

165

JUNE 2012  
SEPT<sup>TO</sup> 2012



JUNE 2012

# O'Connor's displays prove she's a real Gem

## CAMOGIE

A FITTING tribute to an outstanding performer as Cork's Gemma O'Connor was honoured with the 96 and C103FM Rochestown Park sports person of the month for May following on her superb display as Cork overcame All-Ireland and National league champions Wexford to be crowned League champions.

One of Cork's most outstanding and decorated players, the defence forces corporal is a player who shows superb athleticism and great hurling abilities.

Her skill and determination has helped her to firmly establish herself amongst the elite of the country's finest camogie players.

The holder of five Senior All-Ireland medals as well as junior and minor Celtic crosses Gemma also has five All Star awards to her credit and she was one of Cork's outstanding performers as the county overcame Wexford in a thrilling contest in Semple Stadium recently.

Among those in attendance to pay tribute to Gemma were members of her club St Finbarr's, the Cork senior management led by manager Paudie Murray, Marion McCarthy, chairperson Cork Camogie board, Sheila Golden secretary and Mary Mc Sweeney, treasurer.

Speaking at the function 96 and C103FM Finbarr McCarthy paid tribute to Gemma and her family for their huge contribution to gaelic games;

"Gemma is a worthy winner of our May award, she is one of Cork's finest sports women and she is hugely committed to both club and county, she comes from family stepped in tradition her



Cork GAA Sports Star of the month Gemma O'Connor pictured with Cork camogie officers Mary McSweeney, Sheila Golden, Marion McCarthy and Mary Newman at the 96/C103FM function in the Rochestown Park Hotel, Cork. Picture: John Tarrant

brother Glen is an outstanding hurler with St Finbarr's.

Her uncle, Bill Geaney, captained Cork to All-Ireland minor honours and her grandfather the late John Geaney was a staunch Glen Rovers and Cork GAA man and I am sure he is looking down today very proud of Gemma.

There was a very special welcome for Gemma's grandmother Betty Geaney who is a huge follower of Gemma and the Cork camogie team.

In accepting the award, Gemma paid tribute to her team-mates and their management she also acknowledged her club and thanked both for giving her the opportu-

ity to become the player she is.

A member of the defence forces, Gemma thanked her commanding officers for the help and encouragement they give to her and everybody involved in sport.

"I am hugely privileged to be a member of a great team both at work and in sport and it's the support from my team mates and work colleagues that help me participate at the highest level.

"I would also like to acknowledge my families support they are always there in good times and bad and they have always been by my side all the way, it a huge honour for me to be chosen and named amongst some great players who

have received this very prestigious award and I thanks the sponsors for choosing me."

County board chairperson Marion McCarthy paid tribute to Gemma and said; "Gemma is a club mate of mine and I am thrilled that she has received this award, from a very early age Gemma Showed huge potential and she was always destined to be a star, I congratulate her and her family who show her huge support and wish her further success in her career."

The defence forces were represented by CS Eddie Foley, Lt Shane Mac Eoin and CS Dave Heaphy who spoke on behalf their behalf:

"Gemma is an outstanding sports woman and an outstanding member of the

defence forces, her commitment and dedication both on and off the playing fields are a credit to her and since she first joined the army it was plain to be seen her commitment and dedication," said Heaphy.

"We are sure she has a wonderful career ahead of her and we congratulate her today on this outstanding achievement one of the many she has received in recognition of her prowess on the camogie playing fields."

The countdown is now underway in earnest toward the beginning of the championship where Cork get their campaign under way against Clare on June 23 and no doubt Gemma will once again be to the fore as Cork bid for further honours.

## Castlemagner take on the Barrs

THE Junior B league draws to its conclusion tomorrow when Castlemagner and St Finbarr's meet in the final at Castle Road at 5pm and both sides have come through tough semi-finals before making it to the final.

Castlemagner who are drawing from small pool of players and are at a disadvantage in having no underage teams, thus they draw form a small panel of dedicated players.

They have shown tremendous determination this season and this was reflected in their victory over strong title contenders Youghal as they battled it out to the finish to secure victory and a place in the final.

Castlemagner will not be overawed by the strength of their opponents. Eiblish Gayer, Elaine O'Donovan Susan Falvey and Imelda Vaughan are excellent players and they

will be ready for the challenge that lies ahead.

St Finbarr's had to be at their best before overcoming Glen Rovers in their semi clash. The winners of the Junior B shield in 2011 will be hoping to take the league title this time out. They are a strong side boosted by former senior players Barbara Ann Corcoran, Rachel Myers, Valerie Horsford and Maria McCarthy and the experience of players such as these is invaluable at junior level. Add in players such as Niamh Cooke and Clodhna Sargent it's understandable why they will go in favourites.

The sides met in the group stages of the league, where St Finbarr's ran out winners with a goal to spare and this is a result Castlemagner will be battling to reverse as they bid to take a trophy to their club. (We will have a full match report on Junior B league final next Saturday).

## U14 draw is completed

THE group stages of the U14 leagues in all grades have not been completed and the draws for the U14A, U14B and U14C preliminary rounds, quarter and semi-finals were made as follows recently.

**U14A semi-final:** (A) Cloughduv v Ballinhassig; (B) Ballyhea v Sarsfields 1.  
Semi final 1st/2nd September  
**U14B quarter-final:** (A) Barryroe v Tracton at Barryroe on MONDAY JUNE 25 at 7.00pm.  
(B) Barryroe v Tracton in Ballygarvan: Game to be played by June 27.  
**U14B semi-final:** (C) Carrigaline v winners of Barryroe or Tracton (D) Millstreet v winners of Barryroe v Tracton 1st/2nd September.

### U14 CAMOGIE

**U14C Preliminary Round:** (A) Bishopstown v Sliabh Rua in Bishopstown. (B) Cobh v Na Piar-saigh in Cobh on Sunday 17th June at 12pm.

First drawn out has home advantage.

**U14C quarter-final 2012:** (C) Runners up of section 1 v Milford (E) Enniskeane v winners of section 1 (F) Runners up of section 4 v Bride Rovers (G) 'B' v 'A' of prelim rounds

First drawn out has home advantage. Games to be played by June 30.

There is a three way playoff in under 14C section one between Ballinora, Blarney and Youghal games to be played by today Saturday June 16

**U14C semi-final:** (G) 'C' v 'F' (H) 'E' v 'D' 1st/2nd September





LINDA MELLERICK

## CAMOGIE

THE debate has often been raised as to whether county champions in camogie should hold the captaincy of Cork.

When you have an experienced household name, a leader, holding the position it's never an issue that's raised. When it's a player on the fringe of a team it's a different story.

It can also be the case that a particular player is young, shy and the position holds more fear for the individual than honour.

It can in that situation be both detrimental to the captain's performance and to the team. The individual can forfeit the role, state that it's not for them and pass it on, as has happened in the past.

Julia White has the honour of captaining Cork for 2012. She doesn't seem overawed by the title. The fact that she has been on the Cork senior panel since she was 16 is a telling factor. She will be 21-years-of-age next month. Julia is modest and grateful for the opportunity and has her views on it.

"It's a huge honour. It was a surprise to be nominated.

"I am aware that the only reason I am captain is because of Douglas winning the County Championship last year. Without wanting to sound ungrateful, I think this rule should be changed.

"I am extremely lucky to have the opportunity of captaining Cork and am happy in the position.

"However, there are some older girls on the team that are such natural and inspiring leaders that have never and may never get the chance to captain their county even though they have given years and years of commitment and have all the qualities necessary.

"It just seems a bit of an unfair system. This year our management has helped me out greatly. They have appointed six other team members (Gemma O'Connor, Anna Geary, Jenny O'Leary, Aoife Murray, Emer O'Sullivan and Rena Buckley) as co-leaders, each with their own team of four or five players reporting back to them.

"So really I am not all on my own as captain. I have huge support from the girls and any decisions or meetings etc. are all done collectively as a 'team of leaders'.

"I think I would find things much more overwhelming without this new system we have going."



The Cork A panel that won the 13th James Hurley inter-county U14 camogie blitz at Mallow on Saturday June 2. Captain for the final was Aoibhinn Kidney (Tracton). Cork group games saw them win 1-5 to 0-0 against Limerick, 3-2 to 0-2 against Kilkenny and 2-6 to 2-1 against Wexford. In the semi-final the over Tipperary 1-5 to 0-2 and in the final they comprehensively defeated Kilkenny 2-8 to 0-1. In the other group, Galway lost to Kilkenny in the semi-final after four bouts of extra time and also defeated Clare, Dublin and Tipperary. Cork coaches were Cathal Egan, Stuart Barry, Martin Daly and Eilise Corkery.

# The White choice but wrong process

"2012 is going well for the personable Douglas girl. Cork regained their national league title after a lapse of five years. It was an important message. Julia agrees.

"I think it was quite important, it has been five years since we won it last. It was good as it was a means of telling ourselves that all the hard training we had done up as far as then was paying off.

"It was like a reward for our efforts in a way, telling us that we were definitely headed in the right direction for September. It was also brilliant to experience the feeling of winning with the team once again; it's a few years since we won our last All-Ireland."

It was obvious that Douglas, having unprecedented underage success, was going to put some great players in Cork's direction. The O'Regan's, the Mackey's and Julia White epi-

tomise the talent Cork have at their disposal. Julia is quick to give credit where it's due. "The reason we were so successful underage is simply because we were lucky enough to have three excellent main trainers; Jimmy O'Mahony, Breda Heffernan and Finbarr O'Donovan. They were with us from when we were about 10 or 11, right up to when we won our last U18 championship.

"The team and panel of girls also remained largely unchanged, we knew each other inside out; spent a lot of our time together both on and off the pitch.

"In 2008 we won the Senior B Championship, beating Valley Rovers in the final and in 2009 we won the Senior A Championship, overcoming an experienced and favoured Barrs team in the final.

"We were quite poor for the following two

years, failing to get further than the semi-final stage. We won the 2011 Championship last year, winning by a margin of one point against Milford, a match that could easily have gone either way."

Presently studying Physical Education and Chemistry in UL, Julia is a person that knows what she wants and isn't afraid to take the necessary steps if events stray off course.

"I started studying Mathematical Science in UCC last year after my leaving cert but hated the course immediately and dropped out after three weeks, just in time for a second chance at the CAO. I did volunteer work and then went to Spain to work for a few months to occupy my year out. I absolutely love the course I'm in now."

Self-aware, decisive and confident! Three great traits in any captain!

## CAMOGIE CLUB NOTES

### ST FINBARR'S

OUR U12s travelled to Ballinhassig on Saturday last and it was a good sporting game where best for us were Orla Keane, Emily Horgan, Sophie Cotter and Nicole Power.

The Lough leagues are on during the week so good luck to all involved.

Our Junior B team will play the League final tomorrow at 5pm in Castle Road against Castlemagner. All support welcome.

### GLEN ROVERS

With exams almost concluded we are looking forward to seeing everybody back training this week as championship preparations step up a gear at all levels, our senior championship versus Valley Rovers is on July 19 with our second group game versus Newcest-

own on July 31.

Our U12s and U10s were busy during the week with Go Games and they headed to Na Piarsaigh twice this week where the action was non-stop.

Well done to everybody for their excellent performances as everybody continues to show improvement with every outing. Thanks to the parents for their support and thanks also to the mentors from both groups who are showing support to each other by lending a hand on the nights of the game.

Training for U14 and U16 this week is as usual on Monday and Wednesday at 6pm. Seniors, juniors and minors are reminded exams are over so its back to the training ground for everybody at 6.30pm on Monday this week.



Finbarr Mc Carthy presents the Cork 96 and C103FM GAA Sports Star of the Month award to Cork camogie player Gemma O'Connor. Also in picture L to R: Lt Shane MacEoin, Tracey Kennedy, PRO Cork County Board, Kieran McGeary, CEO Cork 96FM and C103, Marian McCarthy, chairperson, Cork County Camogie Board and Anthony Smiddy, operations manager, Rochestown Park Hotel. Picture: Tony O'Connell.



# Tough test will stand to Derry

Coming back from the dead, twice, against Down should give the Oak Leaf camogs an edge in the Ulster decider

BY CIARAN WOODS

ULSTER SENIOR CAMOGIE  
CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL  
ANTRIM V DERRY  
Sunday, Casement Park, 3.45pm

DERRY'S senior camogs will this Sunday head to Casement Park to take the next step in their effort to regain the Ulster senior title.

The Oak Leaf girls have come out on the wrong side in their recent battles with Antrim, but Derry attacker Karen Kieft is fully confident that her side have got what it takes to turn the tables on the Saffrons.

Derry qualified for the decider thanks to an extra-time win over Down in the semi-final, a stern challenge and a psychological boost which will stand to them as they prepare for Sunday's provincial showdown, and Kieft insists that her side have left no stone unturned in their quest for glory combined with a so far successful 'one game at a time' approach.

"So far everything has gone well for us. We've set out and achieved everything that we set out to do, but we know that the real tests come in championship. John A Mullan has



HARD ROAD...Karen Kieft is happy to have taken the tough route to the Ulster final

Picture: Ray Lohan / SPORTSFILE

kept telling us all year that it's all about the next game, and that has served us well so far. This Sunday will be no different. It's our biggest game of the year so far, and we're looking at nothing other than Sunday's Ulster final and going all out for a win."

Derry certainly hooked their place in Sunday's final the hard way, coming through a mammoth tussle with Down in the semi-final to eventually emerge victorious by 3-13 to 1-17. Antrim enjoyed a much more straightforward win over Armagh in their semi-final, and Kieft is hopeful that their tough battle with the Mourne girls might well give her side an edge at Casement.

"We had a massive test against Down last time out, and thankfully a few things went our way which saw us emerge victorious. We were two points down with two minutes left to go in normal time, and I think we showed good character to turn it around and force the game to extra time. We were five points down with five minutes to go in extra time which was an even bigger challenge. I think it's a very positive sign of a team that they're able to come through a game like that."

Antrim have been very much the standard-bearers in recent seasons, and attacker Kieft believes that it's high time for her side to reverse the trend. Having already secured National League honours, and with the start of their All-Ireland title tilt just a matter of weeks away, she is in no doubt as to the significance and importance of Sunday's Casement Park clash.

"We haven't beaten Antrim in the championship in a few years now, so it's time for us to get a result. Psychologically it's a big game as we will be facing them just a few weeks down the line in the All-Ireland Intermediate championship again, so it would be nice to get one over on them."

"Last year I don't think we played well, not to our potential, and we've always been missing a few players as well which hasn't helped our cause."

"Two years ago in Glenariffe, we conceded a goal in the last minute and lost the game, so it's those sorts of mistakes which we'll have to cut out if we're going to be successful on Sunday. Hopefully, combined with a little bit of luck, things will go our way."

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Four-in-a-row. Cork team which completed the 4-in-a-row when they defeated Antrim in the 1973 All-Ireland Camogie final. Back: Maura Coleman, Cally Riordan, Sheila Dunne, Hannah Dineen, Mary Whelton, Deirdre Sutton, Rosie Hennessey, Pat Moloney and Marion McCarthy. Front: Betty Sugrue, Marion Sweeney, Mary Costine, Anne Keane, Anne Phelan and Nuala Guilly. Pat Moloney and Marion McCarthy (sub in 1970) were on all four teams.

Picture: Ref 165/38



JUNE 2012



## We are in for an exciting time in senior championship

CORK SENIOR CAMOGIE  
By LINDA MELLERICK

SUNDAY

Cork senior camogie championship divisional round:  
Seandún v Carbery,  
Castle Road, 7pm.

THE 2012 senior championship kicks off this Sunday in Castle Road with Seandún and Carbery doing battle in the opening divisional preliminary round.

This opening round, on paper, looks an interesting tie with many well known club names featuring heavily on both sides.

Carbery, powered by Barryroe who regraded to senior B for the coming season, look very strong.

Jennifer O'Leary, Ger Collins and Mary Sheehy, who grabbed two goals against Glen Rovers in their recent senior B league final, are further enhanced by Newcestown's Collette Desmond, current captain of Cork's intermediate team, Clonakilly's Hazel O'Regan and Sinead O'Neill and Kilbrittain's Marion Murphy.

Seandún, not to be outdone, boast Bishopstown's Maeve Scannell, St Vincent's Amy O'Connor and Nicole Crean and Na Piarasigh's Orla Burke. Lydia Cunningham, Denise Luby and Lauren Callanan of Glen Rovers ensure an equally strong city lineup.

It's hard to determine how far divisional sides will advance in any championship, particularly in the early stages.

A good team on paper doesn't necessarily ensure a productive one. Lack of familiarity with team mates, desire and organised, well attended training sessions often leads to an early exit.

A close encounter with Imokilly saw Carbery advance in last year's opening round, but they were on the receiving end of a heavy defeat to Carrighoun shortly after; 4-19 to 4-4. Seandún didn't field at all.

The winners of Sunday's clash will play Carrighoun before moving into a first round championship proper tie against Killeagh.

Also in round one Ballincollig take on St Finbarr's, Courcey Rovers v Ballinhassig, Douglas v Inniscarra, Ballygarvan v Cloughduv and St Catherine's v Milford.

The draw for the back door round will be made after the first round ties.

One would have to say that the most consistent team over the past few seasons has been Douglas, having claimed two titles in four seasons.

They are certainly still up there as the team to beat but others are closing in.

Expect Cloughduv, Courcey Rovers, Inniscarra, Milford and Killeagh to be in with a fighting chance.

It'll be interesting to see how Ballinhassig shape up in the top flight.

Expect St Catherine's to also be a revitalised side with Denis Walsh now at the helm for the Imokilly side.

It promises to be another exciting championship.

# Amy's haul of five goals isn't enough

Seandún 5-6  
Carbery 1-18

AFTER A highly entertaining contest, Carbery had to rely on a pointed free five minutes into added time to get another shot at Seandún in the opening round of the senior camogie championship at Castle Road.

Bolstered by the addition to their ranks of Barryroe players, who regraded down to senior B, Carbery went into the contest as raging favourites, but had to be at their best to contain a determined Seandún.

Up front Seandún had a gem in Amy O'Connor, who notched up five goals as her side fought for everything as if their lives depended on it.

Little divided the sides in the opening 30 minutes and Carbery, despite striking 11 opening half points, led by just two at the break.

Goals win games and with O'Connor enjoying a good supply she caused mayhem for the Carbery defence as she planted the ball in the net three times in the opening half.

Jennifer O'Leary hit a Carbery goal and notching up the point they led 1-11 to 3-3 at the interval.

O'Leary and Denise Luby swapped early second points as Carbery maintained their lead.

And 13 minutes in Luby was fouled bearing down on goal, and when her resultant penalty effort was saved, O'Connor reacted with lightning speed to finish the rebound in the net.

Carbery responded and hit three points in a row to regain control, but working away and never allowing their heads drop Seandún cut



Carbery's Marion Murphy shoots from Seandún's Sinead Hendrick during the Cork senior camogie championship at Castle road, Blackrock last night.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

## CAMOGIE

By MARY NEWMAN

deficit with a pointed Luby 45, before Jennifer O'Leary responded pointing a 45 and one from play.

As the clocked edged into the 59th minute Seandún continued to pile on the pressure and when Aisling O'Keefe swung a lobbing shot into the square O'Connor made it look so easy, as she efficiently dispatched it to the net to level matters.

With the game up for grabs as it entered injury time Seandún searched for more and a Katelynn

Hickey point two minutes into stoppage looked to be enough to see them through.

But the game continued. Twice Seandún cleared their lines to safety before a last ditched Carbery effort yielded a free which Jennifer O'Leary duly pointed, and with it came the full time whistle as both sides lived to fight another day after a highly entertaining contest.

**Scorers for Seandún:** A O'Connor 5-0, N Crean 0-2 (0-1 45), D Luby 0-2 (0-1 f, 0-1 45), K Hickey, O Bourke 0-1 each.

**Carbery:** J O'Leary 1-9 (0-3f, 0-3 45), C Desmond 0-3, M Murphy, G Collins, C Long 0-2 each.

**SEANDÚN:** A Lee (Na Piarasigh); K O'Connell (Glen Rovers); N O'Brien (do), M Condon (Blackrock); L Callanan (Glen Rovers); L

Cunningham (do), A O'Keefe (do); S Hendrick (St Vincent's), N Crean (do); A O'Connell (do), K Hickey (Blackrock), O Bourke (Na Piarasigh); A O'Connor (St Vincent's), D Luby (c) (Glen Rovers), S Fahy (Glen Rovers).

**Sub:** S Homan for A O'Connell (h-t).

**CARBERY:** E White (Barryroe); E O'Sullivan (c) (Kilbrittain/Timoleague), R Desmond (Newcestown), K McCarthy (Barryroe); F Deasy (Newcestown), H O'Regan (Clonakilly), M Dullea (Kilbrittain/Timoleague), M Murphy (do), I Dineen (Barryroe); G Collins (do), J O'Leary (do), S Sexton (Kilbrittain/Timoleague); S Deasy (Newcestown), C Long (do), C Desmond (do).

**Subs:** R Dineen (Barryroe) for K McCarthy (h-t), L O'Sullivan (Newcestown) for E White (inj 44), A Deasy (Clonakilly) for S Deasy (55), A Buckley (Newcestown) for S Sexton (55).

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

● In the opening game it finished all square in the Junior B league final: Castlemagner 1-10 St Finbarr's 3-4.

## New rules come into force

New camogie playing rules came into operation on Jun 1.

Among the new guidelines is a rule that will stop players going down injured to break play. How often have we seen a defender go down with an injury just as their opponent is in possession in front of goal and may be about to score?

This happens regularly with many referees automatically stopping play for fear of serious injury, only to discover the injury was not serious at all, and with their hands tied, only a throw in could be awarded.

This led to annoyance amongst players and mentors as play was continually being stopped and momentum lost by the team in possession.

The new rule, it is hoped, will cut out deliberate stoppages as when play is now stopped due to an injury, the team in possession of the sliothar retains possession when play recommences by being granted an

The group stages of the under 14 leagues in all grades have yet to be completed and the draws for the Under 14A, Under 14B and Under 14C preliminary rounds quarter-finals and semi-finals were made as follows recently.

**Under 14A:** Semi-final (A) Cloughduv v Ballinhassig (B) Ballyhea v Sarfields 1 semi-final Sept 1/2

### U14 leagues

**Under 14B:** Quarter-final: (A) Barryroe v Tracton at Barryroe on Monday June 25 at 7pm. (B) Barryroe v Tracton in Ballygarvan. Game to be played by June 27.

**Under 14B:** Semi-final: (C) Carrigaline v winners of Barryroe or Tracton (D) Millstreet v winners of Barryroe or Tracton Sept 1/2.

**Under 14C:** Preliminary Round: (A) Bishopstown v Sliabh Rua in Bishopstown. (B) Cobh v Na Piarasigh in Cobh on Sunday June 17 at 12 noon. First drawn out has home advantage.

**Under 14C:** Quarter-final: (C) Runners up of section 1 v Milford (E) Enniskeane v winners of section 1 (F) Runners up of section 4 v Bride Rovers (G) 'B' v 'A' of prelim rounds. First drawn out has home advantage. Games to be played by June 30.

There is a three-way play-off in under 14C section one between Ballinora, Blarney and Youghal. Games were to be played by Saturday June 16.

**Under 14C:** Semi-final: (G) 'C' v 'F' (H) 'E' v 'D' Sept 1/2.

any deliberate delay in taking a free. Persistent delay in taking a free is regarded as dissent and the player's name and jersey number will be taken by the referee and a yellow card issued.

When a team is awarded a free and an opposing player shows dissent, the referee may move the sliothar forward 10 metres.

Without doubt the big change is the one where the sliothar is played directly over the crossbar from a sideline ball, the score will be worth two points and this is surely something teams will be working on to perfect as it could be the difference in winning and losing a game.

Another new change is that for league games from under 14 up to and including adult competitions, eight substitutes may now be made.

It remains to be seen if these new rules will help improve both club and county games over the coming months.

JUNE 2012





**UP FOR THE CUP:** President of the Camogie Association, Aileen Lawlor at the Etihad Skyline, Croke Park yesterday for the launch of the 2012 Camogie Championship in association with RTE Sport, with (from left) Lorraine Ryan, Galway; Julia White, Cork; Susan Vaughan, Clare; Elaine Dermody, Offaly; Joanne Ryan, Tipperary; Elaine O'Meara, Dublin; Catherine Doherty, Kilkenny and Karen Atkinson, Wexford.

Picture: Paul Mohan/Sportsfile

# New format excites Lawlor

by Daragh Ó Conchúir

Camogie president Aileen Lawlor is predicting an increase in the competitiveness and quality of the championship, which gets underway on Saturday.

There is a new format which will see the introduction of two quarter-finals, while the group stages will be used as a seeding process for the knockout stages.

Each group winner will progress to the semi-finals, while the runners-up will qualify for the quarter-finals. The remaining four teams will feature in two play-offs to complete the quarter-final pairings.

"Last year, Joan O'Flynn was at the helm and had all the counties hold forums" explained Lawlor at yesterday's launch in Croke Park.

"They were allowed to offer their opinions on any structures they felt needed change. There were a few different formats proposed and discussed. This format was different, made sense and there were a few extra games but it basically came from the players themselves which is great."

"Wexford will be going for the three-in-a-row but earlier in the year in the National League final, Cork beat them so that will open up their expectations and maybe wake Wexford up a little bit too. Then recently, Clare beat Cork in the Munster final."

"Galway won't want to be beaten a third time in-a-row if they make it to the end so that will spur them on. And also more recently, Offaly beat Kilkenny in the Leinster semi-final."

"So it's game on. It's an open, exciting championship ahead and with

more teams pushing for honours than ever, that can only be good for camogie."

"The players train four or five nights a week. They're athletes now. They're very competitive, they're well able to play so I think that makes for a better competition. Any one of those teams on their day is capable of lifting the O'Duffy Cup."

That increase in quality has come as a result of a great volunteer effort, but also the employment of full-time development officers.

It is helped too by the association's willingness to think creatively and the quality of sideline pucks is sure to improve significantly with two points now being awarded for successful conversions.

"It's a skill that not many can do but if they can do it, why not reward it?"

Lawlor declared. "I'd say there's been a lot of work done on that now between players and mentors to get that bonus point. It's something different and something that's unique to camogie. I know hurling tried it a few years ago and then let it rest again. It will add to the excitement of the game."

Meanwhile, Lawlor is enjoying the first couple of months of her term as president but as a former All-Ireland winner herself with Crumlin, and having experienced Leinster championship success with both Dublin and Westmeath, it is this time of year that enthuses her most.

"It's been busy but that's what it's about. It's great to get right in there at it and there's nothing like the championship to spur it on again. There's a special buzz and excitement about the championship."

New rules will add excitement to game, says Lawlor

## CAMOGIE

CAMOGIE President Aileen Lawlor insists new playing rules and the addition of quarter-final rounds will add significant spice to year's senior championship.

Lawlor, who is in her first year as chief of the association, highlighted the importance of the new rules at yesterday's championship

launch in Croke Park.

"There are a number of playing rules that come into force, including the reward of two points when a player puts the sliotar over the bar direct from a sideline cut."

"We are also focusing on ensuring that discipline remains a key priority during this year's championship. The rules help to ensure that sporting conduct is to the fore in camogie at all times."

According to Lawlor, the addition of quarter-finals to this year's senior grade is an excellent development.

"The round-robin format is still in play, but we have introduced seeding in the two senior groups, with the top two teams through to the semi-finals and the runners-up playing in qualifiers and quarter-finals before drawing to play in the semi-final stages on August 18."



# Quest for further glory begins with trip to Tipp

THE CO. Senior and Intermediate camogie teams get their championship season off to a start on Saturday next when they both play Tipperary in the opening round.

There is a new format to the Senior championship this year with two groups - Cork, Dublin, Galway and Tipperary in Group 1, and Clare, Kilkenny, Offaly and Wexford in Group 2.

All teams in Group 1 will play all teams in Group 2. The top team from each group goes into the semi-final on opposite sides of the draw. The second team from each group goes into quarter-finals on opposite sides of the draw.

The third in Group 1 plays fourth in Group 2 for a place in the quarter-final and the fourth in Group 1 plays the third in Group 2 for a place in the quarter-final. There will be a draw to decide who plays who in the quarter-finals. There will be a draw for home venue for the quarter-finals.

The dates for the matches are as follows -  
Saturday, June 23: Clare v. Cork; Dublin v. Kilkenny; Offaly v. Galway; Tipperary v. Wexford.

Saturday, June 30: Tipperary v. Clare; Kilkenny v. Galway; Dublin v. Offaly; Wexford v. Cork.

Saturday, July 7: Clare v. Galway; Kilkenny v. Tipperary; Cork v. Offaly.

Sunday, July 8: Wexford v. Dublin.

Saturday, July 14: Dublin v. Clare; Cork v. Kilkenny; Offaly v. Tipperary; Galway v. Wexford.

Saturday, July 21: play-offs.

Saturday, July 28: quarter-final qualifiers.

Saturday, August 4: quarter-finals.

Saturday, August 18: semi-finals.

Sunday, September 16: All-Ireland finals.

In the Intermediate championship, there are two groups and all teams in each group play each other once. Semi-finals: winner of Group 1 v. runners-up in Group 2, and winners of Group 2 v. runners-up in Group 1.

Group 1: Cork, Kilkenny, Galway, Wexford, Tipperary.

Group 2: Waterford, Antrim, Derry, Limerick.

The dates for the Intermediate matches are -  
Saturday, June 23: Tipperary v. Wexford; Limerick v. Waterford; Antrim v. Derry.

erick v. Waterford; Antrim v. Derry.

Saturday, June 30: Wexford v. Cork; Kilkenny v. Galway.

Saturday, July 7: Galway v. Cork; Kilkenny v. Tipperary; Derry v. Limerick; Waterford v. Antrim.

Saturday, July 14: Cork v. Kilkenny; Galway v. Wexford.

Saturday, July 21: Galway v. Tipperary; Wexford v. Kilkenny; Limerick v. Antrim; Waterford v. Derry.

Saturday, July 28: Tipperary v. Cork.

Saturday, August 11: play-offs.

Saturday, August 25: semi-finals.

Sunday, September 16: All-Ireland final.

All adult championship games will be at 2.30 p.m. but in the case of a double-header 1.30 p.m. and 3.15 p.m. will be the match times with the Intermediate game on first.

We would encourage people to get behind the teams as they start on their journey to All-Ireland glory and we wish the players and their management the very best of luck for the 2012 season.

## All Ireland Senior Championship Round 1

Clare v Cork @  
Newmarket-on-Fergus, Saturday  
1.30pm (Alan Lagrue, Kildare)

CLARE'S opening game in the All-Ireland Championship on Saturday against Cork should be an intriguing affair. Both sides will want to get their All-Ireland series off to a good start and Cork will want to avenge their defeat in the Munster Senior Championship final just less than three weeks ago. That Munster Final win will have boosted the confidence of the Clare girls, whose run in the National League showed that this panel have started to believe in

their capabilities. Clare have displayed a physicality which has also helped add to their confidence. With four group games to play, Clare will want to come out at the business end of things and secure at least a quarter-final spot. The Clare panel were back in training straight after their Munster success, and travelled to Banagher to play Offaly. John Troy's team put up a battle but Clare won out on a 3-12 to 2-08 scoreline. The management will be satisfied enough with the performance and glad to have come through without injury and have a clean bill of health heading into their renewed battle with Cork this weekend.

**Clare Panel** Deirdre Murphy (Clonkeen/Quin), Claire McMahon (Kilmaley), Fiona Lafferty (Inagh/Kilmamona) (joint Captain), Susan Fahy (Whitegate), Suzy O'Shea (Ballyea), Kate Connors (Somilebridge), Ann Marie McMahon (Crusheen), Niamh O'Dea (Kilmaley), Denise Lynch (Kilmaley), Maire McGrath (Somilebridge), Siobhain Lafferty (Inagh/Kilmamona), Carol O'Leary (Newmarket-on-Fergus), Kate Lynch (Kilishen), Susan Vaughan (Scariff/Ogonnell), (joint Captain), Chloe Morey (Somilebridge), Alisha Considine (Kilmaley), Aisling Hannon (Clonkeen/Quin), Sinead O'Loughlin (Inagh/Kilmamona), Aimee McInerney (Newmarket-on-Fergus), Naomi Carroll (Somilebridge), Sharon McMahon (Newmarket-on-Fergus), Marian O'Brien (Scariff/Ogonnell), Laura Linnane (Wolfe Tones), Sinead Tuohy (Somilebridge), Katie Cahill (Kilmaley), Orlaith Duggan (Clonkeen/Quin), Louise Woods (St Joseph's), Shonagh Ehnright (Kilmaley)

**All-Ireland Under 16 Championship Group 2 Round 1**  
Clare v Galway @  
Newmarket-on-Fergus, Saturday  
11.30pm  
(Eadhonn MacSuihbne, Dublin)

Clare take on Galway at the weekend in their opening game of the All-Ireland Under 16 Championship. Clare did not have the best of runs in the Munster Under 16 series and will be hoping for an improved performance at the weekend. With just three teams in Group 2 of the championship, Clare's second outing will be against Dublin meaning that a win on Saturday is vital to Clare remaining in contention.

**Clare Panel** Caroline Walsh (Éire Óg), Hannah O'Brien (Clonkeen/Quin), Kate O'Gorman (Kilishen), Clodagh O'Halloran (Kilishen), Leighanne McMahon (Kilmaley), Fiona Murphy (Somilebridge), Eimear Casey (St Joseph's), Aoife Keane (Inagh/Kilmamona), Aoibheann Malone (Corofin), Grainne Nolan (Éire Óg), Lauren Tuohy (Clarecastle), Sinead Quinn (Inagh/Kilmamona), Lisa O'Donoghue (Whitegate), Shauna Ryan (Clonkeen/Quin), Siobhain Fahy (Truagh/Clontarf), Sinead Collins (Corofin), Aine O'Shea (Ballyea), Eimear Kelly (Parteen), Lauren McGuane (Kilmaley), Lauren O'Donoghue (Ruan), Rebecca Devine (St Joseph's), Sinead Carey (Somilebridge), Rae Wall (Éire Óg), Rachel Maloney (Scariff/Ogonnell), Emily Maloney (Clonkeen/Quin), Laura Ryan (Inagh/Kilmamona), Amy O'Brien (Corofin), Claire Taaffe (Kilmanena), Amy McArthur (Kilmanena), Orla Devitt (Éire Óg)



At the Etihad Skyline at Croke Park yesterday (Tuesday) morning for the launch of the 2012 camogie championship in association with RTÉ Sport were President of the Camogie Association Aileen Lawlor with Karen Atkinson (Wexford captain) and Joanne Ryan (Tipperary).

## Big incentive to score from sideline

RULE AMENDMENTS and motions adopted at the Camogie Association annual Congress in March of this year have now come into effect as of June 1.

A number of playing proposals were considered at Congress 2012, with particular attention on a motion to award two points if a player scored from a sideline cut.

The motion was successfully

passed and its adoption is seen as a boost to the preservation of one of the sublime skills of the game and also an incentive for players and coaches alike to perfect the art of sideline cuts.

Amongst myriad changes, teams can now use eight as opposed to five substitutes for league encounters.

Other rules to come into effect

include the team in possession of the ball, at the time of an injury to an opposing player, away from the play, retaining possession by use of an indirect free to re-start the game.

Furthermore, in an effort to highlight the importance of player discipline, referees will now be able to penalise players who deliberately delay the taking of a free or display dissent.

In the case of the latter, the ball will be moved forward ten metres while in the former, a booking will occur if a player persists in delaying the free.

For a full copy of the Camogie Association playing rules click on the link - Playing Rules 2012 - while to view a copy of the Official Guide click on Camogie Association Official Guide on [www.camogie.ie](http://www.camogie.ie).



Galway Senior Camogie players, Orla Kilkenry and Gena Glynn.

JUNE 2012



# LAWLOR EXPECTING FEAST OF CAMOGIE

**CAMOGIE** president Aileen Lawlor is predicting an increase in the competitiveness and quality of the Championship, which gets under way on Saturday.

There is a new format this year which will see the introduction of two quarter-finals, while the group stages will be used as a seeding process for the knockout stages.

Each group winner will progress to the semi-finals, while the runners-up will qualify for the quarter-finals.

## Launch

The remaining four teams will feature in two play-offs to complete the quarter-final pairings.

"Last year Joan O'Flynn was at the helm and had all the counties hold forums," explained Lawlor at yesterday's launch in Croke Park.

"They were allowed to offer their opinions on any

## DARAGH Ó CONCHÚIR

structures they felt needed changing. There were a few different formats proposed and discussed.

"This format was different, made sense and there were a few extra games but it basically came from the players themselves which is great.

"Wexford will be going for the three-in-a-row but earlier in the year in the National League final, Cork beat them so that will open up their expectations and maybe wake Wexford up a little bit too. Then recently, Clare beat Cork in the Munster final.

"Galway won't want to be beaten a third time in a row if they make it to the end so that will spur them on. Also Offaly beat Kilkenny in the Leinster semi-final.

"It's an open, exciting championship

ahead and with more teams pushing for honours than ever before, that can only be good for camogie.

"The players train four or five nights a week. They're athletes now. They're very competitive. Any one of those teams on their day is capable of lifting the O'Duffy Cup."

## Officers

That increase in quality has come as a result of a great volunteer effort, but also the employment of full-time development officers by the Camogie Association.

It is helped too by the association's willingness to think creatively and the quality of sideline pucks is sure to improve significantly with two points now being awarded for successful conversions of the cut.

"It's a skill that not many can do but if they

can do it, why not reward it?" Lawlor said. "I'd say there's been a lot of work done on that now between players and mentors to get the bonus point.

"It's something different and something that's unique to camogie. I know hurling tried it a few years ago and then let it rest again. It will add to the excitement of the game."

Lawlor is enjoying the first couple of months of her term as president.

But as a former All-Ireland winner herself with Crumlin, and having experienced Leinster championship success with Dublin and Westmeath, it is this time of year that enthralls her most.

"It's been busy but that's what it's about. There's nothing like the

Championship to spur it on again. There's a special buzz."



ALL SET: Aileen Lawlor with Wexford's Karen Atkinson and Joanne Ryan of Tipp at the Etihad Skyline at Croke Park

## Camogie side face Offaly in championship opener

EOGHAN CORMICAN

THE quest of the Galway senior camogie team to reach a third consecutive All-Ireland final begins in earnest this Saturday afternoon as the Tribeswomen travel to Banagher for the first round of the All-Ireland championship (throw-in 2.30pm).

Following an indifferent league campaign which ended with a tame semi-final exit at the hands of Cork, players and management alike will be keen to deliver a statement of intent against Offaly. Indeed, with many questions hanging over the appetite of this current crop, a performance more so than a result is sought, not least to set a positive tone for the championship ahead.

Preparations, however, have been offset by a plethora of injuries which has robbed management of several of the squad's key players. Heading the long list of sidelined players is Aislinn Connolly, the Castlebar stickwoman ruled out through a knee injury. Also unavailable for selection are Therese Manton (finger), Jessica Gill (cruciate), Orla Curtin (ankle) and Rachel Monaghan (ankle).

"It's been one knock after another," said manager Tony Ward, "five of the forwards have been sidelined and while that has affected our prepara-

tions, it opens the door for the likes of Gina Glynn, Orlaith and Niamh McGrath to step in.

"We used the league to learn as much as we could about the team, but it was difficult with the minors playing at the same time, we were unable to use them for any of the matches," said Ward.

League form through March and April tends to provide the most accurate guide to championship form and Offaly were hugely disappointing when going down to Clare, Cork and Wexford – the latter two inflicting heavy defeats on the Faithful.

That said, John Troy's charges sprung an upset of sorts last month when advancing to the Leinster final at the expense of Kilkenny. Offaly entered the decider against Wexford as rank outsiders, but a goal from Elaine Dermody tied matters 10 minutes out. In the end, a late scoring burst of 1-2 eventually saw Wexford claim the honours, and as a result, Ward is adamant that Offaly should not be underestimated.

"They ran Wexford to five points and prior to that beat Kilkenny. They'll be no pushovers. I expect John Troy will have them well drilled."

Through the league, the Galway management didn't stray far from the XV that came so close to All-Ireland glory last

September. With Therese Maher lining out in the forward division, Sarah Dervan competently filled the vacant centre-back position.

Galway do have quite a lively set of forwards in Brenda Hanney, Noreen Coen, and Tara Rutledge – as a unit however they failed to produce the goods throughout the league, displaying an over-reliance on Connolly to tally the bulk of their scores. With Connolly out, other must now stand up to be counted.

Susan Earner will line out between the sticks with Sinead Cahalan and captain Ann Marie Hayes back-boning the defensive effort. Niamh Kilkenny – who has impressed for Peares thus far in the club championship – carries the midfield threat, but as to who will partner the All-Star remains to be seen.

Sarsfields Niamh McGrath played the majority of the league in the number nine shirt, but Ann Marie Starr is also in the mix.

In this fixture last July, Galway came out on top by 1-25 to 2-4 at Pearse Stadium, but with the side ravaged by injuries this time around, Saturday's clash is likely to go right down to the wire.

● The Galway U16s also open their championship this Saturday as they take on Clare at Newmarket-on-Fergus (11.30am).

## Rebels to kickstart bid to make Croke Park

CAMOGIE

By LINDA MELLERICK

All-Ireland Senior Championship first round  
Cork V Clare  
Newmarket-On-Fergus, Clare  
Saturday, 1.30pm.

IT ALL kicks off this weekend in the senior championship as Cork begin their journey of re-capturing the cup they last held in 2009.

Indeed Cork hasn't been a September visitor to Croke Park since that date having failed to make it past the last two semi-finals, something which had been alien to them since 2001.

Clare are Cork's first opponents tomorrow in an intense four-week schedule. Wexford, Offaly and Kilkenny follow as Cork bid to top their group and avoid a additional quarter-final qualifier. If Cork win two out of their four group games they are relatively sure of a quarter-final spot but according to selector Brian Barry 'we have every confidence in topping the group'.

Buoyant after their Munster final triumph over their rebel counterparts last month, Clare, with home advantage, will believe they can upset the odds again. I don't believe they will and in truth if Cork are serious All-Ireland title contenders the gap at the final whistle should be significant.

There are two counties which Cork raise their game against; Galway and Wexford. They blow hot and cold against the others and if a team continues with that approach of mentally tuning in for only a handful of games, the risk is there that the familiar pace of the relaxed approach surpasses the high intensity one; it's not a tap that can be readily turned on. A manager can only do so much, the desire and approach can only come from inside the player.

Expect Cork's lineout to be as strong as it can be with the time for experimenting well and truly behind them. However management have options with a number of selections providing an equally strong starting 15. While carrying a few 'niggles' Cork have almost a full compliment of fit players to choose from. Anna Geary has been confirmed as out due to illness. Aoife Murray, Jenny Duffy, Rena Buckley and Joanne O'Callaghan, who finally seems to have put her injury jinx behind her, should all get the nod to start, as will the same half-back line that successfully manned the Wexford half-forward line in the league final; Breige Corkery, Emer O'Sullivan and Pamela Mackey.

After that Cork could name a number of combinations. The familiar names of Orla Cotter, Gemma O'Connor and Jennifer O'Leary will all figure, just at what positions is as of yet unknown. Joanne Casey has been pushing hard for a starting slot and Anna Geary's absence may well provide her with the opportunity. She will be conscious of grabbing it with both hands. Clare will play with physicality and passion in a bid to unsettle Cork on their home turf. Cork should withstand an intense opening period and run out comfortable winners.

Verdict: Cork.





LINDA  
MELLERICK

## CAMOGIE

**THIS** year's senior championship throws in today.

Dublin play Kilkenny at O'Toole Park, Crumlin, Cork face Clare in Newmarket on Fergus, Offaly take on Galway in Banagher and Tipperary face three-in-a-row chasing Wexford at The Ragg.

The outcome of these particular clashes should be fairly easy to predict.

First rounds though are typically where teams get caught. Kilkenny, Cork, Galway and Wexford should start their championship on a winning note. If an upset was to happen it could be Cork and Wexford that receive the awakening as Clare and Tipp will certainly raise their game against the aristocrats of the game.

The Clare panel returned to training straight after their Munster success against Cork and in the week when they finalised preparations for the opening round of the championship, travelled to Banagher to play Offaly in a challenge. John Troy's team put up a battle but Clare won out, 3-12 to 2-8.

Their management will be satisfied enough with the performance, glad to have come through without injury and have a clean bill of health heading into their battle with Cork.

Three weeks ago Clare met Cork in the Munster final, where Clare caused a big surprise. Their win at the Ragg in Tipperary was fully merited and is sure to have made Cork more determined than ever to bounce back.

With four group games to play, Clare will want to come out at the business end of things and secure at least a quarter-final spot.

Siobhán Lafferty hasn't been available for the past few months due to a ligament injury and she is unlikely to play any part in this week's game with little training behind her.

Kilkishen's Kate Lynch picked up an injury last week and is a doubtful starter for the game but officials are confident she will have recovered in time to play a part in the tie.

A blow to the team's hopes is the news that Naomi Carroll will be absent due to her hockey commitments with Ireland. She won the player of the match accolade in the Munster final.

On the credit side from Clare's viewpoint, joint captain Fiona Lafferty has made a full recovery from the injury she suffered in the early minutes of the Munster final.

"We know that Cork will travel to Newmar-



Attending the launch of the 2012 Camogie Association Championship were Elaine Dermody (Offaly), Susan Vaughan (Clare), Joanne Ryan (Tipperary), Elaine O'Meara (Dublin), Julia White (Cork), Catherine Doherty (Kilkenny), Ann Marie Hayes (Galway) and from defending champions Wexford was Karen Atkinson.

Picture: INPHO/Cathal Noonan

# Cork know Clare offer real threat

ket with all guns blazing," said team manager John Carmody.

"We have trained well since the Munster final and we are ready. We want to be meeting teams like Cork.

It's an attractive fixture and one that should attract a large attendance to Newmarket-on-Fergus, throw-in at 1.30pm.

Cork dominated the senior championship over the past decade but their decline over the past two years has miffed players and from the moment they got together at the beginning of this season under manager Paudie Murray they made it clear winning the All-Ireland title is their target.

That Munster final win will have boosted

the confidence of Clare, whose run in the National League re-iterated that this panel have started to believe in their abilities.

They have made steady progress since their induction to the top level in 2009.

This year, Clare have displayed a physicality that has also helped add to their confidence and I expect them to hit Cork with everything they've got. Cork need to match this and eventually wear Clare down.

Training has gone well in the Cork camp and with a number of strong challenge games under their belt, I don't expect an upset.

Wexford will find the going tough at the Ragg, a pitch that Tipperary always utilise when facing a fast team with an open style of

play. Wexford have to go into game as favourites chasing three championship titles in a row yet it's not the easiest of opening encounters for a team not quite striking the form of previous seasons.

Kilkenny and Galway both have a smooth entry to get them off the mark.

The round-robin format is still in play but this season has introduced seeding in the two senior groups, with the top two teams through to the semi-finals and the remaining runners up playing in a series of qualifiers and quarter-finals before drawing to play in the semi-final stages on August 18.

This year's championship will feature extensively across RTE Sport.

## CAMOGIE CLUB NOTES

### ST FINBARR'S

Our U12s played Inniscarra where it was a close encounter with great effort from all the team. Best for us on the day were Chanel Varian, Orla Keane and Sophie Cotter.

Our junior B team played in thrilling league final in Castle Road last Sunday against Castlemagner both teams played with a very high level of skill and endeavour on a very good pitch. Our defence again were excellent, especially our goalkeeper, Barbara Anne Corcoran and our full back line Katie Collins, Marie McCarthy and Sinead McCann.

Even though Castlemagner played with 14 players for a lot of the game, they came back in the second half with fierce determination and secured a replay near the end of the game. Both sets of supporters are eagerly looking forward to the replay.

### CROSSHAVEN

Last Saturday was the club trip to Kerry, two 53 seat coaches left Camden at 8 am with players, parents and coaches to play Causeway camogie club in the morning followed by a trip to the aqua dome and McDonalds in the afternoon.

Training on today Saturday June 16th will change to our summer time of 10 am and continue for all age groups at the GAA grounds Camden. New members welcome!

### GLEN ROVERS

With exams now completed, U16 training has re-

sumed and on Thursday next we will play a visiting team from Offaly who are in Cork in for a friendly game all U16s are asked to be at training on Monday next at 6pm

On Saturday next our U14 team are off to Blarney for the Sarah Buckley memorial tournament and again players are asked to be at training on Monday next 6pm

Our U10s hosted Inniscarra for the Go Games where everybody enjoyed their evenings camogie and week by week the improvement is to be seen in all players, well done to everybody for excellent performances. On Monday it off to Carrigrohane for another round of U10s go games players to meet for bus at Glen Rovers at 6.15pm.

Our senior team will meet Newcastle on Thursday next in the first game in the summer cup at the Glen field at 7.45pm as they continue preparations for championship which is on July 19.

Good luck Best of luck to the Cork senior and U16 teams as they open their All-Ireland campaigns this weekend

Get well: Get well wishes to our treasure, senior selectors and club stalwart Deirdre (Sutton) Coleman who is recovering after her recent hip surgery we look forward to seeing Deirdre flying around faster than ever shortly.



The Cork U14 panel for 2012.



# Another draw as Barrs held by battling Castle

## CAMOGIE

St Finbarr's 3-4  
Castlemagner 1-10

IT FINISHED all square as Castlemagner and Finbarr's failed to be separated in a highly entertaining junior B league final at Castle Road.

Playing with 14 players after they lost the services of a player midway through the opening half, Castle-magner showed fierce spirit and determination as they matched their opponents in all sectors and battled to give it everything in their quest of salvaging the game.

The opening quarter saw Castle-magner make all the running and put the Finbarr's defence under all sorts of pressure.

They were on the scoreboard first with a Susan Falvey point. Niamh Cooke replied with a pointed free and despite coming under a lot of pressure the St Finbarr's defence stood firm.

Eighteen minutes in Castlemagner hit the front when Shelly Twohig's free into the square that was first-timed to the net by Falvey.

Twice the sides swapped points as Castlemagner maintained their lead, but with eight minutes to the break they were reduced to 14 players after referee Michael O'Mahony consulted with his umpire and issued a Castle-magner forward with a red card.

Struggling to come to terms with this, Castlemagner conceded two goals inside a minute with Rachel Myers finding the net twice while Niamh Cook hit an excellent point in between as the Barrs upped the pace to lead 2-4 to 1-3 at the break.

From the restart Castlemagner showed fierce determination and



The Enniskeane and Districts Community Games team who took the Cork U14 title recently.

making light of their numerical disadvantage they took the game to their opponents with Twohig hitting three points in row to cut the deficit to just a point.

St Finbarr's rallied and regained their composure and when Rachel Myers grabbed their third goal it looked to be the score that would secure the title with the game entering the final quarter.

Once more Castlemagner answered the call and gave it everything they had.

Shelly Twohig pointed from play

before converting two close-in frees and with a minute to go just a point separated the sides.

Continuing to win possession, Castlemagner battled for an equaliser but St Finbarr's also applied a lot of pressure which the Castlemagner defence had to absorb.

With Clionadh Healy superb at centre-back they drove forward and a Twohig point with one minute remaining had the sides back on level.

Both sides had chances to go ahead but neither could find the

target and at the sound of the full-time whistle it was level pegging and all to play for again when both will enjoy another day out and a tilt at the title.

In what must be a remarkable and unusual statistic to date, the four adult league final have all ended in draws with Douglas and St Catherine's in senior, Barryroe and Glen Rovers in senior B, Tracton and Carrigaline in intermediate and the junior B final all ending in draws, an indication of the strength of the clubs at various levels.

Scorers for St Finbarr's: R Myers 3-0, N Cooke 0-4 (0-2f)

Castlemagner: S Twohig 0-9 (0-7f), S Falvey 1-1.

ST FINBARR'S: B A Corcoran, M Collins, M McCarthy, S Mc Carre, C O'Sullivan, J Keating, L Fitzgerald, A McCarthy, C Sergeant, Niamh Cooke, E Crowley, S Punch, R Myers, N O'Regan, V Hosford. Subs: T Fitzpatrick for N O'Regan (44).

CASTLEMAGNER: N Long, M O'Keefe, E O'Donovan, R Twohig, E Browne, C Healy, Gayer, S Twohig, C Twohig, S Casey, A Cott (c), E Twohig, S Falvey, I Vaughan, D Fallon. Sub: M A O'Sullivan for D Fallon (51).

Referee: Michael O'Mahony (Kilbrittain / Timoleague).

## Cork face Limerick in U16 A championship

EXAMS are now done and dusted and the books are put to one side until September and its all systems go as the All-Ireland U16A Championship get under way this weekend as Cork host Limerick on Sunday at 12.30pm in Castle Road.

Cork's section also includes Kilkenny and Munster champions Tipperary. With two teams to emerge from each group to contest the semi-finals a victory in round one is crucial.

Limerick were crowned U16 B All-Ireland champions in 2011 and this season they have made the step up to A level.

They will be hoping to build on the success of last season and to develop and bring players forward to adult level as in the last two years things have not

gone well for them at the higher level. They have a panel of 35 players and they will look for a strong performance from players such as Tara Fitzgibbon, Michelle Barrett, Sinead McNamara and Deborah Murphy to lead their challenge and get their campaign off to a winning start.

Cork promised much following their splendid performance in the opening game of the Munster championship where they defeated Clare but they failed to produce the goods in the Munster final going down by a strong Tipp side on a 6-10 to 1-10 scoreline.

In the interim, Cork have worked hard to get it right and manager John Cronin will be hoping that his side can put their provincial campaign behind them and drive on to be serious All-Ire-

land contenders.

Cronin returned to inter county management last season with the county U16 B squad and he successfully guided them to provincial honours. This year's loss to Tipp in the Munster final was a huge disappointment to him and his fellow selectors Ger Sheehan and John Moloney. But they are looking ahead with confidence to what they hope will be a good All-Ireland campaign.

Players such as Linda Collins, Alicia Cremin, Claire Sexton and Aisling Wallace have been performing well at club level in recent weeks while Amy O'Connor helped herself to five goals in the recently senior county championship with Seandún and if they can produce the same levels of perform-

ances on Sunday Cork will be happy.

A huge amount of work has gone into development squads in the last three years from U12 upwards and the players must now start to come through the ranks to U16 county level. Already this year the U16 B squad captured the Munster title and they will hope for a good run in the All-Ireland campaign, beginning on July 8.

It promises to be a busy few months at U16 level, with the U16 A squad meeting Kilkenny on July 1 in Kilkenny. The following weekend they play Tipperary on July 8 in Cork.

The U16 B squad open their campaign against Waterford in Cork on July 8 and then it's a trip away to meet Wexford on July 15 and a clash with Antrim at a half way venue on July 22.

## Community Games

### U14 CAMOGIE

CELEBRATIONS recently for Enniskeane and Districts as they emerged winners of the Community Games U14 title when they overcame the challenge posed by teams from Glanmire and Mitchelstown to be crowned champions for the first time.

There was a good representation of clubs on the panel with Enniskeane, Kilbree, Newcestown and Ballinascarty all supplying players to the side who will now go on to the Munster semi-final where they will fly the county flag next month and we wish them the very best of luck in their endeavours.

### CAMOGIE

All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship: Kilkenny 2-15 Dublin 1-09; Cork 0-16 Clare 2-09; Galway 1-17 Offaly 1-06; Wexford 1-13 Tipperary 1-06.  
All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship: Group 1: Tipperary 1-07 Wexford 0-10  
All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship: Group 2: Waterford 4-08 Limerick 1-14; Derry 0-18 Antrim 1-02  
All-Ireland U16A Camogie Championship: Group 1: Galway 2-14 Clare 0-05

June 2012



It's all to play for



Susan Vaughan, Clare and Julia White, Cork at the Etihad Skyline in Croke Park for the launch of the 2012 Camogie Championship in association with RTÉ Sport. Picture: Paul Mohan / SPORTSFILE



EYE FOR GOAL: Galway's Niamh McGrath runs at the Offaly defence

## O'Leary's late free breaks Clare hearts

**CAMOGIE:** Jenny O'Leary converted a 60th minute free to snatch a 0-16 to 2-09 victory for league champions Cork over Clare in the opening round of the All-Ireland senior camogie championship yesterday. Clare mounted an impressive second half comeback but were heartbroken when O'Leary showed nerves of steel to slot the winner at the death.

Meanwhile, Galway were clinical in dispensing with

Offaly by 1-17 to 1-6 in Banagher. The hosts held the upper hand for most of the first half, with Elaine Dermody deadly accurate from placed balls, but a late first half rally from the Tribeswomen gave them a healthy advantage which Offaly could not overcome.

Elsewhere, champions Wexford recorded a 1-17 to 1-06 victory over Tipperary, and Kilkenny beat Dublin comfortably by 2-15 to 1-09.

# Cork sink Clare with O'Leary's late free

By Daragh Ó Conchúir  
Camogie

Jenny O'Leary converted a 60th-minute free to snatch a 0-16 to 2-09 victory for league champions Cork over Clare in the opening round of the All-Ireland senior camogie championship.

Clare had defeated the Leesiders in the Munster final but anyone thinking that was a fluke result received a rude awakening as the Banner women took it to their opponents again.

They led by 1-6 to 0-8 at half time thanks to a third-minute goal from Fiona Lafferty, but points from Julia White and O'Leary (two) towards the end of the opening period left just the minimum between the sides.

Cork looked to have made a significant push in the third quarter with four points on the trot but when Deirdre Murphy doubled on a Claire McMahon free to register Clare's second goal

13 minutes from time, the sides were level once more.

That was the case on two further occasions before O'Leary showed nerves of steel to slot the winner at the death.

Galway were clinical in dispensing with Offaly by 1-17 to 1-6 in Banagher. The hosts held the upper hand for most of the first half, with Elaine Dermody deadly accurate from placed balls. They led by two points with half time approaching but Tara Rutledge goalied and three more points suddenly gave Galway a healthy advantage.

The Tribeswomen added eight more points after the resumption to make it 1-11 without reply and that was enough to put the game to bed. Dermody brought her personal tally to 1-5 when finding the net from a late free.

Champions Wexford tore into Tipperary in the first half at The Ragg before recording a comfortable win on the same scoreline. Una Leacy kicked a fourth-minute goal to send JJ



**NERVES OF STEEL:** Jenny O'Leary fired over a 60th-minute free for Cork.

Doyle's charges on their way. Her sister Mary was an insurmountable barrier at centre-back and with Ursula Jacob slotting the frees (she ended with seven points in total), they led by 10 points at the interval.

Tipp improved in the second half and Eirena Fryday finished well for a goal early on, while Joanne Ryan, Mary Ryan and Caoimhe Maher also hurled impressively. There was no halting Wexford, however.

Kilkenny also laid the founda-

tion for their 2-15 to 1-9 success over Dublin in the first half. A blistering start, that included an 11th-minute goal from Miriam Walsh, helped them to a nine-point interval lead.

Dublin were much improved in the second half and Sarah Ryan struck the Kilkenny net with a fearsome shot eight minutes from time. Kilkenny had the last say though, as Michelle Quilty got the last touch after a goalmouth scramble to raise another green flag for the Noreiders.

JUNE 2012



Cork's Roisin de Faoite.  
**Movers & shakers**

● ROISIN De Faoite, above, was named MVP in Munster Intermediate Championship final on June



# O'LEARY TO THE RESCUE

## CAMOGIE round-up

JENNY O'Leary converted a 60th minute free to snatch victory for league champions Cork over Clare in the opening round of the All-Ireland senior camogie championship.

Clare led by 1-6 to 0-8 at half-time thanks to a third minute goal from Fiona Lafferty, but points from Julia White and O'Leary (two) towards the end of the opening period left just the minimum between the sides.

Cork looked to have made a significant push in the third quarter with four points on the trot but when Deirdre Murphy doubled on a Claire McMahon free to register Clare's second goal 13 minutes from time, the sides were level once more.

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Galway were clinical in dispensing with Offaly by 1-17 to 1-6 in Banagher. The hosts held the upper hand for most of the first half, with Elaine Dermody deadly accurate from placed balls.

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Dermody brought her personal tally to 1-5 when finding the net from a late free.

## Interval

Champions Wexford tore into Tipperary in the first half at The Ragg before recording a comfortable win on the same scoreline.

Una Leacy kicked a fourth minute goal to send JJ Doyle's charges on their way.

Her sister Mary was an insurmountable barrier at centre-back and with Ursula Jacob slotting the frees (she ended with seven points in total), they led by ten points at the interval.

Tipp improved in the second half and Eirena Fryday finished well for a goal early on.

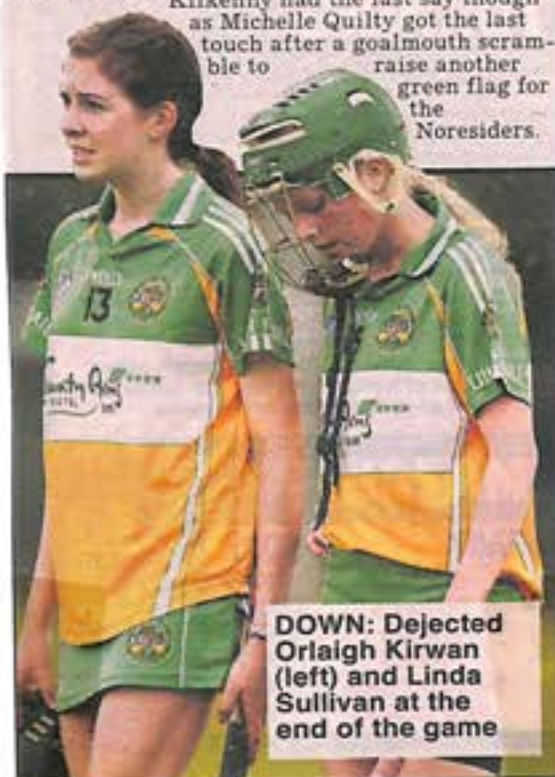
There was no halting the Wexford machine however.

Kilkenny laid the foundation for their 2-15 to 1-9 success over Dublin in the first half as well.

A blistering start that included an 11th minute goal from Miriam Walsh pushed them into a 1-6 to 0-0 lead and they maintained that nine-point advantage at the break.

Dublin were much improved in the second half, when they played with the wind at their backs, and Sarah Ryan struck the Kilkenny net with a fearsome shot eight minutes from time.

Kilkenny had the last say though as Michelle Quilty got the last touch after a goalmouth scramble to raise another green flag for the Noreiders.



**DOWN:** Dejected Orlaigh Kirwan (left) and Linda Sullivan at the end of the game

The boys and girls who took part in the Irish Daily Star Primary Go Games will all be there too.



**CLASH:** Marie O'Reilly, Berrings, is tackled by Leah Healy, Ballinahinch NS, left, and Clara Hickey, Ballylooby NS, and right, Molly Ni Riain, G.S. Carrig Uí Laighin, in action against Aoife Ryan, Donaskeagh NS, left, and Daron Creamer, Portroe NS



**PROMISING:** Aoife Ryan, Donaskeagh NS, and Molly Ni Riain, G.S. Carrig Uí Laighin



# Rebels deny Limerick in U16 A opener

Cork  
Limerick

4-14  
1-12

U16A CAMOGIE

THE Cork U16 As got their All-Ireland championship campaign off to a winning start against Limerick at Castle Road yesterday writes **MARY NEWMAN**.

Rebecca Delee opened the scoring for Limerick but Cork settled quickly with Claire Sexton kicking to the net after the visitors' defence failed to clear from the goal area.

Cork soon added a second goal from Amy O'Connor, as Limerick struggled to get scores against a solid Cork rear-guard. They relied on frees from captain Clara Costello to keep them in touch, while Cork availed of their chances tacking on points from Roisin Twohill, Clara O'Leary and Linda Collins before the latter and Claire Sexton added further goals to leave Cork comfortably ahead 4-6 to 0-6 at the interval.

Limerick switched Costello to full-forward for the

second, playing with the aid of the stiff wind, and it paid dividends when she netted 30 seconds after the restart.

Cork responded quickly and points from Amy O'Connor Rosin Twohill and Clara O'Leary ensured that they maintaining the upper hand.

Round two will see Cork face a much sterner test from Kilkenny on Sunday next in Kilkenny.

**Scorers for Cork:** L Collins 1-4 (0-4), C Sexton 2-1, A O'Connor 1-2, R Twohill, C O'Leary 0-3 each, D Ahern 0-1(f). **Limerick:** C Costello 1-10 (0-7f), A Wilson, R Delee 0-1 each.

**CORK:** S O'Sullivan; C O'Callaghan, O O'Driscoll, A Crowley; A Curtin, D Ahern, C Murphy; H Looney, J O'Keefe; A O'Connor, R Twohill (c), S Fahy; C Sexton, L Collins, C O'Leary. **Subs:** A Wallace for J O'Keefe (HT), J Kiely for O O'Driscoll (40), A Dowling for S Fahy (42), C Daly for A Curtin (54), L Mc Evoy for R Twohill (56). **LIMERICK:** L O'Neill; S Tobin, H Fitzgerald, J Wilson; S Mc Namara, M Barrett, F Fitzgibbon; R Delee, S Sheehan; D Murphy, C Costello(c), K O'Leary; A Scully, K Mulqueen, K Hennessy. **Subs:** M Clancy for A Scully (45), M Danaher for K Mulqueen (51).

**Referee:** Gerard Browne (Tipperary)



Cork captain Julia White, who scored two points against Clare on Saturday. Here she is close down Karen Atkinson of Wexford, their opponents next weekend.

Picture: Gareth Williams / SPORTSFILE

# Cork must learn from this fright

Cork  
Clare

0-16  
2-9

**CORK** had to dig deep and draw on their years of expertise last Saturday to overcome a spirited Clare challenge in this All-Ireland senior championship first round tie in Newmarket-On-Fergus.

Clare proved their Munster final victory over Cork three weeks ago was no one-hit wonder, with Cork only taking the lead for the first time 42 minutes in and the sides level with just four minutes of normal time remaining.

Facing a strong wind with heavy underfoot conditions on an open pitch (contrary to central council rules) Cork started nervously. Clare, on the other hand, with large local support, relished this clash and hit Cork for 1-1 inside the opening four minutes.

It was a poor goal from Cork's point of view, a high free in, batted in the square, was pounced on by Fiona Lafferty who finished a soft handpass to the net.

Clare's defence were winning significant ball throughout.

Chloe Morey, Susan Vaughan, Niamh O'Dea, Maire McGrath and Carol O'Leary were excellent and pressurised Cork into making mistakes.

Midway through the opening period Clare led 1-5 to 0-3 with many of their scores coming from turnovers.

Cork continued to display signs of discomfort, their first touch letting them down.



LINDA MELLERICK

## CAMOGIE

Slowly however they began to get some grip on the game.

Two points inside a minute by Jennifer O'Leary (a free) and Julia White settled the ship somewhat and while Shonagh Enright replied Cork were beginning to gain momentum.

White hit over another on 24 minutes and Linda Dorgan was at the end of a brilliant piece of play from Cork 60 seconds later.

Another Jennifer O'Leary free and the gap was down to one at the break, with the wind now favouring Cork.

Within 30 seconds of the restart Cork were on level terms.

Clare McMahon replied to keep Clare's nose in front.

The next 15 minutes however belonged to the visitors.

When Cork delivered a long, fast ball into their forwards they looked impressive and split the Clare defence.

However all too often their approach was slow, due mainly it must be said to intense pressure from a hungry and determined Clare side.

Points from O'Leary (2), Gemma O'Connor and Orla Cotter placed Cork three points ahead entering the final quarter, the expectation around the ground that they would now drive the game home.

# Murray happy to survive test

REACTION

PAUDIE MURRAY, despite getting a big fright in Newmarket-On-Fergus, was happy with his team's resolve in securing a one-point victory.

"It was a tough game. Sixteen points, that score would win most games for you but we let in two soft goals and that was disappointing," said Murray.

"It was something we hadn't been doing and is something we'll address."

"It was never going to be easy coming here. The players seemed nervous during the week. We were well prepared; we were flying in our challenge games and training."

"And look a win is a win. Whether it's by one point or 10 points the outcome is all the same and

we're delighted with it. We'll look ahead now to Wexford next week."

Despite these fixtures being in place for six months, Clare stated they could not get a stadium for the game and the conditions were not up to senior inter-county championship standard.

When questioned on this Paudie replied: "The pitch was heavy, the grass long, it doesn't look like it's been cut in a while and to come here today to an open pitch like this for a championship game, it's not good enough."

"If the camogie association want to improve the profile of the game then this has to stop."

Lack of concentration and poor defending amazingly saw the lead change hands again.

Within a minute Clare struck 1-1 and Cork were once again chasing the game.

A seemingly harmless free struck by Clare McMahon from the right was doubled on to the net by the unchallenged Deirdre Murphy as Cork's defence looked on in bewilderment.

As the home support roared their side to victory, it was Cork's experience in the face of adversity which saw them through with a Jennifer O'Leary pointed free two minutes from time.

Despite the expectation that Cork would win this game comfortably the manner in which they overcame an intense hour was commendable and should stand them in good stead ahead of their clash with the double All-Ireland champions Wexford next Saturday.

**Scorers for Cork:** J O'Leary 0-9 (0-7 f), J White, L Dorgan 0-2 each, K Mackey, G O'Connor, O Cotter 0-1 each.

**Clare:** C McMahon 0-5 (0-4 f), F Lafferty 1-2, D Murphy 1-0, S Enright 0-2.

**CORK:** A Murray; J Duffy, R Buckley, J O'Callaghan; B Corkery, E O'Sullivan, P Mackey; L Dorgan, G O'Connor; O Cotter, K Mackey, J O'Leary; J White, J Casey, R Curtin.

**Sub:** K Buckley for R Curtin (41).

**CLARE:** D Lynch; M McGrath, M O'Brien, C O'Leary; N O'Dea, S Vaughan, C Morey; O Duggan, K Cahill; L Woods, S Enright, S Fahy; C McMahon, F Lafferty, D Murphy.

**Subs:** K Lynch for S Fahy, L Linnane for L Woods (h-t), A Considine for K Cahill, S Tuohy for C McMahon (both 56).

**Referee:** Alan Lagree (Kildare)

# Win over Cats would give Cork a semi-final spot

**SUNDAY**  
**All-Ireland U16 A Camogie Championship: Kilkenny v Cork, Mullinavat, 1pm.**

**NO REST** for the county U16 A side, who, fresh from their opening round victory over Limerick last weekend, make the journey to Mullinavat for a round two clash with Kilkenny, writes **MARY NEWMAN**.

Last weekend Kilkenny lost out by a point to Munster champions Tipperary in an exciting contest and a victory on Sunday is vital if they are to keep their championship aspirations alive. A victory for Cork would

U16 CAMOGIE

guarantee a semi-final spot irrespective of the result of their last game so it's all to play for on Sunday.

Kilkenny trailed by eight points with seven minutes remaining last weekend but a tremendous fightback saw them run out of time as they lost out by the narrowest of margins.

Cork played well and were in control against Limerick from the early stages and their ability to grab goals was vital as they hit four, Claire Sex-

ton with two, Linda Collins and Amy O'Connor with one each, which ensured Cork were to the fore.

Kilkenny took plenty of positives from their outing against Tipperary not least the spirited fightback shown by their charges with players such as Roisin Breen, Katie Nolan, Michaela Kenneally Sarah Whelan and outstanding wing-back Aine Gannon showing plenty of commitment to the cause.

Cork may be without the services of Amy O'Connor, Clara O'Leary and Orlaith O'Driscoll who are on Gaynor Cup soccer duty on Sat-

urday, and if successful they will be playing the final on Sunday and will miss the camogie game, while Amy Curtin is abroad on holidays.

Cork did request a change of time to later in the evening but could not get agreement from Kilkenny. While the players are a huge loss to Cork they must call on their squad to do the job that's needed and with plenty of options available to them, John Cronin and his back room mentors Ger Sheehan and John Moloney will be looking for one big display that would be enough to ensure them of a place in the All-Ireland semi-final.



# Late free leaves Clare out in the cold against Cork

Written by Peter O'Connell

Cork 0-16 Clare 2-9

Jenny O'Leary's eighth pointed free, struck two minutes from full-time, edged Cork ahead of Clare in the county's opening All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship group game in Newmarket last Saturday.

When the teams met three weeks previously in the Munster final, Clare scored a famous win and were keen to prove that performance wasn't a once off. Although they lost by the minimum margin last weekend, Clare again showed they are capable of mixing it with the country's camogie elite. Cork have already won the 2012 Division 1 league title and have multiple All-Ireland winners in their panel.

With a helpful breeze behind them, Clare hurled impressively from the off and were 1-2 to 0-1 ahead after eight minutes. Claire McMahon put over the first of her five points in the opening seconds, scoring immediately after the throw-in.

Three minutes later, Fiona Lafferty palmed to the Cork net after a Chloe Morey free, won by corner-back Máire McGrath, was batted back into play by Cork goalkeeper, Aoife Murray.

That goal helped to keep Clare in front as the half wore on and the teams traded points. McMahon, from two frees, Lafferty and Shónagh Enright twice from play, completed Clare's first half tally of 1-6, while Jenny O'Leary (four frees), Julia White, two from play, Katriona Mackey and Linda Dorgan pointed Cork's eight first half scores.

Four minutes before half time Cork's Jenny Duffy lost possession but neither Fiona Lafferty nor Deirdre Murphy could avail of what was half a goal chance.

Although the pitch was in excellent condition, the breeze was a factor that helped Cork in the second period. They outscored Clare 0-5 to 0-1 in the opening 16 minutes of the second half and led 0-13 to 1-7 at that stage. McMahon scored Clare's additional point, while Jenny O'Leary, Gemma O'Connor and Orla Cotter fired Cork five points up in a game they were now dominating.

Clare badly needed a goal to help sway the momentum their way. Deirdre Murphy pounced 12 minutes from time, netting after a Claire McMahon free dropped into the square. Murphy followed the ball in and buried the goal that drew Clare level, 2-7 to 0-13.

A minute later, the crowd that filled the stand in Newmarket began to believe Clare were on the cusp of beating Cork for the second time in three weeks when Claire McMahon pointed Clare ahead from her fourth free.

Although rattled, Cork maintained their composure. An O'Leary free and a Linda Dorgan point left them 0-15 to 2-8 up, seven minutes from time. A minute later, Fiona Lafferty equalised in a move started by left corner-back Carol O'Leary. As hard as Clare tried in the closing minutes, their tendency to concede frees cost them again and Jenny O'Leary fired over the winning score in the 58th minute.

Clare cannot be faulted for their effort or commitment level. They gave it everything they had and must try to rally themselves for this Saturday's second group game in Tipperary against the home county. After that, Clare will be at home to Galway and away to Dublin.

As for last Saturday, Máire McGrath and Marian O'Brien played tenaciously in the full-back line, while Fiona Lafferty and Shónagh Enright also played well.

**Clare:** Denise Lynch (Kilmaley); Máire McGrath (Sixmilebridge), Marian O'Brien (Scariff-Ogonnoloe), Carol O'Leary (Newmarket); Niamh O'Dea (Kilmaley), Susan Vaughan (Scariff-Ogonnoloe, joint-captain), Chloe Morey (Sixmilebridge); Orla Duggan (Clooney-Quin), Katie Cahill (Kilmaley); Louise Woods (St Joseph's Doora-Barefield), Shónagh Enright (Kilmaley), Susan Fahy (Whitegate); Claire McMahon (Kilmaley), Fiona Lafferty (Inagh-Kilnamona, joint-captain), Deirdre Murphy (Clooney-Quin).

**Subs:** Kate Lynch (Kilishen) for Susan Fahy (half-time), Laura Linnane (Wolfe Tones) for Louise Woods (half-time), Sinead Tuohy (Sixmilebridge) for Claire McMahon, Alish Considine (Kilmaley) for Katie Cahill (57).

**Scorers:** Fiona Lafferty (1-2), Claire McMahon (0-5, 4f), Deirdre Murphy (1-0), Shónagh Enright (0-2).

**Wides:** 6 **Frees won:** 18 **45s:** 0

**Yellow cards:** Orla Duggan, Laura Linnane.

**Cork:** Aoife Murray; Jenny Duffy, Rena Buckley, Joanne O'Callaghan; Briege Corkery, Eimear O'Sullivan, Pamela Mackey; Orla Cotter, Gemma O'Connor; Katriona Mackey, Jenny O'Leary, Joanne Casey; Julia White (captain), Linda Dorgan, Regina Curtin.

**Subs:** Katie Buckley for Regina Curtin (42).

**Scorers:** Jenny O'Leary (0-9, 8f), Julia White, Linda Dorgan (0-2 each), Katriona Mackey, Gemma O'Connor, Orla Cotter (0-1 each).

**Wides:** 4 **Frees won:** 17 **45s:** 1

**Yellow cards:** Eimear O'Sullivan.

At the launch, in Croke Park, of Move Smart Week were Dr Muireann Cullen, manager, Nutrition and Health Foundation, Tadhg Dunbar (12), Aileen Lawlor, president of the Camogie Association, Anna Gallogly (4) and Amy McMahon (5). Nick Bradshaw



**TOUGH LUCK:** Dungourney NS players shake hands with Conna NS players after the Roinn C3 Allianz Sciath Na Scol camogie final at Páirc Uí Rinn. (Inset) Tony O'Farrell, Chairman Sciath na Scol, receiving the Rebel Óg cup from Aine Cummins, Cummins Sports, at the Rebel Óg awards function in the Rochestown Park Hotel. Included are, seated: Bob Ryan, Chairman Cork County Board; Liam O'Neill, GAA President; Mark Sheehan, Chairman Rebel Óg. Standing: Tony Leen, Sports Editor Irish Examiner; Cllr. John Collins, deputy County Mayor; Tom Tobin, Head of Operations Rochestown Park Hotel; Tracy Kennedy, PRO Cork County Board; Cllr. Emmet O'Halloran, deputy Lord Mayor, and Rory O'Hagan, Red FM.

Picture: Jim Coughlan and Richard Moran



## CAMOGIE

By MARY NEWMAN

**TOMORROW**  
Senior Camogie All-Ireland round robin:  
Wexford v Cork,  
Enniscorthy, 3.15pm.

ROUND TWO and it's the clash of the big guns, defending All-Ireland champions Wexford and league champions Cork go head to head in Enniscorthy in search of two points to put them top of the group, and more importantly move the victors towards a semi-final spot.

Champions Wexford were clinical as they disposed of the challenge posed by Tipperary last weekend. Full-forward Una Leacy kicked a fourth minute goal to set the trend of the game, and with sister Mary solid at centre-back and Ursula Jacob slotting over seven pointed frees, they led by 10 at the interval and pushed on to record a victory.

Cork on the other hand had a torrid opening round clash where they had to battle to the finish to dispose of the challenge posed by an ever-improving Clare.

Midway through the opening half Clare led 1-5 to 0-3 and at the break they led by one. Within 30 seconds of the restart Cork were on level terms but Clare pushed on and it took a pointed free from Jennifer O'Leary to ensure victory by the narrowest of margins.

Cork know they were lucky to come away with a win.

And so to this weekend and a repeat of the league final. Another performance the same as last week's won't suffice against Wexford.

Without doubt Cork and Wexford are two serious title contenders, and having overcome their rivals in the league final, Cork will be hoping for a repeat performance, but they will need to be fully focused for the hour.

In the league final a lacklustre first-half performance from Cork left them trailing 0-6 to 0-3 at the break, and the Rebels were lucky to be within striking distance after playing second fiddle to a dominant Wexford, who were on top in all sectors.

Cork were transformed for the second half and upping their performance they took control in



Jennifer O'Leary scored a vital point for Cork against Clare last weekend.

# Rebels need to play this at full throttle

style. From the outset tomorrow they must set down a marker.

In defence they must close down the Wexford attack and more importantly not concede frees. Up front Cork need to be tough against a physical Wexford, and every body must stand up and be counted.

Cork hit 11 of their 16 points last weekend from play and that is a good return, but again goals win games and there continued to be a lack of them.

The conceding of two goals was of concern to the Cork backroom team and something that Paudie Murray was not happy with. So again it is vital that the Cork defence stop Wexford grabbing goals, and with players of the calibre of Catriona Parrock and Ursula Jacob lurking around the Cork de-

fence will have to be airtight.

In the league final this was vital as Cork moved the ball fast out of the danger area and kept the Wexford forwards from grabbing a vital goal.

Anna Geary was a non-starter for Cork last weekend due to illness and it remains to be seen if she is fit to start this weekend or indeed play some part in proceedings. A player of her experience is vital against a strong Wexford outfit.

Cork had to dig deep and call on all their resources to overcome Clare and they never panicked.

They just kept plugging away, grabbed the lead and maintained it to the final whistle despite huge pressure.

The experience in the squad proved vital with players such as

Joanne O'Callaghan, Brieghe Corkery and Gemma O'Connor showing great leadership. This is something Cork have in abundance but to so have Wexford players such as the Laceys, Mag's Darcy, Ursula Jacob are equal to the challenges also.

The view was that Wexford were not going at full throttle in the league final and they would be a transformed side come championship.

However last year Cork should have beaten them in the All-Ireland semi-final and were unlucky not to do so; in the league final Cork were worthy winners.

In their last two outings Cork have not performed well but on Saturday I think they have what it takes to continue to hold the upper hand over their arch rivals.

**Verdict:** Cork.

## Wexford have huge senior experience

A TOUGH opener for Cork's second team in their first game of the group stages in Enniscorthy and they don't come any bigger than the reigning All-Ireland intermediate champions Wexford, writes MARY NEWMAN.

Last weekend Wexford were held to a draw in their first outing by a strong and lively Tipperary side and they will be hoping to improve on that result. Last season they worked hand in hand with the county senior side and it paid huge dividends with an All-Ireland double.

This season the intermediate team are under new management — Aidan Breen is manager and he is joined by selectors Tom Dwyer, Bernie Mahon, and trainer Kevin Murphy. They have also got the balance right with many former senior players content to now make the step down to play intermediate and extend their own inter-county playing careers.

This is something that Cork have failed to achieve and it is a pity given the huge volume of experience that should be available to select from.

Neither county made it to the

**TOMORROW**  
Intermediate Camogie  
All-Ireland round robin:  
Wexford v Cork,  
Enniscorthy, 1.30pm.

closing stages of the Division 2 league. Cork won two games out of four while Wexford lost three games and recorded a draw against Antrim.

Cork were recently crowned Munster intermediate champions and in their clash with Waterford they showed tremendous spirit and determination as they took the title.

They had to call on all their

experience before disposing of the challenge posed by Waterford but with captain Colette Desmond, Roisin De Faoite, Leah Weste and Jessica Kavanagh superbly leading the way they dug deep. Michelle Browne is a big addition to the panel as she is a player with plenty of senior inter-county experience, which is vital at this level.

Wexford are not short of experienced players either. Frances Doran, Shelly and Stacey Kehoe, Tracey Nolan, Ciara O'Connor, Colleen Atkinson and Eimear O'Connor have all

returned to the inter-county scene to strengthen the intermediate panel, while newcomers to the scene this year are goalkeeper Deirdre Collier Emma O'Connor and minor player Jackie Quigley.

Ciara O'Connor was unerring against Tipperary last weekend notching up seven points, and with six out of six from frees Cork will need to be disciplined and not give away frees close to goal.

A win is crucial to get their campaign off to a good start and Cork will be hoping to do just that.

## Wexford out to avenge league defeat to Cork

By Daragh Ó Conchúir

### Camogie

There is no debate about which of the weekend's All-Ireland senior camogie championship games will generate the most comment.

Wexford host Cork at the Rapparees' Bellefield grounds this afternoon (3.15pm), with the memory of

having their league four-in-a-row bid scuppered by the Leesiders last month still fresh in their minds.

Karen Atkinson makes no attempt to mask that disappointment. Much like Kilkenny's hurlers, they know the importance of inflicting psychological scars on their nearest rivals in particular.

"It was a major

disappointment" said the Wexford captain. "It was going well in the first half, everything was going according to plan but Cork came out in the second half and put us back in our corner."

"We didn't play to our potential but it was an unusual position for us. We were going for four-in-a-row but it was a bad ending."

## Cats too cool for Rebels

### U16 CAMOGIE

By MARY NEWMAN

Kilkenny	3-16
Cork	0-9

THERE was disappointment for the Cork U16A side yesterday as they suffered defeat at the hands of an effective Kilkenny side in Mullinavat in round two of the All-Ireland championship round robin series.

Cork made a good start playing into the breeze and opened up a 0-3 to 0-2 lead inside eight minutes with Joanne O'Keefe, Sarah Fahy and Clare Sexton all on target.

Kilkenny hit goals in the 13th and 15th minutes with Sarah Whelan and Edel Coonan finding the net, as they opened up a 2-4 to 0-3 advantage, and growing in confidence they hit five points to Cork's one to lead by 11 points at the interval.

Sarah Whelan added to the Kilkenny tally striking for their third goal and as they picked off points it was an uphill battle for Cork.

Linda Collins, Clare Sexton and Aisling Wallace increased the Cork tally with points, but it mattered little as Kilkenny, with Katie Nolan, Edel Coonan and Michaela Kenneally all on target, were well on their way to a semi-final spot.

Cork now face Tipperary next weekend in do-or-die clash in a bid for a semi-final spot.

**Scorers for Kilkenny:** S. Whelan 2-1, K. Nolan 0-5 (10-4 ft), E. Coonan 1-1, M. Kenneally 0-4, J. Clifford 0-3, E. Donnelly, M. O'Connell 0-1 each.

**Cork:** C. Sexton, D. Aherne (ft), Linda Collins (ft) 0-2 each, S. Fahy, J. O'Keefe, A. Wallace 0-1 each.

**KILKENNY:** K. Maher, S. Walsh, D. Walsh, M. Bambrick, A. Gannon, M. O'Connell, R. Breen, M. Corcoran, A. Talbot, K. Nolan, M. Kenneally, J. Clifford, E. Donnelly, S. Whelan, E. Coonan.

**Subs:** L. Murphy for E. Donnelly, C. Phelan for R. Breen, R. Phelan for M. Bambrick, D. Phelan for M. Corcoran, C. Quirke for S. Whelan.

**CORK:** S. O'Sullivan, C. O'Callaghan, A. Crowley, E. O'Connor, L. McEvoy, D. Aherne, C. Murphy, H. Looney, A. Dowling, J. O'Keefe, R. Twomey (ft), S. Fahy, A. Cremin, L. Collins, C. Sexton.

**Subs:** A. Wallace for L. McEvoy (20), C. Casey for S. O'Sullivan (HT), J. Kiely for E. O'Connor (HT), L. Casseley for S. Fahy (40), K. Coughlan for A. Cremin (45).

**Referee:** Donal Leahy (Tipperary).

### CAMOGIE

**ALL-IRELAND SNR CHAMPIONSHIP**  
Offaly 3-14 (E. Dermody 3-8 (1-5f), J. Brady, A. Watkins, S. Flannery 0-2 each)  
Dublin 3-11 (A. Murphy 2-0, A. Maguire 0-6f, M. O'Gorman 1-2, S. Ryan, C. Burgess, A. Twomey 0-1 each)  
Galway 2-11 (B. Hanney 2-0, N. McGrath 0-4f, M. Conroy 0-2, A. Connolly, N. Coen, O. Kilkenny, O. McGrath, T. Rutledge 0-1 each)  
Kilkenny 1-7 (A. Neary 0-4fs, K. Power 0-3 (1 pen), E. Maher 1-0)  
Wexford 0-14 (U. Jacob 0-8 (6f), U. Leacy 0-3, K. Kelly 0-3 (2f), J. O'Leary 0-3 (2f), O. Cotter 0-2 (1f), J. Casey 0-2, J. White, K. Mackey 0-1 each)  
Tipperary 2-16 (C. Devane 1-3, J. Ryan 1-0, N. Walsh 0-8 (6f), J. Horan 0-3, S. McGrath 0-2)  
Clare 0-9 (C. McMahon 0-6 (3f), C. Moryn, N. Carroll, K. Lynch 0-1 each)  
**INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
Wexford 1-14 (C. O'Connor 1-6 (5f), E. O'Connor 0-4, T. Nolan 0-2, S. McGovern, S. Sinnott 0-1f)  
Cork 1-6 (M. Browne 1-4 (3f), K. Hickey, R. de Faoite 0-1 each)  
Galway 4-13 (R. Monaghan 0-5 (4f), C. Cormican 1-3, A. O'Reilly 1-2, M. Brophy 1-1, M. Dunne 1-0, R. Hennessy, D. Burke 0-1 each)  
Kilkenny 1-6 (L. Harrick 1-2, E. Cartwell 0-2f, L. Phelan, R. Cleere 0-1f each)





LINDA MELLERICK

## SENIOR PREVIEW

**CORK take on Wexford today in the Belfield GAA Grounds, Enniscorthy, although the game was originally down to be played in Wexford Park.**

I wonder if this is an intentional ploy by the hosts, endeavouring to grab every advantageous inch against a Cork side they certainly fear and believe are capable of stopping their three-in-a-row ambitions.

While Cork certainly didn't fire on all cylinders last Saturday, they overcame a tough encounter in a difficult environment against Clare. I would have expected however a few players, pushing for permanency, to have performed better.

Cork's defence let in two soft goals, something they aren't renowned for but anyone can have a bad day at the office and hopefully that's all it was. Against a stronger forward division the lack of intensity and concentration can't happen.

Galway were clinical in dispensing with Offaly by 1-17 to 1-6 in Banagher. The hosts held the upper hand for most of the first half, with Elaine Dermody deadly accurate from placed balls. They led by two points with half time approaching but Tara Rutledge goal and three more points suddenly gave Galway a healthy advantage.

The Tribeswomen added eight more points after the resumption to make it 1-11 without reply and that was enough to put the game to bed. Dermody brought her personal tally to 1-5 when finding the net from a late free.

Champions Wexford tore into Tipperary in the first half at The Ragg before recording a comfortable win on the same scoreline. Una Leacy kicked a fourth minute goal to send JJ Doyle's charges on their way. Her sister Mary was an insurmountable barrier at centre-back and with Ursula Jacob slotting the frees (she ended with seven points in total); they led by ten points at the interval.

Tipp improved in the second half and Eireanna Fryday finished well for a goal early on, while Joanne Ryan, Mary Ryan and Caoimhe Maher also hurled impressively. There was no halting the Wexford machine however.

Kilkenny laid the foundation for their 2-15 to 1-9 success over Dublin in the first half as well. A blistering start that included an 11th minute goal from Miriam Walsh pushed them into a 1-6 to 0-0 lead and they maintained that



At the launch of the 2012 Camogie Championship were Ann Marie Hayes (Galway), Julia White (Cork), Susan Vaughan (Clare), Elaine Dermody (Offaly), Joanne Ryan (Tipperary), Elaine O'Meara (Dublin), Catherine Doherty (Kilkenny) and Karen Atkinson (Wexford).  
Picture: INPHO/Cathal Noonan

# Cork must step up the intensity

nine-point advantage at the break.

Dublin were much improved in the second half, when they played with the wind at their backs, and Sarah Ryan struck the Kilkenny net with a fearsome shot eight minutes from time. Kilkenny had the last say though as Michelle Quilty got the last touch after a goal-mouth scramble to raise another green flag for the Noreiders.

There were no surprises

Without doubt Cork and Wexford is the pick of this weekend's fixtures. All clashes however promise exciting ties. Kilkenny v Galway in Nowlan Park, Tipperary v Clare in Semple Stadium and Dublin v Offaly in O'Toole Park. All in good strong stadiums, which is as it

should be, except for the Cork v Wexford clash.

Last weekend's venue was scandalous. When I walked in the gate I looked around for dressing rooms, thinking the actual dressing rooms were just toilets for the spectators.

Many of Cork's players had to change in the shower area for lack of space and the quality of what was there was poor.

The pitch was also poor and wide open. It is a prerequisite that all senior intercounty games are played in enclosed areas yet central council seem to turn a blind eye at times depending on who the guilty party is.

Making a call on this weekend's games, I'll tip Cork to beat Wexford but it'll be a tough

task in their own backyard and with a point to prove after losing the league final. Cork ran Wexford ragged in the second half, hence I believe the move to Enniscorthy.

They will try to curb the open space and Cork's running style, particularly the likes of Katrina Mackey who caused Wexford huge problems that day. Galway should face a stiff challenge in Nowlan Park but they would want to be winning this and putting their spell of bad form behind them at this stage if they hope to land the big prize this year.

Again Clare and Tipp will be close. If Clare play like they did last Saturday I think they'll take this one. Offaly should be too strong for Dublin.

# Wexford kill off Rebel challenge

By Daragh O'Conchúir

## Camogie

Wexford maintained their good start to the All-Ireland senior championship and gained some measure of revenge for their league final defeat by overcoming Cork 0-14 to 0-9 in their second round tie at Bellefield.

Wexford led by four points at the break, with Ursula Jacob, Una Leacy and Kate Kelly capitalising on the outstanding work of Catherine O'Loughlin and Mary Leacy to find the target.

Jenny O'Leary and Orla Cotter were on the mark for Cork and they were still in with a chance with ten min-

utes remaining. But Katrina Mackey was denied a certain goal by Wexford custodian Mags D'Arcy, and points from Una Leacy and Jacob - who finished with eight - sealed the win.

Galway had seven points to spare over Kilkenny, with two outstanding goals from Brenda Hanney central to their 2-11 to 1-7 result.

Hanney struck initially in the eighth minute, before fetching Orla Kilkenny's long delivery for her second major midway through the second half.

Tipperary produced a shock when recording a comfortable 2-16 to 0-9 win over Clare at Semple Stadium. The Banner girls defeated Cork in the Munster final and only lost by



CLOSE ENCOUNTER: Clare's Marian O'Brien battles with Tipperary's Siobhan McGrath and Claire Kennedy in the All-Ireland senior camogie championship game in Semple Stadium.  
Picture: Sportsfile

a point last week but were always playing catch-up after Tipperary captain Joanne Ryan goal in the opening minute.

The home team led 1-8 to 0-1 at the interval and though Claire McMahon scored four points to give the girls in

saffron and blue hope, a Cáit Devane goal quickly ended their ambitions. With Nicole Walsh bringing her tally to eight points, Tipp were able to run out easy victors.

Offaly emerged successful from a cracking encounter in Crumlin against Dublin.

Faithful captain Elaine Dermody was in scintillating form, scoring 3-8 (1-7 from placed balls) in a 3-14 to 3-11 victory. They led 2-5 to 1-4 at half-time, with Amy Murphy netting for the hosts but Dermody goal immediately after the resumption as Offaly



# Cork stopped by a Model defence

JUNE 2012

## CAMOGIE

By MARY NEWMAN

Wexford 0-14  
Cork 0-9

AVAILING of every chance that presented itself, Wexford gained revenge on Cork for their defeat in the league final.

The key to their success in the second round of the All-Ireland senior championship round-robin series in Enniscorthy on Saturday was without doubt the performance of a solid defensive unit.

While the accuracy of free-taker Ursula Jacob was crucial as she slotted over six out of six.

Referee John Dolan was over fussy with the whistle as 37 frees were awarded over the hour and 12 of the 23 scores came from frees.

Cork tested the Wexford defence early on but with Mary Lacey and Catherine O'Loughlin dominant they struggled for scores. However 16 minutes in Katrina Mackey did have a goal chance when she got inside the Wexford defence but she was halted on her way to goal by defender Claire O'Connor.

On the restart Cork reshuffled their lineup with Gemma O'Connor taking over the centre-back role, Eimear O'Sullivan switching to the wing and Brieghe Corkery going to midfield.

Wexford held the upper hand as the second half developed and they stretched their lead to five points, but Cork were still in the game.

The turning point came 18 minutes in when Katrina Mackey was denied a certain goal by Wexford keeper Mags D'Arcy, after a solo effort from Pamela Mackey, which saw her set up twin sister

Katrina, only for D'Arcy to deflect the ball over the bar for a point.

From the puck-out Cork conceded a needless free which Jacob slotted over. As they pressure mounted Cork made inroads into the Wexford half, hitting three points to their opponents' two as the gap was again at three.

With time almost up Cork subs Sile Burns made a superb catch on the edge of the square but she was taken out as she attempted to off-load the ball to Katie Buckley. Despite Cork protests play continued with Wexford cleared the ball up field, where Una Lacey pointed to seal victory.

On the day Wexford looked hungry for victory and battled for everything while Cork never got into the flow game. They missed

scoreable frees and didn't show the same bite as in the league decider.

It's Offaly next weekend at home for Cork with Kilkenny a week later as the focus now is on securing a quarter-final spot.

**Scorers for Wexford:** U Jacob 0-8 (0-6 f), U Leacy 0-3, K Kelly 0-3 (0-2 f).

**Cork:** J. O'Leary 0-3 (0-1 f), O Cotter 0-2 (0-1 f), J Casey 0-2, J White, K Mackey 0-1 each.

**WEXFORD:** M D'Arcy, C O'Connor, C O'Loughlin, K Atkinson (c), N Lambert, M Lacey, D Codd, M O'Leary, L Bolger, K Kelly, U Lacey, J Dwyer, L Holohan, U Jacob, K Parrock. **Subs:** F Rochford for M O'Leary (52), S Redmond for L Bolger (54).

**CORK:** A Murray, J Duffy, R Buckley, J O'Callaghan, B Corkery, E O'Sullivan, P Mackey, O Cotter, G O'Connor, J Casey, R Curtin, J O'Leary (c), J White, L Dorgan, K Mackey. **Subs:** C Shine for J White (36), S Burns for J O'Leary (43), K Buckley for R Curtin (48).

**Referee:** John Dolan (Clare).

## Wexford step it up after break

Wexford 1-14  
Cork 1-6

### INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE

By MARY NEWMAN

WEXFORD got the day off to a winning start in Enniscorthy as their intermediate side overpowered a disappointing Cork in the opening round of the All-Ireland round-robin series.

It was level pegging at the break, 0-6 apiece, but Cork were lucky to be in that position, as despite playing with the aid of the strong wind they failed to make any headway.

Hickey got Cork off the mark with the game's opening score but Wexford hit back with two.

Cork missed a glorious goal opportunity 10 minutes in when keeper Katie Flynn, who started the game deputising for the injured Deirdre Collier, failed to hold the ball, dropping it on line. However she managed to regain her composure and clear.

By the midway stage it was 0-3 apiece but a Susie McGovern point had edged Wexford ahead before Cork hit three points in a row as they began to gain the upper hand. Battling hard, Wexford finished the half stronger and with Ciara O'Connor pointing two frees they were content to go in at the break level.

From the restart Cork were in trouble as Wexford piled on the pressure and with Eimear O'Connor, Ciara O'Connor and Shelly Kehoe stretching their lead they grew in confidence while Cork tried in vain to win any quality possession.

Susie McGovern batted to the net in a crowded goalmouth to stretch the Wexford lead and with Coleen Atkinson, Niamh O'Connor and Shauna

Sinnott strong in their defence they continued to hold Cork scoreless until the 20th minute when Michelle Browne hit a close-in free to the net.

The score failed to rally Cork as Wexford upped the pace again with three points in a row to secure the points on offer. Next weekend Cork take on Galway in round two.

**Scorers for Wexford:** C O'Connor 1-6 (0-5 f), E O'Connor 0-4, T Nolan 0-2, S McGovern 0-1, S Sinnott 0-1f.

**Cork:** M Browne 1-4f, K Hickey, F Neville 0-1 each.

**WEXFORD:** K Flynn, N O'Connor (c), C Atkinson, F Doran, E O'Connor, S Sinnott, S Doyle, Stacy Kehoe, Shelly Kehoe, C O'Connor, T Nolan, J O'Grady, N O'Connor, E O'Connor, S McGovern. **Subs:** M C Morrissey for S McGovern (57), E O'Leary for N O'Connor (62).

**CORK:** J Kavanagh, C Murphy, C O'Neill, E Jordan, S Harrington, A Dorgan, Y Murphy, S K Brosnan, F Neville, D Coomey, M Browne, K Hickey, C Desmond (c), S O'Donovan, P Buttiner. **Subs:** C Sugrue for D Coomey (41), A Sheehan for A Dorgan (46), R Murphy for S K Brosnan (47), M Scannell for F Neville (59), C Dooley for P Buttiner (65).

**Referee:** Gerard Browne (Tipperary).



HIT: Clare's Marian O'Brien and Siobhan McGrath and Claire Kennedy of Tipperary

## RYAN IN TIPP' TOP FORM AS CLARE SUFFER

WEXFORD maintained their good start to the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship, defeating Cork 0-14 to 0-9 in their second round tie at Bellefield.

They led by four points at the break courtesy of Ursula Jacob; Una Leacy and Kate Kelly who capitalised on great work from Catherine O'Loughlin and Mary Leacy.

Jenny O'Leary and Orla Cotter were on the mark for Cork, who were still in with a chance with ten minutes remaining, but Katrina Mackey was denied a certain goal by Wexford custodian Mags D'Arcy, and points from Una Leacy and Jacob.

### Result

Galway had seven points to spare over Kilkenny, with two outstanding goals from Brenda Hanney the key to the 2-11 to 1-7 result.

Hanney struck in the eighth minute, before fetching Orla Kilkenny's long delivery to notch up her second major midway through the second-half.

### CAMOGIE round-up

Tipperary produced a shock when recording a comfortable 2-16 to 0-9 win over Clare at Semple Stadium.

The home team led by 1-8 to 0-1 at the interval and though Claire McMahon scored four points to give the girls in saffron and blue hope, a Cait Devane goal quickly ended their prospects. With Nicole Walsh bringing her tally to eight points, Tipp ran out easy victors.

### Cracking

Offaly emerged successful from a cracking encounter in Crumlin against Dublin.

Faithful captain, Elaine Dermody was in scintillating form, scoring 3-8 (1-7 from placed balls) in a 3-14 to 3-11 victory.

They led by 2-5 to 1-4 at half-time, with Amy Murphy netting for the hosts but Dermody goalied immediately after the resumption as Offaly built up a 3-9 to 1-11 advantage with just six minutes remaining.



DISPLAY: Tipperary's Mary Ryan gets the player of the match award off Aileen Lawlor



# Greats of the game make it to Hall of Fame

By MARY NEWMAN

**FOUR** Cork camogie legends were honoured from their exploits in Rebel red this week.

Sandie Fitzgibbon, Mary O'Leary, Colette O'Mahony and Cathy Landers were celebrated at the second Bord Gáis Cork Camogie Hall of Fame awards at The Rochestown Park Hotel.

It was a special day for the four former players, and a fitting recognition of their magnificent contribution to Cork camogie.

The four were household names in Cork camogie circles and among the county's greatest ever players. The huge success of Cork teams from the 1970s through to the 1990s, gave the judging panel of former county board presidents Nora Newman, Mary Moran and Sile Golden a huge task, but they came up with four players who were without doubt worthy recipients.

Mary and Nora were selectors on many of the teams in the 70s and 80s, as well as both being former county board officers, while Sile is currently county board secretary and gives huge commitment to the game.

● Mary O'Leary, from Watergrasshill, was a magnificent striker of the ball off her left side. A great opportunist, who grabbed every chance she got, she was also an impeccable free taker and a forward who positioned herself around the edge of the square, where she added the finishing touches to anything within reach.

Mary was the winner of the B+I Sports Star of the Year award in 1982. She was also the winner of the Cospóir/Glen Abbey Hosiery, Women in Sport award and the same year she also represented Cork at the Gradam Tailte competition against some of the country's top sports women.

She is the holder of three senior All-Ireland medals and she comes from a famous GAA, including her brother Seánie O'Leary and nephew Tomás.

● St Finbarr's ace Colette O'Mahony is the holder of three All-Ireland senior, two All-Ireland U16 and provincial and Gael Linn medals.

The Barrs player was the winner of the Cork Féile Skills title in 1981 and represented the county at national level in Galway.

A superb free-taker, Colette is still hugely involved in the game and is now one of the county's top referees. She came out of retirement in 2006 and helped her club St Finbarr's capture the senior county championship title for the first time.

She comes from a family of GAA players with brothers Ivan and Fer-



Pictured at the Bord Gáis Networks Cork Camogie Hall of Fame awards in Cork city were Colette O'Mahony (St Finbarr's), Mary O'Leary (Watergrasshill), Catherine Landers Harnedy (Killeagh) and Sandie Fitzgibbon (Glen Rovers). The four inductees became part of the elite legends group at a ceremony. Picture: Daragh Mc Sweeney/Provision

gal deeply involved in the Barrs club.

● Sandie Fitzgibbon was one of four Cork players selected on the camogie team of the century in 2004.

She holds six All-Ireland senior championship medals, three All-Ireland U16 medals in a row (the first player to achieve such a feat), 10 senior county championship and four All-Ireland club championships with Glen Rovers. In addition she has All-Ireland Sevens, Colleges All-Ireland, league and Gael Linn interprovincial medals.

Sandie captained Cork to senior All-Ireland success in 1992 when they defeated Wexford having previously led the county to U16 honours in 1980.

Her many awards include Player of the Year in 1992 and 1995, twice Jury's Hotel Sports Star of the

Month and Lord Mayor's Millennium Camogie Award in 2000. She's also a former international basketball player and the holder of numerous honours in the sport.

● Killeagh's Catherine Landers-Harnedy captained Cork to an All-Ireland in 1983 when they defeated Dublin. She won four senior All-Ireland medals and one at U16.

A tough defender who never conceded an inch, she frequently played a sweeper role.

She was strong and determined and she drove the ball forward out of the danger zone to set up many an attack.

She won senior county championship medals with divisional side Imokilly and Killeagh, and she is also the holder of All-Ireland club championship and All-Ireland sevens medals with Killeagh.

She won Gael linn honours with Munster and league medals with Cork.

Margaret Lane, corporate events manager spoke on behalf of Bord Gáis Networks and paid tribute to four worthy recipients. Margaret, herself former camogie player, was fulsome in her praise for the winners.

"You are worthy recipients of this prestigious award today and Bord Gáis are delighted to honour you and to continue the awards as part of our 'Fuelling Cork's Camogie Passion' initiative."

Marion McCarthy, chairwoman of the Cork Camogie County Board said they were proud to host the awards initiative with Bord Gáis Networks.

"Cork Camogie is privileged to have many great sporting days to

look back on, all of which are etched in the history of camogie by such great players as those honoured here.

"The Hall of Fame awards which will honour former players, will be a regular feature going forward in the sports award calendar in Cork, affording us the annual opportunity to publicly honour camogie legends."

Colette O'Mahony spoke on behalf of the four and also on behalf of the many that played in the eras honoured.

"We are delighted to be chosen as the recipients of this award, there are many players who could have been chosen and we are so honoured to be the ones."

"A lot of players have made Cork camogie what it is today, and we salute them. A big thank you to Bord Gáis and the camogie board who are both working hard to keep Cork camogie to the fore. We wish the team and management every success in their campaign this year."

Amongst the large attendance were the officers of the Cork Camogie Board and its GPC's, Cork footballers Graham Canty and Daniel Goulding, who both work with Bord Gáis Networks, Caroline O'Connor, corporate responsibility manager Bord Gáis Networks, Tipperary senior camogie player Julie McGrath, Paudie Murray and George Fitzgibbon (Cork senior selectors), Cork captain Julia White and senior players Pamela and Katriona Mackey.

## Castlemagner must show same grit

IT'S back to the drawing board as Castlemagner and St Finbarr's meet in the replay to decide the destination of the Junior B league title on Sunday at Castle Road at 5pm, writes MARY NEWMAN.

Last time out Castlemagner battled with all their might for three quarters of the game having had a player

dismissed in the first half. They draw from small pool of players and are at a disadvantage in having no underage teams, but they have shown tremendous determination this season and they will be ready for the challenge once again.

St Finbarr's hit two fast goals when Castlemagner were reduced to 14 but then

they seemed to lose their focus. They dominated for long spells but lost their concentration and allowed Castlemagner back into it.

The sides met in the group stages of the league where Barrs ran out winners with a goal to spare and don't rule out extra time before a winner emerges.

Divisional sides Seandún

and Carbery will also renew rivalry on Monday when they meet in Castle Road at 7.30pm in the senior championship replay.

Last time out it finished all square and both divisions will be hoping to improve on this result and win themselves a place against Killeagh in round one proper.



# Hall of fame status for camogie stars

Bord Gáis Networks and Cork Camogie County Board awarded Bord Gáis Cork Camogie Hall of Fame status to four former players, Sandie Fitzgibbon, Mary O'Leary, Colette O'Mahony and Cathy Landers-Harnedy, in the Rochestown Park Hotel.

The judging panel was former county board presidents Nora Newman and Mary Moran, and Sile Golden, current county board secretary.

Mary O'Leary, Watergrasshill, was a great striker of the ball off her left-hand side, an opportunist, an impeccable free-taker and forward. Mary was the winner of the B+1 'sports star of the year award' in 1982 and won the Cospoir/Glen Abbey hosiery 'women in sport award', and the same year she represented Cork at Gradam Tailte competition.

She has three senior All-Ireland medals and her brother, Seanie O'Leary, won four All-Ireland senior medals with Cork, while her nephew, Tomas, is the Munster and Ireland rugby player. Mary has county senior championship medals with Imokilly and Gael Linn, and provincial honours with Munster and Cork.

Colette O'Mahony, St Finbarr's, has three All-Ireland senior, two All-Ireland under-16s and provincial and Gael Linn honours. She was the winner of the Cork Feile skills title in 1981 and represented the county at national level in Galway.

She captained Cork to an under-16 All-Ireland title in 1983 and is the holder of Gael linn and of provincial honours. Colette is now one of the counties top referees. She came out of retirement in 2006 and helped St Finbarr's capture the senior county championship for the first time; she also holds senior B and junior championship medals. Brothers Ivan and Fergal are in St Finbarr's club.

Sandie Fitzgibbon, Glen Rovers, was one of four Cork players on the camogie team of the century in 2004. She has six All-Ireland senior championship medals, three All-Ireland under-16 medals (won consecutively, the first player to do so) ten senior county championship, and four All-Ireland club championships as well as All Ireland sevens, colleges All Ireland, national league and Gael Linn inter-provincial medals. Sandie captained Cork to senior All-Ireland success in 1992, when they defeated Wexford, and also led the county to under-16 honours in 1980. She won 'player of the year' in 1992 and 1995,



Bord Gáis Hall of Fame award recipients Colette O'Mahony, Mary O'Leary, Sandie Fitzgibbon and Cathy Landers, with County Board officials at the award ceremony at the Rochestown Park Hotel.

was twice Jurys Hotel 'sports star of the month' and won the Lord Mayor's Millennium Camogie Award in 2000. She is a former international basketball player.

Catherine Landers, Harnedy Killeagh, captained Cork in the senior the All-Ireland championship in 1983 when they defeated Dublin. She is the holder of four All-Ireland senior medals and an U16 medal.

She frequently played a sweeper's role. She won senior county championship medals with divisional side Imokilly and Killeagh, and she is also the holder of All-Ireland club championship and All-Ireland sevens medals with Killeagh and won Gael linn honours with Munster and senior national league medals with Cork.

Margaret Lane, corporate events manager, spoke on behalf of Bord Gáis Networks. Margaret, a former camogie player, said: "You are worthy recipients of this prestigious award today and Bord Gáis are delighted to honour you, and to continue the awards as part of our 'fuelling Cork's camogie passion' initiative we are involved with the board in our sponsorship of the senior county team, our under-age coaching camp and honouring former players with this award, encompassing every generation of Cork camogie."

John Barry, managing director of Bord Gáis Networks, was unable to attend due to a business commitment, but said beforehand:

"We are delighted, once again, to honour four of Cork's camogie legends in the second year of the Cork Camogie Hall of Fame Awards. In the years to come, this awards initiative will represent a lasting legacy and reminder of the magnificent talent and dedication Cork has in its camogie playing ranks."

"Last year, Bord Gáis Networks introduced a programme for 'fuelling Cork's camogie passion', which is aimed at supporting and profiling our Cork senior camogie teams, as well as promoting the sport across the county and saluting the camogie greats of Cork."

"Today, we are proud to formally acknowledge the remarkable dedication and contribution to the sport of Mary, Sandie, Colette and Catherine throughout their playing years and beyond."

Speaking at the awards, Marion McCarthy, chairperson, Cork Camogie County Board, said "Cork Camogie County Board is proud to host this awards initiative with Bord Gáis Networks. Cork camogie is privileged to have many great sporting days to look back on, all of which are etched in the history of camogie by such great players as those honoured here today. The 'hall of fame' awards, honouring former players, will be a regular feature going forward in the sports award calendar in Cork, affording us the annual opportunity to publicly honour camogie legends."

She thanked Bord Gáis Networks for their support of Cork camogie: "This year, we have already won the senior national league and we are hoping to add an All-Ireland title to it come September."

Many great players helped Cork camogie become what it is today. These four greats now join last season's four recipients in Cork camogie history. Colette O'Mahony

spoke on behalf of them: "The four of us are delighted to be chosen as the recipients of this award, there are many players who could have been chosen and we are so hon-

oured to be the ones. A lot of players have made Cork camogie what it is today, and we salute them."

"A big thank you to Bord Gáis and the camogie board,

who are both working hard to keep Cork camogie to the fore. We wish the team and management every success in their campaign this year."

Among the large attendance were the officers of the Cork Camogie Board, Cork footballers Graham Canty and Daniel Goulding, both Bord Gáis Networks, Caroline O'Connor, Bord Gáis Networks, Tipperary senior camogie player Julie McGrath, Bord Gáis Networks, Paudie Murray and George Fitzgibbon, Cork senior selectors, and Cork captain Julia White and senior players Pamela and Katrina Mackey.

It was a superb occasion organised by Nigel O'Mahony, Allannah Curtin and the team from OMF publicity, in consultation with Cork Camogie Board and Bord Gáis Networks, showing, once again, what a superb combination they are.

A big 'well done' to Bord Gáis Networks and Cork camogie as they continue to 'fuel Cork's camogie passion'. Long may it continue to be the success that it is.

## Murray upset at silly frees given away

### DISAPPOINTMENT

was etched on the face of Cork boss Paudie Murray and he didn't hold back as he gave his reaction to his side's defeat.

"We are disappointed with our display as we lacked desire out there and Wexford wanted it more than us. They are All-Ireland champions for the last three years and you don't get to that stage easily."

"We just lacked belief and a desire to win, certainly it was never going to be easy but we simply didn't do what was required and when that happens you pay the price."

I put it to Paudie that again a lack of goals is at this stage a worrying factor.

"Definitely it is a big worry that we haven't been scoring goals and that certainly doesn't help. Goals win games and we haven't been scoring them."

"I don't think we created any real goal chance, maybe we had two over the hour but really it's not happening and we are trying to address this."

### REACTION

By MARY NEWMAN

The Cork manager was critical of his side giving away needless frees.

"They scored eight points from frees and a lot of these frees were needless fouls. I know the new rules have only recently come in and that players are a bit anxious, but we should not be conceding these silly frees and giving teams easy scoring chances like that."

Looking ahead, Paudie knows that his side will have to improve.

"We have to adjust now and put today behind us. We have O'Faly next week and Kilkenny the week after and we have to win those games to get to the quarter-final."

"We have an awful lot of hard work to do before we even think about that and we know it will have to be done if we are to even get that far, but we are willing to put in the effort and hopefully it will come right."





Club Officers Sheila Coleman, Ann Dorney, Noleen Coomey, Angela Murphy (Chairperson), Eileen Collins and Marie McCarthy pictured with the Co Senior B camogie trophy at the Ballinhassig camogie club victory dinner night in the Oriel House Hotel in Ballincollig.

## FORMER STARS INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME



Colette O'Mahony (St Finbarrs), Mary O'Leary (Watergrasshill), Catherine Landers Harnedy (Killeagh) and Sandie Fitzgibbon (Glen Rovers).

Photo: Daragh Mc Sweeney/Provision

### Finbarr McCarthy

news@corkindependent.com

In this the second year of the scheme four former stars became the latest inductees into the Bord Gais Network's Cork Camogie Hall of Fame at a pleasant function in the Rochestown Park Hotel recently.

The quartet between them have amassed a total of 28 All-Ireland senior medals along with a host of county c'ship medals and several individual honours throughout their glittering careers.

It is only fitting then that Sandy Fitzgibbon Glen Rovers, Mary O'Leary Watergrasshill, Colette O'Mahoney St Finbarrs and Cathy Landers Harnedy Killeagh should be duly honoured.

Margaret Lane, Director of Corporate Services Bord Gais Networks paid

tribute to the recipients on their awards in recognition of the wonderful enjoyment they brought to the game for both club and county, and it also Bord Gais ways of continuing their support for camogie in Cork.

Marion McCarthy, Chairperson of the Cork Camogie Board also congratulated the recipients who along with been outstanding ambassadors for the county, Marion also paid tribute to the judging panel of Mary Moran, Nora Newman and Sile Golden for their work, while acknowledging the continuing and fabulous support from Bord Gais.

The function was attended by the Officers of the Cork Camogie Board while Bord Gais employees Cork footballers Daniel Goulding and Graham Canty were also present.

JUNE 2012

## An army of sports stars

CORK camogie great Gemma O'Connor, below, is a current member of the 4th Infantry Battalion. She is just the latest in a string of sporting stars who were in the battalion. They included:

- **Shay Fahy**, a member of the Cork football team when they won the 1990 All-Ireland
- **Eamon Young**, a football hero from the 1940s
- **The Cronin brothers**, who were also well known footballers in the 1940s and 1950s
- **Eddie Foley**, who was a soccer official for the World Cup finals and the European Championship finals.



At the Rochestown Park Hotel for the Cork 96FM C103 GAA Sports Person of the Month Award were Winner, Gemma O'Connor with members of the Cork County Camogie Board L to R., Mary Mc Sweeney, Treasurer, Sheila Golden, Secretary, Marian Mc Carthy, Chairperson and Mary Newman Mc Carthy, PRO.

Pictures: Tony O'Connell Photography.

## OUTSTANDING CORK SENIOR CAMOGIE STAR HONoured 96FM/C103 GAA SPORTS STAR MAY AWARD GOES TO GEMMA O'CONNOR

CORK'S fabulous win in the national Senior Camogie league final was acknowledged recently when the teams outstanding mid-fielder Gemma O'Connor was presented with the 96FM/C103 GAA Sports Star of the month award winner for May in association with the Rochestown Park Hotel.

Cork produced two fantastic displays to beat Galway in the semi-final and All-Ireland champions Wexford in the final and in both games Gemma gave excellent leadership as Cork got back on the winners rostrum after a barren couple of years.

Gemma was thrilled to be honoured and thanked all who have helped her throughout her career particularly her family, mother Geraldine father Donal and brother Glen himself a good dual player with the 'Barrs.

Marion Mc Carthy Chairperson of the Cork Camogie Board congratulated Gemma on been honoured and it is well



Gemma pictured with her mum Geraldine, dad Donal and brother Glen.

deserved as she has been a fantastic player for club and county over many years, Marion also thanked the sponsors for their continued recognition of Camogie in these awards.

Camogie Board officers, Sile Golden and Mary Newman were also in attendance along with members of the Cork management team, including coach Paddy Murray.

Special guests included



Anthony Buttimer RPH, Marion McCarthy Chairperson Cork Camogie Board, Finbarr McCarthy, Gemma O'Connor, Tracey Kennedy PRO Cork GAA Board and Kieran Mc Geary MD 96FM.

members of the Defence Forces, of which Gemma is a member and the 1st to be honoured in the awards scheme, Lt Shane Mc Eoin, CS Eddie Foley and CS Dave Heaphy who in his address said we are very proud of Gemma's sporting achievements and thrilled to be here as she is a great ambassador for the army and equally proud of her army career.

Anthony Buttimer Rochestown Park Hotel, Kieran Mc Geary MD 96FM and Tracey Kennedy PRO Cork County Board were also in attendance.

Gemma is the 5th winner for 2012 as the awards begin their 9th year, handballer Kilian Carroll was the winner in January, while Kantirk student Kevin Crowley was our February recipient, with UCC's John Grainger picking up the March award, while the April award the 100th in the scheme went to Cork football star Michael Shields.



## Cork sides must deny Tipperary the plaudits

### U16 CAMOGIE

#### SUNDAY

All-Ireland U16A C'ship, Rd 3  
Cork v Tipperary,  
Castle Road, Blackrock, 1.30pm

DESPITE losing out to Kilkenny last weekend the U16 A team is still in with a chance of making it a semi-final.

On Sunday however they'll first have to defeat Tipperary.

This is a championship that has had many twists and turns. In round one Kilkenny struggled and lost out by one point to Tipperary. Cork had a comfortable win over Limerick and given Tipperary's five-goal victory over Cork in the Munster decider, one would have expected them to comfortably deal with the Limerick challenge last weekend; however this was not the case as Tipp suffered a surprising defeat.

It is going down to the wire as the chase for the two semi-finals spots now depend on this weekend's results. Kilkenny, Cork, Tipperary and Limerick are all on two points, while Limerick and Kilkenny meet on Sunday so its still all to play for.

Cork were bitterly disappointed to lose out last week but they struggled in all sectors against a strong Kilkenny 15. They were minus the services of three players who were playing soccer with Cork but that is what having a panel is all about and players must be ready and able for the challenge when called upon, and given a chance. When the side met in the Munster final Tipperary got off to a whirlwind start aided and stunned Cork with five first-half goals as they opened up a 5-5 to 1-4 interval lead.

In the second half Cork had it all to do and despite battling hard they could never peg back a rampant Tipp who ran out comprehensive winners on a 6-10 to 1-10 score line.

On Sunday a good start is vital for Cork.

#### SATURDAY

All-Ireland U16B C'ship, Rd 1,  
Cork v Waterford

Castle Road, Blackrock, 2pm.

THIS U16Bs have been the success story so far this season and they annexed the provincial title in style. They made no mistake as they defeated Tipperary in the opening round before going on to defeat Saturday's opponents Waterford in thrilling Munster final.

This year for the first time Cork are allowed participate in the U16B All-Ireland series and they have worked hard and built up a nice squad that is more than capable of going all the way.

Captain Kelly Fitzgerald was excellent in the provincial final and she had plenty of support from Cathy O'Mahony, Michelle Murphy and Niamh Sheehan.

Waterford will be out to turn the tables and with players such as Mia O'Flynn, Sara Judge, Molly Curran, Iona Heffernan, Lorraine Bray and Lauren McGregor in their armour, they will test Cork to the limits.

But as they have done so far to date, Cork will no doubt stand up to the challenge posed by any opposition. Expect the same on Saturday.

## SENIOR CAMOGIE

### SATURDAY

All-Ireland Senior Championship  
Round 3, Cork v Offaly,  
Páirc Uí Chaoimh; 5pm.

IT'S time to refocus for the county senior side as they prepare to face Offaly in round three of the All-Ireland championship group series in Páirc Uí Chaoimh On Saturday.

The staging of the game as a curtain raiser to the Cork v Offaly senior hurling championship is a boost for camogie and certainly anybody who arrived early to Thurles on the day of the National League finals were not disappointed with the fare served up so Cork will be hoping for big support again time this out.

Defeat at the hands of Wexford last weekend has placed Cork in a precarious position, they need to defeat Offaly and Kilkenny to secure a quarter-final spot anything other than that this will see them battling it out in play offs and this is something they will want to avoid at all costs.

Last weekend's performance was a poor one and again it is puzzling, as in the league final, Cork confidently disposed of the challenge Wexford posed, on Saturday last Cork again lacked the killer instinct and with Wexford closing them down and stopping them playing their running game Cork just didn't have a plan B.

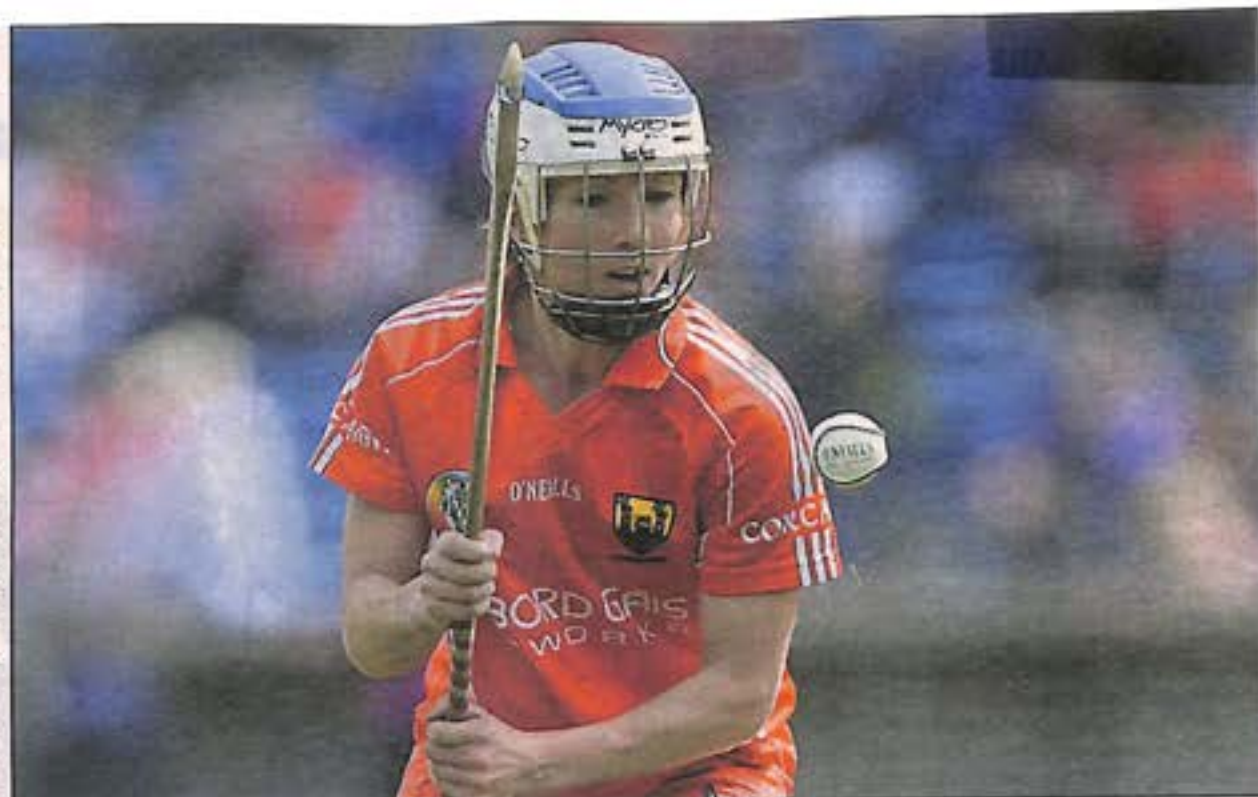
The lack of goals continued to be a worry and nine points over the hour simply will not win games.

Cork are not a physically strong side and therefore they are not in a position to play it close with a side such as Wexford who are physically stronger in most sectors, they again used this to their advantage last Saturday and indeed got away with a few dodgy challenges that on another day may have been blown but again this is something that is now part of the game and indeed part of a lot of game and Cork must dust themselves down and accept it.

Manager Paudie Murray was disappointed that Cork conceded a lot of silly frees and this is something that will have to be stopped, Wexford converted all of these chances whilst Cork hit five scoreable frees wide and lost by five.

Apart from two real chances the Cork attack failed to produce a goal opportunity and goals win game again in this area Cork are lacking somebody to grab the game by the neck and go for it.

Offaly will not be a push over, last year cork comprehensively defeated them in the championship but when one considers the same happened with Clare and Cork only scraped



Cork's Jennifer O'Leary scores against Wexford on their way to winning the National Camogie League final earlier this year. The rebels will be eager to find that kind form again as they face Offaly in Páirc Uí Chaoimh tomorrow.

# Rebels need to find form that won them league

over them in round one its very much all to play for in the Offaly camp.

They lost out to Galway in their opening game but bounced back last weekend to record a 3-14 to 3-11 victory over Dublin.

Offaly, just like Clare, are working extremely hard and they are aiming high in the Leinster Championship they took a big scalp as they knocked out Kilkenny at semi final stage. Success has come their way in 2009 they won the Junior All-Ireland championship before going on in 2010 to take the Intermediate title. 2011 was very much a learning curve for them

but they continue to grow in confidence.

Manager John Troy is a well known name in hurling circles and he is joined by Mick Spain who was an Offaly senior hurling selector back in 1980.

Cork would not want to underestimate this Offaly outfit it took a late, late scoring burst of 1-2 before Wexford defeated them in the recent Leinster final, Offaly went into that game as rank outsiders but with twelve minutes to go they were on level thanks to an Elaine Dermody penalty. They matched Wexford throughout the game for fitness and

strength and in the finish it was Wexford's greater experience and a goal on the rebound from Lenny Holohan three minutes from full time that secure the title for Wexford.

Since their league defeat at the hands of Cork earlier in the season they have put in huge work and they will be confident of causing an upset on Saturday.

Cork have still to re-produce the form that saw them crowned league champions and they will be hoping to up the pace on Saturday and get proceedings off to a good start in Páirc Uí Chaoimh.

## Cork need to up ante if they're to beat Galway

### SATURDAY

All-Ireland Intermediate  
Championship Round 2,

Cork v Galway; Clarecastle; 1.30pm.

A TOUGH challenge faces Cork's Intermediate side as they head to Clare to meet Galway, coming on the back of the defeat at the hands of Wexford last weekend a big improvement is needed if something is to be gained out of this one.

Galway were dominant in their first round clash with Kilkenny as they recorded a comfortable 4-13 to 1-6 victory, while Cork never showed the same bit or drive that earned them the

### INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE

Munster title a few weeks ago when they met Wexford last weekend. Playing with the aid of the strong wind in the opening half they failed to produce any thing to get excited about and going in on level the die looked cast and on the resumption Wexford just upped the pace and pulled away.

Cork need more experienced performers at this level and they simply cannot be without players of the calibre of Leah Weste and Roisin De Faoite for these crucial ties, both were missing last weekend and they were sorely

missed, and with just one score in the second half coming from penalty they need to get more out of their attack. It is hard to expect Cork to field a senior team at home in a crucial All-Ireland senior championship tie and field the counties second adult team half way up the country on the same day and given that the county must also field in the All-Ireland U16A championship in Cork earlier in the afternoon it is a huge call on resources.

Galway are another county that has had no problem in getting former senior players to come down and play in the lower grade, again these players are

happy to extend their inter county careers.

Ailish O'Reilly and Maria Brehony were both member of the county's winning All-Ireland minor team, Caitriona Cormican and former senior players Sarah Noone, Emma Kilkelly Molly Dunne and Aoife Lynskey bring huge experience to the line out.

Cork are a spirited outfit and they are working hard to get it right however they failed to make an real impact against a strong Wexford side and they will need to up the work rate significantly if they hope to get anything out of this clash with Galway.

**TOMORROW: LINDA MELLERICK PREVIEWS THE OFFALY GAME**



JUNE 2012

# New additions to camogie family

## Sendún too strong second time out for Carbery side

Seandún  
Carbery

2-13  
1-14

SENIOR CAMOGIE  
CHAMPIONSHIP  
By MARY NEWMAN



Newly formed Erins Own U14 camogie team at the recent U14 finals day in Castle Road

**THE continued development of camogie at underage level and the emergence of four new clubs has seen an increased participation in the game.**

Doneraile, Erin's Own, Aghada and St Colum's are among the latest additions to the ever growing list of Cork clubs.

Added to this in 2011, Crosshaven got camogie up and running and the club has prospered and grown with huge interest in all sections.

With the help of the juvenile board and development officer Mairead Donovan, Doneraile got their club off the ground in late 2011.

With the support of the GAA club and with huge interest among parents, Doneraile camogie club was born.

They organised a 'come and try day' which turned out to be a great success with some Cork senior players going along and lending a hand.

The club participated in the Go-Games last year and again this year and such has been the increased interest, they are also participating at minor county league and championship level this year.

The drive to get camogie up and running in Aghada was led by well-known camogie and GAA referee Barry Day and the strides the club have made since the summer of 2011 have been superb.

By MARY NEWMAN

They are now participating at U8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 14 levels and there is excellent work being done in what is now a thriving club.

Always willing to help out and be involved, they have embraced every aspect of involvement.

They were a host club earlier in the year for the Go-Game workshops and with the club now fully endorsing the Go Games ethos from U8-U12, they are forging ahead.

For many years camogie in Erin's Own was flying and they were to the fore at underage and junior levels, winning many honours.

The club hosted senior county championship finals and were excellent hosts for county and inter-county games.

Sadly, the club began to go into decline and despite a lot of hard work, it faltered and folded.

With renewed interest, it is great to report that they have now reorganised, restructured and are building up the club again with their numbers steadily increasing.

With huge encouragement from the juvenile and senior camogie boards, the club set about their task and in late 2011 were ready to go.

It's great to see that they have doubled their membership and are competing at Go-Games level and they have also com-

peted at U14 level.

To help get camogie back up and running, they hosted a section of the U12 Go Games regional finals last year and gave a warm and wonderful reception to all in attendance.

The club now has a coach going to the local schools promoting the game and encouraging girls to become involved and it augurs well for the future.

St Colum's is another club that is going from strength to strength. They are doing a great job promoting camogie in Kealkill and its surrounding areas.

They are participating in the Go-Game leagues, the U14 and U16 leagues and the game is prospering.

All four of the above clubs participated in a special league for new clubs at U14 level with all four competing in a final day recently in Castle Road.

The excitement among players, parents and mentors was huge as they headed to county headquarters and all were hugely impressive in their participation on the day.

Erin's Own and St Colum's played in the D final. Eight weeks earlier the sides had met when St Colum's were victors on the day.

Both sides played their hearts out and the skills level of both clubs was superb with blocking, hooking and general play second to none.

Erin's Own team mentors Mick Wallace, Barry O'Neill and

Ray Hayes put in huge work in preparing their side and they have developed them well.

On the day Erin's Own recorded victory over a spirited St Colum's with scorers Alison Hayes notching up five goals while Ali O'Neill, Emma Wallace, Becky Oppermann and Sinead Monaghan were also on target.

Not to be out-done St Colum's gave it their all and never gave up and had Eliza Murphy on target.

In the second of the D finals, Aghada were victors over Doneraile with players such as Maeve Rutledge, Eva Rose Boylan, Michelle Stafford and captain, Ciara McGrath all to the fore in what was a superb team effort.

Well done to camogie's newest and vibrant clubs keep up the good work.

### PANELS WERE AS FOLLOWS

**ERIN'S OWN:** Emily Trindle, Fiona Murphy, Rachel Murphy, Leah Soden, Ava Patterson, Clodagh McNamara, Ciara Milner, Sinead Monaghan, Becky Oppermann, Emma Barrett, Emma Wallace, Aoibheann Cunningham, Alison Hayes, Muireann Kelleher, Ali O'Neill, Shauna Cunningham, Abbie O'Flynn, Mackenzie Doyle, Abbie Delaney, Alison Twomey.

**AGHADA:** Roisin O'Callaghan, Kate Stafford, Keira O'Hanlon, Maeve Rutledge, Eva Rose Boylan, Michelle Stafford, Ciara McGrath (c), Aileen McGrath, Nessa Fitzpatrick, Sarah Walsh, Sarah Leahy, Clare Walsh, Julie O'Keefe, Kate Wall, Grainne O'Keefe, Alanah Hall.

**ST COLUM'S:** Aoife O'Connor, Lizzie O'Donoghue (c), Diane O'Donoghue, Aisling Murnane, Fiona Cronin, Eve Murnane, Louise Burke, Eliza Murphy, Jessica Cronin, Alison O'Connell, Maggie Coppinger, Mary Cronin, Mary O'Donoghue, Leanne Keohane, Yvonne Doyle, Emma Burke, Niamh Crowley.

ONCE again divisional sides Seandún and Carbery served up cracker when they met in the replay of the Senior Camogie Championship divisional round at Castle Road. Two weeks ago the sides were deadlocked at full-time and this time out two points in the closing minutes were the scores that gave the city girls the edge in a thrilling contest.

Little separated them at the half-time whistle where Carbery held a one point advantage. Through the opening 30 minutes the lead changed hands continuously as both sides availed of chances. Denise Luby gave Seandún the lead with an early point when she lifted and struck the sliotar between the posts, Jennifer O'Leary and Caroline Sugrue edged Carbery ahead and it was nip and tuck with Kaitlyn Hickey, Amy O'Connor and Lauren Callanan adding to the Seandún tally whilst Orla Cronin, Ger Collins and Jennifer O'Leary were on target for Carbery.

Carbery set the pace early in the second-half with a Caroline Sugrue goal inside a minute of the restart, and with Ger Collins and Colette Desmond on target they opened up five-point lead.

Caoimhe Rodgers and Desmond exchanged points as Carbery still held their five point lead but with their defence getting on top Seandún grew in confidence and switching Lauren Callanan and Miriam Crowley to mid field they began to win a lot of possession.

Driving forward they pressurised the Carbery defence and Kaitlyn Hickey showed the Carbery defence a clean pair of heels as she tore through to finish the ball to the net.

Isla Dineen and Nicole Crean exchanged points before Susan Brosnan's long range effort had Seandún on level.

Twice Jennifer O'Leary pointed frees to restore the Carbery lead, but Seandún kept the pressure on and with their defence on top they closed down the Carbery attack and drove long ball forward setting up attack after attack. Nicole Crean pointed a free before Kaitlyn Hickey had them on level with two minutes remaining, and battling with all their might they hit the front as Crean pointed a free and one from play to put them two points clear with two minutes of injury time played; but their was still time for Carbery.

Winning a free on the 20 metres line Jennifer O'Leary drove the ball towards goal but it was stopped on the edge of the square by Karen O'Connell and scooped to safety to the sound of the full-time whistle to give the city representatives a hard-earned victory and passage to the next round where they will meet Killeagh.

**Scorers for Seandún:** K Hickey 1-5, N Crean 0-4 (0-3), S K Brosnan 1-0, D Luby, L Callanan, A O'Connor, C Rodgers 0-1 each.

**Carbery:** J O'Leary 0-5 (0-5f's), C Sugrue 1-1, G Collins 0-3, O Cronin, C Desmond, I Dineen, A Deasy, M Murphy (f) 0-1 each.

**SEANDÚN:** A Lee (Na Piar-saigh), K O'Connell (Glen Rovers), A Dorgan (Brian Dillon's), A Murray (Blackrock), N O'Brien (Glen Rovers), L Cunningham (Glen Rovers), L O'Sullivan (Glen Rovers), N Crean (St Vincent's), S Brosnan (Brian Dillon's), O Bourke (Na Piar-saigh), K Hickey (Blackrock), A O'Keefe (Glen Rovers), S Fahy (Glen Rovers), D Luby (Glen Rovers), L Callanan (Glen Rovers). **Subs:** A O'Connor for A O'Keefe (29), C Rodgers for D Luby (inj HT), S Homan for S Brosnan (59).

**CARBERY:** E White (Barryroe), S Curtin (Enniskeane), R Desmond (Newcestown), M Dullea (Kilbrittan/Barryroe), K McCarthy (Barryroe), H O'Regan (Clonakilty), E O'Sullivan (Kilbrittan/Timoleague), M Murphy (Kilbrittan/Timoleague), I Dineen (Barryroe), G Collins (Barryroe), J O'Leary (Barryroe), C Sugrue (Ballinascarty), C Desmond (Newcestown), C Long (Newcestown), O Cronin (Enniskeane). **Subs:** A Deasy (Clonakilty) for C Long (inj 14), S Deasy (Newcestown) for K McCarthy (HT), S Sexton (Kilbrittan/Timoleague) for O Cronin (54).

Ref: Walter Cole (Buttevant).





LINDA MELLERICK

IT LOOKS like Wexford aren't gone away yet and anyone that thought otherwise based on Cork's recent national league success would be very much mistaken.

There is nothing like a defeat to wake a team out of its slumber and Wexford came back with all guns blazing against Cork last weekend.

Their defensive qualities, uncharacteristically flawed in the league final, were back to their brilliant best, and to date in 2012 it's a win a piece.

It's impossible to tell at this stage whether Cork and Wexford will meet again this season. It would be a great All-Ireland final if both teams were to meet there.

There's a long way to go yet though and the second week in September, while being the goal of the team, should be tucked away, called to mind however every other week when taking to the field in the group series.

Every game must be won if a psychological grip is to be restored. Giving Wexford that feel good factor again, having them regain their confidence over Cork was something I was hoping wouldn't happen last Saturday.

A winning habit is a good habit. What's done is done now however and nothing for it but to move on, the championship is still there for any county to win.

A playoff could still be on the cards for Cork. The direct route is always the best route but they can't worry about that now. They need to concentrate on winning their remaining two group games against Offaly and Kilkenny respectively and let the other games take their course.

Cork play Offaly today as a curtain raiser to the hurling qualifier and should comfortably take the points here. Offaly emerged successful from a cracking encounter against Dublin in Crumlin last Saturday.

Captain Elaine Dermody was in scintillating form once again, scoring 3-8 (1-7 from placed balls) in a 3-14 to 3-11 victory. What a player Dermody has been for Offaly, always to the forefront, driving her team on.

It's that bit easier to consistently perform when you have top class players supporting you. Offaly, while making great strides, are that bit off the top counties, yet Dermody continues to torment the best of defenders.

I would think that Clare's Munster final victory and their highly impressive 60-minute performance against Cork two weeks ago took its toll as they succumbed to a 2-16 to 0-9 defeat



The Aghada U14 team at the U14 D finals in Castle Road.

# Cork and Cats need wins today

to Tipperary.

Clare gave everything they had just seven days previously and to me there were obviously a lot of tired minds and bodies.

Tipperary mind you were possibly calling on the memory of their one point defeat to the same opposition in the league and didn't want a repeat result.

The odds were stacked in Tipperary's favour here. You still have to go out and play the game though regardless of what odds outsiders might say you have and it was a good display and result for the Premier County.

Galway defeated Kilkenny by seven points and I believe that Cork would need to treat

their game against the Cats next weekend with the utmost of respect.

Kilkenny have already lost their game to Galway and will be anxious not to drop another. They always perform in Cork.

Kilkenny and Tipperary this weekend should be an attractive tie in Nowlan Park with both bringing out the best in each other while Galway are never comfortable playing Clare and a trip to Cusack Park as an opener to the Clare v Dublin hurling qualifier will be sure to have Clare bouncing off the ground.

Wexford play Dublin in Wexford Park which should be a comfortable hours hurling for them.

## CAMOGIE TABLES

### Group A

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Galway	2	2	0	0	4
Tipperary	2	1	1	0	2
Cork	2	1	1	0	2
Dublin	2	0	2	0	0

### Group B

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Wexford	2	2	0	0	4
Kilkenny	2	1	1	0	2
Offaly	2	1	1	0	2
Clare	2	0	2	0	0

## Kilkenny star Doherty still dreaming of ultimate glory

By Daragh Ó Conchúir  
Camogie

Catherine Doherty is in her 13th season of inter-county camogie but the Kilkenny captain retains the same enthusiasm despite still pursuing an elusive senior All-Ireland. That love of the game comes as no surprise. Her uncle, Joe played for Kilkenny, as did her brothers Niall and Noel, who bagged All-Ireland intermediate medals in 2008.

That was a good year for the clan,

as Kilkenny won the national camogie league as well. They reached the All-Ireland the following season, but just as in 2001, Doherty was to end the day on the losing side. The 31-year-old argues that significant progress was made under Ann Downey's management and is confident that this will continue with Brendan Williams at the helm.

"When you come into the senior ranks you're hoping you're going to win it in a couple of years but it's not an easy task. You put in three or four nights a week, you're doing

your own bit of work, you're hoping every year is going to be your year.

"We have been in hard luck but I think of the last two or three years we've put in savage effort. We have been in the semi-final; in 2009 we were in the All-Ireland final, so to me we've come up the ranks in the last few years.

"You're not gonna lie and say it's easy. It has been hard.

"After 12 or 13 years on the panel, you'd be hoping at this stage you would have an All-Ireland in your pocket but it just shows it's not an

easy touch.

"The reason most of us come back is that we believe we will eventually get one. We're building on it. It's a lot of commitment but at the end of the day you love the game. So you're going to put in a commitment and hopefully get your rewards.

"The likes of Wexford and Cork are very strong and we're chasing to try to get to that physical strength but we're hoping this year that we are up to the standard."

They have taken steps to try to stand toe-to-toe with the likes of

Mary Leacy, Una Leacy, Catherine O'Loughlin, Gemma O'Connor and Brieghe Corkery.

"We're doing a lot of physical work at training with Paul Quigley and going to the gym nights when you're off, getting programmes and doing your own work."

Not that Doherty's slight figure is going to be transformed to such an extent that she will be pursuing a career in bodybuilding.

"Maybe when I finish and retire I might but at the moment I wouldn't be going for them kind of muscles!"

## Super sub Flanagan's late brace does the trick for Tipperary

By Daragh Ó Conchúir  
Camogie

Two late goals from super sub Noreen Flanagan snatched victory for Tipperary over Kilkenny in a thrilling All-Ireland senior camogie championship tie at Nowlan Park.

The winners led 0-10 to 0-7 at half time but despite Nicole Walsh, Alice Fogarty and Jill Horan racking up good scores, the visitors squandered numerous chances with a strong wind in their favour.

Kilkenny stormed out on the restart when Katie Power set up Michelle Quilty for a goal after 12 seconds. The hosts were in the ascendancy for the next quarter with Aoife Neary and Power keeping the scoreboard operator busy. Seventeen-year-old Miriam Walsh had also registered two points before being forced to leave the fray with injury.

Tipperary introduced three subs in the 48th minute to telling effect. Youngsters, Michaela Graham and Sarah Fryday provided the Premier outfit with much more energy but it was

Flanagan who changed the course of the game with those late stunning strikes.

Cork returned to winning ways defeating Offaly (4-20 to 1-5). Claire Shine, Katrina Mackey, Katie Buckley and Linda Dorgan scored for the winners. Mackey added four points to her major and Orla Cotter slotted five. Tina Hannon's goal was of consolation value only.

Galway maintained their 100% record with a hard-fought 1-13 to 0-12 win over Clare at Cusack Park, as Fiona Lafferty and Claire McMahon

helped edge them into a two-point lead after 24 minutes. Niamh McGrath slotted three points though and Galway led at half-time, 0-8 to 0-6.

The visitors opened the gap to three before Clare clawed themselves back to parity thanks to two McMahon scores and an excellent Katie Cahill point. Some bad wides hurt them however, while a Sarah Dervan intervention prevented them goaling in the 45th minute.

Four minutes later, Galway were raising the green flag and securing

the honours. It came as Brenda Hanney gathered possession from an Aislinn Connolly delivery and off-loaded to the advancing Niamh Kilkenny, whose low shot gave Denise Lynch no chance.

Champions Wexford set up a mouth-watering clash with the westerners next week when recording a very good 2-20 to 1-4 defeat of Dublin.

But the win came at a cost with injuries to Mary Leacy (ankle), Una Leacy (hamstring) and Lisa Bolger (hand).





DELIGHT: Newport Ballinahinch celebrate

## BRIGID'S ON THE DOUBLE

ST BRIGID'S, Dublin claimed an All-Ireland double on Saturday as a fortnight after picking up the Division 1 Féile Peil na nGael title, they took Division 1 Bus Éireann Féile na nGael honours at Croke Park.

The Navan Road outfit came good after extra-time to take silverware thanks to a 1-9 to 1-7 win over Clarinbridge in the decider.

A Jonathan McGuirk goal gave Brigid's a 1-3 to 0-3 interval lead, but Clarinbridge battled back on the restart.

Good work by Enan Niland cut the deficit to a point with 12 minutes left.

### Ahead

However, Brigid's moved three points ahead with Cian O'Sullivan and Tiernan McGlynn on target.

But Clarinbridge failed to give up with a late goal from centre-half-back Ian O'Brien forcing extra-time.

Brigid's were strongest in extra-time outscoring their opponents by three points to one to take silverware.

Caroline Mullaney (1-3) was the heroine for Newport/Ballinahinch in their 3-3 to 0-2 win over Davitt's, Galway in the Division 1 Camogie decider.

The sides were level at 0-2 apiece at the interval with Roisin Dervan taking both

### FÉILE NA nGAEL CÓILÍN DUFFY reports

Davitt's scores.

Portlaoise took Division 2 Hurling honours following a 3-7 to 2-9 win over St. John's, Antrim, with Niall Gleeson and Aaron Bergin leading the charge.

Odhran McKeever (1-4) and Pauric McNicholl (1-3) impressed for Kevin Lynch's, Derry in their 2-15 to 1-4 Division 3 win over Celbridge.

Padraig Pearces (Division 4), Easkey (Division 5) and Setanta (Division 6) claimed the other hurling honours.

In Camogie, Inagh-Kilnamona (Division 2), Naas (Division 3) and Clane (Division 4) were also crowned champions.

**HURLING**  
Div 1 - St. Brigid's (Dublin) 1-9 Clarinbridge (Galway) 1-7 AET  
Div 2 - Portlaoise (Laois) 3-7 St. John's (Antrim) 2-9  
Div 3 - Kevin Lynch's (Derry) 2-15 Celbridge (Kildare) 1-4  
Div 4 - Padraig Pearces (Roscommon) 1-7 Eoghan Ruadh (Tyne) 0-8  
Div 5 - Easkey (Sligo) 4-9 Raheny (Dublin) 1-3  
Div 6 - Setanta (Dublin) 1-4 Cooteshill Celtic (Cavan) 1-3

**CAMOGIE**  
Div 1 - Newport-Ballinahinch (Tipperary) 3-3 Davitt's (Galway) 0-2  
Div 2 - Inagh-Kilnamona (Clare) 5-5 De La Salle (Waterford) 2-3  
Div 3 - Naas (Kildare) 3-2 Raharney (Westmeath) 0-3  
Div 4 - Clane (Kildare) 2-4 Bray Emmets (Wicklow) 1-0



CROWDED OUT: Aghabullogue's Clara McCarthy holds off Craanford-Monaseed's Roisin Dunbar and Jenny Larkin during yesterday's Féile na nGael clash.

Picture: Sportsfile

## Officials deny Cork outfit a shot at final

By Cólín Duffy

### FÉILE NA nGAEL

Controversy reigned at the All-Ireland Féile na nGael Under-14 competition in Dublin last night, with Cork side Aghabullogue thrown out of the Division 1 camogie competition.

The Leeside outfit had booked a semi-final berth against Galway side Davitt's, after three of the four teams in their group finished on equal points.

After the round-robin section, Aghabullogue were tied on four points with Balinteer St John's and Wexford club Craanford-Monaseed.

The rules of the competition stated that a play-off was required and after play-offs, frees and sudden death, Aghabullogue eventually qualified for the last four at 5.30pm, just an hour-and-a-half before the scheduled semi-final.

Immediately Aghabullogue officials put in a request to the Féile committee to have their semi-final postponed until Saturday morning.

This request was turned down and Davitt's were awarded a place in this afternoon's final at 1pm in

Croke Park. Elsewhere, Clarinbridge and St Brigid's, Dublin will contest the Division 1 hurling decider.

A second-half goal from Cian Salmon helped the Galway outfit to a 1-11 to 0-5 win over Sarsfields, Cork at Mobhi Road.

A fortnight after winning the Division 1 All-Ireland Féile Peil na nGael, St Brigid's, Dublin are again back in an All-Ireland decider.

The Navan Road outfit claimed a 1-7 to 1-3 win over Patrickswell of Limerick.

**Today's fixtures**  
**Hurling**  
Div 1: Clarinbridge v St Brigid's (Dublin), Croke Park, 3pm  
Div 2: Portlaoise v St John's (Antrim), Croke Park, 2pm  
Div 3: Celbridge v Kevin Lynch's (Derry), Croke Park, 11am  
Div 4: Padraig Pearces (Roscommon) v Eoghan Ruadh (Tyne), Croke Park, 10am  
Div 5: Easkey v Raheny/Monaghan Harps, Parnell Park, 1pm  
Div 6: Cooteshill v Setanta (Dublin), Parnell Park, noon

**Camogie**  
Div 1: Davitt's (Galway) v Ballyboden/Newport-Ballinahinch, Croke Park, 1pm  
Div 2: De La Salle (Waterford) v Portlaoise/Inagh-Kilnamona, Croke Park, noon  
Div 3: Raharney v Naas, Parnell Park, 11am  
Div 4: Clane/Commercial v Bray Emmets/Castleblayney, Parnell Park, 10am

## Féile fixture-list irks Aghabullogue

By Denis Hurley

Aghabullogue were last night considering their options following the weekend's Féile na nGael camogie finals in Dublin.

The Cork side took part in Division 1 of the competition and played against Dublin's Ballinteer St John's, Good Counsel of Wexford and Fr O'Regan's Craanford (Kilkenny). On Friday, following a round-robin section, Aghabullogue, Ballinteer and Craanford were all level on four points, necessitating a play-off.

Eventually Aghabullogue prevailed following a sud-

den-death play-off, but as only an hour and a half remained before the scheduled semi-final with Davitt's, they sought a postponement until Saturday morning. This was refused and as Aghabullogue would not field, Davitt's were awarded a place in the final.

Due to a further appeal by Aghabullogue on Saturday morning, the Division 1 final was deferred until 4pm, but when it eventually got underway it featured Tipperary's Newport/Ballinahinch against Davitt's, Newport/Ballinahinch eventually triumphing by 3-3 to 0-2. Aghabullogue officials met last night to decide a further course of action.

### CAMOGIE

**Division 1 Group A:** Ballinteer/St John's 4-2 Aghabullogue (Cork) 1-2; Good Counsel (Wexford) 1-3 Fr O'Regan's Craanford (Kilkenny) 4-1.  
**Group B:** Na Fianna (Dublin) 0-0 Cicora (Limerick) 0-0; St Vincent's (Dublin) 0-3 Galway 2-6.  
**Group C:** Lucan Sarsfields (Dublin) 3-2 Tulach Sheasta (Tipperary) 1-12; St Jude's (Dublin) 1-4 Piltown (Kilkenny) 3-5.



Girls from Aghabullogue Camogie Club, Co Cork, enjoy the Bus Éireann Féile na nGael Parade from Croke Park through Dublin City yesterday. See page 34 for yesterday's results.

Picture: Livephotos

### CAMOGIE

**ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
Tipperary 2-15 (N Walsh 0-7/41 3/45), A Fogarty 0-3 N Flanagan 2-0, J Horan 0-

2, J Ryan, A Fryday, C Devane 0-1 each) Kilkenny 1-15 (A Neary 0-7/1, K Power 0-4, M Quilty 1-0, M Walsh 0-2, N Byrne, N Maher 0-1 each)

**Galway 1-13** (N McGrath 0-7/38), M Conroy 0-2, A Connolly 0-2, O Kilkenny, AM Hayes 0-1 each) **Clare 0-12** (C McMahon 0-6/51), F Lafferty 0-4/31, C Morey 0-2, K Cahill 0-1)

**Cork 5-20** (C Shine 1-05, K Mackey 1-4, O Cotter 0-5/31), K Buckley 1-2, L Dorgan 1-1, J O'Leary 0-3/1) **Offaly 1-5** (E Dermody 0-3/1, E Dunne 1-0, T Hannon 0-2)

**ALL-IRELAND INTERMEDIATE**  
**Group 1:** Galway 1-18 (A O'Reilly 1-2, R Monaghan 0-5/41), E O'Sullivan 0-4, D Burke 0-3, M Dunne 0-2, A Kenny, R Henneley 0-1 each) **Cork 1-8** (M Browne 0-5/41, 1/45), S Brosnan 1-1, C Desmond, R Murphy 0-1 each)

**Tipperary 0-12** (A Shimmers 0-8/1, A McGrath 0-2, B Quinn, A Moloughney 0-1 each) **Kilkenny 1-8** (L Harrick 1-4/1, 3/1), A Lyng, E Carroll, C Foley A Curtis 0-1 each)

**Group 2: Derry 3-11** (S Cassidy 0-4, K McAuley 1-2, K Galt 1-3, B McGillan 0-1, K Bradley, G McNicholl each) **Limerick 1-6** (M O'Callaghan 1-1, N Mulcahy 0-2, E Creggan, N Collins, M McMahon 0-1 each)

**Waterford 7-11** Antrim 3-10.

**ALL-IRELAND PREMIER JUNIOR**  
Laois 3-5 Down 0-13; Meath 2-15  
Armagh 1-9; Kildare 2-17 Roscommon 2-6.

**UL68 CHAMPIONSHIP**  
**Group 2:** Cork 3-11 Waterford 2-8

JUNE 2012





**PRIZE:** Cork's Katrina Mackey gets her Star player of the game gong from Marie Kearney

## NOREEN TIPS THE BALANCE

### CAMOGIE ROUND-UP

**TWO** late goals from super sub Noreen Flanagan snatched victory for Tipperary against Kilkenny in round 3 of the All-Ireland Camogie Championship at Nowlan Park.

Tipp led at half-time by 0-10 to 0-7 with Nicole Walsh, Alice Fogarty and Jill Horan racking up some good scores.

Kilkenny struck at the start of the second-half when Katie Power set up Michelle Quilty, who hand-passed a goal after just 12 seconds.

From there until the 54th minute, the hosts maintained the upper hand, with Aoife Neary and Power keeping the scoreboard ticking over. Miriam Walsh had also registered two points.

Tipp introduced three subs in the 48th minute to telling effect. Youngsters Michaela Graham and Sarah Fryday provided the Premier outfit with much more energy but it was Flanagan who changed the course of the game.

### Hearts

Kilkenny still led by five points with six minutes remaining but Flanagan pounced for those two goals to break the Noreiders' hearts.

Cork got back to winning ways by seeing off Offaly 4-20 to 1-5. Claire Shine, Katrina Mackey, Katie Buckley and Linda Dorgan rattled the net for the Reds and Shine finished with a personal tally of 1-5.

Mackey added four points to her major and Orla Cotter slotted five.

Offaly captain Elaine Darmody managed three points from frees. Tina Hannon's goal was of consolation value only.

Galway maintained their 100 per cent record with a hard-fought 1-13 to 0-12 win over Clare.

Niamh Kilkenny got the Galway goal in the second-half.

Champions Wexford set up a mouth-watering clash with Galway next week when recording a very good 2-20 to 1-4 defeat of Dublin.

Una Evelyn Quigley and Ursula Jacob got the goals while Aisling Carolan raised a green flag for Dublin.



**BATTLE:** Galway's Martina Conroy and Clare's Carol O'Leary

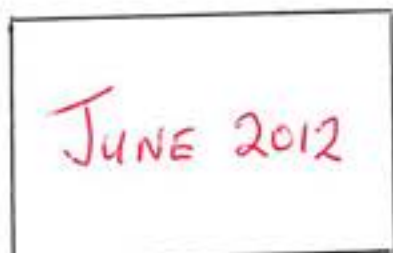
## Flanagan snatches win for Tipperary

**CAMOGIE:** A devastating cameo from super sub Noreen Flanagan snatched a memorable victory for Tipperary from the grasp of old rivals Kilkenny in the third round of the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship at Nowlan Park yesterday.

Tipperary, who led by 0-10 to 0-07 at half-time, were almost overcome by a second half Kilkenny resurgence, but an improbable Premier

County victory was ensured when Flanagan pounced with two late goals to see off Kilkenny by 2-15 to 1-15.

Meanwhile, in Páirc Uí Chaoimh, Cork overcame the disappointment of their recent defeat to Waterford to resoundingly see off Offaly by 4-20 to 1-05, and, in Cusack Park, Galway maintained their perfect Championship record with a hard-fought 1-13 to 0-12 win over Clare.



## Feile 2012 - a huge success

### Parade Awards:

**Best presented Home team:** Commercials.

**Best presented Away team** Eglis, Co. Tyrone

**Best Home Banner** Good Counsel

**Best Away Banner** Johnstown Bridge, Co. Kildare

### The Camogie Skills winners:

**1st** Aoife Corcoran, Castletown-Geoghegan, Westmeath

**Joint 2nd** Roisin Egan, St. Rynaghs, Offaly and Caoimhe Burke Drum-Inch, Tipp

**3rd** Aoibheann Kidney, Tracton, Cork

### Details of semi-finals and finals:

**Div. 1** Newport Ballinahinch, Tipperary 2-0 v Ballyboden A 0-3 Dublin at Naomh Peregrines,

Aghabullogue, Cork v Davitts (Galway) Bye at Naomh Mearnog.

**Div. 1 Final:** Newport Ballinahinch, Tipperary 3-3 v Davitts, Galway 0-2

**Div. 2** De La Salle Waterford 1-7 v St. Cillians, Offaly 2-3

Inagh/Kilnamona, Clare 7-7 v Portaferry, Down 0-1 at St. Judes Tymon Park.

**Div. 2 Final:** De La Salle Waterford 2-3 v Inagh/Kilnamona, Clare 5-5

**Div. 3** Raharney, Westmeath 3-1 v Athleague, Roscommon 1-1 at St. Johns Marley Park

Maynooth, Kildare 0-4 v Naas, Kildare 1-2 at Rathcoole at Rathcoole

**Div. 3 Final:** Raharney, Westmeath 0-3 v Naas, Kildare 3-2

**Div. 4** Clane, Kildare 6-3 v Commercials, Dublin 0-0 at Good Counsel, Galtymore Road

Castleblaney, Monaghan v Bray Emmets, Wicklow at Erins Isle Finglas.

**Div. 4 Final:** Clane Kildare 2-4 v Bray Emmets, Wicklow 1-0.

### CAMOGIE

Kilkenny 1-15, Tipperary 2-15  
Clare 0-12, Galway 1-13  
Cork 5-20, Offaly 1-5

#### ALL-IRELAND INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP 1

Galway 1-16, Cork 1-8

Kilkenny 1-8, Tipperary 0-12

#### ALL-IRELAND INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP 2

Derry 3-11, Limerick 1-6

Waterford 7-11, Antrim 3-10

#### ALL-IRELAND PREMIER JUNIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP

Laois 3-5, Down 0-13

Armagh 1-9, Meath 2-15

Roscommon 2-6, Kildare 2-17

#### ALL-IRELAND JUNIOR A CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP

Offaly 7-17, Tyrone 1-4

Monaghan 0-3, Westmeath 6-22

#### ALL-IRELAND U16B CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP 1

Offaly 6-12, Down 3-5

ALL-IRELAND U16B CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP 2

Cork 3-11, Waterford 2-8

#### ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP

Wexford 2-20 Dublin 1-04

ALL-IRELAND JUNIOR A CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP

Dublin 8-07, Cavan 5-02

#### ALL-IRELAND JUNIOR B CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP

Meath 2-02 Wicklow 4-09

Kildare 1-06 Kerry 2-09

#### ALL-IRELAND U16A CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP 1

Limerick 1-12 Kilkenny 4-07

Cork 2-08 Tipperary 1-05

#### ALL-IRELAND U16A CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP 2

Dublin 1-10 Galway 1-11

ALL-IRELAND U16B CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP 1

Derry 3-10 Dublin 0-05

ALL-IRELAND U16B CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP 2

Antrim 0-5 Wexford 0-5

ALL-IRELAND U16C CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP

Meath 1-04 Armagh 4-14



Millstreet sampled victory over Banteer in the Duhallow Schools Camogie final.

Picture: John Tarran

### Millstreet 7-5 Banteer 1-0

A polished Millstreet rattled off a comfortable win over Banteer in the 7-a-side Camogie final.

Offering the greater composure, skill and that extra bit of better attacking combination were telling for Millstreet.

Team captain Dervla Murphy led the

way for Millstreet and Banteer were thankful to heroic goalkeeping from Roisin Foley to keep in touch. Ahead 2-3 to 0-0 at the break, Millstreet added to their tally from additional goals to Murphy, Eilmarie Kelleher and Lauren Kiely. A brave Banteer kept battling, rewarded on a Muireann Healy goal.

**MILLSTREET:** G. O'Connor, K. Buckley, M. O'Connor, J. Tarrant 0-3, L. Kiely 1-0, D. Murphy 4-1, D. O'Reilly 0-1, E. Kelleher 2-0. Subs: L. Guerin, R. Sheehan, K. Hickey, D. Healy, A. Cashman.

**BANTEER:** R. Foley, K. O'Donoghue, S. Withers, C. Cullinane, C. O'Flynn, L. Corkery, H. Buckley.

Subs: K. Lane, M. Healy 1-0, M. O'Donoghue, P. Lisauskaitis, K. Kelleher.

Referee: J. Ryan (Newmarket).



July 2012

## Cork book last-four place with fine display

U16 A CAMOGIE

By MARY NEWMAN

Cork	2-8
Tipperary	1-5

SEVEN days ago the Cork U16 A squad were reeling after defeat at the hands of Kilkenny in round two of the All-Ireland championship.

Yesterday at Castle Road, when the need was greatest, they overcame provincial winners Tipperary to book their place in the last four.

With everybody level on points and just two spots up for grabs this section went down to the wire, Kilkenny disposing of Limerick earlier in the day, meaning it was down to Cork and Tipp for the last spot.

Having suffered a five-goal defeat at the hand of the same opposition three months ago in the Munster final Cork were up against it.

From the throw-in they knew they were in for a tough hour as Tipp put them under early pressure, but the Cork defence stood up to the challenge and Linda Collins pointed two early frees to settle them.

Two in a row had Tipp level but Sarah O'Sullivan was inspirational in goal for Cork, and with the wind with them the Rebels took the lead through Claire Sexton.

Soaking up everything Tipp threw at them, Cork's confidence grew. Two minutes from the break Linda Collins grabbed the game's opening goal after good work from Hannah Looney and Claire Sexton. Niamh Tracy pointed a Tipp free but Cork led 1-3 to 0-3 at the break.

In the second half Cork were magnificent in defence. O'Sullivan was again superb, and captain Rosin Twohill and Alva Dowling were outstanding in a super defence. They blocked, chased and closed down Tipp and would not allow them play.

Linda Collins extended the lead with a point to which Nicola Butler replied, but Cork hit three in a row had them in a comfortable position before Niamh Tracy pointed a free.

We then had long-range goals at either end. Rosin Twohill floated a long ball that looked to go all the way to the net and then Niamh Tracy sent a free in at the other end.

With five points separating them the clocked ticked towards full-time but Sarah O'Sullivan had to bring off another great save before Linda Collins pointed and injury time failed to produce any more scores.

**Scorers for Cork:** L Collins 1-5 (0-3 f), R Twohill 1-0, C Sexton, S Fahy, A Dowling 0-1 each.

**Tipperary:** N Treacy 1-2 f, N Butler 0-2, R Howard 0-1.

**CORK:** S O'Sullivan; C O'Callaghan, A Crowley, L Casserley, A Curtin, D Ahern, C Murphy; A O'Connor, H Looney, J O'Keefe, R Twohill, A Dowling; C O'Leary, L Collins, C Sexton.

**Subs:** S Fahy for J O'Keefe (22), A Cremin for C O'Leary (49), A Wallace for C Sexton (55), O O'Driscoll for C Murphy (60).

**TIPPERARY:** S Barnville; S Kenny, J Burke, E Buckley; M Eviston, J Grace, L Loughnan; L O'Dwyer, M Teehan; A McCarthy, N Treacy, R Howard, C Dunne, C Ryan, N Butler.

**Subs:** C Cummins for J Grace (42), T Kennedy for C Dunne (45).

**Referee:** John Dolan (Clare).

## SENIOR CAMOGIE

By MARY NEWMAN

Cork	4-20
Offaly	1-5

CORK controlled matters from the start in this All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship round three clash in Páirc Uí Chaoimh on Saturday.

Coming as it did on the back of a disappointing defeat at the hand of Wexford last weekend, the victory is a much needed boost to the Cork girls and more importantly it gave good championship debuts to young forwards Claire Shine and Katie Buckley who gave the selectors much food for thought as they both turned in impressive displays.

Cork were forced into making a few pre-match changes with Amanda O'Regan coming in to fill the full-back berth in place of the injured Rena Buckley while captain Julia White was also forced to sit out the game with an injury.

Claire Shine announced her arrival on to the senior side with two early points and with Orla Cotter adding a third, Cork settled into the game.

Aoife Murray denied Elaine Darmody with a superb save 11 minutes into the game, but it was to be the only time Offaly would threaten as Cork got a firm grip on proceedings.

All over the pitch, Cork were on top and with Gemma O'Connor superb at centre-back, ably assisted on the wings by Elmeir O'Sullivan and Pamela Mackey, Offaly could find now way through.

Orla Cotter and Jennifer O'Leary held the upper hand around the middle of the park and the wide open spaces of Páirc Uí Chaoimh suited Cork as they played the wings and opened up the Offaly defence.

Offaly continued to work hard even as Cork's point tally increased, but they failed to match the intensity of a Cork side who never allowed them an inch and eventually the inevitable happened as Jennifer O'Leary set up Katrina Mackey for the game's opening goal five minutes from the break. Mackey added a point and with an ever improving Katie Buckley pointing twice Cork were well in control as they led 1-12 to no score at the interval.

Inside five minutes of the restart Cork's dominance was confirmed as they hit a hat-trick of goals.

Katrina Mackey set up the first, firing the ball across the goal mouth where Katie Buckley volleyed a rocket to the net, Linda Dorgan hand passed to the net and when Claire Shine got in on the act for Cork's fourth goal, the game was over.

Cork will be glad to have got back to winning ways but they know the Offaly challenge was weak and a much bigger test awaits as Kilkenny come to Leaside next weekend for the last game in the group series before the quarter-final stages.

With players such as Buckley and Shine having acquitted themselves well it gives the Cork management much needed options.

**Scorers for Cork:** C Shine 1-5, K Mackey 1-4, O Cotter 0-5 (0-3f), K Buckley 1-2, L Dorgan 1-1, J O'Leary 0-3f.

**Offaly:** E Darmody 0-3 (f), E Dunne 1-0, T Han-



Cork's Claire Shine, scorer of 1-5 holds off Offaly's Lorraine Keena at Páirc Uí Chaoimh on Saturday evening.

Picture: Sportsfile

# Offaly are torn apart by clinical Cork

Orla Cotter added a point before Elaine Darmody got Offaly on the mark on the scoreboard with a pointed free 12 minutes into the half, but credit to Offaly, they never gave up. Elaine Darmody added a second before Cork hit three in row. Tina Hannon had two Offaly points before Emma Dunne found the net and as the game drew to its conclusion Claire Shine and Darmody exchanged points.

Cork will be glad to have got back

to winning ways but they know the Offaly challenge was weak and a much bigger test awaits as Kilkenny come to Leaside next weekend for the last game in the group series before the quarter-final stages.

With players such as Buckley and Shine having acquitted themselves well it gives the Cork management much needed options.

**Scorers for Cork:** C Shine 1-5, K Mackey 1-4, O Cotter 0-5 (0-3f), K Buckley 1-2, L Dorgan 1-1, J O'Leary 0-3f.

**Offaly:** E Darmody 0-3 (f), E Dunne 1-0, T Han-

non 0-2.

**CORK:** A Murray; J Duffy, A O'Regan, J O'Callaghan; E O'Sullivan, G O'Connor, P Mackey; O Cotter, J O'Leary; J Casey, B Corkery, C Shine; K Buckley, L Dorgan, K Mackey.

**Subs:** L Weste for J O'Callaghan (35), A Geary for B Corkery (38), R Curtin for L Dorgan (53), L O'Connell for P Mackey (53), C Motherway for O Cotter (57).

**OFFALY:** E Clendening; K Brady, T McDonald, S Sullivan; L Sullivan, L Keena, M Crean; F Stephens, L Scully; T Hannon, J Brady O Kirwin; A Kelly, E Darmody (c), A Watkins.

**Subs:** E Mooney for L Scully (h/t), A M Guinan for A Watkins (h/t), E Dunne for O Kirwin (32), K Bergin for J Brady (53).

**Referee:** Aidan O'Brien (Wexford).

## Murray is happy with his side's cohesion

### REACTION

Paudie did acknowledge that the opposition was not as strong as in the opening two games of the series.

"Offaly are a team trying to make their way in this grade, I am probably more worried about ourselves to be honest, our attitude wasn't good last week against Wexford and we didn't play for each other we played more as individuals, we spoke about it during the week and

addressed it today and we did well."

The performance of championship debutants Katie Buckley and Claire Shine was another positive for the Cork boss.

"The two younger players that came in today Katie and Claire did very well and we are delighted with them, it took us a lot of time to pick the team for today and it will no doubt be the same for our game next week with our game with Kilkenny."

I put it to Paudie that maybe not getting to the semi-final would actually be a good thing

"The team that gets to the quarter final is probably in a better place, I think the team that are going direct to the semi-final are at a disadvantage as games are hard to come by at this time of year, if we can get through and get an extra game in August I have no problem with that, titles are not won in July or August and matches are what we need."



# Expelled club feared for kids' well-being

by Denis Hurley

A GAA club has accused the organisers of Féile of failing them following their expulsion from the competition.

Cork club Aghabullogue took part in the Féile na nGael competition in Dublin last weekend and qualified from their group in Division 1 after a long play-off process at approximately 5.45pm on Friday. They were scheduled to play their semi-final 20 miles away at 7pm.

"A medical doctor had very strong concerns with regard to what the girls were being asked to do and made representations about this to two separate Féile officials at that time," a club statement read.

"Two nurses attended one of our players who was in some distress and was subsequently taken to the doctor to receive medical treatment. Amid this scenario, alongside further deteriorating weather conditions, the children's parents present convened a meeting and made a unanimous decision not to allow their children to play any more camogie on Friday evening on the grounds of child welfare, health and safety, and serious concerns for the well-being of their children."

Though the semi-final was moved to 7.30pm, Aghabullogue did not field and their opponents, Davitts of Galway, were given a walkover.

"We lodged an appeal to allow us to continue in the competition on

the grounds that the club was never officially informed that we had been disqualified from the competition. We were granted our appeal in Croke Park at 11.30am, on the Saturday.

"At the appeal, we put forward our position, that it was a totally unreasonable request to ask the girls to play a further match on the Friday evening.

"We felt we got a very fair, understanding and sympathetic hearing from the Central Appeals Committee.

"The Roinn 1 final was delayed due to the appeal and the hearing went on for three hours. We offered to accommodate the games in any way possible if we were allowed to

continue in the competition."

But it was defeated on the grounds it had not been lodged within the 15-minute time limit allowed.

"We feel the Féile organisation failed our girls and us as a club.

"We felt the completion of the competition within the scheduled timeframe was more important to the Féile organisation than the well-being of our children.

"All through the weekend we received great support from the Cork Camogie Board, the GAA Cork County Board, fellow Cork clubs and fellow Féile teams present in Dublin and the team received a great reception when they arrived back in the parish on Saturday evening."

## Win against Cats would map out route to glory

BY KIERAN MCCARTHY

ALREADY through to the knock-out stages of the All-Ireland senior camogie championship, after two wins in their three games to date, Cork will find out their route to glory after this weekend's final round of group games.

Facing Kilkenny at home – the Cats loss last time out to Tipp, conceding two late goals to lose a five-point lead – this is Cork's last game before the quarter-finals of the competition. But the exact final standings of both groups in this championship have yet to be determined.

With the top team in both Group A (currently Galway) and Group B (currently Wexford) going straight to the semi-finals, the next two teams in each group will battle it out in two quarter-finals to see who moves on to the last four.

Currently, Cork and Tipp occupy second and third in Group A, on four points apiece, and with Dublin having lost all three games, Cork are guaranteed a spot in the business end of the competition.

After the loss to Wexford the previous weekend, Cork's weekend win over Offaly, 4-20 to 1-5, last Saturday was a welcome return to winning ways, even if the Offaly challenge didn't present much resistance to

a Cork side that led 1-12 to 0-0 at half-time.

With Katrina Mackey scoring a first-half goal, and with Orla Cotter and Jenny O'Leary dominant in midfield, Cork were just too strong for an Offaly side that recorded its first score 12 minutes into the second-half.

By that stage, Cork has already bagged a hat-trick of goals early in the half, as Katie Buckley, Linda Dorgan and top-scorer Claire Shine all found the back of the net, to put this result beyond all doubt.

**Scorers**

Cork: C Shine 1-5, K Mackey 1-4, O Cotter (3f) 0-5, K Buckley 1-2, L Dorgan 1-1, J O'Leary 0-3f.

Offaly: E Darmody 0-3f, E Dunne 1-0, T Hannon 0-2.

Cork: A Murray; J Duffy, A O'Regan, J O'Callaghan; E O'Sullivan, G O'Connor, P Mackey; O Cotter, J O'Leary; J Casey, B Corkery, C Shine; K Buckley, L Dorgan, K Mackey.

**Subs used:** L Weste for J O'Callaghan; A Geary for B Corkery; R Curtin for L Dorgan; L O'Connell for P Mackey; C Moth-erway for O Cotter.

Offaly: E Clendering; K Brady, T McDonald, S Sullivan; L Sullivan, L Keena, M Crean; F Stephens, L Scully; T Hannon, J Brady, O Kir-win; A Kelly, E Darmody, A Watkins.

**Subs used:** E Mooney for L Scully; A McGuinan for A Watkins; E Dunne for O Kirwin, K Bergin for J Brady.

**Referee:** A O'Brien (Wexford).

## Bishopstown Camogie News

**CONGRATULATIONS** go to Rachael Leisk who made the Cork Camogie 6th Class panel and Orla Dunne who made the Cork Camogie 5th Class panel. They join Sarah O'Sullivan, Laura O'Neill & Saoirse O'Sullivan who are all on the Cork Camogie Underage teams. Not a bad year for our representation, with girls on all Cork teams. We wish them well playing with Cork throughout the year.



Rachael Leisk



Orla Dunne

Kilkenny 1-15; Tipperary 2-15

The Tipperary senior camogie team produced a storming finish to secure a vital win over Kilkenny in Saturday's All Ireland Championship clash.

The victory leaves Tipperary in a fine position for a quarter final place with just Offaly standing in their way in their final group stage match.

Tipperary started well and had two points on the scoreboard within two minutes of play from Siobhán McGrath and Joanne Ryan before Kilkenny registered. Tipp took control with Jill Horan and Nicole Walsh picking each other out and Alice Fogarty in the corner was running rings around Ruth Jones but when Fogarty went low for an early goal, Caitriona Ryan's block resulted in a '45 which Nicole Walsh converted.

Aoife Neary replied for Kilkenny but following some fine play from Alice Fogarty who leaped up to pluck the dropping ball and turning quickly she split the uprights. Walsh added her second 45 before Tipp wasted three valuable chances and allowed Kilkenny back into the game where they sent over three unanswered points as they summed up the measure of their opponents.

Aoife Neary reduced the Kilkenny deficit to one seven minutes from half time. Playing with the aid of a stiff breeze, Tipp tagged on a further three from Cait Devane, Nicole Walsh (free) and Jill Horan, which was the difference between the sides as they took their leave.

A goal, thirty seconds after the resumption from Michelle Quilty brought the sides level for the first time and stung Tipp badly as Kilkenny then went onto go two points ahead.

Tipp drew level but Kilkenny went two up again while also sending three astray and after Miriam Walsh struck for goal, the resulting scramble saw Walsh injured as the goal was disallowed.

Tipp introduced five subs and more chances were created when the fresh legs of Aisling Carroll at wing back, beat her opponent, she linked up with Joanne Ryan and Nicole Walsh to create attacks. Points were swapped at either end and when Walsh burst through and headed for goal, Elaine Aylward swung from her jersey which gave Nicole Walsh to the chance to leave three between them with three minutes remaining.

All the play now centered on the Kilkenny end as Tipp fought hard to force a draw. Aisling Carroll's short delivery was won by sub Sarah Fryday in the corner who in turn sent the ball across the goal mouth where an unmarked sub Michaela Graham showed no mercy for Caitriona Ryan and the sides were level again.

Tipp went into the attack again with Carroll, Horan and Walsh attacking deep into injury time which resulted in sub Noreen Flanagan rattled the Kilkenny net as the large Tipperary crowd of supporters leaped up from their seats in cheers of joy to celebrate Tipp's great come back win.

Tipperary face Offaly next Saturday with a win seeing the premier county into the knockout stages but Tipp captain Joanne Ryan is taking nothing for granted.

"We won't be taking anything for granted and it will be as hard as this week was if not harder because Offaly need to win more than we do."

"We just have to take every game as it comes and certainly we had better not get full of ourselves now. We are never going to give up no matter what team is beating us because that's the way to bring on the young players."

Giving credit to the management team for bringing in fresh legs when really needed, Ryan added: "This was smart thinking by John (Lillis) and the lads who were giving trials throughout the league and on paper things didn't look at all well but they gave everyone a chance and now they are putting things into place and well done to the young subs who won the game for us".

Report and Photographs by Rose Mannion at Nowlan Park.  
Caption: Nicole Walsh (Tipperary) gets away from Jacqui Frisby and Grace Walsh (Kilkenny).

July 2012



JUNE 2012

## U16s will look to extend their run

### CAMOGIE

**TOMORROW**  
All-Ireland U16B Camogie Championship:  
Cork v Wexford, the  
Ballagh, 5pm

THE county U16 B side will travel to Wexford in confident mood to take on the home side in round two following on their superb victory last weekend over Waterford, writes **MARY NEWMAN**.

In recent years Cork and Wexford have become keen rivals at adult level and at underage level we can expect it to be the same.

Both counties have invested a huge amount of time and effort in recent years in underage development squads and both will be anxious to make it to the semi-final stages.

It will be a tough outing for Cork given that they are facing Wexford's first 15, and indeed it is strange that a county that produced the All-Ireland senior and Intermediate champions in 2011 are not participating at A level in the U16 grade.

For Cork it's a huge achievement to already have the U16 A team through to the All-Ireland semi-final and with one victory already under their belts the B squad will be hoping to do the same. Last weekend Wexford and Antrim played out a low scoring draw where it finished five points each.

This is a result that was a good one for Cork, and if they can get a victory on Sunday or in their last outing against Antrim the semi-final spot will be secured.

Last weekend Cork performed superbly and it was great to see young players such as Cathy O'Mahony, Mary Ellen O'Connor and Kelly Falvey all performing on the inter-county stage. Both Cork U16 squads are performing well, and if the county can hold these young players together and nurture the talent that is in the county they will go on to be big players in the years to come.

Wexford need a win to stay in contention and will be looking to players of the calibre of Annie Stafford, Michelle Martin, Erin Elliot and Orla Nimo.

# Cork girls should be too strong for Cats



Cork newcomers Claire Shine, left and Katie Buckley, main picture acquitted themselves well against Offaly last weekend. Picture: Richard Mills

## Young duo will help to keep things fresh

**TOMORROW**  
Senior All-Ireland Camogie Championship: Cork v Kilkenny, Ballincollig, 1.30pm.

AS expected last week Cork easily disposed of the challenge posed by Offaly in their round three clash in the All-Ireland senior championship series of games.

A bigger challenge awaits though, and it's Kilkenny who are in town tomorrow.

Cork, with two wins out of three, are going well and are in second place in their group to Galway. Galway and Wexford clash this weekend as do Tipperary and Offaly and results will have a bearing on who goes forward to the semi-final and who will contest the quarter-final spots.

Pending results, there may be a play-off to determine final placings, but Cork will be hoping to avoid this and results tomorrow evening will give a clearer picture.

Kilkenny come to Leeside still smarting from the loss to Tipperary last weekend. They looked to be home and dry with a few minutes remaining but they conceded two late goals and lost out by a goal, in a game where they looked comfortable. They will be hoping to improve on that result this weekend.

Last season Kilkenny had a big victory over Cork in the round robin series of championship games but in the opening game of the national league campaign the side met and Cork recorded a 3-14 0-6 victory.

This year Kilkenny are without a few regulars, who are travelling abroad, but they still have experienced campaigners Michelle Quilty, Katie Power, Aoife Neary and the excellent Elaine Alward in their line up.

Brendan Williams, who enjoyed huge success with both the county U16 and

### CAMOGIE

By MARY NEWMAN

minors sides, guiding both to All-Ireland success, is at the helm this year.

It's hard to judge Cork on last week's victory over Offaly, but senior championship debutants Katie Buckley and Claire Shine acquitted themselves well and certainly will be pushing for inclusion in the starting 15 this weekend.

Rena Buckley was a non-starter last weekend with a foot injury, while Anna Geary, who has been missing through illness, was introduced as a substitute.

Cork were dominant all over the field and their performance will certainly have given them a huge boost. Gemma O'Connor was again excellent at centre-back last week and her distribution of the ball was fantastic.

Cork were by far sharper against Offaly than in their outing with Wexford.

Manager Paudie Murray is working away steadily with his charges and he will be looking for another big performance this week. Places are still up for grabs and Paudie and his backroom team are not afraid to ring the changes and they are affording every player an opportunity to nail down a place.

At underage level in recent times Kilkenny have been the dominant force taking four minor and four U16 All-Ireland titles since 2006 yet they have failed thus far to turn this into adult success. For the last three years a lot has been expected and these young players have matured yet they have failed to deliver despite their promise.

When one looks at the limited success Wexford have had at underage level yet they are now hunting three in a row of senior titles — plus they added an intermediate one to their haul last year — you have to ask where have these Kilkenny youngsters gone and why not some success at adult level?

While a lot of underage titles have not come to Cork in recent time every year there is a steady turnover of young players coming on to the scene and this helps players such as the Mackeys, Katriona and Pamela, Joanne Casey, Julia White and the current crop of Claire Shine and Katie Buckley have helped to keep things fresh.

On current form Cork will continue their winning ways.

## Rebels need a win to stay in hunt for the title

WHEN THE sides met in the opening round of the league, Cork recorded a superb victory and hopes were high as the season promised a lot, writes **MARY NEWMAN**.

However, it didn't work out that way and having failed to build on the victory Cork did not make it to the closing stage of the league.

In their opening games in the championship series Cork have

lost out to both Wexford and Galway, so with two games to go they will be hoping to record victories over Kilkenny and Tipperary and — depending on other results going their way — force a play-off for a semi-final spot.

In both games played to date Cork have been minus players due to holidays and injury, and they will be hoping to have the likes of Roisin De

**TOMORROW**  
All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship:  
Cork v Kilkenny,  
Ballincollig, 3.15pm.

Faolte available for tomorrow's clash, while they will look to Michelle Browne and captain Colette Desmond to rally the troops and get back into contention for the play-off spot.

Kilkenny are in a similar position to Cork having lost out in their opening round games against Galway and Tipperary.

They were on the end of a 4-13 to 1-6 defeat at the hands of Galway before they rallied to turn in excellent performance against Tipperary, where they lost out by a point in a close 1-8 to 0-12 contest.

Their line-up included experienced players such as Claire Aylward, Aoife Lyng, Lisa Hanrick and Marie Doherty and this is also Kilkenny's second team and they also will be very much dependant on players available from the county's first team.

However, with the senior teams in action in the opening game this may help both teams in the second game.





LINDA MELLERICK

**WEXFORD and Galway maintained their 100% group record last weekend after overcoming Clare and Dublin respectively.**

Favourites Kilkenny dropped another two against Tipperary and now face a difficult and must-win game against Cork today to ensure a quarter-final spot.

Should Clare beat Dublin in Parnell Park today, Cork take the points against Kilkenny and Tipperary defeat Offaly then Kilkenny, Offaly and Clare will all finish the group series on two points and enter a championship play-off for group placing, followed for two teams with a quarter-final qualifier on July 28 before ever harbouring ambitions of reaching a quarter-final on August 4.

I think this new system is an excellent one. Unlike previous systems where counties were out seven weekends on the trot this provides counties a minimum of five championship games in a sensible fashion. For the weaker counties it's a great initiative.

● The winners of both groups head straight for the semi-finals.

● The runners-up in both groups enter a quarter-final (draw for home venue).

● Third placed in group A plays the fourth placed in group B in a quarter-final qualifying round (draw for home venue).

● Third placed in group B plays fourth placed in Group A in a quarter-final qualifier.

The clash of this weekend is surely the Wexford and Galway game in Athenry. With the minimum separating this pair time and again the game can swing either way.

Wexford top their group regardless of the result and head straight for the semi-final. Galway will be desperate to claim the points and also assure themselves of a semi-final spot.

If Cork and Tipp emerge victorious and Galway lose, all three will finish with six points. A lot depends on today's results for many and as a result has a knockout championship excitement attached.

Two goals in the final six minutes from substitute Noreen Flanagan snatched a hugely important 2-15 to 1-15 victory for Tipperary from the grasp of old rivals Kilkenny at Nowlan Park last Saturday.

The winners led at half time by



Mary Bulger, vice-chairperson Cork Camogie Board, presents Castlemagner captain Aine Cott with the Junior B League.

# Wexford and Galway are still in the driving seat

0-10 to 0-7 but despite Nicole Walsh, Alice Fogarty and Jill Horan racking up some good scores they wouldn't have been happy after squandering numerous opportunities with a very stiff wind in their favour.

Kilkenny struck early and hard at

the start of the second half when Katie Power set up Michelle Quilty, who goaled after just twelve seconds.

From there until the 54th minute the hosts maintained the upper hand with Aoife Neary and Power keeping the scoreboard ticking over.

Tipp introduced three subs in the 48th minute to telling effect. Youngsters, Michaela Graham and Sarah Fryday provided the Premier outfit with much more energy but it was Flanagan who changed the course of the game.

Kilkenny still led by five points

with six minutes remaining but Flanagan pounced for those two goals to scenes of big celebrations at the final whistle.

Clare were back to top performance at Cusack Park as Fiona Lafferty and Claire McMahon helped edge them into a two-point lead after 24 minutes against 2011 All-Ireland finalists, Galway. Galway pegged the lead back and led at the break, 0-8 to 0-6.

That lead stretched to three upon the resumption but Clare clawed themselves back to parity. Some bad wides hurt them though while a Sarah Dervan intervention prevented them goaling in the 45th minute.

Four minutes later Brenda Hanney gathered possession from an Aislinn Connolly delivery and off-loaded to the advancing Niamh Kilkenny whose low shot gave Denise Lynch no chance and it was game over.

Despite not taking a single point to date, Clare have produced some excellent performances and must be somewhat disappointed that they aren't closing games out. It's fine to say they are a work in progress but they need some reward to keep their momentum going.

Champions Wexford, as expected, recorded a heavy victory over Dublin; 2-20 to 1-4. A number of injuries to Mary Leacy (ankle), Una Leacy (hamstring) and Lisa Bolger (hand) will occupy their thoughts ahead of today's tie with Galway.

Cork's comfortable win over Offaly was also anticipated. Ever before Kilkenny dropped four points I predicted that they would come to Cork with huge intensity and focus for round four.

The fact that this game now is such a crucial encounter for them increases that intensity significantly.

Kilkenny relish playing Cork. If Cork are mentally ready they should withstand the challenge.

## CAMOGIE CLUB NOTES

### ST FINBARR'S

On Saturday last we were delighted to host the C Section of the U18 Munster Summer Sevens tournament on behalf of Munster Council and the Camogie Association.

The nine participating clubs were Na Piar-saigh, Banteer, Carrigtwohill, St Fanahan's, Sarsfields, Millstreet, Fr O'Neill's, Cobh and ourselves. On a rare sunny day the first of 16 section games got underway at midday.

Games were played on two pitches and there was some excellent camogie on display with all games played competitively but very sportingly.

In Section 1 it took the very last game to decide who would make the final with Millstreet beating Sarsfields to claim their place against ourselves after we had qualified from section 2. Millstreet who were a fabulous all round

team with some lovely individual players went on to win a hard fought final on a score line of 4-3 to 0-5.

Club chairperson Harriett Carey took the opportunity to congratulate club colleague Colette O'Mahony on her recent induction into the camogie Hall of Fame and called upon her to present the cup to Millstreet winning captains (all 6 of them!) to bring the day to a close.

We would like to thank all club members who helped out in any way thus ensuring everything ran smoothly but in particular referees Colette O'Mahony and Ian Power and of course our fabulous panel of players who did us proud on the day: Rachel Finn, Niamh O'Regan, Shirley Burns, Erin Ryan, Katie Crowley, Sinead McCann, Stephanie Punch, Carole Ryan, Emma O'Donovan, Niamh Mc-

Greevy, Kayleigh Mullins, Cliona O'Connell. We wish Millstreet every success when they represent Cork in the Munster Super Summer 7's in Mallow at the end of the month, Rebels Abu.

### BALLINASCARTY

Our U10s played away to Enniskeane last weekend in glorious sunshine, this game was part of the Go Game league which is proving a great success.

We had 14 players in total and played two games of seven a-sides with plenty touches of the sliotar. The players on both sides really seemed to enjoy their games as much as the spectators enjoyed watching them.

Panel: Abbie O'Sullivan, Anna Flynn, Aoife McManamon, Clara Murphy-Heffernan, Claire Kingston, Emily Symington, Isobel Denny, Jane Buttimer, Kate Finnerty, Marie Phayer,

Maira Keohane, Saoirse Holland Sinead McCarthy, Zoe Fitzpatrick.

### GLEN ROVERS

Well done to our senior team who recorded a victory over Aghabullogue in the recent summer cup game, it was a hard fought contest with two competitive teams battling it out to the finish before victory was assured. We were not so lucky in our last game in the Summer Cup as we lost out to Eire Og but never the less it was a game in a competition which is of huge benefit to clubs.

**U16 training:** Just a correction to last week notice regarding U16 training, this continues on both Monday and Wednesday nights but at 6.30pm. apologies about the mix up but human error is something that happens from time to time. Players are asked by mentors to make an effort to attend as championship is

just around the corner.

**U14S:** U14 training is just on one night for the summer and that is on Mondays at 6pm. players are asked by mentors to make an effort to attend.

**Senior championship:** We get our championship campaign off to a start on Thursday next when we meet Valley Rovers, the venue is Eire Og pitch in Ovens but check this out to make sure during the week, best of luck to the players and mentors in this game.

**Summer camp:** Kellogg's summer camp begins on Monday next July 16 to July 20 at Glen Rovers for boys and girls aged between five years and 14 years. participants are asked to be there for 10am.

**Facebook:** Don't forget to check us out on face book Glen Rovers Camogie.



July 2012



The Blarney U14 team, winners of the Sarah Buckley Memorial trophy played for in memory of their late club mate.

# Sarah's title returns home to Blarney

**BLARNEY Camogie Club have honoured the memory of Sarah Buckley, who passed away in October 2009 after a difficult illness at just 14 years of age.**

They recently held the third Sarah Buckley memorial tournament in Blarney, featuring St Finbarr's, Glen Rovers, who were holders of the title following victory in 2011, Ballinascorthy and host club Blarney, who won the inaugural competition in 2010.

Sarah was very much into sport and camogie was a big part of her young life. The daughter of Ray and Margaret from Blarney, she was a huge camogie and GAA follower and she spent her time playing camogie and enjoying the game on the U14 team in the Blarney club.

During her illness Sarah was a patient in the Crumlin Children's Hospital in Dublin and she was visited by the Cork senior camogie team led by captain Amanda O'Regan on the morning after the side won the All-Ireland final. Sadly Sarah passed away just a month later, despite a brave battle with her illness over an 18 month period. She was always cheerful and happy and never complained despite her illness.

After Sarah's untimely death

the club decided to organise a tournament at the grade that Sarah played her last competitive game with the club in.

Captain Kelly Falvey accepted the trophy on behalf of the club and thanks the organising committee for all the effort they put into making the day a very enjoyable one for the participating teams.

The hard-working Blarney committee laid on refreshments for all participants and their supporters, and the youngsters from Blarney, Glen Rovers, St Finbarr's and Ballinascorthy did their clubs proud as they paid tribute to the memory of a wonderful young camogie player.

The opening game was a ding dong battle as Blarney defeated neighbours Glen Rovers by the narrowest of margins. The meeting of St Finbarr's and Ballinascorthy was equally as close with the Barrs girls coming out on top by three points.

Glen Rovers and Ballinascorthy battled it out in the Shield final with Glen Rovers victorious. On the day Glen Rovers were well served by Sarah O'Connell, who was excellent in goal, Michaela Hyde, Kayleigh Bridgeman, Shauna Riordan and Emma O'Donovan. Clodhna Condon,

Shona Hayes, Niamh Nyhan, Clare Kirby and Dami Kelleher impressed for a Ballinascorthy side who battled to the full-time whistle.

The cup final was the central point of the day and St Finbarr's and Blarney didn't disappoint as they served up a great game. All through it was a close encounter between two evenly matched teams.

At the break Blarney led by four points after excellent performances from Aoife McCarthy and the midfield pairing of Rachel McNamara and Rebecca Shine.

St Finbarr's started the second half well and hit two fast goals but Blarney fought back with some nice scores from the Morris sisters, Chloe and Katie, to eventually run out as winners.

For St Finbarr's Grainne Cahalane and Chloe Cotter were solid in defence, while Ciara Keating and Aoife Gibbons were to the fore up front.

Blarney were not going to be denied the title and they had superb displays from Lainey Sands, Katie O'Keeffe, Aoife McCarthy, Amy Murphy and Megan Murphy.

Blarney club chairman Gerard Casey thanked all the participating team and recalled the many happy times Sarah had in Blarney GAA playing camogie.

## Falvey is on song in decider

JUNIOR CAMOGIE

Castlemagner 2-6  
St Finbarr's 1-3

CASTLEMAGNER took the junior B league title at the second time of asking when they proved too strong for St Finbarr's in an exciting final replay at Castle Road, writes **MARY NEWMAN**.

Two weeks previously the sides could not be separated after a superb fight back by a Castlemagner side playing with just 14 players.

Susan Falvey hit three points in row as they opened up an early lead, but despite winning a lot of possession they found it tough against the hard working St Finbarr's defence.

Rachel Myers hit two points to get St Finbarr's into the game, but a Shelly Twohig pointed free two minutes into added time gave Castlemagner an interval lead, 0-4 to 0-2.

The second half was just three minutes old when Castlemagner extended their advantage as Imelda Vaughan finished to the net in a crowded goal mouth.

Shelly Twohig pointed a free five minutes in, and for the next quarter the sides were evenly matched, but the Castlemagner defence stood firm with Clonadh Healy, Elish Gayer and Margaret O'Keeffe solid all through.

Eighteen minutes into the half Castlemagner put the game beyond their opponents when Imelda Vaughan set up Cliona Twohig to finish to the net and extended their advantage with a Michelle Twohig pointed free. B With two minutes remaining, Rachel Myers grabbed a goal for St Finbarr's, while Niamh Cook pointed a free, but by now the clock had ticked to full time as Castlemagner were crowned champions after turning in an impressive display.

**Scorers for Castlemagner:** S Falvey 0-3, Vaughan Twohig 1-0 each, S Twohig 0-2 f, M Twohig 0-1 f.

**St Finbarr's:** R Myers 1-2, N Cooke 0-1 f.

**CASTLEMAGNER:** N Long; M O'Keeffe, E Browne, E O'Donovan; R Twohig, C Healy, E Gayer; M Twohig, C Twohig; S Casey, A Cott, S Falvey; U Twohig, I Vaughan, G Cashman.

**Sub:** D Fallon for I Vaughan (58).

**ST FINBARR'S:** B. A. Corcoran; M Collins, M McCarthy, S McCann; L Fitzgerald (c), J Keating, S Punch; G Fitzgerald, A McCarthy; N Cooke, E Crowley, C O'Sullivan; R Myers, N O'Regan, V Hosford.

**Subs:** N McGreevey for N O'Regan (h-t), E Kerins for L Fitzgerald (52).

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

The Buckley family were in attendance and presented medals to all the players. Her mum Margaret expressed the families thanks to Blarney Camogie club for remembering Sarah. She presented the shield to Glen Rovers captain Chantelle Hurley, before going on to present the Sarah Buckley Memorial Cup to Blarney captain Lainey Sand.

## Valleys and Glen gear up for big clash

CHAMPIONSHIP time has arrived and the week ahead is a busy one as the focus shifts from the inter-county scene to the clubs.

Already Seandún have won the divisional section of the senior championship and the right to play in round one and this will get off the ground on Sunday next, July 22.

Prior to that, the senior B championship starts on Thursday next with the battle of the Rovers, as Valley Rovers and Glen contest the first game in group one of the round robin series.

Last season Glen Rovers lost out to Ballinacorney by a point in the county final. The sides met in the round robin series last season when the Glen edged it by a point, but this year they are minus five of last season's championship side.

Cruciate ligament injuries have sidelined Jennifer Hosford and Kelly Newman, Aoife Walsh and Michelle Hegarty are out of the country on holidays, while Sinead Gallen is another not in their line up.

Valley Rovers are minus the services of Orla Deasy while Elaine Burke has relocated to the UK.

Lydia Cunningham, Aileen Gilton, Aisling O'Keeffe and Karen O'Connell will do everything in their power to ensure a Glen victory while Liz Bugler, Anne Marie Murphy, Jessica Hawkes and Ena Coughlan will be to the fore seeking a Valleys success.

There will be plenty of local rivalry next Saturday when divisional comrades go head to head when Clonakilty and Newcestown meet in round one.

Newcestown are another club hit by an injury crisis, with long-serving Hilda O'Mahony another player out with a cruciate injury, while Colleen Long is also on the casualty list.

Cork intermediate captain Colette Desmond, Lisa O'Sullivan and Suzanne Deasy are strong performers for

CLUB CAMOGIE  
By MARY NEWMAN

Newcestown, while Clonakilty players Hazel O'Regan, Aoife O'Donoghue, Aoife Deasy and Juanita Brennan should be to the fore.

SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP 2012

**SUNDAY, July 22**  
Ballinacorney v St Finbarr's, Castle Road, 7.30pm.

**MONDAY, July 23**  
Courcey Rovers v Ballinacorney, Brinny, 6.45pm; Ballinacorney v Cloughduv, Brinny, 8pm.

**TUESDAY, July 24**  
Seandún v Killeagh, 7.30pm; St Catherine's v Milford, Castle Road, 7.45pm.

**WEDNESDAY, July 25**  
Douglas v Inniscarra, Ballinacorney, 7.30pm.  
**Losers Round:** Six losing teams play-off on August 27-29.

SENIOR B CHAMPIONSHIP

**THURSDAY, JULY 19**  
Glen Rovers v Valley Rovers, Owens (TBC), 7.45pm.

**SATURDAY, JULY 21**  
Clonakilty v Newcestown, Venue TBC.

**TUESDAY, JULY 24**  
Fr O'Neill's v Mallow.

**SATURDAY, JULY 28**  
Kilbrittan/Timoleague v Eire Og.

**TUESDAY, JULY 31**  
Newcestown v Glen Rovers.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 4**  
Clonakilty v Barryroe.

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 10**  
Mallow v Kilbrittan/Timoleague.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 11**  
Eire Og v Fr O'Neill's.

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 21**  
Barryroe v Newcestown.

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 19**  
Valley Rovers v Clonakilty.

**WEDNESDAY, AUG 29**  
Kilbrittan/Timoleague v Fr O'Neill's.

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 31**  
Newcestown v Valley Rovers; Eire Og v Mallow.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2**  
Barryroe v Glen Rovers.

INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIP

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 25**  
Aghabullogue v Tracton; Sarsfields v Newtownshandrum.

**THURSDAY, JULY 26**  
Buttevant v Bishopstown; Blackrock v Carrigrohane.

**WEDNESDAY, AUG 8**  
Newtownshandrum v Aghabullogue; Tracton v Sarsfields.

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 9**  
Carrigrohane v Buttevant; Bishopstown v Blackrock.

**WEDNESDAY, AUG 22**  
Aghabullogue v Sarsfields; Tracton v Newtownshandrum.

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 23**  
Bishopstown v Carrigrohane.

**MONDAY, AUGUST 27**  
Buttevant v Blackrock.

**Semi-finals:** Saturday, September 8

**Final:** Saturday, September 22.

JUNIOR A CHAMPIONSHIP

**SATURDAY, JULY 28**  
Inniscarra v Kildorrery.

**SUNDAY, JULY 29**  
Douglas v Watergrasshill; Enniskeane v Brian Dillon's.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 11**  
Watergrasshill v Enniskeane.

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 12**  
Brian Dillon's v Douglas, Na Piarasigh v Inniscarra.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 25**  
Kildorrery v Na Piarasigh.

**WEDNESDAY, AUG 29**  
Douglas v Enniskeane.

**Semi-finals:** Saturday, September 8

**Final:** Saturday, September 22.



# Gritty Galway lay down a marker

By Daragh Ó Conchúir  
Camogie

Galway and Wexford are through to the semi-finals of the All-Ireland senior camogie championship.

It is an indication of the increasing competitiveness within camogie that much is still to be decided following the final round of the group stages, with two play-off games to be scheduled for next weekend. These will determine two of the quarter-finalists, with the losers having one last chance to make it to the last eight.

Galway laid down a marker with their best performance of their campaign to date, two goals in the opening two minutes setting them up for a 3-14 to 0-10 win over Wexford, who had already secured their place in the semi-finals.

Brenda Hanney and Martina Conroy goal inside two minutes to give Galway a

dream start and when player of the match Conroy poached her second green flag after 20 minutes, that enabled Tony Ward's side go in at the break leading 3-9 to 0-4.

Ursula Jacob was the sole attacking threat for a Wexford unit denied the talents of Mary and Una Leacy, scoring three of those four points and finishing with seven. The game fizzled out in the second half and ended with an inevitable result.

It was another late, late show for Tipperary as they snatched victory in the dying moments for the second week in succession, overcoming Offaly 1-12 to 1-10 in Birr. It was a brilliant effort by the Blue and Golds, who were at a numerical disadvantage from the time Siobhán McGrath was sent off in the first half.

Underage star, Caoimhe Maher was the heroine, pouncing for a goal to decide this titanic tussle. It wasn't the end of the drama though



**CLASH OF THE ASH:** Galway's Susan Earner and Wexford's Ursula Jacob battle for possession during Saturday's camogie match in Athenry.  
Picture: Pat Murphy /Sportsfile

as Offaly were awarded an injury-time penalty after Elaine Dermody was fouled.

Unfortunately for the Faithful girls, their sharpshooting full-forward was injured in the process and so Siobhán Flannery was entrusted with the duties. Her shot was saved and Tipperary will now play Cork on Saturday for a place

in the quarter-finals, to be played on August 4.

The Leesiders had a comfortable 2-15 to 1-7 win over Kilkenny in Ballincollig, courtesy of goals from Katie Buckley and Linda Dorgan. It was still all to play for at half time, with just five points between the sides, but with Katriona Mackey, Jennifer

O'Leary and Anna Geary keeping the scoreboard ticking over it was an easy win in the end. Miriam Walsh shook the rigging for Kilkenny, while Michelle Quilty notched up four points.

Kilkenny now have a play-off with Offaly to decide who will make the last eight, with the losers joining Dublin,

Clare and either Cork or Tipperary in the quarter-final play-offs on June 28.

Dublin and Clare drew a terrific game 1-9 to 0-12. An Aileen Murphy goal in the 42nd minute put Dublin three points clear, but a couple of scores from Claire McMahon and another from Susan Fahey brought the sides level.



**EYE FOR GOAL:** Galway's Regina Glynn powers away from Wexford's defenders

## Galway defeat the champions to book place in the last four

GALWAY laid down a marker with their best performance of the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship to date, with two goals in the opening two minutes setting them up for a 3-14 to 0-10 win over champions Wexford.

That early brace cemented the westerners' place in the semi-finals, to be played on August 18, while Wexford had already secured their place in the last four prior to this tie.

Brenda Hanney and Martina Conroy gave a strong Galway side a dream start while Ursula Jacob, who finished with a tally of seven points, was Wexford's sole attacking threat. The game fizzled out in the second half and, with little at stake for Wexford, ended with a great result for the Tribeswomen.

It was another late, late show for Tipperary as they snatched victory in the dying moments for the second week in succession, overcoming Offaly 1-12 to 1-10 in Birr. It was a brilliant effort by the Blue and Golds, who were at a numerical disadvantage after Siobhán McGrath was sent off in the first half.

Underage star Caoimhe Maher was the heroine, pouncing for a goal to decide this titanic tussle. Her fine effort wasn't the end of the game's drama, though, as Offaly were awarded an injury time penalty after

Elaine Dermody was fouled.

Unfortunately for the Faithful girls, their sharpshooting full-forward was injured in the process and so Siobhán Flannery was entrusted with the duties. Her shot was saved and Tipperary will now take part in a play-off with Cork next week to determine who reaches a quarter-final which be played on August 4th.

Elsewhere, Cork had a comfortable 2-15 to 1-7 win over Kilkenny in Ballincollig, courtesy of goals from Katie Buckley and Linda Dorgan. It was still all to play for at half time, with just five points between the sides, but with Katriona Mackey, Jennifer O'Leary and Anna Geary keeping the scoreboard ticking over, the Leesiders had the win wrapped up well before the end of the second half. Kilkenny now have a play-off with Offaly to decide who will make the last eight, with the losers joining Dublin, Clare and either Cork or Tipperary in the quarter-final play-offs on June 28.

Finally, Dublin and Clare drew a terrific game 1-9 to 0-12. An Aileen Murphy goal in the 42nd minute put Dublin three points clear, but a couple of scores from the excellent Claire McMahon and another from Susan Fahey brought the sides level for the seventh and final time.

CAMOGIE	
ALL IRELAND JUNIOR 'B' CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP	
Meath 0-4, Carlow 7-12	
Wicklow 4-10, Kildare 2-12	
ALL IRELAND U16B CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP 1	
Dublin 2-9, Galway 2-9	
Derry 3-5, Offaly 3-13	
ALL IRELAND U16B CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP 2	
Waterford 1-3, Antrim 2-13	
Wexford 1-8, Cork 2-5	
ALL IRELAND U16C CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND 1	
Westmeath 3-13, Laois 2-3	
Kerry 2-15, Carlow 0-1	
Roscommon 2-4, Wicklow 1-6	

July 2012

## GALWAY SIDE A MODEL FOR TITLE SUCCESS

GALWAY and Wexford are through to the semi-finals of the All-Ireland senior camogie championship, which will take place on August 18.

It is an indication of the increasing competitiveness within camogie that much is still to be decided following the final round of the group stages, with two play-off games to be scheduled for next weekend.

It was another late, late show for Tipperary as they snatched victory in the dying moments for the second week in succession, overcoming Offaly 1-12 to 1-10 in Birr.

### Brilliant

It was a brilliant effort by the Blue and Golds, who were at a numerical disadvantage from the time Siobhán McGrath was sent off in the first half.

Underage star, Caoimhe Maher was the heroine, pouncing for a goal to decide this titanic tussle.

### CAMOGIE round-up

It wasn't the end of the drama though as Offaly were awarded an injury time penalty after Elaine Dermody was fouled.

Unfortunately for the Faithful girls, their sharpshooting full-forward was injured in the process and so Siobhán Flannery was entrusted with the shooting duties.

Her shot was saved and Tipperary will now play Cork on Saturday for a place in the quarter-finals, to be played on August 4.

The Leesiders had a comfortable 2-15 to 1-7 win over Kilkenny in Ballincollig, courtesy of goals from Katie Buckley and Linda Dorgan.

Kilkenny now have a play-off with Offaly to decide who will make the last eight, with the losers joining Dublin, Clare and either Cork or Tipperary in the quarter-final play-offs on June 28.

Dublin and Clare drew a terrific game 1-9 to 0-12.



**JOY:** Galway's Martina Conroy gets the Irish Daily Star player of the match award



## SENIOR CAMOGIE

By LINDA MELLERICK

Cork 2-15  
Kilkenny 1-7

A COMFORTABLE win for Cork in the end in their final group game in Ballincollig last Saturday yet it was only in the final quarter that they put any great distance between them and their challengers Kilkenny.

Cork never looked like losing this game, indeed the margin at the end could have been far greater but for some excellent saves by Catriona Ryan and a tendency at times to over-play matters up front, yet Kilkenny remained four or five points in contention throughout until Cork blitzed them in the final quarter.

Referee Karl O'Brien played a big part in a fast opening half which afforded both sides the opportunity to express their hurling and physicality. And impressive it was.

Despite Michelle Quilty and Grace Walsh hitting early points after Katie Power tore into action, Cork quickly put their stamp on the game and displaying a lovely cross field style had Kilkenny at sixes and sevens at times.

Katie Buckley had Cork's first goal seven minutes in after a hesitant mix-up between Catriona Ryan and Caoimhe Shiel.

Cork were now in full flow with Jennifer O'Leary winning a lot of ball around the middle, good quality low ball being sent in and good movement up front, if at times Cork overdid the passing in front of goal.

The game could have been over at half time but for two magnificent saves by Ryan in the 12th and 13th minutes, denying Katriona Mackey on both occasions. As it was Cork led 1-5 to 0-2 20 minutes in and only hit one further point for the remainder of the half as Kilkenny hit two.

For some reason Cork's style of delivery changed in the opening quarter of the second period. The low, fast ball into their speedy forwards was replaced by a high lobbing ball in and Kilkenny's physicality blew them away.

Cork lost their way for all of 15 minutes giving Kilkenny a sense that they could get something out of the game. On another day this could have cost Cork.

As it stood however, they were the better team and eventually found their way again, finishing the last 20



Cork's Katie Buckley looks for a way through the Kilkenny defence during the All-Ireland senior camogie championship game played in Ballincollig.

Picture: Richard Mills

# Rebels blitz Cats in the final quarter

minutes or so (seven minutes injury time) very strong striking 1-5 and conceding just a point.

Despite three wins out of four Cork enter a play-off with Tipperary next Saturday to determine who finishes second in the group and advances to the quarter-finals on August 4. Galway and Wexford both topped their group and are straight through to the semi-final.

Should Cork lose next weekend they will enter a quarter-final play-off with fourth placed in group B Clare on July 28. It's a must win game for Cork.

**Scorers for Cork:** J O'Leary 0-5 (0-4 45), K Mackey 0-4, K Buckley 1-1, L Dorgan 1-0, A Geary, B Corkery 0-2 each, C Shine 0-1.

**Kilkenny:** M Quilty 0-4 (0-3 ft), M Walsh 1-1, G Walsh, K Hamilton 0-1 each.

**CORK:** A Murray, J Duffy, A O'Regan, J O'Callaghan, P Mackey, G O'Connor, E O'Sullivan;

O Cotter, J O'Leary, C Shine, A Geary, J Casey, K Mackey, B Corkery, K Buckley.

**Subs:** L Dorgan for K Buckley (44), S Burns for J Casey (55), J White for B Corkery (56), L Weste for P Mackey (in), 62).

**KILKENNY:** C Ryan, C Shiel, C Doherty, R Jones, K McDonald, E Aylward, J Frisby, K Power, G Walsh, E Maher, M Walsh, E Mulhall, M Quilty, E Comerford, N Maher.

**Subs:** J Cunningham for R Jones (th-t), K Hamilton for E Comerford (52), N Byrne Clara for C Doherty (in) 56).

**Referee:** Karl O'Brien (Dublin).

## Honours shared as Murphy point secures draw

Wexford 1-8  
Cork 2-5

WEXFORD and Cork served up a thrilling All-Ireland U16B championship round two tie in Oulart the Ballagh last evening where they shared the points on offer, writes **BARBARA RYAN**.

There were some lively exchanges in midfield for early possession before Maura Ellen O'Connor set up Michelle Murphy for the games opening goal as Cork hit the front.

And when Wexford keeper Laura Brennan denied Michelle Murphy with a point blank save Maura Ellen O'Connor picked up the rebound and pointed to

### U16 CAMOGIE

stretch the Cork lead.

Wexford replied with a Michelle Martin point before Laura Brennan again denied Cork with a good save from Rachel O'Shea.

Annie Stafford working hard for Wexford pointed but they were denied when Claire O'Rourke free hit off the upright and came into play, Cork swept up field soon after and with Vanessa O'Connor combining with Chelsea Campbell to strike a point.

Now in control Cork's applied pressure Chelsea Campbell combined with captain Kelly Fitzgerald, who set up Michelle Murphy who stuck to the net for

Cork's second goal.

Michelle Martin pointed two 45s and a free in reply as Wexford dug deep and it was Cork who led 2-2 to 0-5 a the break.

Wexford quickly levelled on the restart but Michelle Murphy pointed a free to again edge Cork ahead before substitute Ruth Brosnan pointed, Cork dug deep but Wexford refused to yield and they regained the lead on 60 minutes when Amy Cardiff passed to substitute Roisin Tobin who blasted to the net.

But Cork were not going to be denied a share of the spoils and winning a free, Michelle Murphy confidently settled herself looked up and pointed to level matters to the sound of the full time whistle.

An exciting finish to what was a cracking game where a draw was the fairest result.

**Scorers for Wexford:** M Martin 0-5 (0-2 45), Roisin Tobin 1-0, A Cardiff 0-2, A Stafford 0-1, R Brosnan 0-1.

**CORK:** M Murphy 2-2 (0-2 ft), M E O'Connor 0-1, R Brosnan 0-1.

**WEXFORD:** L Brennan, O Nimmo, F Byrne, R Bridges, N Wickham, C O'Rourke, C O'Brien, O Prendergast, D Byrne, G Warren, A Stafford, M Martin, A Cardiff, V Burke, J Dillon.

**Subs:** R Tobin for D Byrne, O Lambert for J Dillon.

**CORK:** K Ward, E Cotter, E Benin, A Nagle, K Falvey, V O'Connor, N Coleman, R O'Shea, A O'Callaghan, C Campbell, S Harrington, S Murphy, K Fitzgerald, M Murphy, M E O'Connor.

**Subs:** L O'Sullivan for S Harrington, L Lynch for M E O'Connor, R Brosnan for K Fitzgerald, A Rice for A Nagle.

**Referee:** Donal Ryan (Dublin).

## Brown is the standout performer for Leesiders

### INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE

By MARY NEWMAN

Cork 1-16  
Kilkenny 0-6

MICHELLE BROWNE'S contribution of 1-13 helped in no small way as Cork comfortable secured the points in this All-Ireland intermediate third round clash in Ballincollig on Saturday.

Both teams came into the contest having lost their first two games and a win was vital for both to keep their qualification aspirations alive.

Cork made the better start with Michelle Browne slotting over an early point but despite winning a huge amount of possession, they failed to punish Kilkenny with scores from play.

Twenty minutes into the game Finola Neville stretched Cork's lead to four points, after Michelle Browne had shown her accuracy pointing five frees and Rebecca Cleere had done likewise twice for Kilkenny.

Aisling Butler had Kilkenny's first score from play 21 minutes into the half and at the break it was 0-8 to 0-5 in Cork's favour after Browne and Lisa Hanrick had twice slotted over from placed balls, and in between Rebecca Murphy had one from play.

With their defence continuing to hold the upper hand, Cork continued to dominate the second half Michelle Browne slotted over two frees and one from play and with Colette Desmond also on the score sheet leaving Cork in a comfortable position.

As the game entered the final quarter Kilkenny did create a goal chance but alert corner-back Emma Jordan cleared off the line to safety and as the game petered out as a contest Cork added to their tally, with Michelle Browne again showing her accuracy with four points.

Finola Neville also hit one Kilkenny's only response was a Rebecca Cleere pointed 45.

Cork meet Tipperary in the last game in the section and depending on results going their way, they just might earn themselves a chance of a play-off.

**Scorers for Cork:** M. Browne 1-12 (1-9 ft, 0-1 pen), F. Neville 0-2, R. Murphy 0-1, C. Desmond 0-1 each.

**Kilkenny:** R. Cleere 0-3 (0-2 45), L. Hanrick 0-2, A. Butler 0-1.

**CORK:** J. Kavanagh, C. Murphy, A. Sheehan, E. Jordan, T. Crowley, C. O'Neill, Y. Murphy, C. Sogrus, M. Browne, F. Neville, D. Coomey, K. Hickey, C. Desmond, S. O'Donovan, R. Murphy.

**Subs:** R. De Fois for R. Murphy (th-t), N. O'Brien for C. Murphy (56), S. K. Brosnan for S. O'Donovan (57), A. Dorgan for D. Coomey (58), O. Neville for T. Crowley (62).

**TIPPERARY:** L. Walker, J. Cullen, E. O'Shea, C. Alward, A. M. Lennon, S. Fennelly, S. Quirke, R. Cleere, A. Lyng, L. Phelan, A. Butler, A. Curtis, M. Doherty, L. Hanrick, C. Foley.

**Subs:** A. Bryan for A. M. Lennon (50), A. Dorgan for A. Curtis (52), K. Doherty for R. Cleere (55), S. Corcoran for M. Doherty (56).

**Referee:** Gar Browne (Tipperary).

SEE LINDA MELLERICK'S CAMOGIE COLUMN EVERY SATURDAY



# 'Finishing' key for Barry for Cork to beat Tipp

**TOMORROW**  
All-Ireland senior C'ship  
play-off: Cork v Tipperary,  
Ballincollig, 2.30pm.  
IT'S A crucial game for Cork's  
senior squad tomorrow when  
they take on Tipperary in a  
group placing championship  
play-off in Ballincollig.  
With a toss for home venue  
Cork came out on the right side  
so it's a good start. While  
defeat won't eliminate Cork  
from the All-Ireland series,  
forcing them into a quarter-final  
play-off with Clare on July 28, a  
win is essential from a  
confidence and rest period  
viewpoint.  
The quarter-finals are down for  
decision on August 4 with the  
All-Ireland semi-finals set for  
August 18. Cork would do well

to avoid a play-off with Clare  
next weekend or it will mean  
they will be in action seven  
weeks on the trot by August 4  
(assuming they advance) and  
with just two weeks rest before  
the semi-final it's not the ideal  
approach.  
A game against Clare on July  
28 would take a lot out of the  
Cork players, having lost the  
Munster final and managing just  
a one-point victory in a tough  
championship opener in the  
round robin series against the  
Banner on June 23.  
Tipperary have done well this  
season, better than expected.  
They finished Group A on six  
points, level with Cork, hence  
the play off. Their two goals in  
the final six minutes against  
Kilkenny ensured a drawn

**CAMOGIE**  
By LINDA MELLERICK  
second place table finish.  
Surprisingly they were pushed  
to the pin of their collars last  
weekend and lucky to escape  
with a victory over Offaly.  
Should they defeat Cork  
tomorrow their achievement  
would represent a massive step  
forward for a county starved of  
senior medals since the period  
of unprecedented success that  
garnered their entire haul of five  
All-Irelands between 1999 and  
2004.  
As is so often the case though,  
dedicated work at underage  
level is beginning to pay  
dividends. Tipperary appeared  
in three U16 All-Irelands in a

row from 2009, seizing the title  
last year. They pulled off a  
double by adding the minor  
championship.  
John Lillis is the man charged  
with blending these young  
players with some of those who  
have already scaled the  
heights, and while the best is  
undoubtedly in the future, they  
would consider their wins over  
Clare and Kilkenny a significant  
breakthrough.  
Ryan is enthusiastic about the  
squad's youngsters, praising  
their work ethic and willingness  
to learn. The Fryday cousins,  
Sarah and Ereena, Michaela  
Graham, Caoimhe Maher and  
Clodagh Quirke are amongst  
those to note.  
Joanne Ryan and Jill Horan  
remain the driving forces. Horan

has been playing the camogie  
of her career over the past two  
seasons while Ryan has  
consistently performed for Tipp  
with enormous energy over the  
past 11 seasons.  
Cork selector Brian Barry  
knows that Cork have a battle  
on their hands and that a win is  
paramount to their ambitions of  
reaching the semi-final. Brian  
believes that Cork need to  
improve in the area of finishing  
teams off when in the driving  
seat.  
"It took us too long to beat  
Kilkenny last Saturday. We  
should have been out of sight at  
half time.  
"We're not finishing teams off.  
Should we gain the upper hand  
on Saturday against Tipp we  
need to make it count."

## Two Cork U16 sides in action Sunday

U16 B CAMOGIE

**SUNDAY**  
All-Ireland U16 A:  
Cork v Galway,  
Gaelic Grounds, 1.30pm.  
GALWAY come to this  
semi-final clash having  
topped their group with  
victories over Dublin and  
Clare and they will be  
confident of getting one  
over on Cork, writes  
MARY NEWMAN.  
Cork showed great  
determination in their last  
game in the round robin  
series as they overcame  
provincial champions Tipp.  
In the Munster decider  
Cork had suffered a 6-10 to  
1-10 drubbing.  
Manager John Cronin is  
something of a camogie  
legend and has guided  
senior and U16 teams to  
numerous All-Irelands, and  
has of Ger Sheehan and  
John Moloney working  
with him.  
Linda Collins helped  
herself to 1-5 last day out,  
while captain Aoife Twohill  
turned in tremendous hour,  
ably assisted by Sarah  
O'Sullivan in goal.  
The win over Tipp was a  
superb team display,  
fashioned out of sheer  
determination and heart  
and if Cork can produce  
this again they will be on  
their way.

**All-Ireland U16 B:**  
Cork v Antrim,  
Blanchardstown, 3pm.  
This is the last game in the  
round robin series and it's  
down to the wire.  
Both counties are on three  
points with Wexford on  
their heels on two.  
Wexford meet Waterford on  
Sunday and will be  
expected to record a win  
therefore a victory for  
either Cork or Antrim  
would see them through.  
However it could very well  
go down to a play-off  
situation if any of the  
games were to produce a  
draw.  
Cork have shown  
tremendous character and  
determination to be in the  
position they are in since  
early in the season when  
they captured the Munster  
title.  
This is Cork's second U16  
side and it's an indication  
of the strength of the  
county underage sides that  
the first team are in the  
All-Ireland semi-final and  
the second string are now  
battling for a semi-final  
spot also.

## Offaly and Cork through to quarter-finals

By Camogie Press  
Posted 21/07/2012



Offaly and Cork cemented their places in the quarter-finals of the All-Ireland senior camogie championship by virtue of their play-off victories over Kilkenny and Tipperary, who will play Dublin and Clare next Saturday, with the last two quarter-final spots up for grabs.

Not for the first time, it was Elaine Dermody who struck the killer blow for Offaly, her 48th minute goal breaking the Kilkenny resistance on the way to a 2-13 to 1-11 win in Birr.

The hosts got off to a great start with an Arlene Watkins goal after seven minutes but Kilkenny were buoyed by the wind, and the efforts of Katie Power and Miriam Walsh. Power raised a green flag for the Cats who edged their noses in front to lead by 1-6 to 1-5 at half time.

With player of the match, Siobhán Flannery driving them on from midfield, and the half-back line proving irresistible, Offaly edged a point in front when Dermody caught the slotar, turned and drove a powerful shot to the Kilkenny net. That gave Offaly the crucial daylight and they held out for a deserved win.

There was nothing like the same flow of scores or play in the Cork-Tipp encounter in Ballincollig but it was all about the result for the Rebels against their improving rivals.

Katrina Mackey's first half goal was the most significant moment in the game, and with Jenny O'Leary adding three points it gave the home side a 1-4 to 0-4 interval lead.

Nicola Walsh provided all Tipperary's first half scores from frees and she added another brace after the resumption but Cork had the superior artillery up front although goalkeeper, Aoife Murray was forced into making a couple of outstanding saves.

The excellent Mackey brought her personal tally to 1-4 with three lovely points from play. O'Leary and Orla Cotter were amongst those also on the mark to ensure their side's advancement to the top six on a 1-13 to 0-9 scoreline.

Wexford and Galway await the winners of the two quarter-finals in the semi-finals.

Galway and Tipperary played out a thrilling 1-9 apiece draw in the intermediate championship, while Wexford had far too much firepower in accounting for Wexford 4-12 to 2-5. Derry confirmed their well-being by accounting for Waterford in comfortable fashion, 3-12 to 2-5.

In the premier junior championship there were wins for Down, Meath and Laois, while Westmeath and Cavan took the honours in the junior A championship.

Meanwhile, Galway's goal threat proved the difference as they edged past Cork to seal a place in the U16A All-Ireland final. Clodhna Walsh bagged 2-1 while Erica Coen pounced for a brace of goals.

With Ciara Burke supplementing those contributions with four points, not even the splendid efforts of Linda Collins, who scored 1-4 of her 1-7 from play, and Claire Sexton (0-4) could rescue Cork. It finished Galway 4-9 Cork 1-15.

The Combersiders must wait to find out who they play after Kilkenny and Dublin played out a cracking 3-11 to 4-8 draw. Aoife Molloy, Ashling O'Leary and Tara O'Flaherty all bowled the Kilkenny net, and with Orla Beagan notching up 1-4, the Dubs recorded an impressive tally.

It fell just short of being a match-winning one though, with the splendid Edel Coonan in scintillating form. The St Martin's ace scored 2-2 from play, while fellow attacker Jenny Clifford was almost as impressive, firing a goal and two points.

Elsewhere, there were wins in the B championship for Derry, Dublin and Wexford, while Cork and Antrim shared the spoils in their Group 2 encounter.

In round 2 of the C championship, Wicklow, Kildare, Kerry and Armagh were victorious.

## Championship Results July 22nd

By Camogie Results  
Posted 22/07/2012



All Ireland U16A Camogie Championship Semi Finals

Kilkenny 3-11. Scorers: E. Coonan 2-2, J. Clifford 1-2, M. O'Connell 0-3f, K. Nolan 0-2f, M. Kenneally 0-1, S. Whelan 0-1.

Dublin 4-08. Scorers: O. Beagan 1-4(2f), A. Molloy 1-0, A. O'Leary 1-0, T. O'Flaherty 1-0, D. Mullany 0-1, E. Keogh 0-1, A. O'Neill 0-1, M. O'Donoghue 0-1.

Galway 4-09. Scorers: C. Walsh 2-1, E. Coen 2-0, C. Burke 0-4, M. Eats 0-2, C. Ni Churraon 0-1, P. Manning 0-1.

Cork 1-15. Scorers: L. Collins 1-7(3f), C. Sexton 0-4, C. O'Leary 0-2, R. Twohill 0-1, H. Looney 0-1.

All Ireland U16B Camogie Championship Group 1

Galway 3-02. Scorers: L. Hannon 1-1, S. Costello 1-0, S. Burke 1-0, S. Burke 0-1.

Derry 6-08. Scorers: D. O'Kane 2-2, A. Crossan 2-0, A. Shaw 1-2(1f), N. Mullan 1-1, S. Cassidy 0-1(1'45), S. Mellon 0-1, A. Gorman 0-1f.

Down: 1-09.

Dublin: 8-05.

All Ireland U16B Camogie Championship Group 2

Waterford 1-02. Scorers: S. Judge 1-0, M. Curran 0-2.

Wexford 4-05. Scorers: V. Burke 1-0, A. Stafford 0-3, A. Cardiff 1-1, R. Tobin 2-0, M. Martin 0-1.

Cork 1-09. Scorers: M. Murphy 0-4(2f), L. Lynch 0-2, S. Murphy 0-1, M. O'Connor 1-0, C. O'Mahony 0-1, S. Harrington 0-1.

Antrim 1-09. Scorers: J. McKeown 0-6(4f), K. Mc Kilp 0-1, N. O'Neill 0-1, T. O'Neill 0-1, C. Higgins 1-0.

All Ireland U16C Camogie Championship Round 2

Cavan: 0-01.

Wicklow: 6-10.

Kildare: 1-10. Scorers: E. Reilly 1-6(3f), E. McEvoy 0-1, S. Mulligan 0-1, L. Bowden 0-1, L. Murray 0-1.

Laois: 2-06. Scorers: N. Dunne 0-5, L. Dunphy 1-0, L. Ryan 1-0, M. Collier 0-1.

Kerry: 5-13. Scorers: E. N. Dheasrhuagh 4-5, J. O'Keefe 0-2, N. Leen 1-2, S. Treacy 0-1, A. Fitzgerald 0-3 (1'45).

Meath: 1-03. Scorers: K. Gorman 0-2, J. Griffin 1-2, J. Massey 0-1.

Armagh: 5-15. Scorers: S. Woods 0-1, J. Maguire 2-2, E. McGuigan 0-2, C. McParland 1-1, M. McCone 1-2, H. Gray 1-2, M. Smith 0-2, A. O'Hare 0-2.

Carlow: 0-1. Scorers: N. Canavan 0-1f.



## SENIOR CAMOGIE

By LINDA MELLERICK

THE 2012 senior championship first round games commence in a hive of activity next week with six exciting duals fixed between Monday and Wednesday.

A double header on Monday night in Brinny pairs Courcey Rovers against debutants Ballinhassig, and Ballygarvan with Cloughduv, while St Finbarr's and Ballincollig meet in Castle Road.

In a repeat of last season's opening round where Ballincollig had a three-point victory over the Barrs, it's time to renew acquaintances. St Finbarr's failed to find their scoring touch in 2011 and exited the championship in the qualifier when Inniscarra had five points to spare.

Ballincollig hung on to their half-time interval lead in a closely fought encounter. St Finbarr's rued some missed scoring opportunities which may have seen them at least draw the game, but outside of Niamh Goulding's early second-half goal they failed to find the target for the remaining 34 minutes of the game. It should be a close encounter again but the Barrs may just shade it this time, as Ballincollig have a number of key players including Denise Cronin abroad.

Ballinhassig enter the senior ranks and face a tough opener against an upcoming Courcey Rovers side. Courceys gave Milford a huge fright in last year's semi-final. Only two points separated the sides entering the final quarter as Milford's experience held out.

Courceys are certainly championship contenders with a number of young stars making big impacts, Julia Mulcahy and Aishling Moloney to name just two.

Courceys to take this one. Cloughduv, defeated quarter-finalists last season, are another club back on the up. They took eventual champions Douglas by surprise in the opening round with an excellent performance with followers predicting they would be a very tough outfit to overcome. And so it proved with Milford scraping a five-point quarter-final victory.

In what was regarded as one of their greatest team performances since they entered the senior ranks, Ballygarvan heartbreakingly went out to Inniscarra by two points in the quarter-final. This won't go all Cloughduv's way but they should come out on top.

St Catherine's, boosted by the management of Denis Walsh, got a tough opening round against 2011



Ballincollig will have to do without the services of Denise Cronin for their repeat fixture of last year's opening championship game against the Barrs.

# Barrs look to get revenge on Ballincollig

finalists Milford. The loss of both the Twomeys — Denise and Deirdre — is a huge loss to a club in a small catchment area and Milford should advance.

Killeagh and Seandún could well be the game of the week. Senior debutants in 2011, Killeagh looked very impressive last season.

Seandún meanwhile are stronger than they have been in a long while. Solid talent from Glen Rovers, Brian Dillon's, Na Piarasigh, Blackrock and St Vincent's backbone a strong city panel and Seandún could well upset the odds here.

One of the strongest rivalry's in the championship exists between

Douglas and Inniscarra. It's going back a long time to underage with both clubs progressing through the ranks and both taking senior honours in recent years, three between them in the past four seasons.

The rivalry is renewed in Ballincollig on Wednesday next and it'll be an interesting tie. Inniscarra, by their own admission, knew that it would be hard to win back-to-back titles last season, with a significant number of injuries affecting their camp.

Despite their injuries they still reached the final four last year, losing heavily to Douglas, 3-13 to 2-5, so certainly they are contenders

again this season.

Expect Douglas, Cloughduv, Courcey Rovers, Inniscarra, Milford and Killeagh to be in with a shouting chance for honours.

As has been proven many times in the past however, it's often the side we take least notice of that surprises us all.

## FIXTURES

### MONDAY

St Finbarr's v Ballincollig, Castle Rd, 7.30pm; Courcey Rovers v Ballinhassig, Brinny, 8.45pm; Ballygarvan v Cloughduv, Brinny, 8pm.

### TUESDAY

St Catherine's v Milford, Castle Rd, 7.45pm; Killeagh v Seandún, Cobh, 7.30pm.

### WEDNESDAY

Douglas v Inniscarra, Ballincollig, 7.30pm.

July 2012

## Big weekend for Cork camogie

Three Cork teams in action over the weekend in vital games particularly at under-age level.

In the All-Ireland Under 16 semi-final Cork make the trip to the Gaelic Grounds Limerick to take on Galway at 2.30pm and having produced some great displays to reach this level they will be confident at making the decider. Roisin Tohill is the captain while Linda Collins, Aisling Wallace and Claire Sexton have delivered big performances to date and one more could see them into the final.

In the 'B' grade it's Cork versus Antrim in Round 3 at avenue to be announced and here a win or even a draw might be good enough to see Cork progress.

On Saturday the seniors return

## Finbarr McCarthy

to Ballincollig to meet Tipperary in a play-off to determine their final standings in the group, both teams are assured of a place in the next phase but a Cork win will give a quarter-final spot and a shorter route to Croke Park.

A hectic week of action as the County Senior C'ship begins in earnest with matches at various venues throughout the county.

It actually gets underway tonight (Thursday) when Glen Rovers and Valley Rovers meet in the Senior 'B' grade in Ovens at 7.45pm.

Brinny hosts a double-header on Monday at 6.45pm an interesting local derby between Courcey Rovers and Ballinhassig with the meeting of Ballygarvan and Cloughduv following at 8pm.

On the same evening in Castle Road at 7.30pm it's St Finbarr's versus Ballincollig, two more games on Tuesday Cobh is the venue for clash of Seandún and Killeagh 7.30pm start in this one, while at 7.45pm in Castle Road it's Milford and St Catherine's.

One final game on Wednesday where former champions Douglas and Inniscarra meet in Ballincollig at 7.30pm.

Plenty to keep an eye then and with most of the Cork senior team in action, Paudie Murray and his back-room team will be keeping a watching brief on proceedings.

# Cork can't take foot off the pedal this time

## SUNDAY

All-Ireland U16B playoff, Cork v Antrim, Blanchardstown, 2.30pm.

Déjà vu at Blanchardstown on Sunday as the race for semi-final spots in the U16B All-Ireland continues.

Cork, Wexford and Antrim finished level on points after the round-robin series of game were completed.

Last weekend Cork and Antrim failed to be separated in an

exciting contest and Wexford's name was then pulled out of a draw to advance to the semi with Cork and Antrim the unlucky ones that have to play off for the second spot.

In last weekend's clash Cork led 1-8 to 0-2 with five minutes to the break after playing with wind advantage but a lapse in concentration allowed Antrim battle back to go in just five points in arrears at the break.

Antrim dominated the

## CAMOGIE

second half, holding Cork to just one point helped in no small way by excellent displays from Aine Mulholland, Kirsty McLeod, Johanna McKeown, and Sinead Cosgrove.

With Antrim goalkeeper Sarah Kane in superb form, denying Cork on at least three occasions in the second half, Cork failed to get the vital score

that would have carried them over the line.

All through this campaign this young Cork side has shown tremendous character and determination.

Against a strong Wexford side they forced a draw and against last weekend they held out despite enormous Antrim pressure.

Sunday is a huge test. It's all or nothing and they will not lack determination or motivation.

Maura Ellen O'Connor, Kelly Falvey, Lisa Lynch and Michelle Murphy are among the players who have contributed most, but it has been an overall team battle all through with every player giving their all. The management team of Dave O'Connell, Anthony Nagle and Eileen O'Brien are confident in the ability of their charges and know they capable of taking that big step on Sunday.

# Down and Orchard ready for action

By Patricia Mulgrew

DOWN and Armagh are both in action this weekend in the All-Ireland Premier Junior Championship.

The Mourne girls will be hoping to get a win over top-of-the-table Meath at home tomorrow. A win would help Down secure a semi-final spot, but they know that the Royals will provide tough opposition.

Meath will hope that Louise Griffin and Sarah Kelly are once again on top form, but the Down defence should have the experience, with players like Fionnuala Carr (pictured left) and

Lisa McCrickard, to keep them out.

Up front Down will look to their sharp-shooters Catherine McGourty and Sara Louise Carr to put Meath under pressure, while Niamh Mallon and Karen Gribben are both full of running and carry a scoring threat.

However, Lisa Carroll and Rachel Winters will hope to counteract them by working hard until the final whistle for the Royals.

In tomorrow's other game, Armagh will face a young Kildare side that has enjoyed a high-scoring season so far.

The move of Clare Flynn to full-forward has proved a masterstroke for the Lilywhites as she

and Ciara Herbet have struck up a partnership that has been causing opposition defences problems, but the Orchard girls have experience at the back with players like Laura Brunton.

Up front, Ciara Donnelly and Colette McSorley — alongside midfielders Bernie Murray and Niamh McGeown — provided the main scoring threat for Armagh but, like their Orchard opposition, Kildare have a solid defence anchored well by Emer Hurley.

There is an all-Ulster affair in the Junior A Championship as Tyrone take on Cavan in English.





## Minor blitz proves to be a huge success

AN initiative from the Munster Council saw the organising of a Munster U18 summer sevens tournament in Mallow. Twelve clubs in the three divisions had competed in and won tournaments in their own counties to qualify for the Munster blitz.

In division one Burgess/Duharra from Tipperary were convincing winners of the A title with victories over Killeagh, Killeedy of Limerick and Sixmilebridge of Clare.

The Tipp outfit beat Sixmilebridge in the final on a scoreline of 8-4 to 0-4.

### B DIVISION

The B division was a well-contested competition, with little separating all the sides.

Éire Óg (Cork) and Thurles Sarsfield's topped groups one and two to go straight into the semi-finals, while the remaining four teams did battle in the quarter-finals.

Milford had a hard-earned, one-point victory over Croagh-Kilfinny, while Éire Óg of Ennis had four points to spare over Kiltormer of Galway.

In the semi-finals, Éire Óg of Ennis got the better of their Cork namesakes on a scoreline of 5-2 to 3-1 while Milford kept the Cork flag flying by defeating Thurles Sarsfield's by four points.

The final was an exciting contest as Éire Óg and Milford served up a classic.

Milford led 0-4 to 0-1 at half-time with Nicole O'Connor and Louise O'Flynn to the fore.

Éire Óg battled back, aided by the strong breeze in the second half and with Alana O'Brien sending a superb effort to the net they hit the front. Despite strong Milford pressure, Éire Óg held on for a 3-2 to 1-6 victory.

### C DIVISION

In the C division it was a straight final between Millstreet and Éire Óg Annacathary of Tipperary. Annacathary were slow to get into their stride against a Millstreet side who had good performances from Kate O'Keefe and Alanna Barry and they claimed the title on a scoreline of 1-10 to 2-2.

In each division there was a player of the group award. In the A competition, Tipperary senior star Caoimhe Maher was in top form throughout and stood head and shoulders above everybody and she was named the winner.

Player of the B Division went to Grainne Nolan from Éire Óg Ennis who proved unmarkable in every game.

In the C division an outstanding display all through from Millstreet's Kate O'Keefe saw her take the award.

The organisers received great support from sponsors Willow Boutique, Ennis, A Sportsman's Dream, Nenagh and Sheehan's Hotels and this was hugely appreciated by Munster Council. The minor grade is one which often suffers from a lack of games and the council saw this tournament as a means of trying to help to address this.

Congratulations to all participants and to the organisers on a superbly co-ordinated competition which hopefully will go from strength to strength.

# No surprises in

Douglas' Sinead Duggan gathers up the ball from Inniscarra's Aileen Sheehan and below right, Barrs' Rachel Myers shoots for goal as she is challenged by Ballincollig's Brea O'Callaghan.



LINDA MELLERICK

WITH the first round of the county senior championship completed, it gives us a clearer indication of who the main contenders are.

No surprises really; Douglas, Cloughduv, Courcy Rovers and Milford all had convincing wins over Inniscarra, Ballygarvan, Ballinhassig and St Catherine's respectively and as predicted are serious contenders. St Finbarrs beat Ballincollig by eight points with just a point separating Killeagh and Seandún, Killeagh on the right side.

Some clubs were missing key players through injury. Inniscarra sorely missed a number of players — Rena Buckley, Fiona O'Connell and Rosie O'Mahony (abroad) while Niamh McCarthy, one of the most exciting underage talents in the county, sits out her second season with a cruciate injury.

She was toggled out last Wednesday and pucked around during half-time so one wonders how far off competitive action she is.

Regardless of whether Niamh manages to line out this season, it will take time to get her sharpness back.

Douglas started without seven of last year's county final line-up, some enforced changes, others down to competition for places.

I believe that the absentees balanced out both sides. Each camp will argue that their loss was greater. Suffice to say that both sets of absentees were significant.

However, imagine bringing Claire Shine, Julia Mulcahy and Aine O'Donovan into that Douglas forward line? As the year progresses and



## Newtownshandrum off to a winning start

Newtownshandrum 0-10  
Sarsfield's 1-5

NEWTOWNSHANDRUM got their Evening Echo Intermediate Championship campaign off to a winning start when they proved too strong for Sarsfield's in Coachford, writes MARY NEWMAN.

Sars led at the break 1-3 to 0-2 after a goal

and two points from Emer O'Farrell and an Aisling Whooley point had settled them into the contest.

Paula O'Connor kept Newtown in touch with two pointed first-half frees.

In a closely contested second half, Newtownshandrum upped the pace of their game and got back into the con-

test.

They settled down as O'Connor struck two points from play early in the second half.

Eileen O'Mahony, Roisin Twohill and Erin Reidy all pointed as Sarsfield's searched for a response to the Newtown rally.

They did have two pointed frees from O'Farrell while O'Con-

nor pointed a Newtown free.

Two points from substitute Denise Cagney just before the full-time whistle ensured victory for the Newtown girls as they secured the points on offer in this round robin section game.

Scorers for Newtownshandrum: P. O'Connor 0-5 (0-3 f), D. Cagney 0-2, E. O'Mahony, R. Twohill, E. Reidy 0-Teach.  
Sarsfield's: E. O'Farrell 1-4 (0-3 f),

A. Whooley 0-1.

NEWTOWNSHANDRUM: Marie O'Connor, F. Twomey, V. O'Keefe, Michelle O'Connor, L. Hooper, C. Giltinan, A. Kelleher, P. O'Connor, A. Twohill, R. Twohill, E. Reidy, E. O'Mahony, K. Coughlan, M. Harrington, C. Coppe.

Subs: D. Cagney for M. Harrington, N. Bowles for C. Coppe.

SARSFIELD'S: E. Meaney, N. Hickey, A. Edwards, C. Cashman, J. Murphy, D. Murphy, E. Murphy, N. O'Callaghan, E. Murphy, A. O'Kelly, Lynch, E. O'Farrell, C. Holland, M. O'Farrell, A. Whooley, O. Keane.

Subs: N. Whooley for C. Cashman, A. Griffin for O. Keane.



July 2012

# county openers



Ballygarvan's Grace O'Sullivan blocks down Cloughduv's Briege Corkery and right, St Catherine's Fiona Cotter wins the ball from Milford's Orlaith O'Mahony and Maria Watson during the Evening Echo Senior Camogie Championship.

should these players are available, then they will be a force.

The standard of the games I attended wasn't particularly great, though it must be said conditions were poor all week.

For me, the Inniscarra-Douglas game was the most competitive clash. Despite the 11-point winning margin, Inniscarra had their chances and should they meet again with a greater complement of their usual 15, it'll be a game worth attending.

If Milford continue to blow so hot and cold they can say goodbye to their title ambitions.

For a team that were county finalists nine months ago, their first-half performance against St Catherine's was dismal.

They upped the ante in the second half and ran out comfortable winners, but continually relying on 30 minutes to win a game won't do.

They are playing with fire too often in this regard. When the opposition gets a sense of victory and dig their heels in, it isn't so easy to just turn on the style.

Milford, more than any other team in the county, should know that, yet nothing seems to change.

Maybe they should play a 30-minute challenge game ahead of any championship encounter instead of a typical warm-up.

St Finbarr's, despite their victory over Ballincollig, still rely very heavily on a few key players.

They would struggle up front if Gemma O'Connor and Charlotte Kearney were removed from that line.

Having said that, Meabh Cahalane is developing into a lovely player and grabbed two nice points against Collig.

It's still a little too early to see if

placing Gemma at full-forward will work for the Barrs.

Certainly they need firepower in there, but as the opposition gets tougher, can they afford to let Gemma wait inside for the ball?

A full-forward needs to be patient and Gemma isn't. I say this as a compliment. The supply to her wasn't plentiful and she had to come out and look to win ball around the middle of the park.

That's all well and good if you pick off points from that position but you then have six defenders on five forwards and the Barrs wouldn't compete successfully.

The Barrs have as many senior inter-county players — indeed a lot more than others — but their club players aren't as strong as other club players are. Other teams are more balanced than the Barrs.

With Cork in championship quarter-final action next weekend

we won't see any further senior club games for a couple of weeks.

As of yet we don't know who Cork will face next Saturday. The quarter-final draw will take place after the qualifiers in O'Moore Park, Portlaoise today.

The two winners from the qualifiers (Clare, Tipperary, Kilkenny and Dublin) will be put into a draw on their own.

The first team drawn out will play Cork; the second team drawn out will play Offaly.

When the above draw has taken place, there will be a draw for home advantage. Cork will be put in a draw against their opposition and the first team drawn out gets home advantage.

We wait anxiously. Regardless of who Cork draw, they need to be beating these teams fairly comfortably at this stage if they hope to win an All-Ireland in six weeks time.

## Go Games girls show their skills

EIGHT under age clubs recently participated in a Go games exhibition games at half time in the Cork v Kilkenny senior All-Ireland championship games in Ballincollig.

The initiative is part of the on going promotion of the Go Games and it proved to be a huge success and the young players enjoyed the experience.

Eight clubs were chosen to participate by means of a draw Ballincollig, Glen Rovers, Douglas, Sarsfields, Inniscarra, Aghabullogue, Éire Óg and Brian Dillon's were the lucky clubs to participate on the day.

Four clubs lined up to form a guard of honour for the Cork and Kilkenny senior teams before the throw in and it was the same for the intermediate game as the youngsters cheered the players on to the field.

During the game the young players sat on the sideline and were close to the action. County development officer Mairead Donovan over saw the event with the help of members of host club Ballincollig and it was a huge success with the feed back from the clubs and mentors was positive.

Hopefully, in the weeks ahead we will have more clubs participating at half time in senior championship games where they will get the chance to show off their Go Games skills.

## Clare are looking for shinty teams

IN CONJUNCTION with the Shinty international weekend on Saturday and Sunday October 27/28, Clare Camogie Board are running a Féile-style Shinty tournament to mark the official opening of their new camogie field.

Clare are the third county to secure a home of their own and the excitement in the county is huge.

They have decided to open their grounds to coincide with the GAA shinty weekend and it being a bank holiday, they are hoping to get a good response to the novel venture.

They have eight home clubs willing to host visiting adult teams and they are looking for three senior, two intermediate and three junior clubs to participate. Visiting clubs will be hosted on the Saturday and Sunday nights.

The official opening takes place on the Saturday and participating clubs are invited to come along and enjoy the festivities planned for the day, the tournament will take place on the Sunday and full details will be given to the participating clubs in due course.

Interested clubs can contact Shinty co-ordinator Mary Hogan by Monday July 30 at m.hogan31@yahoo.com

## Late goal seals victory for Aghabullogue

Aghabullogue  
Tracton

3-8  
2-9

AGHABULLOGUE carved out a two-point win in a hard-fought battle with league champions Tracton at Castle Road, writes MARY NEWMAN.

Although there was little between the sides, Tracton opened up a three-point lead with Clodagh Fitzgerald and Mary McGuinness on target before Aghabul-

logue were on the scoreboard courtesy of a Ciara Murphy point.

Fitzgerald finished to the net to give Tracton the advantage 15 minutes in and they held the lead to the break and turned over 1-4 to 0-4 in front.

Murphy cut the deficit with a point and when Caroline Kiely finished to the net, Aghabullogue took the lead.

Piling on the pressure, they hit two points in row,

but Tracton replied with two before Marion Jagoe tapped the ball to the net and then added a point to give Tracton the lead.

Both sides battled hard and fought for every ball with determination.

Michelle Healy had Aghabullogue level, tapping a high ball to the net but Jagoe responded when pointing a Tracton free.

It was end-to-end stuff as the battle continued. Murphy again levelled but

Fitzgerald had Tracton ahead with two minutes remaining.

Aghabullogue held their composure and kept piling on the pressure and when Michelle Healy's long ball into the square ended up in the net they took the lead with 30 minutes played.

Despite four minutes of injury-time Tracton failed to breach the Aghabullogue defence who held on to take the points after a thrilling contest.

Scorers for Aghabullogue: C Murphy 0-6 (1) M Healy 2-1 (0-3) C Kiely 1-0, D Twomey 0-1.

Tracton: C Fitzgerald 0-4, M Jagoe 1-4 (0-3), M McGuinness 0-1.

AGHABULLOGUE: N Moynihan; M Aired Twomey, E O'Connell, M O'Leary; N Twomey, M Healy, D Twomey; C Murphy, B Twomey; J Crowley, M Healy, A Twomey; S Dineen, C Kiely, U Browne. Subs: K O'Sullivan for M O'Leary (48), J Kiely for S Dineen (50).

TRACTON: J Dempsey; T Harrington, J Kingston, J Kiely; C Castleton, K O'Sullivan, N Mul-lane; A Kiely, J Hurley; M Jagoe, A Dempsey, E Harrington, C Fitzgerald, J Griffin, M McGuinness. Subs: J Lynch for A Dempsey (47), R Lyons for J Hurley (39).

Ref: Cathal Mc Alistair (Aghada)



## Munster Summer 7s report

By Camogie Association  
Posted 26/07/2012



The inaugural Munster U18 Summer 7s camogie tournament was held in Mallow GAA Club last Sunday July 22nd with 12 competing clubs, across three divisions, having secured their county Summer 7s vying for provincial honours. Burgess/Duharra of Tipperary, Eire Og of Cork and Millstreet, Cork collected titles after a pulsating day's action at the excellent Mallow GAA Club.

Burgess/Duharra were convincing winners of the A Division, with clear victories over Killeagh of Cork, Kileedy of Limerick and Sarsfield of Clare.

The group games resulted in a Clare v Tipp final between Burgess/Duharra and Sarsfield. The Premier outfit ran out convincing winners on a scoreline of 8-4 to 0-4.

Tipperary senior star Caoimhe Maher was in top form throughout and picked up the player of the tournament award. She was ably assisted by Aisling Cremin and teammates as Duharra gave a masterclass in 7s play displaying extremely high levels of skill and athleticism. Sarsfield never gave up and Sinead Tuohy was a constant scoring threat as she. Staine Carey and her teammates battled bravely to the end.

The B Division was an extremely well contested competition, with little separating all the sides. Eire Og of Cork and Thurles Sarsfields of Tipperary topped Groups 1 and 2 to go straight into the semi-finals, while the remaining 4 teams did battle in the quarter-finals. Millford of Cork had a hard earned 1 point victory over

Crough-Kilenny, while Eire Og of Ennis had 4 points to spare over Kiltomer of Galway.

This set up 2 cracking semi-finals. Eire Og of Ennis got the better of their Cork counterparts on a score-line of 5-2 to 3-1, while Millford edged out Thurles Sarsfields by 4 points.

The final was the fifth game of the day for both sides, but Eire Og and Millford served up a classic, particularly in the second half which had everything - goal-mouth drama, superb defending and excellent score-taking.

At half time Millford seemed to be in control, leading 4 points to 1 with Nicole O'Connor and Louise O'Flynn in flying form.

However Eire Og made use of the strong breeze in the second half and showed fantastic determination as defender Alana O'Brien ran the length of the field to get on to a pass from Claire McMahon and smash a fantastic goal to turn a 2 point deficit into a 1 point lead. This seemed to inspire her team-mates as Eire Og held out for a 3-2 to 1-6 victory with Millford pressing hard for that winning score in the latter stages. Player of the Tournament Gráinne Nolan was unmarkable all day, with Rae Wall also outstanding in defence.

The C Division was a straight final between Millstreet of Cork and Eire Og Annacorney of Tipperary. Annacorney will rue the fact that they were slow to get into their stride, only finding their rhythm as time ran out and Millstreet claimed the title on a scoreline of 1-10 to 2-2. The Annacorney girls tried their best, with Niamh Loughman working particularly hard. The highlight of this final was the outstanding display by player of the game Kate O'Keefe.

The support of sponsors Willow Boutique, Ennis, A Sportsman's Dream, Nenagh and Sheehans Hotels was sincerely appreciated. Thanks to Liz Foley of Mallow GAA Sports Complex, Esther O'Leary, the referees and all the clubs who participated. Thanks also to the Camogie Clubs that hosted the qualifying tournaments.

For further information please contact:  
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Munster Camogie Development Officer  
Email: Deirdre@camogie.ie  
Mobile: 087 6415485

Pictured: Munster Summer 7s Division A Champions Burgess/Duharra



**POWERING THROUGH:** Dublin's Catriona Power slips past Kilkenny's Michelle Quilty (No13) and Mairead Power

## Play-off victories for Clare and Dublin

**CAMOGIE:** Clare and Dublin won their play-offs at O'Moore Park yesterday to make it to the All-Ireland senior quarter-finals.

The manner of their wins could not have been more different, though, as Clare produced a stunning second half performance to thump Tipperary by 1-19 to 1-7, while Dublin needed extra time to edge out Kilkenny by 0-17 to 2-10.

Clare, who only led 0-7 to 0-05 after a limp first half, produced a second-half scoring masterclass, inspired by Fiona Lafferty

and Claire McMahon, to ensure that Nicole Walsh's 55th minute goal for the Premier County was mere consolation.

There was much more tension in the second game in Portlaoise, with goals from Kilkenny's Elaine Aylward and Katie Power making it 0-13 to 2-07 at the end of the second half and forcing the Sky Blues to added time. In the end, it was player of the match, Arlene Cushen, who came forward from the half-back line to point and win it for Dublin.



**HUGS:** Mairi Moynihan and Ali Twomey of Dublin

## Clare and Sky Blues go through

**DARAGH Ó CONCHÚIR**

CLARE and Dublin will play in this Saturday's All-Ireland senior camogie quarter-finals, having come through their play-offs at O'Moore Park.

With Wexford and Galway already in the semi-finals, both teams are now ranked in the top six in the country at worst on the back of these results.

The manner of their wins could not have been more different though, as Clare produced a stunning second-half performance to prevail 1-19 to 1-7 against Tipperary, while Dublin needed extra-time to edge their game 0-17 to 2-10.

Clare reminded us of the talent in their ranks as Fiona Lafferty gave a player-of-the-match display that yielded four points, and Claire McMahon shot 10 points from placed balls.

### Points

It was a day to remember for 17-year-old Niki Kaiser who scored her first championship points.

Meanwhile Naomi Carroll, who played for Ireland in their 8-0 U-21 hockey international success six days earlier, was also on target.

There was much more tension in the second game in Portlaoise, with Kilkenny's goals keeping them in contention for so long against a fired-up Dublin.

The Sky Blues led by 0-6 to 0-2 at the interval but despite the unerring shooting of Mairi Moynihan were forced into extra time by Elaine Aylward and Katie Power goals.

Player of the match Arlene Cushen shot the winner for the Dubs.

## Camogie girls keep on winning run

MILLSTREET delivered another quality performance to capture the Munster Summer Super 7s Camogie Competition in Mallow last weekend.

That followed a triumphant Cork title on getting the measure of Cobh, Fr. O'Neill's, St Fanahan's, Sarsfields and St. Finbarrs. And in the provincial showpiece, Millstreet brought a delightful brand of stickwork to their game showing excellent first touch and an ability to pick off scores.

A panel of 14 players is comprised of Kate O'Keefe, Laura Dennehy, Siobhan Sheehan, Aileen Buckley, Leanne Murphy, Jessica Dunne, Leanne Smyth, Kayleigh Sheahan, Eimear Twomey, Muireann Murphy, Elmarie Cronin, Ellie Dineen, Leanne Kelleher, Alanna Barry and Maire Ellen O'Connor. Team trainer is Anthony Barry (Trainer).

Meanwhile, Millstreet made all the running to win the Buttevant Invitational u14 Tournament. All through, Millstreet's first touch was brilliant and added to their precision finishing, they completed a rewarding outing to register a 5-9 to 1-0 win over the host side.

A competent all round performance saw scores registered by Ava Barry (2-2) Dervla Murphy (1-3), Emily Ring (2-0) Donna O'Reilly (0-2) Joni Tarrant (0-1) and Megan Ring (0-1).

Team members included Maria Lane, Megan Ring, Chloe Collins, Sarah Dennehy, Caroleine Murphy (Captain), Kate Buckley, Joni Tarrant, Ava Barry, Una Buckley, Dervla Murphy, Leah Guerin, Donna O'Reilly, Denise Healy, Emily Ring, Nora O'Sullivan with Lily Murphy and Tony McCaul filling the team management capacity.

### CAMOGIE

**All-Ireland Championships:** Senior quarter-final qualifier: Clare 1-19 Tipperary 1-7, Dublin 0-17 Kilkenny 2-10; Intermediate Grp 1: Tipperary 1-13 Cork 0-8; Premier Junior: Kildare 3-8 Armagh 0-12; Down 1-9 Meath 1-10, Laois 3-16 Roscommon 0-8; Junior A: Tyrone 1-7 Cavan 3-8, Dublin 3-6 Westmeath 1-10.



## Banner and Sky Blues advance

By Daragh Ó Conchúir  
Camogie

Clare and Dublin will play in next Saturday's All-Ireland senior camogie quarter-finals, having come through their play-offs at O'Moore Park.

The manner of their wins could not have been more different though, as Clare produced a stunning second-half performance to prevail 1-19 to 1-7 against Tipperary, while Dublin needed extra-time to edge it 0-17 to 2-10.

Clare reminded us of the talent in their ranks as Fiona Lafferty gave a player of the match display that yielded four points, and Claire McMahon shooting 10 points from placed balls.

It was a day to remember for 17-year-old Niki Kaiser, who scored her first championship points. Meanwhile Naomi Carroll, who played for Ireland in their 8-0 U21 hockey international success six days earlier, was also on target.

There was little sign of what was in the offing in the first-half, which ended with Clare leading by 0-7 to 0-5. Nicole Walsh and Jill Horan were amongst Tipperary's scorers and the Premier girls thought they had hit the front five minutes before half-time when Noreen Flanagan scrambled the sliothar to the net from Walsh's delivery in the 25th minute. She was adjudged to have been in the square, however.

Caoimhe Maher and Walsh hit points in response to Kaiser's early opener but Tipp would not score for another 22 minutes, when Walsh goaled from a late penalty.

John Carmody's outfit struck 1-11 in the intervening period, raising five white flags before Allish Considine doubled wonderfully on a McMahon free to goal. McMahon was on fire as the Banner girls shot six more points before Walsh's 55th minute consolation score.

There was much more tension in the second game in Portlaoise, with Kilkenny's goals keeping them in contention for so long against a fired-up Dublin. The Sky Blues deservingly led by 0-6 to 0-2 at the interval but despite the unerring shooting of Máire Moynihan, were forced into extra time by goals from Elaine Aylward and Katie Power that left it 0-13 to 2-7.

Kilkenny stretched their lead to two points after the first period of extra time but showed tremendous character, with points from Moynihan and Orlaith Durkan to restore parity once more.

And it was player of the match, Arlene Cushen who came forward from the half-back line to shoot the winner, and spark tremendous celebrations.



SARAH O'DONOVAN  
CAMOGIE

THE 2012 Senior Camogie Championship format threw up two surprise victories this past weekend.

Dublin recorded a shock victory over Kilkenny after extra-time while Clare hammered Tipperary to ensure that two fresh faces progress to this weekend's quarter-finals.

Much has been made of the fact that under the new structure a team like Clare, with just one point accumulated from their group phase, has progressed ahead of a team that recorded more victories.

While it appears to have worked against teams that were more successful during the qualification process, it will stand to all concerned in the coming years.

For the past decade there have been the same four to five teams consistently in the mix when it came to the crunch in August.

The championship was stagnating and as a result the ladies football championship, a more competitive affair by comparison, was garnering all the media attention.

Ladies football has thrived in recent years because of an emphasis on exposure in the national media, helped in no small way by a partnership with TG4 which guarantees visibility for the championship throughout the summer.

The camogie association have attempted to redress the balance by teaming up with RTE and negotiating a slot for themselves on the Sunday Game.

Unfortunately the five minutes of exposure between the hurling and football segments cannot compete in terms of exposure with the six-hour marathon of ladies football games being shown on TG4 of a Saturday afternoon.

To compound matters for the camogie association, the junior and intermediate ladies football championships are proving extremely competitive and entertaining which is adding to the feel-good factor associated with the sport.

It naturally helps that it is more feasible, in terms of participation, for players to adapt to football by comparison to camogie.

The skill-set required by players to play camogie at a high level is a stumbling block for counties with a small population of players, it is a time-consuming business and there are no shortcuts.

The new format is allowing the weaker counties a minimum of four championship games in the course of the summer to blood players at the highest level.

This gives these players an opportunity to grade themselves against the top teams, Wexford, Galway, and Cork.

While Dublin, Clare and Offaly may have been going in to this championship with rose-tinted glasses, they will know exactly what to expect from next year's championship and can train accordingly, if they have the stamina for it.

Increasing competition for the top teams will keep players of the calibre of Brelge Corkery, Gemma O'Connor and Jenny O'Leary in the game for longer.

Facing into championship for the 10th year in-a-row with the same

# New faces key as Cork make bid for title



Cork's Katie Buckley about to clear the ball past Kilkenny's Jacqui Frisby during the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship in Ballincollig.

Picture: Richard Mills

faces staring back at you isn't what these players have signed up for.

The Cork County Board are extremely lucky that these players have committed the best part of a decade to maintain Cork's reputation as one of the leading lights in the sport, the 2012 national league title picked up at the hands of All-Ireland champions Wexford a sign that Cork still have the stomach for the cut and thrust of the championship.

The championship format has allowed Cork manager Paudie Murray an opportunity to experiment and although the results have fluctuated, Cork are just one game away from an All-Ireland semi-final.

Wexford and Galway await the winners of this weekend's quarter-finals, Cork pitted against Clare and Dublin taking on Offaly in the other quarter-final.

At this point in the game, Cork's best 15 is still uncertain, its positional composure as opposed to its personnel.

The full-back line with Rena Buckley fit is as solid a unit as any, the return of Joanne O'Callaghan to the fold tightening things up where Cork were exposed against Wexford in 2011.

The half-back line is an issue however and sacrificing the best midfielder in the country to fill the

centre-back role is not ideal.

O'Connor is an out and out midfielder and stifling the Barr's player by shackling her with the responsibility of holding that position is cutting down Cork's attacking options.

Equally removing All Star Anna Geary from the half-back line has weakened Cork on the flanks, but the fact that Cork are without a centre-forward and Geary did the business against Wexford's Mary Lacey in the league final, it is unlikely that she will be moved back to the role for which she picked up a player of the match award in the 2006 All-Ireland final.

If O'Connor and Geary are to stay in their respective positions then it is imperative that Orla Cotter and Corkery are restored to midfield, the pair formed a winning partnership in Cork's 2009 All-Ireland final victory.

Corkery has been tried and tested in a number of positions in this campaign but midfield is where Corkery belongs, her ability to read breaking ball instrumental in Cork's success in recent years.

Jenny O'Leary, tried at midfield against Tipperary, is not a danger there and has to be within striking distance of goal for Cork to reap the benefit of her lightning pace.

Douglas have injected life in to the

attack with the inclusion of Julia White, Catriona Mackey and Irish soccer international Claire Shine but covetous play has made Cork wasteful in recent games and the attack will have to develop a team ethos if they are to defeat the remaining teams in the championship.

Poor decision-making, a failure to pass the ball to a player in a better position and hitting wides on the near side have been a feature of the games in the group phase and will have to be stamped out.

Wexford full-back Catherine O'Loughlin has been key to their All-Ireland victories since 2007 and Cork will have to look seriously at the full-forward slot if they have aspirations of climbing the steps in September.

Former captain Amanda O'Regan is currently filling in for Rena Buckley at full-back, but may be an option when Buckley returns.

O'Regan is in the best shape of her sporting career and is physically on par with O'Loughlin who is near six foot.

O'Regan has a great hand, neat first touch and the benefit of having played with the aforementioned Douglas trio for the last number of years at club level.

O'Regan is worth a look provided Cork jump the hurdle being provided by Clare on Saturday.

July 2012



# Cosgrove goals get Antrim over line

## CAMOGIE

By MICHAEL COSTELLO

Antrim 2-10  
Cork 1-11

LAST weekend these sides finished level and with a subsequent draw from a hat putting Wexford through to the semi-finals, the two strongest teams in the group played off for the other semi-final place yesterday in Blanchardstown.

Both teams served up a gripping spectacle and Antrim started slowly as Cork went into a four-point lead in the first quarter with Maura Ellen O'Connor with two points within a minute of each other and Lisa Lynch and Michelle Murphy both contributing a point each.

Cork took a back seat after this early spell of domination and Johanna McKeown converted the opening score for Antrim to set up a run of four more consecutive scores without reply from Niamh O'Neill (2) and Niamh Adams with one and a goal from Sarah Cosgrove as Antrim lead by 1-5 to 0-4 at the break.

Clare Kearney opened Antrim's account at the beginning of the second half with a beautifully struck 45 but Cork captain Kelly Fitzgerald replied almost immediately with a nice point.

McKeown added to her tally and Niamh Adams followed that with a superb strike to keep Antrim ahead.

Cork replied almost at once with an accurate point by Lisa Lynch and they surged forward with a series of raids on a staunch Antrim defence.

Sensing a Cork revival, substitute Sarah Vaughan won possession on the right-hand side and set up Sarah Cosgrove for a goal.

In response the Cork girls laid siege to the Antrim goal and

## Kilcoole Camogie Club rally behind Olympic stars

By Camogie Association  
Posted 03/05/2012

As the Irish Olympics team prepare for this weekend, the exploits of two leading female athletes are foremost in the minds of those in Kilcoole Camogie Club, Wicklow.

Katie Taylor, World Boxing Champion and former Irish soccer international previously lined out as an eleven year old for Fergal Ogs Camogie club in Ballywaltrim, South Bray. The 26 year old has huge support, particularly in her home town of Bray as well as nationwide. No doubt all in Kilcoole Camogie Club will be glued to their television screen as Katie enters the ring this weekend.

Another former Kilcoole Camogie star, now treading the Olympic path is Fionnuala Britton, European Cross Country Champion who will represent Ireland in the London games in 3 events: 10,000m, 5,000m and 3,000m Steeplechase.

This is Britton's second Olympics as she also competed in Beijing. The DCU athlete played Camogie for many years with Kilcoole Camogie Club in Wicklow where she won an Under 14 Championship. She continued playing at U16 level and represented the club at adult level. She competed in the Clane Camogie 7s and she played for County Wicklow in the 1995 National League campaign.

Best wishes to both this weekend

c/o  
Kilcoole Camogie Club  
Wicklow

Michelle Murphy found the net quickly followed by a Sharon Murphy point as Cork kept the pressure on.

Antrim replied with a well taken point by Chloe Higgins and the game reached a peak of excitement with Michelle Murphy converting three consecutive placed balls for Cork within six minutes.

With only two points separating

the teams, McKeown converted a free from 40 metres out to break Cork hearts.

For Cork it seemed unjust that they should go out having lost out in a playoff situation, with possibly a weaker team in Wexford going straight through the draw from a hat having decided it.

Scorers for Antrim: J McKeown 0-3 (0-1f), N

O'Neill 0-2, N Adams 0-2 C Higgins 0-2, S Cosgrove 2-0, C Kearney 0-1 (45).

Cork: M O'Connor 0-2, L Lynch 0-2 (0-1f), M Murphy 1-4 (0-13 f), K Fitzgerald 0-1(f), S Murphy 0-2.

ANTRIM: S Kane; A Lavery, E Elliot, B McCaughan; C Kearney, T Carson, K McKillop; A Mulholland (c), K McLeod; N O'Neill, E Costello, N Adams; C Higgins, J McKeown, S Cosgrove.

CORK: K Ward; E Cotter, E Benin, A Nagle; K Flavey, V O'Connor, N Coleman; C O'Mahony, L Lynch; C Campbell, R O'Shea, K Fitzgerald (c); ME O'Connor, M Murphy, S Murphy.

July 2012

## Cork v Clare in Pairs UI Chaoimh @ 2pm

A short few weeks ago Clare defeated Cork to win their first Munster title in over 60 years, then when the sides met in the group stages of the All-Ireland Cork were put to the pin of their collar before winning by just a single point.

All this suggests Cork will have their hands full on Saturday, however they have worked hard since that game and with a number of good wins (Wexford the exception) behind them and on home soil they will be confident of making the last four.

Gemma O'Connor, Joanne O'Callaghan, the Mackey sisters, Anna Geary and Aoife Murray have garnered enough experience over the years to ensure that their season will extend into late August.



# Cork camogie team targets championship

This Saturday sees Paudie Murray's senior camogie squad line out against Clare in the All Ireland quarter-final. Despite being defeated by the Banner in the Munster final, Murray is confident. "If we play to our full potential, it will take a very good team to beat us," he told Keith Watterson...

**H**aving lost to Clare in the Munster senior camogie final by two points, and only scraping past the Banner by a single point in the opening game of the All Ireland championship on June 23rd, Cork camogie manager Paudie Murray is fully aware of the challenge presented by Clare tomorrow in the All Ireland quarter-final.

"The mood is good. It's good to play in Páirc Uí Chaoimh, which is the home advantage, and it's also among the best playing surfaces in Ireland, which suits our style of open, fast hurling. We would look on ourselves as very fit and very fast, and the bigger and better the pitch, the better will be our standard of play," he says.

"But Clare are very aggressive and committed. They play an 'in your face' type of camogie that we have got to equal. We have to match that aggression. Clare have developed substantially, and even last year, we found it difficult to beat them. This year, we lost the Munster final to them, and only beat them by a point in the opening championship game," Murray adds.

**"We would look on ourselves as very fit and very fast, and the bigger and better the pitch, the better our standard of play."**

**Paudie Murray**  
Manager

However, while not giving anything away about the team that will take to the pitch at Páirc Uí Chaoimh tomorrow at 2pm, Murray says observers should not take Cork's performances in the most recent games against Clare as any benchmark.

"We were short some players due to club activities, exams and injury, and it was a terrible night on a pitch—The Ragg in Tipperary—that wasn't suited to our style. I thought that by our standards we were poor, not matching Clare's aggression and commitment. But even then we were beaten only by a point. In the championship opener, I thought we played well enough. However, we conceded two easy goals and made life difficult for ourselves," he recalled, of a match that ended 0-16 to 2-9.

Murray says it is Clare who should most resist any temptation to regard the teams' most recent encounters as a blueprint for Páirc Uí Chaoimh tomorrow.

"Remember, we're a new management team this year, and it has taken us time to get to know the players and the best combinations. I think we are getting very

close to a settled side, but we are still working out the best combinations, and the Cork team that played the first round match will not be the same as the line-up for Saturday," he said.

The start to Cork's championship was rocky, with that narrow victory over Clare followed by a 0-14 to 0-9 defeat to Wexford on June 30th, before successive victories over Offaly (4-20 to 1-5) and Kilkenny (2-15 to 1-7), and a 1-13 to 0-9 defeat of Tipperary in the play-offs, to take them to tomorrow's quarter-final.

As the season has progressed, Paudie Murray has discerned a ramping up of the intensity of his players, especially in training, and in particular following their

defeat by Wexford in June.

"Since then, I've noticed a big change in the focus of the girls, and training is where you notice it most. It's been really noticeable at the past three training sessions. Some of the girls have been at this level before, too, and that helps the team, but I believe all the girls could not be any more aware of the seriousness and the importance of training at this level. We're at a stage now where they know what is expected of them, in training and on the field," he reveals.

Murray refused to make any prediction on the outcome of tomorrow's match, saying that all thoughts are fixed on Clare. "The way I'm looking at it, I see a possible three All Ireland finals

ahead of us. We have to treat each one of those remaining championship matches as a final. I find that's the best way to motivate the team and sharpen the minds, and we've been doing it throughout the championship. And by treating each round as the final, hopefully when we get there, we can't be any better prepared," he said.

"I am confident, but I think that's the only way that you can go into games at this level. I won't make any predictions, but what I will say is this: if we play to our full potential, it will take a very good team to beat us. And if we do play like that, and we are beaten, well, there is nothing more that can be done," he concluded.

Paudie Murray  
Picture: Andy Ferreira





# Rachel wastes no

Rachel Myers tells **Barbara O'Connell** how she fits in being a mum to two kids, one born 15 weeks ago, and playing senior camogie with her beloved Barrs



**L**AST week saw St Finbarr's vice-captain Rachel Myers-Murray prepare not only for the first round of the Evening Echo Senior Camogie Championship against Ballincollig, but also for the christening of her 15-week-old baby boy, Gearóid.

For supermum Rachel, who is married to Barrs star Fionán Murray and has a 12-year-old boy Cillian, life was already busy enough before the new baby was born.

With both men in her life sports fanatics and regularly out training themselves and watching and playing games, Rachel was left with the difficult task of organising the house, the lads, and minding a new baby, and to still find the time and energy to commit to the Barrs. For others this would surely be a time to call a halt, retire, however, this was not the case for Rachel, who was back on the training pitch as soon as she got the all clear from the doctors, exactly six weeks after her baby was born.

"I had planned from the beginning to go back training as soon as the baby was born," Rachel said.

"I knew I didn't want to miss any of the season. When you get to your 30s you realise the years left are very few, so missing a season at this stage in my life wasn't an option for me," says Rachel.

In fact, the Murray household find it quite amusing that when Rachel had a baby, it was husband Fionán, who decided to hang up his boots.

"We were sad to see him retire as we've always loved to watch him play. He was a class act and a joy for us to watch. I won't deny though it makes it a lot easier for me."

"As when he isn't working he is there to mind Gearóid, while my Cillian and myself go training."

"An extra bonus is less dirty gear to wash too," laughs Rachel. Getting back into training after a baby can be hard enough, without having the extra obstacle of having to play catch-up with a team of players who had been back training for a number of months. Surely this must have been a struggle for Rachel?

"Yes, I won't deny it was tough at first. The girls had been back training since the end of February, so I had a lot of catching up to do."

"Sometimes I found it hard to make all the sessions, but thankfully I didn't miss too many."

"I couldn't afford to miss sessions as competition for a place on the team was huge."

"Going from being first in sprints over the years to being last was hard to accept, which meant I knew I had extra work to do."

"I got great encouragement from my teammates which really helped me to get back on form."

"I think being made vice-captain made me more determined."

"The first few weeks were

definitely the hardest. Apart from being so unfit and struggling to keep up, the baby was small and was still waking a few times each night for feeds."

"Coming home absolutely wrecked from training and having to face bottles and everything else that goes with having a baby was hard work, I had loads of help and support from my family and in-laws."

St Finbarr's began their championship with a win over Ballincollig. Rachel contributed a goal and created three or four others for teammates. Her ability to find an open player when under pressure was one of the highlights of that win.

They now face Courteen Rangers in the next round. Rachel is positive about her team's ability after

producing a great performance in their opening game.

"It was a great team performance from the girls. We were thrilled with the win. There is huge competition in the team. I didn't expect a start."

"I had worked hard for it so I was pleased with the start, however, my job now is to try and hold down that position."

"I was happy enough with my performance. I know there's room for improvement and I hope to work on a few things in training in the next few weeks."

Apart from having a new baby to look after, Rachel also has a very busy Cillian.

Cillian is taking after his mother and father's footsteps for his love of sport, and you'll rarely ever see this young fella without a hurley or

## Factfile

Name: Rachel Myers-Murray.

Age: 31.

Lives: Carrigaline.

Family: Husband Fionán, sons Cillian, Gearóid.

Club: St Finbarr's.

Position: Forward.

Defender she fears most: Although she's a team mate it has to be Lynda O'Connell. I've always said 'Thank God she's on my team'. Her aggression on the ball, she's always in your face and won't give you an inch. Probably the toughest player you'll ever meet.

Mobile ringtone: Standard Nokia Tone.

Favourite Food: Mam's stew.

Favourite music: Rhianna and Beyonce.

You'd do 10 laps to avoid doing what: Definitely the ironing.





July 2012

# time getting back



Rachel Myers-Murray gets her shot away against Ballincollig and below Rachel with husband Fionnan Murray and baby son Gearóid and Cillian.

## Rachel on...

How camogie has changed since she started playing 19 years ago "I suppose camogie is a lot faster game now. There are also a lot more younger girls making it in the senior ranks now than before. "Once you reach your 30s, it's quite possible that you could be training or playing games against people half your age."

**The importance of going back training after the baby was born** "If I didn't go back training immediately I don't think I ever would have."

"Obviously, after a baby I was more determined about getting fit and losing the baby fat I had gained, but more importantly, training is where I get to meet my friends and have a chat."

**"I missed that more than anything."**

**This year's Senior Championship**

"This year I believe the championship is wide open. "We're playing Courcy Rovers in the next round and I believe they are one of the favourites to win it outright."

"They are an up coming team for the past few years so we expect a tough encounter with them."

"Douglas are another team who are also young and fit and will be hard to beat."

## Honours

Senior B club county — 2001; Senior A club county 2006 (Rachel, her sister Cairiona and team mate Lynda all got tattoos with Barrs 06 on their leg showing how much this title meant to them.)

Played corner forward for Cork in Senior B All-Ireland 2007 (runners-up to Limerick).

Captained Barrs U16 team to victory in Pan Celtic tournament 1997.

a ball in his hand.

"Yes, Cillian definitely keeps us on the go. He not only plays hurling and football, but soccer and golf also."

"So between myself and Fionán and Cillian's four grandparents, he is driven wherever he needs to be. "He is a great kid though and very helpful at home also."

One wonders where Rachel finds time to meet friends or socialise when her days seemed to be filled with housework, kids and training.

However, Rachel admits that going training is her way of socialising as it's with the Barrs that Rachel found her friends for life.

"Most of my friends are teammates that I have played with for years. "As the years have gone by most of my friends would have their days

occupied with work or kids, so we would find it hard to meet up as regularly as we did."

"However, that's the great thing about still being involved in sport because at least we get to meet at training and catch up on all the gossip that us girls are entertained by," laughs Rachel.

Rachel began playing with the Barrs almost 20 years ago and has spent 16 of those years playing senior.

Her love of sport came from a house which has also been steeped in sport.

Her father Gerry Myers played soccer with Cork Hibs, while her sister Cairiona plays camogie with the Barrs, football with Ballyphehane and soccer with Casement.

Her brother Lloyd is a keen



snooker player and recently had the pleasure in playing against the great Jimmy White and the bonus of beating him.

Rachel also has a sister Fiona, who is hugely involved in the Irish sporting community in Qatar. Although her sister Sarah doesn't play, she's a huge influence in Rachel's sporting life as she attends every game with her son Ciarán.





# Clare could pose a live threat to Cork

Aug. 2012



LINDA MELLERICK

## CAMOGIE

**TOMORROW**  
All-Ireland senior  
quarter-final  
Cork v Clare,  
Páirc Uí Chaoimh, 2pm

**CLARE** face their biggest test since entering the senior ranks in 2007 tomorrow when they take on Cork in Páirc Uí Chaoimh.

They will certainly not be content with travelling to the rebel county to fulfil a fixture. They are coming here to win.

Clare lost by a solitary point to Cork in the championship opener, having beaten the league champions in a historic Munster final.

They rattled Galway too but conceded a goal after 30 seconds against Tipp and never recovered when they played them on June 30, losing by 13 points.

They would have been expected to beat Dublin, and failure to do so (they drew) confined them to a playoff against Tipperary last Saturday and it was important from their perspective not to lose again.

By and large, outside of their senior championship exploits, this is a group that is more accustomed to winning than losing. John Carmody has a very young squad at his disposal, containing many players that reached the All-Ireland minor finals from 2008-2010.

Deirdre Murphy, Chloe Morey and Siobhán Lafferty provide the experience and it all began to gel this year.

Twenty-one-year-old Susan Vaughan, their centre-back, missed their championship encounter against Tipp last Saturday after having pins inserted into her knuckle.

She reflected on Clare's pro-



Clare's Susan Vaughan, seen here with Cork's Julia White will be a vital player for Clare tomorrow at Páirc Uí Chaoimh as both teams seek a place in the semi-final.

Picture: Sportsfile

gression this season when we spoke recently: "At the start of the year we played Kilkenny and we lost by two points."

"Normally we lose by a cricket score so it did give the young players in particular the confidence to go out and just play against these big players. We have no fear."

"It was a shock to us to beat Cork (in the Munster final). We were in the dressing room saying 'We just beat Cork!' But a lot of the younger players are used to beating Cork at underage."

"We have minors coming through all the time and it's great that we're one of the best underage counties in Munster at the moment. It is ridiculous how young the squad is."

"We hadn't won Munster in 66 years. If you look at the cup it's all Tipp and Cork. Back in the '40s there's Clare and Waterford so the running joke is that they must have let just Cork and Tipp in to play after that!"

One gets the impression that

while Clare respect Cork, they certainly don't fear them and their 1-17 to 0-9 victory over Tipp last weekend is testament to their belief that they can compete with the best.

"One of our aims is to break into that top four. It's been the same for the last few years and hopefully we can take one out."

Vaughan remains out for tomorrow's clash. Naomi Campbell, player of the match in the Munster final, returns to the Clare side after her international hockey duties.

Cork, meanwhile, haven't peaked as a group since their league final victory.

They have reshuffled their team on numerous occasions in a bid to find the positioning that will click. Cork players as individuals are playing well at various stages yet it's only a handful that are peaking on a given day. They need to hit form together.

Cork looked tired against Tipp two weeks ago. Justifiably so. Despite the club games played

in the earlier part of last week they should be that bit fresher tomorrow.

And they'll need to be. Just two weeks away from an All-Ireland semi-final, Cork would really want to be closing this game out comfortably.

Home venue is an advantage. Heading to Clare for this one would have been a concern. Cork need to peak now; there are no second chances. They can't wait for Nowlan or Croke Park. They may not get there — it all hinges on tomorrow.

In hindsight, Cork's loss to and close encounter with Clare in the Munster final and championship opener should be of benefit now. Surely the players won't take Clare for granted. The Clare of old is gone; we now have a young, eager, no fears side champing at the bit for further success.

Player for player, Cork are better. Player for player Cork are more experienced.

**Verdict:** Cork to win.

# Poc fada title holders retain their crowns on Annaverna



**SILVER LINING:** Winner of the M. Donnelly Camogie An Poc Fada Patricia Jackman, Waterford, and winner of the M. Donnelly An Poc Fada Brendan Cummins show the fruit of their labour

Pic: Paul Mohan / SPORTSFILE

**ALL THREE** M. Donnelly All-Ireland Poc Fada titles have been retained for the first time ever on the Annaverna Mountain in Louth yesterday.

Brendan Cummins claimed his sixth title, completing the course in 39 pocs.

Derry's Ruairi Convery came second with Down goalkeeper Graham Clarke in third.

Waterford's Patricia Jackman took her third camogie title.

Offaly's Cillian Kiely became the first person ever to take consecutive under 16 titles, beating his record of last year by two pocs.

Meanwhile, Brendan Cummins and Antrim's Kevin McKernan won the pairs title. Camogie: 1st P Jackman (Waterford) 29 pocs 31m; 2nd M McMahon (Limerick) 30 pocs 39m; 3rd R Monaghan (Galway) 32 pocs 30m



## Madigan piles on points in opener

By MARY NEWMAN

Buttevant 2-11  
Bishopstown 2-9

LAST season junior A county champions Buttevant made the step up to intermediate grade and they had to battle all the way before they overcame the challenge of a lively Bishopstown side that this season made the step down in a bid to regroup.

Bishopstown gave it their all in this encounter, battled to the finish and never allowed their opponents get a firm grip on proceedings.

It was level pegging at the break, 1-7 apiece, after some excellent individual displays from both sides.

Bishopstown's Maeve Scannell, Katie Hickey and Louise O'Riordan were all prominent while Emma Madigan, Darina O'Callaghan and Louise Curtin battled hard to keep Buttevant in contention.

All through the second half both sides remained in contention but in the finish Buttevant, with Madigan contributing 1-9 of their tally, held on to take the points on offer for this first game in the section of round-robin games.

Both sides will be strong contenders as the championship progresses.

Scorer for Buttevant: E Madigan 1-9, L Curtin 1-0, D O'Callaghan, K Cronin 0-1 each.

Bishopstown: M Scannell 0-8, K Hickey, L O'Riordan 1-0 each, A Murphy 0-1.

**BUTTEVANT** D O'Keefe: A Casey, S Breen, L Guinnane, C Gammell, N Healy, M O'Keefe, E Harrington, R Harrington, N Curran, E Madigan, K Cronin, L Curtin, C Johnson, D O'Callaghan. Subs: O Casey for C Johnson (41).

**BISHOPSTOWN:** S Kelleher, N Christie, O Ni Dhomhnaill, A Foley, A Corcoran, S Kelly, M Egan, F Shanahan, A Murphy, N Foley, M Scannell, L O'Riordan, O Lane, K Hickey, R Hayes. Subs: K Hickey for A Foley, E Foley for O Lane.

# Banner chances



Brid MacNamara, Clare PRO, presents a winners medal to Cork U13 captain Kate Wall



LINDA MELLERICK

AT 3.15pm today the final two semi-finalists in the All-Ireland senior camogie championship will be known.

Cork and Clare go head-to-head in Páirc Uí Chaoimh, while Dublin take on Leinster rivals Offaly in the other quarter-final at Parnell Park.

Wexford and Galway are safely through since July 14, and no doubt will be avid spectators in Páirc Uí Chaoimh today.

I don't believe either camp would bother travelling to Parnell Park, as regardless of whether Dublin or Offaly advance, they will be no competition come the semi-final for either side.

My understanding is Wexford and Galway will be seeded for the semi-final, so Cork will face one or the other on August 18 in Nowlan Park should they advance.

Patricia O'Grady, a long-term servant of Clare camogie, has been at the receiving end of what she would describe as horrendous defeats by Cork over a long number of years.

Now a selector with the side, she agrees their Munster final victory over Cork last May was a huge boost to a very young side.

How is 'Trish', as she is referred to, feeling ahead of today's quarter final clash with Cork?

"It's probably coming a year too early for us. We've lost a number of experienced players who went to the US on J1s this year and they would have significantly benefited our young team, players the likes of Roisin McMahon.

"We knew we'd still be competitive at the start of the season and we used the league, the Munster championship and the current All-Ireland championship structure to bring us along.

"We've played numerous games, our form has fluctuated but we did play around a lot with the side on a trial-and-error basis. Last Saturday (beating Tipp in the playoff) was huge for us. We had flopped against them in June and it knocked the wind out of us.

"You catch Cork once. We probably

## Plenty of games to keep camogie players busy

THERE is another busy week of championship game at all levels for the week ahead with Senior B Intermediate and Junior A B and C championship games down for decision the full list of fixtures is as follows.

**SUNDAY AUGUST 5**  
Evening Echo Senior B Championship: Clonakilty v Barryroe Ballinascarty 12; Evening

Echo Junior B Championship: Ballinascarty v Sliabh Rua Ballinascarty 5pm.

**TUESDAY AUGUST 7**  
Evening Echo Junior A Championship: Brian Dillon's v Enniskeane Cloughduv 7.15pm.

**WEDNESDAY AUGUST 8**  
Evening Echo Intermediate Championship: Newtownshandrum v Aghabullogue venue to be confirmed; Tracton v Sarsfields Castle Road 7.15pm.

Evening Echo Junior C Championship: Cobh v Ballinacorney Cobh 7.15pm; Ballinora Grenagh

Ballinora 7.15pm; Bride Rovers v Carrigtwohill Rathcormac 7.15pm; St Fanahan's v Millstreet St Fanahan's 7.15pm.

**THURSDAY AUGUST 9**  
Evening Echo Intermediate Championship: Carrigaline v Buttevant Grenagh 7.15pm; Bishopstown v Blackrock Castle Road 7.15pm.

**FRIDAY AUGUST 10**  
Evening Echo Senior B Championship: Mallow v Kilbrittan/Timoleague Castle Rd 7.15pm; Junior A Championship: Na Piarasigh v Inniscarra "2" Blarney 7.30pm.

## Glen hold off resilient Newcestown to win

Glen Rovers 2-8  
Newcestown 1-7

THIS was a hard-fought battle in the Evening Echo Senior B round two championship clash in Ovens where appalling weather conditions made life difficult for players and supporters alike.

Glen made a good start with three points in-a-row Nicole O'Brien on target with two and Sinead O'Halloran, one, as they put the Newcestown de-

fence under a lot of pressure.

Colette Desmond replied with a point from play and Suzanne Deasy pointed a 45m to get Newcestown into the contest. It was end-to-end stuff as both defences came under pressure. Nicole O'Brien and Sinead Fahy stretched the Glen lead with points before the break to go 0-5 to 0-2 ahead but Colette Desmond got one back to leave it 0-5 to 0-3.

Aided by the strong wind, Glen added two point but they

found the going tough again strong and determined Newcestown defence who stuck to their task and worked hard, Suzanne Deasy pointed a forty five and one from Colette Desmond had three between he sides again.

Sinead O'Halloran grabbed a Glen goal but still Newcestown battled back with two points on the trot, substitute Kelly Fitzgerald kicked to the net inside three minutes of her introduction and it helped Glen refocus. Suzanne Deasy

led the Newcestown fight back with two pointed frees to which Denise Luby replied with a pointed free.

Newcestown again put the Glen under huge pressure as they won a lot of possession but the Glen defence held firm.

Three minutes into added time Jennifer O'Donovan found the net for Newcestown but the full-time whistle sounded on the puck out as Glen held on to take the points.

Scorers for Glen Rovers: N O'Bri-

en 0-4, S O' Halloran 1-1, K Fitzgerald 1-0, S Fahy 0-2 D Luby 0-1(f).

Newcestown: S Deasy 0-4 (0-3 45 0-1f), C Desmond 0-2, J O'Donovan 1-0, E Coomey 0-1.

**GLEN ROVERS:** K Lee, S Busted, A Gupton, K O'Connell, T Cunningham, L Cunningham(c), L O'Sullivan, A O'Keefe, L Callanan, D Luby, N O'Brien, S Fahy, S O'Halloran, A Walsh, A Wallace, Subs: M Hegarty for A Gupton (50), K Fitzgerald for A Walsh (50).

**NEWCESTOWN:** L O'Sullivan, M Crowley, E Coomey, F Deasy, F Crowley, R Desmond, J O'Mahony, E Crowley, K Murphy, G O'Mahony, S Deasy, A Crowley, C Lordan, C Desmond, E Murphy, Sub: J O'Donovan for C Lordan (40).

Referee: Ken Healy (Ballymartle).



# are talked down

Rockies  
get off  
to great  
start

By MARY NEWMAN

Blackrock 0-12  
Carrigaline 0-5

BLACKROCK made an excellent start to the *Evening Echo* Intermediate Championship round-robin series of games as their campaign got off with a winning start as they overcame Carrigaline with seven points to spare full time. Doireann Ni Mhuiri was in fine form for Blackrock, notching up seven points while Michelle Murphy, Caitlin Hickey and Kerrie Fleming were also on the scoresheet as they put Carrigaline under pressure over the hour.

Blackrock set the foundations for victory early and they led by two points before Caroline O'Keeffe replied for Carrigaline. Blackrock added two to their tally as they held the upper hand. Una O'Farrell kept Carrigaline in the hunt with a 20th-minute point but it was Blackrock who finished the half stronger with three in a row to lead 0-7 to 0-3 at the interval. On the restart the sides swapped early points and Carrigaline gave it their all as they battled to cut the deficit. Blackrock were not going to let it slip and they added to their tally with Doireann Ni Mhuiri, Michelle Murphy and Caitlin Hickey all prominent despite the best efforts of a battling Carrigaline side.

**Scores for Blackrock:** D Ni Mhuiri 0-7, Michelle Murphy 0-3, K Fleming, K Hickey 0-1 each.  
**Carrigaline:** C O'Keeffe 0-3 U O'Farrell, A O'Keeffe 0-1 each.  
**BLACKROCK:** M Delaney, T Cummins, A Murray, S Hennessey, M Hurley, R de Faoite, C Ryan, K O'Brien, K Hickey, A Mac Curtain, M Ni Conlain, G Mulqueen, D Ni Mhuiri, K Fleming, M Murphy  
**Subs:** G Marum for G Mulqueen, N O'Leary for M Ni Conlain, A O'Leary for S Hennessey, A Kearney for K Fleming, G Mulqueen for A Mac Curtain.  
**CARRIGALINE:** A Kieley, J Kiernan, A Collins, M Maguire, T O'Connor, J O'Keeffe, D O'Keeffe, R Mc Sweeney, G Harrington, C O'Keeffe, S Moran, S Barry, N Crowley, U O'Farrell, E Power. **Subs:** Toni Scully for N Crowley (33), A O'Keeffe for U O'Farrell (33).



The Cork U13A team which won the recent Clare blitz.

will come undone, if not on Saturday then the next day. We're very young and we'd want a lot going right for us on the day.

"We need three or four experienced players on days like this. I'm after getting a fierce slugging since the Munster final in that up to last Saturday when we beat Tipp we hadn't won a game since then. My argument was that we were still in it (the championship)."

Based on that one could understand why Cork would feel hard done by having won three out of their four group games and still ending up in the same position as Clare, who failed to win a game in their group, two weeks before an All-Ireland semi-final.

But that's the structure as it stands for 2012 and they just have to get on with it. Trish's comment that Clare could come undone, "if not today then in the semi-final" shows that there does remain an inner belief that they can

**TODAY**  
**All-Ireland Senior Championship quarter-final:**  
**Cork v Clare, Páirc Uí Chaoimh, 2pm**

● CLARE will start this All-Ireland senior championship quarter final game with huge intensity. They will push Cork. However, Cork have better hurlers throughout the pitch.

**CALL IT...**

Added to that their experience of the big day expect Cork to weather any storm and run out convincing winners in the end.  
Key player: Gemma O'Connor.  
Verdict: Cork

beat Cork. I put that to her.

"Ah Cork are very strong, no matter how poorly they are playing. They can always move up a gear. I saw it against Tipp again two weeks ago. They are balanced in every line. Even if someone is having an off day the other two are on top and Cork get by. They always seem to get over the line. Jennifer

O'Leary could be anonymous and then pop up for two or three points. Orla and Gemma control the middle of the park. Katrina is playing very well. They're just very strong."

I wonder if Trish isn't playing mind games with me. They will put it up to Cork today. But I do believe Cork will win out comfortably in the end.

## U16 draws throw up some top-class encounters

By MARY NEWMAN

THE draws for the U16 championships were made by the juvenile board and its proposed to get championship up and running as soon as the school term gets under way and club players have returned from holidays.

At present the juvenile board is concentrating on their U14 league and plate competition, their Go Games gala days for U8s U10s U11s and U12s and the aim is to get all of these completed before U16 championship gets under way.

This season there is a new

system in place for the U16A championship and clubs who are defeated in the opening round will have a will have a back-door game.

Five first round clashes will see five winners progress to round three, four of the five losing clubs playing off against each other with the winners to progress to round three while one of the losing clubs will get a bye.

The draws at all levels threw up some interesting clashes with County U16A champions Newtownshandrum set to de-

fend their crown with a meeting against a strong Kilbrittain/Timoleague side who this year made the step up to A level for the league. Last season's U16B champions Glen Rovers take on Courcys and again it's a step up for the northsiders this year.

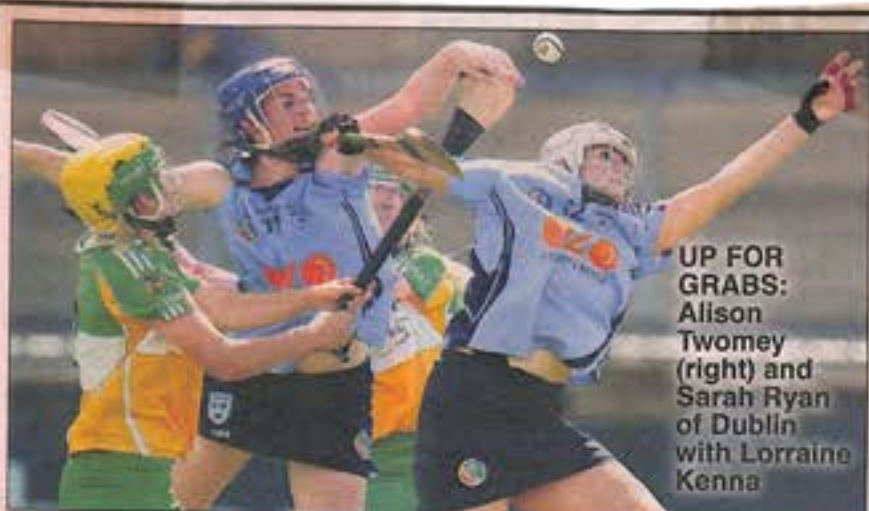
From A to C the championships will be hotly contested and the draws are as follows.

**U16 A CHAMPIONSHIP 2012**  
(A) Valley Rovers v Douglas  
(B) Sarsfields 1 v Fr. O'Neill's  
(C) Newtownshandrum v Kilbrit-

tan/Timoleague  
(D) Cloughduv v Killeagh  
(E) Glen Rovers v Courcys Rovers.  
**U16 B CHAMPIONSHIP 2012**  
**Prelims:** (A) St Catherine's v Enniskeane.  
(B) Carrigaline v Éire Óg.  
(C) Blackrock v Carrigtwohill.  
(D) Tracton v Millstreet.  
**First Rounds:** (E) Banteer v Barryroe.  
(F) Winners of 'B' v Newtownshandrum.  
(G) Slabh Rua v Clonakilty.  
(H) Winners of 'A' v St. Vincent's.  
(I) Ballinora v Brian Dillon's.  
(J) Ballincollig v Ballinhassig.  
(K) Aghabullogue v Winners of 'C'.  
(L) Winners of 'D' v Inniscarra.  
**Quarter-finals:** (M) Winners of 'E' v Winners of 'K'.  
(N) Winners of 'F' v Winners of 'L'.  
(O) Winners of 'H' v Winners of 'G'.  
(P) Winners of 'I' v Winners of 'J'.

**Semi Finals:** (Q) Winners of 'P' v Winners of 'N'.  
(R) Winners of 'O' v Winners of 'M'.  
**U16 C CHAMPIONSHIP 2012**  
**Prelims:** (A) Castletyons v Ballygarvan.  
(B) Millford v Cobh.  
(C) Charleville v Bishopstown.  
**First Rounds:** (D) Bride Rovers v Winners of 'C'.  
(E) Youghal v St Fanahan's.  
(F) Sarsfields 2 v Rockban.  
(G) Winners of 'A' v Ballinascarthy.  
(H) Blarney v Ballyhea.  
(I) Dungourney v Mallow.  
(J) Winners of 'B' v St. Finbarr's.  
**Quarter-finals:** (K) Winners of 'I' v Winners of 'D'.  
(L) Winners of 'C' v Winners of 'J'.  
(M) Winners of 'F' v Winners of 'H'.  
(N) Winner of 'E' - bye.  
**Semi-finals:** (O) Winners of 'L' v Winners of 'M'.  
(P) Winners of 'N' v Winners of 'K'.





**UP FOR GRABS:** Alison Twomey (right) and Sarah Ryan of Dublin with Lorraine Kenna

# OFFALY HARD ASSIGNMENT

OFFALY were rewarded for reaching their first All-Ireland senior camogie semi-final by drawing champions Wexford.

That game will be part of an appetising double-header at Nowlan Park on August 18, that will also include league champions Cork's clash with Galway.

Elaine Dermody hit 1-7 as the Faithful continued their amazing rise through the ranks to reach the last four for the first time thanks to a hard-fought 1-13 to 2-9 win over Dublin at Parnell Park.

Offaly looked in trouble approaching half time, trailing 1-8 to 0-4.

Mairi Moynihan's sixth minute goal was the perfect start for the Metropolitans — but Offaly hit back with Dermody's 38th minute penalty goal putting them in front for the first time.

Sharpshooter Dermody, with Michaela Morkan and Siobhán Flannery providing support, helped Offaly build up a four-point cushion before Moynihan struck for her second goal deep in injury time.

Cork and Clare have been involved in

## Faithful to face the champions

### CAMOGIE round-up

some titanic tussles this year and Páirc Uí Chaoimh hosted another, with the home team prevailing 1-10 to 0-10.

There was never very much between the teams as Chloe Morey tagged on six points for the Banner, with Fiona Lafferty and Claire McMahon also getting on the mark.

The key score though was Katrina Mackey's goal early in the second half and she added two points in a consummate display.

### Finish

Jenny O'Leary notched up four points as Cork kept their noses in front all the way to the finish, despite the gallant attempts of their opponents in the final quarter.

Elsewhere, Dublin won the All-Ireland Under-16A championship for the first time in 30 years when coming out on top of a titanic tussle against Galway in Tullamore on a 4-10 to 2-8 scoreline.

The Dubs got off to a good start and Orla Beagan's goal helped them establish a three-point interval lead, even though Tara O'Flaherty responded in kind for Galway.

Beagan grabbed her second goal early in the second half and when full-forward Aisling O'Leary pounced for a brace of goals within a minute at the beginning of the final quarter, Dublin were on their way.

Galway continued to fight hard and Amy Caulfield struck for a goal but there was too much ground to make up.

Meanwhile, the strongest field yet might have been assembled for the Poc Fada at Annaverna, Co Louth but it made no difference to Trish Jackman.

The 21-year-old Waterford and Gaultier ace made light of the testing conditions to retain the title and annex an historic fourth in succession, completing the course in 29 pucks.



**ACE:** Cork's Jennifer O'Leary receives the player of the match award from the Camogie Association's Marie Kearney

## Carroll and Mullan on mark for Ireland

**HOCKEY:** Multi-talented Naomi Carroll announced her arrival as an international goalscorer by bagging her first two goals in a senior Irish jersey in yesterday's 3-1 win over Wales.

That victory added to the 4-0 and 2-0 wins in previous days to give Ireland a series whitewash, while another newcomer, Katie Mullan, hit her maiden international strike to seal the deal in the second half.

Catholic Institute starlet Carroll, who helped Clare's

ladies footballers into an All-Ireland semi-final seven days previous and is also a county star in camogie and an underage soccer international, and Mullan were among nine players who made their Irish debuts this



**HANDS UP:** Dublin's Louise O'Hara (left) contests a dropping ball with Michaela Morkan (centre) and Elaine Dermody

## Offaly and Cork book place in semis

**CAMOGIE:** All-Ireland champions Wexford will play history-makers Offaly and league title-holders Cork will take on Galway in this year's All-Ireland semi-finals, which will take place in Nowlan Park on Saturday, August 18.

Elaine Dermody was in typically high-scoring form as Offaly continued their amazing rise through the ranks to reach the last four for the first time, edging out a valiant Dublin side in a terrific match played in front of a good crowd at Parnell Park.

Despite trailing the hosts by 1-08 to 0-04 at the

break, The Faithful County built on an impressive early second-half display to pull themselves back into the game and hold on for a narrow 1-13 to 2-09 victory.

Cork, meanwhile, squeezed out old rivals Clare by 1-10 to 0-10 in a fascinating encounter in Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Katrina Mackey's second-half goal was the difference between the sides and Jenny O'Leary's four points kept Cork's noses in front all the way to the finish, despite a spirited late resurgence from the Banner County.

Aug. 2012

The Coolderry sharpshooter finished with 1-7, and with Michaela Morkan (0-3) and Siobhán Flannery (0-2) providing ample support, Offaly had built up a vital four-point cushion when Moynihan struck for her second goal deep in injury-time to leave it 1-13 to 2-9.

Cork and Clare have been involved in some titanic tussles this year and Páirc Uí Chaoimh hosted another, with the home team prevailing 1-10 to 0-10.

There was never very much between the teams as Chloe Morey tagged on six points for Clare, with Fiona Lafferty and Claire McMahon also getting on the mark.

The key score though was Katrina Mackey's goal early in the second half and she added two points in a consummate display. Jenny O'Leary notched up four points as Cork kept their noses in front all the way to the finish, despite the gallant attempts of their opponents in the final quarter.

Meanwhile, the strongest field yet might have been assembled for the Poc Fada at Annaverna, Co Louth, but it made no difference to Trish Jackman. The 21-year-old Waterford and Gaultier ace made light of the testing conditions to retain the title and annex an historic fourth in succession. She completed the course in 29 pucks.

**CAMOGIE:** All-Ireland champions Wexford will play history-makers Offaly, and league title holders Cork will take on Galway in this year's semi-finals. Elaine Dermody was in typically high-scoring form as Offaly continued their amazing rise through the ranks to reach the last four for the first time.

After a year of consolidation at senior level, they have flourished through the knock-out stages and showed great courage to edge out a valiant Dublin side.

They looked in trouble approaching half-time, trailing the hosts by seven points at 1-8 to 0-4. Mairi Moynihan's sixth-minute goal was the perfect start for the Dubs but Offaly struck for seven successive scores, with Dermody's 38th-minute penalty goal putting them in front for the first time.



# Galway girls fail to spark in final battle against lively Dubs

Below par Larkin's squad unable to cope with slick opponents in All-Ireland U16 camogie showdown

Dublin 4-10  
Galway 2-8

EOGHAN CORMICAN  
AT O'CONNOR PARK

DREAMS of glory quickly turned to despair as Galway's latest bid for All-Ireland U16 camogie success ran aground on the turf of O'Connor Park, Tullamore on Sunday last.

From the moment corner forward Tara Flaherty capitalised on a mistake in the Galway full back-line to net clinically on eight minutes until the closing stages, when they resisted relentless Galway pressure, Dublin looked composed, assured and in control.

Lorraine Larkin's charges had overcome Dublin by the narrowest of margins in the earlier rounds of the championship, but on this occasion there was no disputing the stronger and more skilful outfit as Dublin ran out comfortable winners, leaving Galway to reflect on a game where defence and midfield were torn to shreds.

Three defenders were replaced in the second half as Galway struggled to hold down their opponents' attacking unit, one laced with no little pace or indeed panache. Of



Galway's Louise Brennan, left is consoled by her friend Roisin Holland after the game.

the winner's total, 4-8 was tallied from play with Tara Flaherty, Aisling O'Leary and Orla Beagan, in particular, profiting amid a troubled Galway rearguard.

Though changes were made, it could be argued they were too late in coming and in certain cases, unjust. Full forward Patricia Manning was first to

be hauled ashore, but starved of possession she, along with corner forward's Clíodhna Walsh and Erica Coen, was helpless to impact upon proceedings. The problems, as noted, lay further afield and it was baffling how the Galway midfield partnership remained unchanged over the hour, though clearly an area of

Dublin dominance.

Result aside, it was a hugely disappointing display from the Westerners who entered the contest boasting wins over Dublin, Clare and Cork. Their starting six forwards managed just five scores from play, with three coming from the stick of Turloughmore's Ciara Burke. It highlighted the extent to which the Galway attack struggled.

Three early wides dented the confidence of Galway's forward division, a trait their opponents were by no means lacking. Indeed, Dublin had surged into a 1-4 to 0-0 lead when Emma Helebert pointed a free on 12 minutes. That lifted Galway out of their slumber as Ciara Burke and Erica Coen - a fortuitous goal involving Helebert and Melinda Earls - reduced the deficit with subsequent scores. Dublin's response, however, was a real statement of intent.

Doireann Mullany, a hugely industrious figure throughout, took possession from a clearance out of defence, turned Andrea Mullins with consummate ease and nonchalantly found the range from just inside the Galway 65.

Mullany was again involved in the first score of the second-half, setting-up Orla Beagan who left several maroon shirts

trailing in her wake before unleashing a powerful drive to the roof of Tara Murphy's goal.

At 2-5 to 1-2 and controlling most sectors comfortably, Dublin seemed ready to close out the game, but Galway weren't going to go without a fight and three Ciara Burke minors provided a glimmer of hope for the Westerners.

Dublin, as they did all day, effortlessly answered the Galway brace through Eve Kehoe and Tara O'Flaherty. The young Tribeswomen again reduced the deficit to four (2-8 to 1-7) as Emma Helebert

sniped a pair of frees in quick succession, but Dublin issued a decisive reply.

Doireann Mullany and Aoife Molloy worked possession inside to Aisling O'Leary and the full-forward duly obliged in hand passing the sliotar beyond Murphy. In the ensuing passage of play, O'Leary latched onto a booming delivery which caught out full-back Catriona Murphy. The goal put Dublin ten points to the good, 4-8 to 1-7, after 50 minutes and well on their way to a first All Ireland title since 1982.

Nothing much went right for Galway after that. Though Amy Caulfield succeeded in tallying Galway's second major on 51 minutes, a succession of Helebert frees went array and Dublin were more than successful in frustrating the efforts of Ciara Burke and Erica Coen.

The pair, shorn of support throughout, worked tirelessly in attempting to engineer the required goals necessary to drag Galway back into contention, but Dublin's security system remained unlocked and when the final whistle sound-

ed, there were few begrudging the Metropolitans a merited victory.

Dublin: F McCarthy; A Woods, N Byrne, B McQuillan; H Hegarty, A Courtney, S Nagle; L Mullins, D Mullany (0-2); O Beagan (1-3, 0-1 free, 0-1'45), A Molloy (0-2), E Kehoe (0-1); M O'Donoghue, A O'Leary (2-0), T O'Flaherty (1-2).

Galway: T Murphy; L Brennan, C Murphy, L Sweeney; A Mullins, N Hanniffy, E Stafford; E Helebert (0-4, all frees), D Higgins; M Earls, C Ni Churraoin (0-1), C Burke (0-3); E Coen (1-0), P Manning, C Walsh. Subs: A Caulfield (1-0) for Manning (38 mins), T O'Reilly for Sweeney (43 mins), S Broderick for Mullins (45 mins), N Murphy for Brennan (50 mins).

Referee: D Leahy (Tipperary)



Galway's Shauna Broderick battling for possession with Dublin's Annemarie Courtney during Sunday's All-Ireland U-16 A championship final in Tullamore.



# CAMOGIE CORNER

with Brid MacNamara



## All-Ireland Senior Championship Quarter-Final

Cork 1-10 Clare 0-10

CLARE'S thrilling journey through the All-Ireland series finally came to an end on Saturday afternoon in Páirc uí Chaoimh with a three point reverse to the home side.

This was the third meeting of these sides this year and with each having a win out of the previous encounters, both fancied their chances in a game that pitted the National League champions versus Munster Senior Championship holders. Cork, playing with the aid of a strong wind in the opening half, quickly got into their stride and were first to get on the scoreboard with a point from Joanne Casey.

A Chloe Morey long range free levelled matters for the Banner side with five minutes played. In a tight opening period, both sides battled hard and with Jennifer O'Leary and Fiona Lafferty accounting for the next two scores, the sides remained locked together by the ten minute mark.

Cork had the opportunity of a goal in the 17th minute, having been awarded a penalty as the Clare defence were penalised for being overzealous in defending against Sile Burns as she tried to go through for goal.

Cork goalkeeper Aoife Murray was called to strike for goal but instead sent her shot blazing over the bar. Still, Cork added another three points, O'Leary with two frees and Katie Buckley from play, in the remainder of the half. Meanwhile Clare's missed goal opportunities in the latter stages of the half saw Cork go in at the break with a four point cushion as they led by 0-6 to 0-2.

With the wind at their backs in the second half, Clare were on the attack straight from the throw-in. Morey was again on target with a long range free, which Katriona Mackey cancelled out a minute later. Clare won their own puck-out and Kate Lynch sent her shot down the wing to Ailish Considine. With the Cork defence keeping a tight rein on Considine, she did well to get the pass to Niki Kaiser who in turn fed the unmarked Naomi Carroll to point from 30 metres. O'Leary was on target on target for the Leesiders with a free in the 35th minute to keep Cork in front by four points.

The deciding moment came only three minutes later when Cork raided for the only goal of the game. Denise Lynch, having pulled off a great save on the original shot, was dispossessed as she came away with the clearance and it was Katriona Mackey who sent her shot to the back of the Clare net. Mackey added another point to extend the Cork lead to eight points a minute later and while there was still ample time, it was certainly a steep mountain for Clare to climb.

To their credit, Clare responded well and fought back admirably when laying siege in Cork territory for the remainder. Three points from frees - Claire McMahon (2) and Morey with one of her trademark long range shots, narrowed the deficit to five. A long break in play ensued for treatment to Cork's Pamela Mackey, which saw the Douglas player eventually



stretched off the field, leaving O'Leary to point from a free for Cork's last score of the game. Clare continued to attack, and with two more frees from Morey, the gap narrowed to four points. With the game well into added time, time ran out for the Banner side as the Cork defence proved impenetrable despite the last score going to substitute Susan Fahy. A relieved Cork march onto the All-Ireland semi-final.

**Cork** Aoife Murray (0-1, Pen), Jenny Duffy, Rena Buckley, Joanne O'Callaghan, Eimear O'Sullivan, Gemma O'Connor, Pamela Mackey, Jennifer O'Leary (0-4 2f), Orla Cotter (0-1), Joanne Casey (0-1), Anna Geary, Brieghe Corkery, Katriona Mackey (1-2), Katie Buckley (0-1), Sile Burns  
**Subs** Linda Dorgan for P. Mackey (54 mins, in)

**Clare** Denise Lynch (Kilmaley), Maire McGrath (Sionnlebridge), Marian O'Brien (Scariff)

Ogonnellloe), Carol O'Leary (Newmarket-on-Fergus), Orlaith Duggan (Clooney/Quin), Niamh O'Dea (Kilmaley), Chloe Morey (Sionnlebridge) (0-6), Katie Cahill (Kilmaley), Kate Lynch (Kilishen), Niki Kaiser (Newmarket-on-Fergus), Deirdre Murphy (Clooney/Quin), Ailish Considine (Kilmaley), Claire McMahon (Kilmaley) (0-1), Fiona Lafferty (Inagh/Kilnamona) (0-1), Naomi Carroll (Sionnlebridge) (0-1)  
**Subs** Shonagh Enright (Kilmaley) for Cahill (42 mins), Louise Woods (St Joseph's) for K. Lynch (50 mins), Susan Fahy (Whitegate) (0-1) for McMahon (57 mins)

**Player of the Game**  
Jennifer O'Leary (Cork)

**Referee** Karl O'Brien (Dublin)

**The Clare People Minor**  
**A Championship**

**Feakle 4-5 Kilmaley 4-3**

Aug. 2012





## Dublin v Galway

Dublin 4-10 Galway 2-8

30 years ago in Ballinasloe, Dublin overcame Galway to capture the U16 All-Ireland title. Three decades later - different location, same team same result. A wonderful All-Ireland title and long after the game was over, Dub fans, players, mentors, families were still on the O'Connor Park sod savouring the occasion.

August 2012



To win All-Irelands you need a team capable of winning; prepared to put in the hours; good coaching and management and a few breaks on the day. For once the whole

scenario fell into place for Dublin.

This side is laden with talent and fiercely committed to the game. They have put in countless hours and miles over the past four years in pursuit of excellence and they got their reward. The management of Paul Beecher, Stephen Hoary, Ciarán Hayes and Eimear Butler has been painstaking in their preparation and the performance demonstrated their work. Great teamwork, intelligent use of the ball and astute tactics all hallmarks of a well-prepared team.

The few breaks were also important but in most games you make your own luck so they are not to be overstated. Nevertheless they played their part. For instance - Galway attacked from the throw-in and aided by the slight breeze they had the first three assaults on the Dublin goals in the opening four minutes - all came to naught. Dublin make their first raid into Galway territory in the fifth minute and Orla Beagan taps over the first of her personal tally of 1-3. Two minutes later Aoife Molloy takes a pass from very hard-working Martha O'Donoghue and Dublin are two points to the good.

Dublin are in full flow now and Tara O'Flaherty keeps the ball in play and from the tightest of angles sticks the ball in the net. Next up Aisling O'Leary places Orla Beagan for a point before the superb Doireann Mullaney parts to Aoife Molloy who points for the second time. Five minutes of superb play and Dublin lead by 1-4 to nil after 10 minutes.

Fast forward to the 16th minute of the second half. Galway are fighting tooth and nail to deny Dublin. The Dublin defence is defending heroically. Galway win a free. The excellent Emma Helebert lines up - another point will leave just a single goal between the sides and the initiative will be with the Westerners. The ball slips wide - Dublin still four to the good. Doireann Mullaney wins the puckout, Aoife Molloy sends it on the full-forward Aisling O'Leary who palms to the net. Dublin go for the kill. The magnificent Orla Beagan secures the puckout and drives the ball into space behind the full-back, Aisling O'Leary sees her chance and first times to the net. In the space of two minutes Dublin have gone from 4 to 10 points clear - game over (more or less).

It was a pivotal moment but in truth Dublin had the edge in most departments. None more so than at full and centre backs. Tradition has it that these spots should be filled by players blessed with a lot of centimetres but not in Dublin. Niamh Byrne and Annemarie Courtney conceded height but in skill, striking, positioning and their first to the ball approach they were not bettered. An outstanding performance.

CAMOGIE ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP SEMI-FINALS 2012

## CYC Games

— a huge success

THE CYC games held from July 25th to 29th in Gaelic Park, Chicago were attended by 2,000 children who played in all three codes, Hurling, Camogie and Football, on eight dedicated pitches set over a magnificent 62 acre site.

Teams from New York, Boston, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Buffalo, Connecticut, Toronto and Chicago took part. While Camogie is in its infancy at the CYC games, it has grown considerably since its debut in 2009 and ten camogie teams took part in the 2012 event, with games played with huge degrees of skill at U8, U10, U12 and U14 level.

The work of the coaches and the mentors was quite evident on the playing fields and it was fantastic to witness the national games played with such pride and passion.

The International CYC committee, chaired by John O'Flynn and the Chicago CYC committee were tremendous in organising this event with enormous attention to detail, ensuring that it was a hugely positive and enjoyable experience for all involved.

One of the major highlights of the tournament was the huge family involvement. While the venue of the CYC games changes each year, families plan their annual holidays to coincide with the event, with many driving long hours and incurring large expense to reach the CYC destination. Stories from this year's CYC range from one family from Boston undergoing a 14 hour trip with five children and two parents in the car while

another such tale was of a family driving 18 hours from Philadelphia for the event.

Over the course of the CYC tournament, 2,000 children from the ages of 6 to 18 years took part playing all three codes - Camogie, Football and Hurling - with 438 games played in total.

These children have inherited their Gaelic games passion from their Irish parents and grandparents who immigrated to the States some years ago. It is not just a link for the children to their Irish roots, but also an important element for their parents to remain connected to their native culture.

A special thanks to the three camogie referees Catherine McNamara from Clare, Jordan Hynds from Down (who were in Chicago for the summer) and Annie Redmond (Chicago) who officiated excellently over the course of the tournament.

The CYC games were also attended by the President of the Camogie Association Aileen Lawlor; Liam O'Neill, President of the GAA and Pat Quill, President of the Ladies Football Association. It is recognition of the huge esteem in which the CYC Games are held, that all three codes were officially represented, while it further underlines the commitment to assisting with the coaching and development of the games in the US and also acknowledges the huge work that has been done to date.



San Francisco Under-14 team with mentors and coach Anne McKiernan.





forged. Áine Woods (whose mother Trish Clinton was on the '82 team seen left with husband/Dad Tony) and Bláithín McQuillan were outstanding and southside pair Hannah Hegarty and Sarah Nagle never put a foot wrong (the Nagle roar could be heard on the Firhouse Road!).

But there were two great teams in this final. After Dublin's early burst, Galway responded with points by Emma Helebert (f) Ciara Burke and a goal by Erica Coen. Only for a brilliant save by Faye McCarthy in the 16th minute from Patricia Manning Dublin would have trailed at the break. Galway were dominant at this stage and held Dublin scoreless from the 10th to the 28th minute. But 6 first half wides were costly for Galway as Dublin finished the half with an inspiring catch and 35m run by Doireann Mullaney who pointed to give Dublin a 1-5 to 1-2 half-time edge.

59 Seconds after the restart Dublin, Martha O'Donoghue again turned provider. Orla Beagan took the pass, made 40m and buried the ball in the net to the delight of the Dublin faithful. It was to be the start of an epic 15 minutes of camogie of the highest order as both sides battled for supremacy.

Galway came back with points from Ciara Burke and Ciana Ni Churraoin. All within the space of the first two minutes of the half. Eve Kehoe who had a roving commission in

the second period benefited from the wonderful work of Leah Mullins and put the ball between the posts. But Ciara Burke was back by the 35th minute with her third point of the game.

Galway were ringing the changes and were well in contention. Two excellent Tara O'Flaherty points by the 40th minute made sure that Dublin's advantage never dropped below four points - a psychologically important margin in camogie.

And then came that two goals sally by Aisling O'Leary in the 37th and 38th minutes. Dublin still had work to be done but the backline stood up to everything that Galway threw at them. The tactic of playing Eve Kehoe and Leah Mullins in the Dublin half worked as the Dublin forwards had pace and used the open space. But Galway struck for goal in the 51st minute through Amy Caulfield but throughout the game Dublin responded whenever the questions were asked and in the 52th minute player of the match Orla Beagan (right) added a 45 and Doireann Mullaney closed the Dublin scoring as she did in the first half with a massive point.

Galway camped in the Dublin box for the closing five minutes but the Dublin defence were in control.

The final whistle ended a long lean spell and sparked great celebrations as Catherine Neary, Camogie Vice President presented the cup to Annemarie Courtney.

Among the attendance were Denise O'Neill (O'Leary) another member of the 1982 team and Brid Power who was a selector (along with Carmel Cooper, Kathleen Campbell) of the side which included the likes of Kathy Walsh of Crumlin, Phyllis Byrne of An Caislean, Adele Campbell of Marino, Ann Cooper of Woodville, Ann Archbold.

Dublin's defence had to be good. They had seen off the might of Kilkenny after two games and had previously drawn with Galway. But in these games this result was

Dublin Faye McCarthy, Áine Woods, Niamh Byrne, Bláithín McQuillan, Hannah Hegarty, Annemarie Courtney, Sarah Nagle, Leah Mullins, Doireann Mullaney (2), Orla Beagan (1-3), Aoife Molloy (0-2), Eve Kehoe (0-1), Martha O'Donoghue, Aisling O'Leary (2-0), Tara O'Flaherty (1-2)

Subs: Jenny Ryan, Ailish O'Neill, Ciara Casey, Zenouska Murphy, Laura Morrissey, Mary Cronin, Emma Loo, Sophie Lyons, Vanessa Boland, Amy Conroy, Tess Coyne, Laura Kilcoyne, Chloe Rochford, Lilly Conway, Ciara Carolan

Ref: Donal Leahy (Tipperary)

## Strong second half the key for Down

By Camogie Press  
Posted 12/09/2012



Down produced a stunning second half performance to record a surprisingly comfortable 3-12 to 0-9 victory over Kildare in the All-Ireland premier junior camogie play-off at Ballyholland.

The teams has finished level when meeting earlier in the round-robin campaign and all the indications were that the result would be in doubt right to the very end again.

Kildare actually led at the conclusion of a tight opening period, with Susie O'Carroll and Carol Nolan amongst the scorers.

Although Siobhán Hurley and Róisín O'Connell also got on the mark for Tom O'Mahony's crew, they were rocked by goals from Catherine McGourty, Fionnuala Carr and minor ace, Niamh Mallon. The trio notched up 3-9 between them, with all bar three points of which came from play.

That means that Down will now play Laois in the semi-final, while Kildare face a stern test against their old rivals Meath, who have emerged completely unscathed from the first phase of action.

Meanwhile, there were further signs at Donaghmore Ashbourne of the giant strides being taken by camogie in Dublin. With the seniors reaching their All-Ireland quarter-final, which they lost by just a point, and the U16s winning the 'A' championship for the first time in 30 years, the juniors' feat in booking a place in the All-Ireland

final was also notable.

The Sky Blues had little trouble in their 3-10 to 1-2 success over Offaly, which served as a measure of revenge for the Faithful's marginal win in the senior battle.

There was never any doubt about this one though, with Elaine Gallery their chief tormentor. The Dublin captain plundered 3-3 and Offaly had little answer to her skills. Michelle Davis did pounce for a goal for Offaly but they were always second best against the Division 4 champions, trailing 2-8 to 1-0 at the interval.

They will play Westmeath in the decider, thanks to their 3-15 to 1-8 defeat of Cavan. It was an entertaining encounter and Cavan had plenty of good moments. Westmeath had too much all-round strength though, with their tally of 3-15 highly impressive in such a well-contested affair.

They didn't have it their own way and Róisín O'Keefe was a particular thorn in their sides, recording a personal tally of 1-5.

Even that impressive contribution wasn't sufficient however, as Westmeath had a scoring threat from more areas of the field. Dinagh Loughlin scored eight points, while Denise McGrath bagged 2-2. Louise O'Connor got the third goal and with Laura Thompson also slotting three points, it was the Lakesiders that progressed to a battle with the Dubs.

Pictured, Niamh Mallon (Down) in action in last year's All Ireland Premier Junior Final





August 2012

## Barryroe prosper in lower grade

By MARY NEWMAN

Barryroe 4-17  
Clonakilty 2-6

MAKING their debut in the Senior B grade having taken a step down this year, Barryroe set the pace in this Evening Echo Senior B championship tie in Enniskeane and they ran out comfortable winners.

Jennifer O'Leary and Sharon Whelton swapped early points but a goal from O'Leary 12 minutes in after good work by Ger Collins set the foundations for the Barryroe victory.

Twice the sides swapped points before Sile Burns, making her championship debut with her new club, pointed twice to stretch the victors' lead.

O'Leary pointed two frees but an Aoife Deasy goal four minutes from half-time gave Clonakilty renewed enthusiasm Sile Burns pointed twice. The Clonakilty reply was a Sharon Whelton free as Barryroe turned over 1-9 to 1-3 ahead.

Aided by the strong wind, Barryroe made all the running after that. Deasy pointed for Clon in the third minute but five in a row stretched the Barryroe lead to 10. Clon battled for everything. Whelton pointed a free but in reply Barryroe hit three in a row before any hopes of a Clon revival were quenched by two Barryroe goals. Rosemary Dineen and Ger Collins found the net inside a minute of each other.

Clon battled to the end and were rewarded with a Deasy goal four minutes into injury time as Barryroe ran out comfortable winners.

Scorers for Barryroe: J O'Leary 1-11 (0-7 f, 0-4 45), G Collins 2-1, S Burns 0-4, R Dineen 1-0, L Gannon 0-1.

Clonakilty: A Deasy 2-1, S Whelton 0-5 (0-3f).

Barryroe: E White; L Dullee, E Carroll, J White; K McCarthy (c), N O'Driscoll, C Dineen; I Dineen, R Dineen; L Gannon, S Burns, G Collins; C Sexton, J O'Leary, M Sheehy-Cahillane.

Sub: D O'Sullivan for M Sheehy-Cahillane (38 inj).

Clonakilty: A O'Hea; A O'Neill, S O'Brien, A M Moyle; A McCarthy, H O'Regan, L Kemp; C O'Regan, J Brennan; N Deasy, A O'Leary, S Whelton, S Forristal (c), A Deasy, G O'Regan.

Sub: S O'Donovan for G O'Regan (41), C O'Mahony for A McCarthy (41), B Mc Manus for C O'Regan (47), C Nagle for A O'Leary (48), A Campbell for N Deasy (54).

Referee: C Egan (Glen).

# Players should have



Cork players Anna Geary, left, Katie Buckley, centre, and Sile Burns, in action against Marie McGrath, left, and Niamh O'Dea, Clare in the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship quarter-final.

Picture: Pat Murphy / SPORTSFILE



LINDA MELLERICK

CLARE selector Patricia O'Grady was sick when I spoke with her after Cork's three-point victory over her side in the senior championship quarter-final last Saturday.

She felt that if Clare had managed to grab at least one of their three goal chances in the opening half they would have gone on to win the game, even if they still trailed at half-time.

The goal, she believes, would have given them the confidence they needed to push on as she felt that deep inside her side didn't believe they could beat Cork.

I agree with Trish because Clare could have won the game and but for Aoife Murray, they possibly would have. We keep assuming that when push comes to shove during a crucial game Cork will step up a gear and win. They didn't step up at all last Saturday and at this point I have to question if the 'gear' is there. Apart from the sporadic impressive performance over the past 24 months from Cork, it hasn't been.

The manner of Cork's performance last Saturday was extremely disappointing and it's not the first time I've said that this season. This isn't the first time that many of Cork's players have just gone through the motions. I know it frustrated a lot of supporters in the crowd.

Where is the passion that existed 10 or 15 years ago? Where's the pride in the jersey? That may sound like a cliché, but unless you get a feeling of pride every time you raise your arms to pull that Cork jersey on over your head, you should just hand it back.

There are many I'm sure who would dearly love to be wearing it. The physicality is gone out of the game, that's for sure. The games of old were significantly tougher and more aggressive. But that doesn't mean that the current crop of players can't grit their teeth and tense their body when they challenge for every ball. This tip-tapping style of play just isn't good enough.

## Twohill goal difference for Newtown

Newtownshandrum  
Aghabullogue

1-5  
0-5

A GOAL from Roisin Twohill five minutes into this Evening Echo Intermediate Championship clash proved the winner for Newtownshandrum as they held on to the finish to record their second victory in the round-robin series of games, writes MARY NEWMAN.

Paula O'Connor extended their advantage with a pointed free and with Aileen Twomey and Ciara Murphy on target,

Aghabullogue kept in touch. Paula O'Connor was again on target for Newtownshandrum, with a point from play and point from a free just before half-time and with Ciara Murphy pointing an Aghabullogue free, it was 1-3 to 0-3 in Newtownshandrum favour at the half-time whistle.

Little divided the sides in the second half. Brid Twomey and Michelle Healy were on target for Aghabullogue but Newtown, with two O'Connor pointed frees, held their composure to fashion out victory and take the points on offer as they kept their chase for a semi spot on course.

Scorers for Newtownshandrum: R Twohill 1-0 P O'Connor 0-5 (0-4f).

Aghabullogue: A Twomey 0-1 C Murphy 0-2 (0-2f) B Twomey 0-1 M Healy 0-1 (f).

NEWTOWNSHANDRUM: Marie O'Connor; F Twomey, V O'Keefe, Michelle O'Connor; L Hooper, C Giltinane, A Kelleher; P O'Connor, E Reidy; D Cagney; R Twohill, A Twohill; C Coppe, E O'Mahony, K Coughlan. Subs: M Reidy for C Coppe, K Clifford for D Cagney.

AGHABULLOGUE: E O'Connell; A Duff, J Twomey, M Twomey; L Kelleher, N Twomey, J Crowley; B Twomey, C Murphy; S Dineen, M Healy, A Twomey; U Browne, C Kiely, D Twomey. Subs: N Doherty for S Dineen, K O'Sullivan for N Doherty (inj).

Ref: Cathal Egan (Glen Rovers).

## Mulcahy books Cork a place in Munster final

Cork 1-12  
Limerick 1-11

CORK junior's recorded a merited one-point victory over Limerick in this Munster championship clash in Ballincollig, writes MARY NEWMAN.

Cork as winners in 2011 had to field a new starting 15, but sheer determination saw them carve out victory and a place in the final.

Cork led at the break 1-8 to 1-2, with a goal from Emma Madigan 16 minutes into the opening half helping Cork hold the upper hand. Limerick's goal came from Claire Keating nine minutes from the break and it threw them a lifeline as they struggled against a determined Cork side.

Limerick were a transformed side for the second half and they hit Cork with

four unanswered points before Emma Madigan got one back.

Catriona De Bhal and Jessica Hennigan exchanged pointed frees as Cork just about kept their noses in front.

Again Limerick applied huge pressure and three unanswered points saw them level with the full-time approaching.

As the game entered in-

jury-time Martina McMahon put Limerick ahead for the first time with a point, but Cork dug deep as Miriam Crowley struck a superb effort between the posts to tie the game up and with injury-time almost played Julia Mulcahy struck the ball between the posts to give Cork a deserving victory and a place in the final against Tipperary.

Scorers for Cork: J Hennigan 0-5 (f), E

Madigan 1-1, J Mulcahy, R Myers 0-2 each, M Crowley, O'Mahony 0-1 each.

Limerick: C De Bhal 0-6 (0-6f) C Keating 1-0, E Kennedy, M O'Callaghan, M McMahon, B Hannon 0-1 each.

CORK: A Sheehan; J Leo, S Deasy, M Tobin; C Hayes, R Desmond, M Lucey; E Kavanagh, M Crowley; J Mulcahy, R Myers, J Hennigan; K O'Mahony; Madigan, A O'Connor. Sub: for A O'Connor (15/1).

LIMERICK: C O'Riordan; S C Quaid, F Holmes; K Hurley, S N Ryan, M O'Callaghan, E Kerr, Hannon, C De Bhal, M McMahon, Carmody, S Ryan, C Keating.

Ref: Ger Browne (Tipperary).



# more pride in jersey

## Tracton pull away after the interval

By MARY NEWMAN

Tracton 4-13  
Sarsfields 2-5

LITTLE divided these sides in the opening half of the Evening Echo Intermediate champions as Tracton led by three points 1-6 to 1-3 but it was in the closing stages of second half that they upped the pace to run out winners.

Eimear O'Farrell and Aisling Whooley had first-half points for Sarsfields and with Catherine Power finding the net 10 minutes into the contest, Sars stayed in contention.

They responded well to Tracton, who had Mary McGuinness Marian Jagoe Aisling Dempsey to the fore.

The sides traded scores in the second half as Aisling Whooley and sub Orlaith Keane had Sars points and Nicole Hickey's long-range effort found the net on the three-quarter stage. Tracton upped the pace and finished the second half strong. Mary McGuinness finished the game with 3-3 to her credit. Aisling Dempsey grabbed a goal and with Marion Jagoe, Erin Harrington and Jennifer Lynch all contributing to the scoresheet, they were comfortable at the whistle as they recorded their first victory in the round robin series of games.

**Scorers for Tracton:** M McGuinness 3-3, M Jagoe 0-6 (0-4 ft), A Dempsey 1-0, C Fitzgerald 0-2, Erin Harrington, J Lynch (ft) 0-1 each.  
**Sarsfields:** C Power, N Hickey 1-0 each, A Whooley 0-3, O Keane, E O'Farrell (ft) 0-1 each.  
**TRACTON:** E Collins; T Harrington, J Kingston, J Kiely; C Castleton, K O'Sullivan, N Mullane; J Hurley, J Lynch; M Jagoe, J Griffin, E Harrington; C Fitzgerald, M McGuinness, A Dempsey.  
**Subs:** R Lyons for E Harrington (50), A Sinclair for M McGuinness (55).

**SARSFIELDS:** E Meaney; N Whooley, A Edwards, J Murphy; A Byrne, D Murphy, E Murphy; N Hickey, E Murphy; C Holland, A Whooley, A O'Kelly-Lynch; C Power, E O'Farrell, C Cashman.  
**Subs:** N O'Callaghan for A Edwards, M O'Farrell for C Cashman, O Keefe for E Harrington.  
**Ref:** Mike O'Kelly (Ballykeel).



Rena McSweeney of Riverstick Motors Ltd, right, pictured presenting a set of jerseys to the Sliabh Rua U8 camogie team in Riverstick recently. Also pictured are coaches Margurite Fitzpatrick, Linda Egan and Criona O'Shea, chairperson Sliabh Rua Camogie Club.

Picture: Howard Crowley

I genuinely got the impression last weekend that for many of the players it was a case of 'if I win this ball I win it, if I don't, I don't; no harm done'. Of course the players won't agree with me at all, but actions speak.

Maybe the players are too young nowadays. Maybe they don't realise the honour of what they're wearing on their back. Maybe they haven't sacrificed enough to want this All-Ireland title more than anything else. Is that it?

Sometimes I think that is the problem, but then I remember losing an All-Ireland final at 23 years of age and being genuinely upset for over three

months. That was young. It was only when we resumed training for the following season's campaign that I put it behind me.

The players need to take responsibility on the field and over the years there has been too much finger-pointing when things haven't gone right. Yes there are times when the management and training has been poor, but there are many when there is nothing wrong from a preparation point of view and it's the players who have failed to deliver, nothing more.

Make no mistake but that the team which wants it the most will win the semi-final next Saturday. It's a victory

apiece between Cork and Galway this year. I expect Cork to either change the direction of their play next Saturday or start Katrina Mackey at centre forward.

It was only when placed there last week that Cork got to grips with the Clare challenge. Mackey excelled once fed and had a direct hand in 1-3 within eight minutes of the second half. She was starved in the first half at right corner forward as Cork continuously fed the left flank. Niamh O'Dea also cleaned up at centre back. The switch righted two wrongs.

Cork's more senior players would also need to hold their composure when

a refereeing decision goes against them. Three times last week referee Karl O'Brien moved the sliothar for dissent into more favourable scoring positions for Clare.

They also need to start driving the ball in hard to their forwards. This tapping of the ball 10 metres from midfield to a half-forward who in turn is only turning and tapping it into the full forward line is a complete waste.

Cork aren't taking scoring chances that are there and on the flip side are then striking for eccentric scores when there is a team-mate better placed. Senior inter-county players should be thinking better than that on the pitch.

## Murphy points the way to opening victory

By MARY NEWMAN

Kilbrittan/Timoleague 1-11  
Éire Óg 0-11

THIS was very much a game of two halves as Éire Óg and Kilbrittan/Timoleague got their round robin series of games in the Evening Echo Championship up and running.

Éire Óg were the dominant side in the opening half, but Kilbrittan/Timoleague grabbed a vital goal a minute to the break and it was the score that got them back into

the contest.

A youthful Éire Óg side set a blistering early pace and opening up a 0-10 to 0-4 advantage with Elaine Scally, Maeve Ellen Desmond, Margaret O'Herlihy and Roisin Murray all getting on the scoresheet.

Kilbrittan/Timoleague were kept in the game with Marian Murphy pointing three frees and Caroline Murphy contributing their first from play 27 minutes into the half. Kilbrittan/Timoleague kept to their task and with a minute to the

half-time whistle they seized their opportunity a well worked move saw Miriam Deasy finish to the net for a vital goal to leave it 0-10 to 1-4 at the break in favour of the Ovens girls.

With just three points in it Kilbrittan/Timoleague knew they were back in the contest and the second half was a different affair as they upped the pace of their play.

Miriam Deasy opened the

fight-back with a point inside a minute of the restart and continuing to dictate matters they began to wear down the Éire Óg defence. Points from Lisa Moloney and Marian Murphy put them in the driving seat and despite their best efforts Éire Óg were unable to make any headway, their only reply a point as they battled to get back into a game.

Despite a lot of pressure Éire Óg failed to breach the gap as Kilbrittan/Timoleague took the points to get their cam-

paign off to a great start.

**Scorers for Kilbrittan/Timoleague:** M Murphy 0-8 (0-4 ft), 0-2 45st M Deasy 1-1, C Murphy 0-1.

**Éire Óg:** E Scally 0-5, M Ellen Desmond 0-3, M O'Herlihy 0-2, R Murray 0-1.

**KILBRITTAN/TIMOLEAGUE:** A Desmond; C O'Neill, E O'Sullivan, L Nyhan; M Dullea, L O'Callaghan, D O'Sullivan; M Murphy, S Moloney; M O'Donovan, S Sexton; D O'Mahony, C Murphy, M Deasy.

**ÉIRE ÓG:** M Gleeson; A Hennessy, K McCarthy, L Hayes, O Meaney, S Hutchinson, A Barry; M O'Herlihy, C Meaney; A Scally, E Scally, M E Desmond; G Hutchinson, M Corkery, R Murray. Sub: C Mc Kenna for L Hayes.

Ref: Cathal Egan (Glen Rovers).





Two's company, five's a crowd: Cork's Anna Geary, Katie Buckley and Sile Burns in action against Clare's Marie McGrath and Niamh O'Dea during the All-Ireland senior camogie championship quarter-final at Páirc Uí Chaoimh. (Photo: Pat Murphy/Sportsfile)

## Last four: Cork camogie team battles into the All-Ireland semi-finals



Lean on me: Cork's Anna Geary in action against Clare's Katie Cahill during the All-Ireland senior camogie championship quarter-final at Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Cork will meet Galway in the semi-finals of the All-Ireland camogie championship following their 1-10 to 0-10 quarter-final win over Clare last weekend. The Rebelettes will take on the Connacht county in Nowlan Park on Saturday, August 18, in a double header that will also feature All-Ireland camogie champions Wexford playing Offaly in the other semi-final. (Photo: Pat Murphy/Sportsfile)





LINDA MELLERICK

## CAMOGIE

**TOMORROW,**  
All-Ireland Senior Camogie  
semi-final  
Cork v Galway,  
Nowlan Park, 2.15pm.

**CORK'S** performances to date in this season's championship won't be enough to see off the challenge of Galway tomorrow in the All-Ireland senior championship semi-final in Nowlan Park.

Both management and players are aware of this and while management will certainly have an input come 2.15pm tomorrow it's the players' time to deliver.

Preparations have gone very well over the past few months with the attention to training and challenge games at its optimum.

However come championship day that isn't being reflected on the pitch and it is something which is frustrating both players and management alike.

The intensity which has been lacking to date should come to the fore tomorrow. Cork tend to raise their game on occasions when they believe they are capable of being beaten.

They know that, last year's finalists are very capable of denying them a place in the All-Ireland final for the third year in a row and surely that's enough for them to raise the bar.

Galway have a steady team, a mix of experience and youth, where Therese Maher, easily one of the best performers in the country over the past decade, holds down her customary position of centre-back.

Maher, it was felt, would retire after last season's final loss but the return of popular manager Tony Ward alongside Galway's most famous camogie daughter, Sharon Glynn, prompted her to stay and give it one more try.

Centre-forward is a position where Cork have struggled in and if Maher controls the game like she is so capable of doing, then Cork will pay the price.

The selection of who will start centre of the 40 is a big one for Paudie Murray and his backroom team of Brian Barry, Aidan Crowley, George Fitzgibbon and Ellen Clifford.

Orla Cotter needs a big performance. Cork need to win midfield. Jeannier O'Leary has played very

# Getting past Maher will be half the battle



**Cork's Gemma O'Connor chases Clare's Fiona Lafferty during their All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship quarter-final clash at Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Gemma can prove a key player for Cork tomorrow.** Picture: SPORTSFILE

well since placed there earlier in the championship but Cotter still hasn't reached the form she is capable of. Cork need to be getting the ball inside to our full-forward line faster and an in-form Orla is also capable of running on to the breaking ball out of the opposition's defence and taking scores.

Ann Marie Hayes, a huge defender for Galway, is now operating in the middle of the park. Will this strengthen or weaken a typically rock solid half-back line?

If Cork can win midfield, gain an even slight advantage in their half-forward line and match Galway physically they are in with a great

chance. Cork need to win Aoife Murray's driving puckouts.

Ensuring Katrina Mackey is heavily fed is another crucial element in Cork's play.

The star forward needs the ball. She is the one capable of breaking Galway's hearts tomorrow.

It's a 50/50 game.



August 2012

## Camogie Club notes

# First-half goals vital for Rockies Tribe have proven to

By MARY NEWMAN

Blackrock 2-7  
Bishopstown 1-7

THIS all-city clash went down to the wire as Blackrock and Bishopstown battled it out in Castle Road for the points on offer in the Evening Echo Intermediate Championship. Goals proved vital and at the finish just one separated the sides. With Niamh O'Leary and Michelle Murphy having struck one each for Blackrock, it helped give them the vital edge at the full-time whistle. Blackrock's two first-half goals gave them a 2-4 to 0-4 interval lead despite the best effort of Maeve Scannell and Sarah Murphy who were on target for Bishopstown. Blackrock added to their points tally in the second half and with Kaitlyn Hickey Michelle Murphy Niamh O'Leary and Muireann Ni Conlain all getting on the scoresheet they maintained their lead to the whistle as they held on under strong Bishopstown pressure to take the points.

Scorers for Blackrock: Hickey 0-5 M Murphy 1-1 N O'Leary 1-0 M Ni Conlain 0-1.

Bishopstown: M Scannell 1-7, S Murphy 0-1.

BISHOPSTOWN: S Kelleher; N Christie, P Finn, O Crowley; N Foley, O Ni Dhonnai, M Egan; S Kelly, M Scannell; M Crowley, S Murphy, N Foley; O Lane, K Hickey, E Foyle.

BLACKROCK: M Delaney; T Cummins, K Fleming, S Hennessey; C Ryan de Faoite, M Hurley, K O'Brien, K Hickey; A Mac Curtain, M Ni Conlain, G Marum; M Murphy, G Mulqueen, N O'Leary.



Briege Corkery gets past Marie McGrath, Clare, during the All-Ireland Senior Camogie quarter-final at Pairc Ui Chaoimh.

Picture: Jim Coughlan.

## Dillon's have won one and lost one

THE EVENING ECHO Junior championships at A B and C levels are now in full swing and with two games played in the A round-robin series, Enniskeane have recorded a victory over Brain Dillon's.

Dillon's went on to defeat the second team from Douglas, who in the opening round recorded a draw with Watergrasshill.

The meeting between Watergrasshill and Enniskeane was postponed on Wednesday last due to weather conditions.

In section two, Inniscarra's second team had a victory over Kildorrery while Na Piarsaigh overcame Inniscarra.

It's still all to play for with four semi-finals spots still up for grabs in the last round of game to be played.

In the Junior B Championship, league champions Castlemagner have recorded two victories as they defeated St Finbarr's second team and Castletelyons.

Ballincollig's second team

overcame the Ballygarvan second string while Valley Rovers overcame Grenagh.

Youghal had a win over Courcy Rovers 2 who they were unable to field against Glen Rovers 2.

Slabh Rua got their campaign off the ground with a win over Ballinascarty.

It is all still very much to play for in all sections with four teams to emerge for semi-final stages.

Today  
All-Ireland Senior  
Camogie semi-final  
Cork v Galway,  
Nowlan Park, 2.15pm.

THIS game is extremely hard to call. A Galway side bidding to reach their fourth final in five years, against a Cork side that promises much but hasn't delivered in the championship to date. If Cork does hit form tomorrow, if their players step up to the mark, they can reach their first final in three years.  
Verdict: Cork

CALL IT...



LINDA MELLERICK

MEETINGS between Cork and Galway over the years have always proved enthralling battles and I expect today to be no exception.

Today's semi-final is 50/50.

My earliest memory goes back to 1996 when Galway defeated Cork in the All-Ireland final when we were hot favourites to claim back to back titles but lost 4-8 to 1-15.

We were six points up heading towards half time when Denise Gilligan goaled and Sharon Glynn pointed to leave just two between the sides. Galway hit the net three further times in the second half and in truth it was a dismal performance by us. Nothing went right for us on the day, from a number of players playing below par to having an off day from placed balls. The scenes of jubilation from Galway, having secured their first senior All Ireland title, tore at us all while we stood on the pitch waiting the presentation. Galway were ecstatic and rightly so. In fact Galway celebrated that victory for 12 months — until Cork gained sweet revenge in '97 and '98.

The pain of '96 was still there in '97 and we couldn't wait to meet Galway again. We both ended up in the final and it was exactly what Cork wanted, winning 0-15 to 2-5.

On a wintry September day in '98, with driving wind and rain we again emerged victorious and this victory really stands out in my mind. It was a titanic battle, one which we were struggling to cope with until Irene O'Keeffe struck two goals in the first half. Playing against the dreadful elements in the second half we dug deep and it was a performance of grit and determination which saw us finish on the right side of the 2-13 to 0-15 scoreline.

Cork again had the measure of Galway in the 2008 final: 2-10 to 1-8.

It took two Silé Burns' frees in the fifty seventh and eight minutes to pull Cork back level in the 2010 All Ireland semi-final after they had led by four entering the last quarter. In a game that had the large crowd on the edge of their

## Carrigaline pick off Buttevant with top-notch scores

Carrigaline 1-7  
Buttevant 0-3

Carrigaline bounced back from defeat in their first game to record victory in this Evening Echo round two championship clash in Whitechurch recently. Both sides battled hard on the magnificent pitch and it was Carrigaline's ability to pick off scores from play that proved

crucial in the final analysis. Buttevant made a good start with two Emma Madigan pointed frees, but Carrigaline settled into the game and a Toni Scully point 12 minutes into the game gave them confidence. Emma Madigan edged Buttevant into the lead with a pointed frees 20 minutes into the half, but it was to be their last score as Carrigaline came

storming into the game. Caroline O'Keeffe pointed three frees to give them the vital edge and they stretched their lead with an Emily Power goal three minutes from the break after good work from Anna O'Keefe and Una O'Farrell set her up to finish to the net and it gave Carrigaline a four-point interval lead — 1-4 to 0-3. The second half was hard

fought as both defences had to be at their best under enormous pressure and it was 12 minutes to the full-time whistle before there was a score — Caroline O'Keeffe pointing a free to extend the Carrigaline led the same player added one from a 45 and one from play as Carrigaline held the upper-hand to run out winners.

Scorers for Carrigaline: C O'Keeffe 0-6 (0-4), 0-1 (45), E Power 1-0, T Scully 0-1.

Buttevant: E Madigan 0-3 (0-2), 0-1 (45).

CARRIGALINE: A Kiely, J Kiernan, A Collins, M Maguire, S Moran, J O'Keeffe, J O'Leary, R McSweeney, A O'Keeffe, T Scully, Barry, N Crowley, U O'Farrell, E Power, C O'Keeffe.

Sub: R O'Shea for U O'Farrell (45).

BUTTEVANT: D O'Keeffe, L Guinnane, N Healy, J O'Connell, M O'Keeffe, S Breen, C Gammell, Harrington, R Harrington, N Curran, E Madigan, E Madigan, B O'Callaghan, K Cronin, C Johnson.

Subs: O Casey for C Gammell (45), Gammell for O O'Callaghan (45).



# be great Cork rivals

## Second half goal spree seals win

By MARY NEWMAN

Mallow 5-6  
Kilbrittan/Timoleague 1-7

A superb second half display saw Mallow comfortable at the full-time whistle as they overcame the challenge of Kilbrittan/Timoleague in this *Evening Echo* Senior B championship game in Castle Road. The opening 30 minutes were evenly matched. A Claudia O'Donovan goal in the eight minute gave Mallow a two-point interval lead of 1-3 to 0-4. Mallow got the second half off to a great start with a Bronagh Ganley goal inside three minutes of the restart and they added a further three goals to open up a 4-4 to 0-4 lead. Katie Buckley and Bronagh Ganley finding the net. Kilbrittan/Timoleague battled hard and they stayed in contention with points from Siobhan Sexton and a Lisa Moloney goal. Katie Buckley and Sexton swapped points, but a strong Mallow finish with a Kathleen O'Brien point and a Katie Buckley goal were enough to give Mallow the points on offer as they got their championship campaign off to a great start.

Scorers for Mallow: K Buckley 2-5, B Ganley 2-0, C O'Donoghue 1-0, K O'Brien 0-1.

Kilbrittan/Timoleague: L Moloney 1-2, S Sexton 0-3, L O'Callaghan, C Murphy 0-1 each.

MALLOW: S O'Connor, L Tanner, M Browne, J O'Donnell, J Long, A O'Rourke, B O'Sullivan, E Coakley, M Byrne, I Herlihy, K O'Brien, S Glynn, B Ganley, K Buckley, C O'Donoghue.

Subs: J Luddy for I Herlihy (56), E Fitzpatrick for C O'Donoghue (58), N O'Sullivan for K Buckley (58).

KILBRITTAN/TIMOLEAGUE: A Desmond, L Nyhan, M Dullea, C O'Neill, D O'Mahony, E O'Sullivan, D O'Sullivan, M Murphy, S Sexton, J Cashman, L O'Callaghan, M O'Donovan, L Moloney, M Dossy, C Murphy.

Subs: S O'Sullivan for J Cashman (39), M O'Mahony for L Nyhan (55), E Wall for L Moloney (55), A Hickey for D O'Sullivan (55).

Referee: Anthony (Riverstick).

Fr O'Neill's: F O'Driscoll 2-5 (0-1), L Bernard 1-0, S Harrington 0-3, A Finn 0-1.

Éire Óg: M Gleeson, M Corkery, K McCarthy, A Hennessy, O Meaney, S Hutchinson, A Barry, M O'Herlihy, C Meaney, A Scally, E Scally, M E Desmond, R Murray, C McKenna, G Hutchinson.

Subs: C O'Connor for G Hutchinson (ht), C O'Keefe for M E Desmond (40), M E Desmond for C O'Connor (ht), A McKenna for C O'Connor (ht).

FR O'NEILL'S: M Finn, K McCarthy, Y Murphy, C O'Shea, F Wiggins, G Kearney, C McGrath (ht), S Harrington, R Steele, S Murphy, M Harrington, A Finn, F O'Driscoll, N Ahern, R Ahern.

Subs: L Hayes for R Ahern (ht), L Bernard for R Steele (ht).

Referee: Michael Sheehan (Lisarriff).

goal two minutes into injury time to force extra-time.

Again it was level pegging at the break as the sides hit a point each, but on the change over it was Maeve Ellen Desmond who edged Éire Óg in front with a point and in the remaining minutes she was inspirational adding a further two points without reply before Aoife Scally hit the last score of the game for Éire Óg.

Scorers for Éire Óg: M O'Herlihy 2-5 (0-4), C McKenna 2-0, M E Desmond 0-3, A Scally, E Scally 0-1 each.

By MARY NEWMAN

It took Éire Óg 18 minutes to get on the scoresheet in the second half, a Margaret O'Herlihy long range strike finding the net and when the same player pointed a free just one separated the teams.

From here to the full-time whistle it was score for score as the sides could not be separated. Margaret O'Herlihy looked to have secured the points for Éire Óg, but Fiona O'Driscoll tied the sides with a

were free related A game can turn in minutes. Numerous stoppages led to referee Karl O'Brien announcing six minutes of additional time. And from here on it was all Cork.

Orla Cotter was instrumental in Corks' revival while the move of Gemma O'Connor to midfield also bore fruit. Five points from play, two from the excellent Jennifer O'Leary, one from Julia White, Emer O'Sullivan, Rachel Moloney and a Burns' free saw Cork take the lead in a sensational eight minute spell.

Galway's heads were low as they trooped off the pitch at half time.

Two Galway points from play within four minutes of the restart signalled that they weren't going to lie down.

seats a draw was probably the fairest result for both teams.

It was Galway who did all the early running aided by a strong wind as a typically slow starting Cork team failed to settle. While Galway were the team on top it was Cork who took the lead twelve minutes in when Jennifer O'Leary connected in a goalmouth scramble after Burns' free dropped short.

In general play however Galway were well on top. Great fielding, teamwork and speed saw their midfield and half forward line in control as Cork couldn't match them for pace. Galway led by five twenty six minutes in. Disturbingly Galway had now scored 1-4 from play while all of Corks scores

they lost this game as with 12 minutes to go were looking good, but a determined Éire Óg fought their way back into contention to force extra-time, where spearheaded by Maeve Ellen Desmond who struck three superb points they ran out winners.

Éire Óg led a the break 2-2 to 1-4, but on the turn over Fr O'Neill's gained control with points from Fiona O'Driscoll, Sarah Harrington and Aoife Finn and a Lorraine Bernard goal.

Éire Óg  
FR O'Neill's  
(AET)

4-10  
3-9

A BATTLING performance from a spirited Éire Óg side saw them gain the upper hand on Fr O'Neill's to run out winners in extra-time of this *Evening Echo* Senior B Championship clash at Castle Road.

Fr O'Neill's who were making their Senior B champions debut following on promotion this year will wonder just how

The Na Piarsaigh team that won the U14C section blitz recently in Ballincollig.





August 2012

# Joanne enjoying sport



**FRESH** from a year away from the sport, Cork camogie star Joanne O'Callaghan believes the year break gave her time to rejuvenate her body and she is now enjoying county camogie more than ever.

Joanne, who first appeared on the senior panel in 2001 had an illustrious and successful career before her 12-month break at the end of 2010, winning five county titles with Clonthub.

"I wasn't enjoying training with Cork anymore, that is why I stopped playing inter-county camogie," Joanne said.

"For the previous two years I wasn't enjoying training, and therefore I wasn't giving a full commitment."

**Joanne O'Callaghan and boyfriend Johnathon in their Cork and Kerry gear.**

"However, the year I took out, I continued to give Clonthub full commitment, and I really enjoyed that."

Joanne may have taken a year break from county camogie, but her nights were still kept busy with club training sessions at Clonthub.

Therefore she never really got to experience that free time she thought she would do other things.

However, this may have helped her in her transition back to the county team.

Her fitness remained because of the intensity of her training with Clonthub three nights a week.

"When Paudie (Murray) took over the Cork squad he asked me to come back training and I thought about it for a while."

"We had already won four counties under Paudie with Clonthub, and with him being a great trainer, I decided to give it another go, Paudie being my main reason for coming back."

Murray, along with his management and backroom team are a huge asset to the Cork senior squad according to Joanne.

"They are a very encouraging bunch. What I especially like about them is that they spread themselves right around the entire pitch."

Paudie, (Clonthub), Ellen Clifford (Barrs), Aidan Crowley (Valley Rovers), Brian Barry (Killeagh), and George Fitzgibbon,



**BARBARA O'CONNELL**

## CAMOGIE

the fitness coach, all take up different positions on the sidelines and one of them is always in earshot of you to pass on advice."

Joanne, who has switched positions from right corner back to left corner back is happy to be making the team.

"I'm playing in a different position to my normal position, however, I am happy to be starting and would play in any position to be part of the starting 15."

"There is huge competition this year. In previous years we would have had a great starting 15, but limited in subs."

"However, this year, we have a very strong panel of 31 girls."

"Any one of them are capable of coming into the starting 15."

"With the talent of the squad, we never know who the starting 15 will be and that keeps us on our toes."

"Every week there seems to be a different team put out, including some positional changes which has been working really well for us."

The current team who take on Galway tomorrow in the All-Ireland semi-final in Kilkenny has a great mixture of both youth and experience.

Joanne believes the selectors have got a healthy balance of both.

Recent articles from former players who suggested that the current team hadn't got 'heart' or 'pride in the jersey', couldn't seem further from the truth when you see the commitment that all 31 players put in over the past six months.

"You have the likes of Aoife Murray in goal, who has being a huge servant to the game."

"Her encouragement is great and her being so vocal on the pitch is a huge asset to the team."

"There are times in the game when the ball may not have come down to us in the back line for a while, but Aoife will always keep talking, keep us focused and on our toes."

"There are a lot of new young girls who have joined the panel this year and they have been doing really well."

"Douglas player Clare Shine is one of them."

"Clare, who is also an Irish international soccer player has been unfortunate with injuries at the moment, however, she's a great player and when fit she's definitely a player to watch."

"Katie Buckley from Mallow is another great talent who brings great pace and excitement to the squad."

On Saturday, Nolan Park, Kilkenny, is the place to be for the double-header with Wexford and Offaly in the other semi-final.

Wexford, will start as favourites, however, Offaly did give them a good game in the Leinster championship, so this could be an interesting one.

Joanne is looking forward to their clash with Galway, but is also aware it will be a tough task.

"We have played Galway twice this year with both of us winning one game apiece."

"In all my years Galway have always been a tough opposition with always very little scores between us."

"They have an excellent centre back in Therese Maher, and also two of their key players would be sisters, Orla and Niamh Kilkenny."

"Although we are expecting a tough physical game, we will be concentrating more on our own style of play."

"We've been a little lucky this season so far as I don't think we have been in great form, and we haven't yet played to our potential."

"However, we are still managing to win games, so that's good I suppose."

"We know we still have more to offer. There has been games where we may have only been in it for 30 or 40 minutes whereas, we need to increase the intensity and try play throughout the 60 minutes without taking our foot off the pedal."

"I think if our forwards perform well tomorrow, we will do well."

"Normally, when our forwards play well, we do well as a team."

Joanne is determined to give it her all this year as this time next year she will be on her honeymoon when the season starts.

Joanne, who is due to wed Kerryman Johnathon Browne next July won't be committing to training, as she won't be available for championship games due to her wedding plans and honeymoon.

When asked what it's like to be engaged to a Kerryman, who works in St Finbarr's H&F club and plays football with Nemo, Joanne laughs.

"It's pretty humorous at the moment with Kerry's recent exit against Donegal."

"Johnathon has been getting a fierce slagging lately, especially from my mom and dad, however, he still flies the Kerry flag proudly out his car window."

"We quickly remind him that it's really the Clonthub colours he's flying," jokes Joanne.

Joanne has had the support of Johnathon at all her games as well as her mom Bina, and dad Conor, who have being great fans of Joanne at both club and county games.

"It's always been great to have support from the family."

"My dad is a lot more relaxed now watching games than what he would have been years ago."

"He now feels he can enjoy games without panicking."



# more now than ever

## Factfile

**Name:** Joanne O'Callaghan  
**Age:** 29  
**Family:** 1 brother, 1 sister, mum and dad  
**Lives:** Cloughduv  
**Favourite Food:** Chips cheese and garlic, and a chicken burger  
**Favourite Music:** Westlife  
**Mobile Ringtone:** Standard iPhone  
**Car:** Ford Focus  
**Run 10 laps to avoid doing what?** Cooking  
**Hates:** Smoking



Joanne O'Callaghan in action against Claire McMahon, Clare, in the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship quarter-final at Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Joanne and her fellow defenders need to be at their best against Galway tomorrow. Picture: Sportsfile

## Joanne on...

### CORK'S KEY PLAYERS

"I think we're very strong right through the entire squad from 1-31.

"However, three key players for me would be right through the centre of the pitch starting with Aoife (Murray) in goal.

"Gemma (O'Connor) centre back and Caitriona (Mackey) up front.

"These players have been exceptional for us."

### WHAT CORK NEED TO DO TO WIN

1. Not give away silly frees
2. Take our goal chances
3. Play for a full hour as a team instead of in patches.

### SENIOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

"We were delighted to get over the first round against Ballygarvan.

"We had lost five players this year from the panel, however, we have added some great young players who have really stepped up to the mark.

"Also Caitriona Foley from Rockbawn has joined the club so this is a huge asset for us."

"I think the championship standard is as strong now as it ever was.

"You'd always have one or two favourites to win it however, now it's so open there could be any team to do it.

"I think there could be a few tricky teams to beat alright.

"The likes of Millford, Courneys, the Barrs and Douglas.

"However, we are looking forward to the challenge ahead."

## Tricky tie ahead for Cork

Louise Cashell

lcashell@corindependent.com

This Saturday Cork will contest the All-Ireland Camogie semi-final when they play Galway in Nowlan Park at 2pm. Cork who have already claimed silverware this year when they won the League by beating Wexford 1-8 to 0-9 in May. The Rebelettes have it all to play for against Galway who finished in first place in the Group A table on eight points, with Cork finishing in second place on six points.

Cork will be looking for big performances from the likes of Katrina Mackey whose second half goal proved to be the decisive score against Clare two weeks ago in the quarter-final while Jenny O'Leary scored four points in the same match will also be looking to make a similar impact on Saturday's game.

It's been somewhat of a rocky year for manager Paudie Murray and his



Cork camogie star Katrina Mackey in action. The star forward will be looking for a big performance when the camogie team take on Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final this weekend in Kilkenny. Photo: Caroline Quinn

selectors with a Munster final loss to Clare as well as defeat to Wexford in June but some strong performances of late including victories over Offaly, Kilkenny and Tipperary look to have the team in a fine position heading in to Saturday's match and if the defence puts in a good shift over the course of the game then Cork have the beating of this Galway team.

That being said, Gal-

way put in an excellent performance to beat Wexford 3-14 to 0-10 in July to secure their place in the last four and their challenge is not to be taken lightly. Martina Conroy and Brenda Hanney are both in excellent form and they will need to be tightly marked in order to ensure a place in the All-Ireland final, a title they have not won since 2009.



THE CAMOGIE ASSOCIATION



## Senior Camogie Semi-Finals

Saturday, August 18th • Nowlan Park, Kilkenny

**Cork v Galway @ 2.15pm**  
**Wexford v Offaly @ 4.15pm**

Clár Oifigiúil • Luach €3

*Sinéal de Chonchúir*  
 Ard Stiúrthóir





# Corcaigh

Dathanna: Dearg agus Bán

## FIR IONAID

- (16) Emer White  
E. de Faoite  
Barryroe
- (17) Julia White  
S. de Faoite (Capt.)  
Douglas
- (18) Amanda O'Regan  
A. Ni Riogáin  
Douglas
- (19) Leah Weste  
L. Weste  
Ballincollig
- (20) Lynda O'Connell  
L. Ni Chonail  
St. Finbarr's
- (21) Carolyn Motherway  
C. Madartha  
St. Catherine's
- (22) Lynda Dorgan  
L. Ni Dheargáin  
Ballincollig
- (23) Regina Curtin  
R. Nic Cúirtin  
Milford
- (24) Maria Walsh  
M. Breatnach  
Milford
- (25) Claire Shine  
C. Ni Sheighlin  
Douglas
- (26) Finola Neville  
F. Ni Nía  
St. Catherine's
- (27) Tessa Crowley  
T. Ni Chruaíoch  
Valley Rovers
- (28) Julia Mulcahy  
S. Ni Mhaolchathaigh  
Courcey Rovers
- (29) Caroline Sugrue  
C. Ni Shiochruí  
Ballinascarty
- (30) Orla Cronin  
O. Ni Chroíin  
Enniskeane

<div>(1) <b>Aoife Murray</b> A. Ni Mhuiri Cloughduv</div>		
<div>(2) <b>Jenny Duffy</b> S. Ni Dhufaigh St. Finbarr's</div>	<div>(3) <b>Rena Buckley</b> R. Ni Bhuachalla Innisearra</div>	<div>(4) <b>Joanne O'Callaghan</b> S. Ni Cheallacháin Cloughduv</div>
<div>(5) <b>Eimear O'Sullivan</b> E. Ni Shuilleabháin Ballinascarty</div>	<div>(6) <b>Gemma O'Connor</b> G. Ni Chonchúir St. Finbarr's</div>	<div>(7) <b>Pamela Mackey</b> P. Ni Mhara Douglas</div>
<div>(8) <b>Jennifer O'Leary</b> S. Ni Laoire Barryroe</div>		<div>(9) <b>Orla Cotter</b> O. Nic Oitir St. Catherine's</div>
<div>(10) <b>Joanne Casey</b> S. Ni Chashtasaigh Innisearra</div>	<div>(11) <b>Anna Geary</b> A. Ni Ghadhra Milford</div>	<div>(12) <b>Briege Corkery</b> B. Ni Charca Cloughduv</div>
<div>(13) <b>Katrina Mackey</b> C. Ni Mhara Douglas</div>	<div>(14) <b>Katie Buckley</b> C. Ni Bhuachalla Mallow</div>	<div>(15) <b>Sile Burns</b> S. Ni Bhroin Barryroe</div>
<b>MANAGER:</b> Paudie Murray <b>SELECTORS:</b> Ellen Clifford, Brian Barry, Aidan Crowley, George Fitzgibbon		

# Gaillimh

Dathanna: Marún agus Bán



## FIR IONAID

- (16) Roisin Callanan  
R. Ni Challáin  
Kinvara
- (17) Heather Cooney  
H. Ni Chuaga  
St. Thomas
- (18) Therese Manton  
T. Ni Mhantáin  
Mullagh
- (19) Emma Kilkenny  
E. Nic Giolla Cheallaigh  
Kinvara
- (20) Orlaith McGrath  
O. Nic Craith  
Sarsfields
- (21) Ann-Marie Starr  
A. M. Starr  
Kilmar
- (22) Emer Haverly  
E. Ni Abhtaigh  
Kilmar
- (23) Noreen Coen  
N. Ni Chatháin  
Athenry
- (24) Tara Rutledge  
T. Ni Mhaoldeirg  
Portumna
- (25) Molly Dunne  
M. Ni Dhoinn  
Eyrecoort

<div>(1) <b>Susan Earner</b> S. Ni Shoolagh Eyrecoort</div>		
<div>(2) <b>Sandra Tannian</b> S. Ni Thanaidheoin St. Thomas</div>	<div>(3) <b>Sarah Dervan</b> S. Ni Dhoirbheoin Mullagh</div>	<div>(4) <b>Lorraine Ryan</b> L. Ni Riain Kilmar</div>
<div>(5) <b>Sinead Cahalan</b> S. Ni Chatháin Mullagh</div>	<div>(6) <b>Therese Maher</b> T. Ni Mheachair Athenry</div>	<div>(7) <b>Regina Glynn</b> R. Ni Ghloinn Athenry</div>
<div>(8) <b>Niamh Kilkenny</b> N. Nic Giolla Chainnigh Peasars</div>	<div>(9) <b>Ann-Marie Hayes</b> A. M. Nic Aodha (Capt.) Kilmar</div>	
<div>(10) <b>Aislinn Connolly</b> A. Ni Chonghaile Castlegar</div>	<div>(11) <b>Niamh McGrath</b> N. Nic Craith Sarsfields</div>	<div>(12) <b>Brenda Hanney</b> B. Ni Annaigh Kilmar</div>
<div>(13) <b>Veronica Curtin</b> V. Nic Cúirtin Kinvara</div>	<div>(14) <b>Martina Conroy</b> M. Ni Chonraoi Kilmar</div>	<div>(15) <b>Orla Kilkenny</b> O. Nic Giolla Chainnigh Peasars</div>
<b>MANAGER:</b> Tony Ward <b>TRAINER:</b> James McGrath <b>SELECTORS:</b> Declan Walsh, Sharon Glynn <b>PHYSIO:</b> Ian Egan		

## CAMOGIE ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP SEMI-FINALS 2012



## Fáilte ón Uachtarán



FÁILTE ISTEACH chuig cluichí an lae i gCill Chainnigh. Táim cinnte go mbeidh sárchomórtas idir na foirne inniu agus go mbainfidís go léir taithneamh as an ocaid speisialta seo.

This year's camogie championship in association with RTÉ Sport has been as exciting as ever and the tantalising prospect of a place in the All-Ireland Finals on September 16th looms large on the horizon for six teams in the senior, intermediate and premier junior grades. This afternoon it is the turn of our senior semi-finalists and two cracking games are in store.

The meeting of Cork and Galway promises to be a fascinating encounter, as the current Irish Daily Star League champions face a side who are bidding for their third All-Ireland final appearance in a row. Galway defeated Cork in this year's round robin stages of the championship, and that adds another extra twist to what is sure to be a fascinating contest between two evenly balanced sides.

Wexford, the current All-Ireland champions who are aiming for an historic three-in-a row All-Ireland titles, face an emerging Offaly team. Both sides are no strangers to one another and will be acutely aware of each other's strengths. Offaly's meteoric rise from premier junior to senior All-Ireland semi-finalists in four years, is undoubtedly one of the stories of the championship.

This year's championship marked the introduction of a number of new playing rules, adopted at Congress 2012 following a period of intensive consultation with all stakeholders in the Association. Undoubtedly one of the most eye-catching is the reward of two points, for any player, who scores directly over the bar from a sideline cut. The introduction of quarter-finals to this year's senior grade, has added another extra dimension, providing more top class entertainment and extra sporting drama.

I would like to take the opportunity to highlight the upcoming All-Ireland Finals on September 16th. It marks a terrific weekend of camogie action – commencing on Saturday, September 15th with the Daintree Paper All-Ireland Kilmacud Crokes 7s; the Inaugural All-Ireland U14 Championship Blitz and a fabulous Camogie Association fund-raising event in Shelbourne Park later that night with the triple header All-Ireland Finals taking place in Croke Park on Sunday, September 16th.

Finally, sincere thanks to Nowlan Park, a venue synonymous with the All-Ireland Senior Camogie semi-finals. The assistance of Kilkenny GAA Board and Kilkenny Camogie Board in hosting these games is appreciated and we thank you most sincerely for your wholehearted support.

I also extend a very special thanks to all in RTÉ Sport. The Camogie Association and RTÉ have enjoyed a very successful season during which the profile of the game has increased across all RTÉ platforms; online, broadcast and radio.

*Eibhlín Uí Leathlobhair*  
**EIBHLÍN UÍ LEATHLOBHAIR**  
 Uachtarán na Camogie Association

## Match Preview

## CORK v GALWAY

# The potential to be a classic

By DARAGH Ó CONCHÚIR

ONE SUSPECTS that there will be a number of neutrals at Nowlan Park today to watch two intriguing games.

Certainly, this tie has the potential to be a classic as Cork and Galway are driven by a savage hunger to get their hands on the O'Duffy Cup.

Galway have sauntered through the group stages, the only team to complete that process with a 100% record. They beat their tormentors of the past two seasons, Wexford by 13 points in their last outing in Athenry's Kenny Park on July 14 but that was a phony war, with both sides already assured of their semi-final positions.

Nevertheless, Galway showed tremendous intensity to kill off the game early on. Therese Maher has been a member of the panel since 1997 – the year after Galway won their only All-Ireland – and remains a Trojan operator, providing immense inspiration from centre-back. She was magnificent once more against Wexford.

Brenda Hanney has been providing a real

goal-scoring threat all year, while Aislinn Connolly remains a deadly punisher of defensive indiscretions.

A number of young players such as Tara Rutledge and Noreen Coen have continued to develop over the last couple of years, and with the sole survivor from 1996, Veronica Curtin, hoping to overcome her injury woes to play a part, there is certainly a fine blend of youth and experience.

The same could be said of Cork. Gemma O'Connor, Briege Corkery, Aoife Murray, Anna Geary, Rena Buckley and Jenny O'Leary are just some of the players they can call on, that know what it's like to win All-Irelands and be presented with All-Stars.

Team captain, Julia White is one of the younger brigade that has helped freshen the squad up though, with Katrina Mackey and Katie Buckley also having had a very positive impact this term.

Winning the league title was important, particularly as the victory came over Wexford in front of a large crowd at Semple Stadium. The Leesiders showed huge character that day, producing a wonderful second half performance to claim the honours.

These teams last met at this juncture of the championship two years ago. Cork were pursuing a third All-Ireland in succession but found Galway just too good after 120 minutes of scintillating action at Nowlan Park and Semple Stadium.

Ann Marie Hayes, Sandra Tannian and Regina Glynn were key performers in defence throughout those two ties and there is no doubt that the Galway backs will need to be solid if they are to prevail again this time.

Indeed with the breadth of attacking talent the Connacht unit possesses, the same will apply to Cork and some of those individual battles will be worth the price of the admission alone.

Don't be surprised if a replay is needed to separate them again.



Orla Cotter (Cork) in action against Kate Lynch (Galway) during the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship Quarter-Final game at Páirc Uí Chaoimh on 4th August.

(Photo: Pat Murphy/Sportstar)



# Player Profiles GALWAY

**MARTINA CONROY** Killimor  
School Secretary  
All-Ireland Senior Club Championship 2011,  
Intermediate All-Ireland 2009, Junior Gael  
Linn 2007, Minor All-Ireland 2004.

**ANN MARIE HAYES** Killimor  
National School Teacher  
All Star 2011, 2009, 2004, Senior Gael Linn  
2008, Junior Gael Linn 2007, Intermediate  
All-Ireland 2004, Junior All-Ireland 2003,  
Minor All-Ireland 2000.

**AISLINN CONNOLLY** Castlegar  
Google Account Manager  
Senior National League 2005 and 2003,  
Minor All-Ireland 2000, All Star 2010.

**SINÉAD CAHALAN** Mullagh  
Primary School Teacher  
Senior Gael Linn 2008, All Star 2008, 2005,  
Senior National League 2005, Intermediate  
All-Ireland 2004, Junior All-Ireland 2003.

**VERONICA CURTIN** Kinvara  
Primary School Teacher – Deputy Principal  
Senior Gael Linn 2008, Junior Gael Linn  
2007, All Star 2007 and 2006, Senior National  
League 2005, Senior Gael Linn 2000, Senior  
All-Ireland 1996, Junior All-Ireland 1995,  
Minor All-Ireland 1994.

**HEATHER COONEY** St. Thomas's  
Primary School Teacher  
Intermediate All-Ireland 2009.

**REGINA GLYNN** Athenry  
Human Resources  
All Star 2010, 2009 and 2007, Senior  
National League 2005 and 2003.

**LORRAINE RYAN** Killimordaly  
Teacher  
Senior Gael Linn 2008, All Star 2011,  
Minor All-Ireland 2004.

**NOREEN COEN** Athenry  
Student  
Minor All-Ireland 2004, 2 Ashbourne Shields.

**SANDRA TANNIAN** St. Thomas's  
Student  
Senior Gael Linn 2008, 2000, Senior National  
League 2000, Junior All-Ireland 1998, Minor  
All-Ireland 1996, 1994.

**FINOLA KEELY** St. Thomas's  
Student  
Minor All-Ireland 2010, U14 All-Ireland 2006.

**TARA RUTTLEDGE** Portumna  
Teacher  
Intermediate All-Ireland 2009, Galway Minor  
Player of the Year 2008.

**SARAH DERVAN** Mullagh  
Manufacturing Operator  
Connacht Player of the Year 2010,  
Intermediate All-Ireland 2009, Senior Gael  
Linn 2008, All-Ireland Féile Skills 2001.

**ORLA KILKENNY** Pearces  
Teacher  
All Star 2010, Senior Gael Linn 2008 and  
2000, Senior National League 2005 and 2003,  
Minor All-Ireland 1997.

**NIAMH KILKENNY** Pearces  
Teacher  
All Star 2011, 2010, Senior Gael Linn 2008,  
Minor All-Ireland 2004.

**SUSAN EARNER** Eyrecourt  
Secondary School Teacher  
All Star 2011, Senior National League 2005,  
Intermediate All-Ireland 2004, Junior League  
2003, Junior All-Ireland 2003, Minor A  
All-Ireland 2000.

**SINÉAD KEANE** Kinvara  
Accountant  
Senior National League 2005, Intermediate  
All-Ireland 2004, Junior All-Ireland 2003,



Back row (l-r): Sandra Tannian, Anne Marie Starr, Heather Cooney, Veronica Curtin, Martina Conroy, Ann Marie Hayes, Niamh McGrath, Brenda Hanney, Sarah Dervan, Susan Earner, Sinéad Cahalan, Róisín Callanan, Sinéad Keane, Therese Maher, Deirdre Burke. Front row (l-r): Aislinn Connolly, Finola Keely, Collette Gill, Noreen Coen, Regina Glynn, Orla Kilkenny, Tara Rutledge, Niamh Kilkenny, Lorraine Ryan, Orlaith McGrath, Tara Kenny, Ailish O'Reilly, Emer Haverty, Emma Kilkelly. Missing from the photo: Marie Brehony.

Junior League 2003, Minor A All-Ireland 2000.

**COLLETTE GILL** Kinvara  
Speech and Language Therapist  
Intermediate All-Ireland 2009.

**ANN MARIE STARR** Killimor  
Student  
All-Ireland Senior Club Championship 2011.

**BRENDA HANNEY** Killimor  
Chemical Engineer  
All-Ireland Senior Club Championship 2011,  
Senior National League, Junior National  
League, All-Ireland Intermediate  
Championship, All-Ireland Junior  
Championship, All Star 2011 and 2010.

**EMER HAVERTY** Killimor  
Beautician  
All-Ireland Senior Club Championship 2011,  
Minor All-Ireland 2004.

**THERESE MAHER** Athenry  
Administrator  
2 All-Ireland Minor Championships, 2 Senior  
Gael Linn, One National League, Galway  
Camogie Player of the Year, All Stars 2005,  
2008, 2009, 2011.

**NIAMH McGRATH** Sarsfields  
Student  
All-Ireland U16 Championship, All-Ireland  
Minor Championship, All-Ireland Féile  
na nGael.

**TARA KENNY** Sarsfields  
Student  
All-Ireland Minor Championship, All-Ireland  
Féile na nGael.

**EMMA KILKELLY** Kinvara  
Insurance Brokers  
All-Ireland Intermediate Championship, All-  
Ireland Junior Championship, All-Ireland  
Minor Championship.

**ROISIN CALLANAN** Kinvara  
Psychiatric Nurse  
2 Purcell Cups.

**DEIRDRE BURKE** St. Thomas  
Medical Secretary  
All-Ireland Minor Championships, 3  
Ashbourne Cups.

**ORLAITH McGRATH** Sarsfields  
Student  
All-Ireland U16 Championship 2010, 2009,  
All-Ireland Féile na nGael.

**MARIE BREHONY** Davitts  
Student  
2 Minor All-Ireland Championships, 2 U16  
All-Ireland Championships.

**AILISH O'REILLY** Oranmore  
Student  
2 Minor All-Ireland Championships, 2 U16  
All-Ireland Championships.

# Player Profiles CORK

**JULIA WHITE** (Captain) Douglas  
Student. Senior All-Ireland medal, All-Ireland Senior  
B College's medal with Christ the King, Senior  
County Championship medals, National Féile na  
nGael Div. 1 titles.

**RENA BUCKLEY** Inniscarra  
Physiotherapist. All-Ireland Senior Championships,  
All-Ireland Minor Championships, National Leagues  
and Provincial titles in both Camogie and Ladies  
football, Camogie Colleges Centenary All Star  
team, All Stars in both Camogie and Ladies  
Football.

**AMANDA O'REGAN** Douglas  
Teacher. Three Ashbourne Cup medals with UL,  
All-Ireland Senior, Junior and Minor  
Championships, 2009 Senior All-Ireland  
Championship captain, Club Senior Championship  
and League medals. Amanda is also an  
accomplished basketball player.

**AOIFE MURRAY** Cloughdur  
Quantity Surveyor. Senior, Intermediate, Junior and  
Minor All-Ireland titles, Munster Championship  
honours and three Cork Senior Championship  
medals with Cloughdur (Captain in 2005),  
three Camogie All Star awards.

**JOANNE O'CALLAGHAN** Cloughdur  
Retail Rep with GSK. All-Ireland Senior and Minor  
Championships, National League titles, Provincial  
Honours, Gael Linn medals with Munster, Senior  
All-Ireland winning captain 2006, three Cork  
Senior Championships.

**GEMMA O'CONNOR** St. Finbarr's  
Member of Defence Forces. Senior and Junior  
National League medals, Provincial honours, All-  
Ireland Senior Championships (captain in 2007),  
All-Ireland Minor Championships, Senior County  
Championship, Seven Camogie All-Stars, Camogie  
Player of the Year 2005.

**BRIEGE CORKERY** Cloughdur  
Veterinary Receptionist. Senior, Intermediate and  
Minor All-Ireland medals, National League Medals,  
Inter-Provincial titles, three Senior Club  
Championship medals, Senior All-Ireland Football  
medals, National Female Sports Person of the  
Year in 2005.

**SILE BURNS** Barryroe  
Physiotherapist. All-Ireland Intermediate and Minor  
Championship medals, Senior County  
Championship medal with divisional side Muskerry,  
Senior B and Junior Championship club honours.

**ORLA COTTER** St. Catherine's  
Student. Cork Minor team captain 2006, Senior  
team captain 2010, All-Ireland Senior, Senior B, U16  
All-Ireland Championship medals, All-Ireland Junior  
Colleges honours, All Star award 2008.

**EIMEAR O'SULLIVAN** Ballinhassig  
Financial Analyst. All-Ireland Senior and Senior B  
Championships, National League titles, Inter-  
Provincial medals, Ashbourne shield with C.I.T.

**JENNY DUFFY** St. Finbarr's  
GAA Development Officer. All-Ireland Senior and  
Junior Championship medals, National League  
titles, Senior County Championship medals with  
her club, Ashbourne Shield title with C.I.T 2006  
(Captain).

**EIMEAR WHITE** Barryroe  
Student. All-Ireland Senior Championship, National  
League and Provincial medals, Munster Junior  
Championship, Munster and Cork Colleges medals  
with Sacred Heart Clonakilty, Eimear is also a  
prominent hockey player.

**JENNIFER O'LEARY** Barryroe  
Teacher. All-Ireland Senior, Intermediate and Minor  
Championships, Inter-Provincial Gael Linn medals,  
Ashbourne Cup 2005 with UL (Captain), three  
All Star awards.

**JOANNE CASEY** Inniscarra  
Student Nurse. All-Ireland Senior and Minor  
Championships, National League titles, Provincial  
medals, Senior County Championship medals.

**ANNA GEARY** Milford  
Support Renewal Specialist. All-Ireland Senior and  
Minor Championships, All-Ireland Colleges medals  
with St Mary's Charleville, Senior B Club  
Championship with Milford, Colleges All Star team  
2004, four Camogie All Star awards.

**PAMELA MACKEY** Douglas  
Student. Senior All-Ireland Championships, Senior  
County Championship honours, All-Ireland



Back row (l-r): Julia White, Aoife Murray, Julia Mulcahy, Orla Cotter, Eimear White, Jenny Duffy, Gemma O'Connor, Anna Geary, Laura Treacy, Joanne Casey, Silé Burns, Maria Walsh, Katriana Mackey, Katie Buckley, Orla Cronin, Linda Dorgan, Amanda O'Regan, Pamela Mackey. Front row (l-r): Claire Shine, Finola Neville, Tessa Crowley, Regina Curtin, Caroline Sugrue, Jennifer O'Leary, Rena Buckley, Joanne O'Callaghan, Eimear O'Sullivan, Brieghe Corkery, Lynda O'Connell, Leah Weste.

Colleges with Christ the King, Turner's Cross,  
National Féile na nGael Div. 1 titles.

**KATRIONA MACKEY** Douglas  
Student. Senior All-Ireland Championships, Senior  
County Championship honours, All-Ireland  
Colleges with Christ the King, Turner's Cross,  
National Féile na nGael Div. 1 titles.

**KATIE BUCKLEY** Mallow  
Student. Intermediate Club Championship, Member  
of Cork Minor team in 2011, Div. 1 National  
League 2012.

**MARIA WALSH** Milford  
Student. Senior Munster Championships, Under  
Age Munster Championships, Juvenile Club  
Championship honours.

**LINDA DORGAN** Ballincollig  
Student. All-Ireland Senior B and Intermediate  
Championships, Munster Championships, Gael Linn  
titles with Munster, Munster Intermediate title  
2008 (Captain), Senior County Championship  
medal with divisional side Muskerry.

**CAROLYN MOTHERWAY** St. Catherine's  
Student. Senior, Intermediate and Under Age  
Munster Championships, Senior County  
Championship honours.

**LEAH WESTE** Ballincollig  
Teacher. All-Ireland Senior B and Intermediate  
Championships, Div. 1 National League, Senior B  
County Championship.

**LYNDA O'CONNELL** St. Finbarr's  
Accountant. All-Ireland Senior, Senior B and Junior  
Championships, Div. 1 National League, Munster

Championship, Senior County Championship.

**REGINA CURTIN** Milford  
Physiotherapist. All-Ireland Senior Championship,  
Div. 1 National League, Senior B Club  
Championship.

**CLAIRE SHINE** Douglas  
Secondary School Student. Div. 1 National League  
Medal 2012, All-Ireland Féile na nGael titles, Senior  
County Championship, also an international under  
age soccer player and holder of numerous  
international caps.

**FINOLA NEVILLE** St. Catherine's  
Student. Senior County titles, Underage  
Championships.

**JULIE MULCAHY** Courcy Rovers  
Student. Holds Under Age Championship honours  
with club. Member of Cork Minor team in 2011.

**TESSA CROWLEY** Valley Rovers  
Secondary School Student. Member of Cork Minor  
panel 2012.

**CAROLINE SUGRUE** Ballinascarty  
Secondary School Student. Member of Cork Minor  
panel 2012.

**ORLA CRONIN** Enniskeane  
Secondary School Student. Member of Cork Minor  
panel 2012.

**LAURA TREACY** Killeagh  
Secondary School Student. Mother Patricia  
Fitzgibbon played inter-county with Cork and  
cousin to John Fitzgibbon, former Cork Senior  
Hurler.



# Loch Garman

Dathanna: Corcora agus Ór



## FIR IONAIÐ

- (16) Helena Jacob  
A. Iacob  
Oulart the Ballagh
- (17) Stacey Redmond  
S. Nic Réamainn  
Oulart the Ballagh
- (18) Brid Gordon  
B. Ni Mhuirneacháin  
St. Brigid's Blackwater
- (19) Fiona Kavanagh  
F. Coomhánach  
Buncloody
- (20) Evelyn Quigley  
E. Ni Chialgh  
Rathnure
- (21) Fiona Rochford  
P. de Rosfort  
St. Anne's
- (22) Shelly Kehoe  
S. Nic Eachaídh  
Oulart the Ballagh
- (23) Linda Bolger  
L. Ni Bhelguir  
St. Martin's
- (24) Shauna Sinnott  
S. Sionáid  
Oulart the Ballagh
- (25) Louise O'Leary  
L. Ni Laoire  
Rathnure
- (26) Clara O'Connor  
C. Ni Chanchúir  
Rathnure
- (27) Colleen Atkinson  
C. Nic Aidiáin  
Oulart the Ballagh
- (28) Frances Doran  
P. Ni Dheoráin  
Bunclody
- (29) Eimear O'Connor  
E. Ni Chanchúir  
Rathnure
- (30) Tracy Nolan  
T. Ni Nualláin  
Bunclody



## FIR IONAIÐ

- (16) Shauna Carroll  
S. Ni Chearúill  
Birr
- (17) Orlagh Kirwan  
O. Ni Chiarabháin  
Birr
- (18) Leanne Scully  
L. Ni Scalai  
Kinnitty
- (19) Katie Bergin  
C. Ni Bheirgin  
Birr
- (20) Emma Dunne  
E. Ni Dhoilinn  
Kilcormac Killoughy
- (21) Michelle Dolan  
M. Ni Dhoiláin  
St. Rynagh's
- (22) Ailsa Hughes  
A. Ni Aodha  
Tullamore
- (23) Eimear Mooney  
E. Ni Mhaonaigh  
Birr
- (24) Ann Marie Guinan  
A. M. Ni Choinneáin  
Drumcullen
- (25) Grainne Egan  
G. Nic Aogáin  
Shirone
- (26) Edel O'Meara  
E. Ni Mhedra  
Shirone

# Uíbh Fháili

Dathanna: Glas, Bán agus Ór

## FIR IONAIÐ

(1) Eleanor Clendennen  
E. Clendennen  
Kinnitty

(2) Karen Brady  
C. Ni Bhrádaigh  
St. Sinchill's

(3) Triona McDonald  
T. Nic Dónaill  
Kilcormac Killoughy

(4) Sheila Sullivan  
S. Ni Shuilleabháin  
Birr

(5) Linda Sullivan  
L. Ni Shuilleabháin  
St. Rynagh's

(6) Lorraine Keena  
L. Keena  
Kilcormac Killoughy

(7) Marion Crean  
M. Ni Chroídháin  
Shirone

(8) Siobhán Flannery  
S. Ni Fhlannabhra  
St. Rynagh's

(9) Fiona Stephens  
E. Nic Stiofáin  
Drumcullen

(10) Tina Hannon  
T. Ni Annáin  
Naomh Bríd

(11) Michaela Morkan  
M. Ni Mhurcháin  
Shirone

(12) Jane Brady  
S. Ni Bhrádaigh  
St. Sinchill's

(13) Aoife Kelly  
A. Ni Cheallaigh  
Lusmagh

(14) Elaine Dermody  
E. Ni Dhiormada (Capt.)  
Drumcullen

(15) Arlene Watkins  
A. Watkins  
Birr

MANAGER: John Troy

SELECTORS: Mick Spain, Catherine Byrne, Joe Quinn  
PHYSIO: Martha Morkan

(1) Mags D'Arcy  
M. Ni Dhorchai  
St. Martin's

(2) Claire O'Connor  
C. Ni Chonchúir  
Rathnure

(3) Catherine O'Loughlin  
C. Ni Loshlainn (Capt.)  
Manager Bookavogue

(4) Karen Atkinson  
C. Nic Aidiáin  
Oulart the Ballagh

(5) Noeleen Lambert  
N. Laimbéart  
St. Martin's

(6) Mary Leacy  
M. Ni Laitheasa  
Oulart the Ballagh

(7) Deirdre Codd  
D. Nic Óda  
Duffry Rovers

(8) Michelle O'Leary  
M. Ni Laoire  
Rathnure

(9) Kate Kelly  
C. Ni Cheallaigh  
St. Ibar's Shelmaliers

(10) Louise Codd  
L. Nic Óda  
Duffry Rovers

(11) Úna Leacy  
Ú. Ni Laitheasa  
Oulart the Ballagh

(12) Josie Dwyer  
S. Ni Dhuhúir  
Ferns St. Aidan's

(13) Lenny Holohan  
L. Ni hUallacháin  
Rathnure

(14) Katrina Parrock  
C. Ni Phoróg  
St. Ibar's Shelmaliers

(15) Ursula Jacob  
Ú. Iacob  
Oulart the Ballagh

MANAGER: J.J. Doyle

SELECTORS: Tommy Roche, Joe Brennan, Geraldine Murphy  
TRAINER: Gerry McQuaid FIRST AID: Bridget Moran

## OFFALY v WEXFORD

## Match Preview

### A step too far for Offaly?

By DARAGH Ó CONCHÚIR

IT IS the quintessential David versus Goliath clash.

In one corner you have the dominant force in camogie chasing a three-in-row and containing some of the greatest players to play the game.

Standing just as proudly in the other, is a county appearing in an All-Ireland senior semi-final having scorched up the rankings from Premier Junior.

Of course, Offaly aren't junior now. Their progress in the intervening period is staggering. That championship was annexed in 2009 and the intermediate crown followed 12 months later.

In just their second season of senior fare, they have established themselves as one of the country's top four teams. Supreme talents such as Elaine Dermody, Siobhán Flannery and Arlene Watkins are being exposed to a larger and very appreciative demographic.

John Troy took over from Joachim Kelly as manager this year and has maintained his former team-mate's good work.

When they beat Kilkenny in the Leinster semi-final earlier this year, Troy equated it with the breakthrough success of Offaly's male flag-bearers as they overcame Kilkenny in the 1980 provincial decider.

Mick Spain was a selector on that never-to-be-forgotten occasion and is Troy's right-hand man with this unit. He told Troy that he derived as much satisfaction from reaching the Leinster final with this team as he did from that historic success 32 years ago.

Wexford prevailed in the Leinster final, but only after a very strong effort by Offaly. In the end, JJ Doyle's charges – laden with Celtic Crosses and All-Stars – had five points in hand. Given that the margin was 20 when they met in the league at the end of February, it was a very notable effort.

It kick-started a run that included a repeat victory over Kilkenny to secure a quarter-final spot and they edged Dublin by a point in a thriller to cement a spot in the last four.

Having secured the direct route to the semi-finals, Wexford will be playing their first game in five weeks, and that was a heavy defeat to old rivals Galway.

It would be unwise to read too much into that though, as this experienced outfit is accustomed to doing just enough in the round-robin stages. Indeed they have lost to Galway early on a few times now but it is the results of the last two All-Ireland finals that count.

And that is the key point about Wexford. They know how to win when it matters, although losing the league final which they were looking to win for a fourth year in a row was the first chink in that regard.

Still, Mary Leacy, Claire O'Connor, Ursula Jacob, Una Leacy and Kate Kelly are just some of the inspirational characters they possess. What's more, the Leinster final will ensure that there will be no complacency.

Offaly are on a roll and have their own experience of big-time camogie but Wexford might just represent a step too far this year.



Tina Hannon (Offaly) is in control of this situation against Jacqui Frisby (Kilkenny) during the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship Play-Off at St. Brendan's Park, Birr on 21st July. (Photo: Claire Brennan/Sportsfile)

## Match Officials

### CORK v GALWAY



Referee:

**ALAN LAGRUE**  
(Kildare)

Line Umpires for both games:

4th Official for both games:

### OFFALY v WEXFORD



Referee:

**OWEN ELLIOTT**  
(Antrim)

John Dolan (Clare)  
Fintan McNamara (Clare)

Liz Dempsey (Kilkenny)

August 2012



# Player Profiles WEXFORD

**MAGS D'ARCY** St. Martin's  
Sports Co-ordinator. All-Ireland Senior Championship 2011, 2010, 2007, All-Ireland Div. 1 League 2011, Leinster Senior Championships 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, All Star 2010 and 2007.

**NOELEN LAMBERT** St. Martin's  
Quality Assurance Supervisor. All-Ireland Senior Championship 2011, 2010, 2007, Leinster Senior Championship 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009.

**MARY LEACY** Oulart/The Ballagh  
Teacher. All-Ireland Senior Championship 2011, 2010, 2007 (Captain in 2007), Division 1 League 2011, 2010, 2009, Leinster Championship 2012, 2011, 2010, All Star 2004, 2010, All Star Nominee 2005, All-Ireland Club Championship 2011.

**UNA LEACY** Oulart/The Ballagh  
Sports Coach. All-Ireland Senior Championship 2011, 2010 and 2007 (Captain in 2010), Division 1 League 2011, 2010, 2009, Leinster Championship 2012, 2011, 2010, All Star 2011, 2010 and 2007, All-Ireland Club Championship 2011.

**CIARA O'CONNOR** Rathnure  
Pharmaceutical Technician. Senior All-Ireland Championship 2011, 2010, Intermediate All-Ireland 2011, National League Division 1 2010, National League Division 2 2009, Intermediate Soaring Star 2011.

**JOSIE DWYER** Ferns St. Aidan's  
Garda. Senior All-Ireland Championship 2011, 2010, National League Division 1 2010, 2009, Leinster Championship 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, Leinster Junior 2004, 2003, Leinster U16 2000.

**CLAIRE O'CONNOR** Rathnure  
Primary Teacher. Senior All-Ireland 2011, 2010, 2007, National League Division 1 2011, 2010, 2009, All Star 2011, 2010, All-Ireland U16 1995, Leinster Championship 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009.

**COLLEEN ATKINSON** Oulart/The Ballagh  
Branch Manager. Senior All-Ireland 2011, 2010 and 2007, Intermediate All-Ireland 2011, National League Division 1 2011 and 2010, National League 2 2010 and 2009, Leinster Championship 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, All-Ireland Club Championship 2011.

**KAREN ATKINSON** Oulart/The Ballagh (Captain)  
Accountant. Senior All-Ireland 2011, 2010 and 2007, National League Division 1 2011, 2010, 2009, National League Division 2 2009, Leinster Championship 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, All Star nominee 2010, All-Ireland Club Championship 2011.

**DEIRDRE CODD** Duffy Rovers  
Quality Control Analyst. Senior All-Ireland 2011, 2010 and 2007, National League Division 2011, 2010, 2009, Leinster Championship 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, Leinster U16 2000, Leinster U14 1999, All Star Nominee 2005.

**LENNY HOLOHAN** Rathnure  
Primary Teacher. All-Ireland Senior 2011, 2010, 2007, National League Division 1 2011, 2010, 2009, Leinster Championship 2012, 2011, 2010, 2008, 2000, 1999, 1996, 1995, Leinster U16 1996, Leinster U14 1994.

**URSULA JACOB** Oulart/The Ballagh  
Accounts Administrator. Senior All-Ireland Championship 2011 (Captain), 2010, 2007, Division 1 League 2011, 2010, 2009, Leinster Championship 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, Leinster U16 2000, Leinster U14 1999, All Star 2011, 2010, All Star Nominee 2008, 2007, 2005, All-Ireland Club Championship 2011.

**HELENA JACOB** Oulart/The Ballagh  
Accountant. Senior All-Ireland 2011, 2010, 2007, Intermediate All-Ireland 2011, National League Division 1 2011, 2010, 2009, National League Division 2 2009, Leinster Senior Championship 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, Leinster U18 1998, Leinster U14 1995, All-Ireland Club Championship 2011.

**FIONA KAVANAGH** Bunclody  
Fund Accountant. Senior All-Ireland 2011, 2010, National League Division 1 2011, 2010, National League Division 2 2009.

**KATE KELLY** St. Ibar's/Shelmalsers  
Business Development Manager. Senior All-Ireland 2011, 2010, 2007, National League Division 1 2011, 2010, 2009, Leinster Championship 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, All-Ireland U16 1995, All Star 2011, 2010, 2007, 2006, 2004, All Star nominee 2009, 2008, 2005, National Player of the year 2007, Leinster Centenary Ambassador 2004.

**CATHERINE O'LOUGHLIN** Manageer/Boalavogue  
Engineer. Senior All-Ireland Championship 2011, 2010, 2007, National League Division 1 2011, 2010, 2009, All Star 2011, 2010, 2008, 2007, 2005, All Star Nominee 2006, Leinster Championship 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2007, 2004, 2001, Leinster U16 2000.

**MICHELLE O'LEARY** Rathnure  
Primary Teacher. Senior All-Ireland Championship 2011, 2010, 2007, National League Division 1 2011, 2010, 2009, All Star nominee 2008, All-Ireland U16 1995, Leinster Championship 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2007, 2004, 2003, 2001, 2000, 1999, Leinster U18 1998, 1997, Leinster U16 1996, 1995, 1994.



Back row (l-r): Mary Leacy, Kate Kelly, Catherine O'Loughlin, Deirdre Codd, Karen Atkinson (Capt), Ursula Jacob, Tracy Nolan, Fiona Rochford. Middle row (l-r): Louise Codd, Shauna Sinnott, Brid Gordon, Fiona Kavanagh, Frances Doran, Josie Dwyer, Ciara O'Connor, Helena Jacob, Noeleen Lambert, Louise O'Leary, Eimear O'Connor, Mags D'Arcy. Front row (l-r): Linda Bolger, Lisa Bolger, Colleen Atkinson, Evelyn Quigley, Claire O'Connor, Michelle O'Leary, Una Leacy, Lenny Holohan, Katrina Parrock, Shelly Kehoe, Stacey Redmond.

**KATRINA PARROCK** St. Ibar's/Shelmalsers  
Student. Senior All-Ireland Championship 2011, 2010, 2007, All Star 2011 and 2010, All Star nominee 2009 and 2006, National League Division 1 2011, 2010, 2009, Leinster Championship 2012, 2011, 2010, 2007, Leinster U14 2002.

**LOUISE O'LEARY** Rathnure  
Student Nurse. All-Ireland Senior Championship 2011, 2010, All-Ireland Intermediate Championship 2011, National League Division 1 2011, 2010, National League Division 2 2010 and 2009, Leinster Championship 2012, 2011, 2010, Leinster U14 2002.

**EVELYN QUIGLEY** Rathnure  
Primary Teacher. Senior All-Ireland Championship 2011, 2010, National League Division 1 2011, 2010, 2009, National League Division 2 2009, Leinster Senior 2012, 2011, 2010, 2004, 2003, 2001, 2000, 1999, Leinster U18 1998, 1997, Leinster Junior 2004, 2003.

**BRID GORDON** Blackwater  
Secondary Teacher. Senior All-Ireland Championship 2011 and 2010, All-Ireland Intermediate 2011, National League Division 1 2011 and 2010, National League Division 2 2009.

**LISA BOLGER** St. Martin's  
Student. Senior All-Ireland 2011, Intermediate All-Ireland 2011, National League Division 1 2011, National League Division 2 2010.

**LOUISE CODD** Rathnure  
Teacher. All-Ireland Senior Championship 2011, 2007, National League Division 1 2011, 2009, Intermediate All-Ireland 2011, National League Division 2009, Leinster Championship 2012, 2011, 2007, 2005, 2003, Leinster U16 2002, 2000, Leinster U14 2000, 1999.

**FIONA ROCHFORD** St. Anne's  
Student. Senior All-Ireland 2011, Intermediate All-

Ireland 2011, National League Division 2 2010.

**STACEY REDMOND** Oulart/The Ballagh  
Student. All-Ireland Senior Championship 2011, 2007, Intermediate All-Ireland 2011, National League Division 1 2009, National League Division 2 2009, Leinster Championship 2012, 2011, 2007, Leinster U16 2002, Leinster U14 2002, All-Ireland Club Championship 2011.

**LINDA BOLGER** St. Martins  
Student. All-Ireland Intermediate Championship 2011, National League Division 2 2010.

**SHAUNA SINNOTT** Oulart/The Ballagh  
Student. All-Ireland Intermediate Championship 2011 U16 All-Ireland 2009, Senior Leinster Championship 2012, All-Ireland Club Championship 2011.

**FRANCES DORAN** Buffers Alley  
Primary Teacher. Senior All-Ireland 2010, Intermediate All-Ireland 2011, Intermediate Soaring Star Award 2011, Leinster U16 Championship 2002, 2000, Leinster Championship U14 2000 and 1999.

**EIMEAR O'CONNOR** Rathnure  
Student. Intermediate All-Ireland 2011, Senior All-Ireland 2010, National League Division 1 2010, National League Division 2 2009, 2010, Senior Leinster 2012, 2010.

**SHELLY KEHOE** Oulart/The Ballagh  
Defence Forces. Intermediate All-Ireland Championship 2011, Senior All-Ireland Championship 2010, National League Division 1 2010, National League Division 2 2009 and 2010, Senior Leinster Championship 2012, 2010, 2007, All-Ireland Club Championship 2011.

**TRACY NOLAN** Bunclody  
Sports Co-ordinator. All-Ireland Intermediate Championship 2011.

# Player Profiles OFFALY

**ELEANOR CLENDENNEN** Kinnitty  
Student. All-Ireland Junior Championship 2009, Purcell Cup 2012, Munster Colleges medal, 4 Féile na nGael titles, Senior 'B', Minor, U16, U14 Club honours.

**KAREN BRADY** St. Sinchills  
Teacher. All-Ireland Intermediate Championship, Junior All-Ireland Championship, U16B Leinster Championship, Ashbourne Shield with UL 2008, Soaring Star Award 2009.

**TRIONA MCDONALD** Kilcormac/Killoughey  
Student. Ashbourne Shield 2011 with NUIG, Leinster Minor Championship 2009, Senior B, Minor, U16, U14 County titles.

**SHEILA SULLIVAN** Birr  
Secondary School Teacher. All-Ireland Intermediate Championship, All-Ireland Junior Championship, Leinster Junior Championship, 3 Junior Club Championships, Leinster U16 B Championship, 1 National League, 3 Ashbourne Cup titles, 1 Ashbourne Shield.

**LINDA SULLIVAN** St. Rynaghs  
Early Childhood Practitioner. All-Ireland Intermediate Championship, All-Ireland Junior Championship, 2 Club Junior Championships, All-Ireland Schools Senior B title, U16 Leinster Championship, Senior & Junior Schools Medals, Club Football Championships, Midland Cup & Shield Ladies Soccer Championship.

**LORRAINE KEENA** Kilcormac/Killoughey  
Student. All-Ireland Intermediate Championship, All-Ireland Junior Championship, Senior B Club Championship, 3 U18 Club Championships, 2 U16 Club Championships, U16 B All-Ireland Championship, U16 B Leinster Championship, 4 Ashbourne Cup titles with WIT.

**MARION CREAN** Shinrone  
Primary School Teacher. All-Ireland Intermediate Championship, All-Ireland Junior Championship, 4 Club Championships, 1 Leinster Club Championship, Leinster U18A Championship, Munster Schools Championship.

**FIONA STEPHENS** Drumcullen  
Administrator. Intermediate All-Ireland Championship 2010, Junior All-Ireland Championship 2009, 9 Senior Club Championships, 3 Leinster Club Championships, Junior and Senior Gael-Linn medals, Leinster Championship medal, Camogie Soaring Star 2009, Colleges All Star, 2 Purcell Cup medals with A.I.T., A.I.T. player of the year,

nominated for Offaly person of the year 2009.

**SHOBHÁN FLANNERY** St. Rynaghs  
Irish Defence Forces. All-Ireland Intermediate Championship 2010, All-Ireland Junior Championship 2009, Leinster Junior Championship 2009, All-Ireland U18 B Championship (Player of the Match) Leinster U18 B Championship, All-Ireland U16 B Championship, Young Player of the Year Nominee 2005, 2 Junior Club Championships, College Purcell Cup.

**TINA HANNON** Naomh Buid  
Nurse. All-Ireland Intermediate Championship 2010, 1 Junior All-Ireland Championship 2009, 1 Junior Club Championship, 1 Senior B Club Championship, 1 Ashbourne Shield with UL 2008.

**MICHAELA MORKAN** Shinrone  
Student. All-Ireland Intermediate Championship 2010, Junior All-Ireland Championship 2009, 2 Club Championships, 2 U18 Leinster Championships, U16 B All-Ireland Championship 2005, U18 B All-Ireland Title 2008, All Star Award 2010, All Star Nominee 2006, 2011, Soaring Star Award 2009, Tipperary Schools title with Borrisokane, 2 Junior Munster Colleges titles, Intermediate A and Senior B Munster colleges title, Tipperary VEC sports person of the year 2007, Borrisokane Community College female sports person of the year 2008.

**JEAN BRADY** St. Sinchills  
Student. All-Ireland Intermediate Championship 2010, All-Ireland Junior Championship 2009, All-Ireland U18 B Championship 2008, U14 Leinster Championships, 2 Ashbourne Cups with WIT, Freshers Player of the Year with WIT, 3 Offaly Championships, 2 Leinster Championships and All-Ireland Finalists with Sacred Heart School.

**AOIFE KELLY** Lismagh  
Secondary School Teacher. All-Ireland Intermediate Championship 2010, All-Ireland Junior Championship 2009, Junior County Championship, U18 County Championship, All-Ireland Senior B Schools title.

**ELAINE DERMODY** Drumcullen  
Insurance Broker. All-Ireland Intermediate Championship 2010, All-Ireland Junior Championship 2009, All Star Award 2010, Soaring Star Award 2009, 12 Senior Club Championships, 4 Leinster Club Championships, 2 Leinster Junior Championships, U18 Leinster Championship.

**ARLENE WATKINS** Birr  
Dental Nurse. All-Ireland Intermediate



Back row (l-r): Shauna Carroll, Siobhán Flannery, Triona McDonald, Elaine Dermody, Michaela Morkan, Sheila Sullivan, Marion Crean, Jean Brady, Lorraine Keena, Michelle Dolan, Edel O'Meara, Leanne Scully, Eimear Mooney, Orlagh Kirwan. Front row (l-r): Karen Brady, Tina Hannon, Arlene Watkins, Emma Dunne, Fiona Stephens, Linda Sullivan, Aoife Kelly, Ailsa Hughes, Katie Bergin, Ann Marie Guinan, Eleanor Clendennen. Missing from photo: Grainne Egan.

Championship 2010, All-Ireland Junior Championship 2009, 2 Junior Club Championships, 2 Purcell Cups with AIT, Soaring Star 2009, Gael Linn 2009 with Leinster.

**SHAUNA CARROLL** Birr  
Student Nurse. U18 B All-Ireland Championship, 2 U18 B Leinster Championships, Junior Club Championship, U18 A Club Championship, 2 U18 B Club Championships, U16 & U14 Club Championships, 2 U14B Leinster Championships, Leinster Schools Junior Championship, 2 Leinster U18 Schools Championships.

**ORLAGH KIRWAN** Birr  
Student. All-Ireland Intermediate Championship 2010, All-Ireland Junior Championship 2009, Offaly Camogie U16 Sportstar 2009, Offaly Camogie Senior Sportstar 2010, 2011, Minor A Club Championships, U16 Club Championships, 2 Leinster U14 B Championships, U18 B County Championship, 3 Leinster School titles, All-Ireland Community Games bronze medal.

**LEANNE SCULLY** Kinnitty  
Primary Teacher. All-Ireland Junior Championship 2009, All-Ireland Minor B Championship, All-Ireland U16 B Championship, Leinster U18, U16, U14 Championships, All-Ireland School finalist 2008, Féile na nGael Winners 2000.

**KATIE BERGIN** Birr  
Primary Teacher. All-Ireland Intermediate Championship 2010, 1 All-Ireland Junior Championship 2009, 3 Junior Club Championships

**EMMA DUNNE** Kilcormac/Killoughey  
Student. All-Ireland Intermediate Championship 2010, All-Ireland Junior Championship 2009, All-Ireland: 1 Minor B, Division 2 League winner with Mary I, 1 Fr. Meachair Cup, Senior B, Junior, Minor, U16 and U14 Club Championships, Leinster Schools Championship 2007, Sports Person of the year St. Brendan's C.S.

**MICHELLE DOLAN** St. Rynaghs  
Student. Ashbourne Shield 2010, Junior County Final, Leinster Senior Schools 2010, Leinster Senior Schools 2009 (Football), Offaly Minor B 2008, U14 Leinster B 2005, U16 Football Championships, Minor Football final 2009.

**AILSA HUGHES** Tullamore  
Student. All-Ireland Intermediate Championship 2010, All-Ireland Junior Championship 2009, Minor B All-Ireland Championship, U18 Club Championship, Senior Schools Leinster Championships, All-Ireland Schools 'C' championship finalists.

**EIMEAR MOONEY** Birr  
Student. All-Ireland U16 B Finalist 2011, Minor B Leinster Championship, U16 B Leinster Championship, Féile na nGael runner up with Seir Kierans 2008, Minor A medal with Birr 2011, Leinster Junior A Schools Championship, Senior Offaly School Championships with St. Brendan's C.S.

**ANNMARIE GUINAN** Drumcullen  
Student. Minor, U16 B and U14 B Leinster Championships, 3 Senior Club Championships, U16 A Club Championship 2010, U14 B Club Championship 2007 as well as several colleges medals with St. Brendan's C.S.

**EDEL O'MEARA** Shinrone  
Student. Leinster Minor B 2011, U16 B All-Ireland Finalist 2011, Leinster U16 B Championships, U14 B Championship 2009, Senior Offaly School Championships, Junior School Leinster B 2011, St. Brendan's C.S. Athlete of the year 2011, Senior A Club Championship Finalists 2011, Senior B Club Championship 2010, Minor B Championship 2011.

**GRAINNE EGAN** Shinrone  
Student. Leinster Minor B Championship 2011, U16 B All-Ireland Finalists 2011, Leinster U16 B Championships, Leinster U14 B Championship 2009, Senior A Club Championship Finalists 2011, Senior B Club Championship 2010, Minor B Championship 2011.



## Lorraine RYAN (Killimordaly – Galway)

- Q: Three people who have had an influence on your career?**  
**A:** My Father Pascal has been my main influence since I was small, although I am not doing his nerves any favours at this stage. Frank Duane – I think it's safe to say that nothing will keep him from going to our training and matches, always making sure we have everything we need. Breda Connaire – no longer with us – guided me when she was alive, and continues to do so from the playing fields of Heaven.
- Q: Most cherished victory?**  
**A:** Winning the intermediate final as it was the first time for the club to go senior – a special day for everyone.
- Q: The toughest opponent outside of your county?**  
**A:** Kate Kelly – Wexford.
- Q: Favourite venue?**  
**A:** Croke Park because it is where every camogie player wants to be on the third Sunday in September – it's a special venue.
- Q: Four words to describe yourself as a player?**  
**A:** Dedicated, competitive, hard working, physical.
- Q: Three most fun camogie colleagues?**  
**A:** Susan Earner, Martina Conroy and Ann Marie Starr – Two messers and little Starry in the mix, as if butter wouldn't melt in her mouth.
- Q: Six sportsmen you would invite to dinner?**  
**A:** Bernard Brogan, Joe Connolly, Fergal Moore, Brian Cody, Rafael Nadal, David Beckham – some are chosen for good conversation others just to look at!! Figure that out yourselves!



- Q: Deep and meaningful conversation, Usain Bolt or Michael Phelps?**  
**A:** Michael Phelps because he is the greatest Olympian ever, 22 medals.
- Q: Three people you admire, local, national and international?**  
**A:** My Galway team mate, Therese Maher-Donoghue; a true inspiration on and off the field. Katie Taylor, national treasure who has just won Gold in London. Muhammad Ali, iconic sportsman who transcends sport.
- Q: Favourite Song/piece of music?**  
**A:** One Moment in Time by Whitney Houston.
- Q: Three things you are serious about?**  
**A:** Family, sport, career.
- Q: Ambition?**  
**A:** To win an All-Ireland medal with Galway.
- Q: Do you access Camogie social media?**  
**A:** Yes – a good way of keeping up with overall camogie news.
- Q: What do you do to chill out?**  
**A:** Get into my pyjamas, relax and watch telly.
- Q: Personal motto?**  
**A:** You can do nothing more than your best!

## Amanda O'REGAN (Douglas – Cork)

- Q: Three people who have had an influence on your career?**  
**A:** My parents – Michael and Christina. They've been my coaches since I started playing and are always encouraging me. Also my sister Louise who makes sure to keep me on my toes at all times.
- Q: Most cherished victory?**  
**A:** Winning first senior county title with my club and captaining the same team. Having played so many years without winning any titles, it was great to get there and for the club, the years of hard work finally paid off. To share it with my family was special as we were all involved, especially my parents who had been involved with the team since the club was formed.
- Q: The toughest opponent outside of your county?**  
**A:** Una Leacy – Wexford.
- Q: Favourite venue?**  
**A:** Croke Park – We only get one opportunity to play there each year so if you're there it means there's only 60 minutes between the team and the goal for the year – an All-Ireland title.
- Q: Four words to describe yourself as a player?**  
**A:** Hard working, determined, committed and calm.
- Q: Three most fun camogie colleagues?**  
**A:** Briege Corkery, Louise O'Regan and Jessica Kavanagh – all great fun and great for morale.
- Q: Six sportsmen you would invite to dinner?**  
**A:** Brian Corcoran, Michael Jordan, LeBron James, Muhammad Ali, Roger Federer and Steve Redgrave – all legends, need I say more.
- Q: Deep and meaningful conversation – Usain Bolt or Michael Phelps?**  
**A:** Usain Bolt – it may not be deep and



- meaningful but it would be entertaining!
- Q: Three people you admire, local, national and international?**  
**A:** Former Cork star Sandie Fitzgibbon – who played both camogie and basketball to the highest level and seeing what she was able to achieve was great motivation for me. National: Katie Taylor who has just crowned an amazing record. International: Michael Jordan, superb athlete and now a wonderful pundit. There is an aura of greatness about him.
- Q: Favourite song/piece of music?**  
**A:** Don't Stop Believin' – Journey.
- Q: Three things you are serious about?**  
**A:** Camogie, basketball and family.
- Q: Do you access camogie social media?**  
**A:** Yes. For match results and it's nice to see what's happening in other parts of the country.
- Q: Ambition?**  
**A:** For this year to win an All-Ireland with Cork and win senior county championship with my club.
- Q: What do you do to chill out?**  
**A:** Reading, watch TV, spend time with family and friends.
- Q: Personal motto?**  
**A:** Set your goals high and don't stop until you get there.

## Michelle O'LEARY (Rathnure – Wexford)

- Q: Three people who have had an influence on your career?**  
**A:** Firstly my parents (Jimmy and Ann) have been a huge support, they drove me the length and breadth of the country over the years and never complained (not too much anyway!). The late Martin Codd and his great words of wisdom. His passion for the game will never be forgotten. Noel Ryan, who trained us when we started playing with Wexford U14. Plenty of fun times...heading off to matches with our bags full of Mr. Freezes and mouths full of refreshers. Noel was there in the beginning and fittingly so was a selector when we won the Senior All-Ireland in 2007. A gem with always a kind word for the referee!!!
- Q: Most cherished victory and why?**  
**A:** Winning the club senior county title in 2008. It's special winning with the people you started playing camogie with and seeing people of all ages from the parish so delighted. We were a long time waiting on this one.
- Q: The toughest opponent outside of your county?**  
**A:** They are all tough at this level – but if forced to choose one I'd say Briege Corkery.
- Q: Favourite venue?**  
**A:** Croke Park. Fab!
- Q: Four words to describe yourself as a player?**  
**A:** Honest, committed, lucky – to be involved with a group of people who all want the same thing. I've been told that on more than one occasion that I am awkward – that is a positive!
- Q: Three most fun camogie colleagues?**  
**A:** Oh it's hard to choose – all the ladies on the panel are loads of fun. Although I should mention the Zimmers (you know who ye are) as we've had fun for the longest!!!
- Q: Six sportsmen you would invite to dinner?**  
**A:** Usain Bolt – to find out the secret behind his unbelievable speed. Tommy Walsh – to get some hurling tips, for a small man his ability in the air is unreal. John Mullane – to find out what motivates him. Roger Federer – on tips to improve my tennis skills. Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh – I'd listen to him all night. Bernard Brogan – just for a chat!
- Q: Deep and meaningful conversation – Usain Bolt or Michael Phelps?**



- A:** Usain Bolt. I would make sure to bring a notebook and pen and take down a minute by minute account of his training routine, what he eats, drinks and sleeps.
- Q: Three people you admire, local, national and international?**  
**A:** Local: Bernie Higgins, one of my first underage trainers. She gives so much of her time to camogie and is still involved in the club today. Bernie, I think all those extra laps for talking too much have paid off! National: Katie Taylor, a legend. Her strength and belief in doing everything in her power to achieve her dream. Also Mickey Harte has to get a mention – his courage, strength and faith have to be admired. International: Brad Pitt, mmmmm did some work for world peace (didn't he!) – easy on the eye!!!!
- Q: Favourite Song/piece of music?**  
**A:** Maniac 2000 by DJ. Mark McCabe and Cuchulainn's Son when sung by the late Martin Codd.
- Q: Three things you are serious about?**  
**A:** Tea, camogie, sweets.
- Q: Do you access camogie social media? If so, your opinion**  
**A:** Yes, it's interesting and gives up to date results.
- Q: Ambition?**  
**A:** To play every game as if it were my last and aim to enjoy it as if it were my first.
- Q: What do you do to chill out?**  
**A:** Drink tea, watch Home and Away, eat cakes.
- Q: Personal motto?**  
**A:** What's for you, won't pass you by!

## Sheila SULLIVAN (Birr – Offaly)

- Q: Three people who have had an influence on your career?**  
**A:** Number one would have to be my parents Tadhg and Mary – they aren't from a hurling background but always encouraged and supported everything I did. Caroline McCarthy in Birr for getting me involved with county at first and of course, Joachim Kelly who really turned around Offaly's camogie fortunes.
- Q: Most cherished victory and why?**  
**A:** Has to be our first All-Ireland adult victory – 2009 Junior Camogie final. It's always great to win, but to do it with a team as tight-knit as ours was something special...the celebrations weren't too bad either!!!
- Q: The toughest opponent outside of your county?**  
**A:** Cork's Jenny O'Leary – an unbelievable athlete. She will punish you if you are any bit off form.
- Q: Favourite venue/why?**  
**A:** Croke Park – the surface is perfect and you have always achieved something when you get to play there. Love playing in Birr, Offaly's spiritual home too.
- Q: Four words to describe yourself as a player?**  
**A:** Committed, honest, team-player, inventive (have created a new brand of hand-pass known as the Phantom!).
- Q: Three most fun camogie colleagues.**  
**A:** Tina Hannon – you always know when it's Tina time!!! Emma Dunne – Ireland's answer to Lady Gaga; Lorraine 'ah sure, it'll be grand' Keena.
- Q: Six sportsmen you would invite to dinner?**  
**A:** JJ. Delaney and Brian Whelehan for the hurling talk. Robin Van Persie and Xabi Alonso for the eye candy. Joe Brolly and Pat Spillane just to see the row!!!
- Q: Deep and meaningful conversation – Usain Bolt or Michael Phelps? Say why?**  
**A:** Definitely Usain Bolt. Would be nice to know how he stays so relaxed before races (Must be the Jamaican thing) ...and I want to learn how to do his trademark lightning



- gesture properly...it's harder than it looks!
- Q: Three people you admire, local, national and international?**  
**A:** Locally, my uncle Dermot for his interest and involvement in the local GAA club. Nationally: Mary McAleese. Internationally: Nelson Mandela.
- Q: Favourite song/piece of music?**  
**A:** Trains, "Drive By" is my favourite at present. I always get a good feeling when I hear Black Eyed Peas "I've Got a Feeling" as it reminds me of the 2009 All-Ireland.
- Q: Three things you are serious about?**  
**A:** My family and friends; Helping Birr and Offaly camogie progress; My job in Shannon Comprehensive.
- Q: Do you access camogie social media? If so, your opinion.**  
**A:** Yeah, think it's great to keep up to date with all the latest results and fixtures and generally, to know what's going on. It's brought another more accessible dimension to the association.
- Q: Ambition?**  
**A:** To have no regrets when finished my playing career. Outside of that, World Peace!!
- Q: What do you do to chill out?**  
**A:** Play a bit of golf in my spare time. Did a bit of film-making last summer that provided some entertainment for the holidays but the less said about that the better!!! :)
- Q: Personal motto?**  
**A:** Have no regrets!

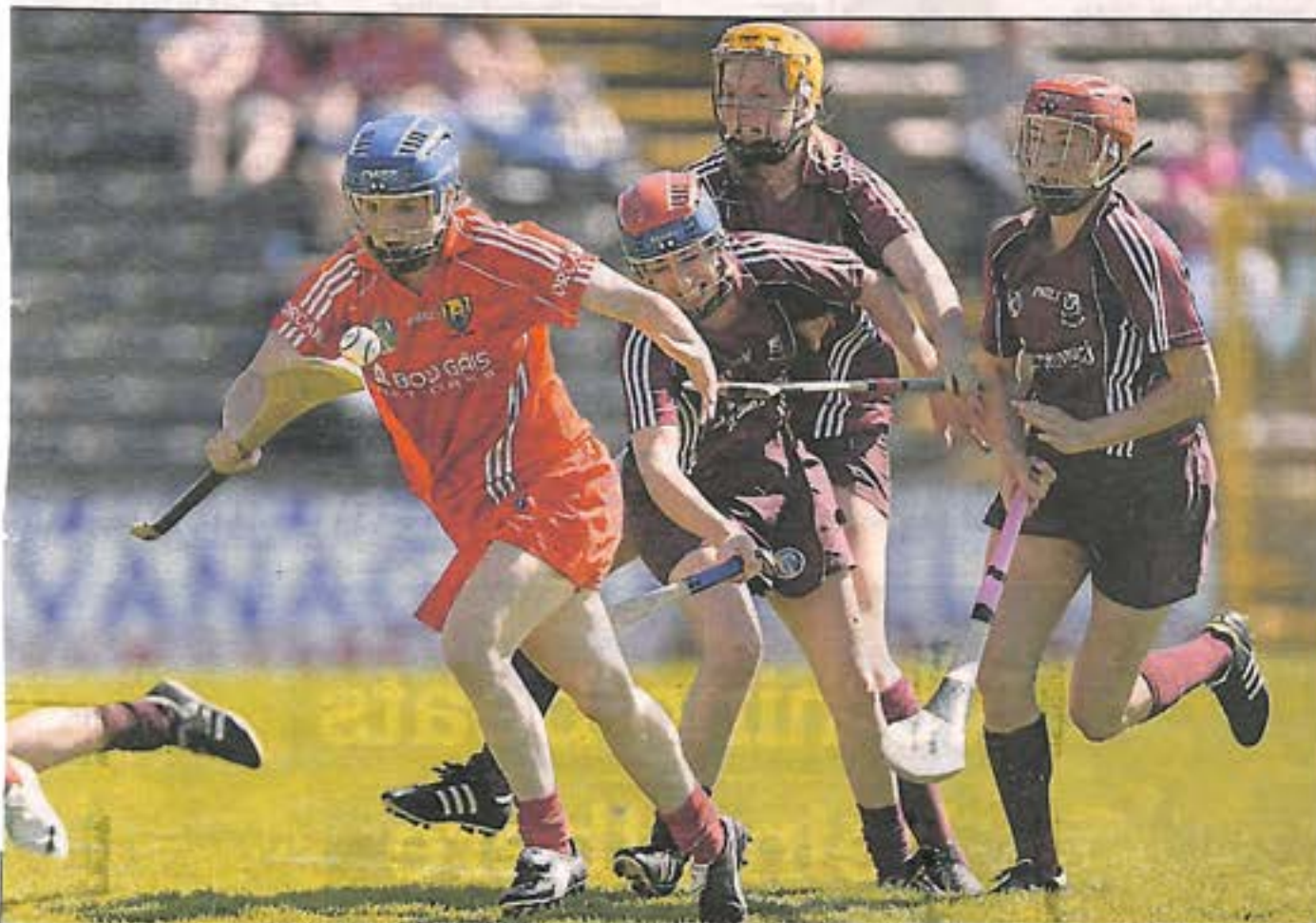


August 2012

18 CAMOGIE

Kingpins: Wexford are aiming for an historic three-in-a-row of All-Ireland senior camogie titles. **Impressive**

# Cork's late, late surge does trick



**BREAKING AWAY:** Cork's Briege Corkery break away from Galway's Sandra Tannian, left, and Therese Maher during the All-Ireland Senior camogie semi-final at Nowlan Park, Kilkenny on Saturday.



All-Ireland Camogie senior championship semi-final

**CORK** .....3-10

**GALWAY** .....0-12

**Patrick O'Sullivan**

Nowlan Park

Cork produced a late, late surge to see off Galway in this thrilling All-Ireland senior camogie championship semi-final at Nowlan Park on Saturday.

On 57 minutes Cork led 1-10 to 0-12 before midfielder Jennifer O'Leary powered forward to set up Katrina Mackey for a goal which looked to have killed off the

Galway challenge.

But, two minutes later, the Connacht girls drove downfield but somehow Aislinn Connolly and Veronica Curtin contrived to miss a gilt edged opportunity.

Then, deep into added time, Sile Burns landed a third Cork goal, after good work by Orla Cotter, to seal their place in September's decider with Wexford.

It had all begun so differently. On nine minutes, following a brilliant point by Curtin, Galway looked confident leaders at 0-6 to 0-2, facing the wind. They were quicker to the ball but struggled to convert possession into scores.

Galway failed to score in the first-half after the 17th

minute. A tenacious Cork midfield came more and more into matters, while centre-back Gemma O'Connor got to grips with the menacing Niamh McGrath. Up front Briege Corkery had the game's opening goal in the 22nd minute, when she latched onto a breaking ball and fired past Susan Earner.

Four minutes later, Corkery added a point as the Rebels led 1-8 to 0-8. The second-half was neck and neck, with Galway still profligate in front of goal. Then a wonderful brace of points from Niamh Kilkenny in the 38th and 39th minutes reinvigorated their challenge at 1-9 to 0-10. They threatened to break through, but never did better than paring the margin

to the minimum. Cork stayed resolute. Everything was right in the balance until O'Leary broke forward on that crucial run which Mackey coolly finished. Galway are left to rue those missed chances and so unproductive a second quarter.

**CORK:** A Murray, J. Duffy, R. Buckley, J. O'Callaghan, P. Mackey, G. O'Connor 0-1, E. O'Sullivan, J. O'Leary 0-4 (36), O. Cotter, J. Casey, L. Dorgan, K. Mackey 1-2, S. Burns 1-1, B. Corkery 1-1, K. Buckley 0-1.

**Subs:** A. Geary for Buckley (36), R. Curtin for Dorgan (46), F. Neville for Casey (60+1).  
**GALWAY:** S. Earner, S. Tannian, S. Dervan, L. Ryan, S. Cahalan, T. Maher, R. Glynn, N. Kilkenny 0-2, A.M. Hayes, A. Connolly 0-2, N. McGrath 0-3 (26), B. Hanney, V. Curtin 0-3, M. Conroy 0-1, O. Kilkenny 0-1. **Subs:** E. Haverly for Glynn (44), N. Coen for O. Kilkenny (58), O. McGrath for Conroy (58).  
**Referee:** A. Laguerre (Kildare)

## Tables turned as Model now in the firing line

**Therese O'Callaghan**

Cork aim to do a league and championship double over Wexford



Leaving Nowlan Park on Saturday, the chat quickly turned to the All-Ireland final on September 16. And the belief was that if any team could stop Wexford in their quest for three-in-a-row, then it would Cork.

Wexford halted the Rebels achieving a similar feat in 2007. Now the tables are turned as the Slaneysiders will now be in the firing line.

The Leinster outfit are unquestionably the best team in the country.

Over the past couple of years the physical presence of Ursula Jacob, Kate Kelly, Una and Mary Leacy, Claire O'Connor and Catherine O'Loughlin has brought camogie to new heights.

Wexford entered Saturday's semi-final on the back of a five-week layoff (as did Galway) and the lack of championship game-time may be an issue for JJ Doyle and his management team.

They are continuing with their club competitions but that won't match the pace and intensity of top flight action.

Now they also have injury worries. Una Leacy is their biggest concern after being helped off at the end of the first quarter with what appeared to be a serious-looking knee injury.

The Oulart-the-Ballagh star suffered a lay-off earlier in the year and it would be devastating if one of the greatest forwards in the modern era was to miss out on the decider.

Twelve months ago Wexford full-back Catherine O'Loughlin suffered a serious ankle injury at the same stage but was fit for the final.

It is hard to know how good Wexford are this year.

They racked up 3-14 against

an Offaly side that was competing in their first senior semi-final (John Troy's charges will surely learn from the experience of being pitted against the champions), and Ursula Jacob, Katrina Parrock and Leacy are the big dangers in attack.

Their bench too impressed. Then they played a trump card with only 10 minutes to go.

Fiona Rochford, one of the stars of the 2011 All Ireland intermediate winning side, rifled over three unanswered points within a seven-minute spell while Kate Kelly continues to show excellent form at midfield.

Una's sister Mary, rock-solid in the number six jersey and corner back Claire O'Connor, came into Saturday's game after injury lay-offs.

Both are big players in a formidable Wexford back line and this is an area Cork will have to break down.

Once the Cork defenders and midfield got on top (a marvellous clean sheet from keeper Aoife Murray) they closed Galway down.

Briege Corkery and Katrina Mackey are the most potent of the forwards and it will be interesting to see who the Leesiders will select at centre-forward for All-Ireland final Sunday.

Paudie Murray and his management will have to curtail the influence of the older of the Leacy sisters if Cork hope to prevail. Anna Geary and Lynda Dorgan are the most recent to fill the posting.

Cork wouldn't fear Wexford having beaten them in the league final this year and will relish the chance of revenge for that final defeat five years ago.

## Wexford edge closer to three-in-a row



All-Ireland Camogie senior championship semi-final

**WEXFORD** .....3-14

**OFFALY** .....0-5

**Patrick O'Sullivan**

Nowlan Park

All-Ireland senior camogie champions Wexford are an hour away from securing a

third consecutive championship crown after easing past Offaly on Saturday.

With Ursula Jacob and Kate Kelly to the fore, the Model County raced 0-6 to 0-1 clear after 12 minutes with Arlene Watkins on target for the Midlanders. But an injury to influential centre-forward Una Leacy stalled the Wexford momentum and the champions went 17 minutes before Katrina Parrock

registered their seventh point. But her side finished in style with Kelly setting up Jacob for a 29th minute goal. An Elaine Dermody free left the margin at eight points (1-7 to 0-2) at the interval.

Michaela Morkan bravely tried to inspire Offaly on the restart but her efforts were in vain against the powerful south eastern girls. Wexford cruised home, with Parrock striking for a brace of goals in the 41st and 47th minutes

while sub Fiona Rochford impressed off the bench striking three points.

**WEXFORD:** M. D'Arcy, C. O'Connor, C. O'Loughlin, K. Atkinson, N. Lambert, M. Leacy, D. Codd, M. O'Leary, K. Kelly 0-3 (1 pen), L. Codd, U. Leacy 0-1, J. Dwyer, L. Holohan, K. Parrock 2-2, U. Jacob 1-4.

**Subs:** F. Kavanagh 0-1 for U. Leacy (18, inj), F. Rochford 0-3 for Jacob (50), S. Kehoe for O'Leary (53), E. Quigley for Holohan (57).  
**OFFALY:** E. Clendenen, K. Brady, T. McDonald, S. Sullivan, L. Sullivan, L. Keena, M. Cress, S. Flannery 0-1, F. Stephens, T. Harman, M. Morkan 0-1, J. Brady, A. Kelly, E. Dermody 0-2 (fs), A. Watkins 0-1.  
**Subs:** O. Kiwan for Kelly (42), L. Scully for Stephens (42), E. Mooney for J. Brady (56).  
**Referee:** O. Elliott (Antrim)



**Wexford's Ursula Jacob has her jersey tugged by Offaly's Sheila Sullivan during their All-Ireland Senior camogie semi-final on Saturday. Jacob has been immense this year.**



# WEXFORD ARE EDGING CLOSE TO THREE-PEAT

WEXFORD are now an hour away from three titles in a row after seeing off the Faithful County.

A physically stronger Wexford side led from the get-go Ursula Jacob pointing after 20 seconds.

The margin was 0-6 to 0-1 after 12 minutes, Jacob rising a second white flag. A neat effort from Arlene Watkins was the only reply.

Two superb points by Kate Kelly, arrowed over from the heart of midfield, were highlights of an early push.

Wexford's defence, marshalled by imposing full-back Catherine O'Loughlin, shut out Offaly.

Injury to influential centre-forward Una Leacy early in the second quarter stalled Wexford's momentum.

**Wexford 3-14  
Offaly 0-5**

All-Ireland Camogie semi-final

## Sharp

Which or whether, there came 17 minutes in which the only addition to the scoreboard was a Katrina Parrock point. Wexford, so sharp and experienced at this stage, knew they needed more much more.

Their leaders delivered. No other than Jacob goalied in the 29th minute, following a trademark delivery into the danger zone from Kelly. Now Model ascendancy was properly heavy, 1-7 to 0-1.

The challengers could muster no more in reply than an Elaine Dermody free. Eight down at the break, their situation swung between difficult and dire.

The second half never deviated from the first half's script but to their credit, the Faithful contingent held diligent, dotting the half hour with three points. They were never able to cut a deeper groove though, with Michaela Morkan the only figure in their front eight making any sort of headway.

Wexford cruised home,

with Katrina Parrock striking for a brace of goals in the 41st and 47th minutes. The interplay was impressive, featuring a nice mixture of graft and craft, experience and exuberance.

Fiona Rochford was an impressive substitute, making a strong case for inclusion the next day by striking three points on the trot from the right corner. Her entry emphasised panel strength.

## Penalty

By the end, Kelly could afford to point a penalty in added time for that 18-point margin.

WEXFORD: M O'Leary, C O'Connor, C O'Loughlin, K Atkinson, N Lambert, M Leacy, D Codd, M O'Leary, K Kelly 0-3 (1 pen), L Codd, U Leacy 0-1, J Dwyer, L Holohan, K Parrock 2-2, U Jacob 1-4. Subs: F Kavanagh 0-1 for U Leacy (18, 1st), F Rochford 0-3 for Jacob (50), S Kehoe for O'Leary (53), E Quigley for Holohan (57). OFFALY: E Clendennen, K Brady, T McDonald, S Sullivan, L Sullivan, L Keena, M Cress, S Flannery 0-1, F Stephens, T Hannon, M Morkan 0-1, J Brady, A Kelly, E Dermody 0-2 (fs), A Watkins 0-1. Subs: O Kirwan for Kelly (42), L Scully for Stephens (42), E Mooney for J Brady (58m). REFEREE: D Elliott (Antrim).



ACE: Kate Kelly of Wexford gets the player of the match award from Aileen Lawlor



FINAL DESTINY: Jennifer O'Leary of Cork, with the player of the match award

# REBELS RISE UP TO SEAL FINAL SPOT!

THE expectation was that Cork and Galway in the opening All Ireland semi-final would go to the wire.

Right down it went, in a manner the final scoreline distorts.

Spectators in a sun-kissed Nowlan Park saw a gripping contest, where a gutsy Cork side rode their luck and came good down the home straight.

On 57 minutes, with the Southerners a point ahead at 1-10 to 0-12, tireless midfielder Jennifer O'Leary powered up.

She offloaded to Katrina Mackey, who netted precisely from close range.

Galway blanched at a four-point deficit so late in the day.

Even so, they found a gilt-edged goal chance of their own two minutes later.

However, Aislinn Connolly and Veronica Curtin contrived to haul each other with the posts at their mercy.

Deep into added time, Sile Burns landed a third goal, which made the margin emphatic.

Cork's other midfielder, Orla Cotter, had done the spadework, dispossessing two defenders.

It had all been so different. On nine minutes, following a brilliant point by Curtin, Galway looked confident leaders at 0-6 to 0-2, even facing a fresh breeze.

They were quicker to the ball, sharper to use it. But this fluency never translated to the scoreboard.

Galway failed to score in the first half after the 17th minute.

A tenacious Cork mid-field came more and more into matters, staunching possession. Equally, elegant centre-back Gemma O'Connor got to grips with Niamh McGrath.

Briege Corkery, presum-

**Cork 3-10 Galway 0-12**  
All-Ireland senior camogie semi-final

ably with the elements in mind, had been sited at full-forward.

She hallmarked this decision by goaling on 22 minutes.

Four minutes later, Corkery added a point for good measure and Cork lead 1-8 to 0-8 at the break.

The second half was neck and neck, with Galway still profligate in front of goal. Then a wonderful brace of points from flying midfielder Niamh Kilkenny in the 38th and 39th minutes re-invigorated their challenge at 1-9 to 0-10.

## Resolute

Cork stayed resolute. Everything was right in the balance as O'Leary broke forward on that crucial run, her composure proving adequate.

Galway are left to rue those missed chances and so unproductive a second quarter. An improving Rebel outfit will not be one bit afraid to be in Croke Park on camogie's biggest day.

CORK: A Murray, J Duffy, R Buckley, J O'Callaghan, P Mackey, G O'Connor 0-1, E O'Sullivan, J O'Leary 0-4 (3f), O Cotter, J Casey, L Dorgan, K Mackey 1-2, S Burns 1-1, B Corkery 1-1, K Buckley 0-1. Subs: A Geary for Buckley (38), R Curtin for Dorgan (46), F Neville for Casey (60+1).

GALWAY: S Earner, S Tannian, S Dervan, L Ryan, S Cahalan, T Maher, R Glynn, N Kilkenny 0-2, AM Hayes, A Connolly 0-2, N McGrath 0-3 (2f), B Hanney, V Curtin 0-3, M Conroy 0-1, O Kilkenny 0-1. Subs: E Haverly for Glynn (44), N Coen for O Kilkenny (58), O McGrath for Conroy (58). REFEREE: A Lagree (Kildare)

# Meet the athletes



## CATHERINE MURPHY

CATHERINE Murphy, above, is a liver transplant recipient from Aghabullogue.

She will compete in the 60-69 year age category in field ball throw; darts singles; darts triples; petanque singles and petanque doubles.

The retired teacher and grandmother of three underwent transplant surgery in 2001.

She first represented Ireland at the European Transplant and Dialysis Games in Hungary in 2006 and has won medals at every World and European Games. She has competed in sports ranging from badminton to petanque.

Her sporting endeavours go back many years with medals in camogie at county and university level.

Catherine is a member of the Coachford Active Retirement Association where she plays short mat bowls and participates in aquarobics, yoga and exercises to music.

She says she lives every day to the full and 10 years ago, couldn't have imagined being as active as she is today.

## Nenagh Guardian Player of the Week



Eimear McDonnell was in great form as Burgess/Duharra began their Co. Senior Camogie Championship campaign with a win.

# Wexford to face Cork in All-Ireland decider

**CAMOGIE:** The tight affair that was anticipated in the first of the All-Ireland SCC semi-finals between Cork and Galway materialised in Kilkenny, despite what the Rebels' 3-10 to 0-12 victory might imply.

It could all have been so different for the Tribe. On nine minutes, following a brilliant point by Veronica Curtin, they looked confident leaders at 0-6 to 0-2.

However, their failure to again in the first half, plus a Briege Corkery goal on 22 minutes, earned Cork an unlikely half-time lead of 1-8 to 0-8.

The gutsy Leesiders rode their luck at times in defence, but well-taken goals after the interval from Katrina Mackey and Sile

Burns ensured a well-earned victory.

While the second semi-final never took flight as a contest, 2010 champions Wexford hurled impressively and will take some beating in the decider, having dispatched Offaly by 3-14 to 0-5.

It was 0-6 to 0-1 to Wexford by the 12th minute, a neat effort by Arlene Watkins being Offaly's only riposte to opposition dominance.

To their credit, the Faithful contingent stayed at their task, dotting the second half with three fine points. But the winners cruised home, with Katrina Parrock scoring a brace of goals, while Kate Kelly could even afford to take a point from a penalty in added time.



Top scorer Katrina Parrock on the ball in Saturday's win over Offaly.





LINDA MELLERICK

## CAMOGIE

Cork 3-10  
Galway 0-12

LIKE a dam finally bursting its walls, Cork unleashed weeks of pent-up frustration with a dazzling display of desire, passion and guts to book their place in the All-Ireland senior camogie final on September 16.

This was a terrific contest, the second half in particular, where great defending, a bit of luck and great goals gave the spectators a memorable afternoon.

Cork needed to fire on all cylinders to overcome the All Ireland finalists of the past two seasons. Playing with a nice wind it took 13 minutes for them to settle.

Cork trailed 0-6 to 0-2 after nine minutes as Galway, first to the ball and delivering the near perfect pass into their sharp forwards, picked off some majestic points. Cork's play wasn't as fluent but slowly they started to relax.

Jennifer O'Leary, free, and Sile Burns struck over, Aislinn Connolly replied with a point with Gemma O'Connor matching it as the play flowed end to end.

On 16 minutes Galway's Niamh McGrath struck Cork's eighth point and they were on song but their failure to score for the remainder of the half will mystify them. They fell apart, their confident game plan up to then falling by the wayside as soon as Cork applied the pressure.

Briege Corkery's brilliant goal on 21 minutes gave Cork the lead for the first time, a lead which they never relinquished. Two further points from Corkery and O'Leary (f) gave Cork a three-point advantage entering the dressing room.

The second half was neck and neck. With 56 minutes on the clock and leading 1-10 to 0-12 the tireless, magnificent Jennifer O'Leary withstood a thundering shoulder to keep her feet and put Katrina Mackey through for the goal that finished this game for Galway. There was no way back and Sile Burns' goal four minutes later only rubber stamped Cork's train ticket to Croke Park.

Galway's tactics were baffling to say the least. Three points behind, playing with the wind and needing



Cork's Briege Corkery shoots to score her side's first goal in the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship semi-final at Nowlan Park. Picture: Sportsfile

# Cork stand up to be counted when needed

to attack the game they opted to drop their half-forward back and play a defensive role. Galway cleared a lot of ball but none other than one of the game's finest exponents, Gemma O'Connor, was now operating unmarked at centre-back and how she enjoyed that second half. She was absolutely faultless as she drove ball after ball back out the field, playing the perfect sweeping role.

On big days teams need their big players to perform. Galway's went missing. Linda Dorgan did everything that was asked of her as Therese Maher failed to have any impact and her replacement Regina Curtin, midway through the second half, was an able replacement.

All Cork's subs made an impact with Anna Geary replacing Katie

Buckley, Katrina Mackey moving in to the corner, where she pointed immediately, and Geary playing a mid-field/defensive role.

You'd have found it hard to pick out Brenda Hanney and Aislinn Connolly as household names but credit must go to the Cork defence for that and Cork's All Star goalkeeper for sure, Aoife Murray.

Galway had their chances. Veronica Curtin blasted wide on 43 minutes, Brenda Hanney tore down on goal but excellent positioning by Jenny Duffy broke down the hand pass and the inspiring moment of defensive play from Joanne O'Callaghan to dispossess Curtin signalled that this was going to be Cork's day.

With Cork leading by four points and a minute of normal time re-

maining Aoife Murray was left facing two in-rushing Galway attackers. However, Aislinn Connolly and Veronica Curtin contrived to challenge each other with the posts at their mercy and the moment was lost.

**Scorers for Cork:** J O'Leary 0-4 (0-3 f), S Burns 1-2, B Corkery, K Mackey 1-1 each, G O'Connor, K Buckley 0-1 each.

**Galway:** N McGrath 0-3 (0-2 f), V Curtin 0-3, A Connolly, N Kilkenny -2 each, O Kilkenny, M Conroy 0-1 each.

**Cork:** A Murray, J Duffy, R Buckley, J O'Callaghan, E O'Sullivan, G O'Connor, P Mackey, J O'Leary, O Cotter, J Casey, L Dorgan, K Mackey, S Burns, B Corkery, K Buckley.

**Subs:** A Geary for K Buckley (36), R Curtin for L Dorgan (46), F Neville for J Casey (52).

**Galway:** S Eamer, S Tannian, S Dervan, L Ryan, S Cahalan, T Maher, R Glynn, N Kilkenny, A M Hayes, A Connolly, N McGrath, B Hanney, V Curtin, M Conroy, O Kilkenny.

**Subs:** E Haverly for R Glynn (44), N Coen and O McGrath for O Kilkenny and M Conroy (55).  
**Referee:** Alan Lagrue (Kildare).

## Murray is delighted with team performance

FINALLY Cork produced what they were capable of and it was obvious that it pleased an elated manager Paudie Murray.

"Yeah I knew it was there and I suppose probably all along we've been inconsistent but obviously coming here today a big performance was the only way we were going to win this and in fairness, every one of them gave it."

"I said recently that we were becoming very hard to

beat and you could see that out there; our defence stood up very well when the pressure came on in the second half."

Tactically, Cork played it very well. Linda Dorgan kept the formidable Therese Maher very quiet.

"There was a lot of work done this week, a lot of videos watched. We worked on a plan and in fairness Linda did what she was asked to do and we were then able to bring on the few

### REACTION

subs that made a huge difference Anna (Geary) going on and Regina (Curtin) did very well. We asked for a lot of honesty today and I think we got it."

Goals win games and Cork got three.

"We had spoken about that, that if we ran at the Galway defence there was openings there and we even spoke about it at half time as

well, that there were certainly goal chances there and I think we took them very well, something I suppose we have been guilty of not doing in the last couple of games."

Did Paudie feel that the three-point lead was sufficient against the wind at half time?

"The wind was strong but I felt that the second half would probably suit us better. Now Galway changed things around and brought

in a sweeper and it took us a while to react and we had to make a couple of changes to counteract that but I actually think that we're a better team playing against the wind."

It's a Cork v Wexford final. "Wexford going for three in a row, we'll be going in as underdogs but we'll just look after and worry about ourselves and you know if we show the same attitude we did today it'll take a good team to beat us."

### Westmeath Camogie Notes

27 August 2012

#### All Ireland Champions

Pride of place this week goes to the county U16 team who beat Armagh 1-10 to 2-04 in Ashbourne on Sunday last to be crowned All Ireland 'C' Champions. Played in glorious sunshine the girls played their hearts out, withstanding a late rally by Armagh. After the game a very proud Aileen Lawlor presented the Player of the Match award to Caoimhe McCrossan, followed by the cup to captain Mary Deegan. Congratulations to the entire panel, as well as Ger Corcoran, Alo Egerton, Paul O'Malley and Mary Glynn on a great achievement. See elsewhere in this paper for match report.

**Panel & scorers:** Erin Harte (Raharney), Claire Coyne (Raharney), Kelly Dobson (Lough Lene Gaeils), Laura Varley (Castletown Geo), Lisa Cully (St. Bridgets), Rachel O'Malley (Raharney), Mary Deegan (St. Bridgets), Amy Cully (St. Bridgets), Aoife Corcoran 0-06 (0-4f, 0-01 '45) (Castletown Geo), Caoimhe McCrossan 0-02 (Lough Lene Gaeils), Jenna McKeogh 1-0 (Raharney), Ann Marie Kennedy (Lough Lene Gaeils), Sabina McLoughlin (Crookedwood), Nicola Judge 0-02 (St. Bridgets), Jenny Judge (St. Bridgets), Melissa Cooke (Brownstown), Sarah Kennedy (Raharney), Orla Daly (Castletown Geo), Maria Kelly (Raharney), Ciara Griffith (Castletown Geo), Lisa Flanagan (St. Bridgets), Eleanor Conway (Castletown Geo), Katie Heffernan (Castletown Geo), Ciara Cuskeilly (Castletown Geo), Leah Kenny (St. Bridgets), Susan Carey (Castletown Geo), Shanna Con (Raharney), Emma Broughan (Cullion), Kelly Dalton (Castletown Geo).

A1 U16C FINAL





Ard Comhairle member Miriam O'Callaghan presents the Player of the Match award to Galway's Therese Moher – June 2012.



Tipperary's Mary Ryan is presented with her Irish Daily Star Player of the Match award by Aileen Lawlor, President of the Camogie Association – June 2012.



14 July 2012; Martina Conroy (Galway) is presented with the Player of the Match award by Marie O'Brien, Chairperson of the Connacht Council – July 2012.

## Irish Daily Star 'Player of the Match' award presentations



Katriona Mackey (Cork) is presented with her Irish Daily Star Player of the Match award by Marie Kearney, Ard Comhairle Member Camogie Association – July 2012.



Siobhán Flannery (Offaly) receives her Player of the Match award from Leinster Camogie Chairperson Catherine Neary – July 2012.



Eamonn Browne, Vice-President of the Camogie Association, presents the Player of the Match award to Dublin's Arlene Cushen – July 2012.



Eamonn Browne, Vice-President of the Camogie Association, presents Fiona Lafferty (Clare) with her Player of the Match award – July 2012.



(Photos: Sportsfile)



Jennifer O'Leary (Cork) is presented with the Player of the Match award by Marie Kearney, Ard Comhairle member of the Camogie Association – August 2012.



Offaly's Elaine Dermody is presented with the Player of the Match award by Mary Connor, Ard Comhairle member of the Camogie Association – August 2012.

## Skyline launch for Camogie Senior Championship



Photographed at the Etihad Skyline at Crake Park for the launch of the 2012 Camogie Championship, in association with RTE Sport, are Aileen Lawlor, President of the Camogie Association with (from left): Elaine Dermody (Offaly), Susan Vaughan (Clare), Joanne Ryan, (Tipperary), Elaine O'Meara (Dublin), Julia White (Cork), Catherine Doherty (Kilkenny), Lorraine Ryan (Galway) and Karen Atkinson (Wexford).

(Photo: Paul Mahan/Sportsfile)

## Fourth Poc Fada title for Jackman

THE STRONGEST field yet might have been assembled for the Poc Fada at Annaverna on Saturday, August 4th but it made no difference to Waterford's Patricia Jackman.

The 21-year-old Waterford and Gaultier ace made light of the testing conditions to retain the title and annex an historic fourth in succession. She completed the course in 29 pucks.

She faced strong competition from Aoibheann Murphy (Armagh), Niamh Mackin (Louth), Rachel Monaghan (Connacht), Stephanie Carthy (Leinster), Martina McMahon (Munster) but despite intense pressure from the chasing pack, Jackman managed to hold on to the M. Donnelly Poc Fada title.



## Mini Games

### BALLINCOLLIG (Cork)

1. Amy Murphy
2. Anna Cremin Butler
3. Shannon Twomey
4. Shauna O'Flynn
5. Lauren Buckley
6. Caoimhe Creedon
7. Alana O'Sullivan
8. Frances Corkery
9. Kate O'Sullivan
10. Ellie Ronayne

#### Mentors:

Jessica Hennigen  
Sean Creedon  
Brendan Butler

### KILLIMOR (Galway)

1. Maeve Muldoon
2. Olivia Haverly
3. Megan Ryan
4. Laoise Shiel
5. Ailbhe Salmon
6. Siorcha Byrne
7. Siobhán Byrne
8. Marian Duffy
9. Niamh Mahony
10. Amy Haverly

#### Mentors:

Mella Muldoon  
Mairéad Mooney  
Aoife Costelloe

### DRUMCULLEN (Offaly)

1. Sarah Ryan
2. Jessica Dermody
3. Jenny Bracken
4. Grainne Lyons
5. Elaine Troy
6. Charlotte Quegan
7. Kathy Dermody
8. Ava Spillane
9. Clodagh Leahy
10. Bronagh Guinan

#### Mentors:

Michelle Egan  
Edel Corcoran  
Audrey Spillane

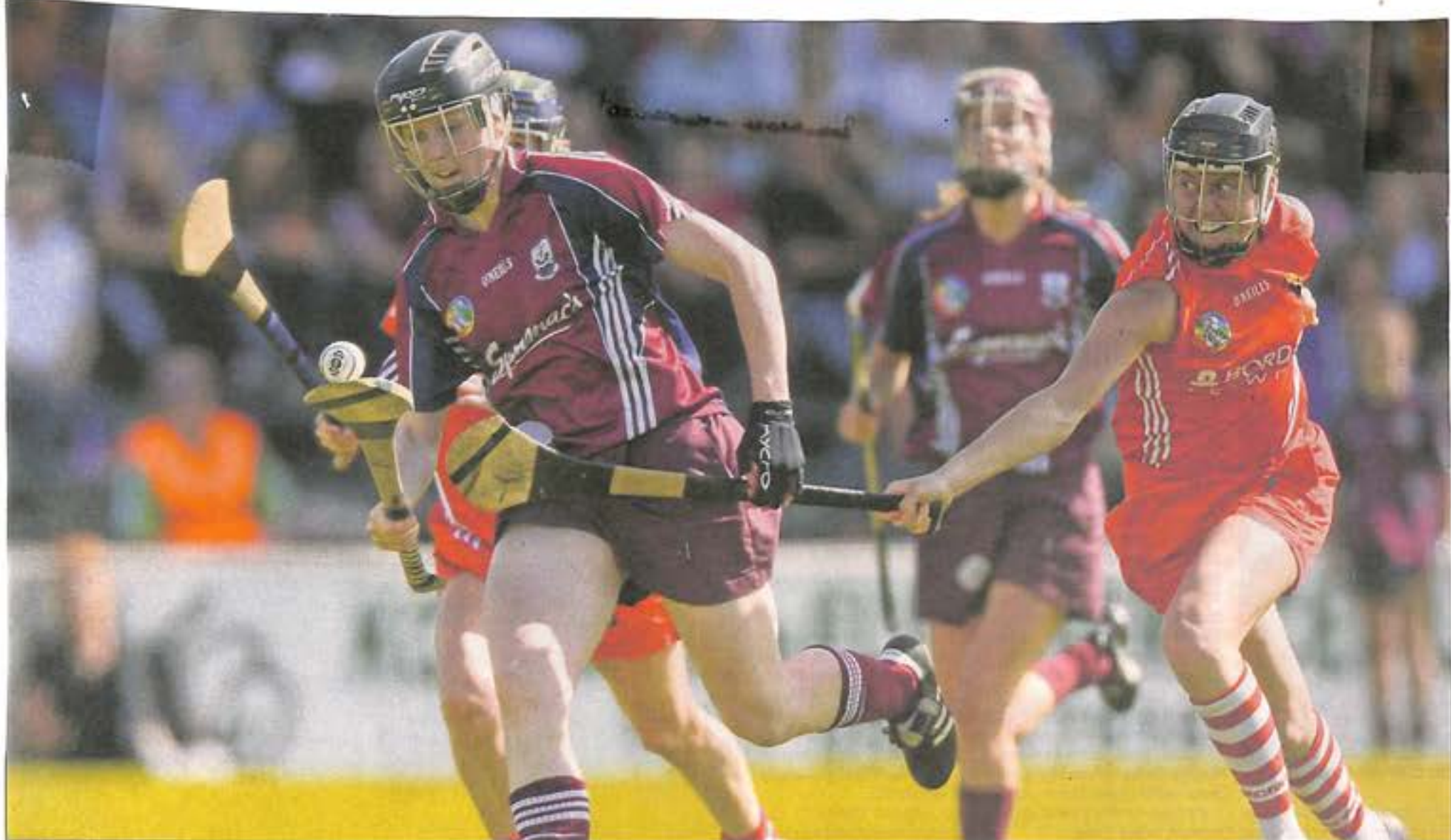
### OULART THE BALLAGH (Wexford)

1. Siobhán Finnott
2. Cora Redmond
3. Maire O'Dowd
4. Edel Keogh
5. Ellen Lyons Corrigan
6. Sofie Rossiter
7. Chloe Fortune
8. Aoife Walshe
9. Elaine Nolan
10. Ciara Blake

#### Mentors:

Bartle Sinnott  
Lisa Kenny, Aileen Moran  
Thomas Walshe





Galway's Brenda Hanney is chased by Gemma O'Connor and Joanne O'Callaghan during Saturday's All-Ireland camogie semi-final at Nowlan Park. PHOTOS: MATT BROWNE/SPORTSFILE

# Below par Galway pay price for mistake-ridden display

## Ward's charges fail to deliver after making great start against Cork

**Cork** 3-10  
**Galway** 0-12

**EOGHAN CORMICAN  
AT NOWLAN PARK**

OH dear. Galway camogie has seen many a black day in its long litany of frustrating chronicles, but this must surely rank among them as one of the most trying defeats as the out-of-sorts Tribeswomen self-destructed against a more streetwise Cork.

It was certainly not an easy day being a Galway supporter in Nowlan Park on Saturday as the harsh reality sunk in that the Westerners would not be returning to Croker for a third successive year.

Crucial to note, however, is that it was not Cork who denied Galway a September showdown with Wexford or a chance to bridge a 16 year gap to the county's last O'Duffy Cup success – no, the Galway players were fully responsible for their own downfall on this occasion.

There were plenty of ifs and buts about this All-Ireland semi-final loss, not least a rudderless forward unit which squandered a handful of guilt-edge goal openings, but on the balance of the hour's play, Cork were deserving of their victory as they completely out-gunned Galway in terms of sheer desire to win and attacking know-how.

Not surprisingly, post-mortems were in full flow in the immediate aftermath of the game and no doubt, many more were conducted this week, but why Galway came

out second best lay in the fact that they delivered a sub-standard, error-ridden performance.

Things like clearances out of defence going astray, an inability to win primary possession around the middle, the pick-pocketing of Galway defenders close to Susan Eamer's goal and five clear-cut goal chances being spurned, all cost Galway dearly in the end.

Added to this, too many of the players were found wanting over the hour. It really says something that aside from the hard-working Niamh Kilkenny, whose two second half points were of the highest order, Galway's top performers were two players who have given over 15 years service in the maroon and white.

One can only hope that we haven't seen the last of Veronica Curtin and, in particular, Therese Maher, but it must be soul destroying to exhaust every last ounce of energy and effort for the cause, while others all around you were content to hide in the wings.

Overall, it was a disjointed Galway display, particularly as they had controlled this contest early on. By the 10th minute, Tony Ward's charges led 0-6 to 0-2, with Niamh McGrath (2), Curtin (2), Martina Conroy and Orla Kilkenny finding the range.

Jenny O'Leary's accuracy from both play and frees proved a lifeline for Cork in the opening quarter, but Galway continued to hold the upper-hand and Aislinn Connolly clipped over a neat point to make it 0-7 to 0-4 after 16 minutes.

Though Galway bossed the



Galway defender Sandra Tannian tries to get her pass away against Cork.

opening exchanges, the key period, arguably, was the 13 minutes leading up to half-time when Cork hit 1-4 in reply to just a solitary minor from the Tribeswomen to take a 1-8 to 0-8 interval lead.

Gemma O'Connor initiated that sequence with an absolute belter from distance and though Niamh McGrath (free) issued an instant response, Cork were beginning to play with more confidence and guile.

A second O'Leary free narrowed the gap before the menacing Brieger Corkery picked the pocket of full-back Sarah Dervan to fire past a hapless Susan Eamer in the Galway goal. There was no doubting that the defence were at fault, but it beggared belief how referee Alan Lagrue did not award Galway a free when Orla Kilkenny was pushed –

clearly so – by Jenny Duffy at the other end. The corner back got off scot free and the sliotar was moved down the field where Corkery profited amid atrocious Galway defending.

It was some turnaround given Galway's blistering start, but one always felt that if Ward's charges could breach the Cork defence for a goal they had the potential to post a match winning score. The attack, however, were not at their most obliging, failing to capitalise on a whole host of opportunities.

First, Brenda Hanney superbly fielded Martina Conroy's probing delivery on 30 minutes, but the wing-forward was descended upon by Rena Buckley just as she was about to pull the trigger, while in the ensuing passage of play, Veronica Curtin – after showing a great burst of pace in the right

corner – blasted straight at Aoife Murray.

Eleven minutes into the second half, Galway were to miss the goal target for a third time in the match when a Niamh Kilkenny delivery broke inside to the unmarked Curtin, but failing to make clean connection the effort of the Kinvara stickwoman dribbled harmlessly wide.

As it was, Katriona Mackey and Sile Burns traded efforts with Niamh Kilkenny and when Connolly and Curtin popped over successive points to narrow the deficit to the minimum, 1-10 to 0-12, the pendulum had swung firmly back in Galway's favour.

Galway could have even edged in front on 48 minutes when Hanney galloped through the Cork cover and with Curtin unmarked on the edge of the square, all that was required was a simple hand-pass. But just as they did all afternoon, Galway baulked in front of goal and Hanney's attempted pass didn't find its target.

In the remaining ten minutes, Galway failed to raise another flag as Cork ignited one final energy surge to comfortably take them over the line. Jenny O'Leary carved open the Galway rearguard with a scorching run, offloading to Katriona Mackey who dispatched to the net despite the attention of four Galway shirts.

Credit to Galway, though, even when things were not going their way, they continued to battle and when Ann Marie Hayes' low delivery evaded full-back Rena Buckley, Connolly and Curtin

found themselves unmarked and with only 'keeper' Aoife Murray to beat.

Just as the Galway fans were on their feet to cheer the expectant goal, the pair collided in going for the sliotar and a Cork defender pounced to avert the danger. It was that kind of day.

Sensing they game had gone from them, Galway heads dropped and on the stroke of full time, Sinead Cahalan failed to control a Therese Maher pass and robbed of possession, Sile Burns was on hand to punish the error in rifling the sliotar past Eamer.

In the cold light of day – no matter which way they look at it – Galway will view this as an opportunity lost. They ruled the opening exchanges and even though they fell behind subsequently, they created ample opportunities to overtake Cork.

As noted, the amount of unforced errors Galway committed bordered on the criminal, while too many of the team's big name players performed well below par. Then again, this isn't the first time this has happened – Galway flopping on the big occasion.

Galway: S Eamer; S Tannian, S Dervan, L Ryan; S Cahalan, T Maher, R Glynn; N Kilkenny (0-2), AM Hayes; A Connolly (0-2), N McGrath (0-3, 0-2 frees), B Hanney, V Curtin (0-3), M Conroy (0-1), O Kilkenny (0-1); Subs: E Haverly for Glynn (44 mins), N Connolly for O Kilkenny (55 mins), O McGrath for Conroy (55 mins).

Cork: A Murray; J Duffy, R Buckley, J O'Callaghan; E O'Sullivan, G O'Connor (0-1), P Mackey; J O'Leary (0-4, 0-3 frees), O Cotter; J Casey, L Doran, B Corkery (1-1); K Mackey (1-1), K Buckley (0-1), S Burns (1-2). Subs: R Curtin for Doran (45 mins), A Geary for Buckley (36 mins), F Neville for Casey (60 mins).

Referee: A Lagrue (Kildare)



August 2012

## TRENDING

DEAN GOODISON  
ON THIS WEEK'S  
TOP TWEETS



### Camogie champs continue to shine under the radar

IT'S HARD to know why, but Wexford have almost drifted unnoticed to the All-Ireland camogie final for the third successive time. It's a complete underdog, a side going for their third crown in a row, their fourth in six years, and it seems most people didn't even notice it happening.

Past years, as you drifted from club game to club game the girls in purple and gold would be a hot topic of conversation. This year the 'did you see the girls won?' has turned to 'when are the ladies playing? They played? How did they get on? Maybe it's a case of with success comes apathy?

The quiet build-up to the semi-final was hardly helped by the club championship roaring on, nor by the fixtures committee to again, in their infinite wisdom, fix a multitude of club games smack-bang in the middle of the All-Ireland semi-final.

Indeed, it was such a rush for Gerry McQuaid, trainer of both Wexford ladies and the Rathnure men, that he had to leave Nowlan Park on the final whistle and fly back to Bellefield to help the lads secure their place in the last eight.

While the lack of compassion shown by those creating club fixtures is sad and self-serving but hardly new, it seems the game's own Association has been a little less forward with their push for radio seconds and column inches than they were under the scrupulous Joan O'Flynn (pictured above).



Whatever the over-riding reason for the lack of excitement, and everything mentioned probably contributed in the attendance at the semi-final almost halving from last year, at least good, old reliable Twitter came to the rescue following the champions' procession to another All-Ireland decider.

Wexford safely into the All-Ireland final v Cork, poor second half but well done girls' tweeted Melanie Ni Dhuinn (@melanienidhuinn), while Mick Weafer (@mickweafer) simply tweeted: 'Well done to the Wexford camogie team on their win today #winners'.

Some missed other horrors to watch camogie. Wexford fan Lisa Larkin (@Leeeeeeeeeee) tweeted: 'Glad I didn't see the Liverpool match today :O got to see Wexford kick some ass in the camogie instead : day off well spent #LochGarmanAbu'. You and me both Lisa, you and me both.

Probably taking the title of Wexford's most famous fan is one of Ireland's best-known singer/songwriters, Eleanor McEvoy (@eleanormcevoy). She tweeted: 'Anyone know what the final result was in the Wexford v Offaly All-Ireland senior camogie match today?'

The 'Only A Woman's Heart' singer developed an interest in Wexford camogie after her daughter played in the mini-games during a league clash. I think we all know who should be approached to write the team song this year.

#### TWEET OF THE WEEK

While Wexford might go into the All-Ireland final without a proper game under their belts for three months, it had been longer than that since Wexford Youths had last won. That all changed with the derby defeat of Waterford on Friday night.

Shane Nolan (@Sha\_Nolan) tweeted: 'Finally back to winning ways. Hopefully carrying on getting that winning feeling back every week #fanswerebrilliant #buzzing'.

## CAMOGIE ALL-IRELAND SEMI-FINAL

# THREE IN A ROW DREAM ON COURSE

DEAN GOODISON

in Nowlan Park

WEXFORD	3-14
OFFALY	0-5

THREE YEARS, three All-Ireland Senior camogie championship finals for Wexford. Whether they will make it three titles in a row is definitely up for discussion after a bitty performance against an Offaly side who simply couldn't match their experienced opponents for quality.

It took just eleven minutes for Wexford to race 0-6 to 0-1 ahead, for John Tóir to drop a forward deep and basically throw in the towel in Nowlan Park. From that juncture there was just one winner, Wexford.

The winner certainly wasn't the game as it turned into a dour struggle, filled with injuries, stoppages and very little hurling.

It really didn't suit the All-Ireland champions who really needed a crisp, free-flowing contest to get ready for the challenge that a rejuvenated Cork will pose.

Yes, it's Cork again. The first time the Leesiders have reached the final since 2009 was confirmed when they ground-down a panicked Galway by 3-10 to 0-12 in the opener of the double-header.

The result might have acted to buoy Wexford into a performance having easily dispatched the Rebellettes in Bellefield at the end of June, and those first ten minutes certainly were impressive.

Ursula Jacob took less than 30 seconds to get on the scoresheet, Kate Kelly combined with Louise Codd to make it two moments later, and Katrina Parrock opened her account in the third minute for a 0-3 to nil lead.

Arlene Watkins picked up Offaly's opening score in the fifth minute but such was the dominance of the Wexford defence that the Faithful girls wouldn't register from play again until 13 minutes from time.

That stat is hardly a surprise, as if Wexford are to three-peat it will be on the back of that strength in the defence.

Yes, five of those did start the league final defeat to Cork but Claire O'Connor was inexplicably left on the bench that day and when the unity of the group is broken something is lost back there.

That rearguard continued to strangle the life out of Offaly as Kate Kelly, driving the side on from her midfield berth, received Mary Leacy's pass and

drilled over from halfway.

Una Leacy grabbed her opening score in the ninth minute and Oulart-The Ballagh team-mate Jacob made it six moments later, yet, what could be the defining moment of this championship for Wexford, came soon after as Leacy limped off on her troublesome knee, leaving the forward a major doubt for the final.

Worryingly, Wexford were never the same team again on Saturday and didn't trouble the scoreboard until the 23rd minute.

When they did register it could have been a goal as Lenny Holohan was denied by Eleanor Clendennen in the Offaly goal, however Parrock was on hand to tap over (0-7 to 0-1).

St. Ibar's/Shelmallee star Parrock was the next to be denied by Clendennen between the sticks when the Offaly 'keeper saved her goalbound shot, but she could do nothing when Kelly released Jacob, who jinked inside the overworked defence and caused the net to ripple.

A pull back on Michaela Morkan saw Elaine Dermody point her first free of the afternoon but it made little impact on the scoresheet as Wexford led at the break by eight (1-7 to 0-2).

More good work by 'player of the game' Kelly gave Ursula Jacob the chance for her third point, which she took with ease to cancel out Dermody's second point, however, Wexford's struggles in the half-forward line, apart from the excellent Josie Dwyer, prevented further chances for scores materialising.

It was Dwyer who helped to create the second Wexford major, combining well down the right with Lenny Holohan who centred for Parrock to bat home her opening goal (2-8 to 0-3) and finish the Offaly resistance.

The longer the half wore on, the easier the scores came for the Slaneysiders as gaps began to appear in the Offaly back six.

Fiona Kavanagh drove through for her score as the third quarter expired and Parrock grabbed a second goal soon after, forcing in a handpass from close range after good battling by herself and Jacob (3-9 to 0-3).

Two quick Offaly points from Michaela Morkan and Siobhán Flannery made sure that any complacency that threatened to set in was quickly extinguished.

This, combined with the introduction of Fiona Rochford, made the final few minutes an excellent spell for Wexford.

Indeed, St. Anne's star Rochford did her push for a final starting place no

harm at all by firing over three stunning picture-perfect points from the right side in her ten-minute cameo.

There was still time for a little more drama when Evelyn Quigley was hauled down for a last-gasp penalty but Kelly topped her performance with her third point rather than going for goal and Wexford wrapped up the all too easy victory.

One thing is for sure, Cork will be ready, so Wexford will need to up it significantly from this showing, and a reshuffle will almost certainly be needed to produce a performance like the one that stifled the Leesiders in Bellefield this year.

If there's one thing the people of Wexford have learnt in recent years, it's that they are certainly capable of better, and of claiming trophies.

■ Kate Kelly (right) and Louise Codd battle it out in the air with Marion Creen and Siobhán Flannery as Mary Leacy looks on in the background.





# WEXFORD V OFFALY, NOWLAN PARK, KILKENNY, AUGUST 18



Sheila Sullivan's despairing jersey-tug isn't enough to prevent Ursula Jacob from scoring the first Wexford goal in Nowlan Park on Saturday last.

## WEXFORD

**SCORERS:** Katrina Parrock (2-2), Ursula Jacob (1-4), Fiona Rochford (0-3), Kate Kelly (0-3, 1 pen.), Una Leacy and Fiona Kavanagh (0-1 each).

1. Mags D'Arcy
2. Claire O'Connor
3. Catherine O'Loughlin
4. Karen Atkinson (capt.)
5. Noeleen Lambert
6. Mary Leacy
7. Deirdre Codd
8. Michelle O'Leary
9. Kate Kelly
10. Louise Codd
11. Una Leacy
12. Josie Dwyer
13. Lenny Holohan
14. Katrina Parrock
15. Ursula Jacob

**SUBS:** Fiona Kavanagh for U. Leacy, inj.; Fiona Rochford for Jacob, Shelley Kehoe for O'Leary, Evelyn Quigley for Holohan.

## OFFALY

**SCORERS:** Elaine Dermody (0-2 frees), Arlene Watkins, Michaela Morkan and Siobhán Flannery (0-1 each).

1. Eleanor Clendennen
2. Karen Brady
3. Triona McDonald
4. Sheila Sullivan
5. Linda Sullivan
6. Lorraine Keena
7. Marion Crean
8. Siobhán Flannery
9. Fiona Stephens
10. Tina Hannon
11. Michaela Morkan
12. Jean Brady
13. Aoife Kelly
14. Elaine Dermody
15. Arlene Watkins

**SUBS:** Oragh Kirwan for Kelly, Leanne Scully for Stephens, Eimear Mooney for Brady.

**REFEREE:** Owen Elliott (Antrim).

**VENUE:** Nowlan Park, Kilkenny.

## Classy Kate set tone for holders

**MIDFIELD PLAYMAKER** Kate Kelly was in superb form as her Wexford team brushed aside the challenge of Offaly in Nowlan Park on Saturday last.

The St. Ibar's/Shelmallee star and former 'player of the year' was delighted with the way the All-Ireland champions dealt with the pressure of being overwhelming favourites.

'There was a lot of pressure on us', said Kelly. 'Offaly came here with nothing to lose. It was a very tough game, by no means was it an easy game and they fought it out to the very end. I suppose we came here to get a result and that's what we got.'

The heart and soul of most of Wexford's scoring drives, Kelly was at her most influential in what many consider her best position of midfield. It's a move, from the wing, that she was happy to make.

'I've been wing-forward for the last two or three years and it's been where I've been getting comfortable. To go back out to midfield was...I was a bit apprehensive, but I always enjoy midfield and I really enjoyed it today.'

One of the main topics of conversation, leading in to the Croke Park showdown, will be what position the 'RTE player of the game' will take up against Cork, but Kelly insists she's happy wherever she plays.

'As long as I'm somewhere between one and 15 I don't mind. There's such competition for places. Right up to Monday night when J.J. (Doyle) named the team I suppose everyone was guessing who'd be on and who wouldn't be on and that's exactly what you want. As long I am somewhere around the middle or wing-forward sure I'm happy.'



Kate Kelly with her player of the match award.

The five-time All Star stated Wexford 'didn't mind either way who we got' but the memory of league champions Cork getting outpointed in Bellefield is still fresh in the mind. Kelly insisted that 'what's gone now this year is gone' and has no real worries about the recent lack of quality matches.

'Not really, club championship goes on in between all our matches and you won't get better, get tougher, games than those,' opined Kelly before continuing, 'and we're

playing 15-on-15 in training and you're marking the likes of our backs and stuff and there's nothing easy there. We're definitely getting tough games.'

'Offaly got there on merit and I don't think anyone can take anything from them today. We just wanted a result, as did Galway, and as did Cork and it's Cork and ourselves through. I don't think anyone will remember the semi-finals, it's all about the final to be honest.'





# Galway selector Glynn makes no excuses for poor performance

EOGHAN CORMICAN

INSTEAD of making plans for a trip to Croke Park and a third successive All-Ireland final meeting with Wexford, bewildered Galway supporters began sifting through the rubble of this latest camogie disappointment before they had even returned to their cars.

Passers-by would have been forgiven for thinking it was Galway who claimed the spoils such as the large sprinkling of maroon and white congregated outside the main stand of

Nowlan Park; each person coming to terms with the same grim reality – this bunch of players, not for the first time, failed to deliver on the promise and potential that many believe to be there.

What made the result all the more sickening was the collective thought that Galway, after their superb showing against Wexford, were hitting form at just the right time. The momentum and confidence was there, built off the back of four consecutive championship wins; the forwards were posting encouraging tallies, not least

their 5-14 against Wexford, 3-10 of which was from open play. A settled midfield partnership had been moulded, while the defence had come through each game with flying colours.

We anticipated a big Galway performance, a big Galway result. And they just flopped. Again. In an All-Ireland semi-final we witnessed two former All-Stars collide in going for the same sliotar with only the goalkeeper to beat. It was spectacularly frustrating.

Outside the Galway dressing room, selector Sharon Glynn

was at odds to surmise where it had all gone so very wrong. "We started well, but once Cork settled they took the game to us, they pushed the tempo. They dictated the game for a good bit and that's probably why we found ourselves struggling in a lot of corners and were exposed near the end."

Although Glynn acknowledged that Cork played with greater intelligence and energy throughout, she was nothing if not frustrated with how Galway had thrown away a plethora of goal opportunities.

"It was a poor performance I suppose, rather than try offer excuses," continued the Galway selector. "A lot of things didn't go right for us, hand-passes didn't stick, we were blocked and we were hooked. Their work rate was phenomenal, ours wasn't."

It wasn't losing that annoyed Glynn or most of the Galway supporters in attendance, it was the manner in which the players dug their own grave. In the most important game of the year, Galway had been found wanting for heart, courage, bravery and hunger.

Bar Niamh Kilkenny's impressive performance and the battling displays of Veronica Curtin and Therese Maher, both of whom tried hard, Galway were second best. This team knows they are infinitely better than what they showed against Cork and that's what will hurt the most.

That said, perhaps we over-looked Cork too hastily in believing Galway were poised for yet another All-Ireland final appearance. Glynn agreed with this assessment, but insisted both the management and players were fully aware that

the League champions would pose a serious challenge to Galway's All-Ireland ambitions.

"It was always going to be tough to get back into a third All-Ireland. People might presume we'll get back there; we beat Wexford in a round-robin game where both teams had already qualified."

"It was always going to be tough, but there are a lot of young heads in this dressing room and no doubt Galway will be back. I'm disappointed for the older girls, in particular Therese and Ronnie, they were excellent out there today and

they have given a lot to Galway camogie in their time."

Galway will be back, there's no doubting that. With only three teams – Galway, Cork and Wexford with a realistic chance of winning the camogie All-Ireland in any given year, Galway will always be there, they go all the way remains to be seen.

Those outside Nowlan Park were unanimous that this current crop have missed their chance and on the basis of what unfolded on Saturday afternoon, you'd have to agree

## Galway intermediates strive to go one better than county's seniors

EOGHAN CORMICAN

THE Galway intermediate camogie team will look to go one better than their senior counterparts when they face Waterford in the All-Ireland semi-final at the Gaelic Grounds, Limerick on Saturday (2pm).

Though the prospect of having two Galway teams contest the All-Ireland finals on September 16 went out the window last Saturday, the intermediate side will be keen to ensure that at least one Galway side makes it to Croke Park next month.

With no injuries to report, manager Tony Ward will have a strong panel to pick from and there should be one or two tough calls in attack where Galway are blessed with a plethora of astute scorers.

Experienced campaigners such as Caitriona Cormican, Deirdre Burke and Molly Dunne, along with Ailish O'Reilly and Elaine O'Sullivan should get the nod up-front with minors Rachel Monaghan, Marie Breheny and Rebecca Hennelly fighting it out for the remaining spot.

Further back, Sarah Noone and Paula Kenny backbone a solid Galway defence, with Emma Kilkelly the influential figure in the middle of the field.

Regardless of what 15 takes to the field, this group of players have the capability to go at least one step further, underlined by an unblemished campaign.

After annihilating a poor Kilkenny side in the opening game (4-13 to 1-6) back in June, Galway produced a storming second half to overcome Cork by 1-18 to 1-8 in their second outing.

Galway welcomed the reigning champions Wexford to Kenny Park subsequently, knowing a win would ensure their place in the knock-out

stages and they duly obliged by 1-11 to 0-11. Rachel Monaghan netted an early goal for Galway, but trailing by two entering the final ten minutes, the home side were forced to dig deep to claim victory with Caitriona Cormican, Molly Dunne, Rebecca Hennelly and Monaghan providing the necessary scores.

With progress to the semis assured, Galway were far from their best in their final group game against Tipperary, securing a share of spoils through an injury-time Rebecca Hennelly free.

Waterford, meanwhile, opened their campaign with impressive wins over Limerick (4-8 to 1-14) and Antrim (7-11 to 3-10), before going down to outright favourites for the Jack McGrath Cup, Derry, on a final scoreline of 3-12 to 2-5.

In their first year of Intermediate camogie, Waterford will enter the contest brimming with confidence and will take solace from the fact that the two previous All-Ireland junior winners went all the way to the Intermediate final in the ensuing year. No doubt the Deise will be keen to make it three-in-a-row.

Patricia Jackman anchors their defence and the reigning All-Ireland poc fada champion will also be a threat from '45s and long range frees. Grainne Kenneally is another key component in the Waterford rear-guard while, up front, they will look to the likes of Nicola Morrissey and, in particular, Karen Kelly to unhinge the Galway defence.

This Galway outfit appears to contain the perfect mix of youth and experience and though Waterford will present an altogether stronger challenge that anything Galway have faced so far in the championship, it would be a major surprise if the Westerners were not to advance to a final showdown with Derry.



Galway's Therese Maher in action against Cork.

## Do-or-die for teams in second round ties

CAMOGIE

By LINDA MELLERICK

AFTER a break of almost five weeks, the *Evening Echo* Senior Camogie Championship resumes this coming weekend with three back-door rounds down for decision, the losers exiting the championship for another 12 months.

Seandun, Ballinhassig, Ballygarvan, Inniscarra, St Catherine's and Ballincollig all lost their perspective opening games.

Seandun and Ballinhassig start proceedings in Carrigaline on Saturday. A number of wasted opportunities cost Seandun dearly against Killeagh, losing by a point, and should they improve up front they should prove to be that bit stronger than Ballinhassig who lost their opening round heavily to title contenders Courcy Rovers.

Seandun look strong on paper but as can often happen with divisional sides, the teamwork may not be the best. The further a divisional side progress in the championship the more in sync they become so one would expect the city divisional side to have improved.

Ballinhassig couldn't have got a more difficult opening to their senior debut but this game should prove more of a fairer challenge and they'll be out to impress with this one.

Considering the pressure Inniscarra piled on Douglas in their opening round, it is hard to comprehend that they failed to score from play over the hour, losing by 2-12 to 0-7.

While credit must go to the Douglas defence for that, Inniscarra looked far better than the score implied and there is no reason to assume they won't advance to round three at the expense of Ballygarvan.

Ballygarvan also didn't have the easiest of opening encounters, where another championship favourite, Cloughduv, inflicted a 3-15 to 0-5 defeat. The loss of Emer Dillon this season hasn't helped Ballygarvan's cause. They still possess seasoned campaigners such as Caitriona Kelly but Inniscarra should advance.

St Catherine's were another side which failed to score from play in their opening encounter with Milford and again, their performance didn't justify this.

For long periods they had Milford under pressure but lack of forward power failed to capitalise. It was five points apiece at the break but when Milford stepped up a level St Catherine's had no response and finished up losing by 15 points.

They have a chance to advance against Ballincollig, who failed to excite against St Finbarr's in their opening round. This one is hard to call. Both sides will be disappointed with their opening performances; they both have a chance to redeem. St Catherine's may just edge it.

FIXTURES

SATURDAY

Evening Echo Cork Senior Camogie Championship second round: Seandun v Ballinhassig, Carrigaline, 6.30pm.

SUNDAY

Evening Echo Cork Senior Camogie Championship second round: Ballygarvan v Inniscarra, Ballincollig, 6.30pm.

MONDAY

Evening Echo Cork Senior Camogie Championship second round: St Catherine's v Ballincollig, Castle Road, 7pm.

August 2012



# Duharra impress in championship opener

County Senior Camogie Championship Round 1

Drom & Inch 1-5 Burgess/Duharra 1-11

Report and photographs by Rose Mannion at The Ragg

League champions Burgess/Duharra set out their stall for the championship when they easily dismissed an extremely disappointing challenge from reigning champions Drom & Inch in the opening round of the County Senior Championship on Monday afternoon.

Many expected this encounter between the top two clubs in the county to be a tight affair and while it was a hard fought game where no quarter was given or indeed asked, Drom failed to live up to expectations and fell away in the second half, failing to score for the last 22

minutes.

On the other hand, Burgess/Duharra were up for this game and had obviously prepared well, where they were quick to settle and opened up an early lead after Ailish McGrath fouled Amy Kennedy and Caoimhe Maher sent the resulting free between the uprights after two minutes.

Drom responded within the minute when Deirdre Dunne converted a free. Amy Kennedy and Sheena Howard engineered a superb attack on the Drom back line in the hope of an early goal but they were unable to pierce a strong

rearguard and had their effort was cleared from danger from where Geraldine Kinane sent Drom ahead for the first time.

With Eimear McDonnell in blazing form at corner forward and causing all sorts of problems for Therese Shortt, she set up many attacks as well as scoring and she and Amy Kennedy in the opposite corner, pushed Duharra back in front.

Siobhan McGrath left one between the sides after Joanne Ryan and Catriona Shortt worked hard in the build-up. Both sides were missing good scoring chances but Drom in particular who sent two consecutive astray mostly due to the effects of pressure from the opposition.

Duharra got the goal they were so anxious to pick off ten minutes before the break after Sheena Howard passed to McDonnell who palmed to the net. However the major was short lived as four minutes later, Joanne Ryan made inroads towards goal and under pressure, passed to substitute Niamh Harkin and she brought the sides level for the second time with a well-taken goal.

Drom forged ahead through their hard working captain Joanne Ryan who was having a great tussle in the middle of the pitch with Caoimhe Maher, but Amy Kennedy and Eimear McDonnell who added three points between them to leave Burgess/Duharra two points up on the break.

Despite the second half promising to be a tit for tat



Burgess/Duharra Caoimhe Maher gives chase to Drom's Joanne Ryan.



Niamh Connolly (Drom & Inch) comes under pressure from Tara Kennedy (Burgess/Duharra) while she makes her way out with the ball.

affair, going right down to the wire, it turned out to be anything but. Even at this early stage, it appeared as though Duharra would ease to victory. Amy Kennedy and Catriona Shortt swapped early points and Drom were very unfortunate to have a goal disallowed after it was deemed a square ball

after a fine Ann Eviston long range free went all the way to the net.

Knowing they were in a corner, Drom were in serious trouble and the girls in green and red were deserted too with their free taking as Duharra pushed further ahead through Amy Kennedy and Sarah Hayes. Duharra too

seemed a more well-balanced side who used great team work which was their hall mark throughout the game.

Emer Duane, Trish O'Halloran and Ruth Barry launched another attack where McDonnell, aided superbly by Amy Kennedy and Caoimhe Maher, were pushing hard

for a second goal but she failed to get through a solid hard working Drom back line with Patricia McGrath, Niamh Connolly and Therese Shortt forcing her out but she did manage to make scoring look so easy as she tagged on a further two points before the final whistle.

## Match Digest

**Player of the Match: Eimear McDonnell (Burgess/Duharra)**

**Scorers: Drom & Inch:** Niamh Harkin 1-0; Aoife McGrath, Geraldine Kinane, Joanne Ryan 0-1 each; Deirdre Dunne, Catriona Shortt 0-1 free each.

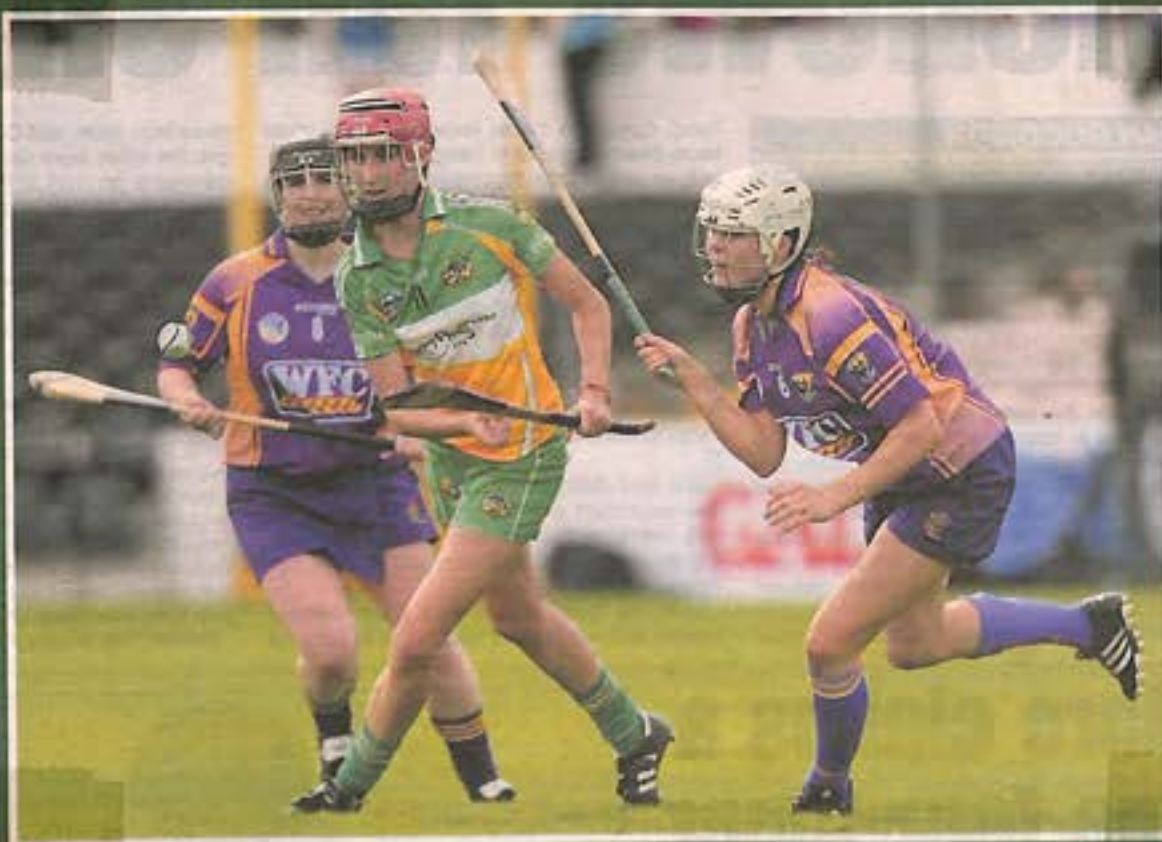
**Burgess/Duharra:** Eimear McDonnell 1-4, Amy Kennedy 0-5, 1 free; Sarah Hayes 0-1; Caoimhe Maher 0-1 free.

**Drom & Inch:** Rosie Kenneally; Patricia McGrath, Niamh Connolly, Therese Shortt, Norma Harrington, Michelle Shortt, Deirdre Dunne, Ann Eviston, Joanne Ryan (Capt), Geraldine Kinane, Antoinette Kennedy, Siobhan McGrath, Aoife McGrath, Aisling Butler, Catriona Shortt. SUB: Niamh Harkin for Kennedy.

**Burgess/Duharra:** Nessa O'Driscoll; Elaine King, Aisling Cremin, Eimear Dwane, Jenny O'Halloran, Trish O'Halloran (Capt), Amanda Egan, Ruth Barry, Caoimhe Maher, Tara Kennedy, Sarah Hayes, Aine Mulcahy, Amy Kennedy, Sheena Howard, Eimear McDonnell. SUB: Niamh O'Donoghue for Kennedy.

**Referee:** Tadhg Whelan (Kilruane MacDonaghs)

## TWO AGAINST ONE



Offaly's Michaela Morkan finds herself outnumbered by Wexford duo Michelle O'Leary and Mary Leacy in the All-Ireland Senior camogie championship semi-final in Nowlan Park on Saturday last.





Galway U15 National camogie champions after defeating Dublin in the final on Saturday last in O'Loughlin Gales, Kilkenny. Back row, left to right: Cathal O'Brien, Gerry Dolan, Theresa Mooney, Patricia Manning, Ruth Fahy, Tara Murphy, Michelle Jennings, Rachel Mannion, Cliona Cantillon, Elenor Stafford, Gerry Helebert. Middle row: Shannon Osbourne, Sinéad Minihan, Emma Helebert, Cliona Walsh, Taragh Maloney, Eimear O'Donovan, Ciara Murphy, Eva Gilmore, Lorraine Larkin. Front row: Blathanid Burke, Aisling Connolly, Laura Ward, Erica Coen, Niamh Murphy, Dervla Higgins, Amy Kelly and Nicola Kelly.

## Tipp fail to spark against lively Derry

The wheels on the Tipperary Intermediate wagon came off on Sunday afternoon in a one-sided All-Ireland semifinal against a very strong Derry side.

On a lovely day, the light went out for Tipperary's second team in Naomh Peregrine GAA grounds in Blakestown as Derry's first team simply blew them away.

Tipp struggled from the start as Derry tore into the attack and had registered four points within the first eight minutes before Brid Quinn latched onto a Theresa Ryan delivery and after a long solo run through the Derry defense her great effort at goal skimmed the crossbar to open Tipp's account in the ninth minute.

Tipperary had no answer for Derry's skill and quality all over the pitch and when Sinéad Cassidy and Katie McAnnenley set up Oonagh Bradley for Derry's first of three goals two minutes later, the writing was already on the wall for the premier girls.

Derry gave Tipperary no chance to recover from the blow and there was no disputing they were the stronger and more skilful outfit as they tore the Tipp defense and midfield to shreds as their second goal from Karen Kiel after twelve minutes in took the game away from the premier girls.

In an effort to curtail Derry, Tipp were forced to foul which gave Kiel the opportunity to practice her sharp shooting but when she went low for a third goal, great defending by the Tipp rearguard denied her.

Aoife Shinnors pointed in the 21st minute, and it looked as if Tipp could close the gap when Shinnors dropped a free in the goalmouth in the hope of a goal result but instead she sent the resulting 45 over. Tipperary pushed hard and Anne Eviston took possession of a clearance, crossed to Chrissie Kenny and the build up once again resulted in a 45 which Shinnors converted.

Tipp badly needed a goal at this stage to help them on their way but Teresa McElroy's hugely industrious workrate paid off when she netted from a pile up to leave the game well beyond a Tipp comeback as they trailed by fourteen points at half time.

Tipperary withstood two very early second half attacks with Derry pushing hard for further goals, but the premier girls didn't falter, Upping their performance and playing with more passion, despite Derry continued to forge ahead. Tipp did manage to safeguard the goalmouth and also kept them scoreless for a fifteen minute spell.

A late attack on the Derry goals from Aoife Shinnors, Brid Quinn, Rosemary Hanafin and Andrea Loughnane came close but not enough as Tipp's luck continued to deteriorate.

For manager Brian Boyle, it was a disappointing manner in which to finish what until then had been a terrific season as this bunch of players had confounded their critics to progress to the All-Ireland semi-final.

"We played them (Derry) before but for some reason we just didn't turn up today. You always see results like this and our team is definitely not that much worse than Derry. The hard thing is there is no way of rectifying that in the next week or two, and the girls know that too, but they are here on merit and we had the best defensive record coming into this championship today along with Derry," said the Tipp manager.

However, the Roscrea based teacher admitted that he couldn't pin point what went wrong. "They ran at us and it shell shocked us. After losing five All-Ireland semifinals in a row, and losing to Wexford last year in the final, that in itself is enough to motivate. As much and all as we thought we had the hunger and the belief, maybe we were lacking a little there and weren't able to match them, but the scoreboard always looks worse than the reality.

"Derry in fairness had their homework done and as this is their first team as opposed to Tipp's second, it was no great surprise that they will make their second successive Croke Park appearance. Should they become the new senior team for next year, their aggression throughout the field will without doubt fend off all obstacles as they so willingly displayed in this outing. Their tactics were admirable spurred on by a massive will and hunger to succeed.

But what went so terribly wrong for Tipp? A disappointed Caoimhe Kennedy said: "We knew it was going to be tough but we didn't expect to go down so badly. We were in a bit of shock at half time there as we really never put it up to them but we stepped up in the second half and kept them to seven points. It was the three goals in the first half really and we couldn't get a goal and goals win games," concluded the Tipp captain.

## Impressive Cork land junior crown

Cork	1-13
Tipperary	0-6

CORK defeated Tipperary in the Munster junior camogie final in Lattin-Cullen.

Cork were first on the score board with two pointed frees within two minutes from Jessica Hennigan.

Tipperary responded with some fine play but were guilty of three bad wides in as many minutes before a Niamh Harkin point got them on the scoreboard.

Cork kept the pressure on and points from Miriam Crowley and Hennigan increased their lead. Tipperary had plenty of opportunities to narrow the gap by they missed three frees before Cork did likewise missing two as the game got scrappy, but it was Cork who finished the half stronger with two points from play to leave Cork in control at the break leading 0-7 to 0-1.

The sides swapped points in the first minutes of the second half before Tipperary's keeper Sarah Cooney reacted quickly to deny Cork a goal with an excellent save.

Three points in three minutes put Cork in the driving seat despite the great efforts of Niamh Harkin with Tipperary points.

Cork kept the pressure on and the goal they threatening to get finally came with 10 minutes of play left was finished on the net by Katie O'Mahony.

Tipp replied with three points in a row but Cork hit one in reply to run out worthy winners.

Scores for Cork: K O'Mahony 1-4, J Hennigan 0-5 (0-4f), M Crowley 0-3, J Mulcahy 0-1.



# Evening Echo SPORT

## Briege bags Echo award

CORK dual star Briege Corkery is confident that Cork can overcome a seven week lay-off and defeat Donegal on Saturday, **WRITES BARBARA O'CONNELL.**

Corkery, speaking at a luncheon in her honour at the Rochestown Park Hotel where she collected the Evening Echo Ladies Sports Star of the month award for July is confident Cork can win and reach the All-Ireland senior football semi-final.

"We have not played in seven weeks, so we are a little bit cautious going into the game, but hopefully, things will go our way," Briege Corkery said.

● See P48, 49 for more.

Briege Corkery shows off her Evening Echo Ladies Sportstar award for July.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare



## FIVE SPORTING STARS ARE TO RECEIVE HONORARY DOCTORATES IN ARTS



**RONAN O'GARA:** For his rugby achievements with Munster and Ireland.



**MARY O'CONNOR:** For her role in Cork camogie and ladies football.



**AIDAN O'BRIEN:** For his work in horse training.



**BRIAN CODY:** For achievements with Kilkenny hurling.



**DENIS IWRIN:** For his football career with Manchester Utd and Ireland.

## UCC honours Brian Cody, our hurling nemesis

**ONE** of Cork's most feared sporting enemies is to be honoured by UCC.

In what may come as a shock to hurling supporters, Kilkenny manager Brian Cody is to be awarded an honorary doctorate by the college.

While he spearheaded the Cats' dominance of the All-Ireland — and a number of victories over Cork — he has also won the respect of true hurling people for his ability to create successful teams.

For this reason he will be one of

By **KIERAN DINEEN**

an array of sporting stars to receive honorary Degrees of Doctorates in Arts at a ceremony in the college on September 7.

Also being honoured is former soccer star Denis Irwin. The Toghier man had an illustrious playing career with both Ireland and Manchester United where he won a host of medals as part of a team that won league titles, FA cups and the Champions League.

Another Cork sporting hero, Ronan O'Gara, is also to be hon-

oured by UCC for his achievements with Munster and Ireland. The country's all-time record point-scorer and caps holder played key roles in winning European Cups for his club and the Grand Slam for his country.

Also getting an honorary doctorate is Mary O'Connor from Killeagh. The dual Cork camogie and ladies football player has won 12 All-Ireland medals.

Legendary horse trainer Aidan O'Brien is also being feted for his work in guiding famous names first over the finishing line.



August 2012

# Dual star Brieger happy



Brieger Corkery, winner of the Evening Echo Ladies Sportstar of the Month for July with her nieces and nephews Aileen and Shane Corkery and Moira and Aodh Twomey.

## AWARDS

By BARBARA O'CONNELL

**CORK'S** busiest sportswoman took time out of her hectic training and game schedule yesterday to pick up the Evening Echo Ladies Sports Star of the Month award for July at a function in her honour at the Rochestown Park Hotel.

Dual star Brieger Corkery added another Evening Echo award to her collection, six years after her first one, but modestly accepted it on behalf of her team mates.

"I could never win these awards without the help of my team mates," Brieger Corkery said.

"The commitment the girls put in is fantastic, so I'm very thankful to them and for all they do for me, to allow me to receive this award, and I do so on their behalf as much as my own."

Brieger, who was chosen as the Evening Echo Ladies Supreme Sports Star winner back in 2008 following her part in the Cork camogie and ladies football All-Ireland victories, is a remarkable sporting talent.

Four years later she is still competing at the highest level and still winning awards and medals in both camogie and football.

The Cloughduv camogie star will surely go down as one of the greatest GAA stars Cork has ever produced, both male and female when she calls a halt to her career.

Yesterday, she was honoured for her role with the Cork lady footballers in helping them to win the Munster football title, just an hour after she had lined out with the camogie team in their All-Ireland tie with Kilkenny in Ballincollig.

Brieger will line out for the Cork ladies football team on Saturday when they take on Donegal in the All-Ireland quarter final in Roscommon.

She is very aware that this could be a tough task.

"Although we are not too familiar with Donegal's team, they are in the final eight, so we are expecting a good tough game."

"Unfortunately for us we haven't played a championship game in seven weeks, so we are a little cautious about how we will per-



Brieger Corkery, winner of the Evening Echo Ladies Sportstar of the Month for July.



Brieger Corkery, Sportstar of the Month for July with Diarmuid Donovan, assistant CEO Evening Echo.



Brieger Corkery, winner of the Evening Echo Ladies Sportstar of the Month for July, with Finbarr Cotter, Newbridge Silverware Cork and Colette Cremin, shop manager.



Brieger Corkery receives her prize from Mandy Gabriel, sales and marketing manager Rochestown Park Hotel.

Evening Echo

LADIES SPORTSTAR AWARDS

NEWBRIDGE  
silverware

RPH  
ROCHESTOWN PARK  
HOTEL



# to be as busy as ever



Cork dual player Briege Corkery, winner of the Evening Echo Ladies Sportstar of the month for July, with her parents Michael and Kitty and sisters Mairead and Siobhán. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

form, but hopefully, on the day things will go our way.

"Even if we go behind, hopefully we'll keep our heads, use our experience and and win."

"For a while after we lost the league final to Monaghan we were all over the place."

"It definitely upset us a little bit however, we did have a good win over Kerry in the Munster championship and we've being doing well ever since."

"Training has being going great and were injury free for Saturday which is good, so we are all looking forward to the game."

Unfortunately for the Corkery household, Briege's parents, Kitty and Michael, who are her greatest supporters, and who were at the function yesterday, are in a bit of a dilemma.

The Cork U16 ladies football team play Galway in Nenagh on Saturday in the All-Ireland

final at the same time Briege's game starts in Roscommon, and Briege's younger sister Mairead is a key player on that team.

"This is a terrible dilemma for us," Briege's mum Kitty said.

"We want to see both games, but can't so we will go the Mairead's game and hopefully the seniors will win and we get to see them play in the All-Ireland semi final, but it would have been great if both games were played in the same venue."

Last weekend Briege's family travelled to Kilkenny to see Briege help Cork reach the All-Ireland camogie final, which takes place on September 16 against Wexford.

Briege scored a crucial goal in that semi final win over Galway, and now has a busy few weeks ahead of her.

"It's absolutely fantastic to be in another

camogie All-Ireland final. We've being doing really well this year and I'm enjoying it."

"There's a great squad there with a lot of young girls added to the panel this year."

"People doubted us for a while, but we've proved them wrong and now to be in another final it's a great feeling."

"Hopefully, I can be there for both football as well as camogie."

Between her football and camogie schedule Briege is training at least six nights a week.

On Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday it's camogie, and on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday she trains with the footballers.

She jokingly adds that she tries to get a bit of club training in between also.

This is a huge commitment from Briege, but she wouldn't have it any other way.

"It's my life really. It's what I've being

brought up with and I couldn't imagine it any other way."

"Training sessions can be such a great craic, so it's not like a chore going training, it's actually really enjoyable."

"I hope I'm as busy for another month or so which will mean Cork footballers are in another All-Ireland final."

Others at the function yesterday were co-sponsors Finbarr Cotter, owner, and Colette Cremin, shop manager of the Newbridge Silverware Shop, Oliver Plunkett Street, Mandy Gabriel, Rochestown Park Hotel, Diarmuid O'Donovan, John McHale and Eamonn Murphy of the Evening Echo.

Briege's sister Siobhán, her husband Jim and their two girls Aodh and Moira were also present, as was her niece Aileen, her nephew Shane and her uncle Fr Jackie Corkery.



Briege Corkery, winner of the Evening Echo Ladies Sportstar of the Month for July with Eamonn Murphy, deputy sports editor Evening Echo and Barbara O'Connell. Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Briege Corkery with her brother-in-law Jim Twomey and her uncle Fr Jackie Corkery at the luncheon in Rochestown Park Hotel. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Evening Echo **LADIES SPORTSTAR AWARDS**

NEWBRIDGE  
silverware

RPH  
ROCHESTOWN PARK  
HOTEL



August 2012

## Tracton set up three way tie

By MARY NEWMAN

Tracton 2-10  
Newtownshandrum 1-10

IT went down to the wire in this Evening Echo Intermediate Championship clash as Newtownshandrum's unbeaten run was halted by a Tracton side battling for their second victory from three games in the round-robin series of competition.

A first-half Jennifer Lynch goal from a long-range free was the difference between the sides at the break as it helped give Tracton a 1-7 to 0-6 interval advantage after they had Jennifer Lynch, Marion Jagoe and Mary McGuinness prominent over the opening 30 minutes.

Maria Reidy and Paula O'Connor showed their accuracy with Newtownshandrum first-half points as they stayed in the contest.

Jennifer Griffin and Sarah Moloney swapped second-half goals and with both sides picking off points it was nip and tuck to the full-time whistle, however Tracton's opening-half goal was the score that separated the sides at the full-time whistle.

As Tracton, Aghabullogue and Newtownshandrum all finished on level points, it will take a play-off to decide who goes forward to the semi-finals.

Aghabullogue were drawn out of the hat to progress with Tracton Newtownshandrum set to do it all again in their bid for a semi final spot so it still all very much to play for their committed sides

**Scorers for Tracton:** J Lynch 1-4 (0-4), M Jagoe 0-3 (0-2), M McGuinness 0-3, J Griffin 1-0.

**Newtownshandrum:** P O'Connor 0-8 (0-7), S Moloney 1-0, M Reidy, C Gilpinane 0-1 each.

**TRACTON:** E Collins; T Harrington, J A Kingston, J Kiely; J Hurley, K O'Sullivan, N Mul-lane; A Kiely, J Lynch; M Jagoe, J Griffin, E Harrington; C Fitzgerald, A Dempsey, M McGuinness.

**Subs:** R Lyons for A Dempsey (58).

**NEWTOWNSHANDRUM:** M O'Connor; F Twomey, V O'Keefe, Michelle O'Connor; L Hooper, C Gilpinane, A Kelleher; P O'Connor, E O'Mahony; E Reidy, R Twohill, A Twohill; C Coppe, K Clifford, M Reidy.

**Subs:** C Griffin for E O'Mahony (61), S Moloney for C Coppe.

# Omens could prove



Cork's Joanne O'Callaghan tussles with Niamh McGrath of Galway in the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship semi-final in Nowlan Park last weekend.

Picture: INPHO/Ryan Byrne



LINDA MELLERICK

I'M not one for superstition or omens, but I think all of us at some time or other like to believe in them when it suits us.

Take Cork's All-Ireland senior title bid on September 16.

Now we're there we have every right to believe we can win it and here's the omen. Cork have been crowned All-Ireland senior camogie champions in 1972, '82, '92, 2002 and here we are back in Croke Park in 2012. That's an omen I think I'll indulge in.

It was a much-improved Cork outfit that took to the field last Saturday. The intensity was back and that came from inside the players.

A management team can only do so much; it's the players that have to hold the desire to win a game once they cross the line.

Full credit to Paudie Murray and his management team too, I'm privy to the effort they are making.

Once again, you would have to question what is wrong with the psyche in Galway sport. They need a reputable sports psychologist.

People have varied opinions on sports psychologists, but I for one believe that anything that can give you an edge, you take it.

Without a shadow of a doubt Galway's downfall is their mental resolve.

And this has been the case for many years now. Player-for-player, they have produced better teams time and again on big championship days and failed to deliver.

I think we have seen the end of this fine side now. Therese Maher and Veronica Curtin will surely call it a day. Three All-Ireland final appearances in four years from 2008-2011, winning none and now failing to reach the final, is a massive blow.

While losing a couple of players shouldn't significantly impact an inter-county side, particularly one with such a good underage record, Galway isn't a county that instils the belief that they can get over this.

If I were a Galwegian, I'd view it as a great challenge so surely there is someone amongst them that can get it

## Youngsters get chance to shine

CASTLE ROAD will be alive to the sound of youngsters this weekend as the Go Games Gala Days for under age teams, up to and including U10s, takes place.

Proceeding got under way yesterday and will continued all day today and tomorrow from 9.30am-6.30pm as clubs converge

on Cork camogie headquarters for what promises to be a great weekend for young aspiring stars.

For the last number of months, the youngsters have been busy practising their skills as the Go Games have taken place in clubs the length and breadth of the county and from Millstreet to Mil-

ford youngsters enjoyed their participation and this weekend is their opportunity to showcase the skills they have learned.

Make sure to get along to Castle Road and support the youngsters today and tomorrow and here hoping the sun shines and everybody has an enjoyable weekend.

## Barryroe turn it around in the second half

Barryroe 4-15  
Newcestown 1-15

BARRYROE continued their impressive displays with a three-goal victory over a determined Newcestown side in this Evening Echo Senior B Championship round-robin game in Clonakilty. In a closely contested opening half, Newcestown matched their opponents score for score and led

at the interval 1-8 to 1-7 thanks to a Colette Desmond goal and points from Colleen Long, Suzanne Deasy and Desmond.

Barryroe matched them score for score with a Claire Sexton goal and points from intercounty duo Jennifer O'Leary and Sile Burns to only trail by a point at the break.

The second half was contested at a high pace with both sides battling to gain the upper hand but two

Sile Burns goals and one from Denise O'Sullivan proved vital for Barryroe as they got to grips with the Newcestown challenge.

In the finish goals were the difference as Barryroe had a cushion of three at the full-time whistle despite a strong and determined challenge from a spirited and determined Newcestown side, who had excellent displays from Colleen Long and Suzanne Deasy.

**Scorers for Barryroe:** S Burns 2-6, J O'Leary 0-8 (0-5), C Sexton 1-1, D O'Sullivan 1-0, G Collins 0-1.

**Newcestown:** S Deasy 0-7 (0-7), 0-1 45), C Desmond 1-2, E Crowley 1-0, C Long 0-6.

**BARRYROE:** E White; J White, E Carroll, L Dulley; K McCarthy, N O'Driscoll, C Sexton, I Dineen, R Dineen; G Collins, Sile Burns, L Gannon; D O'Sullivan; J O'Leary, C Griffin. **Subs:** E McCarthy for C Griffin, D O'Leary for D O'Sullivan, C Dwyer for N O'Driscoll.

**NEWTOWNSHANDRUM:** L O'Sullivan; M Crowley, E Coomey, F Deasy; J O'Mahony, R Desmond, F Crowley; K Murphy, S Deasy, A Crowley, E Crowley, A Buckley, C Desmond, C Long, E Murphy. **Subs:** G Cronin for E Murphy, T McCarthy for J O'Mahony.

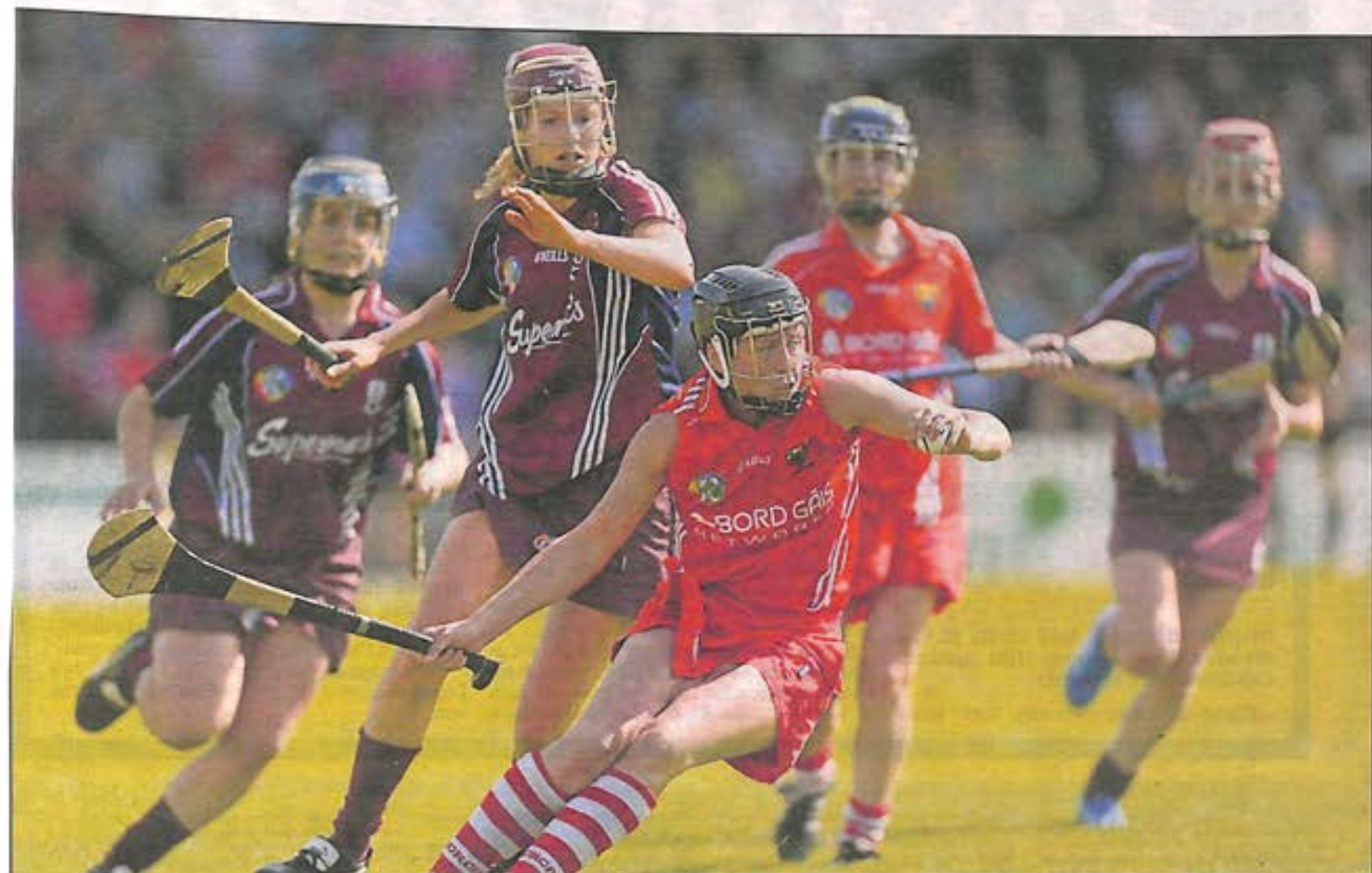


# perfect for Rebels

## Healy, Kiely on target in tight win

By MARY NEWMAN

Aghabullogue	3-3
Sarsfields	1-6



Gemma O'Connor swerves past Aislinn Connolly at Nowlan Park last weekend.

Picture: Matt Browne / SPORTSFILE

all together.

Outside of Cork winning, I would love to see Galway win another title.

They're a great sporting bunch of people.

I've good time for Tony Ward and Sharon Glynn, we often keep in touch, yet last weekend wasn't one of their better days on the sideline.

I don't like criticising management teams because every one of us in that position has made mistakes, and would do things differently given a second chance.

I commented after 10 minutes that Regina Glynn at left half-back wasn't up to it. She regressed further as the game went on yet wasn't substituted until the 44th minute.

Ann Marie Hayes, part of a magni-

ficent Galway half-back line in the past, started at midfield and was non-existent.

Niamh Kilkenny, to be fair, held her own in the middle of the park.

The most bewildering move of all however, was taking Niamh McGrath out of half-forward to play as an additional defender for the second half when Galway had what was a fairly nice wind and were three points behind.

Their attacking game of the first 15 minutes which saw them run at Cork and pick off some beautiful points seemed to take second place to stopping Cork from scoring.

They panicked.

Yet Galway still created some great chances but fumbled most of them.

Great defending by Cork though it must be said as throughout the field Cork hunted in two and threes.

Jennifer O'Leary, player of the match for the second game in a row, has found her niche.

Again full credit to Cork's management team, which withstood criticism from many, for taking her out of the forward line.

Some positional switches work, others don't, but you need to take a chance and also give it time to determine the success or failure of it.

Breige Corkery took her goal brilliantly and it was a goal badly needed at the time because Cork hadn't settled up to then.

Again, a great move placing her at full-forward.

Cloughduv have done this for the past couple of seasons and Breige is causing havoc inside at club level.

Linda Dorgan, a player who has been on and off the starting 15, had a great game.

She was the right choice for Therese Maher. It was her shoulder to shoulder tussle with Maher which allowed the ball to break for Corkery to pounce.

It's great to be back in Croke Park. Cork has every chance of winning this title. Wexford are heading for three in a row.

I don't believe for one minute that they are unbeatable.

Wexford stopped Cork's three-in-a-row bid in 2007. There's a chance to avenge that now.

AGHABULLOGUE made it two wins out of three in the Evening Echo Intermediate Championship as they overcame Sarsfields in Whitechurch.

The result effectively ended Sars' championship quest for the season whilst it ensured that

Aghabullogue ended the round-robin series level on points with Newtownshandrum and Tracton to force a three-way play-off.

Sarah Dineen and Caroline Kiely ensured Aghabullogue led at the break, 2-2 to 1-2, after each had found the net for the mid-Cork girls, who kept the pressure on the Sars defence with points from Ciara Murphy and Michelle Healy. Orlaith Keane had Sars on the scoreboard with an early point and a goal and a point from Emer O'Farrell ensured Sars were in the hunt.

Michelle Healy extended the Aghabullogue lead with an early second-half goal but Sarsfields replied with four pointed frees from Emer O'Farrell without reply to narrow the Aghabullogue lead to two points.

Calling on all their resources, Aghabullogue dug deep and a point from Caroline Kiely

Gave them breathing space and helped them hold a three point lead to the full time whistle to secure their safe passage through despite Sars throwing everything at them in the closing minutes in pursuit of an equaliser.

**Scorers for Aghabullogue:** M Healy, C Kiely 1-1 each, S Dineen 1-0, C Murphy 0-1.

**Sarsfields:** O Farrell 1-5 (0-5), O Keane 0-1.

**AGHABULLOGUE:** N Moynihan; M Twomey, E O'Connell, A Duff; J Crowley, J Twomey, N Twomey; B Twomey, C Murphy; D Twomey, M Healy, A Twomey; S Dineen, U Browne, C Kiely.

**SARSFIELDS:** E Meaney; N Whoolley, D Murphy, N O'Callaghan; J Murphy, E O'Farrell, C Cashman; N Hickory, E Murphy; C Holland, A Whoolley, O Keane; A O'Kelly-Lynch, C Power, M O'Farrell.

**Subs:** A Edwards for M O'Farrell, R Hyde for C Holland.

**Referee:** Colette O'Mahony (St. Finbarr's).

## Stout defending ensures Clon take the victory

Clonakilty  
Valley Rovers

1-9  
1-3

By MARY NEWMAN

Clonakilty took the points in this Evening Echo Senior B Championship clash in Newcestown recently after a hard-fought battle.

The opening half was stop start with a total of 20 frees spoiling the flow of play and with most of the opening-half scores coming from placed balls the opening half never developed as a free flowing contest.

At the break Clonakilty led 0-6

to 0-2, Sharon Whelton pointing three Clonakilty free whilst Cliona O'Regan, Sinead O'Donovan and Aoife Deasy were also on the score sheet.

Susan O'Leary and Ena Coughlan converted two Valley Rovers frees and as they battled to get one from play, Clon led at the break 0-6 to 0-2.

Valleys made a determined start to the second half, with Tessa Crowley prominent in defence. They pushed forward, Mary Ann Hawkes cut the deficit to a point with a goal inside four

minutes of the restart and piling on the pressure they battled to get on level but the Clonakilty defence held firm.

Clon won a penalty eight minutes in but Gillian Harrington denied them with an excellent save, however it failed to rally Valleys.

Sharon Whelton put three points between the sides, pointing a 45 and one from play, 17 minutes in Valleys won penalty but Tessa Crowley opted to tap

it over the bar to cut the led to two points with 13 minutes remaining.

Again the sides worked hard to gain control but Clonakilty with their two-point cushion were comfortable. Sharon Whelton pointed a free to make it three points before a goal from a long-range free with five minutes of normal playing time plus five minutes of injury time (all justified) gave Clonakilty a lead they held to the full-time whistle despite huge Valley Rovers pressure.

**Scorers for Clonakilty:** S Whelton 1-6 (1-5), S O'Donovan, A Deasy, C O'Regan 0-1 each.

**Valley Rovers:** MA Hawkes 1-0, E Coughlan, S O'Leary (0-1), T Crowley (0-1 pen) 0-1 each.

**CLONAKILTY:** A O'Hea; A O'Neill, S O'Brien, C Nagle; A McCarthy, H O'Regan, L Kemp, C O'Regan, B McManus; A O'Leary, J Brennan, S Whelton; S Forristal, A Deasy, S O'Donovan. **Subs:** G O'Regan for B McManus, AM Moyley for A O'Neill, L Collins for A McCarthy, A Kerins for L Kemp, A Campbell for S O'Donovan.

**VALLEY ROVERS:** G Harrington; M O'Sullivan, J Hawkes, AM Murphy; T Crowley, S O'Leary, L Murphy; E Coughlan, A Cummins; L Bugler, C Hawkes, E O'Regan; MA Hawkes, K Richardson, E O'Mahony.

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



# Galway to meet Derry in the final

■ CAMOGIE round-up

GALWAY came out on top of a hard-fought encounter with Waterford to win the All-Ireland intermediate camogie semi-final by 1-14 to 0-13.

Derry await in the decider, and the Westerners will take heart from the steely determination they showed to see off a stubborn Waterford challenge.

Dee Burke, the excellent Emma Kilkelly and Rachel Monaghan were amongst the scorers as Galway streaked into a four-point lead after 19 minutes, with Trish Jackman and Niamh Rockett responding for Waterford.

Ruth Geoghegan was also on the mark for Waterford.

This helped stretch the lead to five points within 10 minutes of the restart but Waterford showed plenty of character to bring it back to two points, with Jackman raising four white flags.

Then three late scores from Rebecca Hennelly, Kilkelly and Sinéad Keane cemented their spot at Croke Park on August 16.

## Edged

Meath will play Down in the premier junior final after the Royals beat Kildare 0-14 to 0-5, while the Mourne girls edged out Laois 2-8 to 2-5.

Whereas Kildare were totally reliant on Susie O'Carroll for scores, Meath had a much wider spread, with Jane Dolan, Aoife Maguire, Sinéad Hackett, Aileen Donnelly and Edel Guy all registering scores.

In the other semi-final, goals from Laura Maher and Eimear Delaney, allied with points from captain Louise Mahony and Elaine Mahony ensured that Laois were in this game right up to the final whistle.

Down's Niamh Mallon got a brace of goals, and added a point from play.

Fionnuala Carr got four points and Sara Louise Carr, Laura Hughes and centre-back Lisa McCrickard registered.

Meanwhile, there were All-Ireland U-16 championship wins for Offaly in the B final, and Westmeath in the C decider. Offaly defeated Derry in a high-scoring encounter 5-10 to 2-6, while Westmeath held off Armagh 1-10 to 2-4.

**CAMOGIE:** Galway prevailed in a hard-fought encounter with Waterford to win the All-Ireland intermediate semi-final by 1-14 to 0-13.

Dee Burke, Emma Kilkelly and Rachel Monaghan were amongst the scorers as Galway streaked into a four-point lead after 19 minutes, with Trish Jackman and Niamh Rockett responding for Waterford. Their momentum was halted just before half-time by a fortuitous goal from Kilkelly.

Galway went in at half-time leading by 1-6 to 0-7 and never ceded the advantage again. They had several impressive performers but Kilkelly was the undoubted standout player of the game. They will play at Croke Park on August 16.

# Catherine's into the last eight with routine win

CAMOGIE

By LINDA MELLERICK

St Catherine's	0-17
Ballincollig	1-7

A SEVEN-POINT victory for St Catherine's over Ballincollig at Castle Road last evening keeps their *Evening Echo* Senior Championship hopes alive for another day as they enter the final eight.

This game failed to excite in any way, with an unnecessary total of 47 frees awarded ensuring a stop-start 60 minutes. While the spread of frees proved more, or less equal between the sides, 11 of St Catherine's total came from placed balls while Sinead O'Sullivan struck four for Ballincollig. Take that out of the equation and the game produced 1-9 from play.

It was Ballincollig who availed of the strong opening wind but St Catherine's more than held their own during the 30 minutes. Both defences withstood some strong pressure, with Eimear O'Sullivan and Leah Weste in particular working hard to keep St Catherine's at bay.

With the score favouring Catherine's at 0-4 to 0-3 19 minutes in, a high free lobbed into the Ballincollig full-forward line saw Linda Dorgan get the final



Orla Cotter scored 12 points for St Catherine's.

mid-air touch to defy Andrea Mangan and push Ballincollig two ahead.

It was Catherine's that were looking the more dangerous up front, however, and three Orla Cotter frees, one a powerful strike against the wind, saw them take an 0-8 to 1-4 interval lead.

Sinead O'Sullivan, whose free-taking along with Cotters was excellent on the night, opened Ballincollig's revival attempts within a minute of the restart but it was Catherine's, with the wind, who raced into a five-point lead by the 19th minute after Rachel O'Callaghan, Cotter (three) and Finola Neville pointed.

Patricia Buttimer and O'Sullivan struck Ballincollig's remaining second half scores with a plethora of frees, converted by Cotter closing the game out comfortably for St. Catherine's.

**Scorers for St Catherine's:** O Cotter 0-12 (0-11f), M Tobin 0-2, E Ronayne, R O'Callaghan, F Neville 0-1 each.

**Ballincollig:** S O'Sullivan 0-5 (0-4f), L Dorgan 1-0, J Hennigan, P Buttimer 0-1 each.

**ST CATHERINE'S:** A Mangan, O Neville, N Mulcahy, Y O'Neill, C Motherway, F Cotter, F Noonan, O Cotter, M O'Keefe, M O'Regan, F Neville, R O'Callaghan, E Ronayne, M Tobin, A O'Regan. Subs: J O'Keefe for A O'Regan (42).

**BALLINCOLLIG:** A Sheehan, A Coughlan, E O'Sullivan, B O'Callaghan, C Irish, L Weste, A Cotter, J Hennigan, S Coomey, A Lovett, L Dorgan, K Greene, P Buttimer, E Casey, S O'Sullivan. Subs: M Cronin for K Greene (37), R O'Callaghan for J Hennigan (56), J Hennigan for S Coomey (60), inj.).

Ref: Walter Cole (Buttevant).

## CAMOGIE

All-Ireland Championships: Intermediate semi-final: Galway 1-14 Waterford 0-13; Premier Junior semi-final: Laois 2-5 Down 2-8; U16B final: Derry 2-6 Offaly 5-10; U16C final: Westmeath 1-10 Armagh 2-4.

# Seandún come back to claim win

CAMOGIE

By MARY NEWMAN

Seandún	2-10
Ballinhassig	3-6

CITY representatives Seandún dug deep to fashion out a one-point victory and in doing so booked themselves a place in the last eight of the *Evening Echo* Senior championship in Carrigaline on Saturday.

Trailing by nine points 22 minutes in, they cut the deficit to seven by half time and playing with fierce determination they held Ballinhassig to just two scores in the second half when aided by the strong wind as they made use of every scrap of possession.

Deirdre Coomey gave Ballinhassig a dream start striking 1-1 inside five minutes of the throw-in.

Denise Luby pointed a Seandún free in reply but Ballinhassig took control, Orla Murray, Emma Jordan and Niamh Sheehan firing over points before Murray finished to the net from close range to make it 2-4 to 0-1 after 15 minutes.

Seandún settled and as Denise Luby and Aileen Kilmartin exchanged points, Ballinhassig held their lead but a steadily improving Seandún finished the half stronger with points from Sinead Fahy and Denise Luby.

Seandún used their second-half wind advantage well as they pumped long ball into their forwards from the restart and inside a minute Caoimhe Rodgers found the net to narrow the gap.

Susan Kate Brosnan added a point before Luby pointed twice to put two between the sides.

They were also winning the vital breaks around mid-field as Seandún kept the pressure on and a Sinead Fahy goal gave them the lead for the first time 10 minutes into the second half.

Luby pointed a long range effort to which Niamh Sheehan replied and despite a lot of pressure, Ballinhassig failed to breach a strong Seandún defence.

It was a break from defence by right half-back Leeann O'Sullivan that extended their lead to three points and when Luby again converted another long-range effort on 60 minutes they looked safe. Ballinhassig worked away and a goal from Eimear O'Sullivan four minutes into added time put just one between the sides. Battling to stay in the championship, Ballinhassig pressed hard in the three remaining minutes of added time (seven in total played) but Seandún were not going to be denied as they held firm to book their quarter-final spot against either Ballincollig or St Catherine's on September 22.

**Scorers for Seandún:** D Luby 0-7 (0-5f), S Fahy 1-1, C Rodgers 1-0, L O'Sullivan, S K Brosnan 0-1 each.

**Ballinhassig:** D Coomey 1-1, O Murray 1-1, E O'Sullivan 1-0, N Sheehan 0-2 (f), E Jordan, A Kilmartin 0-1 each.

**SEANDÚN:** A Lee (Na Piarraigh), K O'Connell (Glen Rovers), A Dorgan (Dillon's), A Murray (Blackrock), L O'Sullivan (Glen Rovers), N O'Brien (Glen Rovers), S Hedrick (St Vincent's), N Green (St Vincent's), S Fahy (Glen Rovers), S K Brosnan (Brian Dillon's), D Luby (Glen Rovers), J O'Connell (St Vincent's), E O'Connell (Glen Rovers), C Rodgers (Brian Dillon's), D Ní Mhuirí (Blackrock).

**BALLINHASSIG:** G O'Callaghan, K Coleman, M O'Riordan, M Collins, A Coleman, E O'Sullivan, A O'Brien, M Kelleher, L Jordan, E Jordan, D Coomey, K Mc Carthy, O Murray, A Kilmartin, N Sheehan.

Sub: A O'Leary for M Kelleher (45).

Referee: Walter Cole (Buttevant).

# Inniscarra pull clear after the interval

SENIOR CAMOGIE

By LINDA MELLERICK

Inniscarra	2-16
Ballygarvan	1-6

INNISCARRA comfortably booked their place in the quarter-final of this year's Senior Camogie

Championship with an impressive second-half display against a gutsy Ballygarvan challenge.

Playing with the aid of a significant wind in the opening half, Inniscarra led by just three points at the break, 0-10 to 1-4, yet their second-half performance ridiculed the elements. Inniscarra's performance improved significantly despite the wind picking up further around the final quarter. Joanne Casey, operating at midfield, had a storming game with her striking from both play and placed balls almost faultless. Aided by her midfield partner Rena Buckley, Inniscarra took control of the middle of the park and put Ballygarvan under a lot of early pressure, pressure Ballygarvan were managing to contain.

A brilliant goal by Ellen Martin 10 minutes in edged Ballygarvan a point in front against the run of early play.

Ballygarvan worked hard but played deep against the wind and despite Ellen Martin looking threatening when in possession, she was too far out to do too much damage.

Inniscarra were that bit cuter in their play, finding their team-mates easily at times, and some good passages of play saw them strike a further seven points and take that two-point lead into the dressing room.

With the strong wind, however, it should have been more.

Within four minutes of the restart, Erin Looney set Inniscarra on their way with an opportunist goal. When a more-involved Niamh Dilworth added another three minutes later, the result was only going one way.

Ballygarvan, with the wind at their backs, worked the ball upfield at times but came up against a dominant Inniscarra defence and could only manage two points from placed balls in the second half.

Joanne Casey, Rena Buckley, Katie O'Mahony continued to dominate and with Casey adding a further five points the game was over well before the final whistle.

**Scorers for Inniscarra:** J Casey 0-13 (0-9f), E Looney, N Dilworth 1-0 each, K O'Mahony 0-2, R Buckley 0-1.

**Ballygarvan:** C Kelly 0-5f, E Martin 1-0, V Browne 0-1.

**INNISCARRA:** S Ní Riain, L Hayes, A Sheehan, M Buckley, K Jones, R O'Mahony, A Kavanagh, R Buckley, J Casey, T McCarthy, N Dilworth, E Looney, L Buckley, K O'Mahony, E Kingston.

**Subs:** N Byrne for E Kingston (half-time), M Cosgrove for T McCarthy (43), A Twohill for L Buckley (52), O Healy for K O'Mahony (55, inj.).

**BALLYGARVAN:** ME O'Donovan, M Hallahan, J Browne, SA O'Halloran, L Kennefick, S O'Donovan, D Daly, V Browne, L Browne, R Murphy, C Murphy, M Moynihan, K O'Donovan, C Kelly, E Martin.

**Sub:** B Browne for SA O'Halloran (half-time).

**Referee:** Mike O'Kelly (Ballyheal).

## CAMOGIE

All-Ireland Junior A Championship final: Dublin 2-6 Westmeath 1-14; Scorers for Dublin: J Hoary 2-0, R Collins 0-2, K Farrell, E Callery, C Canning, S Duff 0-1 each; Scorers for Westmeath: D O'Loughlin 0-6 (0-5f, 0-1 45), D McGrath 1-2, P Greville 0-4 (0-1f), L O'Connor, J McCormack 0-1 each.

All-Ireland Junior B Championship final: Carlow 1-11 Kerry 1-3; Scorers for Carlow: M Doyle 1-0, C O'Brien 0-6, C Quirke, E Tracey 0-2 each, E Brennan 0-1; Scorer for Kerry: P Diggin 1-3.

August 2012



# Dublin and Kerry aiming to create a piece of sporting history

By Camogie Association  
Posted 29/09/2012



Dublin Camogie team are aiming for further honours when they face Westmeath in the All Ireland Junior A Final in association with RTE Sport at Donaghmore Ashbourne while Kerry face Carlow in the All Ireland Junior B decider at Lutin Cullen, Co. Tipperary with both games taking place on Sunday September 2nd.

President of the Camogie Association Aileen Lawlor was joined by Dublin captain, Elaine Gallery; Westmeath's Jemma Egan, Elaine Ryall of Kerry and Carlow's Tara Wilson at Croke Park for this morning's photocall.

Dublin captured the Irish Daily Star League Division Four title earlier in the year and will be intent on adding more silverware but face formidable opposition against a resolute Westmeath outfit.

Kerry Camogie team are also aiming to create their piece of sporting history. The Munster side made a welcome return to competitive inter-county adult camogie after a break of almost thirty years. Their championship journey has been followed weekly by the RTE Radio 1 John Murray Show with a pre-All Ireland broadcast due tomorrow (Wednesday, August 29th) between 9.00am and 10.00am and coverage of the All Ireland Junior B final due to be broadcast the week of September 4th.

Speaking at this morning's photocall President of the Camogie Association Aileen Lawlor said:

"Sunday's finals are of huge significance to all concerned with a coveted All Ireland title on offer. The meeting of Dublin and Westmeath is an intriguing encounter as both sides are extremely familiar to one another while the clash of Kerry and Carlow is another exciting prospect.

What is most pleasing though is the development of the game in all four counties. It has been highlighted that Kerry has made a return to inter-county adult camogie and their exploits this year, have been supported by recent under-age success. In addition, huge strides have been made in Westmeath and Carlow with both counties building on solid league campaigns, while Dublin Camogie has found a renewed source of energy this season, as evidenced by recent results at this grade. I would like to wish all teams the very best for Sunday and also acknowledge the tremendous support of our associate partner, RTE Sport.

## Westmeath down the Dubs to claim camogie crown

Location: Westmeath, 29th September, 2012 All Ireland Junior 'A' Championship Final

Westmeath 1-14

Dublin 2-6

Four unanswered points in injury-time helped a well-drilled and tenacious Westmeath junior camogie side to All-Ireland glory in the resplendent Donaghmore Ashbourne grounds on Sunday afternoon last, edging out a fine Dublin side by a five-point margin in a thrilling encounter.



September 2, 2012 brought a glorious day weather-wise, in sharp contrast to the preceding summer months, and the Lake County girls produced a performance to match the sunshine. They were forced to recover on two occasions when the metropolitans struck for what looked like they might be match-changing goals - both from Joeleen Hoary. However, in an overall analysis, the better-balanced outfit won with Noel Boyce's charges thereby going one better than last year when they lost to Armagh after a replay in the decider.

A large Westmeath crowd travelled to support the team and it was obvious in the early stages that both sides were nervous with scoreable opportunities spurned at both ends. Dinah Loughlin opened the scoring in the sixth minute from a 30-metre free, the referee having whistled prior to Denise McGrath popping the sliotar over the bar. Avril Fagan's runs were causing problems for the Dublin defence without scores accruing, but in the 13th minute, Denise McGrath kicked Westmeath's second point from a tight angle.

Fiona Keating did well to keep out Joeleen Hoary's goalbound shot, but the Cullin netminder was beaten by the same player in the 16th minute when the Dublin girl scooped the ball to the net having done well initially to keep it in play.

The wind-assisted girls in sky blue and navy added three points without reply between the 17th and 30th minutes via Róisín Collins, Kirsten Farrell (a great long-range effort) and Collins again (availing of slack play by the Westmeath defence). Westmeath's best effort in that period came in the 28th minute when Denise McGrath almost poked the ball to the net following a Dinah Loughlin free. However, the winners' tenacity was rewarded with a brace of points in injury-time, both from the stick of Loughlin - a routine free and a tidy score from play after great approach work by Avril Fagan. The half-time whistle sounded moments after the latter score with Dublin ahead by 1-3 to 0-4.

An opportunist point from Louise O'Connor halved the deficit in the 35th minute, but Dublin pounced for their second goal within two minutes, Joeleen Hoary doubling her haul with a palmed effort after receiving a long pass from Elaine Gallery.

Pamela Greville (who had an outstanding second half) tapped over a free when Denise McGrath was fouled just outside the parallelogram, but the latter player was not going to be stopped in her next foray goalward when she blasted the sliotar low to the net after a long solo run. Westmeath hearts stopped momentarily in the 42nd minute when what could be a Hoary hat-trick was correctly overruled by the referee and umpires for a 'square ball' offence. Pamela have been a Hoary hat-trick was correctly overruled by the referee and umpires for a 'square ball' offence. Pamela have been a Hoary hat-trick was correctly overruled by the referee and umpires for a 'square ball' offence. Pamela have been a Hoary hat-trick was correctly overruled by the referee and umpires for a 'square ball' offence.

Five minutes of injury-time was announced and Shauna Duff left the gap at just the bare minimum in the first of these with a shot which just crept inside the upright. However, Westmeath's unquenchable spirit came to the fore at this juncture and they sealed a memorable win with four late points from Joanne McCormack (the substitute deftly adding to the ball in midair from a Dinah Loughlin free), Loughlin herself (two - a free and a '45') and Pamela Greville (a quality insurance score).

Moments later, amid ecstatic scenes, the chairperson of the Leinster Camogie Council, Catherine Reilly presented the Nancy Murray Cup to Westmeath captain Jemma Egan.

Scores

## All-Ireland champions - JUNIOR B

Carlow 1-11

Kerry 1-3

Clara Mullins and Marion Doyle combined in a beautiful bit of play to set up Clara Quirke for her first score of the day and Carlow led 4-0.

THEN in the 22th minute Carlow attacked and after the ball popped loose a Kerry defender tried to clear but sent the ball spinning into her own net to give Carlow a seven point lead. Marion Doyle declared after the game that there is no such thing as an "own goal" in Camogie and the last person to touch the ball from the scoring team is credited with the goal, which funny enough, happened to be Marion Doyle.

Clara Mullins caught possession in the next play and switched the play cross-field to Katie O'Byrne who made no mistake and gave Carlow an eight point lead. The first time Kerry looked dangerous was in the 25th minute of the first half when they went in search of goal, but Niamh Quirke was a bully at full back and refused to give an inch as she cleared down field to relieve pressure.

Finally though, Kerry managed to get on the score sheet having wisely switched their free taker to Patricia Diggins, the midfielder. It was a difficult free but she struck it well and Kerry could breathe a sigh of relief as they trailed Carlow 1-5 to 0-1 at half time.

Carlow had notched up five wides in the first half and so had converted six of their 13 scoring chances, with two balls dropping short. Kerry had one wide and four short dropped balls and the gulf in class between the sides was glaringly evident.

Clara Quirke, who most of her teammates said was the fastest lady on the team, had put her nerves aside by the third minute of the second half as she converted a close range free. Katie O'Byrne made it 1-7 to 0-1 from 55m very soon after and it was impossible to see where Kerry were going to get scores from.

The only glimmer of hope they had was in new free taker Patricia Diggins who found herself on the ball in the 35th minute and she stroked over Kerry's only point from play in the game.

Katie O'Byrne added a free almost immediately afterwards to cancel out the Kerry score and Clara Quirke scored a magnificent point from a hard angle to make it 1-9 to 0-2. There were still 17 minutes to play and yet the result seemed certified as Carlow sat back to admire their hard work up to this point.

Diggins pointed a free for Kerry to reduce the gap to nine points but Carlow added scores from another Katie O'Byrne free and then the hard working Emma Brennan who deserved a score above all others got her point after a beautiful sidestepped running towards goal.

With three minutes of normal time remaining Kerry did enjoy a lot more ball time with both sides emptying their benches and Kerry managed to worm a 55 from the tight Carlow defence. Diggins struck the placed ball and it sailed, untouched, into the Carlow net to make the score look a little more respectable.

Liz Dempsey blew for full time and scenes of elation erupted among the Carlow players. Lorraine Bible may not have scored but the look of satisfaction on her face told a story in itself. Players in a similar trance were Joanne Joyce, Moira Griffith and Mary Coady who have soldiered through good times and bad, along with Nuala Quirke and Mags Coady for Carlow Camogie. Captain Tara Wilson was congratulated by chairman Pat O'Brien before she could move off the pitch having helped her team to All-Ireland glory.

Carlow team - Mary Coady, Moira Griffith, Niamh Quirke, Joanne Joyce, Mags Coady, Katie Nolan (0-2), Eileen Murphy, Clara Mullins, Tara Wilson, Katie O'Byrne (0-5), Emma Brennan, Lorraine Bible, Clara Quirke (0-3), Marion Doyle (1-1), Eganor Tracey.

Carlow Camogie would like to acknowledge the following sponsors for their All Ireland Junior B Final and thank them sincerely for their generosity. Morrissey Butchers, Bagenalstown, Estona, Bagenalstown, Kevin Kelly Pharmacy, Kennedy Ave., Carlow, Foley's, Haddens Centre, Carlow, Paddy Kennedy, St Mullins and St Mullins Ladies GAA. They would like to thank all clubs and friends who supported the Carlow Camogie Development Drive.

SEPT. 2012

Westmeath: D Loughlin 0-6 (4f, 1'45), D McGrath 1-2, P Greville 0-4 (1f), L O'Connor and J McCormack 0-1 each.

Dublin: J Hoary 2-0, R Collins 0-2, S Duff, C A Canning, K Farrell and E Gallery (f) 0-1 each.

Westmeath: Fiona Keating, Sarah King, Jemma Egan, Eileen Murphy, Aoife Higgins, Aisling Conaty, Róisín Scally, Dinah Loughlin, Muireann Scally, Pamela Greville, Denise McGrath, Avril Fagan, Louise O'Connor, Laura Thompson, Joanne Walsh. Subs used: Nicola Fagan for Scally (0/1), Joanne McCormack for Thompson (4f), Caitriona Murtagh for O'Connor (55), Lizzy Hannon for Scally (60), Caroline Kelly for A Fagan (inj., 60 + 6).

Dublin: Stephanie Carthy, Gráinne Free, Gráinne Ryan, Clodagh McGough, Elaine Sherry, Shauna Duff, Claire Rigney, Niamh Drummond, Carol Anne Canning, Emma Flanagan, Kirsten Farrell, Joeleen Hoary, Nuala Dunne, Elaine Gallery, Róisín Collins. Subs used: Louise Quinn for Dunne (45), Gráinne Smyth for Flanagan (55).

Referee:

Sean McGuigan (Derry).

## All Ireland Junior A Camogie Championship Final

Dublin 2-06. Scores: J Hoary 2-0, R Collins 0-2, K Farrell 0-1, E. Gallery 0-1, C. Canning 0-1, S. Duff 0-1.

Westmeath: 1-14. Scores: D. O'Loughlin 0-6 (5f, 1'45), D. McGrath 1-2, L. O'Connor 0-1, P. Greville 0-4 (1f), J. McCormack 0-1.

## All Ireland Junior B Camogie Championship Final

Carlow: 1-11. Scores: M. Doyle 1-0, C O' Brien 0-6, C. Quirke 0-2, E. Tracey 0-2, E. Brennan 0-1.

Kerry: 1-3. Scores: P. Diggins 1-3.





### Vincent's denied by slick champs Éire Óg

By MARY NEWMAN

THE MUNSTER council recently organised the Munster club summer leagues at different grade levels for clubs through the province, and St Vincent's qualified for the final in the junior competition where they met Éire Óg, Nenagh.

Páirc Uinsinn was the venue for the final where Éire Óg retained their title to make it back-to-back wins.

Nenagh started the game well, Danielle Harrington notching up 1-1 in the opening minutes. Nicole Crean hit a point for St Vincent's in reply and it helped to settle her side.

Louise Hickey, who flew home from Spain especially for the game, grabbed a second goal for Nenagh but in reply points from Crean and Leah Anderson kept St Vincent's in the hunt, and at the break it was 2-5 to 0-3.

St Vincent's turned over aided by the wind and a goal by Melissa Roddis brought them back into the contest. The holders battled to retain their title and goals from Colleen O'Brien and Clara McGrath put them in the driving seat once again.

St Vincent's, on home territory, were not going down without a fight and they gave it their all.

Nicola Crean added a goal and points from Crean and Shauna Carroll helped close the gap.

A strong St Vincent's rally was quelled by keeper Donna Mitchell, who denied them with a number of great saves as her side hung on to the final whistle to retain their crown: 4-8 to 2-7.

Lisa Lynch, Leigh Ann Carroll, Leah Anderson and Nicole Crean all battled for St Vincent's. They turned in a great performance and had they taken their opportunities on the day the outcome might have been different.

Munster Council must be applauded for organising competitions such as this.

# Milford must step it



Douglas players celebrate their win over Milford at the end of last year's senior camogie final in Páirc Uí Rinn.

Picture: Richard Mills



LINDA MELLERICK

WE'RE almost down to the last eight for this year's senior club championship.

An extra team requires an extra game and it's St Catherine's who were drawn out of the hat to play Killeagh to determine the eight-team placing. Douglas, Cloughduv, St Finbarr's, Milford, Inniscarra, Seandún and Milford are the seven teams already safely through.

All games will now cease until after Cork's All-Ireland title bid on September 16. Holders Douglas will take on Milford in a repeat of last year's final.

The Barrs take on Courcsey Rovers, the winners of the Killeagh/St Catherine's clash will face Cloughduv, while Seandún and Inniscarra do battle.

The Douglas and Milford game should be a thriller. Based on both team's first round performances Douglas should advance.

While Milford were favourites for last year's title, Douglas upset the odds and Milford didn't impress at all against St Catherine's in their opening round, until the second half, a trademark of Milford's play at this stage.

Douglas were very impressive against Inniscarra, despite missing a number of key players.

The loss of last year's final should spur Milford on against the city side but they'll have to seriously up their performance.

Courcsey Rovers should prove too strong for the Barrs. It's a hard one to call between Killeagh and St Catherine's but Cloughduv should see off either challenge. Catriona Foley is a huge addition to an already strong team. Inniscarra will be favourites against Seandún.

The countdown is on to the All-Ireland senior final. For some Cork players it's their first time reaching a final so they'll experience for the first time that late August/early September training. It's a special place to be, the training ground in early September.

Autumn is in, you leave the field at about 8.30pm with it starting to get dusk and after you emerge from the

## Cork to hold open session before final

AS THE countdown to the All-Ireland camogie final on September 16 gets underway the Cork senior camogie team will hold an open training session on Thursday next in Castle Road Camogie Grounds, Blackrock.

The night is organised to afford

young camogie players, supporters and friends the opportunity to meet and get photos with the players as they bid to dethrone champions Wexford.

Proceedings will get underway at 6.30pm when the team take to the

field for a training session and camogie players young and old past, present and indeed future are invited along as are members of the general public.

It is a great opportunity to give the team a good send off.

# Gala weekend celebrates great year

By MARY NEWMAN

THIS year the Cork Juvenile Board undertook to progress and improve the underage Go Games for all players and mentors, and this was done with the consultation of all the clubs where the board ran Go Games Workshops.

Booklets were made available to all clubs and the board also ran a subsidised Green Card Referees Course and as a result 13 new Green Card Referees have given Go-Game referees training.

Go Games mini blitzes were held from the U8 to U12 age groups before the board organised mini leagues and with almost one hundred percent participation. By the middle of August 1,500 games at the age levels were completed.

To celebrate the huge success, a gala weekend of Go Games Camogie was organised last weekend for the U8s to U10s with a further weekend taking place September 29-30 for the completion of the

U12 Go Games Mini Leagues. Clubs will participate at different venues around the county in this event, such is the huge volume of participants.

Last weekend from Friday night to Sunday evening 55 clubs participated at the Castle Road Camogie grounds in what was a huge undertaking.

In total 2,200 children participated in what was a huge

event to organise.

Each club was allocated a day and time and they were then paired off with clubs of equal numbers to play non competitive Go Games.

The ethos of the weekend was on fun enjoyment and participation for the youngsters and their mentors (and parents and grandparents) and this was very much the case as they enjoyed every minute of a superbly organised event.

Each player received a

memento of the day to mark their participation and one of the highlights of the weekend was the venue with youngsters expressing their delight at playing on such a prestigious venue as the county grounds.

Young referees also got a chance to show off their skills and the event was another big step for these aspiring young whistlers.

Development officer Mairead Donovan, county juvenile board chairwoman Tracy



SEPT. 2012



## Camogie Club notes

# up against Douglas



Milford's Anna Geary catches the ball as she is chased by Douglas' Emma Jordan during last year's senior camogie final at Páirc Uí Rinn. Picture: Richard Mills

## Glen in mourning after a tragic loss

By MARY NEWMAN

IT WAS with disbelief that the Cork Camogie family learned of the unexpected death on Monday last of young Graham O'Connell from the Glen Rovers Club.

Graham was an integral part of the set-up in the club, like his dad Dave, who is well known Glen Rovers and Cork selector and also a referee of note. Both Karen and Edel O'Connell are members of the Glen senior squad.

Since he could walk Graham was a true and true Glen man and while illness prevented his own participation, he threw himself wholeheartedly into helping out. He became involved when he was just five years of age helping out his dad and selector Donald O'Halloran, and he revelled in the job of filling the water bottles and collecting the slottars.

As the years progressed Graham grew big and strong and still helped out as 'Maor Uisce' job. Indeed he would often be sent up to the goalkeeper to tell her where to direct the puck-outs, and Graham was never slow to point it out if he saw a fault anywhere in the line out of a team.

Club chairwoman Nora Newman frequently chatted with Graham and more that once she would say that Graham was a great reader of a game and she was looking forward to the future when like his dad, he would play a big role for the club.

That sadly is not to be as Monday evening last he became ill and was taken to his eternal reward. As the Glen girls were training in the Glen Field preparing for their forthcoming championship games, their biggest supporter and friend was taken from them.

At the same time many of the club's members and officials were celebrating the wedding of their full-back and long serving player Aileen Gilton to Alan Dorney in Alvor, Portugal. The huge esteem in which the O'Connell family are held was evident by the support from their club members and friends in Glen Rovers and the many other clubs who came to express their sadness.

On a personal level to be away and miss the funeral of Graham broke my heart. Since he was a baby he was like one of the family and he was just 'one of the gang'. 'my little fella' is what I always jokingly called him, sadly I will never say that again.

To Dave, Jackie, Karen and Edel we express the sympathy of the entire camogie family — we have lost a great friend but ye have lost a wonderful son and brother. May the sod of Kilkenny rest lightly on his kind and gentle soul, Graham Ar dheis Dé, go raibh do ainm

dressing room to go home it's almost dark and that All-Ireland feel is in the air.

I was asked to do a nostalgia piece last week for a programme on the '92 All-Ireland final against Wexford.

I hadn't watched that final I'd say in the 20 years. They provided the recording for me to view before we went on air.

Only a short 30 minutes or so was shown I believe on a *Sportsline* programme at the time with Ger Canning commenting. I don't even have a copy of it; if I do it's in video format possibly up in the attic where it'll stay along with the old VCR.

I'll have to admit that this game looked awful, definitely not one of the better All-Ireland finals during that era. The 12-a-side certainly didn't do the game any favours. The striking was poor in that particular game but the hooking and blocking was very good.

Thank God camogie went to 15-a-side in 1999. I had four seasons playing inter-county 15-a-side but I think Cork adjusted to this slower than some other counties, such as Tipp. I remember feeling I had far more room as a midfielder on a 12-a-side pitch and greater scope to run into defence and attack and still

make it back to midfield in time to watch my player.

That was gone with 15-a-side and I don't think I copped on to that quick enough.

While the 12-a-side certainly had its critics I always stand over the incredible accuracy of forwards at the time. Narrower goals, lower uprights, meant that accuracy had to be at a premium and for that reason some great points were scored.

I also recall strong goalkeeper's puck-outs reaching the full-forward line and that wasn't good for the game. No one wants to see a game where the players are bypassed.

Camogie was never going to be been taken seriously unless it moved to 15-a-side.

We have made great strides but we could do a lot more. Refereeing could massively improve on but I've ranted on about that so often that I'll give it a break today!

I think our branding could do with an uplift.

Three games will feature in Croke Park again this year.

The triple header features the All-Ireland premier junior final, throw in at noon, the intermediate final at 2pm and the senior decider at 4pm.

## of Go Games underage camogie

Sheehan did a huge amount of work since last January in organising the event.

And they had excellent support from juvenile officers and GPC members Mary O'Sullivan, Eileen O'Brien, Tina Sheehan, Eileen Healy, Vincent Cushman, Billy O'Sullivan, Ger Sheena and Siobhán O'Callaghan, who was the organiser of two shops to keep the huge number of participants watered and fed.

Niall McLoughlin, Jimmy Mahony, Kieran O'Sullivan, David Collins, Kieran Ryan, Eugene Gormley and Marie Scully were on hand and lent their support with parking, setting up pitches and all the various jobs and all that was asked of them.

Go Game co-ordinators who had played a huge role over the last few months ensuring the cluster blitzes were going ahead smoothly were also on hand during the

weekend. Sheila Boland, Linda Cashman and Carol Bridgeman worked hard also to keep the show on the road, while young Emer O'Brien also lent huge support.

Kay Dunne, president of the Cork Camogie Board, and chairwoman Marion McCarthy were also there working away and helped present some of the mementoes on the day.

Without the clubs and their

dedicated mentors the event would not have been possible from the highways and byways they travelled, everybody was on time and during the week leading up to the event had to sometimes adjust their arrangements to amendments and changes. Every club was superbly toggled out and it was superb to see all the girls in the various club jerseys playing and participating on such a wonderful weekend of underage

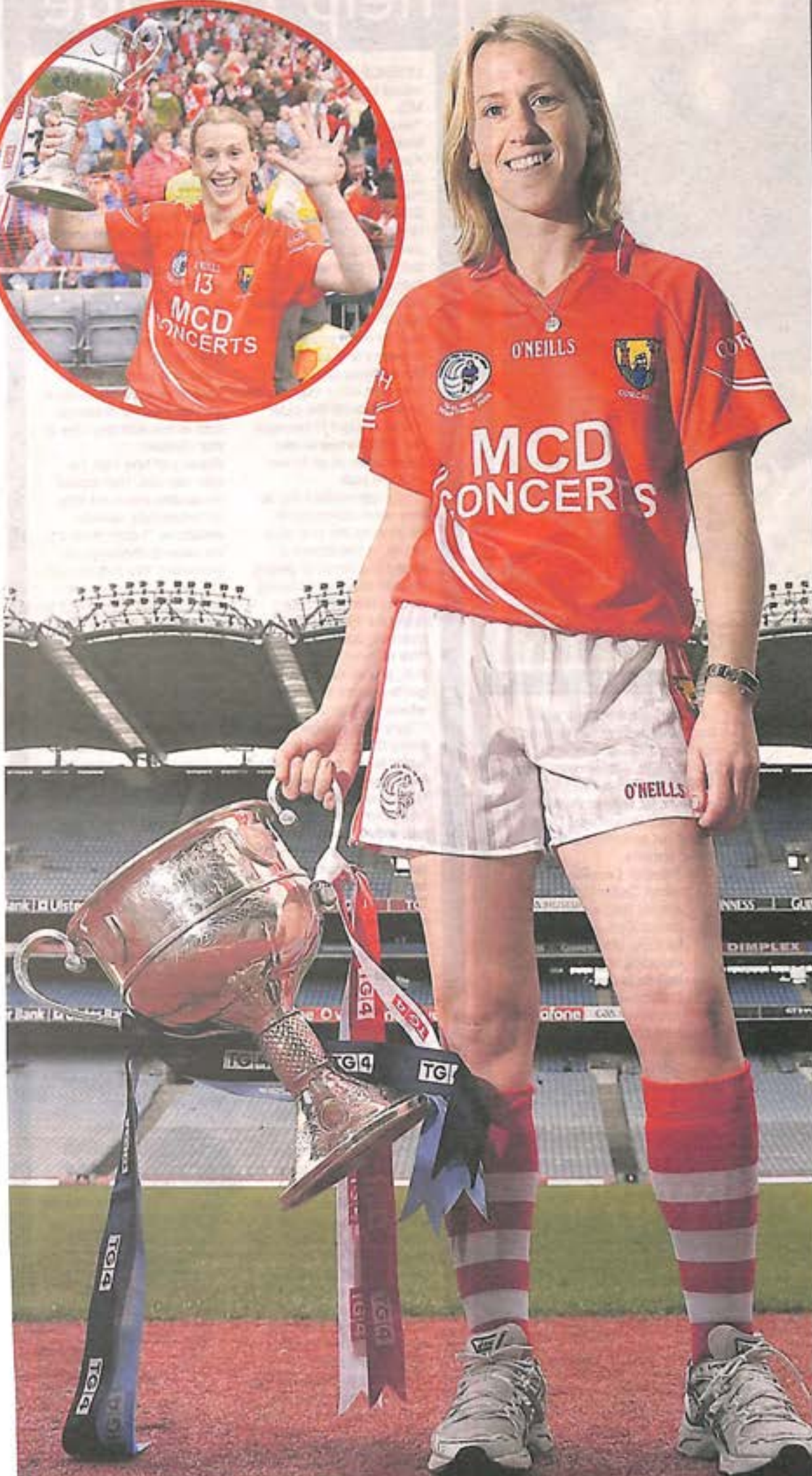
camogie.

Having spoken to young players, mentors and parents after the weekend every one of them had nothing but huge praise for the event.

A huge word of praise to all concerned for their superb work the big winner her was camogie, well done to all concerned, we look forward with huge anticipation to the forthcoming U12 weekend where I am sure the same will again apply.



# Doctorate just rewa



Main picture, Mary O'Connor with the Brendan Martin Cup before the 2009 All-Ireland final and above, the Cork captain got a hold of it again when they beat Dublin in that decider.

**Mary White** talks to All-Ireland dual winner Mary O'Connor who will receive an honorary doctorate from UCC today



**T**ODAY, 12-time All-Ireland winning champion Mary O'Connor will be publicly recognised on par with some of Ireland's great sportsmen; shoulder to shoulder.

It's taken almost three decades of sweat, glory and tears, but in there too lies the story of our nation's failure to recognise Ireland's best female athletes on the same podium as their male counterparts. At noon, the Killeagh native was bestowed an honorary doctorate from University College Cork (UCC), along with former Manchester United player Denis Irwin, rugby star Ronan O'Gara, eight-time All-Ireland-winning Kilkenny hurling boss Brian Cody and horse trainer Aidan O'Brien, whose winners include Istabraq, Rip van Winkle, and Giant's Causeway.

The doctorates are the latest in a series of events marking UCC's centenary of sport 1911-2011, and it just goes to show how far women's sports have come in 100 years. Yet, when O'Connor — who retired her intercounty camogie and football boots in 2009 — first read the letter inside the UCC-embossed envelope in May, she laughed, thinking it was a practical joke. Keeping it to herself, it wasn't until a second letter of correspondence arrived in August that she realised it was the real deal.

But the enormity of it has yet to sink in. "I'm still in shock, flabbergasted really. It's such a great honour, and I'm so appreciative of it, but I hope that people see it as a nod to female sports, and ladies football and camogie in particular. "I've played with a lot of people over the years and we were on the same winning teams and had the same attitude; I'm just lucky that I've been around a long time and had the chance to win what I did."

O'Connor — who temporarily resides in Clontarf in Dublin whilst acting CEO of the Camogie Association as Sinéad O'Connor is on maternity leave — has amassed a whopping 12 intercounty All-Ireland titles — four times that of Cork hurling great and Freedom of the City bestowee Seán Óg Ó hAilpín. And let's not forget the numerous domestic, provincial and national honours she's collected at club level.

Upon hearing who the other recipients were, O'Connor again laughed, bemused at "where they got [her] from", but in terms of female sports being recognised it's a step in the right direction.

"Before, camogie and ladies football was patronised once a year really by only being mentioned in the media the day before or after an All-Ireland final.

"Men are physically stronger and faster than women, but I'll always argue that technically females are just as good.



**From:** Killeagh, east Cork  
**Living:** Presently living temporarily in Clontarf, Dublin  
**Job:** Acting CEO of the Camogie Association; formerly camogie development officer.

**Age:** 35  
**Football club:** Inch Rovers  
**Camogie club:** Killeagh

**Honours:**  
● Played in 18 All-Ireland finals in a Cork jersey for both camogie and football.

"I know we're comparing apples and oranges, but winning an All-Ireland for girls is their Everest too growing up.

"What Katie Taylor did at the Olympics was incredible and I suppose this recognition of women's sports coincides with it — a rising tide lifts all boats and that. And when you see Mick Dowling and Bernard Dunne lauding Taylor's technical prowess, it opens people's eyes to how good female athletes are."

As to how she feels the promotion of her primary sport, camogie, is going, there's still a lot of things she'd like to see done to give it the recognition it deserves.

"I'd love to see our league final televised live and our championship semi-finals, and if there was a double-header with a men's game, that the preceding camogie game be televised too.

"There's a lot of work done promoting the game in the media in local papers, but nationally I'd love to see more in broadsheets, and I'd also like to see individual athletes awarded with more



SEPT. 2012

# rd for Mary's efforts



Mary O'Connor in action for her club Inch Rovers.



Mary O'Connor and fellow Cork All Stars Deirdre O'Reilly and Rena Buckley take a walk on the beach during the 2007 tour to Dubai.

## Mary O'Connor factfile

- Won 12 All-Ireland senior titles in a Cork jersey — four times that of Cork hurler Seán Óg Ó hAilpín.
- When she retired two years ago, aged 33, she had won five senior All-Ireland football titles, seven Munster championships, four National Leagues, three senior All-Ireland club medals and

- one at intermediate, seven Munster clubs and 13 county titles.
- In camogie she holds seven senior All-Ireland medals, 10 Munsters, nine National Leagues, two All-Ireland club medals and four Munster clubs.
- She has also won three camogie All-Stars and one football

All-Star, and was named Camogie Player of the Year in 2006.

- In 2009, O'Connor captained the Cork ladies football team to their fifth All-Ireland title in-a-row and famously said 'Kilkenny, we see your four, and raise you one'.
- She is also among a historic group of dual players who won back-to-back All-Ireland doubles in 2005/06 and 08/09.

sponsorship opportunities.

"But, despite those wishes, we're definitely on an upward curve," admitted the former dual All-Star winner. Having captained the Cork ladies footballers to All-Ireland glory in 2009, the Inch Rovers forward hung up her boots. Now she commutes to Killeagh every weekend from the Pale for training, and although she didn't miss the intercounty scene her first year out, that's changed.

"The first year I was so tired I didn't miss it. Even watching the ladies footballers win back the Brendan Martin Cup in Croke Park last year I knew that physically I wouldn't have been able and my heart and soul wouldn't have been in it.

"I'm 35 and I think I lasted a long time at intercounty level when you consider a lot of players are retiring now at 29/30.

"People's priorities change whether family wise or in your professional career, but I was never one to conform anyway so I kept going for as long as I could.

"This year now I have to admit I miss it.

"I haven't reflected on my career at all. I think subconsciously a part of me is afraid too because I'd only be thinking too much about what I'm missing out on.

"If you walked into my house you wouldn't know I played for Cork because I have nothing displayed, and maybe I need to deal with it.

"That sounds heavy I know but I think until I actually stop playing completely it won't hit me."

But, she's quick to deny any sort of comeback, remarking that there's a balance in knowing when your time is done, and instead, the young talent coming through in both Cork camogie and football is "insurmountable".

What's just as insurmountable has been the amount of serious GAA administrators to come out of O'Connor's East Cork, when you consider herself, Tracey Kennedy — the first female PRO of the Cork County Board —

and former Camogie Association President Joan O'Flynn.

"I think it boils down to the fact that we were all exposed to very good club structures. I know I was in Killeagh, and not just good coaches, but good structures.

"I took a huge interest in how the club's profile could boost the community and Tracey was similar to me I'd say.

"Joan was with Fr O'Neill's and after that the time she spent in London meant that she became a jack of all trades, before she went to Kildare and then onto the Association.

"So I think we're lucky really to have been exposed so early on to excellent structures."

Mary O'Connor celebrates victory over Wexford in the 2007 National League Final.



With Cork in the camogie All-Ireland next weekend against Wexford, her workload is mounting, but with her CEO hat on she's predicting a cracking final. However, as a former Cork player she believes the Rebels have what it takes.

"They really impressed in the semi-final. Gemma O'Connor is really coming into her own at centre-back, while Jenny O'Leary has found a niche in midfield. "Wexford are good, no shadow of a doubt, but Cork are capable of denying them three in-a-row."

Tomorrow, then her former football team-mates line out against Monaghan in a repeat of the 2011

All-Ireland final and 2012 league final (Birr, 4pm), and again she feels Cork can pull through.

She'll be glued to the TV for that one, but first tonight will be a black-tie ball in her honour.

It's an honour that is massively deserved, and although it's no statue or freedom of the city, it goes a long, long way to honouring the county's most successful GAA player.

Mary O'Connor, take a bow.



# UCC boss honours

By RONAN BAGNALL

UCC president Dr Michael Murphy today recognised the "absolute passion, dedication, skill and talent" of five of the country's greatest sport stars.

Leaside legends Ronan O'Gara, Denis Irwin and Mary O'Connor were conferred with honorary doctorates of arts at a special ceremony at UCC this afternoon.

They were joined by Kilkenny hurling great Brian Cody, and Ireland's greatest horse trainer, Aidan O'Brien, who were also recognised for their huge contribution to Irish sporting life.

Dr Murphy said the five sporting legends would inspire current and future generations of university athletes and sports people.

At a special conferring ceremony held as part of UCC's centenary of sport celebration, Dr Murphy addressed more than 350 guests, saying: "On behalf of UCC, I am delighted to acknowledge the absolute passion, dedication, skill and talent of the graduates today and to confer on them one of the



Ronan O'Gara and Denis Irwin, who received their honorary doctorates of arts at a special ceremony at UCC today.

Picture: Jim Coughlan



MARY O'CONNOR received an honorary doctorate for her incredible achievements in Camogie and Gaelic Football.

The most honoured player in GAA history, she has won seven All-Ireland Camogie titles and five All-Ireland Ladies Gaelic Football medals for Cork.

She hung up her boots at inter county level last year, having played at the highest level for two decades — including in 18 All-Ireland finals.

Mary, from Killeagh, also holds seven Munster championships, four National Leagues and three senior All-Ireland club medals, and has received three All Star Awards in Camogie and one in Ladies Gaelic Football.



Kilkenny manager, Brian Cody; Camogie and ladies football star, Mary O'Connor; leading horse trainer, Aidan O'Brien; Munster and Ireland rugby star, Ronan O'Gara, and former Ireland and Manchester United legend, Denis Irwin, at UCC yesterday where they were conferred with Honorary Doctorates of Arts in recognition of their achievements in sport.

Picture: Diane Cusack

## Day of pride as Cork honours its big three

By PADRAIG HOARE

THE accolade of being honoured by their hometown university meant the world to Denis Irwin, Mary O'Connor and Ronan O'Gara yesterday.

The legendary Cork trio were presented with honorary doctorates by University College Cork alongside Kilkenny hurling boss Brian Cody and the man considered one of the greatest horse trainers of all time, Wexford native Aidan O'Brien.

Denis Irwin said all he ever wanted as a youngster, watching his St Finbarr's heroes Gerald McCarthy, Con Roche and Jimmy Barry Murphy, was to play hurling for Cork.

While unfortunately it wasn't to be, he was able to carve out a career with another team in red, Manchester United.

Denis was honoured for his soccer career, which saw him capped 56 times for Ireland, and awarded with Premiership Medals (7), a UEFA Champions League Medal and three FA Cups.

GAA star Mary O'Connor told guests that sport had provided

her with the best moments in her life, and that she would always be proud to have represented Cork as a Killeagh girl. She is now one of the most respected GAA administrators in the country since her inter-county career came to an end. She said: "I am lucky in that I love what I do and do what I love."

Ms O'Connor was lauded for her incredible achievements of becoming one of the most honoured players in the history of

the GAA, with seven All-Ireland Camogie medals and five All-Ireland Ladies Gaelic Football medals, as well as three All-Star Awards in Camogie and one in Ladies Gaelic Football.

Meanwhile, there was a rare moment of raw emotion from the renowned ice-cool Ronan O'Gara, who welled up as he spoke about the importance of his family, including dad Fergal, mum Joan and wife Jessica in helping him reach the pinnacle of sporting achievement.

"It is a magnificent award to get here today. There is just something about representing Cork. I represent Cork first, then Munster and then Ireland. I am fully appreciative of where I come from."

With a Bachelor of Arts and Masters degree in Business from UCC already, O'Gara was conferred for his contribution to Irish rugby as Ireland's most capped player and all-time highest points scorer for both Munster and Ireland.



Former Ireland and Manchester United star, Denis Irwin and his wife Jackie at the ceremony at UCC.

Picture: Diane Cusack



# Sport stars



Mary O'Connor fixes Aidan O'Brien's tie as they receive their honorary doctorates of arts at a special ceremony at UCC today. Picture: Jim Coughlan

university's highest honours.

"Sport has been the lifeblood of our university since its foundation, and the centenary celebrations not only acknowledge the legacy of sporting success here, but also aim to honour and inspire the current and future generations of university athletes and sports people."

"The awards today recognise the magnificent sporting careers of Ronan O'Gara, Denis Irwin, Brian Cody, Mary

O'Connor and Aidan O'Brien, and the inspiration that their sporting passion and success has provided on both a national and international stage."

Sports media personalities Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh, Tracy Piggott, Donal Lenihan, Finbarr McCarthy and Trevor Welch also participated in the ceremony which was to be followed with a celebratory dinner tonight.

● See tomorrow's *Evening Echo* for full coverage of today's events.

## UCC marks centenary of sport by recognising leading Irish sporting heroes

By Camogie Association  
Posted 07/09/2012



UCC marks centenary of sport by recognising leading Irish sporting heroes

Leading Irish sportspeople have today (Friday, Sept 7th) been honoured by University College Cork in a special conferring ceremony, which forms a key part of the university's centenary of sport, UCC Sport 1911-2011.

In recognition of their distinction in sport, honorary doctorates of Arts were conferred upon Ireland and Munster rugby out half, Ronan O'Gara, former Ireland and Manchester United soccer player, Denis Irwin, Irish hurling legend and Kilkenny manager, Brian Cody, leading horse trainer in Ireland and the UK, Aidan O'Brien and one of the most honoured players in GAA history, Mary O'Connor.

The conferring ceremony was presided over by UCC President Michael Murphy, who addressed over 350 guests at this exceptional event on campus.

"On behalf of UCC, I am delighted to acknowledge the absolute passion, dedication, skill and talent of the graduates today and to confer on them one of the university's highest honours."

Sport has been the lifeblood of our university since its foundation, and the centenary celebrations not only

acknowledge the legacy of sporting success here, but also aim to honour and inspire the current and future generations of University athletes and sports people. The awards today recognise the magnificent sporting careers of Ronan O'Gara, Denis Irwin, Brian Cody, Mary O'Connor and Aidan O'Brien, and the inspiration that their sporting passion and success has provided on both a national and international stage."

Ireland's sporting community was well-represented at the conferring ceremony at UCC, with several rugby players and managers, football stars and GAA representatives in attendance. Sports media people including Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh, Tracy Piggott, Donal Lenihan, Finbarr McCarthy and Trevor Welch also participated in the ceremony, and each made dedicated commendations (encomia) to the sports stars being conferred

A number of outstanding events and capital developments have already taken place to mark UCC's centenary of sport, including the official opening of the newly extended Mardyke Pavilion, an international Olympic conference, the opening of the redeveloped Mardyke Arena and most recently the announcement of Elite Sports Scholarships.

Pictured at UCC (l-r) Brian Cody, Mary O'Connor, Aidan O'Brien, Ronan O'Gara and Denis Irwin.



Camogie and football star Mary O'Connor, acting chief executive of the Camogie Association, with her sister Ann O'Neill, after she received her Honorary Doctorate at UCC yesterday. Picture: Diane Cusack

## GAA hero Mary O'Connor is hailed as a 'living legend'

By PADRAIG HOARE

ONE of the greatest dual players in the history of GAA, Killeagh's Mary O'Connor, was hailed by Cork GAA chief Frank Murphy as a "living legend" yesterday.

Mr Murphy told the *Evening Echo* that Mary's achievements and character had made her among the all-time greats of GAA.

"She is a living legend in terms of what she achieved in her glittering career and these achievements are truly extraordinary. As well as a magnificent sporting great, she is a great woman in her own right and has shown herself to be one of our foremost GAA administrators."

Mary told the *Evening Echo* that Katie Taylor's achievement in winning an Olympic Gold Medal for Ireland provided an opportunity to further the case for coverage and interest in women's sport.

"They say the rising tide raises all boats. If we get better coverage as a result, that's great. The Women in Sports Council shows there is good work being done. It is a slow turn but we are getting there. But it is more important that we get young girls involved in sport on a recreational level, where they enjoy the fun and friendship like I did over the years. I was very fortunate to play in some fantastic teams. It is that strength of unity that playing the game provides." Mary said that her club of Killeagh was very proud of its Cork County Board representative, county PRO Tracey Kennedy.



Doctorate recipient Mary O'Connor with her mother Mary, at the black-tie ball reception. Picture: Diane Cusack

SEPT. 2012





LINDA MELLERICK

THE countdown to the All-Ireland senior camogie final is on.

Stella Sinnott was the Wexford woman that bridged the 32 year gap in bringing the O'Duffy Cup back to Wexford in 2007.

Stella had been to Croke Park three times previous to that; as a senior inter-county player. She had played in three All-Ireland finals; 1990, 1992 and 1994.

She lost the three to Kilkenny, Cork and Kilkenny respectively so her memories of those days are one of heartbreak.

As every player and manager who has ever reached an All-Ireland final and lost can empathise with Stella.

Recalling those days she says: "I remember when we reached the All-Ireland in '94, a work colleague of mine said to me 'It's fantastic that you're in the final' and my response to him was 'not if you lose'."

"The loss is so heart-breaking that you wish to God you lost the semi-final or even the first round."

Holder of three All-Ireland club medals with Buffers Alley in the eighties Stella was a fast, busy player.

She retired from inter-county camogie in 1997 and played on with her club for another five years.

She became a selector with Wexford in 2005 and when the opportunity arose to take over as manager two years later she 'was coaxed into it'.

2007 ended up a fairy-tale for Wexford; defeated by a last-minute point in the National League final by Cork, they proceeded to take the scalp of the 'big guns' throughout the round robin championship series and stopped Cork's All-Ireland three in a row bid with a 2-7 to 1-8 victory in Croke Park.

The roles are reversed this year. Wexford bid for three in-a-row and Cork are out to stop them.

Stella gives her thoughts on the appetising final ahead: "I think it's going to be a very intriguing final, an interesting one and one I'm really looking forward to."

It's well documented that this is Wexford's three in-a-row bid and it was Wexford that prevented Cork's three in a row in 2007.

Cork have been there these past few years, underperforming in semi-finals, and for that reason staying somewhat in the background.

They are stronger this year. The Mackeys are older and stronger and that is really showing.

After the league final Cork had the momentum and the confidence. That means a huge amount. In 2007 it was our early league victory over Tipperary that gave us and our younger players in particular a huge psychological boost.

When Wexford beat Cork in the second round of this season's championship the game was played in Enniscorthy in a tight venue and that suited Wexford so it'll be a different ball game in Croke Park.

While Wexford have the experience of the past two years Cork won't fear Croke Park at all, they never do.

That's something Galway wouldn't have brought to the table. There's a

# Sinnott not keen to return to dark days



Cork camogie Players Eimear O'Sullivan and Maria Walsh during a training session in Blackrock ahead of next Sunday's All-Ireland final.

Picture: Darragh Kane

monkey on the back of Galway but not on Cork.

Wexford's defence is their strongest area of the field. Cork can't let them remain compact. They have to be prepared to run. Galway did it last year and it opened Wexford up. How Cork tactically play it will be crucial to their chances.

Kate Kelly is on form in the middle of the park.

Who Wexford play at centre forward on Gemma O'Connor is a huge decision for them as Wexford's forward division aren't as cohesive as

they have been in the past.

No one knows yet if Una Leacy will start. She limped off in the semi-final.

It's her 'good' leg that's giving the trouble, not the cruciate / hamstring problems she's had with her other one. Fiona Rochford in my view deserves a start at this stage.

She got three wonderful points from the side line against Offaly and while the game was over as a contest at that stage, the quality of the striking was there. Noleen Lambert, while not a free-scoring forward, doesn't do

a whole lot wrong. She works extremely hard and is a very tight marker.

This game will be a battle of wits. It'll be interesting to see how both JJ Doyle and Paudie Murray approach it. If Cork take a lead and Wexford's backs are to the wall, it'll be interesting to see how they react.

Reluctant to pick a winner, Stella is obviously protective of her own county but her respect for Cork is obvious during the conversation. I've a sneaky feeling she thinks Cork can take this one.

## Association plans golf fundraiser

By MARY NEWMAN

THE camogie association is busy organising its annual golf classic in association with MMLe which will take place at the Castleknock Golf Club on Wednesday, September 26.

The event has gone from strength to strength and the association views it as one of its major fundraising events while it's also an opportunity to bring former and current players from all over the country together. They are inviting teams of four males and females to enter at a cost of €260 with golf, goodie bag and lunch provided. It is a four-ball event with two scores to count. Tee-off times are from 9.30am to 2.20pm and early booking is advisable in order to secure your choice of tee-time.

The first prize for each member of this year's winning team is a weekend break in The Croke Park Hotel which comprises of two nights bed and breakfast on a weekend of choice, with dinner for two on one night.

Second and third prizes, in addition to spot prizes for longest drive and nearest the tee, are also up for grabs.

The camogie association is hoping for big support for the even. To book your team in for this year's event log on to the national camogie web site [www.camogie.ie](http://www.camogie.ie).

## Drive to get Castle Road finished

THE push is on to complete the Castle Road complex, and with planning permission granted, it's all systems go to get the dressing room structure built. In order to do this the board have to once again raise a substantial sum of money. The pitch is a credit to all involved but it did not appear over night, and years of hard work went into ensuring that Cork camogie now has top class facilities for generations of camogie players to come.

The facility as it stands is now debt free, but the hard work must continue and it is here that the support of the clubs and former players is once again needed. The board development committee are launching their fund raising with a monster fund raising table quiz which will be held at the Rochestown Park Hotel, Thursday October 18. Teams of four at €50 per team are invited to participate, and supporters are urged to organise a team and come along and get the dressing room fundraising off to a great start.



# Semis to attract large crowd to headquarters

By MARY NEWMAN

THE weekend is a busy one on the local championship scene with the Evening Echo Intermediate Championship semi-finals down for decision today Saturday.

Newtownshandrum and Blackrock meet in the first game in Castle Road at 3.30pm with Aghabullogue and Carrigaline in action at 6pm.

Newtownshandrum have made huge strides this season under the guidance of Fr O'Neill's player and former Cork inter county star Nora Ahern, they are very focused on the task in hand and have impressed in all their outings to date.

They fought off the stiff challenge of Tracton to win their semi-final spot and this year they have welcomed back a few players to their line up this year including Caroline Giltinane and Muireann Harrington.

They have plenty of experience in their line up with Val O Keffe, Paula O'Connor and Aine Kelleher leading the way and guiding the younger players such as Mariah Reidy, Aoife Twohill and Roisin Twohill and Denise Cagney.

Blackrock will have other thoughts on that and in this their second season in the Intermediate grade they are continuing to make good progress with what is essentially a very young squad.

They have excellent players in Kaitlyn Hickey, Roisin de Faoite, Grace Marum and Therese Cummins and they will battle to the finish to secure their place in the last two.

Aghabullogue have re-grouped this year and having dropped down a grade have performed well in the intermediate grade. They, like Newtownshandrum, welcomed back a few former players to their ranks and they turned in impressive performances to reach the last four.

They showed tremendous fighting spirit and a never say die attitude and Clara Murphy, Michelle Healy, Deirdre Twomey and Nicola Moynihan have enjoyed a superb season to date.

Carrigaline are another side who worked extremely hard to win their semi final spot, earlier in the season their panel was weakened as several of their side were abroad for the summer but now they have strengthened their line up considerably and they will fancy their chances of making it to the final.

Sandra Moran, captain Joanne O Keffe and Sarah Barry have been consistent all through for them and it promises to be a close encounter with the mid cork girls for a final spot.

In an all Seandun clash Northside



Cork camogie supporters at the Cork team's open training night ahead of the All-Ireland final against Wexford on Sunday September 16.



Barbara O'Connell, Kelly Kenny, Aoife Murphy, Jesse Mendez and Alix Mendez at the Cork camogie team open training night ahead of the All-Ireland final.



Caoimhe and Senan Walsh at the Cork camogie team open training night.

## Cork get a big send-off from fans

THE Cork senior camogie team received a huge send-off on Thursday last as Castle Road rocked to the sound of young camogie followers who turned up help begin the count down to All-Ireland final day.

Young girls and boys from clubs through the city and county turned out for the teams open training night and youngsters sat in the summer sunshine as the team went through a full training session and everybody waited patiently as each drill was performed.

Parents chatted and young players got to meet players from other clubs as everybody mingled and enjoyed the atmosphere.

Red and white bunting and balloons were in evidence as Julia White led her charges on to the field to begin the session under the watchful eye of manager Paudie Murray and mentors Ellen Clifford, Brian Barry, Aidan Crowley and George Fitzgibbon.

Youngsters had plenty to occupy their minds as they collected poster and player profile sheets with coloured pictures of all the players while chairperson Marion McCarthy and her officers organised a raffle for those present of a signed hurley and Cork socks.

As the session ended and Christine O'Regan opened the gates there was a huge race on to the field as the players were mobbed by the youngster and parents and it was almost a full hour after training finished before the players and mentors left the field.

A wonderful occasion for all in attendance and a hugely successful night as the count down gets well and truly underway and the players now get a chance to relax in the week ahead leading up to the game.

rivals Brian Dillon and Na Piarsaigh meet in the semi final the Junior A championship, already this season the sides have met several times both in league and tournament clashes and each time little has divided the sides.

Na Piarsaigh have enjoyed their first season at Junior A level following their promotion from B last year and it's a marvellous achievement to be in the final.

They had a close encounter in their last outing against Kildorrey where they hung on to the finish to secure a win and with excellent goal-

keeper Amy Lee, Lisa Burns, Niki Donovan and Leona Crowley all working hard they will not be found wanting.

John Ring has returned this year to guide the fortunes of the club and the former Canovee football coach has his side in tip-top form, Susan Brosnan, Eimear Keane, Claire Dooley and Therese Drummond are all experienced junior A players who have participated at this level for a few seasons and they will go in as favourites to make it to the last two.

In the Junior B championship semi-final Sliabh Rua and Ballincol-

lig go head to head seeking a place in the final where Castlemagner who defeated Youghal earlier this week await.

The junior C championship final has last year's league champions Bride Rovers meeting Charleville who are contesting their first county junior C final, both sides are evenly matched and we can look forward to a close encounter.

There is also an underage final down for decision today as Sarsfields and Ballinhassig meet in the U14A league final while Youghal and Enniskeane meet to decide the des-

tinuation of the U14C league title.

### FIXTURES TODAY

Evening Echo Intermediate Championship semi-finals: Newtownshandrum v Blackrock 3.30pm Castle Road Camogie Grounds; Aghabullogue v Carrigaline 6pm Castle Road Camogie Grounds.

Evening Echo Junior A Championship semi-final: Brian Dillon's v Na Piarsaigh 1.30pm Venue TBC.

U14 A League final: Sarsfields v Ballinhassig Coachford 11.30am

U14 C League final: Youghal v Enniskeane Coachford 1.30pm.

### TOMORROW

Evening Echo Junior B Championship semi-final: Sliabh Rua v Ballincollig 12 noon Castle Road.

Evening Echo Junior C Championship final: Charleville v Bride Rovers 6pm Castle Road.



**RORY NOONAN**  
talks to Cork's  
Orla Cotter ahead  
of next Sunday's  
All-Ireland



camogie  
final clash  
with  
Wexford

WHEN Cork take to the field on Sunday for the senior All-Ireland camogie final one of their key players is sure to be Orla Cotter.

The St Catherine's player has been a part of the senior set-up for more years than she cares to remember, but the burning ambition to win the final is as strong as it ever was.

Quietly spoken off the pitch Orla is a natural leader on it and her ability to win more than her fair share of possession in midfield will be crucial to Cork's chances.

Orla's love of camogie started at a young age and she could barely walk when she was out the back, pucking a ball with her brothers.

Most of the family have been involved in the game at some point and it wasn't long before Orla was.

"People like Dick Morrison and Rena O'Leary (RIP) were among my first coaches and had a huge influence on my game," said Orla, "their dedication to training young players was second to none."

She started off playing at school, with Ballynoe NS, and was on the side that won the Sciath na Scol in 2000 in football.

It wasn't long before her club, St Catherine's, came calling and long before she officially started there, the pitch was familiar to her.

"I used to go down there with my brothers and sister and we were always pucking around and I just loved camogie and football from the start."

Orla won her first major medal with them at U14 level when they won the county championship and followed on with success at U18 level and eventually at senior level.

Her reputation with the club grew quickly and it wasn't long before Cork came calling and the elegant midfielder quickly established herself on the inter-county team.

Her first success with Cork came in 2003 when she was part of the side that won the All-Ireland and went on to retain it the following year.

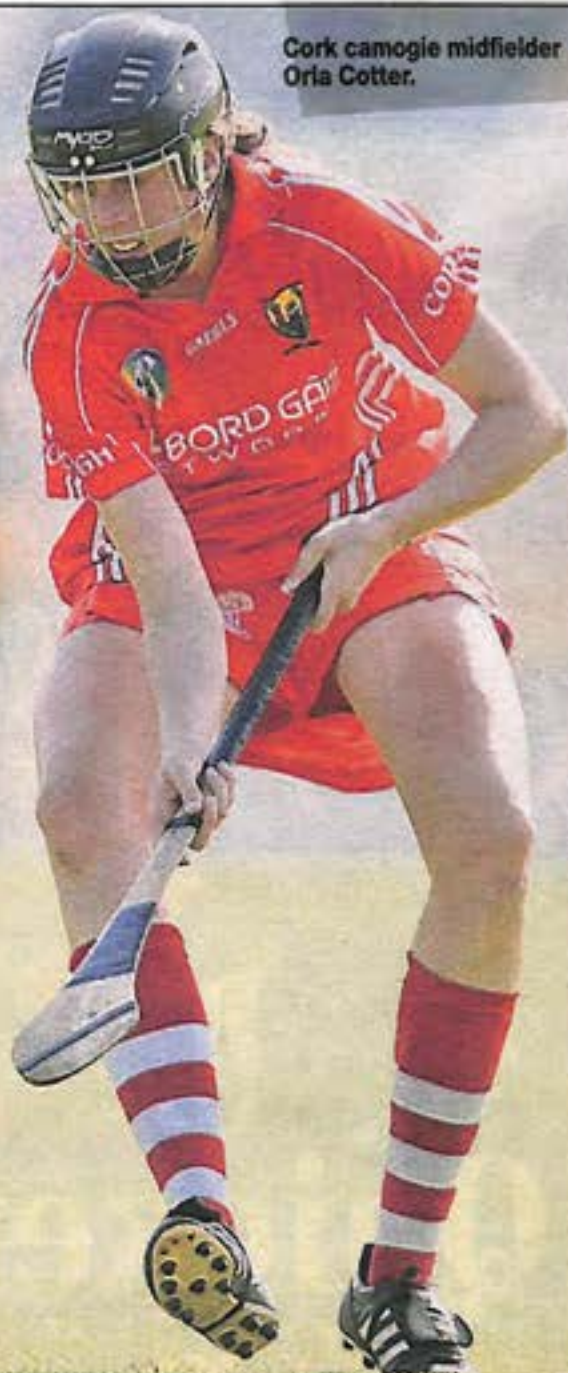
She added medals all the way up to, and including, senior All-Ireland ones and she was also honoured with the captaincy of her county.

"To be made captain of Cork was a huge honour for me and my family. To captain your county is the dream of all camogie players and I was lucky enough to fulfil that dream."

"Unfortunately we didn't win the All-Ireland but it was still one of my proudest moments to lead the side out for championship games."

# Cotter will be key if Cork are to win back the crown

Inside: Gemma O'Connor interview in Ladies Sports Special and tomorrow: Jenny Duffy interview



Cork camogie midfielder Orla Cotter.

## Orla Cotter factfile

Age: 23

Family: Parents, John and Bridget; brothers Padraig and Shane and sisters Aisling and Fiona.

Occupation: PE and Irish teacher at Middleton College.

Club: St Catherine's.

### CORK HONOURS

Captained Cork senior team in 2010.

U16 Munster and All-Ireland titles 2003.

U16 Munster title 2004.

U18 Munster titles 2004, 2005 and 2006.

Junior League title 2005.

Senior A and B All-Ireland titles 2006.

National League winner 2007.

Senior All-Ireland titles 2008 and 2009.

Munster titles 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2011.

All-Star in 2008.

Also won the Freshers Cup with UCC in 2007.

### CAMOGIE CLUB HONOURS WITH ST CATHERINE'S

U14 B county.

U16 county and league winner.

U18 A championship in 2005 and 2006.

Junior A championship in 2003.

Senior B championship 2006.

Senior A championship 2009.

### FOOTBALL CLUB HONOURS WITH INCH ROVERS

Intermediate county, Munster and All-Ireland winner 2006.

Senior county and Munster winners 2007, 2008 and 2010.

All-Ireland senior champions in 2010.

● Also won Sciath na Scol ladies football with Ballynoe NS in 2000.

● Orla is a keen hockey player with Fermoy, and enjoys playing badminton and swimming.

But like all players, injury can suddenly make you realise just how short your career can be and February 20, 2011, is a date that Orla won't forget in a hurry.

It was the day she suffered a horrific injury that kept her out of camogie for a long time, with a chance she might never play again.

She was playing for UCC against Waterford IT in the Ashbourne Cup final and 10 minutes into the second-half she went to block a player, with disastrous results.

"As I went to block one of their players, I got it slightly wrong and ended up getting the side of the hurley into one side of my face," said Orla.

"The minute I felt the hit I knew I was in big trouble. It pushed one

side of my face towards the other and I broke my jaw in two places.

"My teeth were moving all over the place and as I said it felt like that one side of my face had been driven across and hit the other.

"Once I got to hospital I was given morphine and naturally this helped to quell the pain as they started to look at the extent of my injuries."

The next 24 hours were somewhat of a blur for Orla as it was CAT and MRI scans and other tests to see if it was 'only' a broken jaw she had suffered.

Orla also suffered a severe cut to the side of her ear and with any blow to the head it had to be checked out and thankfully it was 'only' a broken jaw.

The following day Orla was oper-

ated on and they put four screws into her jaw, two on top and two on the lower jaw.

Following the operation the long journey to recovery started. She spent the first two weeks at home and will be eternally grateful to her family, and in particular her mother Bridget, for all the help and care she gave her.

After six weeks it was back to the doctor and she got great news as they agreed to take the screws in her jaw out.

"This was the best news I could get and getting the screws out meant that getting back on the pitch moved a step closer for me."

"After a few weeks, I played a club game and I was very nervous going on to the field. I was apprehensive and not really looking for-

ward to the first challenge. But I knew it had to come and when it did I started thinking that's over with and slowly but surely started to work myself into the game."

That's all behind her and Orla is looking forward to Sunday and is delighted Cork are back in the final, though she accepts they will be underdogs.

"We are up against a very strong Wexford side and they will be all out to win the three in-a-row."

"It's been a few years since we have been in the final so we are all looking forward to getting on the pitch on Sunday. We have been going well in training but it's all down to what happens on the day and nothing less than our best will be good enough against Wexford."

"As well as going for three in-a-row they are also champions at intermediate level and a side from Wexford are also the All-Ireland club champions. This shows how much effort they have put in over the last few years."

"Our win over them in the league final will count for nothing on Sunday as both squads know this will be much higher in intensity and there is far more at stake."

"Of course we are delighted to have won the league but there is a massive hunger in the squad to win the All-Ireland title."

"It's been a few years since we have been in Croker on finals day and there is no better feeling for a player than running out on to the pitch, knowing you are playing in the biggest game of the year. I can't wait for Sunday and hopefully we will be bringing the cup back."



SEPT. 2012



# Jenny is Diff enough for a showdown with Wexford

Cork senior camogie defender Jenny Duffy believes the disappointment for the side over the past few years has made them hungry for success now.

**IF** there is one word that could sum up the feeling amongst the Cork squad and management ahead of next Sunday's senior All-Ireland camogie final it's hunger.

Firstly it was hunger to get back into the final and now that they are there, hunger to bring the cup back to Cork.

Star defender, Jenny Duffy, is a key part of that ambition and you can be guaranteed that when they take to the pitch on Sunday she will give her all, and then some, to try and fulfil that dream.

Jenny has been on the panel now for some time and has three senior All-Ireland medals to her name, but has a burning desire to add to that tally. Cork haven't been in the final since 2009, far too long as far as the corner-back is concerned.

"The last two years were very disappointing from our point of view and we were determined to put in a massive effort this year to try and make up for it," said Jenny.

"For many years Cork were the standard bearers that all others look up to as we had quality players — not alone in the starting line-up but also in the squad. That has changed over the last few years and now Wexford are the team to beat and the standard bearers as they go for three in-a-row.

"It's up to us, and the rest, to try and rise to the standards they have

## RORY NOONAN talks to Cork defender JENNY DUFFY ahead of Sunday's All-Ireland senior camogie final

set and we are well aware of how tough a task this is. I know we beat them in the league final but that counts for nothing when it comes to championship as it's a far higher level. The intensity of the league final is nothing compared to what we will face on Sunday and we are well aware we are going in as underdogs.

"That's only to be expected as they are the champions and have been the best side in the championship over the last few years.

"But we have a strong squad and even in training, you have to give 100% or else you know someone can come in and take your place. This has helped us as a squad get stronger and stronger as everyone is both pushing, as well as encouraging, you to improve all the time.

"Far from tearing the squad apart it has brought us closer together and we are great friends as well as team-mates. Even when you are having a bad game, or even not

going well in training, they will encourage you and lift you.

"How could you not be inspired when you see someone like Brieghe Corkery winning the ball and driving forward to either score or set one up for someone else. Players like her are an inspiration to all of us and she will always have a good word for you if things are not going your way.

"There is a huge trust element among the players and we all know what each other is going to do during a game. There are no big heads or cliques in the squad.

"Our coaching and management team have also kept us going and you couldn't ask for better people, led by Paudie Murray.

"They have no favourites and you know that if you don't put in the effort in training and in games there is someone to take your place and they won't hesitate to do so.

"Because of this everybody is so well grounded and I think this

## JENNY DUFFY FACTFILE

**Position:** Defender

**Age:** 29

**Family:** Parents: Irene and John Duffy and siblings: Gavin, Grahame, Colm, Finbarr, Jill and Alan.

**Occupation:** GAA Development Officer NUI Maynooth

**Club:** St Finbarr's

**Club honours:** 3 senior All-Ireland titles, 1 Senior B All-Ireland, 1 Junior All-Ireland, 1 Gael Linn Inter-provincial.

**Club honours:** 1 Senior County Championship, 1 Senior B County Championship.

**Other achievements:** 3 Football County Senior Championship with Inch Rovers, 3 Munster Football Club Championship, 1 All-Ireland Football Senior Club Championship, 1 Intermediate Football County Championship, 1 Munster Intermediate Football Championship, 1 All-Ireland Intermediate Football Championship, 1 Ashbourne Shield with CIT, 1 Cork Women's Soccer League with Lakewood Rangers.

plays a huge part in driving us forward as we try and win back the title.

"When the final whistle goes and you have won the All-Ireland it's almost impossible to describe the feeling. It's one of the proudest moments of your life, to be surrounded by people whom you have slogged your

guts out with in training and in games and to have family and friends at Croke Park, it's just beyond words to describe it.

"Many people looking on might say we are mad to do this year after year but we just want to be the best and your time at the top doesn't last long and I want to savour every moment. This desire, topped with young, fresh and ambitious players being added to the squad every season, is probably a major reason why we are lucky enough to be back in the final."

Before Sunday's big game there will be one ritual that Jenny always follows before any big game.

"Before I leave home ahead of any championship game my mum will catch me unaware as some point and pretend to spit on me. She never actually does but it has become a ritual and I won't be breaking it this weekend.

"I don't know how, when or why it started but my mum is originally from Derry and I think it must be some sort of a tradition where she is from. I know it's unusual but it has just become something she does before games."

But whether it's spitting rain or glorious sunshine on Sunday you can be guaranteed that Jenny will be a ray of sunshine in the Cork team. And hopefully there will be a warm glow at the final whistle with the cup on its way back to Leaside for the first time in a few years.





## FACTFILE

**Name:** Gemma O'Connor  
**Age:** 27  
**Family:** Mother, Geraldine, father, Donal, brother Glenn, dog Rebel  
**Club:** St Finbarr's  
**Position:** Centre-back  
**Favourite Food:** "I adore all food. Good and bad!"  
**Favourite Music:** "Most music but I am a bit of a typical city girl, into old-school dance and house music, unlike Lynda O'Connell, who likes Daniel O'Donnell and Mary Black."  
**Hardest Opponent:** "Whoever I will be marking in the All-Ireland final."  
**You'd run 10 laps to avoid doing what?** "Listening to Lynda O'Connell's music selection."

## Honours:

### INTER COUNTY:

Two minor All-Ireland medals, five senior All-Ireland medals, Munster medals in both minor and senior.  
 Six All Stars: 09, 08, 07, 06, 05, and 04 at midfield, wing back, and centre forward.  
 The Star Newspaper young player of the year in 2002, The Irish Examiner Junior Sports Star of the year winner for camogie in 2001, Vodafone Player of the Year in 2005, Renault player of the year in 2005, The Star Newspaper player of the year 2009.

### CLUB:

One senior B county medal, one senior county medal, Féile na nGael Skills winner in 1997.



Corporal Gemma O'Connor, based with the fourth Infantry Battalion in Collins Barracks, has seen service overseas with the Defence Forces.

# Gemma will play a key role for Cork

**S**UNDAY will be her ninth All-Ireland camogie final. She has won six All-Star awards, and has five senior medals at home, but for Cork camogie star Gemma O'Connor reaching an All-Ireland final this year feels like reaching the final for the very first time.

Having missed out for the past two years, O'Connor is as excited as the young players in the team who are about to experience All-Ireland final day for the first time.

"Because of the disappointment in the last two years of not getting to where

we wanted to be, and not reaching the final, this year is a whole new experience for all of us," Gemma says. "Reaching the final this year felt like a dream come true. With such a mix of old, young and new players, as well as the introduction of new boss Paudie Murray and his backroom team, Sunday, September 16th will be a day to be cherished."

"We are a very modest and humble team, and although there are a lot of All-Ireland medal winners in that team, all that goes out the window. We will take the approach like we never won an All-Ireland title before."



Camogie Association president, Aileen Lawlor; GAA president, Liam Ó Néill (right) and Ryle Nugent, RTE, Group Head of Sport, at yesterday's captains day in Croke Park ahead of the All-Ireland camogie championship finals. From far left are intermediate captains Sinead Cassidy, Derry and Collette Gill, Galway; senior captains Karen Atkinson, Wexford and Julia White, Cork; and premier junior captains Jane Dolan, Meath and Fionnuala Carr, Down.

Picture: Sportsfile





Cork's Gemma O'Connor sends the Galway defenders the wrong way during their recent All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship semi-final at Nowlan Park, Kilkenny. Gemma, whatever position she lines out in on Sunday will be a key player for Cork.

## GEMMA ON...

**Her motivation:** "Motivation is something that I never had trouble with. As long as I am in the physical condition that is required and once I possess that burning desire to wear the blood and bandage of Cork I will continue to play. "Naturally enough, age will determine that in a few years. If I don't have any of those things on my side then it is time for me to hang up my boots."

**Ten years from now:** "Ten years from now I should think I will be well and truly retired. I think I'll definitely take time off and maybe go travelling, or just enjoy the simple sociable things that are restricted as a player."

"In the long run though I definitely want to get involved in coaching at some level. I think it just doesn't stop when you stop playing. My love for the game will continue into the coaching side of things probably in the not too far distant future."

**Work commitments:** "Working in the Defence Forces has given me the opportunity to travel, maybe not like a backpacker, but definitely it's an opportunity to see the world. Serving overseas with the Irish Army has given me the chance to see Liberia, Chad, Sierra Leone and Ivory Coast. "I have weighed up lots of different things in my life when it came to serving overseas, and certainly camogie was a huge factor in that."

"Sometimes you're offered a choice whether to apply for overseas duty, other times you it can be mandatory. Work at the moment is very uncertain for me as my home unit, the 4th Infantry Battalion in Collins Barracks is being disbanded. So I am uncertain of where I might be stationed next."

"A quota of troops in Cork are getting relocated to Limerick and Kilkenny. Like many people I hoping to stay in Cork."

**Her new sporting interest, soccer:**

"Playing soccer this year with Knockavilla was very enjoyable. It had the 'no pressure' aspect that sometimes is attached to playing camogie."

"Through friends I joined the club and it certainly kept me fit over the winter months. Winning both the west Cork cup and league was an added bonus."

"We have not been there in a while, and we have nothing to lose, except to enjoy it, and give it absolutely everything."

"Wexford will be favourites naturally enough, but, being the underdog will suit us."

Gemma is currently in her 10th consecutive year playing senior camogie with Cork.

She is regarded by her peers as one of the best ever, and one of the most feared camogie players in the country.

She has picked up five senior All-Ireland medals in that time, but more impressively, she is the leading All-Star awards winner, having picked up six consecutive All-Stars, playing in three different positions, centre-forward, midfield and wing-back.

Gemma, being the versatile player that she is, has moved positions so many times over the years. Sometimes to do a marking job, on other days to create scores, but she has never hesitated in moving.

"You are put into that position for whatever reason the management deems necessary, and you just have to accept those decisions whether you like them or not."

"During the course of my career I have been moved into several positions."

"Lining out in the half-back line, to midfield, then to the centre-forward position, and back to midfield again."

"Midfield is where I played mostly and relished playing there."

"It gives you great scope of

## Despite playing in seven All-Ireland finals, Gemma O'Connor explains to **Barbara O'Connell** why she's treating Sunday as her first



movement and a certain freedom that other positions don't possess. "However, this year I have been moved and positioned in the centre-back role. "It's somewhere that I wouldn't have played much, but I would have experience as regards to defensive positions where I played before. "I now have a whole different set of responsibilities and have to adapt to the change. That goes for a few of the other girls on the team also." As her All-Star awards tell, it's evident that Gemma's presence is of huge importance to Cork. Being able to play in several positions takes huge commitment and effort, but for Gemma it is all worthwhile. "People sometimes ask me 'am I mad for the time I spend playing camogie', but ask anyone involved in sport, and they will know that when you find something that you love and enjoy doing, then the commitment and hard work, and the rewards and success that follow, makes it all worthwhile."

"I do it for the love of the game, and the love and pride I get from wearing the Cork jersey. That feeling makes the decision to giving camogie 100% an easy one." Although Gemma and the team have had many victories over the years, there was also heart-breaking moments along the way. One which sticks in Gemma's mind for a number of reasons was losing the 2007 All-Ireland final to Sunday's opponents Wexford. "Losing that final was a hard one to swallow personally, because I was captain. We lost to a new up-and-coming Wexford team. "It was heartbreaking on all levels. "First and foremost losing any All-Ireland is tough, add in the fact we were going for our three in a row, and then taking the blow as captain as well. "So now this time Cork are the underdogs and we will definitely have nothing to lose facing Wexford in this year's final." Gemma, who comes from a sporting background got her love of camogie

from the interest her mom and dad. Her mother played with the Glen in the 70s and won an U18 county title, while her dad played with Ballypheane and the Barrs. Their absolute love for the game always inspired Gemma. Gemma's brother Glen is also a prominent figure on the St Finbarr's senior team and her uncle, Bill, captained Cork to an All-Ireland minor title. "I started playing camogie at seven years of age with Ballypheane camogie club. I later moved on to the Barrs."

"My mom and I first realised that I may have a talent in the sport at the age of seven when hitting a sliothar came very naturally to me."

"Camogie really kicked off for me when at primary school in Maria Assumpta where current principal Christine Fitzsimmons was my teacher and coach at the time."

"Other coaches included my mom, Ger, Patsy Folkes, Ann Kelleher and Margo Kenny."

"Both primary and secondary schools in Ballypheane had a huge interest in the sport."

"The schools had a choice of players from two parishes and clubs, Ballypheane and St Finbarr's."

"It was in primary school that I won my first ever prestigious title. We won the Sciath na Scol title with my current club and county camogie team-mate and friend, Lynda O'Connell, who was our captain at the time."

"While playing camogie in secondary school was great, we

never managed to win any major colleges titles."

"We did learn and develop a lot as players though due to the fact of having an inter-county player/teacher to coach us."

"Sinead Millea, from Kilkenny was our coach. The respect we had for her as a player and coach, was huge. "Little did I know that a few years later I would play against her at inter-county level."

Gemma, who began her senior playing career with the Barrs at the age of 13 finally won her first and only county title in 2006."

That was a memorable day for her and the club for two reasons."

"The biggest thrill for me that day was to play alongside one of camogie's greats, Colette O'Mahony."

"To share in her joy of winning her first senior county in her last game of her career, was something special for me and the rest of the team."

"Colette was a player who I looked up to when I first joined the Barrs."

As Gemma reflects on the importance of having role models for a young kid joining a club, she also expresses the benefits of being involved in a team sport."

"Friends you meet along the way not only in camogie but through sport in general is a very common factor in all sports people lives."

"I definitely met friends that I have become very close with and that are now life-long friends."

"For that reason alone I would encourage every young boy and girl to get involved in any type of sport."

Evening Echo

LADIES SPORTSTAR AWARDS

NEWBRIDGE  
Silverdale

RPH  
ROCHESTOWN PARK

SEPT 2012



# Doyle keeps focus off Wexford's historic ambitions

## CAMOGIE

Cliona Foley

WEXFORD go into the All-Ireland final against Cork on Sunday chasing their third consecutive title. And manager JJ Doyle has stressed that while you won't hear any mention of the possible historic three-in-a-row inside their camp, they're not shying away from it either.

"We're not talking about it but we're not afraid of it either because we know other people will talk about it," he said. "But it is really irrelevant, because all we can do on Sunday is win one game."

"If we lose, no one's going to be sitting in the dressing-room

thinking, 'ah sure at least we won the last two.' This one is all about the 60 minutes on Sunday and whichever team performs."

It was Cork who Wexford displaced at the top of the game, and the Rebelettes once again stand between them and what would be another huge landmark for the county, who made their big breakthrough in 2007.

The Cork women won five of the eight All-Ireland finals they contested in the past 10 years but they haven't been in a final since 2009 and lost to Wexford in the '07 decider.

Cork have a new-look team and management in place now, but Doyle says it isn't their rivalry that has kept his side motivated, but rather the last-gasp manner of last

year's win over Galway.

The defending champions needed some late heroics from Ursula Jacob, who scored 1-3 in the final 10 minutes, to pull victory from the jaws of defeat.

"We don't believe we've performed in either of the last two finals," Doyle said. "I know that might sound strange because we won both of them, but we didn't perform to the level we know we're capable of."

"We were very good in the first half of the 2010 final but at no stage last year were we really good and, in the final, we got away with it."

"We didn't perform in the league final this year either and Cork beat us. We know if we don't perform on Sunday they'll beat us again."

Wexford have benefited from the

huge competition for places created by the slew of players that won both senior and intermediate titles last year. But Doyle's innovative attitude to training has also helped, and he admits to taking a Brian Cody-esque approach to refereeing their internal games.

"I don't blow the whistle at all, just start the match and end the match," he chuckled. "It's not that it's dirty but it is physical. You just hope matches are let flow and people can see that the game is no longer about players standing off and looking at one another."

"It's a brilliant game. We're not saying it's the same as hurling, it's obviously different, but the 30 girls here on Sunday will be the top camogie players in the country. They're the best females in their

sport and they deserve respect."

"Look at what Katie Taylor did in the Olympics. That surely showed the male-dominated media that these women are just as good in their own field as the lads are."

"Okay, maybe the long-range scoring is not as big in camogie but in the semi-finals I saw Gemma O'Connor putting the ball over from midfield for Cork, and Kate Kelly doing it for us. A lot of lads who play club hurling are incapable of doing things like that."

"There's often more evidence of the skills in camogie because, like ladies football, there isn't the huge physicality that's there now in the men's game."

"These girls are the best of the best at their sport and they deserve acknowledgement."



All-Ireland Camogie Championship final captains (back row from left): Intermediate captains Sinead Cassidy (Derry) Collette Gill (Galway); premier junior captains Jane Dolan (Meath) and Fionnuala Carr (Down). Front row: Senior captains Karen Atkinson (Wexford) and Julia White (Cork) in Croke Park yesterday. PAT MURPHY/SPORTSFILE

## Cork still playing catch-up, says Murray

by John Fogarty

Cork manager Paudie Murray isn't placing too much store in the team's previous national final appearance against reigning All-Ireland champions Wexford.

They denied JJ Doyle's side a fourth consecutive Division 1 title with a four-point win in Thurles in May only for Wexford to exact revenge in the championship a month later in Ennisclorthy.

It's that five-point defeat which Murray insists is a truer reflection of the counties' form this season ahead of Sunday's All-Ireland final.

"If you look at the league final, I think we were certainly six or seven

weeks down the road training-wise compared to Wexford so I don't think Wexford will read too much into that."

"I think the outing in the championship probably gave people more of an idea of where we were at against them."

Captain Julia White's absence through injury hampers Cork's chances and Murray feels Wexford aren't finished yet despite finally breaking through and winning the last two All-Ireland crowns.

"If you look back over the last four or five years Wexford have been the team setting the bar. I think we probably fell off over the last couple of years so we are trying to catch up."

"When you see the subs Wexford

brought on against Offaly they are going to be there for a while more."

Wexford manager Doyle said they aren't speaking too much about the prospect of emulating the Tipperary team of 1999-2001 and doing the three-in-a-row.

"I'll be 100% honest, it's an irrelevance for us because all we can control is what happens on the field on Sunday."

"Girls will look back when they're retired in 10 or 15 years time at what they've done in their careers but they're not looking back now saying, 'well, we've won two' because if we don't win on Sunday then the last two are irrelevant, they're no good to us."

"We won't sit in the dressing room

after being beaten on Sunday thinking, 'Jeez, it was great to win the last two years'."

"What we'll be thinking is how sickened we'll have been for leaving this one behind us. So it's all about this Sunday."

"The last two years are a complete irrelevance other than maybe having the experience of playing in Croke Park."

Doyle confirmed 2010 All-Ireland winning captain Una Leacy will be fit for the game despite picking up an injury in the semi-final win over Offaly.

"It would be unfortunate for her had we missed it but it would have been someone else's opportunity."

"Like, I mean, we've seen it here



Una Leacy: Will be fit for the All Ireland camogie final despite nursing an injury.

two years ago here, Karen (Atkinson), who is the captain on Sunday, went off after 12 minutes with a knee injury and another girl came on and got her chance."

"The same thing could happen, it could happen after five minutes or 55 minutes and that's where you need your squad."

## Wexford boss knows what to expect from Cork

JJ DOYLE, at the helm of this Wexford team since 2010, has yet to lose an All-Ireland final, writes LINDA MELLERICK.

Since he took over two seasons ago he's brought his county enviable success; Two All-Ireland senior titles, two national leagues and an intermediate title.

He believes however that this counts for nothing on Sunday. "It's been a great couple of years. Like anything else though you're only

as good as your last game. The past two years will count for nothing on Sept 16. They have no relevance at all. All our focus will be on Sunday and Cork. In the past couple of years we've met Galway but now it's cork and it's good; it's nice to challenge yourself. We all want to play the best and whichever team performs better on the day will win."

Does he feel more threatened by Cork than he would Galway?

### CAMOGIE

"Well Galway have been beaten so many times in Croke Park whereas Cork have a great history there. But we love going to Croke Park. Every player wants to get there and win it. We're really looking forward to the game."

"There's never an easy game against Cork but that's what you want. Cork beat us in the league final and we had no complaints."

They were the better team, far hungrier and we had to take it."

JJ believes motivation won't be a problem for his three in a row chasing side. "There's a hunger embedded in the girls. Despite the fact that they have won the last couple of All-Irelands many of this team remember the lean years. We had to get over the mental block in 2007 and did that to win yet we got beaten in '08 and '09 almost as if we expected it. We

won it back in 2010 and the girls realise that their chances of playing and winning in Croke Park are few. They've had enough bad days to appreciate this. The girls know the Cork girls well and in camogie the top teams get to play each other a lot so they are all very familiar. We're under no illusions as to the outfit Cork are."

See tomorrow night's Evening Echo for a Paudie Murray interview.



# Rebelettes' intensity gives White hope that glory days will return

Cliona Foley

CORK captain Julia White has had something of a nightmare summer, but if the Rebelettes get back on top of the camogie pile again on Sunday it will surely provide some consolation.

A bout of glandular fever meant she couldn't even enjoy any 21st birthday celebrations and missed most of Cork's championship run.

The Douglas forward, a second-year PE student at the University of Limerick, is "feeling good again now thankfully" but she will still miss lining out in Cork's first game at Croke Park since their last All-Ireland senior title in 2009.

Cork were camogie's dominant force then and White was just a teenage panellist, alongside rising stars like the Mackey twins, Katriona and Pamela.

So why did the side who contested nine finals since 2000, and won five of them, suddenly get knocked off their perch by teams like Wexford and Galway?

"I think that rather than us disimproving it was more a case of other counties catching up with us," White said.

"We didn't do anything to counter that. We kind of panicked for the two years, we couldn't handle them being so close to us."

Successive changes of management probably didn't help either.

## VICTORY

Denise Cronin, who had led them to victory in 2008 and 2009, finished up after they were beaten in the 2010 semi-finals, and Joe O'Brien was with them last year before Paudie Murray took over this season.

White (pictured below) credits St Finbarr's man Murray, brother of Cork's star goalkeeper Aoife, with helping them find their mojo again.

"The whole management changed, selectors and everything, and they've come in with a completely new approach. We've done very different kinds of training, it's been extremely well organised," she said.

"I wouldn't say what we're doing is totally different but there's a lot of intensity to it. It's not about all these elaborate drills - we'd be working on simple things but with a lot of intensity."

"We're playing a lot of direct ball now and everything is into the hand."

Cork's 2012 panel may no longer be anchored by the legendary Mary

O'Connor, whose services to sport and status were recognised with an honorary doctorate from UCC this week alongside Brian Cody, Ronan O'Gara, Denis Irwin and Aidan O'Brien.

But it includes some new rising teenage stars again in Katie Buckley and young soccer international Clare Shine.

Yet many of their brilliant 'old guard', like Murray, Gemma O'Connor, Rena Buckley, Briege Corkery, Anna Geary and Orla Cotter, are still there and they got Joanne O'Callaghan and Sile Burns back from brief sabbaticals also this year.

There is a feeling that they really clicked in their emphatic semi-final defeat of Galway (beaten finalists the last two years), when they racked up an impressive 3-10, but against Wexford it's been one apiece so far this year.

Cork won the league final (1-8 to 0-9), while Wexford won their subsequent championship meeting 0-14 to 0-9.

## INTENSITY

"In the first half of the league final they were blowing us out of the water, but in the second we matched them for intensity and that was the difference, but it was very close," White stressed.

"When we played in the championship you could tell they weren't bothered by the league defeat, it was completely gone from their minds. They were back to themselves and we lost by five points."

"The pitch (Enniscorthy) was a bit tight, and hopefully Croke Park suits us better, but we're not going to win or lose because of the pitch."

"Wexford are very mentally strong and very physical, they just seem to have the whole package really."

"They're so physical that you wouldn't think they'd be so fast, but they've got lightning speed as well and their forwards are top-class."

"It is a big achievement for us to get to the final and get back to Croke Park again for a start, so we're really excited to be here, but now that we've got this chance again we will certainly be doing everything we can to beat them."

# Pacy attack can unsettle Wexford

The countdown is well and truly underway, and with just days to go it is all shoulders to the wheel with Croke Park beckoning as the Cork girls go in quest of the O'Duffy cup on Sunday.

Cork are aiming to stop Wexford's quest for three in row — ironically as it was Wexford who stopped Cork from completing three in row in 2010.

All year, this Cork side have been steadily improving. They overcame Wexford in the league final to deny them back-to-back titles and while championship performances were sometimes shaky, Cork did enough to make it to the semi-final. Galway were the opposition, and when the need was greatest, Cork did what they do best. They upped the ante and showed what they are capable of as they gained the upper hand over a fancied Galway side.

Sunday presents a new challenge and one that is somewhat alien to a Cork camogie side heading to

Croke Park as challengers, not champions. This will not trouble Paudie Murray's side as they are experienced campaigners, and one only has to look at the pedigree of some of the side to know this.

Gemma O'Connor, one of the best female athletes in the country, is a superb reader of the game, and a great centre-back. She has slotted into an important role and her vision and long deliveries turns defence into attack.

The pace of the Cork attack will be suited to the open spaces of Croke Park, and if they get the right ball they will trouble the Wexford defence who mark tight and like it compact.

On Thursday, the camogie board held an open night in the magnificent Castle Rd Camogie Grounds. Hundreds of children and parents got behind the team and gave them the best possible send-off.

Youngsters from clubs across the city and county attended the open

training night, while parents chatted and players got to meet players from other clubs. Red and white bunting and balloons added to the atmosphere as Julia White led her charges onto the field to begin the session under the watchful eye of manager Paudie Murray and mentors Ellen Clifford, Brian Barry, Aidan Crowley, and George Fitzgibbon.

Youngsters had plenty to occupy their minds as they collected posters and player profile sheets, while chairwoman Marion McCarthy and her officers organised a raffle for a signed hurley and socks.

A wonderful occasion for all and a hugely successful night as the countdown gets underway and the players now get a chance to relax in the week leading up to the big day.

Good wishes to them and here's hoping to see the O'Duffy cup in Cork on Monday.

■ Cork v Waterford, Sunday, RTE 2, 4pm



Cork Independent GAA correspondent Finbarr McCarthy, Dual county player Mary O'Connor, Mary Newman PRO Cork Camogie Board and Micheal O'Muircheartaigh at the conferring ceremony of Honorary Doctorates at UCC.



Frank Murphy, secretary of the Cork County Board, with 12-time All-Ireland winner Mary O'Connor. Picture: Diane Cusack

SEPT. 2012



# Derry gun for clean sweep

They have yet to lose a game of camogie in 2012, now Derry aim to make it the perfect year, in every respect

ALL-IRELAND INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE FINAL  
DERRY V GALWAY  
Sunday, Croke Park, 2.00pm

BY CIARAN WOODS

**T**HE MOST exciting All-Ireland Intermediate final for many years looks set to be played out on the hallowed turf of Headquarters this weekend when Derry and Galway go head to head for the All-Ireland crown.

Galway looked impressive as they topped group two of the Intermediate Championship series unbeaten, with three wins and a draw from their four games. The only blip on their record was a 2-9 each draw with Tipperary when both sides were already through to the last four.

They came past Waterford in the semi-final on a final scoreline of 1-14 to 0-13, with Emma Kilkelly their top scorer with 1-3 to her credit, but it is at the other end of the field where the Tribeswomen will know they really need to perform if they are to put the shackles of free-flowing Derry attack.

They hit 3-16 past Tipperary in their semi-final clash, Tipp managing just six points in reply to complete what was a very impressive day's work from the Oak Leaf girls.

Karen Kieft was their chief marksman with a personal tally of 1-4 over the hour, but the most striking aspect was that the scoring burden was shared between seven different Derry scorers.

It was just the latest step in what has been a hugely impressive season so far for the Ulster side. They strolled through the Championship group stages, three straight wins and having conceded an incredibly low tally of just 25 points along the way, and averaging almost 23 points a game themselves.

Already this season they have laid claim to the National League Division Two title, courtesy of a resounding 2-11 to 0-6 victory over Meath in the decider having also gone through their league campaign with straight wins.

They also beat Antrim to win back their Ulster Senior Championship title, it means that Derry take an impressive 100 percent record into Sunday's All-Ireland decider. Is 2012 to be their perfect season?

Galway though will have plenty to say about that. Having watched their seniors lose out to Cork in their bid for an All-Ireland final spot, the Intermediate Camogs will hope that they can instead take their inspiration from the exploits of their county hurling counterparts who set the Leinster and All-Ireland championships alight this summer.

Their girls have already shown that they have the hunger and drive for success. When a four point lead turned into a one point deficit in their semi-final against Waterford, it would have been easy for Galway to falter. Instead, they chose to dig deep and showed real fervour to turn the game back in their favour.

Galway managed to side-step a physical battle against a physically stronger Waterford, and with Derry a less imposing presence, the westerners should once again be able to open up and play the sort of game which suits their skills.

They wasted chances against Waterford, in the first half especially, and they will have to be much more clinical against a Derry side who will bring the game to them from the very outset.

In previous campaigns, the chal-



## FINAL FIGURES PATH TO THE FINAL



ONE STEP AHEAD...Karen Kieft in action against Lisa Cahill of Tipperary during the All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship semi-final Picture: Martina McGilloway

### Derry

#### Group Two

Derry 3-18 Antrim 1-2  
Derry 3-11 Limerick 1-6  
Derry 3-12 Waterford 2-5

#### Semi-Final

Derry 3-16 Tipperary 0-6

### Galway

#### Group One

Galway 4-13 Kilkenny 1-6  
Galway 1-18 Cork 1-8  
Galway 1-11 Wexford 0-11  
Galway 2-9 Tipperary 2-9

#### Semi-Final

Galway 1-14 Waterford 0-13

GONE...Meabh McGoldrick slips past Tipp's Rosemary Hannafin Picture: Martina McGilloway

lenge from Derry or other Ulster sides would quite justifiably have been written off heading into a game like this, but this Derry outfit are cut from a different cloth. They have battled on the biggest stage and, more importantly, have come out on top.

They possess incredible firepower,

but it is their work ethic all over the park, and their ability to stifle the opposition, which could be the key factor in deciding the destination of the title.

So it's Derry to prevail in a scorefest, but not with much to spare.

c.woods@gaeliclife.com



DO NOT PASS GO...Aileen McCusker bottles up Brid Quinn during the semi-final against Tipperary Picture: Martina McGilloway



SEPT. 2012

CAMOGIE JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

# Second time lucky for Down

There was heartache at the hands of Waterford last year, but now Down seize a precious shot at redemption

ALL-IRELAND PREMIER  
JUNIOR CAMOGIE FINAL  
DOWN V MEATH  
Sunday, Croke Park, 12.00pm

BY CIARAN WOODS

**H**AVING missed out by the narrowest of margins in last year's decider, Down are back and ready to make amends for their 2011 disappointment.

It was Waterford who provided the opposition in last year's Croke Park final, the Mourne girls going down by 2-11 to 1-13 as they lost out in the most heartbreaking of fashions.

Waterford were forced to hold off a remarkable late surge to deny Down, the Ulster side hitting eight unanswered points to reduce the gap from 11 points to three. Unfortunately for Down, substitute Nicola Braniff's injury-time goal came just too late to complete the comeback.

Down's round robin stage this year was pretty unremarkable, making the semi-finals by finishing third in the group behind Meath and Laois. It was Laois who provided the opposition for the semi-final, with the Mourne girls coming through on a 2-8 to 2-5 scoreline. Niamh Mallon was their scorer-in-chief with 2-1 beside her name, with their inspirational captain Fionnuala Carr chipping in with four points.

There is no doubting that Meath have been the form side in the Pre-

## ONE TO WATCH



Points win prizes, goals win championships. Luckily for Down, they have a player extremely capable of finding the back of the opposition net in the form of

attacker **Niamh Mallon**. She helped herself to 2-1 in the Mourne county's semi-final win over Laois, her scores crucial to the outcome of that particular game. If

she can manage to rattle the back of the Meath net in similar fashion, then Down will not be far away when the silverware is being handed out.

mier Junior grade this season. They surpassed expectations by making it through to the National League Division Two decider where they fell to today's Intermediate finalists Derry, and carried that rich vein of form into their Championship campaign where they went on to register five straight victories to top the table.

They racked up some impressive scores along the way, hitting 4-27 against Roscommon and 3-10 against Kildare.

Their narrowest win of the entire group stages came when they faced Down at Downpatrick back at the end of July, 1-10 to 1-9 the final score in favour of the Leinster side.

Their semi-final victory over Kildare was a comfortable one, the Royals emerging victorious by 0-14 to 0-5 with an impressive seven different players registering scores, meaning that Down will have to be aware of scoring threats from right across the Meath attack.

Waterford had to lose the previous two finals before eventually getting the better of Down in the decider last year. Down though will not be willing to suffer a similar fate this year. They're a stronger proposition now, full of belief and ability, and they will not be undone at the second time of asking.

Down to win through at the second attempt.

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## FINAL FIGURES PATH TO THE FINAL



FAUGH A BALLAGH...Paula Gribben pushes past Laois's Olga Parkinson during the junior semi-final last month  
Picture: Caroline Quinn

### Down

Down 1-11 Kildare 0-14  
Down 0-13 Laois 3-5  
Down 3-12 Armagh 1-6  
Down 1-9 Meath 1-10  
Down W/O Roscommon DNF

### Semi-Final

Down 2-8 Laois 2-5

### Meath

Meath 2-9 Laois 0-12  
Meath 2-15 Armagh 1-9  
Meath 4-27 Roscommon 1-4  
Meath 1-10 Down 1-9  
Meath 3-10 Kildare 1-8

### Semi-Final

Meath 0-14 Kildare 0-5

## CAMOGIE JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL - THE CAPTAIN'S VIEW

### FIONNUALA CARR GIVES HER TAKE

**“W**E PROBABLY went into the final last year without ever really believing that we could win it. When we started to play, and came back from 12 points down with 20 minutes to go, it gave us a lot of belief that we were capable of operating at this level. Although it was too late to save us on that occasion, it has rolled over into this season.

We played Derry in the Ulster Senior Championship semi-final and only lost out by a point after extra-time. They needed two goals in the second half of extra-time to win that game, we should have closed the game out when we were on top.

We had a bad run in that girls were away at various stages and players were injured. We never really seemed to have a full panel available, and it's only really since the Laois game that we have had everyone on board. Since then, things have been going extremely well. So although we sort of stumbled our way to the semi-final, we never panicked because we knew that we were capable of more and were only losing games by a point despite only playing for about 40 minutes in games.

We could have beaten Meath in the league, Meath probably deservedly winning that game by a point. But in the championship we did fantastically well in the second half having been seven or eight points down, couldn't put them away and again lost out by a point.

Our training this year has been very good. We had Paddy Braniff in



with us last year who was a good hurling man, and this year we have Allister McGilligan who is a great hurling man, Tom McMahon and Maureen O'Higgins. Maureen played for Down before and she's able to tell us about her own experiences, what it's like to play in these games and more importantly what it's like to win. But at the end of the day, you could have Brian Cody training you and it wouldn't work.

unless you have the effort and application by the players. We'll have nobody to blame but ourselves if things don't go our way this weekend, the onus is on us as players to deliver the goods.

Come Sunday, I believe that if we can play to our abilities, play as a team, then the performance should look after itself. And with the wee bit of luck that everybody needs, I don't think we'll be too far away.



# All-Ireland Premier Junior camogie final:

# Meath have the ability to land All-Ireland crown

**Tight game expected in curtainraiser at Croke Park**

CONALL COLLIER

MEATH camogie players will break new ground when they run out at Croke Park shortly before midday next Sunday for a historic All-Ireland Premier Junior final against Down, a team that was beaten in last year's decider by Waterford.

The players, officials and supporters have every reason to travel to Croke Park with expectations of victory, but manager John Davis and his selectors Sharon Raleigh, Valerie Curtis and Tom Walsh will adopt a cautious approach.

The reason for optimism is well-founded as Meath have already defeated the Ulster side twice this year, once in the National Camogie League Div 2 and also in the qualifying phase of the All-Ireland series where the Royal County remained unbeaten.

However, 12 months ago at Clontibret, Meath faltered at the semi-final stage of the All-Ireland against Down and that setback will put everyone involved with the team on guard next Sunday.

Based on Meath's performances this year alone, they have the ability to win one more game and make the leap to the intermediate grade.

Buoyed by a fine debut season in the Div 2 league, Meath have thrived in the higher grade after coming through the ranks of Div 4 and Div 3 under the guidance of Davis.

Meath opened their Div 2 campaign with the focus firmly on survival, but the quality and potential in the team was visible from the first round victory over a Cork side that was shocked to lose by seven points at Páirc Tailteann as the hosts won by 0-17 to 1-7.



Meath's Edel Guy weaves her way out of trouble during the National Camogie League Div 2 final at Páirc Tailteann despite pressure from Derry's Aoife Cassidy and Maebh McGoldrick. PHOTO: JOHN QUIRKE / WWW.QUIRKE.IE

Solid at the back and slick in attack would be a good description of the Meath team where Emily Mangan is an excellent shot-stopper between the posts.

Claire Coffey has stepped into the role of full-back and made it her own after injury kept Aoife Thompson out of the side and with Kristina Troy solid at centre-back the defence could be best described as uncompromising.

Thompson has returned to action and that has posed some serious selection problems for the manager, but also reflects the strength-in-depth of the panel.

Thompson lined out at centre-back and Troy joined

Trim's Ann Marie Fagan at midfield for the 0-14 to 0-5 semi-final win over Kildare three weeks ago where Meath were always in control.

Jane Dolan, one of Meath's top forwards had a quiet game by her standards and finished with five pointed frees to her credit.

Six other players also hit the target which indicates that Meath can find scores throughout the team, something that could be crucial when the tight marking starts on Sunday.

It's likely that Down will deploy a second marker on Dolan to curtail the threat of the Blackhall Gaels player who scored nine points against them in the league tie and



Meath's Katie Hackett in action against Amanda Dorgan of Cork during the National Camogie League Div 2.

**Based on Meath's performances this year alone, they have the ability to win one more game and make the leap to the intermediate grade**

added another 1-5 in the All-Ireland group game last July at Downpatrick.

That represents a serious threat for Down and manager Alister McGilligan, in his first year in charge, will be anxious to curtail Dolan's opportunities.

The Down manager will also be aware that if his team produces a display similar to their second-half performance in the 2-8 to 2-5 semi-final victory over Laois, that they will be heading for the runner-up position again.

Down failed to score in the second-half against Laois and were ahead by 2-8 to 1-4 at the interval, but if they can get the best out of players like Catherine McGourty, Niamh Mallon, Catherine Rocks and Lisa McCrickard, then they will make life difficult for Meath.

Meath will also be conscious that they conceded two late goals to Karen Gribben in the league clash and they will want to prevent that happening on Sunday.

The final will be a tight contest, but with the experience of the last few years behind them and a good league campaign, Meath have the ability to take the silverware back to the Royal County.

Meath (probable): Emily Mangan; Holly Geraghty, Claire Coffey, Fiona O'Neill; Aine Keogh, Aoife Thompson, Lisa Foley; Ann Marie Fagan, Kristina Troy; Edel Guy, Jane Dolan, Aileen Donnelly; Aoife Maguire, Sinead Hackett, Katie Hackett.

## Down manager anticipates a close encounter

### DOWN VIEW

CONALL COLLIER

DOWN manager Alister McGilligan will be attempting to lead the Mourne side to All-Ireland success at his first attempt after he took over the reins for 2012 in the wake of last year's disappointing final defeat by Waterford at Croke Park.

"I wasn't in charge last year, but Waterford won by a point and now we are determined to make amends for that defeat," he told the *Meath Chronicle*.

And 12 months ago Down negotiated Meath at the semi-final stage at Clontibret where the condition of the pitch didn't help either side.

Since then Meath have played Down twice this year and the Royal County won



Down manager Alister McGilligan.

both games at Downpatrick.

They won the League Div 2 tie by 0-16 to 2-9 and the All-Ireland group tussle by a similar margin (1-10 to 1-9).

Based on those performances, Meath would be ex-

pected to have the edge going into Sunday's big clash, but McGilligan feels that it's a game that could go either way and Down also have the added experience of playing in Croke Park on All-Ireland final day last September.

"We didn't play well in our semi-final win against Laois, the weather conditions were poor and the grass was very long, it was the same for Laois, but it's a bit unfair to put teams into venues where the grass is too long," said McGilligan.

"We were in control of the game against Laois with a seven-point lead at half-time, but we didn't score in the second-half and it wasn't just the wind and rain that stopped us, Laois deserved credit for their efforts also."

"We just didn't perform in the second-half and if we do

something like that next Sunday then it will be very difficult for us to beat Meath."

"We showed great battling qualities against Laois to dig out the win and that's a positive aspect of our game, but failing to score would be a major worry because it can't all be attributed to the weather conditions either," he added.

McGilligan feels very strongly about the venues where some of the games have been fixed by the Camogie Association, but he has no worries on that front for next Sunday.

"At least we know that on All-Ireland final day we will have a pitch that will facilitate good camogie," he commented.

"Maybe the Camogie Association need to look at the venues for the teams in this grade, if the camogie officials feel that a pitch like Blakestown where

we played Laois is suitable for camogie then that's fine, but I wonder did anyone look at the pitch?"

"The facilities and the pitch were fine for football, but not for camogie and especially not for two All-Ireland semi-finals, it was the same for Meath and Kildare although the weather was better for that game," he remarked.

The Down manager also suggested that there would be extra pressure on his team after last year's defeat in the decider and that's a burden that Meath don't have to cope with.

"There might be a little bit of extra pressure on Down now as they lost last year and might have been considered the most likely winners this year before the competition began," he said.

"All the teams we played this year have raised their standard when they played us, but that's good for the overall development of the game."

"Meath have beaten us twice this year, by a point each time so that will give them an advantage and they were also able to watch our semi-final against Laois, that might give them an advantage also."

"Maybe the Meath selectors will feel that what we produced against Laois is the best we can offer, but I somehow doubt if they will make a mistake like that."

"Next Sunday we will have a decent pitch, a big open pitch and two teams that can play camogie, the best team on the day will win, there won't be much in it and hopefully Down will be in front at the right time," he concluded.



# All-Ireland Premier Junior camogie final:

## Meath's long journey

OFF  
THE  
BALL



CONALL COLLIER

**M**eath camogie manager John Davis has a proven pedigree of success. Previously it was with the Meath hurlers - he brought them to the National Hurling League Div 1 and collected a few trophies along the way including an All-Ireland SHC B title back in 1993.

During his terms at the helm Meath were also good enough to play in the Walsh Cup for a couple of years instead of the Kehoe Cup.

Appointed manager of the Meath camogie team only six years ago at the end of 2006 he took over a team that was low on morale, a team that rarely ever won a game and reached a low that year when they were beaten by Dublin (second team) in a Leinster Junior Championship game at Ratoath by a massive 28 points.

The appointment of Davis was a move that probably raised a few eyebrows, caused a surprise amongst the few people that were even aware that Meath had a camogie team.

Cue the changes.

Success in the form of silverware was not immediate, but nevertheless there was success. It was fairly simple success - Meath started to win a few games.

And while the camogie fraternity in Meath might not like to be reminded of just how low they ranked in overall terms, or more bluntly, how bad they were, the transformation is something that they can take great pride in.

Meath Camogie Association admitted there was a problem - the first step to finding a solution - and then they solved it.

Three final appearances in 2007 - Leinster Junior Championship (beaten by Westmeath), Div 3 final and All-Ireland B final (lost both to Laois).

At that stage there was a disappointment of a different type - failing to win finals - and it gave the players and officials something to build on.

However, it was as if the Camogie Association was conspiring against Meath because they promptly re-organised the leagues.

For 2008 Meath, after enjoying a great year, were downgraded to Div 4.

Showing real Royal battling qualities Meath won the Div 4 title and defeated Roscommon in the All-Ireland B final at a remote venue in Cavan.

It appears that the lesser camogie counties also have to deal with GAA-style 'red tape' but Meath kept winning and in 2009 landed the Leinster Junior Camogie title.

There was the first of three successive All-Ireland semi-final defeats - Offaly (2009), Wa-



The Donaghmore / Ashbourne club was well represented at last Friday night's 'press night' where players Lizzie Lynch (left) and Maggie Randle were reminded of the importance of tradition by former Meath Camogie Board treasurer Terry Tormey as they all looked forward to Sunday's All-Ireland final.

terford (2010) and Down (2011).

In between those disappointments there was a double of Leinster and Div 3 titles last year - already this year the Leinster has been retained and a Div 2 league final reached - a defeat by Derry.

However, to make it to the Div 2 final in their debut season at that grade was another success and in 14 competitive games this year Meath have won 13 times.

But it's not only on the pitch that Meath camogie has progressed.

Meath Camogie Board has made tremendous strides in the administration stakes and last Friday night's 'Press Night' was another first.

If Meath Camogie Board had organised a similar event back in 2006 it's fair to suggest that the players probably wouldn't even have turned up.

Fast-forward to last Friday night and a packed Trim GAA centre where the players completed a training session on the pitch watched by hundreds of supporters.

After that, the supporters and lots of children were able to meet the players and get autographs and photographs.

Camogie Board chairman Christy Mangan introduced each player, including one "who lives with me" - his daughter Emily, as individual photos flashed up on a big screen - refresh-

ments were provided for all.

Two stalwarts of Meath Camogie were there also, Terry Tormey from the Donaghmore/Ashbourne club and Brigid Carney from Killyon.

The two ladies were quite happy to sit, almost unnoticed, and enjoy the occasion, camogie in the limelight would have been their goal and over the years they kept the flag flying.

Perhaps it might have been easier to walk away in the days when no one was that interested - when survival alone could be deemed a success.

No doubt they will be first into Croke Park on Sunday, they will enjoy the occasion and it will probably evoke some sad memories too when they think of those who fought the good fight with them and will not be there.

One person who immediately springs to mind is the late Brigid Donnelly (nee Curtis) from Kilmessan, but she will be represented on the field and on the sideline.

Her daughter Aileen will line out in the final and her niece, Valerie Curtis, is a selector and is also vice-chair of the Camogie Board.

Tradition is as important as the future for the health of any organisation and Meath Camogie Board tick all the boxes.

Crucially, the Meath u-14 development squad was there on Friday night - they were acknowledged as the players who, probably

inside the next six years, will be preparing for more finals and attending more nights like last Friday night.

Meath playing in the Div 1 Camogie League by then perhaps?

While all this was going on the manager with some players and officials were involved in various interviews with the local media.

And on this occasion it wasn't just a reporter from the *Meath Chronicle* - a 'one-man and his computer' type of thing.

Having followed the Meath camogie team regularly over the years, and to some remote away venues with the predictable long grass and bumpy pitches, it's good to see the team emerging into the limelight.

Venues like Athleague, Leixlip, Clontibret, Ballymore-Eustace, Clonsilla - all a long way from Croke Park.

The Camogie Association need to give the counties like Meath and Down, Kildare, Roscommon, Kerry and Carlow a level pitch to play on.

Meath's journey to Croke Park next Sunday has been achieved despite the obstacles that the national guardians of the sport have, unconsciously perhaps, put in their way.

Maybe the Camogie Association need to do what Meath Co Board did after they lost to Dublin by those 28 points - look at the lesser lights - then move forward?

## Kilmessan woman steeped in camogie tradition looking forward to big game

CONALL COLLIER

MEATH selector and Camogie Board vice-chairperson Valerie Curtis is steeped in the history of the game in the Royal County.

She hails from the Kilmessan club and is a niece of the late Brigid Donnelly who played camogie for Meath for many years with distinction.

The late Brigid Donnelly's daughter, Aileen, is a key member of the current Meath team and with tradition like that it's not surprising that Valerie Curtis is eagerly looking forward to what is a huge day for camogie in the Royal County.

important for the future of camogie in the county," she told the *Meath Chronicle*.

"A lot of structures have been put in place for development and we have marvellous young players emerging now.

"The girls on the senior team have put in so much effort, they are a wonderful group of young players and I believe they have a great future.

"This is the biggest game of their lives and of the county's life, this year was our fourth semi-final and we were bitterly disappointed after the other three, but we can leave that behind us now and concentrate on next Sunday where we must win," she added.



Meath selector Valerie Curtis with John Davis and Tom Walsh on sideline duty.

"It will be a marvellous day, a great weekend for camogie, there will be an All-Ireland blitz on the Saturday for the u-14 development squad and that will be great too.

"They will also be involved in the pre-match parade before Sunday's final against Down.

"Clann na nGael will represent Meath in a mini-sevens game and there will also be the 'caman and run' initiative that will feature some players from Meath on Sunday," she added.

The Kilmessan woman is also appealing to all GAA supporters in Meath to get behind the team for Sunday's big game.

"This is a historic occasion, it's our first game in Croke Park in modern times and hopefully supporters will get there early and enjoy a great day out in which a very promising Meath team will be bidding for silverware.

"There are attractive group rates available and it will be a good family day out with the three finals," she said.

"Support was very important in our semi-final win and support will help to get us over the line on Sunday.

"I was very nervous a few days ago, but not now, I have tremendous confidence in the team's ability, they can win this final," she concluded.



# The first line of defence

Combining her role in the army with her inter-county camogie career has been a labour of love for Cork's Gemma O'Connor, who chats to **KIERAN McCARTHY** ahead of Sunday's All-Ireland final against Wexford.

GEMMA O'Connor is the first line of defence, on and off the field, for both county and country.

But the similarities don't end there. There's more.

Both her job as a corporal in the Irish army and her standing as one of Cork camogie's leading stars are roles that demand commitment, passion, an intensive work rate, a high level of fitness, an ability to lead, and so much more.

Gemma has all these attributes, and then some.

Still, while she may be just days away from Sunday's All-Ireland camogie final against defending champions Wexford, the versatile 27-year-old centre back admits that even the defence forces have felt the full brunt of the recession fallout.

A part of the 4th Infantry Battalion, based in Collins Barracks, that is currently being disbanded, it's a testing time on the work front for the Ballypheehane woman.

'At the moment it's a bit difficult, my current unit is being disbanded so there is an element of uncertainty as to where people will end up. People will find out in the next few weeks where they will be stationed, that could be Limerick, Cork still, or Kilkenny. Due to the current economic climate things aren't as good as they used to be,' Gemma pointed out.

But the four-time All-Ireland winning Cork camogie star has never been one to shirk a challenge, in any walk of life.

Take her two overseas peacekeeping missions in Liberia and Chad for example, struggling African nations that exist almost in a different world.

'They were both eye-openers,' Gemma explained.

'My first mission was to Liberia, for six months, when I was just finished training. It was 2004. As a young soldier leaving home for the first time, to go to Africa was something that I'll never forget.

'It showed me a different side to life, the poverty, the living conditions that those people struggle with. But it was also an opportunity that I cherished.'

## War-torn

Five years later came her deployment to Chad, for four months, another war-torn African country that needed help, and Ireland answered the call.

'That wasn't too similar to Liberia but the Africa missions themselves are similar enough in what we are there to do,' Gemma explained.

'Our main mission overseas is peacekeeping. The Irish are very well respected for that role alone and that's why we are in



Determined: Cork's Gemma O'Connor in action against Galway in the All-Ireland senior camogie championship semi-final at Nowlan Park, Kilkenny last month. (Photo: Matt Browne/Sportsfile)

the Lebanon at the moment. We are a trustworthy nation and that's why we have been asked back to missions over and over again. Lebanon is a prime example of that.'

In her current rank as a corporal, over the last few years Gemma has been training recruits in her instructor/supervisory role, over troops and training centres, and it only makes sense that there is a connection between her job and her sporting passion, camogie. Together, they work in harmony, benefitting and complementing the other.

'When you join the army it has the whole physical fitness element, and that's probably one of the main reasons why I joined it originally. You can always apply that onto the pitch. You might have that extra bit that others don't have, and that bit of extra motivation,' she said.

'There are certain aspects of the army, the defence forces that you can bring onto the sporting field, that might give you an advantage. I think they work very well together.'

And Gemma will be hoping

that's the case in this Sunday's All-Ireland final against favourites Wexford, who are bidding for the three-in-a-row.

It's not going to be easy against the Leinster county, she points out, but while Cork did lose to Wexford earlier in the championship, the Rebels did defeat them in this year's league final (denying Wexford's four-in-a-row bid), so this decider is delicately poised.

While Gemma was a key cornerstone in the Cork team that has dominated a large chunk of the camogie scene over the last decade, they have had to watch on over the past couple of seasons as Wexford have reigned supreme.

But Cork's league final win (1-8 to 0-9) announced their return to the big time and they want to continue that this weekend.

'Since '07, Wexford have been the young, up-and-coming team whereas we have been there over the past decade, on good and bad occasions, but certainly over the last few years Wexford have proved themselves to be a very hard team to beat,' she said.

'At the start of the year, for us it was about establishing the new management and new players, and trying out a few new things. The league was good for that.

'We got to the league final and we beat Wexford but then in the championship stages we lost to Wexford in the round-robin system.

'Between ourselves, Galway and Wexford, there probably are just two or three points that separate the three teams. On any given day, any team can beat the other.'

Taking huge confidence from their 3-10 to 0-12 semi-final win over Galway last month, that result was a big boost for Cork, as Gemma explains.

'We were beaten by Galway in a semi-final replay two years ago so people were a bit apprehensive going into the semi-final this year.

'People remembered how badly that hurt us as a team two years ago, and last year we were beaten by Wexford in the semi-final so this season we were very determined to get back to where we think we belong and

that's the All-Ireland final.'

And even for a team that, as a whole, has won so much in the game, Cork are approaching this All-Ireland final as if it were their first.

## Hunger

Having missed out on the big prize over the past few years, there is a renewed hunger and determination to, again, be crowned the best team in the land, and every effort is being made to ensure that those dreams come to fruition this weekend.

'We have talked about this, how much winning this All-Ireland would mean to us. The last few years was such a disappointment for us because we know what we are capable of as a group of players and individuals. We haven't reached or played to our potential,' Gemma said.

'We have won All-Irelands and there are a lot of All-Irelands in the team. But that doesn't really matter. We are now playing in 2012. What we have achieved before isn't going to win another All-Ireland for us. We have to do that our-

selves, by playing to our potential.

'Certainly, we will have the attitude that this is like a first All-Ireland and that we have never won anything before. We are going to give this everything. We have nothing to lose. We haven't been there the past few years so we will cherish the opportunity.'

Even for the highly decorated Gemma, there is a real sense of excitement surrounding this showdown with Wexford.

Despite all that she has won over the years, including becoming the first camogie player to win six successive All-Star awards ('03 to '09) – ironically, the night of the awards ceremony in Dublin, her mother Geraldine accepted the award, as Gemma was on duty in Chad at the time – her passion for the sport has never waned.

'The love for the game is still there and once you have that the desire to win will be there as well,' she said.

But what is the secret of this current team's success and longevity? Gemma explains.

'Cork is steeped in sport and tradition, and the GAA has a



SEPT. 2012

## The Preview

MOTIVATION will not be an issue for Cork in Sunday's All-Ireland camogie decider against defending champions Wexford in Croke Park (4pm throw-in). Having had to watch on as the Leinster county won the last two All-Irelands, Cork are chomping at the bit to wrestle the crown from Wexford's grasp, having not won the title since '09. Having already beaten Wexford in the Division 1 league final, 1-8 to 0-9, in Semple Stadium earlier this season, Cork will have the confidence and self-belief that they are good enough to win. Wexford did, however, defeat Cork in the groups stages of the championship, 0-14 to 0-9, but the Rebels haven't looked back since, beating both Offaly (4-20 to 1-5) and Kilkenny (2-15 to 1-7) before getting the better of Tipperary (1-13 to 0-9) in the play-off.

That set up a massive semi-final against Galway, who have contested the last two All-Ireland finals, with Jennifer O'Leary inspiring a 3-10 to 0-12 victory, a result that was a huge boost to Cork.

That game will stand to the Munster side, while Wexford blitzed Offaly in the other semi-final, easing to a 3-14 to 0-5 win; hardly ideal preparation ahead of an All-Ireland final.

With Jennifer O'Leary, Katriona Mackey, Sile Burns, Orla Cotter, Briege Corkery, Katie Buckley and Anna Geary all more than capable of scoring, Cork's attacking potential is great. But it's at the back that Cork need to keep it tight, especially with Ursula Jacob a real match-winner for Wexford, while Katrina Parrock scored 2-2 in their semi-final rout. Cork's Rena Buckley and Gemma O'Connor will be key players in defence. Hungry to win this All-Ireland, Cork have it all to do but that extra bit of hunger should be enough.

Verdict: Cork.

huge effect on Cork people, both football and hurling, ladies' camogie and football have really taken off here now. We are in such a big county too that we have a big pick of players,' she said.

As to how she first showed interest in camogie, it was home bred, surrounding her from an early age.

'My mom and dad love the game of hurling and camogie, and my dad played with both Ballyphehane and St Finbarr's. My mother player camogie with the Glen,' she explained.

'From an early age they introduced me to the game and naturally enough I loved it. I was lucky enough to make it on to the Cork panel and work my way up through underage all the way up to senior.'

And in the heat of battle - pardon the pun - this Sunday, it's a certainty that Gemma O'Connor won't be found wanting.

## SUN IS SHINING FOR CLARE AHEAD OF CAMOGIE ALL-IRELAND SHOWDOWN



Leaving Certificate student Clare Shine is given a send-off by her Regina Mundi classmates this morning ahead of Sunday's All-Ireland camogie final in Croke Park against reigning champions Wexford.

Picture: Larry Cummins



Irish international soccer player Clare Shine from Douglas who is part of the Cork camogie team for Sunday's final.

Picture: Larry Cummins

# Rebel roar

**ALL-IRELAND fever is building in Cork with thousands set to travel to Croke Park for the camogie championship decider against fierce rivals Wexford.**

By PADRAIG HOARE

One of the most decorated underage athletes in the country, Cork youngster Clare Shine, was given a glorious sendoff by her proud schoolmates in Regina Mundi today.

The Leaving Cert student from Douglas is the only schoolgirl to play on the team.

Clare, who is also an Irish soccer international, was hailed

by her school principal Margaret Corcoran as a role model for students for her hard work and dedication to her sporting career: 'It is a huge honour for Clare and for our school, as Clare is the only school girl to play on the Cork team.'

The school held a 'Red and White Day' to give Clare the perfect sendoff before Sunday's final.

There was more excitement in Ballincollig as teacher in Coláiste Choilm, Jennifer O'Leary, was hailed by students before she departed on camogie duty.

The Barryroe native is no stranger to the big stage, having become one of Cork's iconic stars winning multiple All-Irelands and All-Star awards over the course of her glittering career.

Cork and Wexford have enjoyed an intense rivalry in recent years, with both teams sharing multiple All-Irelands over the past 10 years and facing each other many times along the way.

Wexford are chasing three in a row but Cork have no reason to be fearful, having denied Wexford a fourth consecutive league title in Thurles in May.

● See sports for more.



Teacher Jenny O'Leary, who is a member of the Cork senior camogie team, gets the backing of her pupils at Coláiste Choilm in Ballincollig, ahead of Sunday's All-Ireland camogie final against Wexford.

Picture: James McSweeney



SEPT. 2012

IN FOCUS... GRAINNE MCGOLDRICK

# Grace under pressure

Some players might wilt in the face of an All-Ireland final, Grainne McGoldrick wouldn't be one of them

BY CIARAN WOODS

**T**HIS weekend, Grainne McGoldrick will return to Croke Park in search of another All-Ireland title to add to her collection.

The difference is that this Sunday, she will lead her side out as Derry captain, in search of the ultimate glory alongside her Oak Leaf colleagues instead of the maroon and green of her Eoghan Rua Coleraine club who have enjoyed so many outings at Headquarters.

After a series of semi-final disappointments, Derry have finally broken through to take their place in the decider against a fancied Galway side. It's a well-worn path to the gates of Croke Park for the Oak Leaf skipper, but that doesn't mean that it gets any easier.

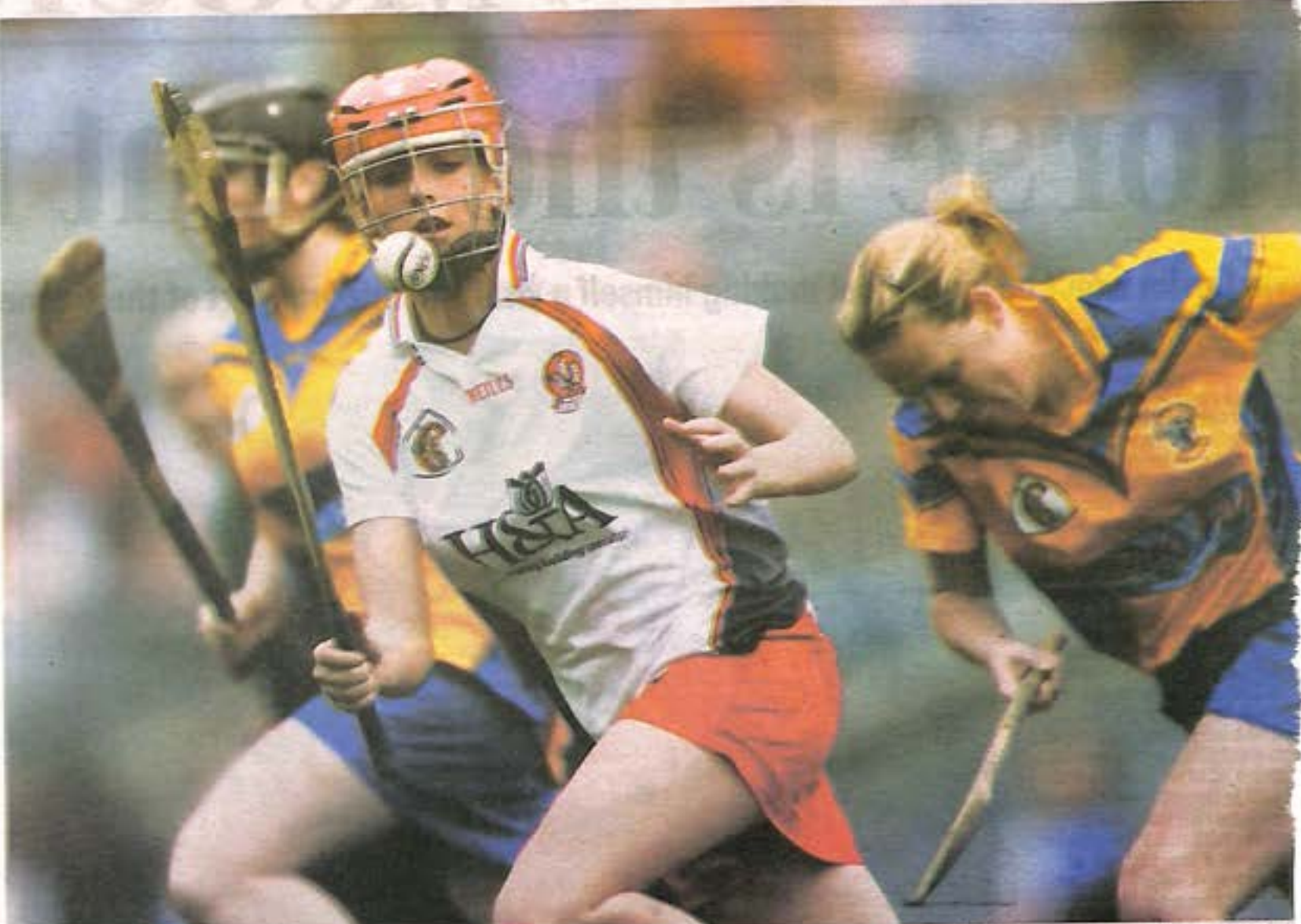
"Do you get nervous? Yeah, you do. But it's about trying to control your nerves and not let them get the better of you.

"I'm very fortunate that I don't get all that nervous before games, it really doesn't bother me. I just don't see the point in getting nervous to the point where you can't perform. I enjoy playing camogie, so although there is a lot at stake, it's good nerves because you are on the brink of success.

"There are up on half a dozen girls on the team at present who won the All-Ireland title with Derry in 2007, so there are no shortage of players who are used to dealing with high-pressure situations, where people are expecting them to perform."

Now 28, McGoldrick is at the peak of her powers. A star for club, county and province, she is one of the most recognisable names and faces on the national stage. Her own rise to prominence has ran parallel with her club's own rise to the top, claiming the last two All-Ireland Intermediate club titles. The Eoghan Rua club has come a long way in an incredibly short space of time, a rapid elevation through the ranks since Sean and Schira McGoldrick, Padraig and Susan O'Mainain and students from University of Ulster Coleraine decided to start a hurling/camogie side back in the 1990s in Portstewart.

"I started playing when I was 11 years old. What we used to do was play on the hockey pitch at Dominican. We were fortunate that we had so many quality coaches available to us. The people who were coaching us were very good tactically, which meant that although we took to it late, and a lot of kids now are running about with hurls in their hands from the age of three or four. We used to meet up there and play games from 12.30 until 1.30 or 2.00 every single Sunday afternoon. Then it went to Friday nights and



AHEAD OF THE PACK...Grainne McGoldrick leaves Clare camogs trailing in her wake during the 2007 junior championship final

Picture: Brian Lawless / SPORTS

other sessions during the week, indoor sessions as well.

"There was no camogie team at that stage, the first camogie team didn't come along until I was 14, so myself and four or five others would have played on the underage hurling teams. We struggled a bit for numbers at the start, but when you look at where we are now, it has come such a long way in such a short space of time. Things really took off when we won the intermediate county final in 2005, having lost the three previous finals. That did wonders for the club, lots of young girls saw the success and came onboard, and it was a lot of those girls who joined at 11 or 12 who played such a key role in us winning the All-Ireland titles in recent seasons aged 15 and 16."

Grainne's own rise to the top is hardly a surprise considering the background she is coming from. Earlier this year her father Sean was awarded an Unsung Hero award by the BBC for his role in establishing and developing Gaelic games in the

*I'm looking forward to this weekend's game and to the possibilities that it presents for us. You want to win. I don't like losing, in fact I hate losing. I want to win everything*

local area, alongside his wife. Her sister Maeve is the club camogie captain, while brothers Sean Leo and Barry have been prominent figures for the county mens' side. It's that sort of support network which has allowed each of the McGoldricks to blossom and to reach the top of their respective games, combined of course with no shortage of hard work and commitment.

"I don't live at home any more, but the house is always very busy. From March through till October time, there's something every night of the week. With mum and dad both coaching, the boys playing and the girls coming and going. Then there's all the friends running in and out too, so it's always hectic. But that's what I've always liked about our house, it's open doors and there's always such a buzz about the place.

"If the boys don't have a match then they'll definitely be there. The year Derry won the McKenna Cup final [2011], we had the All-Ireland club final the following afternoon and the boys had come straight from

the Athletic Grounds to Dublin ahead of our game. They're very supportive, and they understand level of commitment which goes into playing camogie at a serious enough level.

"Unlike the mens game, where if you're playing county then you're not expected to train or play with the club, we're expected to train a lot simultaneously. I've seen us playing games for the club on a Wednesday and Friday night, then going out on Sunday afternoon to play for the county. It is a big undertaking."

While the majority of inter-county players tend to hail from sporting professions, McGoldrick's day job as a primary school teacher means that she breaks the mould. Looking after a class of Primary Two children in St Colum's PS in Portstewart means that the teacher always has to bring her 'A-game' to proceedings, but she welcomes the fact that her students tend to be oblivious to her sporting endeavours.

"The current batch of kids have only known me for just over a week,



*I'm very fortunate that I don't get all that nervous before games, it really doesn't bother me. I just don't see the point in getting nervous to the point where you can't perform*

and are completely oblivious to the fact that I play sport, except when my competitiveness gets the better of me in a wee PE lesson and I try to get the ball off some poor five year-old.

"You come in every day and you're basically putting on a big performance. You can't be down in the dumps, you have to always be so energetic and enthusiastic about things. It can be hard after a loss, because you come across people in your school with connections to other counties or other clubs and who like to get a wee dig in."

"The last bunch that I had though, when we had success with the club, were aware of what I was doing and would have asked me about it. They would have cut pictures out of the papers and brought them in to me, and wee things like that are always nice."

And it's a similar story outside of the classroom. Portstewart is not exactly a traditional hot-bed of Gaelic games, which means that you are not immersed in the GAA 24/7 as would be the case elsewhere. Grainne's first sporting love was actually swimming, which she did competitively up until the age of 18 competing in national junior championships. Cross country running was another of her exploits during her school years when she represented NI in competition.

The fact is that Gaelic games remains a niche sport in the area, which according to McGoldrick can have its benefits.

"I guess I'm fortunate in many ways that in Portstewart there are a lot of things other than Gaelic games available to children and to people in general, although Gaelic games are certainly on the increase. It's nice to not be immersed in that GAA world all of the time. I love not having people constantly asking me about games and camogie and things."

**WINNING WAYS...** Eoghan Rua captain Meabh McGoldrick, with a little help from her big sister Grainne lift the All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Club title after victory over Galwegian opposition in March this year

Picture: Caroline Quinn

"All of the girls who I play with at Eoghan Rua I would consider to be very good friends of mine, players who I have grown up with, both older girls and younger girls who all get on extremely well together."

"But then if I want to go out for a night, get your head showered or chill out for a while safe in the knowledge that camogie is not going to be mentioned, then I have a great bunch of friends who tick that box as well. I'm very lucky in that respect, having so many good people who I can turn to."

Those opportunities though can be limited, with the camogie season lasting almost the full 12 month cycle when things are going well on both the club and county front. Tough work, the attacker admits, but more than worth it when you are rewarded with success.

"You're going for months without being able to go out, but when you win and you're going out for a few consecutive weekends to celebrate, then that's what makes it all worthwhile, all those Friday and Saturday nights when you're sitting in, or when you're going out with friends and you're the



**WRITE RECOGNITION...** McGoldrick receives her camogie award from John Campbell, at the Ulster GAA writers Annual Awards Banquet in 2009

Picture: Oliver McVeigh / SPORTSFILE

taxi driver, counselling your mates and baby-sitting them all, then those nights when you can actually let your hair down are all the more worthwhile."

McGoldrick and her colleagues now find themselves within touching distance of an All-Ireland title. Their semi-final success helped them to shake off the psychological millstone which had hung around them over recent seasons. They didn't exactly tear up the plans and start from scratch this year, but rather tweaked a formula which had almost got them over the line previously.

"Obviously we were doing most things right, getting to the semi-final stage each year, so we weren't far away. We have had the same management so that has given us the consistency to keep building, but most importantly I think has been the attitude this year. As you

lose games like that, getting closer each time, it makes you more driven. By the time you've lost four, you've gone beyond disappointment and you're just scundered. So at the start of this year, we said that there was no way we were not going to make an All-Ireland final."

"There has always been stacks of talent in Derry, and this year we have got all the talent available in Derry out on the pitch playing for Derry. When you have everyone playing who should be playing, it gives everything such a boost and takes it up a level. That's the difference, the intensity in training and the attitude which we have approached every training session and every game with."

Although Derry have everyone on board this campaign, there is one notable absentee in the form of Jane Carey. The Eoghan Rua player had her wedding a few weeks back, with life-long friend Grainne McGoldrick on bridesmaid duties. However, Grainne admits that her friend's honeymoon has left her with an unusual dilemma ahead of this weekend's trip to Dublin.

"Since I've been 12 or 13 and playing for Derry u-14s, I have always roomed with Jane Carey. It's the same with any game we've had with the club. Jane went and got married a few weeks ago, she's in Australia and I don't have anyone to room with this weekend."

"A single room would be too lonely, so I'm not sure what I'm going to do. Maybe Meabh, my own flesh and blood, wouldn't see me stuck. She usually rooms with Maureen Hennigan, but maybe she'll let me sleep across the bottom of their bed or on the floor or something! As I said before though, the team is so close that you wouldn't care who you were sharing with."

With the National League Division

Two and the Ulster Senior Championship titles already having been secured this season McGoldrick is now well practised in lifting silverware, and so Derry head to Croke Park in confident mood. They sport an unblemished record in 2012, straight wins in all competitions. Now there is just one game left, one win away from the perfect season. The skipper has total faith that her side will be able to finish the job.

"We took a lot of confidence from the Tipperary semi-final win, because it was a really good team performance. Everything went as planned, and since then you can feel that things in training have just gone up a few notches."

"I'm looking forward to this weekend's game and to the possibilities that it presents for us. You want to win. I don't like losing, in fact I hate losing. I want to win everything. Galway are an exceptionally good team, they'll have a few players who will have dropped down from their senior team and will be very strong."

"Equally though we're aware and fully confident in our own abilities. We have some unbelievable players, our defence is exceptional and we have complete faith in the players all around us. It means you're looking forward to the game because we know that we're in a good place to get the job done and to realise our potential as players and collectively as a team."

Her pupils will be ready and waiting for Miss McGoldrick next Monday morning, regardless of the result. And the Derry captain insists that win, lose or draw, the P2s of St Colum's in Portstewart will have the 'big kid at heart' that they know and love ready for action as she swaps Croke Park for the classroom.

"Miss McGoldrick has never had a day off after an All-Ireland final yet. If we win, quiet time certainly will not be on the agenda. I'll be the life and soul of the party. You don't feel tired or sore when you've got an All-Ireland medal in your back pocket, so the kids will be in for a good week of it if we win on Sunday!"

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