Casey**  
Michelle Ni Chasthasaigh  
Kileedy

7  
**Orla Curtin**  
Orlaith Nic Cuirtin  
Kileedy

8  
**Jordana Dolan**  
Jordana Ni Dhúláin  
Ballygran

9  
**Grace McNamara**  
Gráinne Nic Conmara  
Adare

10  
**Eileen O'Brien**  
Eibhlín Ni Bhriain  
Granagh/Ballingarry

11  
**Meadbh Nash**  
Meadbh de Nais  
Granagh/Ballingarry

12  
**Fiona Morrissey**  
Fiona Ni Mhuireasa  
Granagh/Ballingarry

13  
**Aoife Sheehan**  
Aoife Ni Shiocháin  
Granagh/Ballingarry

14  
**Marie Keating**  
Máire Chéitinn  
Kileedy

15  
**Vera Sheehan (Captain)**  
Vera Ni Shiocháin  
Granagh/Ballingarry

16 **Liz O'Carroll**  
Eilís Ni Chearúill Ballygran  
17 **Nora Collins**  
Nóra Ni Choileáin Milford  
18 **Aoife Kenny**  
Aoife Ni Chionnaigh  
Na Píarsaigh  
19 **Lisa Fitzgerald**  
Lisa Nic Gearailt Ballygran

20 **Pauline McCarthy**  
Póilín Ni Cheartaigh Ahone  
21 **Niamh Mulcahy**  
Niamh Ni Mhaolcathaigh Ahone  
22 **Aine O'Reilly**  
Aine Ni Rhaghallaigh Ballygran  
23 **Sharon O'Shaughnessy**  
Sharon Ni Sheachnasaigh  
Ballygran

**BAINISTEOIR:**  
Ger Hegarty  
Gearard  
Ó hÉigearthaigh  
**ROGHNOIRÍ:**  
Kay Cahill-Lee  
Gairlín Nic Cathail  
Uí Laoi  
Joe Hannon  
Seosamh Ó hAnnáin

# Corcaigh

Dearg agus Bán



1  
**Aoife Murray**  
Aoife Ni Mhuiri  
Cloughduv

2  
**Rena Buckley**  
Riona Ni Bhuachalla  
Inniscarra

3  
**Rosarie Holland**  
Róis Ni Uallacháin  
Barryroe

4  
**Amanda O'Regan**  
Amanda Ni Riagáin  
Douglas

5  
**Briege Corkery**  
Brid Ni Chorca  
Cloughduv

6  
**Mary O'Connor**  
Máire Ni Conchúir  
Killeagh

7  
**Anna Geary**  
Áine Ni Ghadhra  
Milford

8  
**Vivienne Harris**  
Beibhíonn Ni Earchaí  
St Finbarrs

9  
**Rachel Moloney**  
Rachel Ni Mhaolomhnaigh  
Courcy Rovers

10  
**Angela Walsh**  
Aingéal Bhreathnach  
Killeagh

11  
**Gemma O'Connor**  
Gemma Ni Chonchúir  
St Finbarrs

12  
**Jennifer O'Leary**  
Sinéad Ni Laoire  
Barryroe

13  
**Emer Dillon**  
Eimear Dhiollún  
Ballygarvan

14  
**Stephanie Dunlea**  
Stiofáinín Ni Dhoinnlé  
Cloughduv

15  
**Elaine Burke (Captain)**  
Léan de Burca  
Valley Rovers

16 **Denise Twomey**  
Denise Ni Thuama St Catherine's  
17 **Lynda O'Connell**  
Linda Ni Chonaill St Finbarrs  
18 **Joanne O'Callaghan**  
Siobhán Ni Cheallacháin Cloughduv  
19 **Una O'Donoghue**  
Úna Ni Dhonnchú Cloughduv  
20 **Sarah Donovan**  
Sorcha Ni Dhonnabháin Ballygarvan

21 **Paula O'Connor**  
Paula Ni Chonchúir Newtownshandrum  
22 **Nora Ahern**  
Nóra Ni Eathairn Fr O'Neills  
23 **Colette Desmond**  
Collette Ni Dheasúnaigh Newcestown  
24 **Ciara Healy**  
Ciara Ni Éalaithe Bishopstown  
25 **Niamh Bowles**  
Niamh Ni Bhaill Newtownshandrum

**BAINISTEOIR:**  
John Cronin  
Seán Ó Cróinín  
**ROGHNOIRÍ:**  
Lillian Zinkant  
Lillian Zinkant  
Ollie Hallihane  
Ollie Hallihane  
Traenálaí:  
Fiona O'Driscoll  
Fiona Ni Dhrisceoil

# Loch Garman

Corca agus Órga



1  
**Margaret Darcey**  
Mairéad Ni Dhorchaí  
St Martin's

2  
**Bernie Holohan**  
Bearnairdín Ni Uallacháin  
Rathnure

3  
**Catherine O'Loughlin**  
Caitríona Ni Lochlainn  
Monageer Boolavogue

4  
**Deirdre Codd**  
Deirdre Nic Óda  
Duffry Rovers

5  
**Orla Hernan**  
Orlaith Ni Eathairn  
Monageer Boolavogue

6  
**Aine Codd**  
Áine Nic Óda  
St Martin's

7  
**Claire O'Connor**  
Clár Ni Chonchubair  
Rathnure

8  
**Kate Kelly**  
Cáit Ni Cheallaigh  
St Ibar's

9  
**Aoife O'Connor**  
Aoife Ni Chonchubair  
Rathnure

10  
**Una Leacy**  
Úna Ni Laitheasa  
Oulart The Ballagh

11  
**Mary Leacy (Captain)**  
Máire Ni Laitheasa  
Oulart The Ballagh

12  
**Margaret Kelly**  
Maighréad Ni Cheallaigh  
St Ibar's

13  
**Lennie Holohan**  
Elaine Ni Uallacháin  
Rathnure

14  
**Michelle Hearne**  
Michelle Ni Eathairn  
St Ibar's

15  
**Ursula Jacob**  
Ursula Iócob  
Oulart The Ballagh

16 **Aisling Moran**  
Aisling Ni Mhóráin Oulart The Ballagh  
17 **Michelle O'Leary**  
Michelle Ni Laoir Rathnure  
18 **Avis Nolan**  
Avis Ni Nualláin Monageer Boolavogue  
19 **Evelyn Quigley**  
Eibhlín Ni Choigligh Rathnure  
20 **Katrina Parrock**  
Caitríona Parrock St Martin's

21 **Bronagh Furlong**  
Bronagh Furlong Duffry Rovers  
22 **Rose-Marie Breen**  
Rose-Marie Ni Bhraoin  
Monageer Boolavogue  
23 **Louise Codd**  
Labhaoise Nic Óda  
Duffry Rovers  
24 **Sandy Carr**  
Sandy Ni Charra St Ibar's

**BAINISTEOIR:**  
Willie Carley  
Liam MacFhearaile  
**ROGHNOIRÍ:**  
Peggy Kelly  
Mairéad Ni Cheallaigh  
Stella Sinnott  
Stella Sinnott  
Traenálaí:  
Elaine Dowdall  
Elaine Dúdall

# Tiobraid Árann

Gorm agus Órga



1  
**Jovita Delaney**  
Jovita Ni Dhubhshláine  
Cashel

2  
**Suzanne Kelly**  
Siobhán Ni Cheallaigh  
Toomevara

3  
**Una O'Dwyer**  
Úna Ni Dhuibhir  
Cashel

4  
**Julie Kirwan**  
Sile Ni Chiarubháin  
Moneygall

5  
**Sinead Nealon**  
Sinéad Ni Nialláin  
Burgess

6  
**Ciara Gaynor**  
Ciara Nic Fhionnbhair  
Burgess

7  
**Therese Brophy**  
Treasa Ni Bhróithe  
Burgess

8  
**Angie McDermott**  
Aingéal Nic Diarmada  
Annacarty

9  
**Joanne Ryan**  
Siobhán Ni Riain  
Drom-Inch

10  
**Claire Grogan**  
Clár Ni Ghruagáin  
Cashel

11  
**Emily Hayden**  
Eimile Ni Eideáin  
Cashel

12  
**Noelle Kennedy**  
Noelle Ni Chinnéide  
Toomevara

13  
**Eimear McDonnell**  
Eimear Nic Domhnaill  
Burgess

14  
**Deirdre Hughes (Captain)**  
Deirdre Nic Aodha  
Toomevara

15  
**Geraldine Kinane**  
Geróidín Ni Choinneáin  
Drom-Inch

16 **Joanne Nolan**  
Siobhán Ni Nualláin Silvermines  
17 **Niamh Harkin**  
Niamh Ni Earcháin Drom-Inch  
18 **Meadbh Corcoran**  
Meadbh Ni Chorcáin Moyakey-Barrs  
19 **Michelle Shortt**  
Michelle Nic an Gheairr Drom-Inch  
20 **Tricia O'Halloran**  
Pádraigin Ni Allúráin Portroe

21 **Paula Bulfin**  
Paula Bhuilfin Cashel  
22 **Philly Fogarty**  
Filimíne Ni Fhógartaigh Cashel  
23 **Sheena Howard**  
Sheena Nic Iomhair Burgess  
24 **Jill Horan**  
Jill Ni Óráin Cashel  
25 **Louise Young**  
Laoighse de Siún Toomevara

**BAINISTEOIR:**  
Paddy McCormack  
Pádraig  
Mac Cormaic  
**ROGHNOIRÍ:**  
Olivia Hogan  
Olivia Ó hOgáin  
Martin Burke  
Máirtín de Búrca



# Rampant Rebels rout Limerick

**Cork 5-17**

**Limerick 0-5**

Therese O'Callaghan, Nowlan Park

THE full-time score at Nowlan Park reflected what was a ruthlessly one-sided tale.

Cork were clear favourites to win the first of the Foras na Gaeilge All-Ireland senior camogie championship semi-finals on Saturday, but hardly by such a whopping margin.

Little wonder Limerick Chairman Joe O'Donnell was so gutted by the scale of the defeat. "When the mentors pulled back and the team were on their own they froze. It's hard to understand because they were in great form on the way up. The County Board ensured no obstacles were in the way of preparation. We are all upset by this beating. Something needs to be done to help at developmental level. We only have three senior clubs and 22 clubs in all," he said.

"You couldn't take one ounce from management either. They were more disappointed than anybody else. Ger Hegarty was appointed manager in February and while he has done massive work, he cannot be expected to turn things around in one year.

"It is difficult to get players to commit to the demands of county teams these days. There are multi-stranded issues to be addressed. Players as young as 14 and 15 have to perform at senior level. We have our county final on Friday and will focus in on that. We also look forward to the forthcoming appointment of two regional camogie development officers, one to be based in Limerick," he added.

Notwithstanding the opposition, Cork look revitalised. Once they eased into their stride, they looked very impressive. Even the absence of the injured Rena Buckley did not upset the game plan — Jennifer Browne adequately filled the void at corner back.

Leading 1-9 to 0-1 at the interval,



Cork's Sarah Donovan solos away from Limerick's Rose Collins during the All-Ireland Senior Camogie semi-final at Nowlan Park.

Picture Maurice O'Mahony

the Rebel attack really set about slicing open the Limerick defence. When Emer Dillon added to her first half goal four minutes after the interval, it became quickly apparent that this was not going to be the Limerick's day.

As competition begins to heat up for starting positions for the September Croke Park showdown with Tipp,

subs Sarah Donovan and Colette Desmond also got in on the goal-scoring act. Jennifer O'Leary was her usual reliable self, chipping in with seven pointed frees.

**Scorers for Cork:** E Dillon 2-2, J O'Leary 0-7 (frees), S Donovan and C Desmond 1-1 each, A O'Regan 1-0 (penalty), A Walsh and U O'Donoghue 0-2 each, R Moloney and E Burke

0-1 each.  
**Limerick:** M Casey 0-2 (0-1 45m, 0-1 free), E O'Brien (free), S O'Shaughnessy (free) and V Sheehan 0-1 each.

**CORK:** A Murray, J Browne, R Holland, A O'Regan, B Corkery, M O'Connor, A Geary, V Harris, R Moloney, A Walsh, G O'Connor, J O'Leary, E Dillon, S Dunlea, E Burke (Capt).

**Subs:** U O'Donoghue for G O'Connor (43 mins), C Desmond for E Burke (45 mins), S Donovan for S Dunlea (46 mins), P O'Connor for B Corkery (50 mins), N Ahern for A Geary (55 mins).

**LIMERICK:** S Moynihan, D Fitzpatrick, R Collins, C Murphy, M Kelly, M Casey, O Curtin, J Dolan, G McNamara, E O'Brien, M Nash, F Morrissey, A Sheehan, M Keating, V Sheehan (Capt).

**Subs:** N Mulcahy for C Murphy (11 mins), S O'Shaughnessy for E O'Brien (40 mins), P McCarthy for G McNamara (45 mins), N Collins for O Curtin (48 mins), A O'Reilly for F Morrissey (54 mins).

**Referee:** D Magee (Down).

## Magnificent seventh for Tipp

**Tipperary 1-13**

**Wexford 1-8**

Therese O'Callaghan, Nowlan Park

**CHAMPIONS** Tipperary secured an amazing seventh consecutive place in the Foras na Gaeilge All-Ireland senior camogie final.

A two-point defeat 12 months ago fuelled rich motivation for the Slaughtsiders. However, when they trailed 1-10 to 1-1 at half-time it looked as if the Wexford's tank had run dry, but, following a monumental fightback, they trimmed the deficit to three points with five minutes left.

As the outcome remained in the melting pot, Tipp substitute Sheena Howard rifled over an inspirational point and placed ball expert Claire Grogan then converted a free to see them safely through.

Manager Paddy McCormack was

mightily relieved. "When people see five points they think the win was handy enough. But we were lucky. You will never dominate a game for 60 minutes and they came at us after the break. But, we are back in the All-Ireland final and have learned a lot about ourselves. We will have to improve if we are to beat Cork," he said.

Wexford had come close to causing a shock but inexperience led to missed chances early on. This was not the case for the Blue and Gold though, as they pounced for their opening score a mere 30 seconds into the action.

It also proved that Eimear McDonnell is the engine of this team, as the Burgess corner forward turned her marker to sprint goalward and blast high to the roof of the net. The same player added a point soon afterwards. A goal from a free on 12 minutes — albeit misfired — from Wexford's Kate Kelly ensured a lively start.

The second quarter saw Tipperary storm along with points at will from Grogan, Joanne Ryan, McDonnell, and Jill Horan, who flew back from

Detroit on Thursday where she is on a soccer scholarship. But the Model County then introduced Evelyn Quigley and Bronagh Furlong, and how the dominance shifted.

Wexford shot seven points to Tipp's one in the opening 25 minutes of the second half ensued and were back in contention. Ursula Jacob, Aine Codd, Catherine O'Loughlin, Una Leacy and Kelly worked like trojans. However, luck was not on their side as Tipp keeper Jovita Delaney and brilliant full-back Una O'Dwyer thwarted several raids on goal.

While failing to register any flags themselves, Tipp were still battling hard. Michelle Shortt and Trish O'Halloran came off the bench to help steady the ship and two points at the death from Howard and Grogan were sufficient to see them through.

**Scorers Tipperary:** C Grogan 0-8 (0-5 frees), E McDonnell 1-2, J Ryan, J Horan and S Howard 0-1 each.

**Wexford:** K Kelly 1-4 (1-2 frees, 0-2 45m), U Jacob 0-2, U Leacy and M Leacy 0-1 each.

**TIPPERARY:** J Delaney, S Kelly, U O'Dwyer, J Kirwan, S Neslon, C Gaynor, T Brophy, A McDer-



Tipperary's Jill Horan keeps her eye on the ball during the All-Ireland Senior Camogie semi-final against Wexford at Nowlan Park.

Picture: Maurice O'Mahony

mott, P Fogarty, C Grogan, N Kennedy, J Ryan, J Horan, D Hughes (Capt), E McDonnell, **Subs:** T O'Halloran for J Ryan (45 mins), M Shortt for T Brophy (51 mins), S Howard for N Kennedy (53 mins).

**WEXFORD:** M D'Arcy, B Holohan, C O'Loughlin,

D Codd, O Hernon, A Codd, C O'Connor, K Kelly, A O'Connor, U Leacy, M Leacy (Capt), M O'Leary, M Kelly, M Hearne, U Jacob, **Subs:** E Quigley for B Holohan (25 mins), B Furlong for M Kelly (42 mins), A Moran for O Hernon (50 mins).

**Referee:** F McNamara (Clara).



## What they said

JOHN CRONIN, the Cork manager, had mixed emotions after the game.

While delighted to be in another All-Ireland final he agreed that the opposition could have been better and that they learned nothing from the game.

"It was a complete mismatch," he stated.

"We expected a far tougher game. They were strong and physical, but we matched them for that and that's how we beat them.

"We're in the All-Ireland final and that's what we wanted, that's what we came up here for.

"We've a few weeks now to prepare and with the help of God, everything going well, we'll be ready."

The Limerick team's facial expressions said it all as they despondently left the field.

Emerging from the dressing room some 40 minutes after the game, it was obvious that they had some serious talking to do.

Ger Hegarty, a former Limerick inter-county hurler, took over the reins at the beginning of the year and he was honest about where Limerick camogie was in comparison to the likes of Cork.

"Cork are a serious team," he said. "But, there is no way I expected the drubbing we got.

"It was going to be a huge task to win the game. We knew that. But we never expected this.

"The key difference for me is the pedigree of the Cork players. The experience and the confidence they display.

"There's a huge gap between us. Limerick have a big step up to take.

"They need to get used to the intensity of games like today and play with that intensity for 60 minutes," he concluded.

## Three reasons for victory

**1. Cork's experience:** Heading for their fourth All-Ireland Final appearance in five years, Cork are so experienced when it comes to Championship camogie. They played with an intensity and pace that comes only with years spent at the top. Limerick, on the other hand, have yet to experience an All-Ireland senior final.

**2. Strength in depth:** Cork have so many positional and personnel options in their squad. The introduction of their five substitutions only widened the gap even further between the two counties on the day. Una O'Donoghue, Sarah O'Donovan and Colette Desmond, when introduced midway through the second-half, scored 2-4 in eight minutes and are pushing hard for a place on All-Ireland Final day.

**3. Cork's fitness:** Without ever being pushed to the limit, Cork were far superior in the fitness stakes than Limerick. While appearing to be playing at second pace they were still out first to every ball and hunted in packs when not.

# Rebels have it all their own way

Cork  
Limerick

5-17  
0-5

**WITHOUT** ever reaching great heights, Cork disposed of the fairly weak challenge presented by Limerick in this year's Foras Na Gaeilge All-Ireland Senior Camogie semi-final on Saturday in Nowlan Park, Kilkenny.

Limerick came into this game knowing that it was a big ask of them to beat last year's finalists, but they were confident of at least making Cork fight all the way.

Unfortunately it wasn't to be and by the time the full-time whistle blew, Limerick left the field feeling dejected.

From a Cork point of view, the game did them little good facing into an All-Ireland final against Tipp, who defeated Wexford on a scoreline of 1-13 to 1-8.

But you have to play what's put in front of you and Cork did just that.

From the throw-in Cork went on the attack and three wides later, had the first score on the board with a Rachel Moloney point after.

Two minutes later the signs were ominous for Limerick when Emer Dillon connected first time with a high free in from Moloney and hit the back of the net.

Dillon was involved again seconds later with a pass to Angela Walsh, who slotted over.

With the Cork score at 1-2 after six minutes, Limerick had yet to attack.

It was another seven minutes before Cork scored again with three points in the 13th, 14th and 15th minutes by O'Leary (2) and Dillon.

Limerick's full-forward line of Aoife and Vera Sheehan and Marie Keating was dangerous, but they were starved of possession as Cork's half back line cleaned up.

Vera Sheehan moved out in search of action and put a little urgency into Limerick's play.

But had they played more direct hurling they would have created more chances.

Instead Cork were too experienced and easily closed them down.

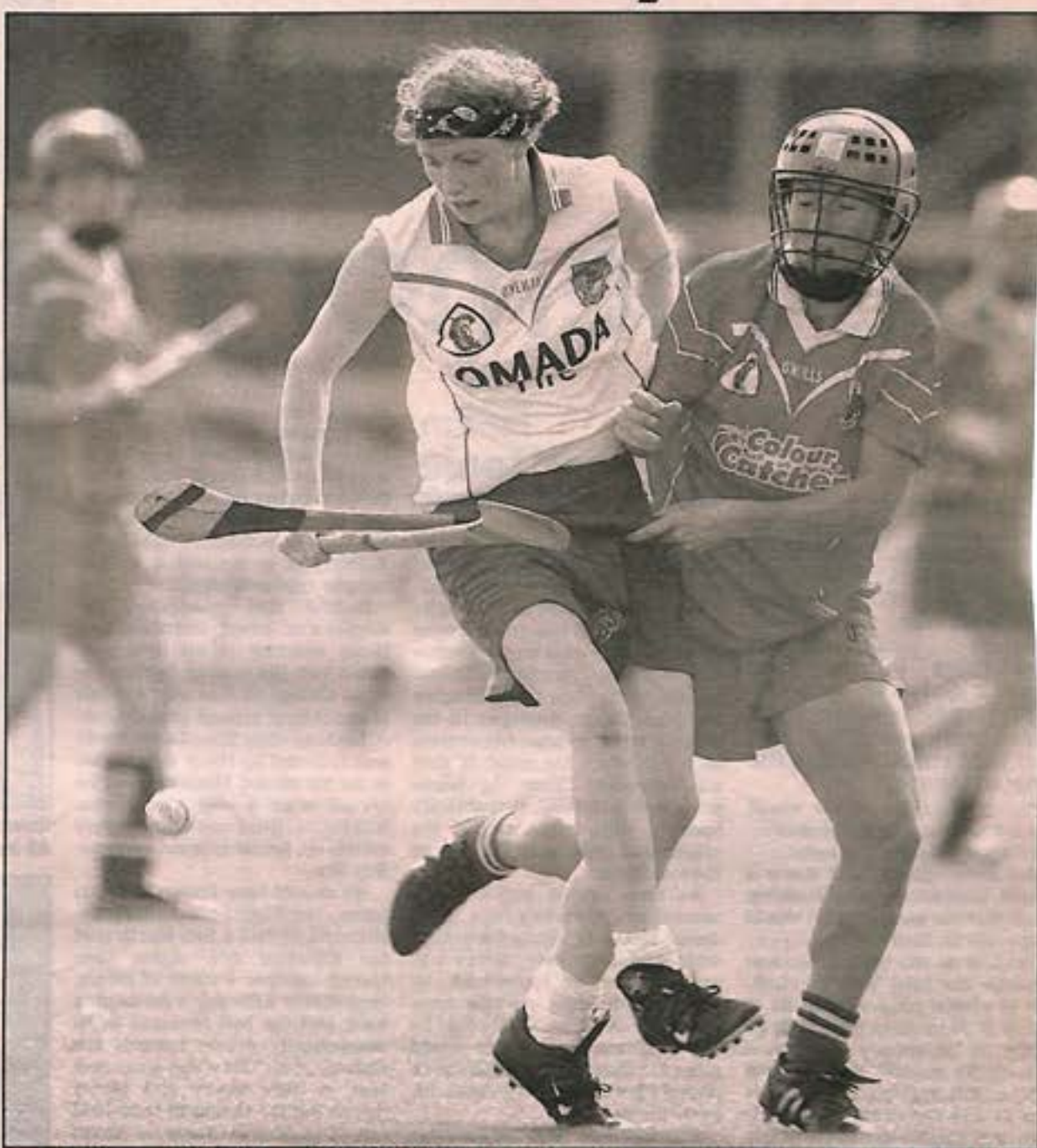
There always seemed to be a loose Cork defender mopping up.

Meadbh Nash burst through at times, but again tried to take too much out of the ball and was smothered every time.

Limerick's only score of the half came in the 17th minute, a free from Eileen O'Brien. It only drove Cork on and three further frees from O'Leary and a point from the eager Dillon, ended the half at 1-9 to 0-1.

There were no thoughts of a let up in the Cork camp. The same 15 emerged for the second-half and captain, Elaine Burke, pointed after 60 seconds.

Shortly afterwards, Dillon found the net for the second time after goal.



Grace McNamara of Limerick and Jennifer O'Leary of Cork battle for possession during their All-Ireland Senior camogie semi-final at Nowlan Park, Kilkenny.

Picture: INPHO



Linda Mellerick

keeper Sile Moynihan made an initial save.

At this stage, it was just a case of how much the winning margin would be.

Cork's defensive play was good in that they hunted in packs and played direct hurling, but in truth they were never really tested.

Six minutes into the half Cork won a penalty when Stephanie Dunlea was pulled back while bearing down on goal. Amanda O'Regan stepped up from corner back and while Cork did not need the goal, it was obvious that the strike was practice for another day. O'Regan made no mistake.

At midfield, Vivienne Harris and

Moloney covered ground and worked hard. Up front Gemma O'Connor once again looked lost at centre forward.

Dunlea and Burke tried hard, but it was Dillon who was more alert on the day. In the right place at the right time her reading of the game and her eye for the ball was superb.

Two fine over the shoulder strikes gave her a goal and a point and she finished the game with a personal tally of 2-2.

Cork made full use of their five subs and with competition for places so high, it was the subs who really hammered it home to Limerick.

A total of 2-4 in eight minutes from Una O'Donoghue, Sarah O'Donovan and Collette Desmond signalled their intent.

Despite the result, Cork are far from the finished product and have a lot of work to do in the next four

weeks.

At times they showed good teamwork, but on other occasions struck blindly particularly up front.

But they are through to their fourth All-Ireland final in-a-row. Not bad going.

**Scorers for Cork:** E Dillon 2-2, J O'Leary 0-7 (ft), S O'Donovan 1-1, C Desmond 1-1, A O'Regan 1-0 (pl), U O'Donoghue, A Walsh 0-2 each, R Moloney and E Burke 0-1 each.  
**Limerick:** M Casey 0-2 (ft), V Sheehan 0-1, E O'Brien 0-1 (ft), S O'Shaughnessy 0-1 (ft).  
**CORK:** A Murray, J Browne, R Holland, A O'Regan, B Corkery, M O'Connor, A Geary, V Harris, R Moloney, A Walsh, G O'Connor, J O'Leary, E Dillon, S Dunlea, E Burke (Capt).  
**Subs:** U O'Donoghue for G O'Connor (42min), C Desmond for E Burke (45min), S O'Donovan for S Dunlea (46min), P O'Connor for B Corkery (46min), N Ahern for A Geary (55min).

**LIMERICK:** S Moynihan, D Fitzpatrick, R Collins, C Murphy, M Kelly, M Casey, O Curtin, J Dolan, G McNamara, E O'Brien, M Nash, F Morrissey, A Sheehan, M Keating, V Sheehan (Capt).

**Subs:** N Mulcahy for C Murphy (20min), S O'Shaughnessy for E O'Brien (36min), P McCarthy for G McNamara (45min), N Collins for O Curtin (48), A O'Reilly for F Morrissey (52).



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# Competitions review raises good points

I MENTIONED a few months ago that a National Camogie Competitions Review committee was set up last January.

It was set up to examine the following:

- The format and structure of each inter-county competition.
- The grading and re-grading of players and counties and the present criteria applied.
- The overall aim of the committee was to design competition structures which will facilitate greater participation in inter-county competitions.

The committee engaged in widespread consultation with the membership, seeking the views of managers, coaches and players. This consultation also involved reports and communications on the camogie website, inviting views and expressions of interest.

It was through this medium the committee were best able to understand some of the issues / proposals the members had.

An in-depth analysis of each competition was carried out, taking in the current structures in operation, the strength and weaknesses of same and the key issues to be addressed.

The main issue with the senior championship is the small number of teams participating.

In 2005 the competition was reduced to six teams after Antrim's late withdrawal. The main advantage with the current system is that it is played on a group round-robin series and that teams each have two and three games before qualifying for an All-Ireland semi-final.

The strongest four teams emerge to contest the semis.

While it would be desirable to have more senior counties participating, it is unsatisfactory to have counties just making up numbers who are outclassed and humiliated.

The issue of progression to senior level is a development rather than a structural issue. The structure of competitions below senior level require revision if it is to become conducive to that progression.

One such competition is the junior championship. Players from senior and intermediate counties can play junior provided they are not graded higher.

Players are only graded higher if they win an All-Ireland medal at junior, intermediate or senior level. This effectively means that until a team wins an All-Ireland the same players can play in all grades of championship.

Even when a county wins one of the three All-Irelands the players are re-graded after three years.

The re-grading is decided at provincial level. Because of the



Linda Mellerick

different standards between provinces, a junior player in Munster is not comparable with a junior player for example in Ulster. The feedback to the committee was that a competition designed to help junior counties has become dominated by the second string teams of senior counties.

The committee recommend the competition is re-designed to cater for the needs of junior counties with a minimum of three games at a group stage which will also incorporate a championship knockout format at the latter stages.

While junior counties have called for senior counties to be omitted from this competition altogether I don't think this should be the case.

If that were to happen, what would become of all our under-age inter-county players?

If a minor player didn't make the senior grade does that mean that apart from the intermediate championship they never play inter-county camogie again?

No, the junior championship must exist for senior graded counties also but I do agree that the re-grading of certain star players must be looked into.

The intermediate championship was introduced in 1992 to provide a second tier of competition to help developing counties.

However this never really appealed to anyone and none of the junior counties, with the exception of Tipperary, made any progress during their period in intermediate status. The competition is run on a knockout basis with a low profile final at the home venue of one of the participating teams. Junior counties feel that this championship should hold more prestige and be completely revamped. They are adamant that it should be the second stage for senior counties and not the junior championship.

There was strong support for camogie to align with the other Gaelic codes and move minor to under 18.

The competitions review report submitted last weekend is just that, a report.

It is not the ideas wishes of a few individuals, but a synopsis of much consultation.

These recommendations must be passed at congress and it is there counties can have their final say.

The competition for the hearts and minds of the young has never been greater.

The need to offer games and fair competition to everyone regardless of ability is crucial.

## Dillon double enough for Rebels

**Cork 5-17 Limerick 0-5** CLASSY Cork marched into this year's All-Ireland final following an easy victory over Limerick in the Foras na Gaeilge All-Ireland semi-final in Nowlan Park yesterday. The Rebels got off to a dream start and were 1-2 up after six minutes thanks to a goal from a Rachel Moloney long-range free which Emer Dillon finished to the net. Despite playing against the wind Cork added a further three points before Limerick's Eileen O'Brien sent over her side's opening score, a free, in the 16th minute.

Despite the very best efforts of centre-back Michelle Casey, Cork who were defeated in last year's All-Ireland final, showed too much skill for a Limerick team that lacked the experience of the big stage.

## Grogan edges it for Tipperary

**Tipperary 1-13 Wexford 1-8** TIPPERARY, who have contested every All-Ireland since 1999, got off to a dream start with Emer McDonnell goal after just 33 seconds. They looked very threatening at this stage and went a further point up thanks to a fine Emer McDonnell point almost immediately.

The large Wexford crowd got behind their team and when Kate Kelly hit a goal to tie the game the game at 1-1 each, the excitement was running high and it appeared that Wexford were more and more coming into the game. Tipperary's Claire Grogan sent over four frees before the break to put Tipperary ahead 1-9 to 1-1 at the interval.

Wexford came out in the second half full of bite and seemed to have really upped their game in all sectors especially in the half-backs where Aine Codd, Orla Hernan, and Claire O'Connor were superb.

Though Tipperary opened a four point lead with seven minutes to go, a golden opportunity for Wexford's Ursula Jacob was brilliantly saved by the Tipperary goalkeeper Jovita Delaney and with it any chance for Wexford.

**FORAS NA GAEILGE**  
Semi-final: **Cork 5-17** (E Dillon 2-2, A O'Regan 1-0 (pen), C Desmond, S O'Donovan 1-1 each, J O'Leary 0-7 from frees, E Burke, A Walsh and R Moloney 0-1 each) **Limerick 0-5** (M Casey 0-2 (all fs), S O'Shaughnessy, E O'Brien 0-1 (fs), V Sheehan 0-1)  
**Tipperary 1-13** (E McDonnell 1-1, C Grogan 0-8 from frees, J Ryan, J Horan, S Howard, D Hughes 0-1 each)  
**Wexford 1-8** (K Kelly 1-4, U Jacob 0-2, M Leavy, U Leavy, 0-1 each)

# Camogie championship is coming to the boil

**WOLFE Tones** Na Sionna, following their victory over Tulla, will face defending champions Kilnamona in one semi-final of the Clare senior camogie championship.

Kilnamona had a deserved win over St Joseph's and are improving with every outing. Title favourites Newmarket defeated near neighbour Sixmilebridge and will meet the winners of a play-off between Tulla and Kilmaley in the second semi final.

Kilmaley earned a play-off following an easy win over Clarecastle, while Tulla lost to Wolfe Tones.

The standard of play has been excellent and both semi-finals are eagerly awaited with the Tones versus Kilnamona clash not to be missed.

Meanwhile, there were victories for Bodyke over neighbours Scariff in a thriller in the intermediate championship, while in an equally competitive encounter Broadford defeated Corofin.

Kilkishen had a bloodless victory over Clooney. All three winners are in the semi-finals and will be joined by Corofin or Whitegate.

In the minor A championship, impressive Whitegate from group one have qualified



Wolfe Tones and Newmarket are two of the principals in this year's Clare senior camogie championship.

and will be joined by either Broadford or Wolfe Tones in the penultimate round. In group two Kilnamona lead the way and they will be joined by Newmarket.

In the B competition Bodyke are unbeaten and head group one with Corofin in pole position to also qualify. However, if they were to slip up in the next round then Kilmaley or Sixmilebridge could take advantage.

St Joseph's lead the way with surprise team Eire Og also through from group two. It is certainly encouraging for camogie in Ennis to see Eire Og reach this stage of the competition where they most likely will face championship favourites Bodyke.

This has been a superb championship in both grades and large crowds are expected particularly from East Clare as Whitegate and Bodyke have excellent followings.



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# Busy day at Ballinlough

Douglas  
Inniscarra

8-9  
0-1

IT was another busy day for the juvenile camogie board on Saturday last as three competitions reached concluding stages.

All-Ireland Feile Na Gael champions Douglas booked their place in the Under 14 A League final with an impressive performance against a gallant Inniscarra side.

Douglas set the trend for what was to follow from the first minute with Julia White setting up Aileen O'Donovan to open the scoring with a point.

Applying the pressure Douglas stretched their advantage to lead 4-5 to 0-1 at the half time whistle.

Claire Clarke Tracy McCarthy and Moira O'Donovan were all prominent in the half. Joanne Casey pointed for Inniscarra.

Douglas, with Julia White and Aileen O'Donovan leading the way, continued to pick off their scores despite great saves from Inniscarra keeper Rosie O'Mahony.

Passage West 2-3

Kildorrey 0-1

Passage West advanced to their first county U14C final with a one goal victory over Kildorrey.

This was a close fought game as both sides battled for a place in the final.

Passage held a goal interval lead 1-1 to 0-1.

Karen Twomey put them in the driving seat at the half way stage of the first half.

Emma Coughlan replied with a Kildorrey point but Lisa O'Sullivan again had the goal between the sides with a Passage point before the break.

On the resumption Passage again pressed and were rewarded when Muireann Doyle found the net to stretch their lead.

Kildorrey fought hard but found the Passage defence hard to pass. Lisa O'Sullivan ensured Passage's advancement to the decider with two further excellent points to give her side a 2-3 to 0-1 victory.



Killeagh's Lisa O'Sullivan and Newtownshandrum's Aoife Twohill battle for the ball during the Cork County Camogie U14C semi-final.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Killeagh's Kate Murphy and Newtownshandrum's Siobhan Curtin challenge for the ball.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Killeagh's Ann Rohan and Newtownshandrum's Aoife O'Shea tussle for the ball during their U14C semi-final.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Killeagh 5-8

Newtownshandrum 0-0

Feile C champions Killeagh continue to impress and they advanced to the final of the Under 14 C County League and set up a meeting with Passage as they defeated Newtownshandrum in a fine game.

Killeagh led 3-6 to no score at the interval.

Claire Keohane tormented the Newtown defence notching up 2-1 with Sandra Smiddy contributing 1-3.

Twice Michelle Leahy denied Killeagh with excellent saves.

Through the second half Killeagh dominated with Sandra Smiddy starring while Claire Keohane added 1-2 to their tally and Shauna Harnedy grabbing a great goal.



Douglas' Tracy McCarthy and Inniscarra's Aine O'Connor keep their eye on the ball during their U14 A League semi-final.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare





Douglas' Emma Jordan and Inniscarra's Catherine O'Brien tussle for the ball during the Cork County U14 A League semi-final. Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Douglas' Danielle Connolly clears from Inniscarra's Catherine O'Brien during the Cork County U14 A League semi-final at Ballinlough. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

## Killeagh trophy haul grows

Killeagh 4-7  
Passage 1-1

KILLEAGH added the U14 C league title to the national Feile Na Gael camogie division three title on Saturday as they beat Passage in Ballinlough, writes Mary Newman.

Passage made the better start and led thanks to an early goal from Clare O'Brien but with Sandra Smiddy finding the target with a point Killeagh quickly settled into the encounter.

Clare Keohane had just one between the sides before giving Killeagh the upper hand with a well-taken goal and from here to the break it was the East Cork girls who set the pace thanks to a Danielle Keniry goal and a point from Karen Rohan to place them into a commanding lead of 2-3 to 1-0 at the half time whistle.

Passage worked hard to get back into the contest with the impressive Amy Costello doing her bit but the experience of their opponents began to tell as they found the going tough against a resolute defence where Lisa O'Sullivan, captain Eanna O'Neill and Ciara Scally held the upper hand.

Three points without reply from Sandra Smiddy, O'Neill and Samantha Swaine had extended the advantage before Jenny Meade and Abigail Collins grabbed two goals in quick succession.

O'Sullivan pointed a Passage free to which Smiddy replied for a Killeagh side who most definitely were stronger in all sectors.

Credit to Passage who battled on to the finish with catching the eye and a mention to their captain Emer Hyde, who stayed back from a family holiday to Lanzarote to lead her team in what was their first county final since the club's reformation.

**KILLEAGH:** L. O'Sullivan, R. Cronin, C. O'Connor, C. Scally, A. Roban, E. O'Neill, A. Murphy, C. Keohane (1-1), L. O'Connor, S. Swaine (0-1), S. Smiddy (1-4), K. Rohan (0-1), D. Keniry (1-0), J. Meade, A. Collins (1-0).

**PASSAGE:** E. Lydon, L. McCarthy (0-1), J. Cooney, J. Power, S. Jordan, L. O'Sullivan (0-1), S. O'Reilly, L. McCarthy (0-2), E. Hyde, C. Lyster, K. Twomey, A. Costello, C. O'Brien (1-0), M. Doyle, N. O'Sullivan.

**Sub:** A. Maxwell for L. McCarthy  
**Referee:** C. Looney

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## Killeedy in outstanding comeback

Killeedy 3-9  
Granagh/Ballingarry 1-14

by Damien Irwin

THERE was a major shock at Newcastlewest on Friday night when Killeedy staged an incredible comeback to claim the Limerick senior camogie title for the very first time, denying Limerick kingpins Granagh/Ballingarry a record tenth title in a row.

Killeedy were dead and almost buried with less than ten minutes to go — Granagh were nine points up, 1-13 to 0-7.

Step forward Marie Keating of Killeedy, who goalied with an overhead strike and then followed up with two more — the second a goal of real quality. The large crowd were now captivated by this late, late twist and deep into injury time Keating found some more space right on the touchline at an acute angle and floated over a sensational winner.

There wasn't enough time for a shell-shocked Granagh to regroup and the scenes of Killeedy joy at the end were worth the admission fee alone.

**KILLEEDY:** H. Collins, E. Foley, A. O'Connell, K. O'Connell, M. O'Connell, M. O'Sullivan, E. Mullane, D. O'Brien, D. Fitzpatrick, B. Downes, M. Casey, N. Barry, C. Hayes, M. Keating, O. Curtin.

**Sub:** K. Gaffney for B. Downes (in).  
**GRANAGH/BALLINGARRY:** B. O'Brien, A. McCarthy, L. Leslie, D. Sheehan, K. Burke, A. Sheehan, F. Hickey, M. Collins, V. Sheehan, M. Nash, F. Morrissey, E. O'Brien, F. Chawke, K. Hickey, A. O'Sullivan.

**Referee:** M. O'Connor (Na Piarraig)

## Camogie players to see more action as new measures adopted

by Therese O'Callaghan

THE Camogie Association received a welcome injection at the weekend when Central Council unanimously adopted the recommendations of its Competitions Review Committee. The recommendations will take effect in 2006 and will operate as a two year pilot scheme.

1. A restructured junior competition run on a league basis that will ensure a

minimum of three games for all counties. A shield and cup competition will also be introduced at this grade.

2. Senior counties no longer eligible to participate in the junior championship.

3. The intermediate competition to be restructured to cater for the second string teams in senior counties. The competition will be run on the same basis as the current senior championship.

4. The term minor will now refer to U18, in line with the GAA, with a new All-Ireland competition introduced accordingly. The U16 All-Ireland competition will be retained.

5. Two additional divisions will be introduced into the national leagues to cater for weaker counties. The senior championship is the one competition not affected by the changes but it is hoped that with these alterations more counties will be competing at senior

level within the next few years.

According to chairperson Bernie McNally who is Director of Social Services, North & West Belfast Trust, the most important thing to achieve through the new structures was to ensure players play more camogie. McNally said, "the biggest problem we found was inter-county camogie finished for the majority of counties in May or June after just one game. Junior counties were also unhappy with

the current grading system. The new structures should ensure these problems will be eliminated."

President of the Association Miriam O'Callaghan said, "we recognised changes needed to be made to our competition structures and we put a strong committee in place, headed by Bernie McNally. We were delighted with the quality of the report and with the unanimous adoption of it by Ard-chomhairle."



#### AOIFE MURRAY

**OCCUPATION:** Student in LIT studying Property Valuations.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:** Holder of minor, junior, intermediate and senior medals with Cork. Two Cork County senior championship medals with Cloughduv. All-Star in 2004. Sister of former Cork inter county hurler Kevin Murray.

**AGE:** 21

#### JOANNE O'CALLAGHAN

**OCCUPATION:** Food business student in UCC.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:** Joanne has two minor, one intermediate and one Senior All-Ireland championship medals to her credit. Also holds Ashbourne Cup and inter provincial honours and two Cork County senior medals with Cloughduv. Has also represented Munster in hockey.

**AGE:** 22

#### ORLA O'CALLAGHAN

**OCCUPATION:** Shop assistant in Welch Sports.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:** All-Ireland Minor medal, two Munster U18 championship medals, one Junior Munster medal, two Senior County medals with Cloughduv. Also has two Munster senior schools hockey medals. Sister of Joanne.

**AGE:** 20

#### SINEAD CORKERY

**OCCUPATION:** Student.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:** All-Ireland Minor medal one, Munster junior title, Munster U18 title, two Cork senior County titles and various underage county medals. Young player of the year 2000.

**AGE:** 22

#### SIOBHÁN CORKERY

**OCCUPATION:** Nurse.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:** One Senior County medal, one Junior B county and underage county medals.

**AGE:** 29

#### EMMA DUNNE

**OCCUPATION:** Student.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:** One Minor All-Ireland medal, U14 All-Ireland football medals, U16 Munster football medals, two Junior B county titles with Cloughduv and U18 Munster Camogie titles with Cork.

**AGE:** 17

#### MARIE CORKERY

**OCCUPATION:** Retail Manager.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:** Holder of All-Ireland Junior and Intermediate medals, two Senior County titles with Cloughduv and one All-Ireland Club intermediate football medal.

#### AOIFE BUCKLEY

**OCCUPATION:** Personal Trainer.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:** Two Senior county titles with Cloughduv, one Munster and one county schools medal.

**AGE:** 25

#### SINEAD BUCKLEY

**OCCUPATION:** Nurse.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:** Two senior county titles and U16 and U18 county titles. Purcell Cup with CIT in 2003. Rose of Tralee finalist in 1999.

**AGE:** 24

#### UNA O'DONOGHUE

**OCCUPATION:** Lab Technician.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:** Captained Cork to All-Ireland glory in 2002 and also led her club to their first senior county championship title in 2001. Is the holder of Ashbourne Cup and won league honours with UCC as well as All-Ireland senior and national league medals with Cork. Has also won underage county honours with Cloughduv.

**AGE:** 23

#### JEAN LUCEY

**OCCUPATION:** Biochemist.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:** Two senior county titles with Cloughduv and one Junior B county medal. Underage county football medals with St Val's.

**AGE:** 22

#### KATHERINE CORKERY

**OCCUPATION:** Bank employee with TSB.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:** U14, U16, U18 county titles and senior County titles with Cloughduv. Captained Cork minors to All-Ireland glory. One All-Ireland intermediate and one All-Ireland senior medal with Cork.

**AGE:** 23

#### BREIGE CORKERY

**OCCUPATION:** Summer Camp Coach

**ACHIEVEMENTS:** 2 Cork County senior championship medals with Cloughduv. Minor and Intermediate All-Ireland honours with Cork. Is also a prominent footballer. Has won numerous honours with the underage football side.

**AGE:** 18

#### STEPHANIE DUNLEA

**OCCUPATION:** Food Scientist.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:** Captained Cork team in 2003 and 2004. Ashbourne Cup honours with UCC. Captained Cloughduv to win the Cork county senior title in 2002. County and Munster medals with Glen Rovers and five All-Ireland senior medals with Cork. Inter-provincial honours. Grandniece of Kate Dunlea who captained Cork to their first All-Ireland senior title in 1934.

**AGE:** 30

#### LYNN DUNLEA

**OCCUPATION:** Primary School Teacher.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:** Four All-Ireland senior titles and seven National League titles with Cork. Five County medals with Glen Rovers and Cloughduv, three Munster Club Championships, one All-Ireland Club Championship, five Gael Linn titles. Also has senior County and Munster football medals. Back from Retirement. Sister of Stephanie.

**AGE:** 32

#### ANNETTE O'CONNOR

**OCCUPATION:** Student.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:** All-Ireland football medals and junior B County Camogie medal.

**AGE:** 18

#### CAROLINE O'SULLIVAN

**OCCUPATION:** Recruitment Consultant.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:** Two Senior County medals with Cloughduv and two Junior B County medals. One Munster schools county medal.

**AGE:** 26

#### SHEILA LUCEY

**OCCUPATION:** Student.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:** Representative on Minor and U21 Muskerry teams which won county titles.

**AGE:** 18

#### RONA MURPHY

**OCCUPATION:** Student.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:** Two Junior B County medals with Cloughduv. Underage football county medals.

**AGE:** 17

#### SARAH BUCKLEY

**OCCUPATION:** Student.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:** Two Junior B county medals and two County Colleges medals. U16 county colleges medal.

**AGE:** 17

#### NICOLE BARRETT

**OCCUPATION:** Student in UCC.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:** One All-Ireland with Cork U14 footballers. Two Junior B county medals with Cloughduv. Two County Colleges medals. One U16 county with Cloughduv.

**AGE:** 17

#### AOIFE CRONIN

**OCCUPATION:** Student.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:** Two Colleges County medals, U16 county medal and two Junior B medals with Cloughduv.

**AGE:** 17

#### CIARA CRONIN

**OCCUPATION:** Stock Manager (PepsiCo Ireland).

**ACHIEVEMENTS:** Two Senior County medals. One County and Munster senior Colleges medal. Munster U18 medal with Cork.

**AGE:** 26

#### MARIE LUCEY

**OCCUPATION:** Student.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:** One Senior county medal, two Junior B county medals with Cloughduv. U16 Munster medal.

**AGE:** 18

#### LOUISE HOLLAND

**OCCUPATION:** Student.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:** One Senior County medal, one Junior B County medal, County Football medals and underage football with Cork.

**AGE:** 20



Cloughduv's Aoife Murray clears from St Finbarr's Valerie Maher during their Senior A Camogie quarter-final tie at Ballincollig.

# Magic goes on for Cloughduv

**Cloughduv go in search of their third senior county title with pride next Friday evening when they take on neighbours Inniscarra in Ovens at 7pm.**

For a club with such a short history, they were formed in 1981, Cloughduv have enjoyed a steady rise to the top.

Ann Barry-Murphy was a sub on the 1973 Canovee camogie team and loved the game.

Unfortunately that year Canovee disbanded and camogie in that part of the county disappeared for almost a decade.

In 1981 Ann along with Mary O'Sullivan and Geraldine Lynch decided to try and get a camogie team going in the Cloughduv parish. They succeeded and as the saying goes, the rest is history.

Just two years after being formed Cloughduv won the junior B county title. 1989 saw them win junior A and in 1991 they won the



Linda Mellerick

intermediate championship.

Ten years on and Cloughduv had made it to senior status. Success at the top took its time but Cloughduv learned, became more experienced with each passing year and 20 years after being

**Cloughduv's Sinéad Buckley is in control as Milford's Christine O'Gorman challenges during their semi-final clash in Rathcormac**

founded they won their first senior county title. It was a dream come true for the club, supporters and the entire surrounding area.

Una O'Donoghue became captain of Cork in 2002 and brought the O'Duffy Cup back to Cloughduv in what was a memorable year for the club.

Cloughduv repeated the title win in 2002 winning back to back

titles.

Stephanie Dunlea captained her county in 2003 just like her aunt Kate who in 1934 became the first Cork woman to bring the All-Ireland Cup back to Leeside. While Cork failed to win the All-Ireland Cloughduv remained bursting with pride.

They years 2003 and 2004 saw Fr O'Neill's and Carrigdhoun win the titles respectively and now in 2005 Cloughduv are back.

Should they win this year's final and indeed they go into the game as slight favourites, it will be three Cork County Senior titles in five years.

This year's team are young with one or two increasing the average age of the club to 25. Regardless of Fridays result, Cloughduv are here to stay.

A real rags to riches story, the people of Cloughduv can't believe how lucky they are that 24 years ago Ann Barry-Murphy decided to invite a few friends over for tea and form a club.



# County final thriller in store

THE ALL mid-Cork meeting between Cloughdun and Inniscarra in the Mercury Restaurant and Lounge senior county championship final is sure to attract a big following to Ovens tomorrow Friday evening at 7pm.

Being fellow divisional neighbours is sure to invoke interest through the division and it has the makings of a thrilling grand finale to what has been a superb championship. Twice the title has rested in Cloughdun recording victories in 2001 and 2002. Inniscarra have yet to engrave their name on the county's most prestigious competition.

Inniscarra have been winners all the way in this the first year of a back door system while Cloughdun were thankful of the new format to arrive via the back door. Cloughdun are an experienced side many of whom have worn the Cork colours at either minor, junior, Intermediate or Senior level and under the guiding influences of Noel Dunne, Paudie Murray and Tim Barry Murphy John Cronin and Kathleen Healy they are well prepared and determined to lift the crown.

Inniscarra will not lack experience both on and off the field with former Inter county senior player Irene O'Keefe amongst the selection committee and also playing a vital role on the playing panel and she is joined by Tim Buckley, Joe McCarthy, and former Inniscarra hurler Fergal O'Mahony, both Joe and Tim have daughters on the Inniscarra team.

Cloughdun having lost out to Milford in an opening round game that took a replay and extra time to decide returned via the back door to defeated Imokilly before edged out St Finbarrs by one point. It was then on to a semi final meeting with

Milford and once again it was a close one that took a late rally from Cloughdun with minutes remaining to secure their place in the final. The extra games have benefited Cloughdun enormously and they have looked sharper with every outing.

Inniscarra contested the final of 2003 but lost out to FR O Neills, they have enjoyed success in recent years at under age level and are determined to put previous disappointment behind them and lift their first senior crown. They have had to survive some heart stopping moments en route twice coming from behind to grab victories with seconds remaining.

They defeated Fr O Neills confidently in their opening game before progressing directly to a quarter final meeting with Courcey Rovers, where Courcey's led with full time looming only for a late Inniscarra goal from Criona Harte booking them a semi-final spot.

Again against Carbery it was a similar story as the divisional side set the pace but again a late Inniscarra burst helped them book their place in the final. Cloughdun have been boosted by the return to camogie of former inter county player Lynn Dunlea who has come out of retirement after an absence of four years and certainly her experience has been a huge benefit. Lynn and Sister Stephanie who lines out at full forward will pose a huge threat to Inniscarra's ambitions.

Both sides have the potential to win the title Inniscarra have a good blend of youth and experience, Ger Casey, Grainne O'Mahony, Niamh Dilworth, and Treasa McCarthy performing well to date, while Cloughdun's Briege Corkery, Jean Lucey, Aoife Buckley Emma

Dunne have been equally impressive. Experienced players such as Marie Corkery, the Dunlea's and Una O'Donoghue have been to the fore for Cloughdun while Marie O'Connell, Margaret O'Sullivan and Criona Harte have done likewise for Inniscarra.

Cloughdun can boast of five Senior inter county players Aoife Murray, Stephanie Dunlea, Briege Corkery, Una O'Donoghue Joanne O'Callaghan while Rena Buckley is Inniscarra's representative. Neither Joanne O'Callaghan or Rena Buckley played any part in last Saturday's Foras na Gaeilge All-Ireland semi final with Cork as both have been carrying injuries and were either no to line out it would be a huge blow to their respective sides.

While all of the Cloughdun players hold senior county championship medals just one member of the Inniscarra team has enjoyed success in the competition. Goalkeeper Orla Murphy won senior county championship honours with both Dunlea sisters in 1996 with Glen Rovers but now she will now be hoping to stand in the way of her former team mates having transferred to Inniscarra at the start of the season her inclusion has allowed former keeper Ger Casey play a vital outfield role for the club. The potential to win the title is in both camps, Inniscarra have performed well to date and come out of close corners plus they have arrived via the winning route, Cloughdun had to battle to the finish twice snatching victory from the jaws of defeat, both are determined to claim bragging rites in the Mid Cork division and take ultimate honours it promises to be a thrilling final.



Margaret O'Sullivan, who captains Inniscarra in Friday's Mercury Restaurant and Lounge Senior camogie County Final.



Aoife Murray, who captains Cloughdun in Friday's Mercury Restaurant and Lounge County Camogie Final

## CORK THROUGH TO FINAL

ANOTHER Sunday in September to pencil into the diary for a trip to Croke Park as the senior team booked their place in the All Ireland Final. From early in the first half there was always only going to be one winner as Cork controlled proceedings from as early as the sixth minute. Stronger in all sectors Cork picked off scores at ease and certainly it was disappointing that Limerick having promised so much failed to deliver. Speaking to coach former Limerick hurler Ger Hegarty after the game both myself and Linda Mellerick were certainly impressed by the sincerity and honesty of the genial Limerick manager who was truly devastated by the defeat. Like wise the Limerick players whom we met were all really disappointed by the manner in which they went down as Ger explained.

"Coming here today we knew it was going to be tough but I never thought it would be so intense, the girls seemed to freeze, maybe it was the fact it was Cork we were playing, we will now regroup and keep working at it. Certainly it disappointing but I aim to keep it going and we think we are going in the right direction, it may take a few more defeats but eventually just like Wexford have done recently we will learn from today, hopefully we will be able to compete on a level basis in the not to distant future"

While it is great for Cork to be in another final the game will not have served as any test and certainly when one looks at the game the champions Tipperary had to come through before finally defeating Wexford they will be no easy side to overcome on Sept 18.

## Sister act to inspire Cloughdun camogie

By ALISON DONNELLY

alison.donnelly@echo.ie

WHEN it comes to Cloughdun camogie, fewer families can lay claim to greater influence on the club's fortunes than that of the Dunlea's.

Tomorrow night, the senior side line out in Ovens to take on neighbours Inniscarra, and sisters Stephanie and Lynn will spearhead the attack for their club.

The well-known GAA duo became involved in the club in 1987 when their parents played an integral part in the reorganisation of the underage setup and since then, they have tasted success at almost every level.

They come from a strong GAA pedigree. They are grandnieces of Kate Dunlea, who captained Cork to their first ever All-Ireland title in 1934, and both of their parents are former Cork representatives, while their brother, Pat, plays with the Cork juniors.

The sisters are legendary Cork representatives. Stephanie captained the Cork team in 2003 and 2004 and was also captain of Cloughdun when they won the Cork senior title in 2002.

Lynn's story hardly needs to be told. She has four All-Ireland senior titles and seven national league titles and is regarded as one of the greatest forwards Cork has ever produced. She caused shock-waves on the camogie scene four years ago when she retired from the game but she has returned this year for her club. Former Cork teammate and Evening Echo camogie writer Linda Mel-



Cloughdun camogie team sisters Stephanie and Lynn Dunlea are set to line out in Ovens to take on neighbours Inniscarra tomorrow night.

Picture: Richard Mills

lerick says she will prove an influential figure on Friday night.

"She was one of the most lethal forwards in the game when she retired and we were gutted at the time. She has proved this year that she still has what it takes and with Stephanie, she was one of the key differences in their semi-final game against Milford."

Lynn herself is wary of the threat posed by a strong Inniscarra outfit. "We saw them in

their semi-final and they were very impressive right throughout the pitch. They have plenty of speed but we're really up for this game so it will be an interesting clash."

Lynn has also become a well-known TV personality and has taken a place on RTE's Sunday Game panel since 1999.

Tomorrow night there will be only one thing on her mind, however, and that's a county senior title for the club she has done so much for.



# Cloughduv depth should be enough

**IT'S Inniscarra and Cloughduv!**

The last two standing in this year's Mercury Lounge and Restaurant sponsored Cork County Senior A Camogie Championship.

16 teams started out almost two months ago in search of glory and pending a draw, this evening at approximately 8.15pm the destination of the Punch Cup for 2005 will be known.

Cloughduv would have been one of the contenders at the outset. Along with Milford, Carrigdhoun and St Finbarr's they would have been in the top four.

Inniscarra were slightly further down the betting stakes but they dug deep to book their place in the final for the first time since 2003.

It would be fair to say that Cloughduv possibly got the tougher side of the draw and emerged from some very close encounters. Had the back door system not been introduced for the first time into the championship this year Cloughduv would have been idle at the beginning of July.

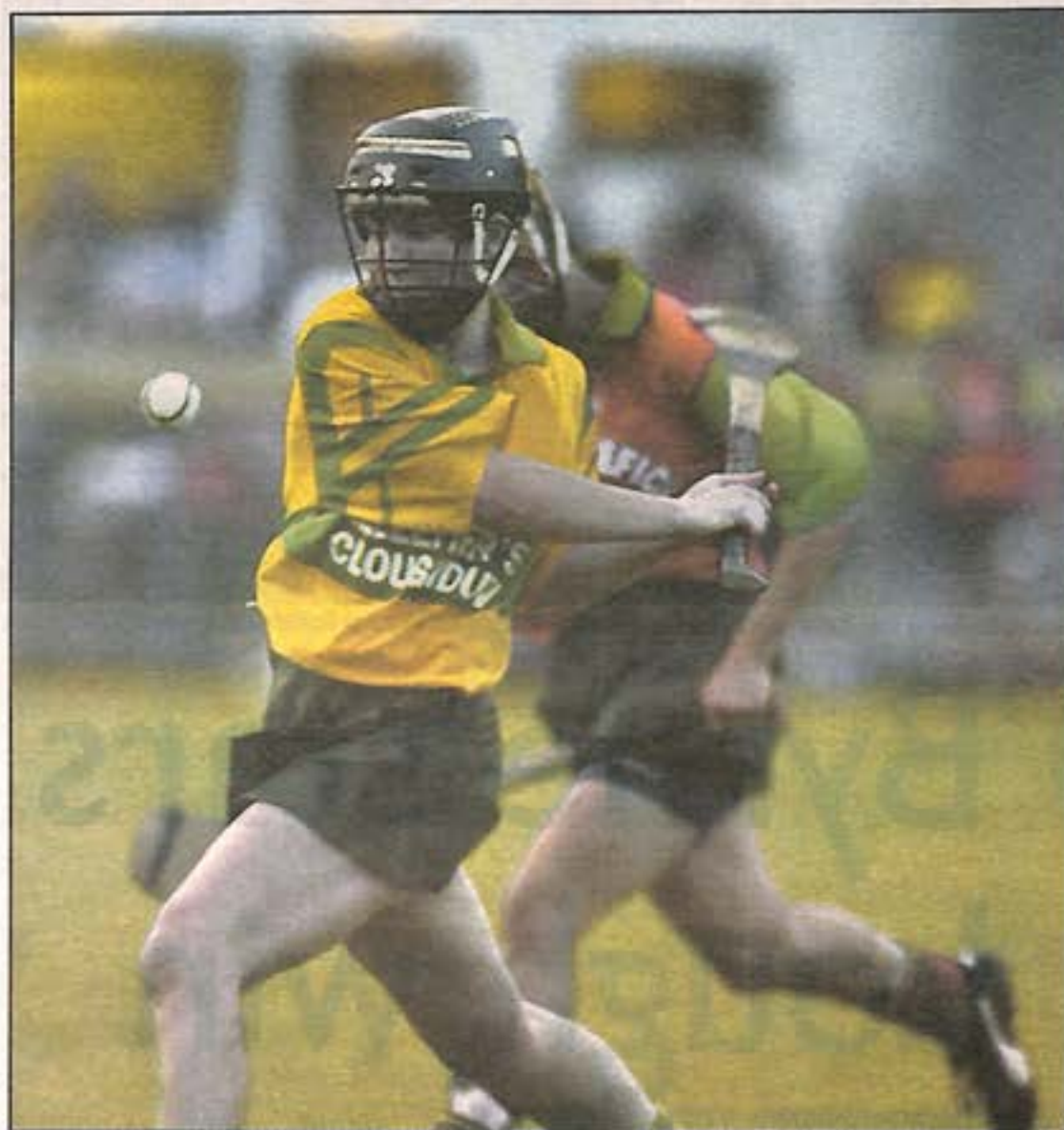
Defeated in the first round after a replay with Milford, Cloughduv then faced Imokilly a few short days later in round two. Tired and sore after a tremendous battle with Milford, it is to their credit that they lifted their heads in such a short space of time. Next came St Finbarr's and this was always going to be a cracker. They escaped by the narrowest of margins to set up a semi-final showdown with their first round rivals Milford.

The first half failed to live up to expectations as Milford failed to reach the heights they are capable of and Cloughduv took full advantage.

They led by two goals at half time and seemed comfortable but a second half Milford onslaught saw them a point down with six minutes remaining. It was a real test of character and Cloughduv responded finishing the game with a four point win.

Inniscarra turned the tables on Fr O'Neill's, who defeated them in the 2003 final. Shooting 11 wides they still recorded a comfortable 11 point victory over the East Cork side in round one.

Advancing straight to round three they faced Courcey Rovers. Turning around a seven point deficit to score a winning goal in injury time Inniscarra displayed



Una O'Donoghue will play an integral part in the Cloughduv, star-studded, attack when they face Inniscarra in the final of the County Senior A Camogie Championship tonight



**Linda Mellerick**

incredible drive and will to win. In the semi-final against Carbery they once again came from behind with two late goals to advance.

What of the final? Cloughduv are favourites without a doubt. Many feel that the semi-final game with Milford was in fact the final with the winners sure to win the title. But how many times have predications gone against the grain? Inniscarra will be delighted with the underdog tag. Quietly training away they are determined to put the ghost of 2003 behind them.

Cloughduv possibly have too much strength in depth for

Inniscarra. They are a talented squad with no fewer than five senior inter-county players. Many of the remaining players have also represented Cork at some stage in their careers.

Players of the caliber of Marie Corkery, Sinead Buckley, Katherine Corkery and Lynn Dunlea will be hard to hold back.

The two Dunleas and Una O'Donoghue make up a star-studded full forward line which is capable of getting huge scores. Joanne and Ora O'Callaghan and Sinead Corkery are tight and tenacious defenders while the attacking Breige Corkery at half back and the hard working Marie ensure Cloughduv have talent in every line of the pitch.

But Inniscarra too have talent. Rena Buckley has developed into a defender which belies her

tender years. Inniscarra rely greatly on her to steady her team.

Up front Ger Casey has incredible speed while former Cork player Criona Harte will need to be closely watched.

Inniscarra's most famous daughter, five times All-Ireland medal winner Irene O'Keeffe came on as a substitute in the semi-final and scored one of two goals which led her team into the final. Whether she starts or is introduced, she will without doubt, be the one to test the Cloughduv defence.

If Inniscarra can keep the shackles on the lethal Cloughduv full forward line, then this game will be close. It will be a difficult task over the 60 minutes which I don't think they will sustain.

**Verdict: Cloughduv.**

## O'Connor leads new appointees

Cliona Foley

CAMOGIE has announced the appointment of three new full-time officers, just days after its Central Council agreed revolutionary change to its competition structures.

Current Cork star Mary O'Connor will line out against Tipperary in the upcoming All-Ireland final on September 18 and is also on the Rebels' football team that has reached the semi-finals.

But she is also now one of three new paid camogie 'coaching' appointments which have come about thanks to the Government's special grant aid of €1.5million to hurling this year, with €250,000 of the Sports Council allocation going directly to camogie.

Limerick's Lynn Kelly, formerly a Gaelic Games Officer at the University of Limerick, is the new National Development Co-ordinator while O'Connor and Galway's Caroline Murray — a cousin of Galway hurling star Richie Murry — will be Regional Development Co-ordinators. Michael McClements already fulfils this role in Ulster.

O'Connor is a former Gaelic promotion officer at Limerick IT and has most recently worked as a Coaching Development Officer with the East Cork GAA Board while Murray is a Sports Science graduate from UL who has played for Galway at all grades.

The appointments come on foot of some radical changes made last weekend, agreed on the recommendations of a high-powered five-woman 'Competition Review Committee' that included Linda Mellerick (Cork), Germaine Noonan (Dublin), Bernie McNally (Down), Mollie Guinan (Offaly) and Marie O'Brien (Roscommon).

The most significant of the two-year experiments includes the decision to bar counties with senior status from fielding teams in the All-Ireland junior championship, the altering of age-groups so that 'minors' are now under-18 (though U16 will still exist) and the inclusion of two new divisions in the National League for weaker counties.

Aug

2005



The All-Ireland winning Kilkenny Minor 'A' Camogie Team with the Cup following their victory over Tipperary on August 7th in Parnell Park. The team will be introduced to the spectators at half-time in the Cork v Limerick game. From back (l-r): Caroline O'Brien, Sinead Kelly, Collette Dwyer, Nicola Butler, Ann Marie Walsh, Marie Therese O'Neill, Michelle Mulhall, Edwina Keane, Katie Power, Emma Stanton, Lizzie Kavanagh, Regina Madigan, Elaine Kenny, Kate MacDonald, Margo Nolan, Sarah Walsh, Siobhan Fahey, Anna Farrell, Noreen O'Keeffe, Niamh Quinlan, Marie Murphy, Liz Byrne, Noelle Corrigan, Marie Dargan, Lucinda Gahan (co-psins), Michelle Quilty.



Pictured at Croke Park yesterday were Galway star Caroline Murray (centre), and Cork ace Mary O'Connor (right), who were appointed as Regional Development Co-ordinators with Lynn Kelly of Limerick (left), who was appointed as National Camogie Development Co-ordinator. Picture: Pat Murphy/Sportsfile



# County final is a sister act

NEVER before has so many sets of sisters took to the field in opposition for a senior county title writes Linda Mellerick.

Three sets of sisters are represented on the Inniscarra panel while there are an incredible four in the Cloughduv squad.

The McCarthys, the O'Connells and the Buckleys are the sisters involved with Inniscarra.

Rosalyn McCarthy plays in defence and is the holder of a County Junior B medal with Inniscarra. She is also an avid kick boxer and holds national honours.

Treasa is a student and sister to Rosalyn. She holds a Cork Féile na nGael medal and like her sister, a junior B county championship medal. She has won Cork Colleges



The three sets of sisters on the Inniscarra camogie team to play Cloughduv in the senior final this Friday, from left Roslyn and Treasa McCarthy, twins Mary and Rena Buckley and Marie and Fiona O'Connell.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

medals and holds Munster honours with the Cork U18 team.

Marie O'Connell plays in attack and is a student along with sister Fiona who for the record also lines out in the half forward line. Both

players are excellent hockey players with county, league and Munster medals.

Extremely versatile Marie has also won All-Ireland medals in athletics.

Twins Rena and Mary Buckley figure prominently

in the Inniscarra team.

Rena is in her second year with the Cork senior team.

Mary has won county and Munster medals with St Aloysius School and a senior B county title with her club. See P59 for more.

## Cloughduv keep it in the family



THE Corkerys, Dunleas, O'Callaghans and Cronins are household names in Cloughduv and are all key players in the club's bid for a third All-Ireland title in five years, writes Linda Mellerick.

Siobhan Corkery, the eldest at 29-years-of-age, is a tidy corner back. Breige, the youngest at 18, is the team's most versatile player.

Sister Marie flanks Breige at left half back. Last but not least Katherine lines out at corner forward.

The Dunleas are the most successful sisters in club history. Boasting nine All-Ireland senior titles between them they are crucial to Cloughduv's championship bid.

Stephanie, having spent most of her career in defence, now lines out

at full forward and with Lynn, back from retirement, playing alongside.

The tenacious O'Callaghans, Joanne and Ora, play in defence.

Aoife and Clara Cronin are not in the starting 15 but may be called upon. Aoife, at just 17, has the experience of a junior B county victory, while Clara, at 27, already holds two Senior County medals.

**The Cloughduv sisters:** From left: Clara and Aoife Cronin, Marie, Katherine and Siobhan Corkery, Stephanie and Lynn Dunlea, and Orla O'Callaghan.

## Camogie Development

Limerick woman Lynn Kelly has been appointed national camogie development co-ordinator, while two of the games outstanding players, Mary O'Connor of Cork and Caroline Murray of Galway, take on the role of regional development co-ordinators. Kelly is a former sports officer at the Limerick Institute of Technology and a former Gaelic games promotions officer at the University of Limerick.

Mary O'Connor has worked as a Gaelic games promotion officer in the Limerick area and will line out at full-back for Cork in the All-Ireland senior final on 18 September. Caroline Murray has worked as a health promotion officer with the Irish Cancer society and has represented Galway at all grades in camogie.

The appointments were made following the allocation of a €250,000 by the Irish Sports Council earlier this year.

Pictured with big hurleys are, left to right, Lynn Kelly, Caroline Murray and Mary O'Connor.





# Cork Senior Camogie Championship Final

## Cloughdubh

v's

## Inniscarra

**Réiteoir Collette O'Mahony  
(St Finbarr's)**

**in Eire Óg GAA Grounds  
Friday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2005  
at 7.00pm**

**Price €2.00**

## Cloughdubh



*Cloughdubh Captain  
Aoife Murray*

### PLAYERS:-

1. Aoife Murray (Capt)

- |                       |                      |                    |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 2. Ora O'Callaghan    | 3. Sinead Corkery    | 4. Siobhan Corkery |
| 5. Joanne O'Callaghan | 6. Emma Dunne        | 7. Briege Corkery  |
| 8. Marie Corkery      | 9. Aoife Buckley     |                    |
| 10. Una O'Donoghue    | 11. Sinead Buckley   | 12. Jean Lucey     |
| 13. Catherine Corkery | 14. Stephanie Dunlea | 15. Ciara Cronin   |

### SUBSTITUTES:

- |                         |                    |                         |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 16. Caroline McSullivan | 17. Nicole Barrett | 18. Marie Lucey         |
| 19. Aoife Cronin        | 20. Sarah Buckley  | 21. Antoinette O'Connor |
| 22. Louise Holland      | 23. Fiona Murphy   | 24. Lynn Dunlea         |
| 25. Sheila Lucey        |                    |                         |

## Inniscarra



*Inniscarra Captain  
Margaret Noelle O'Sullivan*

### PLAYERS:-

- |                                 |                     |                       |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Orla Murphy                  |                     |                       |
| 2. Rosalyn McCarthy             | 3. Enda Dineen      | 4. Mary Buckley       |
| 5. Trish Murphy                 | 6. Rena Buckley     | 7. Kathryn Ryan       |
| 8. Mgt Noelle O'Sullivan (Capt) | 9. Niamh Dilworth   |                       |
| 10. Geraldine Casey             | 11. Marie O'Connell | 12. Margaret McCarthy |
| 13. Treasa McCarthy             | 14. Elizabeth Hayes | 15. Criona Harte      |

### SUBSTITUTES:

- |                      |                     |                        |
|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| 16. Sinead Ní Riain  | 17. Fiona O'Connell | 18. Catriona O'Connell |
| 19. Ann O'Mahony     | 20. Irene O'Keeffe  | 21. Aoife Kavannagh    |
| 22. Noreen McSweeney | 23. Jacinta Claire  | 24. Graine Desmond     |
| 25. Nicola Buckley   | 26. Claire Moloney  | 27. Yvonne Twomey      |
| 28. Grainne O'Mahony | 29. Ann Golden      | 30. Maeve Buckley      |



# Corkerys lead the charge as Cloughdun rule again

Cloughdun  
Inniscarra

3-10  
0-7

by Edward Newman

A STAR-studded Cloughdun side collected their third title in five seasons after fashioning this convincing victory over gallant Inniscarra in the Mercury Lounge Cork County senior camogie final at Ovens last evening.

Two late goals in the first period and a defiant second-half performance from their defence proved the difference for Cloughdun in a contest brimful with skill and replete with fine scores.

Allied to this was a player-of-the-match performance from Brieghe Corkery. A hugely athletic player, Corkery was a ball of energy from the opening minute and particularly influential when Cloughdun struggled in the first quarter.

Behind Brieghe, her namesake Sinead gave a towering display and kept the Inniscarra forward line very quiet in the second half when the pressure really came on.

"I thought Sinead Corkery was outstanding," said Cloughdun coach Paudie Murray.

"She should be in the Cork senior panel. And she had a broken finger but still played through the pain barrier."

The Cloughdun sideline really worked the oracle after a poor opening. The placing of Brieghe Corkery to midfield and the switch of Stephanie Dunlea to centre-forward and Una O'Donoghue to full forward turned the game in their favour.

"The first 20 minutes weren't very good from our perspective," continued Murray.

"We made a couple of changes — we brought Joanne (O'Callaghan) to centre-back, Brieghe to midfield and it really changed things."

"Brieghe's second-half performance was very, very good. She dropped back as a sweeper, which stopped them from attacking the whole time."

And while Corkery sparkled in defence, up-front Cloughdun showed wonderful marksmanship with Stephanie Dunlea, Una O'Donoghue and Lynn Dunlea landing a litany of fine scores.

Added Murray: "This is my sixth year involved and the last two years have been very, very disappointing."

"I knew at the start of the year the girls were up for it. And I am really



Cloughdun's Stephanie Dunlea breaks past Inniscarra's Enda Dineen in the Cork Camogie senior final at Ovens last night.

Picture: Michael MacSweeney

thrilled because they put in a massive effort."

It was hard to argue with Murray's analysis of the game. Favourites Cloughdun were in real trouble from the beginning as Inniscarra attacked in waves but they failed to make it pay on the scoreboard.

For all their domination they still only had three points registered by the 20th minute, through Criona Harte, Geraldine Casey and the excellent Niamh Dilworth.

Cloughdun hadn't scored since Sinead Buckley landed a point in the ninth minute when Stephanie Dunlea

thundered into the game, laying on a delightful pass for a Catherine Corkery point in the 26th minute and then giving the deftest of flicks for Una O'Donoghue to blast a great goal to the top right hand corner.

O'Donoghue and Dilworth exchanged points before Stephanie Dunlea took advantage of a delayed clearance from Orla Murphy and blocked it to the net. That came on half time to give the green and gold a 2-3 to 0-4 advantage.

Cloughdun really showed their class all over the park on the turnover. All six backs stood up to what Inniscarra

threw at them. Brieghe Corkery gave a mammoth display of midfield while the Dunlea sisters and Una O'Donoghue piled on the scores.

Inniscarra were barely hanging on at the end of the third quarter, although Geraldine Casey did clip over two nice points. But it was goals they needed and there was no way past a stoic Cloughdun rearguard led by Sinead Corkery and Joanne O'Callaghan.

The Dunlea sisters added points in the 47th and 48th minute that set in motion 10 minutes of total domination by their team. Roared on by their fanatical support, Cloughdun

ended in style when Una O'Donoghue set up Lynne Dunlea for a goal of real quality.

Scorers for Cloughdun: S Dunlea 1-3 (0-1 free; 0-1 '65); U O'Donoghue and L Dunlea 1-2 each; C Corkery 0-2; S Buckley 0-1.

Inniscarra: G Casey 0-3; C Harte and N Dilworth (0-1 free) 0-3 each.

Cloughdun: A Murray (c); O O'Callaghan, Sinead Corkery, Siobhan Corkery, J O'Callaghan, E Dunlea, B Corkery, M Corkery, A Buckley, U O'Donoghue, S Buckley, J Lucey, C Corkery, S Dunlea, L Dunlea.

Inniscarra: O Murphy; T Murphy, E Dineen, M Buckley, M O'Connell, R Buckley, M McCarthy; M O'Callaghan (c), N Dilworth; F O'Connell, G Casey, T McCarthy; S Ní Riain, E Hayes, C Harte. Subs: I O'Keefe for F O'Connell (ht); K Ryan for Ní Riain (56).

Referee: C O'Mahony (St Finbarr's).

## Ballyhea/Douglas advance to Jnr A final

Ballyhea  
Sarsfields

5-7  
3-2

TWELVE months after taking the Junior B champions Ballyhea advanced to the final of The Mercury Restaurant and Lounge Junior "A" championship where they will meet Douglas.

Ballyhea had grabbed two early points from Mary Coleman and Karen O Leary before Emer O Farrell goalied for Sars, but the response was instant as Sarah Douglas shot Ballyhea back into the lead.

Orla Butler's long range effort deceiving France Killeen and ending up in the Ballyhea net to keep Sars in the lead.

Ballyhea had with a Mary Coleman point before Karen O Leary pointed a free and goals from Karen O Leary and Mary Coleman and a Maria Walsh point before the break had Ballyhea in the driving seat leading by eight points the

### Sarah Douglas had the final say with a Ballyhea goal at death

break. Inside four minutes of the restart Orla Barry had a goal back for Sars and putting the Ballyhea defence under pressure they came more into the game.

Karen O Leary had added a point to the Ballyhea tally as the Sars defence stayed on top but equally so the Ballyhea defence at the other end of the field. Mary Coleman rallied Ballyhea finding the net after a superb solo effort and now with a final place in sight they upped the pace. Two Sarsfields points were replied to by Mary Coleman before Sarah Douglas had the final say with a Ballyhea goal on the full time whistle.

Ballyhea: F Killeen, S O Leary, A Morrissey, V Hennessy, S McInerney, E Waters, Michelle Walsh M O'Brien, K O Leary (1-3, 0-1 from frees 1 goal 45") R Waters, M Coleman (2-3) Maria Walsh (0-1), J O Leary, S Douglas (2-0), N Morrissey. Subs: H O'Brien for N Morrissey (15 min), A Cops for J O Leary (55 min)

Sarsfields: B O'Reilly, M Cronin, T Dwyer, J O'Donoghue, J Murphy, S O Leary, E Murphy, S Crowley, M O'Donoghue, E O Farrell (1-1), O Barry (1-1, free), A Barry, M O'Connor, O Butler (1-0), D Murphy. Subs: C Holland for S Crowley (29 min), B Kenny for O Butler (40 min), A Whoolley for M O'Connor (47 min), E Looney for M Cronin (50 min)

Referee: Tom Pierce, Kilworth

Douglas  
Killeagh

3-7  
2-6

Despite leading 1-4 to 0-2 at the half time, whistle Douglas

had to fight to the death before shaking off the challenge of Killeagh to book their place in The Mercury Restaurant and Lounge Junior "A" championship final.

With Amanda O Regan on target and Jenny O Donovan causing the Killeagh defence endless problem Douglas made all the early running. Angela Walsh opened the Killeagh account with eight minutes to the break.

A goal from a 21-metre free from Amanda a Regan early in the second half looked to have Douglas well on their way but credit Killeagh driven on by Mary O Connor they upped the pace and goals from

Lisa Rohan and Angela Walsh brought them right back into contention.

With 10 minutes remaining Mary O Connor pointed to level matters and now both defences were under considerable pressure as each side sought a winner.

With two minutes remaining Niamh O Donovan took on the Killeagh defence before slotting home and when Amanda O Regan pointed a free Douglas had done enough to earn themselves a place in the final.

Douglas: C Conway, T Buckley, L Sheehan, L O Shea, A Barrett, A O Regan, L O Regan, D Murphy, H O Mahony, H O Connor, S O Leary, L O Mahony, R O Sullivan, J O Donovan, N O Donovan

Killeagh: C Deane, K Walsh, R Collins, A Hegarty, C Walsh, M O'Connor, E O'Neill, M Smiddy, K Kelleher, L Rohan, A M Walsh, C Keohane, N O Donovan, A Walsh, S Smiddy. Subs: N O Loughlin for S Smiddy, A Walsh for N O Loughlin.

Referee: Jack McGrath, Castlemaine



AUG 2005

# Corkery is engine for Cloughduv

By MARY NEWMAN

Cork senior camogie final

THE Muskerry Division stood tall last evening in Owens as two of their own battled it out for ultimate honours in the Mercury Restaurant and Lounge Senior Camogie final.

Cloughduv were looking for title number three in five years, Inniscarra seeking their first.

It was the experience of Cloughduv that won out in the end, but it was a wonderful showpiece for the game of camogie and certainly no disgrace for Inniscarra, whose search for title number one heartbreakingly continues.

Hosts Éire Óg, led as always by the hard working Con Malone, had everything superbly organised and certainly the Camogie Board can also take a bow for a having arrangements befitting the occasion. The huge crowd bore testament to the game's growing popularity and they were not disappointed as both sides gave it their all.

Before the throw-in it was interesting to observe former team-mates Noel Dunne and Joe McCarthy put their respective charges through their paces, having won Senior County Football Championship medals side by side with Muskerry in 1970, it was now time to try and do it for their new charges, as daughters Roslyn and Treasa McCarthy and Emma Dunne had leading roles.

Inniscarra made all the early running and dictated the opening quarter leading three points to one inside 15 minutes; in that period Cloughduv struggled in midfield but shrewd tactics from stalwart Paudie Murray and Noel Dunne saw Joanne O'Callaghan move to centre-back with Briege Corkery taking up a holding role.

A move which paid dividends was the switching of Stephanie Dunlea and Una O'Donoghue. No sooner had Dunlea taken up her centre-forward position with O'Donoghue anchored on the edge of the square then goal number one arrived, Dunlea setting up O'Donoghue.

From here to the break Cloughduv dominated and driven on by the lion-hearted Corkery — who stood head and shoulders above the rest on show — they took control. As half-time loomed, Dunlea showed just how invaluable she is since reverting to an attacking role when she blocked down Inniscarra keeper Orla Murphy's attempted clearance and the sliothar nestled in the net. It was a defining moment in the final.

It gave Cloughduv a five-point interval lead and more importantly the upper hand, as Inniscarra never really recovered from its concession.

Inniscarra introduced Irene O'Keefe for the start of the second half in the hope of grabbing the goal they needed to get back into contention but the Cloughduv defence had other ideas. Sinead Corkery, Emma Dunne and Joanne O'Callaghan defended stoutly and there was no way through, so much so goalkeeper and captain Aoife Murray had a relatively easy night.

Rena Buckley, despite carrying an injury, played herself to a standstill while Ger Casey and Trish Murphy tried valiantly to haul Inniscarra back.

It was strange though to see a player of Margaret McCarthy's ability play a defensive role. Granted she has not played much this year, but in the past she has proved capable of grabbing scores and maybe Inniscarra would have benefited with her up front.

From the 17th to the 29 minute of the first half and from the 18th minute of the second, Inniscarra failed to score; county titles are not won on such statistics.

So another Cork County Camogie final has come and gone, no new name on the trophy but Inniscarra can take a lot of credit for making it a game to remember.

Small consolation surely, however, for Fergal O'Leary, Joe McCarthy and their charges.

# Cloughduv



Cloughduv celebrate at the final whistle after beating Inniscarra in the Cork Senior Camogie Championship final.  
Picture: Donna McBride News Digital



Cloughduv	3-10
Inniscarra	0-07

Cloughduv are the new Mercury Restaurant and Lounge Senior A Camogie champions after a great contest with Inniscarra in Owens last night.

The huge crowd, at the wonderfully laid out Owens venue, were treated to a camogie game full of passion and commitment that is present in many finals, but this game had the added ingredient of being a derby.

With bragging rights on the line neither side wanted to give an inch.

The final scoreline does no justice to the contribution of Inniscarra, who battled bravely and after being on top for so long in the first half, lost control once Cloughduv turned up the heat.

The final may not have been a classic like last year but it was a thrilling contest all the same with great hurling a notable feature of the game.

Cloughduv were inspired throughout the game by player-of-the-match Briege Corkery, who was in superb form from the start.

She was the main reason for Inniscarra being restricted to four first-half points. As soon as she was moved to midfield she orchestrated attacks with intelligent use of the sliothar.

With the Cloughduv forwards relying on one or two players for scores during the championship, the defence have been inspired and, just like they did against Milford, they were in charge of damage limitation until they got back in control of the game.

For the first 25 minutes of this game, Inniscarra were in control and they were winning battles all over the field, especially in midfield.

After initially struggling to take advantage of dead-ball situations, Inniscarra scored points from Criona Harte and a Niamh Dilworth free, while Ger Casey popped over a beautiful point from the wing.

## Paudie happy as Cloughduv show

PAUDIE MURRAY,  
(Cloughduv, joint coach)

AFTER six years at the helm and two disappointing years recently, Cloughduv's Paudie Murray finally witnessed his side come of age last night to be crowned the Mercury Restaurant and Lounge Senior A Camogie champions.

"It's great to see Cloughduv come back on top in camogie and I think this is probably the sweetest victory of the three championships we

have won to date. From the start of the year, the girls were up for it and they started training early on their own.

"All year it has been brilliant. We have come through the back door to win and we have shown great character throughout the championship and, more importantly, tonight.

"We had to come the hard way but we learned from playing Milford three times."

Murray felt his side struggled to

settle in the first half but once a few changes were made they were in control.

"We struggled badly for the first 20 minutes but I have been involved and seeing my teams playing Inniscarra for years. We knew they were going to come at us and they were up for it. We changed things around and made a number of switches. We knew if we could weather the first 20 minutes we'd be thereabouts at the end."

He noted a number of players who made huge contributions and made the win possible.

"The likes of Sinead Corkery coming back and playing her first county final; she was brilliant tonight. She should be on the Cork panel one of the best defenders in the county. Briege Corkery was brilliant when she was moved to midfield and in the second half she acted as a sweeper to stop Inniscarra attacking."



# champs



Cloughduv with the Cork Senior Camogie Championship trophy after beating Inniscarra in the final. Picture: Donna McBride / News Digital

Cloughduv's only response was a point from Sinéad Buckley after nine minutes. Inniscarra were defending remarkably well as they cut of the supply of ball to Lynn and Stephanie Dunlea and it left Cloughduv nervy as they committed errors.

Inniscarra led by 0-4 to 0-1 with five minutes to go to half time, but the Cloughduv sideline changed the course of the game with a number of switches such as moving Brieger Corkery to midfield and switching Una O'Donoghue to full-forward. These changes allowed Cloughduv to assert their influence and put their mid-Cork rivals under severe pressure.

The tactical switches turned on its head inside a minute, with a point from Cloughduv's Catherine Corkery and then Stephanie Dunlea picked out Una O'Donoghue who scored a great goal. O'Donoghue pointed again

before her long delivery forced an error from the Inniscarra keeper and Stephanie Dunlea was quick to react and block down her attempted clearance.

Her blockdown ricocheted the ball to the net for Cloughduv's second goal and that double blow left Inniscarra dazed going in at the break as they now trailed by 2-3 to 0-4.

The roles were reversed in the second half, all of a sudden Inniscarra were in desperate need of inspiration as they were losing battles in every sector of the pitch.

Inniscarra were content to run at the defence and trying to muscle their way through on goal, instead of driving the ball long and giving their full-forward line possession. The full-forward line were non-existent in the second half, but this was mainly due to the superb defending of Cloughduv.

Inniscarra, despite being six

points behind, continued to battle hard and scored some outstanding points through Ger Casey, Elizabeth Hayes and Harte.

But they could not eat into Cloughduv's advantage as the champions constantly replied before asserting their authority and finishing the strongest.

Cloughduv pulled away with a number of great scores and a late goal from O'Donoghue sealed a great win.

**Scorers for Cloughduv:** U O'Donoghue 2-2, S Dunlea 1-3 (0-1 free, 0-1 45), L Dunlea 0-2, C Corkery 0-2, S Buckley 0-1.

**Inniscarra:** N Dilworth 0-2 (0-2 free), G Casey 0-2, C Harte, 0-2 (0-1 free), M McCarthy 0-1.

**Cloughduv:** A Murray, O O'Callaghan, S Corkery, S Corkery, J O'Callaghan, E Dunne, B Corkery, M Corkery, A Buckley, U O'Donoghue, S Buckley, J Lucey, C Corkery, S Dunlea, L Dunlea.

**Inniscarra:** O Murphy, T Murphy, E Dinneen, M Buckley, M O'Connell, R Buckley, M McCarthy, M O'Sullivan, N Dilworth, F O'Connell, G Casey, T McCarthy, S Ni Riain, E Hayes, C Harte. **Subs:** I O'Keefe for F O'Connell, K Ryan for S Ni Riain.

**Referee:** C Desmond (St Finbarr's)

## some real grit

**FERGAL O'LEARY,**  
(Inniscarra, selector)

O'Leary summed up the gloom and hurt that was felt by his side following the final whistle.

"It is very disappointing for the girls. They lost the final again two years ago in 2003. The players really believed they would win it tonight. The players were superb but Cloughduv deserved it in the end. We had a very young team; we had four 15-year-olds playing tonight."

While he feels Cloughduv deserved to win, he felt the final scoreline didn't reflect the quality of the game: "I don't think it was a true reflection. A soft goal at the end put a gloss on the scoreline. For the first 20 minutes we had them rattled and were winning battles in all sectors of the pitch. Cloughduv came back at us and got a bit of luck with one of the goals. Second half we battled but we struggled to get our running game going."



Cloughduv's Marie Corkery and Milford's Anna Geary challenge for the ball in the Cork County Senior Camogie final.

Picture: Neil O'Quinn

## Any Tipperary weakness must be exploited

**FOR THE fourth year in a row, its Cork and Tipperary in this year's All-Ireland senior camogie final. Are neutrals getting bored with it?**

Maybe, but at the end of the day, if you want a competitive, great game of camogie then you'd pick these two every time.

September 18 is the day.

Who will win this year's final? On Munster championship form, Tipp will. I missed the Munster final. Cork were defeated and friends tell me Tipp played a different brand of camogie to Cork.

Their speed, awareness of their team mate's whereabouts on the pitch and first touch were sublime.

But that was then and this is now. Tipp can be beaten! They are not a perfect team and have weaknesses.

The difference between Cork and Tipp these past few years is that they have played to their strengths

and we have yet to address it.

Time and again they use the same game plan. Their half forward line, typically made up of Noelle Kennedy, Claire Grogan and Joanne Ryan pull Corks half back line way out.

Inside you have arguably the fastest two corner forwards in the country, Emer McDonnell and Jill Horan. At full forward, the deadly Deirdre Hughes who needs just the one chance.

A long low ball into the wide open space in the corners and 90% of the time these two are out first. They gather, turn their marker and head straight for the danger area.

In the 2003 All-Ireland final McDonnell scored a goal exactly like this and it was the beginning of Cork's downfall.

She did so again last Saturday against Wexford in the semi-final.

Our corner backs do not have the speed to match these two, not many would. The golden rule, even at underage, is not to play from behind. But even starting the sprint at 50/50 Tipp have the edge.

Cork cannot be dragged out on a wide open pitch like Croke Park. They must hold their positions and protect their full-back line. If our centre field and half-forward line have to fall back and come out a bit then so be it.

Cork need to play with aggression. We don't have it. In 2002 when we beat Tipp, we pulled (cleanly) on anything that moved. Be it in the air or down low, no ball or person went unchallenged. After the game Tipp criticised our play, but it wasn't dirty. It was tough. Twelve months later and the roles have reversed.

It is now Tipp who blow us away.

We are too fancy. Skill alone will not win the All-Ireland.

You have to be tough enough to hold on to possession when you get it and hurt yourself if needs be to dispossess.

Tipperary's midfield is where Cork should capitalise. A line of the pitch Tipp cannot settle. Year in and year out, it changes as Tipp try to find a winning combination. They still don't have it and Cork must take advantage.

Vivienne Harris needs to be the influential player she was a few years ago and up her game to the point where she dictates.

Rachel Moloney, while a trojan worker, needs to toughen up and drive that ball 50 or 60 yards.

Up front, the selectors have work to do. Angela Walsh, while impressing in her first year in the squad, will not have the strength or experience for Tipp's left half back Therese

Brophy.

Gemma O'Connor, three years ago was the best half-back in the country.

Last year she was the best centre field player in the country and won an All-Star.

This year, the Cork mentors have slotted her in at centre forward and its just not working.

She is a pale shadow of the player she can be and no matter how the selectors persist in trying to make a forward out of her, her talent is stifled.

She ran herself into the ground in last year's All-Ireland and only for her the losing margin would have been far greater.

Cork need her outfield and I would love to see her in the half back line again or at centre field where Cork can capitalise bursting past players and driving the ball the way only she can.

Ok, maybe they want her there to mark Ciara Gaynor in the final but I wouldn't sacrifice one of my top players for it.

There are other ways around Gaynor's dominance. Cork must put thinking into this final and a lot of it!

While people say that you should concentrate on getting your own house in order and ignore what the other team are doing, I don't always agree.

Tipp are going for their sixth title in seven years and they have defeated Cork in three finals and one semi-final. Cork need to do more than concentrate on their own preparations.

They need to minimise Tipp's strengths and capitalise on their weaknesses. To do this they must think about it.



Linda Mellerick



Aug 2005



Cloughduv's Stephanie Dunlea breaks past Inniscarra's Enda Dineen in the Cork camogie senior final at Ovens. Picture: Michael MacSweeney/Provision

# Third title in five years for Cloughduv

by Mary Newman

Camogie

Mary Newman

A NIGHT to remember for Cloughduv as they took the Cork Senior Camogie championship title for the third time in five years, but more importantly a wonderful night for camogie thanks to the efforts of two teams who battled it out to the finish.

Hosted with the usual efficiency by the Eire Og club, the final had everything, helped in no small way by the wonderful atmosphere created by the huge crowd, a reflection of the growing interest in camogie within the county.

Inniscarra made all the early running with points from Criona Harte Ger Casey and Niamh Dilworth, Sinead Buckley hitting one for Cloughduv as they struggled to keep in touch with an Inniscarra side who dictated the opening quarter.

Cloughduv made moves to rectify matters, switching Joanne O'Callaghan to centre back, with Brieghe Corkery taking up a roving role at midfield, and also switching Stephanie Dunlea to centre forward and Una O'Donoghue to full forward, laying the foundations for success.

Three minutes to the break Cloughduv struck, Stephanie Dunlea setting up Una O'Donoghue to finish from close range. Three minutes later Stephanie Dunlea blocked down Inniscarra keeper Orla Murphy's attempted clearance to

send the sliotar to the net, and now holding a five point interval lead Cloughduv held the upper hand.

Inniscarra introduced Irene O'Keeffe in the hope of grabbing the goal they needed, but Cloughduv defended stoutly. Rena Buckley, despite carrying an injury, played herself to a standstill while Ger Casey and Trish Murphy tried valiantly to haul Inniscarra back from defeat. The ability to pick off points was a telling factor in Cloughduv's favour.

From the 17th to the 29th minute of the first half and from the 18th minute of the second Inniscarra failed to score while Cloughduv's Stephanie Dunlea Catherine Corkery and Lynn Dunlea were all on target.

Goal number three arrived on the full time whistle from Una O'Donoghue, but a word about Breighe Corkery who once again worked tirelessly for Cloughduv roaming up and down the pitch. She was named by the judging panel as Player of the Match which was sponsored by Gerald McCarthy Trophies. I

t's a Munster Club Championship meeting with the Limerick champions next for Cloughduv as they try to take their first provincial title.

While all the praise must be heaped on Cloughduv, spare a thought for Fergal

O'Leary, Joe McCarthy and their charges who contributed so determinedly to a splendid showpiece for the game of camogie. The search for that first elusive title continues, but while they lost the contest they certainly did themselves and their club proud.

Meanwhile, Bishopstown advanced to a semi-final meeting in the Mercury Restaurant and Lounge Senior B championship with St Catherine's last evening by virtue of their victory over Glen Rovers on Tuesday last.

With Ciara Healy to the fore the Bishopstown girls forged ahead and they will have pushed St Catherine's to the limits last evening. Tonight in Ballincollig Valley Rover and Ballygarvan will contest the second semi-final at 7pm while in the junior "A" championship semi-final, Killeagh and Douglas meet in Watergrahill at 7pm.

It was a good week for Killeagh as they added the Under 14 C league title to their Feile crown with a victory over Passage in Ballinlough. Sandra Smiddy, Clare Keohane, Danielle Keniry and Eanna O'Neill all playing major roles as Killeagh took the crown, for Passage, Clare O'Brien, and Lisa O'Sullivan grabbed scores but it was not enough to stop Killeagh taking the honours.

## Ballyhea march into junior final

Ballyhea  
Sarsfield's

5-7  
3-2

By MARY NEWMAN  
Camogie JAC semi-final

ALWAYS holding that little bit extra in reserve last year's junior B champions Ballyhea reached the final of The Mercury Restaurant and Lounge JAC final defeating Sars in Mallow last evening.

Two early points had settled Ballyhea before Cork senior panellist Emer O'Farrell strolled through the Ballyhea defence to finish to the net.

However, from the puck-out, Sarah Douglas shot Ballyhea back into the lead and then it was Sars' turn to respond, Orla Butler's long range effort deceiving France Killeen and ending up in the net.

Ballyhea had levelled courtesy of Mary Coleman before Karen O'Leary had them back in the lead with a pointed free and with Sars struggling to hold possession, Ballyhea held a firm grip on proceedings.

Goals from Karen O'Leary and Mary Coleman and a Maria Walsh point before the break had them in a comfortable position as eight points separated the sides at half-time.

Inside four minutes of the restart Orla Barry had grabbed a goal back for Sars and playing with more conviction they began to put the Ballyhea defence under pressure, who to their credit they stood firm with Edwina

Waters and Amy Morrissey leading by example.

By the midway stage Karen O'Leary had added a point to the Ballyhea tally as the Sars' defence now held a much tighter grip.

Failure, though, to breach the strong Ballyhea defence at the other end of the field saw them continue to trail.

Mary Coleman rallied a flagging Ballyhea attack, finding the net with a superb solo effort and now with victory in their sights, they were not going to be caught.

Two Sarsfields' points brought a quick response from Coleman before Sarah Douglas had the final say, goaling on the full-time whistle.

Ballyhea now meet Douglas in the final on September 25 where a much more focused effort will be needed to gain ultimate honours.

**BALLYHEA:** F. Killeen, S O Leary, A Morrissey, V Hennessey, S. McInerney, E. Waters, Michelle Walsh M O'Brien, K O Leary (1-3, 0-1 from frees 1goal, 45"), R. Waters, M. Coleman (2-3), Maria Walsh (0-1), J O Leary, S Douglas (2-0), N Morrissey, Subs: H O'Brien for N Morrissey, (15) A Copps for J O Leary (55).

**SARSFIELDS:** B O Reilly, M Cronin, T Dwyer, J O Donoghue, J Murphy, S O Leary, E Murphy, S Crowley, M O Donoghue, E O Farrell (1-1), O Barry (1-1, frees), A Barry, M O Connor, O Butler (1-0), D Murphy, Subs: C Holland for S Crowley (29) B Kenney for O Butler (40), A Whoolley for M O Connor (47), E Looney for M Cronin (50).

Referee: Tom Pierce, Kilworth



Cork senior panellist Emer O'Farrell scored a goal and a point for Sarsfield's, but Ballyhea just proved too strong in the end.

## Ballinhassig tournament a success

LAST Saturday was one of the most anticipated among more than 200 U10 camogie players from across the city and county.

It was the day the annual Declan Crowley Memorial U10 camogie tournament took place in the excellent GAA grounds of Ballinhassig.

The tournament, now in its sixth year, is the only one of its kind in the county, giving youngsters an opportunity to take to the field, some representing their club for the very first time in a competitive environment.

They played against teams from the Carrigdhoun division as well as teams from Cork City and Clonakilty.

There were three sections in the tournament with teams playing each other firstly on a league basis then on a semi-fi-



Aishling O'Reilly, Edel Moloney, Anna Hannon and Eimear Crowley from Courcey Rovers at the Ballinhassig U10 camogie blitz.

Picture: Howard Crowley

nal and final basis.

The top four teams played for main trophy, with the middle four and last four playing in the Joan Lucey and

Tony Jeffers trophies respectively.

This year Courcey Rovers won the Declan Crowley Memorial trophy, defeating

Inniscarra in the final, with the trophy being presented to the team by Fiona Crowley.

Ballinhassig won the Kinsale Lions sponsored Joan Lucey Shield, defeating fellow parishioners Ballygarvan, while the Tony Jeffers Shield, sponsored by Brendan and Sheila Coleman was won by Fr O'Neill's who overcame the challenge of Ballinora.

Teams who took part this year were Ballinhassig A and B, Carrigaline, Ballygarvan, Sliabh Rua, Inniscarra, Fr O'Neill's, Clonakilty, Courcey Rovers, Valley Rovers, Ballinora and Glen Rovers.

Grateful thanks was expressed to the Ballinhassig GAA club, sponsors, family and friends and to the players themselves who made the tournament and day into something special for all.



# Buttevant just too powerful for brave Douglas outfit

Buttevant 7-7  
Douglas 1-1

By PJ AHERNE

U14 B Camogie County final

BUTTEVANT proved too strong for the second Douglas team to win the U14 B Camogie County final played at Riverstick on Saturday.

While Buttevant deserved their win the final scoreline does no justice to the contribution made by Douglas.

The foundation of the Buttevant success came from the backbone of the side with half-back, Orla Johnson, midfielders Amber Corbett and Elaine Murphy, centre-forward Darina O'Callaghan and Eimear Healy all hurling well and asserting their influence on the game.

While Buttevant started well and set the tone for the game with long periods of pressure and at times they struggle to find the killer touch.

For much of the first half the scores were not flowing but the high quality of the camogie more than made up for it.

Buttevant's Elaine Murphy opened the scoring with a free, while Douglas's Pamela Mackey was content to take her point from the penalty spot.

Buttevant's Ciara Murphy was fearless in running at the Douglas back-line while a fierce battle raged at midfield between Amber Corbett and Laura Nason.

Buttevant led by two points when Douglas's Clara Kavanagh stuck to score a good goal and seize the initiative before half-time (1-1 to 0-3).

In the second half, Buttevant took complete control and they didn't struggle in the second half, as they did in the first, to develop attacks.

In the first half, they failed to make significant headway into the Douglas half because of superb defending.

Buttevant's Elaine Murphy tied up the game at 1-1 to 0-4 before her team-mate and captain grabbed a vital goal which turned the contest in her side's favour.

The goal spurred Buttevant on and in a strong dash for the finishing line they scored 7-4 in the second half.

Healy and Murphy along with Jane O'Flynn scoring some very well-taken goals.

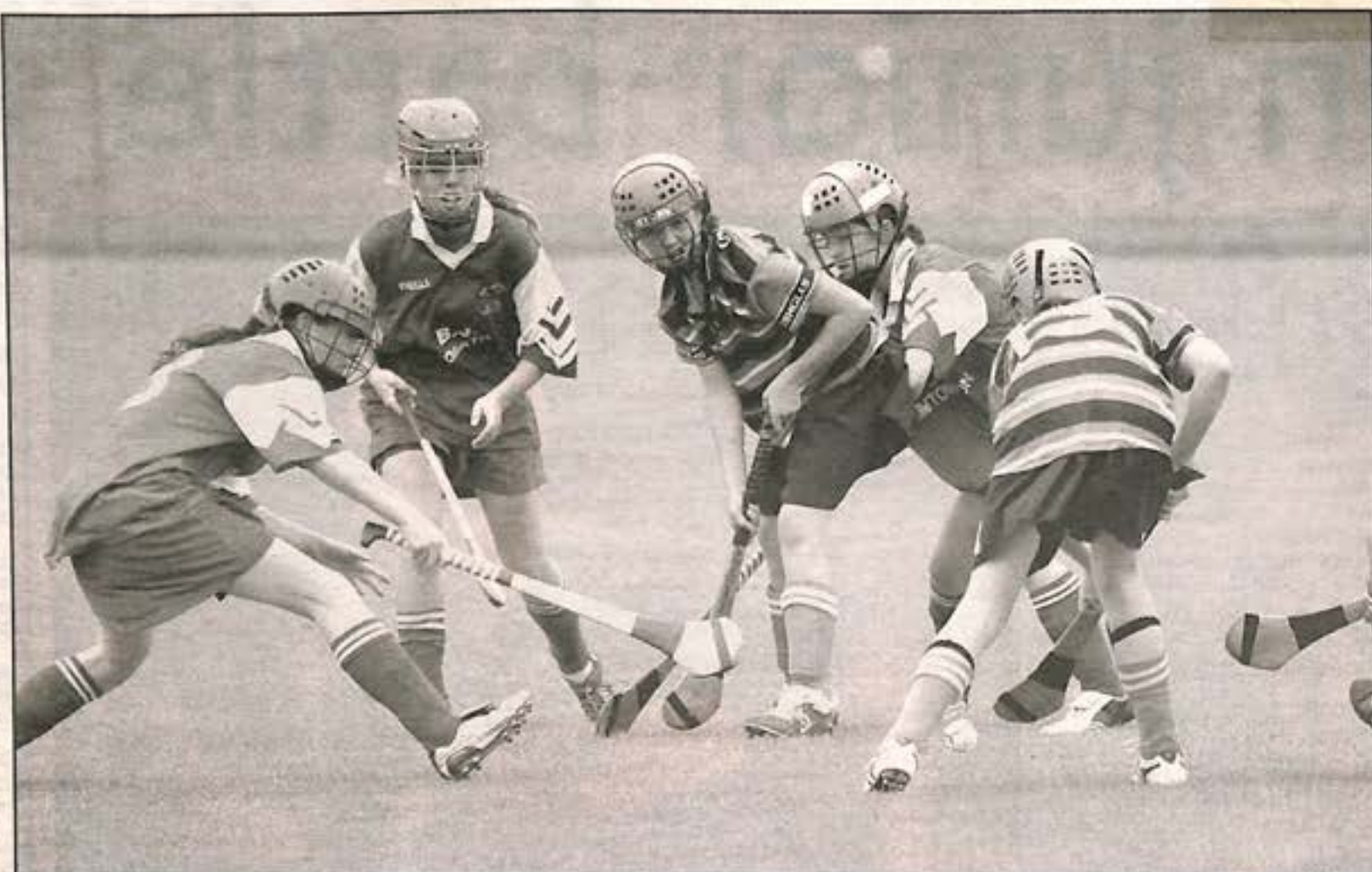
Douglas keeper, Jessica Kavanagh had a great game and could do nothing about the goals that went past her. The other Douglas heroes were Pamela Mackey, Chloe Murphy and Ciara Lynch.

**Scorers for Buttevant:** E Healy 2-4, E Murphy 3-3 (0-1 45, 0-2 frees), J O'Flynn 1-0, D Cotter 1-0.

**Douglas:** C Kavanagh 1-0, P Mackey 0-1 (0-1 penalty).

**BUTTEVANT:** L Palmer, C Barry, H Coughlan, N Crowley, K Burke, O Johnson, A Walsh, A Corbett, E Murphy, S Buckley, D O'Callaghan, C Harrington, A Madigan, E Healy, J Buckley. **Subs:** S McNamara for A Corbett, J O'Flynn for A Madigan, A Daly for C Barry. **DOUGLAS:** J Kavanagh, A O'Connell, N Leo, K O'Sullivan, S Long, P Mackey, C Murphy, J McCarthy, L Nason, C Lynch, K Humphries, O'Neill, C Clarke, L Jackson, C Kavanagh, D Cotter. **Subs:** A O'Donovan for L Jackson, D Cotter for A O'Connell, C O'Driscoll for P Mackey.

**Referee:** C Egan (Glen Rovers)



Ballinhassig players (from left) Aileen O'Leary, Fiona Murphy and Michelle Kelleher clash with Douglas's Ailin O'Donovan and Karen Horgan in the U14 A County final at Riverstick.

Picture: Cillian Kelly

# Douglas on the brink of greatness

Douglas 7-6  
Ballinhassig 1-3

DOUGLAS overcame the disappointment of losing out in the Community Games final by defeating Ballinhassig in the U14 A Camogie County final on Saturday in Riverstick.

There is seemingly no stopping this Douglas U14 side as they continue to win all put in their path and they added the A County Championship to their collection.

Douglas defeated Ballinhassig by playing a superior brand of camogie.

Players supported each other and continued to run with the ball. No player pulled out of any challenge.

They have an insatiable appetite for success instilled in them by their management.

Julia White powered Douglas to victory. White was her side's engine as she raced with the sliotar and orchestrated attacks and dictated play from midfield.

Ballinhassig to their credit battled bravely through the hour



Ballinhassig's Fiona Murphy attempts to block down Douglas's Julia White.

Picture: Cillian Kelly



PJ Aherne

but never fully recovered from a three-goal blast in the opening ten minutes by the champions.

Douglas centre-forward, Moira O'Donovan opened the scoring with a long-distance free which beat everyone and ended up in the corner of the net after five minutes.

Two minutes later, Ailin O'Donovan struck for another goal

before Karen Horgan forced the umpire to once again raise the green flag. Ballinhassig were winded by these goals but battled on with a pointed free from Catriona Collins.

The Douglas side continued to show no mercy with further goals by Jill Kelleher and White.

Ballinhassig continued to look for a way back with another Collins point and a goal by Jennifer Bracken.

But at the break, they faced a huge mountain to climb as they trailed by 5-2 to 1-2.

In the second half, Douglas re-

laxed the pressure but still looked impressive as they went forward.

Six minutes passed in the second half before the crowd were treated to another goal by Douglas's Jill Kelleher.

Not too be outdone, O'Donovan popped up with a cracking goal of her own. Douglas were content to take their points while Ballinhassig's Shauna McCarthy slotted over a great point after a mazy run. She, alongside Katie McCarthy, tried to inspired Ballinhassig and narrow the gap but they just couldn't get close enough to strike for goal.

If Douglas can keep this squad together for the future then they are destined to become a major super-power in Cork camogie.

**Scorers for Douglas:** J Kelleher 2-1, J White 1-3, A O'Donovan 1-1, M O'Donovan 1-1, K Mackey 1-0, K Horgan 1-0.

**Ballinhassig:** J Bracken 1-0, C Collins 0-2 (0-2 frees), S McCarthy 0-1.

**DOUGLAS:** J Kavanagh, P Mackey, J Dempsey, E McCarthy, D Connolly, C Driscoll, E Jordan, M O'Mahony, J White, C Murphy, M O'Donovan, K Mackey, K Horgan, J Kelleher. **Subs:** C Clarke for K Mackey, T McCarthy for A O'Donovan.

**BALLINHASSIG:** L Jordan, A Murphy, C Reynolds, M Kelleher, S McCarthy, F Murphy, H Cullinane, A O'Leary, K McCarthy, A Coakley, M Barrett, A O'Brien, A Coleman, C Collins, J Bracken. **Subs:** R McGuane for A O'Leary, T Collins for A Coakley.

**Referee:** C O'Mahony (St Finbarr's).



# Douglas leave it late to seal spot in final

Douglas 3-7 Killeagh 1-6 By SHANE MURPHY Junior A camogie semi-final

ALTHOUGH the sides were level with three minutes of normal time to play, Douglas finished strongly scoring 1-1 to secure their place in this year's Junior A Camogie Championship final.

This was a heart-breaking defeat for Killeagh who clawed their way back from a seven-point deficit in the second half only for their good work to be undone by classy Douglas corner forward Niamh O'Donovan.

Douglas led throughout the game and it was in the 50th minute that Killeagh finally levelled it.

However, Douglas were stronger as a unit overall and thoroughly deserved their win.

The city side made clear their intention clear from the start as Jenny O'Donovan capitalised on some slack Killeagh defending.

Douglas piled on the pressure early on but the Killeagh held firm.

Their attack however, found scores hard to come by.

Cork senior star Mary O'Connor did a lot of hard work at centre back and was ably assisted by the tight marking Karen Walsh.

Killeagh's most potent forward Angela Walsh split the posts to get her team off the mark after 22 minutes.

Player of the match Amanda O'Regan, who finished with a personal tally of 1-5, was deadly accurate from placed balls and punished any indiscipline in the Killeagh defence.

Killeagh trailed by 1-4 to 0-2 at half time and went further behind in the second half when O'Regan struck a goal from a 21 yard free.

Killeagh looked dead and buried but credit to them they hit a purple patch and goals from Lisa Rohan and Angela Walsh brought them back into this contest.

The East Cork side scored again in the 50th minute when Mary O'Connor pointed a free to bring



Douglas' Rachel O'Sullivan shoots goalwards during last night Junior A camogie semi-final between Douglas and Killeagh. Picture: Ger Bonus

the teams level.

Both sides tried for the lead but it wasn't until eight minutes later when Niamh O'Donovan soloed 30 yards and coolly finished to the net that Douglas got the required edge.

Fittingly, with the final whistle looming, Amanda O'Regan who had an absolute stormer pointed a free to secure the win for Douglas in this junior A county semi final.

**Scorers Douglas:** A O'Regan 1-5 (1-4 frees), J O'Donovan 1-0, N O'Donovan 1-0, R O'Sullivan 0-1, L O'Mahony 0-1.  
**Killeagh:** A Walsh 1-1, M O'Connor 0-4 (0-3 frees), L Rohan 1-0, C Keohane 0-1.  
**DOUGLAS:** C Conway, T Buckley, L Sheehan, L O'Shea, A Barrett, A O'Regan, L O'Regan, D Murphy, H O'Mahony, H O'Connor, S O'Leary, L O'Mahony, R O'Sullivan, J O'Donovan, N O'Donovan.  
**KILLEAGH:** C Deane, K Walsh, R Collins, A Hegarty, C Walsh, M O'Connor, E O'Neill, M Smiddy, K Kelleher, L Rohan, A M Walsh, C Keohane, N O'Donovan, A Walsh, S Smiddy.  
**Subs:** N O'Loughlan for S Smiddy, A Walsh for N O'Loughlan (injured).  
**Referee:** John McGrath (Carrigaline)

# Magical Margaret guns down Rovers

Ballygarvan 1-16 Valley Rovers 2-8 By LINDA MELLERICK Senior B camogie semi-final

A HECTIC last five minutes saw Valley Rovers give it everything as they tried to bridge the five point gap in this lively senior B Cork County Camogie Championship semi-final against Ballygarvan in Ballincollig last evening.

With eight minutes of normal time remaining Ballygarvan led comfortably by 11 points. They took their foot off the pedal and a six minute Rovers' onslaught saw them score 2-1 without reply and reduce the deficit to four.

Ballygarvan led at the break by double scores 1-11 to 0-7 but despite his seemingly large gap the sides were level after 19 minutes.

Ballygarvan had the better forwards, Catriona Kelly was on fire from play and a four point return from her and one from Sarah

O'Donovan gave Ballygarvan a 0-5 to 0-1 advantage, the Rovers' score coming after 10 minutes from Orla Deasy.

A five minute spell saw Elaine Burke get three for Rovers and Ma-jella McCarthy one, making it five points a piece.

But Valley Rovers never led throughout the game and were rocked on the 16th minute with a magnificent Margaret Murphy goal.

The same player, seconds later and with her back to the goal, hit over a beauty and suddenly the gap was widening again. Rovers were awarded a penalty five minutes before the break but Elaine Burke failed to connect fully and the ball was cleared off the line.

Emer Dillon swept up everything at centre back, and with Murphy

and Kelly lording it up front, despite the best efforts of Marian Cottrell, they fully deserved their half time lead.

With Clodagh Deasy playing her heart out in the second half Rovers weren't finished yet. Two frees from Kelly and two from Sarah O'Donovan stretched Ballygarvan's lead and they seemed to be coasting to victory.

A well taken free by Burke hit the net for Rovers first score of the second half after 22 minutes and three minutes later a Liz Bugler strike seemed to escape the melee of players in front of the goal and go all the way.

This double strike lifted Rovers. They drove forward but were driven back time and again by the excellent Dillon. Lucy Hawkes pointed to reduce the gap to four.

Margaret Murphy struck over for Ballygarvan and despite four minutes of added time Rovers could

not get any nearer their opponents.

Ballygarvan were never in any real danger of losing this game despite the late Rovers' attack and deservedly advance to meet St Catherine's in this year's Senior B County final.

**Scorers: Ballygarvan:** — C Kelly 0-8 (0-5f), M Murphy 1-3, S O'Donovan 0-3, V Browne and S Lynch 0-1 each.

**Valley Rovers:** E Burke 1-3 (1-2f), L Bugler 1-1, L Hawkes, C Deasy, O Deasy and M McCarthy 0-1 each.

**BALLYGARVAN:** A Moynihan, B Browne, J Browne, M Hallahan, S A O'Halloran (Capt), E Dillon, D Crowley, V Browne, S O'Donovan, D Daly, N Hallahan, S Lynch, M Murphy, C Kelly, C Dillon.

**Subs:** M Ryan for B Browne, A Browne for D Daly, L Ryan for C Dillon.

**VALLEY ROVERS:** G Harrington, E M Cottrell, L Davis, S Deasy, A M Murphy, M Cottrell, C McSweeney, C Deasy, M A Hawkes, T O'Riordan, M Hurley, E Bugler, O Deasy, E Burke, M McCarthy.

**Subs:** L Hawkes for T O'Riordan, E O'Mahony for L Davis, V Mella for C McSweeney.

# Credit must go to Council for changes

THE Central Council of the Camogie Association has been criticised over the years for not moving with the times.

In fact they are still being criticised. Results from change will not happen overnight and we should be aware of that. The association has initiated more change in the past few months than ever. It will take a while for these to come to fruition, years with some, but they have begun and for this the association must be complimented.

First and foremost the Competitions Review Committee which I mentioned previously had all its recommendations passed unanimously by Ardchomhairle last weekend. This must be a first; that every recommendation by those on the ground was taken on board. The recommendations were the result of wide consultation with all members and not just the views of five committee members.

The recommendations will take effect in 2006 and will operate as a two-year pilot scheme.

The most important ruling, particularly for junior counties, is that senior counties are no longer eligible to participate in the junior championship. The junior competition will now run on a league basis which will ensure each county gets at least three games.

The intermediate championship will become more interesting and competitive, becoming the second most important competition for senior counties. The term minor will now refer to an U18 player and opposed to U16. A new minor All-Ireland competition will be introduced and the U16 All-Ireland competition will remain. The National League will introduce two additional divisions to cater for the weaker counties and this is very welcome.

The idea is to improve participation but also quality and it's hoped that the changes will lead to more counties competing at senior level. While re-structuring some competitions was needed, the most worrying factor for our game was the lack of competing counties at the top level.

More than anything else we need to promote and develop our game and full credit to Central Council for taking the bull by the horns. Almost two years ago the association recruited a full-time Financial/Sponsorship manager in Sinead O'Connor. This was the first time such a position was filled and Sinead has done

Linda Mellerick

a great job.

Just recently they have gone a step further. Again, for the first time a National Camogie Development Co-ordinator and two Regional Development Co-ordinators were appointed. The appointments were made after the allocation of a €250,000 by the Irish Sports Council earlier this year and €1.5m was set aside in the budget to develop camogie and hurling.

Lynn Kelly of Limerick holds the National Development role. Lynn was sports officer with LIT and more recently Gaelic Games Promotions Officer with UL.

Cork's Mary O'Connor, who will line out at centre-back in this year's All-Ireland senior final on September 18 is one of the Regional Development Co-ordinators. Mary has huge experience and fits the role perfectly. She too was Gaelic Games Promotions Officer with LIT and also with Limerick GAA Board. More recently she has been the GAA Coaching Development Officer with the East Cork juvenile board. Caroline Murray of Galway is the third appointee. A sports science graduate of UL, Caroline has played camogie at all grades with her county.

Finally we are taking action and not a year too soon. Without doubt we will see the benefits of this and well done to all. The list of rules came from Ardchomhairle this week in relation to the All-Ireland finals and what a list it is. Heavy fines for those jumping off the bench with excitement or frustration! €500 per member of the management team (other than the manager) who fails to remain seated. If more than two medical personnel attend to an injured player — €500 each. Failure to provide your county's team line-out by September 9 — €250! Failure to allow the team line-out to go to press for September 14 — €250! Failure of a player to pull up their socks or tuck in their jersey for the team photograph or parade — €100 per player! To be fair I'm quite sure the same rules are in place for the hurling and football finals. The fines are there to ensure the highest standards are achieved for the presentation of the finals. They are not a tool with which to punish county boards.

Thank God I'm not on the bench or I'd cost our board a fortune.





**Diarmuid O'Donovan**

ACCORDING to the economic gurus, the days of protectionism and sentimentality are gone. Companies must sell their wares on the open market. If your product or service is good enough, then the world will beat a path to your door.

However, if you do not have a competitive price or a perceived value you will fail.

The same is true of sport and sporting organisations. Entertainment value and competitive structures are the sporting equivalent of economic laws.

Entertainment and competition draws the crowds. If the crowds attend, the publicity follows. The publicity generates more crowds, which in turn generates more revenue, and the sport thrives.

Unfortunately, the converse is also true. While tradition is sacred to most sports, sometimes traditions can drag a sport down.

Sky Sports and its involvement with such tradition laden sports such as rugby and cricket has provided some of the great examples of how tradition can be at once maintained and developed to draw in mass audiences that heretofore were unimaginable.

In Ireland, camogie is the latest sport to announce that it is to undergo a major overhaul of its competitive structures.

Beginning next season, the inter-county structures of camogie will change dramatically.

While the senior All-Ireland will remain the same, senior counties will no longer compete in the junior championship. This will be confined to the weaker counties.

The stronger counties will enter their second teams in a re-organised intermediate championship. Other important changes will see the minor grades move from U16, U18 and new tiers will be introduced to the National Leagues to cater for weaker counties.

To make these changes work and to help spread the gospel of camogie, the Camogie Association has appointed Lynn Kelly of Limerick to the role of National Development Co-ordinator along with Mary O'Connor of Cork and Caroline Murray of Galway as two Regional Development Co-ordinators.

Mary O'Connor from Killeagh will start her new job in October. She is excellently qualified to take on the role.

She has been one of Cork's top female athletes for the past 10 years. During that time she has managed to hold dual sporting careers on the Cork senior camogie team and the Cork ladies' football team.

She is the holder of three All-Ireland camogie medals.

Throughout the same period she has worked as a Games Promotion Officer firstly, with Limerick Institute of Techno-



Camogie star players Caroline Murray, Galway, left, and Mary O'Connor, Cork, right, who were appointed as Regional Development Co-ordinators with Lynn Kelly, Limerick, centre, who was appointed as National Camogie Development Co-ordinator.

Picture: Pat Murphy/Sportsfile

# Mary knows the value of her sport

logy and then with the Limerick County Board.

"I see the job as a challenge," Mary said. "We are effectively starting with a green field site. My job will be to raise the profile of camogie throughout Munster as well as in Kilkenny, Carlow and Wexford."

"While camogie is strong in some of these counties, there are other parts where hardly any camogie is played."

"Take Waterford for instance, there are some very strong and well-organised hurling clubs such as Mount Sion and Ballygunner, but camogie is not nearly as strong. There should be huge potential to develop the game in places like these."

"But the job is not just about recruiting new players and teams; there are other aspects of the job too."

"We must look at refereeing and the training and recruiting of new people for this role. We also hope to put coaching committees in place in each county and, leading on from this, the introduction of development squads at underage level."

"This will help to raise the standards of camogie and help the newer counties compete with the traditional ones."

At present Mary is busy preparing for an All-Ireland ladies' football semi-final next Saturday and the All-Ireland camogie final on September 18.

As she has successfully man-

aged to weave her camogie and football careers together, I asked her if she felt that camogie and ladies' football, which are controlled by separate organisations, can continue to develop and complement each other in the future.

"I certainly hope so. I would like to think that the organisations are sisters in sport. The two sports have worked reasonably well in Cork up to now although it can be difficult on the players as fixtures sometimes clash. It would be great if the two bodies could work well at national level as it should help both bodies develop."

On the subject of the All-Ireland camogie final, I asked Mary which counties she sees rising from their current status to challenge the Cork and Tipp dominance of recent years.

"Galway is the most likely county to make a breakthrough," she said. "They won the National League this year. I thought they would do better in the championship, but I think their inexperience caught up with them."

"Some of the other counties that are likely to do well are Wexford and Limerick. Wexford under-achieved big time this year, probably because their selection is small and a few girls concentrated on football."

"Also Dublin and Clare who have qualified for the junior All-Ireland final have great po-

tential to develop."

Mary had some interesting things to say about the local Cork scene.

"The power base in Cork camogie seems to have swung away from the city clubs at present. The city clubs are well organised at underage level but the players seem to drop off when they reach 18 or 19. Some girls move out of Cork to go to college while others just seem to drift away. It's a problem we'll have to look into."

"We've also got to look at the second-level schools situation. There are some very strong schools such as Charleville and Fermoy but there is a need for a lot more activity at this level."

"Manpower is a huge problem. Everyone is depending on the goodwill of teachers to organise the games, but that's not fair on them. We will have to look at organising leagues for first and second years that should help introduce more girls to the sport this should develop strong senior school sides in a few years time."

The Camogie Association are lucky that they have people with the ideals and energy of Mary O'Connor interested in developing the game.

If the laws of economic and sporting survival prevail, camogie will continue to provide the sporting public of Ireland with quality sport and entertainment for years to come.



The Kerins family. At back (from left): Alan, Miriam, Mark, Martin and Anita. Front, Elaine and Anne



The ladies in the Kerins family, Miriam, Anne, Anita and Elaine attending the Clarinbridge Oyster Festival in 2003

# Tracton cling to victory

Tracton Buttevant

2-6 1-7

TRACTON had to fight to the finish to protect their lead as Buttevant applied severe pressure in an entertaining Mercury Restaurant and lounge Junior B camogie championships semi-final.

Tracton held all the aces through the opening half and led at the break 2-5 to 0-5, but it must be said that for the closing 10 minutes of the half Buttevant dominated.

Tracton opened up a 1-3 to 0-1 advantage inside 10 minutes. Catherine Coughlan adding to a long range Trisha Harrington free to finish to the net after points from Marion Jaego (20) and Harrington had been added in succession after Triona O'Connell's opening point for Buttevant. A Nicola Lynch goal on the midway stage further stretched the Tracton lead. With Jaego and Harrington pointing they opening up a 10 point advantage.

But, as so often happen with big leads, Tracton lost their

momentum as Buttevant began to come into the game, and two points each from Triona O'Connell and Tracy O'Reilly had them back in contention by the short whistle.

From the start of the second half they came at Tracton, and winning the midfield battle they enjoyed plenty of possession. Nicola Lynch pointed in the fifth minute to give Tracton a seven point advantage and we had to wait until the 15th minute for the next score as both defences stood firm under tremendous pressure.

Battling bravely Buttevant were rewarded with a goal from Mary T Foley and points from Laura Harrington and Emer Murphy had the Tracton lead down to two. Pressing fiercely Buttevant had plenty of chances, but striking at least three long range frees off target, and hitting wide from close range twice, they squandered their chances. It was a relieved Tracton who breathed a sigh of relief at the final whistle as they booked their place in the final against either Blackrock or Ballincollig who meet on Friday next.





# Cumann Camgoaiochta Comhairle na Mumhan

## U-18 Munster Final



### CORCAIGH

#### CORK

(Red & White)

1

Aine Moynihane  
(Ballygarvan)

2

Sarah Dowling  
(Courcey Rovers)

5

Edwina Waters  
(Ballyhea)

8

Orla Cotter  
(St. Catherine's)

10

Aine Watson  
(Milford)

13

Hazel O'Regan  
(Clonakilty)

Subs:

16 Deirdre Towmey  
(St. Catherine's)

19 Marian Murphy  
(Kilbrittan)

22 Deirdre Coomey  
(Ballinhassig)

25 Lisa Marie O'Mahony  
(Eire Og)

3

Emer O'Sullivan  
(Ballinhassig)

6

Rena Buckley  
(Inniscarra)



11

Anna Geary  
(Milford)

14

Mary Coleman  
(Ballyhea)

4

Emma Dunne  
(Cloughduv)

7

Lucy Hawkes  
(Valley Rovers)

9

Orla Coughlan  
(Enniskeane)

12

Miriam Crowley  
(Bishopstown)

15

Erin Corkery  
(Eire Og)

17 Ashling Thompson  
(Milford)

20 Niamh Dilworth  
(Inniscarra)

23 Jenny O'Donovan  
(Douglas)

18 Sarah Sexton  
(Milford)

21 Michelle Brown  
(Mallow)

24 Valerie Brown  
(Ballygarvan)

Vs

### TIOBRAID ARANN

#### TIPPERARY

(Blue & Gold)

1

Rosanna Kenneally  
(Drom & Inch)

2

Andrea Davis  
(Shannon Rovers)

5

Michelle Kirwan  
(Moneygall)

8

Cora Hennessy  
(Cashel)

10

Ciara Johnston  
(Drom & Inch)

13

Alison Loneragan  
(Cashel)

Subs:

16 Ann O'Dwyer  
(Annacarty)

19 Ciara Callanan  
(Holycross)

3

Mairead Luttrell  
(Slievenamon)

6

Lorraine Davis  
(Shannon Rovers)



11

Ciara O'Sullivan  
(Cashel)

14

Katie Kennedy  
(Lorrha)

4

Ciara Heffernan  
(Slievenamon)

7

Joanne Nolan  
(Silvermines)

9

Mary Ryan  
(Moneygall)

12

Deirdre Quinn  
(Slievenamon)

15

Noreen Flanagan  
(Holycross)

18 Noreen Ryan  
(Clonoulty)

21 Siobhan Bourke  
(Templemore)

Referee: Morgan Conroy (Waterford)

## Cork withstand Tipperary comeback

Cork 2-9  
Tipperary 1-5

By LINDA MELLERICK  
U18 Munster final

CORK'S seven-point winning margin does little to reflect the excitement of this closely fought U18 Munster Championship final in Caherlag last evening.

A lively 64 minutes of good camogie saw Cork take the title but they had to work hard for it. Beautiful conditions, if a blinding sun, started the game. Near darkness finished it.

A spirited second-half Tipp performance saw them claw back a half-time deficit of seven points to three by the stroke of normal time. Four minutes of justified extra-time saw Aine Watson net a beauty and Anna Geary hit over

a free for Cork and put distance between the sides.

Cork had the majority of possession in the first half but came up against a physically strong Tipperary defence. Andrea Davis, Joanne Nolan and Lorraine Davis hurled brilliantly and scores were hard to come by. Mary Coleman was in scoring mode and within four minutes had 1-1 on the board. A perfect start for Cork but once Tipp got to grips with the Cork forwards the free-scoring stopped.

Orla Cotter was doing excellent work for Cork at centre field and created some nice openings. Anna Geary at half-forward worked hard and picked off some lovely points from play and placed balls.

Tipp did threaten but Rena Buckley and Emer O'Sullivan dominated the half-back and full-back positions. The one or two goalscoring opportunities

that came Tipp's way were snuffed out by the dependable Aine Moynihane in the Cork goal.

Tipp failed to score from play in the first half, their contribution of two points coming from a free and a 45. Four points from Geary and another from Coleman saw Cork end the half 1-6 to 0-2.

The play swung in the second half and it was the Cork defence who had to withstand huge pressure. Deirdre Quinn hit over two points. Tipp began to win the exchanges at midfield and half-forward line. They broke away three or four times but each attempted point dropped short into goalkeeper's Rosanna Kenneally's hand.

Ciara Johnston hit over another for Tipp after 17 minutes leaving four between the sides. Tipp had the momentum.

Then super sub Deirdre Twomey

broke Tipp's run with an excellent point after 22 minutes and it settled Cork. Geary pointed a free but Johnston rattled the net for Tipp. Cork needed just a point for safety but it was Watson who finished with a well-taken goal and the job was done.

**Scorers for Cork:** A Geary 0-6 (0-3f, 0-1 45), M Coleman 1-2, A Watson 1-0, D Twomey 0-1.

**Tipperary:** C Johnston 1-3 (0-1f, 0-1 45), D Quinn 0-2.

**CORK:** A Moynihane; S Dowling, E O'Sullivan, E Dunne, E Waters, R Buckley, L Hawkes; O Cotter, O Coughlan; A Watson, A Geary, M Crowley; H O'Regan, M Coleman, E Corkery. **Subs:** A Thompson for H O'Regan (26min), V Browne for L Hawkes (42min), D Twomey for M Crowley (46min), D Coomey for M Coleman (61min).

**TIPPERARY:** R Kenneally; A Davis, M Luttrell, C Heffernan; M Kirwan, L Davis, J Nolan; C Hennessy, M Ryan; C Johnston, C O'Sullivan, D Quinn; A Loneragan, S Bourke, N Flanagan. **Subs:** L Flanagan for C O'Sullivan (47min).

SEPT  
2005

#### CAMOGIE

**Ulster Senior Club final:** O'Donovan Rossa (Antrim) 1-13 Swatara (Derry) 0-8.  
**Junior final:** Liatroim Fontenays (Down) 2-10 Keady (Armagh) 2-8.

## Douglas in final

DOUGLAS booked their place in the Junior A final holding off the challenge of Killeagh with four points to spare they await the winners from the Ballyhea / Sarsfields semi final which takes place tomorrow evening.

## KILEAGH TAKE UNDER 14 C CROWN

KILLEAGH added the Under 14 C league title to their Feile na nGael C crown with a victory over Passage in Ballinlough. Sandra Smiddy, Clare Keohane, Danielle Keniry and Eanna O'Neill were to the fore while for Passage Clare O'Brien, and Lisa O'Sullivan grabbed vital scores.

## Junior championship semi finals

NO let up in junior action either Ballyhea meeting Sarsfield tomorrow evening at 7pm in the Junior A championship semi final, venue to be announced for this. On Saturday it's the semi final of the Junior B as Buttrvant and Tracton meet in Grenagh at 6.30pm while on Sunday Greagh are in action against Mallow in

## Under age action

SATURDAY is a busy day for Douglas when they contest the Under 14 A and B league finals both game in Ballinlough with the B final against Buttrvant at 12.30 and in the A meeting Ballinhassig at 2.30. This Thursday evening Ballinlough meet Passage in the under 16 C league quarter final in Ballinlough at 7pm. Tomorrow Friday in the Under 16 C championship Sliabh Rua host Newcestown at 6.45pm while St Catherine's travel to Erins Own at 7pm. On Saturday Valley Rovers host Bishopstown Innishannon at 6.45 in the under 16 B championship while Brian Dillons and Aghbullogue meet in the C competition at Brain Dillons at 6.30. Glen Rovers travel to Killeagh for the Under 16 B championship at 11.15am and on Monday the Under 12 C league quarter final between Sarsfields and Mallow is in Riverstown at 6.45pm. Glen Rovers and Valley Rovers clash on Thursday next in the Under 12 A league semi-final at 6.45pm venue to be arranged for this.

the thirteen a side semi final in Kilavullen at 12 noon

On Monday evening the Munster Under 18 final between Cork and Tipperary is scheduled to take place there have been moves to change the date of the game but at the moment it goes ahead at a cork venue

## Tipp fightback not

Cork 2-9;  
Tipperary 1-5

Tipperary travelled to Glanmire in Cork to take on the home side in this year's U-18 Munster final. Cork started brightly and after two minutes took the lead when Mary Coleman pointed. Three minutes later Tipperary were stunned by a fine goal from Mary Coleman to put Cork in a commanding position. Tipperary needed a score and Ciara Johnston duly obliged when she pointed a 45m to register the Premier outfit's first score. However Cork continued to look the sharper side and Anna Geary showed her talents with four points in succession between the 9th and

25th minutes. Two of those scores came from play after good passing movement by the Cork attack while Anna Geary also stepped up to point two frees.

Tipperary looked to be struggling and in the 29th minute Ciara Johnston pointed a free to give them their second point of the half. This was quickly cancelled out by a point from Mary Coleman to leave the score at the break 1-6 to two points in favour of Cork.

In the second half a different Tipperary side emerged - disappointed with their first half performance the girls came out determined to start playing the way they are capable of. Deirdre Dunne pointed within five minutes to put six between the sides. In defence Mairead Luttrell and Andrea Davis

were on top and began making great clearances. Before the break Siobhan Bourke came on in midfield and she made a positive impact, preventing Cork from dominating at centre field. Another well-taken point by Deirdre Dunne and a pointed free from Ciara Johnston meant only four points separated the sides as Tipperary continued to enjoy a good spell.

Cork replied with two points in the 19th and 23rd minutes from substitute Deirdre Twomey and Anna Geary. Then with five minutes remaining great work by Ciara Johnston yielded a goal to the delight of the Tipperary following. Great excitement followed as Tipperary pressed forward for scores. With two minutes remaining only a goal

separated the sides as Tipperary went on the attack again. Good defending by Cork resulted in the ball being cleared and against the run play Anna Geary brought through for a goal. A minute later Anna pointed to put Cork beyond Tipperary's reach.

So after an hour of quality camogie Cork, despite a great fight back, was disappointed. Tipperary that they started poorly and let Cork build a considerable lead. In the second half Deirdre Dunne, Ciara Johnston, Mairead Luttrell, Siobhan Bourke shone with the goal was well guarded all time by Rosanna Kenneally. For Cork, Anna Geary was in excellent form and was the

driving force within the Cork attack. Their mid-field pairing of Orla Cotter and Orla Coughlan played well as did their centre back Rena Buckley.



# First Title For Moneygall

Moneygall ..... 2-10  
Bournea ..... 1-6

The Junior county final was followed by the meeting of Bournea and Moneygall in the Intermediate county final. At the final whistle it was Moneygall who were celebrating their first Intermediate county title with a deserved victory. At half time the sides were level 1-3 apiece, but in the second half Moneygall showed their superiority outscoring Bournea 1-7 to 3 points.

Moneygall had the first score of the match when Eimear Ryan pointed from a free. Bournea took the lead minutes later with a fine goal from Shauna Byrne that lifted the side. The game was being played at a great pace with the opening exchanges were close and tough. Mary Ryan then pointed for Moneygall to put a single point between the sides. Eimear Ryan then showed her accuracy with her second pointed free to level proceedings.

Minutes later Bournea were in the lead again with two pointed frees in succession from Cathy Greed and an excellent long distance effort from Caroline Greed. Bournea were now enjoying a good spell with Mairead Byrne and Helena Costigan doing well in

defence and Cathy Greed and Caroline Ryan looking lively in attack. Melissa Stapleton pointed after a good run to increase their lead in the 23rd minute.

However 3 minutes later Eimear Ryan showed her skill when she struck a great shot past the Bournea keeper to level the game going in at the break. The second half largely belonged to Moneygall as their forwards took their scoring chances and at the other end their defence especially Julie Kirwan who was outstanding made matters very difficult for Bournea's attack. Eimear Ryan had an early point from a free before Cliona Ryan and Sarah Kirwan each raised a white flag. Another point from the in-form Eimear Ryan increased Moneygall's lead but Bournea hit back with two points of their own, the first from Caroline Greed and the second from Sarah Jane Cody who cleverly kicked the ball over the bar as she was surrounded by the opposition's defence.

Moneygall then showed their experience by immediately working the ball up the field through Mary Ryan and Julie Kirwan where Eimear Ryan was once again on-hand to score her second goal a blistering shot that gave the

keeper no chance. Moneygall now began to dominate with Julie and Michelle Kirwan clearing their lines in defence and Brid Byrne and Mary Ryan in control in mid-field. This led to two further points to leave the scoreline 2-9 to 1-5 with only 5 minutes remaining. Bournea worked extremely hard to reduce the deficit and Melissa Stapleton pointed to aid this. But this was cancelled out by a free from Eimear Ryan and at the final whistle Moneygall were county champions.

This is Bournea's first year playing at this level and they did extremely well throughout the championship. They have a young side and no doubt they will bounce back and build on this defeat. They had very good displays throughout the team especially from Helena Costigan and Caroline Greed.

For Moneygall Julie Kirwan was excellent in defence while Brid Byrne and Mary Ryan impressed in midfield with their work-rate and delivery into the forwards. In attack Eimear Ryan and Sarah Kirwan did extremely well, while Cliona Ryan also made an impact when introduced in the second half.

# Templemore Win In Style

Templemore ..... 3-8  
Shannon Rovers ..... 2-2

On Saturday evening last Templemore and Shannon Rovers went head to head in the Junior A county final. After just two minutes of play Templemore playing with a strong wind registered the opening score a point from a free by Fiana Loughnane. After taking this early lead they never looked back and went on to earn an impressive victory.

Captain Niamh Connolly was in inspiring form at centre back and made sure very little ball went into the opposition's full-forward line where Shannon Rovers top scorer of the championship Aoife McLoughney was operating. Three further frees from Fiana Loughnane were converted as Templemore raced into a 4 point lead after 10 minutes.

Templemore's midfield pairing of Lorraine and Siobhan Bourke were in great form and continued to supply the Templemore forwards with good quality ball. Noelle Bergin had her name on the scoreboard after linking up well with Fiana Loughnane. Minutes later another

point by Noelle Bergin extended Templemore's lead. For Shannon Rovers Lorraine and Andrea Davis worked hard in mid-field but their attack was constantly under pressure from Templemore's resilient defence. As half time approached Noelle Bergin won possession and headed goal wards before firing her shot past the Shannon Rovers keeper to the delight of the Templemore following. Immediately Shannon Rovers went down the field and won a free which Aoife McLoughney pointed to leave the halftime score 1-6 to a point. Shannon Rovers got the second half off to an ideal start when Marion Ryan's superb shot shook the net. Unfortunately for them they were unable to build on this score but instead had to wait almost 30 minutes for their next score. On the other hand Templemore showed their experience with some intelligent play throughout the field. Their fullback line coped very effectively with any ball while in attack Fiana Loughnane and Ailish O'Connell worked well. Fifteen minutes into the second half they had their first score of the half a fine

individual goal from Catriona Maher. Five minutes later Noelle Bergin raised another green flag. This was followed by a point by Fiana Loughnane. Shannon Rovers refused to lie down and struck back with a goal of their own from Marion Ryan who was making a big impact in attack. A minute later Aoife McLoughney pointed to reduce Templemore's lead. The final score however belonged to Templemore as Catriona Maher scored an excellent point to seal victory. It was a great performance by a well-balanced and determined Templemore side. They had excellent performances throughout the field, with Nora Costigan pulling off a brilliant double save mid-way through the second half and Niamh Connolly leading the defence in style. Their midfield pairing of Lorraine and Siobhan Bourke were very effective while in attack Fiana Loughnane and Noelle Bergin shone out. Shannon Rovers had noteworthy performances in Andrea Davis, Marion Ryan and Aoife McLoughney however it wasn't to be their day as they came up against good quality oppo-

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## BALLYGARVAN AND ST CATHERINES BOOK PLACE IN FINAL

LAST season's defeated finalists Ballygarvan had to withstand a late Valley Rovers rally before booking their place in the Mercury Restaurant and Lounge Senior B County final where they will meet St Catherines on Oct 2nd.

Leading 1-11 to 0-7 at the interval Ballygarvan looked to be in a commanding position Catriona Kelly and Sarah O'Donovan opening up a five point to one advantage inside ten minutes. Orla Deasy on target for Valley's. Hitting a purple patch Valleys were level inside five minutes Elaine Burke with three points and one from Majella Mc Carthy but Ballygarvan responded with a Margaret Murphy goal and settling they added further points before the break to lead by double scores.

From the restart Ballygarvan stretched their advantage with two points a piece from Catriona Kelly and Sarah O'Donovan and it was eight minutes for the full time whistle before Valleys got their first score of the second half as Elaine Burkes effort from a free ended up in the net, three minutes later Liz Bugler had their second goal and boosted they pressed for more. Lucy Hawkes had the margin down to four but Margaret Murphy replied to relieve the pressure on Ballygarvan, four minutes injury time failed to yield further scores as last year defeated finalists hung on for a deserved

victory but not without a fight from a spirited Valley Rovers side.

In the second semi final St Catherines managed to successfully curb the threat of Bishopstown Ciara Healy in front of goal and in the process booked themselves a place in the final. Inside a minute Denise Twomey had shot St Catherines into the lead with a goal and with Orla Cotter unerring from places ball and Deirdre Twomey causing trouble for the Bishopstown defence they had opening up a 1-6 to 0-2 lead inside the opening quarter. Joanne Browne and Caroline Kenny pointing for Bishopstown. By the half time whistle St Catherines led 1-10 to 0-2 and through the second half they continued to hold the upper hand closing down the treat up front posed by the Bishopstown attack by dropping Emer O'Keefe back as an extra defender. Goal number two came from Deirdre Twomey as the Conna girls held all the aces, working hard Bishopstown finally found a way through Ciara Healy finally shaking of her markers to grab two goal and a pointed free in succession, Aine Donegan striking for a third with the full time whistle approaching.

With Orla Cotter, the Twomey's Denise and Deirdre and Lisa Higgins on form St Catherines were well worthy of their place in the final.

## Tracton hold out to book final spot

TRACTON had to call on all their resources before advancing to the final of the Mercury Restaurant and Lounge Junior B championships final.

Leading at the break 2-5 to 0-5 they had to withstand a fierce second half rally from Buttrvant before finally making it through. In the end the experience of Nicola Lynch, Trisha Harrington, and Marion Jaego was invaluable. They await the winners from the Blackrock/Ballincollig semi final which takes place tomorrow evening

## MUNSTER UNDER 18 TITLE FOR CORK

A CLOSELY fought under 18 Munster Championship final saw Cork emerge victorious over a strong Tipperary side. Cork lead seven points to three at the half time break but Tipperary fought back to come within a point with full time looming but a goal from Watson finally killed off any chance of a late Tipperary rally. A historic victory given that in future this competitions will be known as the minor championship and it will now go all the way to All Ireland level, just one of the many changes recently proposed and passed by the special review committee, and we will have an in-depth look at these as the season winds down.

## Ballyhea/Douglas advance to junior A final

Ballyhea and Douglas will meet in the Junior B championship final having recorded victories over Sarsfields and Killeagh respectively. Twelve months ago Ballyhea took the Junior B crown and now they face into another decider. Mary Coleman and Karen O'Leary settled Ballyhea with early scores before Emer O'Farrell goalied for Sars, but quickly Sarah Douglas shot Ballyhea back into the lead. Orla Butler's replied for Sars to hold their lead but Ballyhea finished the half stronger to lead at the interval by eight points thanks to goals from Karen O'Leary and Mary Colman. Inside four minutes of the second half Orla Barry had a goal back for Sars and they were playing with more determination. Karen O'Leary added a Ballyhea point but now the Sars defence were on top. Mary Coleman upped the pace and gave Ballyhea back their confidence goaling after a superb solo. Two Sarsfields points were replied

to by Mary Coleman before Sarah Douglas grabbed a Ballyhea goal on the full time whistle to secure their place in the final.

Douglas had to fight to the finish before defeating Killeagh to securing their place. Amanda O'Regan and Jenny O'Donovan helped Douglas make all the early running while Angela Walsh opened the Killeagh account with a point eight minutes from the break. An Amanda O'Regan goal from a twenty one metre free early in the second half stretched the advantage but Killeagh with Mary O'Connor leading the way upped the pace and goals from Lisa Rohan and Angela Walsh brought them back into contention. With ten minutes remaining Mary O'Connor had the side's level and it was all to play for, two minutes from full time Niamh O'Donovan finished to the net before and Amanda O'Regan pointed a free ensured a final place for Douglas.

## DOUGLAS AND BUTTERTANT TAKE UNDER 14 TITLES

WELL done to Douglas who took the under 14 A league title and Buttrvant who proved too strong over the second Douglas team to win the U14 B league title.

Douglas added the under 14 league title to the Feile na NGael All Ireland crown and made it four in a row. With Julia White superb at mid field they set the pace and three goals in the opening ten minutes gave Ballinhassig a mountain to climb.

To their credit they battled on through the hour but never recovered from the early set backs. Moira O'Donovan opened the scoring with a long distance free to the net after five minutes. Two minutes later, Aileen O'Donovan and Karen Horgan found the net in succession. Catriona Collins pointed a Ballinhassig free but Jill Kelleher and Julia White continued to pick off scores for Douglas.

Collins point before Jennifer Bracken blocked down an attempted clearance by the Douglas keeper to the net to leave it 5-02 to 1-02 at the break. Jill Kelleher and Aileen O'Donovan added further goal despite a gallant effort from the Ballinhassig girls.

## U16 Championship begins

THE return to school heralds the start of the under 16 championship competition and thankfully glorious weather helped get last weekend's games off to the perfect start. A high scoring game in the Under 16 B championship game saw St Catherines defeat Erins Own while it was likewise as Glen Rovers emerged victorious over Killeagh Valley Rovers had three points to spare over Bishopstown. In the Under 16 C Championship Slabh Rua accounted for Newcestown Ballinascarty had three goals to spare over Millstreet while Aghballogue proved to strong for Brian Dillon's.

Plenty of under age action again this week, tonight Glen Rovers meet Valley Rovers in the under 12 A league semi final in Ballincollig at 6.45pm while the second semi final featuring Ballinhassig and Milford takes place on Saturday in Mallow at 2pm. In the Under 16 B championship on Saturday Inniscarra and Rockban meeting in Inniscarra at 12 noon, while Tracton meet Blarney in the twelve a side under 16 championship in Blarney at 3pm.

## GOOD LUCK TO THE LADS

BEST of luck to John Allen, Sean Og and the Cork hurlers on Sunday as they go in quest of back to back titles, hopefully on Sunday week the girls will be heading to Croke seeking the second leg of the double.

CamogieChat.

With Mary Newman