

143

Nov - MARCH  
2007 - 2008



# Worth the wait

Cork County Senior Camogie Final. Muskerry v's St Finbarr's at Páirc Uí Rinn. Muskerry's captain Cathriona Foley and team celebrate with the Cup

Picture: Neil Danton / News Digital



## COUNTY SENIOR CAMOGIE FINAL

MUSKERRY.....0-8  
ST FINBARRS.....0-5

by Peter Ledwith at Páirc Uí Rinn

THE long wait is over – Muskerry are the new Cork camogie champions. They won their first county title in 74 years with a hard earned victory over reigning champions St Finbarr's in a closely fought final at Páirc Uí Rinn on Sunday last.

The divisional side made up of players from Ballincollig, Eire Og, Grenagh and Rockbáin went into the match as second favourites – but from the throw in they looked the more likely winners. Muskerry was the more hungry side and in the end it was their greater passion that won the day.

Top scorers Rockbáin's Síle Burns gave the challengers an early two point lead with a point from a free and one from play. The resolute Muskerry defence magnificently marshalled by Captain Cathriona Foley held their opponents scoreless for the opening quar-

ter. Eventually Vivienne Harris opened the Barrs account with a point from a free. Ellen O'Herlihy of Eire Og replied with a minor for Muskerry, which was cancelled out by a pointed free from Harris. Enter 'player of the match' Margaret O'Herlihy who bisected the posts with two spectacular points. Harris successfully completed her hat trick of frees to make the half time score 0-5 to 0-3 in the mid cork sides favour.

The city team made a number of tactical switches for the second half. They appeared to be working as the Barrs threatened to take over. But the Muskerry defence and midfielders worked like beavers to close down their opponents. Síle Burns then put three between the teams with an excellently taken free. Vivienne Harris immediately brought the margin back to two.



Cork County Senior Camogie Final, Muskerry v's St Finbarr's at Páirc Uí Rinn Muskerry's Cathriona Foley; St Finbarr's Clare Spellman

The championship was still up for grabs as the game entered the final quarter. The quality may not have been great, but there was no lack of intensity. The highly impressive Denise Cronin from Ballincollig maintained Muskerry's edge with a peach of a point from play. And shortly after Margaret O'Herlihy tagged on another. But they held their hearts in their mouths as Gemma O'Connor lined a 20-metre free for the Barrs. But the Cork captain failed to connect with her

first attempt and the ball was cleared.

Gemma O'Connor registered St Finbarr's only point from play near the end. But the Muskerry held on for a famous victory on a scoreline of 0-8 to 0-5.

### How Muskerry were became Champions

Muskerry 3-9 Seandun 0-9  
Muskerry 2-14 Carberry 2-7  
Muskerry 5-11 Barryroe 3-6  
Muskerry 2-9 Milford 1-11  
Muskerry 0-8 St Finbarrs 0-5

### MUSKERRY

► T O'Driscoll (Ballincollig), C McKenna (Eire Og), S Gleeson (Eire Og), L West (Ballincollig), L Murphy (Eire Og), C Foley (Rockbáin) (capt), M O'Donoghue (Ballincollig), L Dorgan (Grenagh), C McKenna (Eire Og), E O'Herlihy (Eire Og) (0-1), S Burns (Rockbáin) (0-3, 2f), M O'Herlihy (Eire Og) (0-3); E Corkery (Eire Og), D Cronin (Ballincollig) (0-1), A McKenna (Eire Og)

SUBS: Ella Kelleher (Eire Og) for Gleeson (5 min), Valerie Mulcahy (Rockbáin) for E Corkery (40 min)

### ST FINBARRS

► E Clifford; C Harrington, Colette Kirby, M McCarthy; L O'Connell, J Duffy, Claire Kirby; G O'Connor (0-1), B Maher; R Myers, C Bennett; E Crowley; V Maher, V Harris (0-4f), G O'Sullivan Sub: T Doyle C Spellman, C Sargent

SUBS: T Doyle C Spellman, C Sargent



Nov.

2007



Rockbawn players Sarah Coleman, Valerie Mulcahy, Caitriona Foley and Sile Burns celebrate Muskerry's victory over St Finbarr's in the Evening Echo Cork Senior Camogie Championship final yesterday. See pages 34-37 for more. Picture: Larry Cummins

# Cronin glory for siblings

By ÉAMONN MURPHY

**THERE** was a Cronin double on county final day at Páirc Uí Rinn yesterday.

Brother and sister Pa and Denise Cronin both starred as Bishopstown and Muskerry landed the last two *Evening Echo* championships up for grabs in 2007.

Denise pointed the way for Muskerry with an all-action display from wing-forward as the divisional side bridged a 74-year gap to win their second *Evening Echo* senior camogie title.

Just two hours later Cork senior hurler Pa was man-of-the-match for Bishopstown as they retained the U21 hurling title.

There were wild celebrations after Muskerry dethroned the Barrs in a tight and tough 0-8 to 0-5 battle, but Bishopstown were more subdued with a winner takes all City Division showdown against Douglas on the horizon.

Bishopstown were the Seandún nominees, so despite the conviction with which they retained the county after beating Duhallow, Newtown and Carrigaline they put their title on the line against Douglas next Saturday night at 7.30pm in Páirc Uí Rinn. Erin's Own lost in similar circumstances back in 2003 to their arch rivals Sars.

For Denise Cronin and Muskerry there was no holding back after the division put in a huge effort under the guidance of Éire Óg's Con Malone.

Éire Óg, Grenagh, Rockbawn and Ballincollig supplied the core of the Muskerry team, with Éire Óg's Margaret O'Herlihy winning the player of the match award after scoring three points from play.

Rockbawn's Caitriona Foley was the captain, with Sile Burns, daughter of a Barrs' legend Denis Burns, and Cork ladies footballer Val Mulcahy, a surprise late sub, also doing the club proud.

Ballincollig supplied four players to



Muskerry's Denise Cronin (left) and Linda Dorgan celebrate with selector Mary Weste after victory over St Finbarr's in the Evening Echo Cork Senior Camogie Championship final at Páirc Uí Rinn yesterday. Picture: Larry Cummins

the first 15. In addition to Denise Cronin, Tina O'Donnell was goalkeeper and Leah Weste, daughter of selector Mary and sister of former Cork minor footballer Colin, starred at corner-back.

There was also major celebrations in the household of the fourth Ballincollig starter Maria O'Donoghue.

Her brother Stephen, who won an All-Ireland U21 football medal with Cork this year, secured a Muskerry U21 hurling medal with Ballincollig yesterday afternoon when they defeated Cloughduv in Ovens.

In another link, Muskerry chairwoman Máiréad Donovan's son Alan was also involved in Ballincollig's first win in the U21 competition since 1996.

Grenagh were represented by Linda Dorgan, who scraped for every breaking ball in the middle.

It capped a memorable week for the Dorgan clan from Grenagh, the club landed the *Evening Echo* intermediate football championship just nine days ago.

All the Muskerry players will return to club action over the next week with Éire Óg facing Rockbawn in the Senior B final, Ballincollig meeting Tracton on Wednesday night (8.30pm Cloughduv) in a Junior A play-off to meet Fr O'Neill's in the semi-final.

Éire Óg and Ballincollig are also involved in the semi-finals of the minor championship.

See pages 26-39 for more.



Pa Cronin of Bishopstown, who along with sister Denise of Muskerry, won a county final yesterday.





The Muskerry girls celebrate after winning the county senior camogie championship last weekend. Photo by: NewsDigital

## County joy for camogie girls

By PETER LEOWITH

MUSKERRY'S historic camogie county championship success was celebrated in clubs throughout the barony this week.

The divisional team — made up of players from Ballincollig, Éire Óg, Grenagh and Rockbawn — captured the coveted title for the first time since 1933 - defeating holders St Finbarr's in Sunday's final at Pairc Uí Rinn.

Captain Catriona Foley of Rockbawn led her triumphant team and escorted the Punch Shoe Care Trophy back to Carrig House - in her home village of Carrignavar, where they received a tumultuous welcome.

An elated Catriona said: "It was a privilege to captain such a great bunch of girls. We play against each for our clubs but when we don the Muskerry colours we are one."

"We have had our share of disappointments over the years but this makes it all worthwhile."

Catriona went on to thank the team's back room staff and the help received from throughout the division. "I must also pay tribute to our coach Con Malone. He knows the game inside out and is a terrific motivator," she added.

Catriona's father, Dan Joe, who is also a mentor on the Muskerry team, said "this is a great day for Muskerry. Having a divisional team gives the opportunity for players with junior clubs to play at senior level. Today's result will provide an even greater incentive and encourage more girls to take up the game."

Meanwhile, dual star Briege Corkery was named 'Vodafone Ladies Footballer of the Year 2007' at the Westbury Hotel, Dublin on Monday last. She is the third Cork player to receive the honour in as many years. Rockbawn's Valerie Mulcahy and Donoughmore's Juliet Murphy picked up the awards in 2006 and 2007 respectively.

Briege, who hails from Rusheen, is a member of the Cork ladies footballers 'three in a row team' and also has two All Ireland camogie medals to her name. She was also named Irish Sportswoman of the year in 2005.

Briege, who plays her camogie for Cloughduv and football for Naomh Aban, is among the nominations for this year's All Stars teams in both codes.

## Muskerry end long title wait

### Cork senior camogie final

Muskerry 0-8  
St Finbarr's 0-5

by Alison Donnelly

IN A CORK county senior camogie final devoid of excitement, Muskerry stripped defending champions St Finbarr's of their title at Pairc Uí Rinn yesterday.

St Finbarr's were expected to have the edge with players like Cork captain Gemma O'Connor and Vivienne Harris.

Muskerry, however, were not short on motivation and having waited for more than three decades to contest the final the divisional outfit were not going to leave this one behind them.

Muskerry scored first with a point from Síle Burns but they suffered an early loss when full-back Siobhán Gleeson, who was handed the task of marking Harris, was taken off through injury after just five minutes.

It made little difference up front though as Burns pointed again from wide on the right after player-of-the-match Margaret O'Herlihy flicked the ball into her path. The Barr's enjoyed far more possession than the divisional team, but they couldn't turn the pressure into points.

Harris knocked over the first of her four frees as Gemma O'Connor became dominant at midfield and she dug her side out a number of times with some good back-tracking.

Ellen O'Herlihy hit a fine score for Muskerry and after a few more wides the Barr's were back in it with another Harris free. It was a scrappy first-half, with neither side taking control and defences on top.

At half time, Muskerry led by two points, a couple of well-taken scores from Margaret O'Herlihy boosting their tally. The young Éire Óg player caused the defence major problems, her pace and accuracy a constant threat.



Muskerry players celebrate after beating St Finbarr's in the Evening Echo Cork Senior camogie final at Pairc Uí Rinn.

Picture: Larry Cummins

The crowd was vying for a more exciting second-half as the Barr's chased the game but it never really did climax into the kind of county final everyone was hoping for. Burns put further daylight between the teams with another free as players like Denise Cronin and Lynda Dorgan began to dominate.

Catriona Foley, who had an excellent second-half, and Leah West got through a tower of work in defence, while the Barr's were forced to rely on some outstanding defending from Jermy Duffy to stem the tide of attacks.

Muskerry managed to push the lead out to four points at one stage and with the advantage then reduced to three, after Harris pointed again, the Barr's were awarded a free right in front of the posts and O'Connor stepped up hoping to get the goal her side badly needed.

She missed the clean pick up she needed though to get a strike off and though she responded with a point a minute later you sensed it was Muskerry's day.

The Barr's pushed hard to get that elusive goal with Lynda O'Connell and Duffy driving some good balls forward but it was too little too late as Muskerry took the title home to mid Cork for the first time in decades.

**Scorers for Muskerry:** S Burns 0-3 (0-2 frees), E O'Herlihy 0-1, M O'Herlihy 0-3, D Cronin 0-1

**St Finbarr's:** V Harris 0-4 (frees), G O'Connor 0-1

**MUSKERRY:** T O'Donnell, C McKenna, S Gleeson, L Weste, L Murphy, C Foley, M O'Donoghue, L Dorgan, C McKenna, E O'Herlihy, S Burns, M O'Herlihy, E Corkery, D Cronin, A McKenna.

**Subs:** E Kelleher (for S Gleeson 5 minutes, inj), V Mulcahy (for E Corkery 40)

**ST FINBARR'S:** E Clifford, C Harrington, C Kirby, M McCarthy, L O'Connell, J Duffy, C Kirby, G O'Connor, B Maher, R Myers, C Barrett, E Crowley, V Maher, V Harris, O'Sullivan.

**Subs:** T Doyle (for V Maher, 25 minutes), C Spellman (for C Barrett 30 minutes), C Sargent (for E Crowley 53 minutes)

**Referee:** K Healy (Sliabh Rua).

Nov.

2007

## Lachtain's lose grip on Cup

**CAMOGIE:** Three-in-a-row All-Ireland Senior Club Camogie champions St Lachtain's, Freshford lost their hold on the Bill Carroll Cup after Jessica Gill was the star player for Athenry in their 3-11 to 3-6 win in Ballinasloe yesterday.

Gill made a vital contribution to her side with 2-6 as a hungrier Galway side booked a place in the final in two weeks' time.

Athenry led for most of this game and the Galway champions held a 2-6 to 0-3 advantage as the interval approached. St Lachtain's cut the deficit on the restart thanks to a Marie O'Connor goal but this was quickly cancelled out by Gill.

However, a resilient Freshford side failed to give up and cut the deficit to five points, thanks to an Ann Dalton goal and points from Kennedy and O'Connor, but Athenry held on to claim the win.

Athenry will face Cashel in the All-Ireland final after the Tipperary and Munster champions registered a convincing 2-13 to 2-3 victory in Newry.

## Gill the hero as Athenry book place in final

**CAMOGIE:** Three-in-a-row All-Ireland senior club camogie champions St Lachtain's, Freshford, lost their hold on the Bill Carroll Cup after a Jessica Gill inspired Athenry side scored a 3-11 to 3-6 win over the Kilkenny side in the semi-final at Ballinasloe on Saturday.

Gill scored 2-6 as Galway side booked a place in the final in two weeks' time. Athenry face Cashel in the final after the Tipp and Munster champions registered a 2-13 to 2-3 victory over O'Donovan Rossa at Pairc Esler, Newry.

Allstar nominee Louise Mahony was top scorer as All-Ireland Junior champions The Harps of Laois had a convincing 3-19 to 1-3 win over Roscommon and Connacht champions Athleague in Ballinasloe.

The Laois side face Keady in the decider in a fortnight. Last year's beaten All-Ireland finalists had it tough against Killnamona of Clare before finishing 5-6 to 3-7 winners.

Cóilín Duffy



Nov. 2007

# a long wait

EVENING ECHO CAMOGIE PLAYER OF THE MATCH: MARGARET O'HERLIHY



The Evening Echo's Orla Keane, presents the Player-of-the-Match-Award to Muskerry's Margaret O'Herlihy after victory over St Finbarr's in the Evening Echo Cork Senior Camogie Championship final at Páirc Uí Rinn on Sunday.

Picture: Larry Cummins

What they said

## Margaret is thrilled to land county final medal

MARGARET O'HERLIHY  
PLAYER OF THE MATCH

MUSKERRY and Éire Óg star Margaret O'Herlihy was overwhelmed at the full-time whistle and couldn't believe her side were county champions.

"To be honest I am really thrilled. We worked so hard to win today and we knew the Barrs would be tough. It's always harder for a divisional team but we gave it our all and all the clubs rowed in and trained very hard and I am delighted.

"We lost Siobhan Gleeson in the first few minutes and it was a huge blow but we were very determined to win and we just played like we knew we could."

I pointed it out to her that the division have put a lot of work into their under age teams in recent year and Margaret O'Herlihy agreed that has been a solid basis for the selectors to work on.

"We won three inter divisional U16 titles in-a-row and many of us played on these teams and we would know each other well, also despite coming from different clubs many of the girls would go to the same school and that helped us also.

"We have a great back room team in Con, Dan Joe and Mary and they left no stone unturned to win this title. They instilled a belief in us and we grew in stature since our first game against Seandun. Many of the players will now have to go back to their clubs and play in either the senior B or Junior championship but I am sure with the boost this win will give to Muskerry, we will all settled down and get back to the club action quickly."

Given her contribution of three valuable points yesterday, Margaret will surely be to the fore as her club Éire Óg take on Douglas in the senior B semi-final.

Catriona Foley

MUSKERRY CAPTAIN

CATRIONA FOLEY admitted it was beyond her wildest dreams to captain Muskerry to win a championship title.

"I am so proud to have led Muskerry today we put in a huge effort and the girls and backroom team gave it everything, from the start of the campaign. Everyone worked hard and yes it's hard for a divisional side but the effort put in was enormous. We knew it would take a huge effort to stop the Barrs they were splendid champions and they went down fighting."

Con Malone

(Muskerry Selector)

Con Malone was quiet as captain Catriona Foley collected the Punch Shoe Care Trophy and he acknowledged the superb display from all his charges. "We were very determined and to be honest we are delighted to win. Everyone in the division worked and rowed in together, we got a good start and stuck to our task. We always stayed ahead and that was important. The Barrs worked hard but our defence was great especially in the closing stages. At that stage just a goal separated us and if they drew level anything could have happened, we are thrilled to be county champions. The girls and the clubs in the division worked very hard and it's a great reward."

fore two splendid points from Margaret O'Herlihy saw the division side finish the half stronger while again it was left to Harris to pull one back as she pointed a Barrs' free.

It was obvious that the Muskerry back room team had their work done they as they closed down Harris and with Muskerry cutting off the supply of ball to the Barrs' forwards, they struggled for scores.

Catriona Foley was superb at centre-back and as Catriona McKenna matched Harris step-for-step, the Barrs struggled to find the range.

They introduced Trisha Doyle with two minutes to the half time whistle and she was quick into the action, very nearly grabbing a goal but that was as near as she got as Leah Weste quickly got her measure winning the battle in the corner from there on in.

All over the field Muskerry had stars, no more so than goalkeeper Tina O'Donnell, who showed plenty of calm under pressure. Her excellent puck out put the Barrs under pressure continuously while as a unit, the Muskerry defence never put a foot wrong, a tribute to their dominance that they held the Barrs to just one

score from play through the hour.

At midfield Lynda Dorgan played as if her life depended on it, her surging runs into the heart of the Barrs' defence, causing all sorts of trouble and she had huge support from the hard-working Maria O'Donoghue.

Up front Muskerry grabbed every chance and indeed were unlucky not to get a first half goal when Ellen Clifford failed to hold a long range effort, but to her credit she rallied and cleared her lines under pressure from O'Herlihy.

O'Herlihy was central to Muskerry's victory, grabbing three valuable points and taking on the Barrs' defence at every opportunity.

O'Herlihy also causes plenty of problems for the Barrs while the lionhearted Denise Cronin enjoyed what was without doubt her finest hour in the divisional colours.

As in the first half, the second was again scrappy but Muskerry held their composure and their lead as the Barrs battled to get into the game.

Again it was their weakness up front that cost them dearly and an over reliance on Harris for scores proved to be the main stumbling block to their title defence.

In an effort to win ball they moved, Vivienne from the full forward position and while she did win possession, the Barrs' inside line failed to fire as the Muskerry defence held their lines.

As the clock ticked toward the closing minutes, Cronin and O'Herlihy had Muskerry four points ahead but still the Barrs refused to die.

Gemma O'Connor, who enjoyed a good hour overall, battled to get something back but when she failed to connect with a free on the 20 metre line with minutes remaining, one sensed the title was heading to Mid Cork.

Gemma, as always a superb player, had a point for the Barrs to cut the lead to three point as she led the revival and there followed four minutes of Barrs pressure as they battled for an equaliser.

But there was no way past the Muskerry defence who stood up and were there when the questions were asked.

Centre-forward Cronin, roving to mid field to help out her team mates while Dorgan, Foley and McKenna cleared ball after ball as they broke the Barrs' momentum.

Without doubt, we saw a fierce hunger and spirit that's would be

more associated with club sides yesterday, but with the finishing line in sight Muskerry were not going to be caught.

The Barrs dug deep in search of the illusive goal, but Muskerry blocked, hassled and battled as if their lives depended on it.

Last year the Barrs showed a hunger and desire to take the title and they got their just rewards.

Yesterday in Páirc Uí Rinn, Muskerry were worthy winners and the Barrs will know that just one point from play in a county final is not enough to take the title.

Many people helped Muskerry get over the finishing line.

Éire Óg's Con Malone has battled long and hard with both club and county, he was joined yesterday by Dan Joe Foley from Rockbá and Mary Weste from Ballincollig as they dethroned the champions.

An so another season at Senior level has drawn to its conclusion. It may have been a bit later this year but for Muskerry, yesterday was a dream come true.

We salute the girls who bridged the 74-year gap and we look forward to seeing many of them centre stage in the coming weeks as the Senior B and Junior championships reach their conclusions.

### CAMOGIE

#### CLUB ALL-IRELAND SENIOR C'SHIP

Semi-finals: Athlone, Galway 3-11 (J Gill 2-6, O'21, S Quirk 1-0, L Linnane 0-3, O'21, N Coen 0-2) St Lachtna's Freshford, Kilkenny 3-6 (A Dalton 2-0, M O'Connor 1-1, Kennedy 0-5, O'5). Cashel, Tipperary 2-13 (C Grogan 2-5 O'11, L Grogan 0-3, C Hennessy 0-2 O'11, P Fogarty, I Horan, A Loneragan 0-1 each) O'Donovan Rossa, Antrim 2-3 (J Adams 1-2, M Rainey 1-0, M McCourt 0-1).

#### CLUB ALL-IRELAND JUNIOR C'SHIP

Semi-finals: The Harps, Laois 3-19 (J Mahony 0-8, O'21, O'21, E Mahony 1-3, T Bennett 1-1, E Dunne 1-0, Hurlon 0-3, J Prior 0-2, A Mahony 0-2, O'11) Athleague, Roscommon 1-3 (K Hopkins 1-1, O'11, R Fallon, A McGeeney 0-1 each). Keady, Armagh 5-6 (C McKeever 3-0, M Murphy, M Doyle 1-0 each, C Kinsella 0-5, M Murray 0-1) Kilmacoma, Clare 3-7 (J Lafferty, C O'Loughlin 1-3 each, D O'Grady 1-0, A McMahon 0-1).

### CAMOGIE

#### BILL CARROLL CUP

Athlone 3-11 (J Gill (21 1-5) 2-6, L Linnane (21) 0-3; S Quirk 1-0; N Coen 0-2). St Lachtna's 3-6 (A Dalton 2-0; I Kennedy (51) 0-5; M O'Connor 1-1). Junior: The Harps 3-19 (Louise Mahony (21, 2-45) 0-8; E Mahony 1-3; T Bennett 1-1; E Dunne 1-0; A Hurlon 0-3; J Prior, A Mahony (11) 0-2 each). Athleague 1-3 (K Hopkins (11) 1-1; R Fallon, A McGeeney 0-1 each).



## MUSKERRY BRIDGE GAP TO TAKE TITLE

MUSKERRY bridged a seventy four year gap to be crowned *Evening Echo* Senior county champion when they overcame holders St Finbarrs on Sunday last.

In a low scoring contest the divisional side set the pace from the throw in and made the championship play catch up. By the half time whistle they led 0-5 to 0-3 points from Sile burns and Margaret O'Herlihy replied to by Vivienne Harris who pointed three frees.

Through the opening half the Muskerry defence were excellent and despite losing the services of full back Siobhán Gleeson after eight minutes with a knee injury they kept their composure closing down attack after attack.

From the start of the second half the Barr's played with determination but it was Sile Burns who opened the scoring with a pointed free. Vivienne Harris replied from a placed ball as the Barr's

worked hard. Muskerry held their lines under pressure with Catriona Foley beginning to dominate at centre back and Lynda Dorgan and Denise Cronin superb. Muskerry stretched their advantage Cronin and Margaret O'Herlihy pointing to open the gap to four points. With Gemma O'Connor and Lynda O'Connell driving them on the Barrs battle back and won twenty metres free Gemma O'Connor miss hit and Muskerry were off the hook. O'Connor had the Barr's first score from play with four minutes remaining and from here they battled for an equaliser. Credit the Muskerry defence who stood up to the challenge clearing their lines under severe pressure.

Margaret O'Herlihy was named as Player of the Match given her contribution of three valuable points and her overall contribution as Muskerry made history to take their first title since 1933.



*Evening Echo* Cork Senior Champions Muskerry

## Underage activity

CARRIGALINE took the under 16 b championship title defeating Killeagh in close contest Douglas booked their place in the under 16 A league final with a victory over Ball-

incollig. Youghal defeated St Vincent's to make it to the Under 16 D league final while in the Junior B league semi final Rockban defeated Brian Dillon's.

## Another Busy weekend

ON Saturday Fr O'Neills meet Tracton or Ballincollig in the *Evening Echo* junior A championship semi final, Courcey Rovers and Clonakilty meet in the Tower View Developments Minor championship semi final in Ballinaspittal at 11.45am. In the under 16 D league final Youghal and Glen Rovers "2" meet in Aghada at 2pm.

On Sunday in the

*Evening Echo* Senior B championship semi final Douglas and Eire Og meet at 2.30pm a venue to be confirmed, in the Tower View Developments Minor B championship semi final Glen Rovers host Valley Rovers in the Glen Field at 2.30 while in the minor C quarter final at 2pm Brian Dillon's travel to Newtownshandrum.

## A unique sporting day is hailed as a big success

By ALISON DONNELLY  
Ladies soccer

FOR the first time the FAI, Munster rugby and the Camogie Associations combined recently at a unique event.

More than 120 first year pupils from St Angela's, St Patrick's and St Vincent's in the north side of Cork city took part in a pilot programme introducing them to these three sports, in a fun day hosted by the Glen Sports and Resource Centre.

During the event, participants were introduced to basic fun games and drills in each of the disciplines.

FAI Women's Football Development Officer Eithne Lydon was delighted with the event.

"It is also great to see our three governing bodies working together to promote girls playing sport in Munster. The appointment and close working relationships between the Women's Development Officers in each of the codes can only lead to more participation in the ever increasing numbers of girls playing sport," she said.

Munster Rugby Women's Rugby Development Officer Gemma Crowley commented:

"Both myself and Munster Rugby are delighted to be involved in the organisation of this event which will provide a unique opportunity to these young players to sample all three sports in the same venue. From Munster Rugby's point of view it is great to be able to get as many girls as possible in the province experiencing the game of rugby and hopefully it will entice them to join their local club."

The days events were co-ordinated by Emma Martin (Community Sports Development Officer, The Glen Sports and Resource Centre) and Munster Women's Development Officers: Eithne Lydon - FAI, Gemma Crowley - Munster Rugby, and Deirdre Murphy - Camogie.

## JUNIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPS Ballyhea celebrate



Ballyhea players celebrate after victory over Grenagh in the Cork County Junior 13-a-side Camogie Championship final.

## NO WAY PAST Tenacious defending



Ballyhea's Rachel Waters route to goal is blocked by Sinead Dorgan of Grenagh in the Cork County Junior 13-a-side Camogie Championship final last weekend. Ballyhea triumphed to scoop the title.

## Camogie chat with Mary Newman

### Douglas book final place

A SUPERB display ensured Douglas overcame the favourite Eire Og to book their place in the *Evening Echo* Senior B championship final. With Amanda

O'Regan leading the way from her position in the half back line Douglas made all the running and ran out winners on a 3-11 to 0-9 score line.

### Level pegging

FR O'NEILLS and Ballincollig battled it out under lights in Nemo and in a low scoring contest finished level four points apiece. Both sides had late chances to win the game in extra

time but failed to avail of the opportunity and so it's back to the drawing board again on Sunday next as Killeagh await their final opponents.

### Clonakilty and valley rovers book final places

IN the Tower View Developments Minor B championship semi final Clonakilty proved to strong for Courcey rovers to advance to the final where they will meet a Valley Rovers side who came from behind with a goal in injury time to defeat Glen Rovers in

an exciting semi-final. In the Tower View Developments minor C championship quarter final Grenagh defeated Sliabh Rua while Newtownshandrum and Brian Dillon's finished level and will have to do it all again.

### Four all stars for cork

A GREAT night for Cork at the Camogie All Stars as four players were named on the All Star team on Saturday last Gemma O'Connor

and Jennifer O'Leary received their fourth successive award while Rena Buckley and Caitríona Foley were also honoured.

### Busy weekend ahead

DOUGLAS and Ballygarvan meet in the junior shield final on Sunday in Tracton at 12 noon, in the junior league final Mallow meet Buttevant at 2.45 in Churchtown on Saturday. At under age level on Saturday Brian Dillon's and

Rockban meet to replay their under-16 C final in Coachford at 2.30pm. In the Tower View Developments Minor C semi final Passage and Grenagh meet at 11.30am with a venue to be confirmed.



Nov 2007

Wow!

## Women in sport



### Catriona's a winner with both club and county

**Name:** Catriona Foley

**Age:** 21

**Occupation:** Student at UCC

**Lives:** Carrignavar

**Club:** Rockbá, Cork

**Sports:** Football and camogie for Cork and Rockbá.

**How did you start playing camogie?** My Dad was involved in the Carrignavar club at various levels when I was younger and I was exposed to GAA from a young age. I started to play with the boys' teams at U-10 and U-12 level and at the local school in Carrignavar.

Rockbá was set up in 1997 so I went there. I was always going to play GAA and I loved the two sports from a young age.

**What's the best thing about your sport?** Playing at a high level means you get the chance to test your skills against the best players. You get to judge what standard you are at and playing with the best players also gives you more motivation.

At club level, you are playing with girls you are lifelong friends with, so it makes losing a bit easier and winning a bit sweeter.

**And the worst?** Injuries. I did my cruciate in a few years ago at a time when I was just starting to get onto the Cork county team scene and I feel I missed a lot of opportunities I may have had that year if I had been fit.

In our county final against St Finbarr's last weekend, our fullback Siobhan Gleeson got injured after five minutes and she had been the backbone of our team, so it was heartbreaking to see her miss the rest of the match. It's part and parcel of sport but it is the worst part, for sure.

**If you could share a pint with one sportsman who would it be and why?** Roy Keane. I am sure a lot of people say Roy Keane because we are from Cork but I feel he is fantastic because he has such a football brain and was such a determined and passionate player, that he was inspiring.

I think he would be a bit quiet having a pint, but I would love to meet him anyway.

● Catriona Foley captained the Muskerry team to the Cork County Senior Camogie title last weekend and this week she was awarded a sports scholarship with UCC for the third year running.

**WINNERS:** Catriona Foley lifts the cup after Muskerry's victory over St Finbarr's in the Evening Echo Cork Senior Camogie Championship.

Picture: Larry Cummins



Cork County Senior Camogie Final, Muskerry v's St Finbarr's at P-irc Uí Rinn Muskerry's Leah Weste and Linda Dorgan celebrate their win - See match report page 4

PICTURE: NEIL DANTON / NEWS DIGITAL



Nov.

2007



All-Ireland camogie final action as Cork's Emer Dillon and Wexford's Avis Nolan go head to head



Una Leacy (left) scored a brace of first half goals in the 2007 All-Ireland senior camogie decider



Wexford senior camogie vice captain Rose Marie Breen had the honour of cutting the tape to officially open WFC's new 4Homes Superstore franchise in Gorey



Nov,  
2007



Clare's Claire Commene comes under pressure from Derry's Sinead Cassidy in the All-Ireland junior camogie final



Left to right: Joe Lyons, Mary Walsh, Greta Haffernan, Catherine O'Loughlin and Rose Marie



# HISTORIC FIRST FOR CARLOW

To win an All-Ireland at any grade is a momentous achievement, which is made all the more special when it is the first title at that level. Carlow achieved that feat earlier this year when their camogie side won the All-Ireland junior All-Ireland.

The main sponsor to the side was James Jordan and he spoke to Hogan Stand about what the success meant to a county surrounded by triumphant teams.

Carlow has had to live in the shadows of the likes of Kilkenny, Wexford and even Laois when it comes to being victorious in hurling and football. However, the Barrowsiders are making strides in both grades with the camogie side leading the way.

Wexford camogie may have made all the national headlines with their success in the senior All-Ireland final win over Cork, but James believes that their success will also benefit Carlow.

"The success of both Carlow and Wexford will be a boost for our county in camogie. The interest in the game has increased in recent years and those two wins will only enhance its reputation as a growing sport even further," said James.

As sponsor, the Borris builder was even more delighted to

see Carlow triumph and he has been involved with camogie through his club St Mullins for many years now. The win was made all the more special as his daughter Aoife was part of the successful panel.

"I've been involved in camogie for a good few years now and I've seen the profile of the game rise since then. I was asked earlier this year to sponsor the team and I was glad to be able to help out."

The junior camogie championship was run on a blitz basis with all five teams - Mayo, Donegal, Monaghan, Europe and Carlow - playing each other.

Following the early round of matches, it was Carlow and Monaghan that would compete for the title and following some all round impressive displays, the Leinster side were surely confident of success.

"The girls played well in the earlier rounds, but they knew Monaghan would provide a stern test in the final. They certainly were not taking the match for granted."

Carlow faced Monaghan in the final at 6.25 p.m. The Carlow girls had now proved themselves the most sporting and popular team of the day.

The Europe, Donegal and Mayo crowds were all rooting for Carlow and if goodwill won the match, Carlow were winners before the sliothar was thrown in.

However, they had to work hard for this one. Niamh Quirke opened the scoring with a point in the first minute of play. By the fifth minute Carlow had shot five wides, lost scores that may have been needed.

Valerie Creen pointed in the sixth minute, and Monaghan pointed a free in the 12th minute. By now Carlow had sent another four shots wide.

Margaret Coady was on target for a point in the 13th minute. Creen pointed a free in the 16th minute and added another two points from play. The half-time score was Carlow 0-6, Monaghan 0-1.

The second-half got under way with the first scores to Carlow, two pointed frees by their ace attacker in the fourth and tenth minutes. Monaghan scored a point in the 12th minute, and she added a point for Carlow three minutes later.

Monaghan pointed in the 16th minute, and with only two scores between the teams Carlow fought on.

Another pointed free in the 20th minute gave Carlow some breathing space as Monaghan now needed three scores with only two minutes of injury time left. In the 22nd minute of play Monaghan got through for a goal but this was too late for them. On the puck-out from the Carlow full-back, Mary Coady, the whistle blew and Carlow had won their first All-Ireland camogie title ever.

The Máire Ní Chinnéide Cup was presented to Valerie



James Jordan presents a set of polo shirts to Carlow captain Valerie Creen



The victorious Carlow junior team that won the All-Ireland title

Nov. 2007



# BODYCLOCK KATE KELLY

# A healthy diet makes this lady a champ

Camogie star Kate eats all the right food to keep her body in tip-top shape for tough training sessions

## Nancy Previs

Nutrition Writer

healthinterview@yahoo.com

### 7.45am

I GET up, shower and dress. Before I go to work, I have a bowl of two-minute microwavable porridge with full-fat milk.

### 8.20am

I get into the car and drive to the office.

### 8.30am

Upon arriving at the office, I start clearing administrative tasks before my day official-gins at 9am. As the business manager company that produces student ID cards, my responsibilities include the co-ordination of work carried out by our IT team and that of our support desk.

### 11am

The weekly staff meeting starts in our canteen. As we discuss scheduling for the IT staff, I have a cup of tea with milk and a fruit scone spread with butter and strawberry jam.

### Midday

After the meeting, I return to my office and continue working until lunch. By this time, I have finished a bottle of water.

"During the six weeks that we aren't training, I rest my body"



leave the office at about 5.30pm.

### 6.45pm

I get home, change and begin making my homemade shepherd's pie with lots of vegetables.

### 7.30pm

I sit down to dinner, having more water with my meal. After, I take a short walk.

During the six-week period that we aren't training, I rest my body, allowing it to recover from the gruelling physical work we do six days a week.

We will be given our winter programme in the middle or end of November. From that point until we begin our intensive sessions in late January, I will train on my own in the gym.

### 9am

I have a cup of tea and a chocolate digestive biscuit, while watching some television.

### 11pm

I go to bed.

All Ireland camogie winner and championship top scorer, Wexford's Kate Kelly has been nominated for an Energiser Sport Camogie All-Star. The results will be announced in Citywest this Saturday.



### → FAVE MEAL

Garlic mushrooms and a side salad, followed by steak and chips. I'd have a glass of red wine if I was dining out. I'm not a dessert person

### → LOVES

Potatoes, vegetables, beef

### → DISLIKES

Fish, lamb

## How does Kate's diet rate?

"KATE starts the day off well with a bowl of porridge. This is a popular choice these days as porridge contains slow-releasing carbohydrates and the soluble fibre can help to reduce cholesterol.

"The full-fat milk is fine, but dairy products tend to contain saturated fat and for many people, it is advisable to opt for the low-fat varieties. These tend to contain most of the important nutrients, but without the fat.

"Mid-morning, Kate has a fruit scone, which is a good choice but I would advise against the butter. Jam on its

own or a low-fat spread would be a better choice here.

"For lunch, Kate has a salad with ham, green salad, coleslaw and potato salad. This is a good choice but if you are watching the calories it is advisable to bulk up on the salad and have only small amounts of coleslaw and potato salad as these tend to contain lots of mayonnaise.

"Including a wholemeal roll or some bread would also increase the carbohydrate content of this meal.

"It is great to see that Kate snacks on fruit in the afternoon, and in the evening she includes

lots of vegetables in her shepherd's pie. Bulking up dishes with veg is an easy way to help you reach five a day.

"Kate heads for a walk after dinner—she tends to be more physically active when she is training but it is good to include some activity each day.

"Afterwards, Kate has a light snack of a digestive biscuit and a cup of tea. She also drinks plenty of water, which will keep her hydrated."

Dr Patricia Heavey, consultant nutritionist, Wilson Hartnell Public Relations



by Bob Lester

CORK footballer Michael Shields, currently trying his hand at Aussie Rules Down Under, is among a host of stars awarded UCC Sports Scholarship awards for 2007/8.

This year, scholarships are being awarded in 21 sport disciplines with Racquetball being honoured for the first time.

**ATHLETICS:** Aoife Cook (Cork) Sports Studies; Garán Collins (Clare) Computer Science I; Denis Finnegan (Kerry) Pharmacy IV; Kathy Bird (Cork) Biological Science III; Orla Drumm (Limerick) Final Medicine; Yvonne Hickey (Kilkenny) Sports Studies II.

## UCC Sports Scholarship

**BADMINTON:** Gary O'Sullivan (Cork) Criminal Justice; Liam McNamara (Tipperary) Biochemical Science I; Phillip Collins (Cork) Civil Eng IV

**BASKETBALL:** David Murphy (Cork) B Comm IV; Hansoy Sexton (Cork) Arts III; Marie Breen (Cork) Commerce IV

**CAMOGIE:** Anne Dalton (Kilkenny) Social Science II; Aoife McLoughney (Tipperary) Arts I; Cathriona Foley (Cork) Biol Sc III; Orla Cotter (Cork) Sports Studies I

**GAELIC FOOTBALL:** Brendan J O'Sullivan (Cork) Sports Studies II; Brian Mulvihill (Tipperary) Commerce IV; Dáithí O Sé (Kerry) Commerce II; David Linnick (Cork) Finance III; Eoin Cotter (Cork) B Commerce II; Fintan Gould (Cork) Process Engineering IV; John Hayes (Cork) Environmental Science IV;

Michael Fitzgerald (Limerick) Modern Irish; Michael O'Donoghue (Kerry) Law III; Michael Shields (Cork) Food Business III; Niall Horgan (Cork) B Comm IV; Tomás Mac an tSaor

(Kerry) Arts II; Ken O'Halloran (Cork) David Kearney (Cork) Finance II; Mid Mennis (Cork) Arts I

**GOLF:** Declan King (Waterford) Civil Kevin Stack (Waterford) BSC III; Paul O'Connor (Kerry) Architecture; Sinead (Kilkenny) Sports Studies

**HANDBALL:** Ashley Prendiville (Kilkenny) Sports Studies I

**HURLING:** Anthony Nash (Cork) Fo Marketing; Darragh McSweeney (Cork) Comm. IV; Donnacha Cody (Kilkenny) Engineering IV; Eanna Martin (Wexford) Business III; Jamie Nagle (Waterford) Postgraduate; John Halbert (Cork) B II; Kevin Hartnett (Cork) Masters; Mi Cahill (Tipperary) Sports Studies; M Rice (Kilkenny) H Dip in Education; O'Neill (Cork) Process Eng IV; Stepi Moylan (Cork) Arts II

**KICKBOXING:** Diarmuid MacSuits Arts III; Luke Deasy (Cork) Electrical





Wexford camogie ace Kate Kelly (left) and Cork footballer Brieghe Corkery, who were presented with the Vodafone GAA All Stars Player of the Month awards for yesterday. BRENDAN MORAN/SPORTSFILE

## Kelly and Corkery honoured with top football and camogie awards

WEXFORD'S Kate Kelly and Cork's Brieghe Corkery were yesterday named the Vodafone GAA Camogie and Ladies' Football Players of the Year for 2007.

Camogie Association President Liz Howard, Ladies Football Association President Geraldine Giles and Vodafone's Head of Corporate Affairs Rosemary Steen, honoured the two players at the awards function in Dublin's Westbury Hotel.

Kelly was honoured for her leadership as Wexford ended a 32-year wait for All-Ireland senior glory, defeating a Cork team containing dual player Corkery in the All-Ireland final.

She scored an 1-40 in this year's championship, with 15 points coming from play. Already a winner of two Allstar awards she has been named Wexford Camogie Player of the Year and Ladies Footballer of the year, a unique achievement.

Meanwhile, Corkery continued Cork's domination of this award when following in the footsteps of Valerie Mulcahy and Juliette Murphy who were honoured in 2005 and 2006 respectively. In September she collected her third consecutive All-Ireland senior medal as an essential part of the all-conquering team.

Honoured as the Irish Sportswoman



Wexford's Kate Kelly, left, and Cork's Brieghe Corkery with their Vodafone Player of the Month Awards.

Picture: Brendan Moran

of the Year in 2005, Brieghe has continued to perform spectacularly on a number of stages, collecting two All-Ireland Senior Camogie medals to add to her impressive collection.

## Ace Breighe is the top footballer



LINDA MELLERICK

AS expected Wexford's Kate Kelly was named the Vodafone Camogie Player-of-the-Year this week. Brieghe Corkery was named Ladies Footballer-of-the-Year. Congratulations to both.

They were presented with their awards at a function in Dublin's Westbury Hotel.

Brieghe has made an astonishing impact on ladies football over the last three seasons.

She collected her third consecutive All-Ireland medal as an essential part of the all-conquering team that has dominated the game for the last three years.

Honoured as Sportswoman-of-the-year in 2005, Brieghe has continued to perform spectacularly on a number of stages, collecting two All-Ireland senior camogie medals to add to her impressive collection.

Stella Sinnott of Wexford, Paul Lyng of Waterford and Ciarán Carey of Limerick have all received nominations for the 'Camogie Manager-of-the-Year' ahead of this evening's Allstar banquet in the City West Hotel. Stella is a certainty to win this accolade.

This year's senior All-Ireland Club Championship final, to be played on November 17th, will see a new name inscribed for the first time in three years following Cashel's victory of 2-13 to 2-3 over O'Donovan Rossa of Antrim. Athenry of Galway defeated the holders St Lachtain's, Freshford, Kilkenny 3-11 to 3-6.

I think it's a sad state of affairs that we in Cork had to forfeit participation in the Munster and therefore All-Ireland club series because we couldn't get our championship finished in time.

It's not as if the effort wasn't made. With the new inter-county re-structuring that has taken place over the past couple of years it is virtually impossible to get a run at club fixtures.

Every inter-county championship is now based on a round-robin series. The senior championship was typically divided into two groups with the top two teams in each group advancing to the semi-finals. With only six or seven senior teams participating there was typically three games before you reached the semi-final stage.

Two years ago this system was revised. Now all teams are in one group and there are five championship games to be played before ever advancing to the semi-finals.

The same applies for the senior B championship.

Therefore our senior teams are out almost every fortnight from July to September. To give the squads any decent run up to these games, where they have their full complement of players, the County board agreed where possible to give them two weeks uninterrupted preparation.

On the other side of the coin, they also have to give the clubs ample time for their inter-county players to recover before fixing their matches.

The result? Cork can't get their club games played. We are hit more than most as we have 17 senior clubs. We have a first round back door system, we have inter-county teams at all levels so it's proving virtually impossible.

Once again I re-iterate the fact that while the central committee have re-structured the championships to keep players playing and the championships attractive, they are in fact doing the opposite. It's the clubs which will keep the players playing.

We can't ignore the fact that we failed to submit a Cork club team into Munster this year. That will have a knock on effect if we continue down that road.

Credit to Munster Council who were willing to give Cork an extension but central council refused.

The only solution I can see is that we will now have to begin our championships in May. But you will have a lot of players refusing to play because of their junior and leaving cert exams. As it is we don't play during the month of June.

So both the club and inter-county championships kick off in July and it's bedlam.

Nov 2007

## Muskerry girls should see Éire Óg into final

SUNDAY

Evening Echo Senior B Championship semi-final: Douglas v Éire Óg, Carrigaline, 2.30pm.

ATTENTION turns to the Evening Echo Senior B camogie championship this weekend as Douglas and Éire Óg meet at the semi-final stage.

It's been a long drawn out season for both teams. Éire Óg's involvement with county champions Muskerry delayed progress even further after the four Cork inter-county teams caused the usual delays to the championship.

Two weeks ago, Éire Óg completed their games in the round-robin series.

They gave themselves a boost with a victory over Valley Rovers in a game they had to win to stay in contention for a semi-final spot.

With several of their side, and selector Con Malone, involved with Muskerry, the club have been active up to last weekend.

Douglas played their last game in the round-robin series a few weeks ago and they have had to keep themselves occupied, something which is very hard at this time of year.

They have shown different form in their respective paths to this weekend's semi-final.

Douglas came through their section recording three victories, over Bishopstown, Newtown and Glen Rovers, and losing out once, to Rockbawn.

Last year they lost out in the semi-final to eventual winners St Catherine's, and this year they are determined to go a step further.

They have enjoyed tremendous success at underage level, and the introduction of several younger players this year has boosted their panel.

Jessica Kavanagh has been performing well in goal, while Pamela Mackey, Moira O'Donovan and Emma Jordan have fitted in well with the experienced Amanda O'Regan, Fiona McSweeney, and Helen O'Mahony.

Éire Óg are a club that have been making steady progress over the last few years, and are a young side that have won several underage titles.

They emerged from the group stages last year to contest the semi-final, losing out narrowly to Valley Rovers.

They have had a topsy-turvy path to the semi final. They lost to Kilbrittan and drew with Ballinhassig before defeating Carrigaline and Valley Rovers.

Several of their side were involved with the Muskerry team that won the senior championship last weekend.

Margaret O'Herlihy was named as player of the match. She is young player who has the ability to grab scores.

Also to the fore were Catriona McKenna, Alanna McKenna, Lorraine Murphy, Ciara McKenna, Erin Corkery and Ellen O'Herlihy, while Ella Kelleher, introduced after just eight minutes, played a huge role in the victory.

A big concern to Éire Óg is the leg injury which caused Siobhán Gleeson to leave the final after just eight minutes.

At the moment she is a very doubtful starter and if this remains the case her influence in the heart of their defence will be missed.

Given that 12 of their side were involved with the Muskerry panel, Éire Óg will be favourites to advance, but Douglas will not let them have it all their own way.



Wow!

# Women in sport



**FOOTBALL, CAMOGIE AND SOCCER STAR:** Inch player, Jill Horan, who won both Munster senior club titles in camogie and football, pictured with the football cup.

## Three times a lady on any pitch

**Name:** Jill Horan.

**Clubs:** Wilton and UCC (soccer), Cashel (camogie), Inch Rovers (football)

**Age:** 22

**When and how did you start playing sport?** I was 10 years old when I started playing camogie with my home club St Patrick's. Then, a few years ago, I went and played for Cashel as the club broke up and I've really enjoyed playing with them. I live in Cork now, so I'm travelling back and forth for training.

I started playing Gaelic football this year with Inch Rovers because a few of the girls I knew asked me to play and I've really enjoyed it.

I've been playing soccer for years as well and the highlight was going to America on a scholarship for a year. I played with Oakland University in Michigan and it was a fantastic experience.

**What's the best thing about your**

**sport?** The feeling you get after winning a big game and the friends you make. Most of my good friends I have made from playing the three sports I am involved in.

**And the worst?** The social life you miss out on because of training and games. Because I play a lot of sport, I miss out on a lot of things going on during the year. Even when camogie and football finishes in a few weeks, I've still got a soccer season with UCC ahead.

**If you could share a pint with anyone from your sport, who would it be?** Roy Keane.

● Jill Horan was recently awarded a soccer scholarship at UCC for the third year in-a-row and she plays locally with Wilton FC. This weekend she will contest the All-Ireland Club camogie final with Cashel and she will line out for Inch Rovers in the All-Ireland Club football final in a fortnight.

## Cashel Camogie Play All-Ireland Final

Cashel Camogie Club face one of their biggest tests ever when they travel to Limerick next Sunday to play Athenry in the All-Ireland Club Championship final. They have been there once before, in 2001, when they lost to Pearse's of Galway and they are really hoping to go all the way this time and bring back the All-Ireland cup to the club

for the first time.

The team has as much, if not more, talent than any club team in the country, backboned by many county stars and these include Emily Hayden, Una O'Dwyer, Claire and Linda Grogan, Gill Horan, Philly Fogarty, Paula Bulfin, Cora Hennessy and Sinead Millea, all of them holders of All-Ireland medals.

But, as Sinead Millea says, it's how you perform on the day that matters, not what talent you bring to the game. Sinead is captain and is really proud of the honour of leading such a bunch of women. She herself has a star record, with three senior All-Irelands with Kilkenny, numerous Leinsters and a Gael-Linn interprovincial as well.

She joined Cashel in 2003 for a variety of reasons, moving from St. Brigid's in her native county. She was looking for a change at the time, heard a lot about Cashel from work colleague at Presentation Secondary School, Clonmel, Paula Bulfin, was impressed with what she heard of their training regimen and commitment, and was also closer to Cashel. However, she is at pains to point out it was completely her own decision and is very happy that she made it.

Success didn't come immediately with defeat Cashel's lot in 2003 and 2004. Then matters began to improve with three county finals in a row, 2005, 2006 and 2007, followed by victories in the Munster final. However further progress was halted by Davitts of Galway in 2005 and Freshford in the 2006 in All-Ireland semi-finals. This year it was third time lucky with a confidence-building win over O'Donovan Rossa's of Antrim at Newry nearly two weeks ago. It set them up for the final encounter with Athenry at 12.15 pm in the Gaelic Grounds, Limerick next Sunday.

So the focus now is on finding the winning formula to defeat the Galway girls. There is no more focused player than Sinead and she is only too well aware of the challenge facing them. Athenry is the only team to defeat Freshford in four years. The team includes a spattering of county players, they are strong and physical and they have the former Galway hurling star, P. J. Molloy, masterminding their effort.

Counteracting that scenario is a quiet determination in Sinead and the rest of the team that this is going to be their year. Sinead, who started life as a forward and won an All-Star in that position, is a late convert to the backs. She attributes the change to Liam Cahill who, looking for someone to play centreback a few years ago, put her into the position. The rest is history as Sinead settled into the pivotal position and made it her own. She is quick to point

out that her success has a lot to do with the confidence she gets from her wings, Paula Bulfin and Julia McGrath, as well as the strength and ability of Una O'Dwyer behind her.

There is a good spirit in the camp. All the players have a huge respect for coach and manager, T. J. Connolly, who has put so much thought and effort into training them. When he called for them to attend a 7.45 am training session on

Saturday morning they had no problem with a one hundred percent answer to the call. Another session followed at noon on Sunday.

Everyone in Cashel will be following their progress and wishing them well on Sunday. The players have expended a lot of effort and sacrifice to get where they are. Everything that could be done to have them prepared has been done. Selectors Michael Browne, Michael

Lawrence and Anne Moloney have given the panel their complete attention. All is now ready and it will be up to the girls on the field when the referee starts the game on Sunday.

Victory would be a wonderful thing for the girls themselves, the club they represent and the town that would be so proud if they were to return as All-Ireland champions. Good luck to you all!

## O'Regan stars as underdogs Douglas win

By RORY NOONAN

Senior B camogie semi-final

Douglas	3-10
Éire Óg	0-9

USING the wind to their advantage in the second-half, Douglas had a convincing win over Éire Óg in their Evening Echo Senior B camogie semi-final at Carrigaline yesterday.

Their win hinged around centre-back and Cork star Amanda O'Regan. Once again she put in a top-class display for her club and drove them on to victory.

Many considered them underdogs going into this game, but they will prove formidable opponents in the final for Rockbawn or Valley Rovers, who play next weekend.

Éire Óg also deserve praise as they never gave up, with Ellen O'Herlihy playing her heart out.

It wasn't until the sixth minute that the first score came when Alanna McKenna pointed. Two minutes later Douglas were in front Emma Jordan shot to the back of the net following a goalmouth tussle.

Amanda O'Regan stretched their lead from a free, but points from Clodagh Crowley and Margaret O'Herlihy had only one between them again, 1-1 to 0-3. A great point from Katrina Mackey stretched Douglas' lead, but again Éire Óg responded through Aoife McCarthy.

O'Regan slotted over a 45 and Julia White got her first point, with Margaret O'Herlihy replying to see Douglas lead 1-4 to 0-5 at the break.

O'Herlihy was on target again with O'Regan and Mackey replying before Douglas got their second goal when Julia White played a one-two with Moira O'Donovan before blasting to the back of the net.

However, the Ovens side responded to the challenge and hit three unanswered points through McCarthy, McKenna and O'Herlihy to put only three between them, 2-6 to 0-9.

With 10 minutes to go O'Donovan pointed and further scores in the next few minutes had Douglas in control, 2-10 to 0-9. Even with time running out O'Regan kept driving Douglas forward and they were rewarded with their third goal in the final minute from Jordan.

Douglas know they will be in for another tough game in the final, but on this showing they will make it difficult for anyone.

**Scorers for Douglas:** E Jordan 2-0, J White 1-2, A O'Regan 0-4 (0-21, 0-2 45), K Mackey 0-3, M O'Donovan 0-1, Éire Óg: M O'Herlihy 0-4 (0-16), A McCarthy, A McKenna 0-2 each, C Crowley 0-1.

**DOUGLAS:** J Kavanagh; S O'Regan, F McSweeney, P Mackey, A Barrett, A O'Regan, L O'Regan, D Murphy, H O'Mahony; S O'Brien, J White, K Mackey; E Morgan, M O'Donovan, E Jordan. **Subs:** S O'Leary for S O'Brien (41), H O'Connor for S O'Regan (39).

**ÉIRE ÓG:** L O'Mahony; L Murphy, C McKenna, C O'Connor; E Kelleher, K McCarthy, C McKenna; C McCarthy, E O'Herlihy; C O'Keefe, A McKenna, C Crowley; A McCarthy, E Corkery, M O'Herlihy. **Subs:** C Meeney for C McCarthy (41), C O'Leary for E Corkery (42), M Gleeson for C Crowley (57).

**Referee:** O Webb (Tracton).

Nov. 2007



by Mary Newman

MUSKERRY are still celebrating bridging a 74-year gap to carry the Punch Shoe Cup trophy aloft after dethroning champions St Finbarr's to take the Evening Echo senior county title recently. Conditions were excellent despite the lateness of the season and while it was a low scoring contest it was not short on excitement as two committed teams gave it everything in quest of the ultimate accolade. In the finish their ability to grab scores from play proved crucial as Muskerry held their early lead to the full time whistle to be crowned champions.

Sile Burns gave the divisional side an early lead as she pointed a free inside the first minute of the game she quickly added to her tally with a second point as the challengers took the game to the champions. The Barrs found the going tough again as a strong Muskerry defence who despite losing the services of full back Siobhán Gleeson after eight minutes with a knee injury closed down attack after attack. Barrs' opened their scoring with a pointed free from Vivienne Harris and their over reliance on Harris for scores was to be the stumbling block as the Muskerry defence kept a close eye on one of the championship's top scorers to date. Timeout of number Catriona McKenna got in the all important flick or hook as she held a close eye on Harris. Ellen O'Herlihy stretched the Muskerry lead before Harris pointed on the twenty second minute but up front the Barrs found the going tough against

# Muskerry end 74-year drought to take the county title

strong Muskerry defence where Ciara McKenna and Lorraine Murphy were excellent.

Margaret O'Herlihy had Muskerry three points ahead with two splendid points as she left the Barrs' defence in her wake before striking neatly over the bar but it was left to Vivienne Harris to bring a lack lustre opening half to its conclusion with a pointed Barrs' free as Muskerry led 0-5 to 0-2.

From the start of the second half Barrs' played with determination as they battled to get the first score of the half but it was Sile Burns who opened the scoring as she did in the first half with a pointed free.

Vivienne Harris replied from a placed ball as the Barrs' now gave her a roving role switching her further out field in the hope of picking up scores. Gemma O'Connor worked hard in midfield as the Barrs began to come into the game but again up front they failed to grab the score as Muskerry held their lines

under pressure. With Catriona Foley beginning to dominate at centre back and Lynda Dorgan and Denise Cronin superb Muskerry stretched their advantage with Cronin and Margaret O'Herlihy pointing to open the gap to four points.

With Gemma O'Connor and Lynda O'Connell driving them on the Barrs battled back and won a twenty metres free. Gemma O'Connor somehow miss hit the expected goal attempt and Muskerry were off the hook as a goal for the Barrs with five minutes remaining would have changed the games complexion. Gemma O'Connor had the Barrs' first score from play with four minutes remaining and from her on they bombarded the Muskerry goal as they battled for an equaliser. Credit the Muskerry defence who stood up to the challenge time out of number they cleared their lines as the seconds ticked. Twice Muskerry had chances to grab a score but the Barrs defence swept down field only to be



Sile Burns opened the scoring in both halves in the closely-contested Cork County Senior Camogie Final at Páirc Uí Rinn. Picture: Neil Danton

thwarted as Foley, McKenna and West stood tall under severe pressure to ensure history was made as they bridged the gap since 1933 to take the division's second title. Margaret O'Herlihy was named as Player of the Match given her contribution of three valuable points.

**Muskerry:** Tina O'Donnell (Ballincollig) Catriona McKenna (Eire Og) Siobhán Gleeson (Eire Og) Leah West (Ballincollig) Lorraine Murphy (Eire Og) Catriona Foley (Rockban) (C), Marie O'Donoghue (Eire Og) Lynda Dorgan (Glenagh) Ciara McKenna (Eire Og) Ellen O'Herlihy (0-1 Eire Og) Sile Burns (0-3 0-2 Rockban) Margaret O'Herlihy (0-3 Eire Og) Erin Corkery (Eire Og) Denise Cronin (0-1 Ballincollig) Alanna McKenna (Eire Og) Subs: Ella Kelleher (Eire Og) for S. Gleeson (inj 8 min)

**St Finbarr's:** Ellen Clifford, Clare Harrington, Colette Kirby, Maria McCarthy (C), Lynda O'Connell, Jenny Duffy, Clare Kirby, Gemma O'Connor (0-1), Bernadine Maher, Rachel Myers, Catherine Barrett, Ellen Crowley, Valerie Maher, Vivienne Harris (0-4), Orla O'Sullivan. Subs: T. Doyle for V. Maher (28 min) C. Spellman for V. Maher (h/t), C. Sargent for E. Crowley (53 min)

**Referee:** K. Healy, Sliabh Rua

CARRIGALINE overcame the strong challenge posed by Killeagh to take the Under 16 B county title. Carrigaline got off to a dream start grabbing the game opening score in the first minute as Linda Collins finished to the net.

Continuing to hold the upper hand, Gráinne O'Keefe stretched their advantage with a point. Killeagh settled and were back on level terms thanks to a goal Shauna Keniry and a pointed Clare Keohane free.

Both sides battled to gain the upper hand. Killeagh Claire Keohane was dominant in midfield but Carrigaline battled for everything and gave little away in defence. Donna Smyth, Sarah Cotter and Aine

## Moran magic in Carrigaline victory



Linda Collins of Carrigaline is challenged by Killeagh players Karen Rohan, Eanna O'Neill and Claire O'Connor during the Cork County U16 B camogie final at Rathcormac. Picture: Howard Crowley

Crowley kept a close eye on the Killeagh attack. Two points from Linda Collins gave Carrigaline the advantage and Gráinne O'Keefe added another before the break, giving a lead of 1-4 to 1-1 at half-time.

With the title up for grabs it was Killeagh who got the second half off to a great start with a goal from Stephanie Beausang which levelled the game. With Jessica O'Shea and Eanna O'Neill working hard, Killeagh were back in contention and they met their match with Deirdre O'Leary and Gráinne O'Keefe battling hard.

They quickly hit back with player of the match Maria Moran taking on the Killeagh defence as she soloed the length of the field before finishing the ball to the net.

In attack Deirdre O'Leary was proving a handful for the Killeagh defence and when Patti O'Keefe pointed twice without reply for Carrigaline, it gave them a lead of five points. Now in control and beginning to pull away, Linda Collins added a further goal before Samantha Swaine got a point back for Killeagh. Collins was on target from

the puck out when she finished the afternoon with her third goal before Kate Murphy had a late goal for Killeagh.

Carrigaline captain Maria Moran was named player of the match following her superb performance at midfield.

**Carrigaline:** Aileen McCarthy, Dara O'Sullivan, Jenny Foster, Clara O'Connell, Aine Crowley, Sarah Cotter, Deirdre O'Leary, Gráinne O'Keefe, Maria Moran, Donna Smyth, Orlagh Cotter, Patti O'Keefe, Emily Phelan, Linda Collins, Sarah Barry.

**Killeagh:** Lisa O'Sullivan, Ann Rohan, Claire O'Connor, Aileen Murphy, Karen Rohan, Eanna O'Neill, Jessica O'Shea, Stephanie Beausang, Claire Keohane, Samantha Swaine, Sandra Smyth, Shauna Keniry, Catriona Scully, Laura O'Connor, Jessica O'Shea, Kate Murphy.

**Subs:** Megan Scully for Emily Phelan, Elaine Curtin for Sarah Barry, Niamh Crowley for Clara O'Connell.

**Referee:** Mike O'Kelly, Ballyhea

## MUSKERRY SISTERS CELEBRATE COUNTY CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE WIN



Muskerry players, sisters Ciara, Alanna and Caitriona McKenna after victory over St Finbarr's in the Evening Echo Cork Senior Camogie Championship final at Páirc Uí Rinn. Picture: Larry Cummins



# Clonakilty through with merited wins

By ROB LOTT

Munster colleges camogie

THE various Munster Colleges Camogie League group games were completed before the mid-term deadline and have yielded some interesting pairings.

In the Senior A grade, Clonakilty beat Bandon and Carrigaline to qualify for the semi-final against a powerful Coachford outfit who accounted for Coláiste Choilm and Fermoy.

Neighbours St Flannan's, who qualified as a second placed team in a large group, meet St Caimin's who were victorious over Nenagh and Thurles. Cashel beat Coláiste Ennis, Flannan's and Borrisokane so wait for the result of the all-Clare quarter-final.

Favourites Carrig On Suir play Scariff or Doon with Waterford entertaining Tulla, with wins over Templemore and Borrisoleigh, in the penultimate stage of the Intermediate A League.

Midleton, under the tutelage of Peter Dowling, play St Mary's, Mallow, with Dromcollogher taking on a fancied Roscrea in the intermediate B semi-finals.

Roscrea and Munster interprovincial coach Margaret O'Gorman is delighted with her team's progress collected Pres Thurles and Laurel Hill scalps to date.

The inaugural Hayes Intermediate Trophy, involving the developing camogie schools has been competitive where Tramore meet Millstreet and Blarney play Ballingarry in the semi-finals. Bruff, Kilfinane, Coláiste An Phiar-saigh, North Pres, Ferrybank and Kilmacthomas participated in the group stages.

The enforcement of the fax rule



Killeagh U16B team who contested the county final last weekend.

has ensured that competitions are prompt and, coupled with the favourable conditions, affords schools the opportunity to prepare for the championship matches currently underway.

On the championship front, Coachford defeated Ursuline's Thurles 2-7 to 1-4 at Glanmire in the Senior A quarter-final.

Aileen Twomey was in flying form with 1-1 and Joanne Casey also contributed 1-1.

Team captain Niamh Dilworth converted the lion's share of possession for the Muskerry side with four points and Caroline Kiely adding a point.

Thurles keeper Mary Rose Flanagan was excellent throughout with Niamh O'Connell, Sandra Dwyer, Emma Spillane and Catriona Short scoring points.

Sinead Corcoran got a late goal for the Tipperary school where Catherine O'Brien, Sinead McCarthy, Ciara O'Keefe and player of the match Michelle Healy a class apart at centre back.

In the Munster intermediate A quarter-final, two early goals

Fixtures	
TODAY	
Tower View Developments Minor B Championship semi-final: Clonakilty v Courcy Rovers, Ballinaspittal 11.45am.	rigaline, 2.30pm.
Tower View Developments Minor C Championship quarter-final: Grenagh v Sliabh Rua, Grenagh, 2pm.	Evening Echo Junior "A" championship semi-final: Fr O'Neill's v Ballincollig, Nemo, 7pm.
U16 D League final: Glen Rovers "2" v Youghal, Dungourney, 3pm.	Tower View Developments Minor B Championship semi-final: Glen Rovers v Valley Rovers, Glen Rovers, 2.30pm.
TOMORROW	
Evening Echo Senior B championship semi-final: Douglas v Eyre O'g, Carrigaline, 2.30pm.	Tower View Developments Minor C Championship quarter-final: Newtownshandrum v Brian Dillon's, Newtownshandrum, 2pm.

from Amy Houlihan and Marian Egan put Mount Mercy in the driving seat against Coachford.

Karen Jones, Rhian Nunan and Jennifer Ryle impressed for the city team but Coachford regained control after the poor start with points from Elaine O'Mahony and Emer McSwiney.

Meig Collins began to dominate matters at full-back and, with Máiréad Enright and Ann O'Sullivan resolute in defence, the home team won the match with goals from Michelle O'Sullivan, Martha Murphy and Eileen O'Riordan.

In the U16½ A league, St

Aidan's and Coláiste An Phiar-saigh both qualified for the semi-final from the first finished group.

St Aidan's await the winners of Croom or Cahir from group C with Coláiste playing Youghal or Glanmire in their semi-final.

## RESULTS:

Senior A Coachford 2-7 Thurles 1-4  
Senior C Laurel Hill 0-8 Midleton 3-3  
Roscrea 7-4 Hospital 2-5 Mallow 0-1 Waterford 5-11 St Aloysius 2-9 Templemore 5-3  
Templemore 0-1 Midleton 2-11  
Intermediate C Coachford 4-4 Davis College 0-1 Rathkeale 2-3 Croom 2-4 St Patrick's 7-5 Passage 2-6 Nagle Rice 7-2 Corbally 5-0  
Junior B Coláiste Choilm 2-2 Kinsale 4-4 St Flannan's 3-0 Borrisoleigh 5-5

# O'Neills and Ballincollig are set for real battle to reach final

SUNDAY  
Evening Echo JA semi-final  
Fr O'Neill's v Ballincollig  
Nemo Rangers, 7pm

HAVING taken the decision to regrade from senior to junior, Fr O'Neill's find themselves just 60 minutes from contesting the final of the Evening Echo Junior A championship.

Ballincollig stand in their way and they will provide a huge obstacle.

There has been a renewed interest in the Ballymacoda club and hopes are high following on a good run to the semi-final.

They topped their group, in the round-robin series with victories over Sarsfields, Watergrasshill and Blackrock.

They have strong performers in former inter-county players Nora Ahern, Gearoidin Kearney and Liz Sweetnam.

That trio will have plenty of support from younger players such as Emma Swayne, Katy Ahern and Catriona Day.

Ballincollig have reached this semi-final having come through a three-way play-off, defeating Clonakilty and Tracton to secure their place after the trio had finished on equal points in their bid to secure the runner-up spot behind Killeagh, who were already safely through as group winners.

With eight of their panel involved with Muskerry in the senior county champions final last weekend it been a busy few weeks for the club.

In their path to this weekend's semi-final they recorded victories over Newtownshandrum and Clonakilty, but lost out to Tracton and Killeagh.

They turned in two superb performances to come through the play-off and now their sights are set on a final place.

They have excellent performers in Leah Weste, Denise Cronin, Marie O'Donoghue and Tina O'Donnell.

They will be determined to reach their second county final and bring the curtain down with a victory on what has already been a dream season for the Muskerry division club.

# Carrigaline celebrate U16 county final success

Carrigaline 4-6  
Killeagh 3-3

THE CARRIGALINE U16 camogie team are celebrating following their triumph over Killeagh in the county final at Rathcormac last weekend, thanks to a tremendous second half display which secured victory, writes HOWARD CROWDY.

A large supporting crowd from Carrigaline travelled to Rathcormac, outnumbering their opposite support by four to one, and cheered the girls on to victory, with Linda Collins scoring 3-2 of her side's 4-6 total.

Carrigaline started the game brightly and had scored 1-1 with Linda Collins scoring her first goal of the afternoon before Killeagh responded.

Killeagh came into the game and contained Carrigaline for the remainder of the half, with only three points separating the teams at the break, with a 1-4 to 1-1 advantage to Carrigaline.

However, within minutes of the restart, Killeagh were level with a goal just after the restart, but Carrigaline regained the lead shortly afterwards with a Patti O'Keefe free, followed by a second free minutes later to leave two between the sides.

The score of the game followed as Marie Moran gathered the sliothar from the 65 and ploughed through the Killeagh back line before slamming the sliothar into the back of the net. Shortly after Linda Collins scored her second goal and Carrigaline's third of the afternoon, to leave nine points between the sides with 12 minutes remaining.

Linda scored her third in the 55th minute, and the trophy was heading towards Carrigaline.

A mini revival by Killeagh in injury time put a little more respectability on the scoreline, but Carrigaline had done enough, and ran out worthy winners on a scoreline of 4-6 to 3-2.

Tracey Sheehan, chairwoman of the Cork County Camogie Juvenile

Board presented the trophy to team captain Marie Moran, who also received the Player of the Match award.

Coach Marie Scully remarked that all of the hard work and effort had paid off for the team who had been training very hard of late and had been boosted by the determination and commitment to the team from coach Tom Jones.

She added that this was the first time that the club had won a county U16 title (they did win an U16 12-a-side title some years ago) and that the team had at last captured a county title following many semi final appearances and disappointments in the past.

CARRIGALINE: Aileen McCarthy, Darragh O'Sullivan, Jenny Foster, Clara O'Connell, Aine Crowley, Sarah Cotter, Deirdre O'Leary, Grainne O'Keefe, Marie Moran (c), Donna Smyth, Orlagh Cotter, Patti O'Keefe, Emily Phelan, Linda Collins, Sarah Barry, Megan Scully, Elaine Curtin, Aoife Kearney, Niamh Crowley Jen O'Shea.

Mentors: Marie Scully, Pat Moran, Tom Jones and Paul Buckley.

KILLEAGH: Lisa O'Sullivan, Ann Rohan, Claire



Tracey Sheehan, Chairperson Cork County Camogie Board presents Carrigaline captain Marie Moran the County U16 B camogie trophy after her teams victory over Killeagh in the final at Rathcormac. Picture: Howard Crowdy

O'Connor, Aileen Murphy, Karen Rohan, Eanna O'Neill, Jessica O'Shea, Stephanie Beusang, Claire Keohane, Samantha Swayne, Sandra Smiddy, Shauna Keniry, Catriona Scully, Laura O'Connor, Jessica O'Shea

Kate Murphy Sub: Rachel Cronin for Ann Rohan, Aislinn Fitzgerald for Catriona Scully

Referee: Mike O'Kelly (Ballyhea)

# O'Connell fires Buttevant into final

Buttevant 5-7  
Brian Dillon's 1-3

A POLISHED performance saw Buttevant advance to the Junior B league final as they overcame the challenge posed by Brian Dillon's.

Buttevant set the pace of the game with two first half goals by Tracy O'Reilly and Niamh Curran. Fiona O'Connell got the game off to a good start for the Buttevant girls with a point after just seven minutes. Therese Drummond contributed three first-half points for Dillon's as they battled against the strong Buttevant defence. Buttevant led 2-1 to 0-3 at the interval. A goal from Jane Dooley opened the second-half well for Dillon's with Michelle O'Keefe pointing for Buttevant after two

minutes. Triona O'Connell added a goal and a point before Michelle O'Keefe set up Tracy O'Reilly for a point as Buttevant extended their advantage. Dillon's battled hard but found the going tough against a strong Buttevant rearguard. O'Connell proved a handful for the Dillon's defence, pouncing for two further goals. Eimear Healy added a further two points for Buttevant who set up a final meeting with their neighbours Mallow

Buttevant: D O'Keefe, J O'Callaghan, S Breen, M Lee, K Burke, T Roche, E Harrington, D Farrell, F O'Connell, T O'Reilly, N Curran, N Walsh, M O'Keefe, A Sheehan, T O'Connell, Subs: E Healy for A Sheehan (55) A Madigan for T O'Reilly (55) A Cronin for N Walsh (55) S Buckley for M Lee (55) J Buckley for K Burke (55)  
Brian Dillon's: L O'Mahony, A O'Brien, O Lawrence A Dorgan E Keane D Ring, K Brosnan, T Drummond, C Dooley, T Deane, M Kelly, G O'Connell, J Dooley, E Lane, C O'Mahony, Sub: S. Cotter for C O'Mahony

# Deadly Motherway delivers for Youghal

Youghal 3-4  
Glen Rovers 2-2

A PHYSICALLY stronger Youghal side proved too strong for Glen Rovers second string side in the under16D league final at the immaculate Dungourney venue.

The victors aided by the strong wind dictated matters in the opening half and led at the interval 2-3 to 0-1. Niamh Quinn set the pace with two early points as Youghal settled quickly they stretched their lead further with a pointed free from Amy Motherway.

Motherway sent a close-in free to the net as Youghal opened up a nine point gap but working hard Glen had a point before the break from Leeann O Sullivan free.

On the resumption a goal from Alison

Dowling cut the deficit but again Youghal won a close-in free which Amy Morrissey goalied. Glen had a point from Edel O'Connell and a goal from Alison Dowling. A late close in free was pointed by Amy Morrissey to give the Youghal girls breathing space. Youghal can be thankful to Amy Morrissey who notching up 2-2 from place balls and was named Player of the Match following an excellent performance.

Youghal: D Donovan, A Bulman M Ahern, S O'Brien, S Fitzgibbon, E O'Connell C Cotter, A Morrissey, R Healy, A Cooke, N. Quill, C Daly C. Siochru, A. Barry, A. Siochru Subs R O'Keefe for A Siochru, S A Quill for C Siochru  
Glen Rovers: M Sheehan, A Murphy, C O'Sullivan, S O'Sullivan, N O'Sullivan A Noonan (c), K Arnold, A O'Keefe, S Busted, L O'Sullivan, A Dowling L. Sheehy, E O'Connell, S Hill, L. Callanan, Subs C McCarthy for K Arnold, J Hosford for L Sheehy.

Referee: C. Looney Ballinacorra.



## CLUB NOTES

### NA PIARSAIGH

St. Finbarr's travelled to Na Piarasigh to play some underage challenge matches recently. Great skill and determination was shown by all the players.

**U6/7:** Final score was Na Piarasigh 2-0 St. Finbarr's 0-0. All subs were introduced at some stage in the game.

**Scorer:** Katelyn Buckley 2-0

**Team:** Shannon Lee, Aoife Quirke, Carla Tobin, Amy Stokes, Chloe Morey, Ally O'Sullivan, Laura Morrissey, Clara Buckley, Chloe McCarthy, Leann O'Connor, Katelyn Sheehan, Sofia Mooney, Mary Claire Dorgan, Eimear Butterworth, Lauren Rice. **Subs:** Leah Hurley, Erica Costello, Lauren McNamara, Katelyn Harrington, and Ashling McKenney.

**U8/9:** All Players were playing and all played very well on the day. Final score was Na Piarasigh 4-0, St. Finbarr's 1-0.

**Scorers:** Chloe Murphy 2-0, Erica O'Neill, Chelsea Nolan 1-0 each.

**Team:** Teagan Ryan, Taylor O'Brien, Saoirse O'Sullivan, Shauna Bell, Emma Buckley, Elizabeth Guinnane, Eimear Guest, Lauren Twohig, Katie Murphy, Rebecca Cooke, Chloe Murphy, Megan Moynihan, Chelsea Nolan, Sofia Hennessey, Niamh O'Leary. **Subs:** Shannon O'Connell, Caoimhe Lynch, Erica O'Neill, Sarah Morrissey, Niamh Ryan, and Roisin Mac Donnell.

**Seandún U13 league Na Piarasigh v Bishopstown:** In the first half we had plenty of goal chances, hit the post and numerous shots went narrowly wide. It seemed we just could not score.

Aoife Moynihan and Rebecca Rourke effort from a free put Piarasigh two points up at half time.

Na Piarasigh gifted Bishopstown the goal as they ran out winners by the narrowest of margins, 1-0 to 0-2.

**Training times:** Saturday: Newcomers and U7s, 12noon-1pm, U8s, 9s and 10s, 1pm-2pm, U11s and 12s, 2pm-3pm.

Wednesday: U18s and Junior Bs, 8pm-9.30pm.

Thursday: U14s and 16s, 5pm-6pm.

New and old players are always welcome.

**ST CATHERINE'S**

(Club Sponsor Cork Builders' Providers)

**Junior B Shield:** On Friday last, Douglas travelled to Ballynole to fulfil the Junior B Shield semi-final and ran out winners.

A youthful Douglas side were just that little bit stronger than the home side and their seven scores to our two indicates their dominance in the game.

Despite that, Catherine's applied a lot of pressure at times but could not get the necessary scores.

However, our girls should not be too disappointed as they gave their best and have treated us to great entertainment over the past couple of months.

**Scorers for St Catherine's:** E Harpur 1-0, M Twomey 0-1.

**Team:** A Hartnett, K Higgins, A Galvin, A Cotter, D Mulcahy, S Noonan, C O'Brien, A O'Keefe, M Daly, T Fitzpatrick, A Hayes, P O'Brien, M Mulcahy, E Harpur, A Mangin.

**Subs:** M Twomey, C Hurley, D McCurtain, S Barry.

**U16 C Championship semi-final:** Our U16 team travelled to Caherlag to meet Brian Dillon's in this fixture.

Played in perfect conditions, we came up against a very strong Brian Dillon's side.

At the end of the first half, we were two points behind. Having dominated the play for long periods, we had a number of wides and missed opportunities, which probably were the difference between winning and losing.

A feature of the first half, was the excellent point scored by 12-year-old Rachel O'Callaghan.

A couple of half-time switches seemed to work for us, and by the 10th minute we had opened up a six-point lead.

However, Brian Dillon's then took over and dominated the next 15 minutes to establish a two-point lead. But Finola struck again for her fifth goal in the 26th minute to put us back in the lead.

Two pointed frees in the last couple of minutes sealed victory for Brian Dillon's. This was a very entertaining game and full marks to all our girls for their outstanding effort. Full-time score: St Catherine's 6-1, Brian Dillon's 4-8.

**Scorers for St Catherine's:** F Neville 5-0, K Murphy 1-0, R O'Callaghan 0-1.

**Team:** L Bumstar, N O'Donoghue, C Clancy, A Ahern, R O'Callaghan, A O'Keefe (capt), J Mangin, K Hannan, F Cotter, S Barry, K Murphy, S Gallagher, C Kearney, F Neville, E Neville. **Subs:** K Mellerick, A Doyle, F Feeney, E Murphy.

**Minor All-Ireland final:** Well done to Deirdre Twomey and Denise Leahy who lined out with Cork's minor team who were defeated by Kilkenny in this year's All Ireland Final which took place in Clonmel.

**GLEN ROVERS**

**U13:** Great credit to our young second U13 team who played two games in the space of 24 hours as we entertained visitors Passage in the first game and here our visitors, who were fielding their first choice team, ran out winners after a game where our girls stood up and were counted and enjoyed their hour's camogie.

It was upwards and onwards the following day as we made the journey up to visit St Vincent's where we met the club's second U13 team. Both sides were equally matched in a superb game where both sides, despite coming close, failed to grab the all-important score and so it ended all square, a fitting result for two sides who were totally committed and determined and who really enjoyed their game.

**U13 final:** Our first U13 team were to play the Seandún U13 A final against Douglas on Wednesday night last under lights but the



Carrigaline celebrate their victory over Killeagh in the Cork County U16 B camogie final at Rathcormac.

Picture: Howard Crowley

# Buttevant prove too strong for Dillon's

Buttevant  
Brian Dillon's

5-7  
1-3

By MARY NEWMAN  
Camogie

**A POLISHED performance** saw Buttevant advance to the Junior B league final after they overcame the challenge of Brian Dillon's last weekend.

Buttevant set the pace of the game, with two first-half goals.

Tracy O'Reilly found the net with a superbly struck 20-metre free after 20 minutes.

Niamh Curran found the net five

minutes later to put her side in the driving seat early on.

Before those goals Fiona O'Connell had got the game off to a good start for the Buttevant girls with a point after just seven minutes.

Therese Drummond contributed three first-half points for Brian Dillon's as they battled against the strong Buttevant defence.

Through the opening half the Brian Dillon's defence worked hard under enormous pressure.

Deirdre Ring, Amanda Dorgan

and Anthea O'Brien with very much to the fore.

Buttevant led by four points at the interval 2-1 to 0-3.

A goal from Jane Dooley opened the second-half well for Brian Dillon's, but the overall strength of Buttevant was to the fore.

Michelle O'Keefe pointing after two minutes.

Triona O'Connell added a goal and a point, before Michelle O'Keefe set up Tracy O'Reilly for a point as Buttevant extended their advantage.

Triona O'Connell proved a handful for the overworked Brian Dillon defence when she struck for two fur-

ther goals to seal the deal for her side.

Eimear Healy added two points to ensure no way back for the Brian Dillon's girls as Buttevant set up a final with neighbour's Mallow.

**BUTTEVANT:** D O'Keefe; J O'Callaghan, S Breen, M Lee, K Burke, T Roche, E Harrington; D Farrell, F O'Connell; T O'Reilly, N Curran, N Walsh, M O'Keefe, A Sheehan, T O'Connell.

**Subs:** E Healy for A Sheehan (50); A Madigan for T O'Reilly (55); A Cronin for N Walsh (55); S Buckley for M Lee (55); J Buckley for K Burke (55).

**BRIAN DILLONS:** L O'Mahony; A O'Brien, O Lawrence, A Dorgan, E Keane, D Ring, SK Brosnan; T Drummond, C Dooley; T Deane, M Kelly, G O'Connell, J Dooley, E Lane, C O'Mahony.

**Sub:** S Cotter for C O'Mahony.

due to Liz O'Mahony's brilliant saves in goal. Therese Drummond's frees were extremely accurate and wonderfully on target.

The situation deteriorated for Enniskeane as all forwards especially Megan Kelly and Therese Deane put their defence under huge pressure. Susan-Kate Brosnan did enormous work controlling the midfield area. Good luck in semi-final.

**Scorers for Brian Dillon's:** Therese Drummond: 0-4, Therese Deane: 1-1, Susan-Kate Brosnan: 0-1, Emma Lane: 1-1.

**Team:** Liz O'Mahony, Anthea O'Brien, Orla Lawrence, Amanda Dorgan, Emer Keane, Deirdre Ring, Susan-Kate Brosnan, Therese Drummond, Clair Dooley, Therese Deane, Megan Kelly, Gillian O'Connell, Jane Dooley, Emma Lane, Lucy Bradford.

**Junior B League semi-final v Buttevant:** Brian Dillon's fought hard in a tough first-half. All players gave a very solid performance with only four points between the teams at half-time.

The backline made up Anthea O'Brien, Deirdre Ring and Amanda Dorgan was very solid. A goal from Jane Dooley opened the second half. Buttevant proved the stronger team in the second half but Dillon's still fought with passion. Free taker Therese Drummond proved deadly. Forwards Megan Kelly and Therese Deane played very well and gave it their all. Emma Lane and Susan Brosnan also played well. Claire O'Mahony battled valiantly. A disappointing match for the Dillon's ladies.

**Team:** Liz O'Mahony, Anthea O'Brien, Orla Lawrence, Amanda Dorgan, Emer Keane, Deirdre Ring, Susan-Kate Brosnan, Therese Drummond, Clair Dooley, Therese Deane, Megan Kelly, Gillian O'Connell, Jane Dooley, Emma Lane, Claire O'Mahony.

**Subs:** Sarah Cotter for Claire O'Mahony, Aisling Russell, Emma Burns.

**Half-time score:** Brian Dillon's: 0-3 Buttevant: 2-1

**Full-time score:** Brian Dillon's: 1-3 Buttevant: 5-7

**Scorers for Brian Dillon's:** Therese Drummond: 0-3, Jane Dooley: 1-0.

game was postponed Training continues Wed and Friday nights at 5.30pm

**U16:** Pride of place this week without a doubt to our very young U16 second team who recorded a superb victory in their county league semi-final over county champions Bishopstown. Having suffered the heartbreak of a one-point defeat in the championship semi-final to Barryroe, the girls were determined to make amends but knew it would be tough when we heard Bishopstown had recorded a big win in the county final over Barryroe.

Undeterred by this, we set off to Bishopstown having lost the toss for venue and in a close opening half we led at the break by two points.

Alison Dowling and Lee Ann O'Sullivan getting vital scores. Bishopstown grabbed a goal to take the lead but we failed to panic. Leann O'Sullivan striking a great point before the pressure eventually told as captain Aisling Noonan led the way finishing the ball to the Bishopstown net.

Our defence had to withstand severe pressure before the referee sounded the final whistle to see our girls safely through to the finals where we will meet Youghal today Saturday in Dungourney at 3pm. Best of Luck girls Support welcome at this game.

**Minor team:** Our minor (U18) team have qualified for the semi final of the championship where we will meet Valley Rovers the game takes place tomorrow Sunday at Glen Rovers at 2.30pm and again good luck to our team. Support welcome for this game.

**Indoor coaching session:** Recently we hosted an indoor coaching session and wall ball work shop which has been organised by Deirdre Murphy regional camogie development officer. Our members were joined by Na Piarasigh and Rockbawn as we hosted the session for our area which was enjoyed by all present.

**Sympathy:** Our sincere sympathy goes to Joe Crowley on the death of his wife Maura. Joe has been one of our stalwarts, repairing the hurleys for both the boys and girls and always there to support our teams. Our sympathy to Joe in this sad occasion. Condolences also to the family of the late Johnnie Clifford a former great with the club and whose wife Louise also lined out for our camogie club.

**Congratulations:** Congratulations to Emma Harte on the birth of her son Dylan.

**GAA clubs draw:** By now all members of the GAA clubs draw should have got their receipts and information regarding the new draw which started this weekend with the Sept/Oct draws being held together. Anybody renewing their membership and not already paid up or who still wished to join contact treasurer Deirdre Coleman or secretary Mary Newman

**Training:** senior/ junior/ under 18 teams Monday and Wed 6.30pm  
under 13 to under 16 teams Wednesday and Friday 5.30pm. Beginners up to and including 12 year-olds Sunday 11.45am and Tuesday 5.45pm (Tuesday sessions now held indoors for winter)

New members welcome old faces welcome to rejoin the fun

**BRIAN DILLONS**  
What a semi-final. The score speaks for itself. Huge congratulations go to the Brian Dillon's girls who gave a great performance when faced with a tough challenge.

First half goals by Orla Ni Shuilleabhain and points by Clair Dooley and Jane Dooley had Dillon's leading by two points at half-time.

The second-half was a hard fought match with Dillon's girls working to cut the deficit with Clair Dooley scoring 1-5 and Michelle Ring scoring 1-0. There was only a point between the two teams when the whistle blew.

This was nail-biting stuff and fair play to the Dillon's girls who kept fighting until the end. Saoirse Rodgers must be one of the best goalkeepers ever and if you saw the way she saved scores under immense pressure between the posts you'd have to say she's a legend. Well done to you all and good luck in the final.

**First Half Score:** Brian Dillon's: 2-3 St Catherine's: 2-1

**Full-time Score:** Brian Dillon's: 4-8 St Catherine's: 6-1

**Scorers for Brian Dillon's:** Jane Dooley: 0-2, Orla Ni Shuilleabhain: 2-0, Clair Dooley: 1-5, Michelle Ring: 1-0.

**Team:** Sara Attridge, Lucy Bradford, Susan-Kate Brosnan, Emma Burns, Donna Carroll, Sarah Cotter, Clair Dooley, Orla Ni Shuilleabhain, Rebecca Myers, Eadaoin Kelly.

**Subs:** Denise O'Flynn, Rebecca O'Mahony, Michelle Ring, Jane Dooley, Saoirse Rodgers, Kate O'Brien, Nicole Gleeson, Aoife

REDMOND (nee Keegan), Ella Dublin  
Nov. 27, 2007, aged 96 years



## Glittering occasion: stars of camogie lauded at awards ceremony



Above: the Energise Camogie All-Stars, back row, from left: Cork's Gemma O'Connor; Tipperary's Philly Fogarty; Galway's Veronica Curtin; Derry's Aisling Diamond; Cork's Jennifer O'Leary; Wexford's Kate Kelly; Tipperary's Claire Grogan; Wexford's Una Leacy and Cork's Caitriona Foley. Front row: Wexford's Mags D'Arcy; Dublin's Eimear Brannigan; Wexford's Catherine O'Loughlin; guest of honour Ireland rugby star Gordon D'Arcy; Uachtarán Chumann Camógalocta na nGael Liz Howard; Cork's Rena Buckley; Limerick's Rose Collins and Wexford's Mary Leacy. Left: Anna Geary, Cork; Niamh Mulcahy, Limerick, and Eileen O'Brien, Limerick. Right: Cork's Rena Buckley, left, and Una Leacy, Wexford.

Pictures: Ray McManus



## Tipperary Camogie



Tipperary winners Philly Fogarty, left, Claire Grogan with Liz Howard, Uachtarán Chumann Camógalocta na nGael, at the Energise Sport Camogie All-Star Awards 2007 in association with O'Neills, Citywest Hotel, Conference, Leisure & Golf Resort, Saggart, Co. Dublin.

### ALL STARS

Congratulations to Claire Grogan and Philly Fogarty who received All Stars for their performance for Tipperary throughout the season.

The girls were honoured on Sat night last in the City West where the All Star team was named.

Nov. 2007



PRIDE: Mary Leacy of Wexford gets her Energise Camogie All Star award from Gordon D'Arcy in the company of Camogie President Liz Howard



Nov. 2007



Jennifer O'Leary, Rena Buckley, Gemma O'Connor and Catriona Foley, with Liz Howard, second from right, Uachtarán Chumann Camógaíochta na nGael, at the Energise Sport Camogie All-Star Awards 2007 in association with O'Neills. Picture: Ray McManus / SPORTSFILE

## Champs lead role of honour with five All Stars

### Camogie

ALL-IRELAND champions Wexford scooped five Energise Sport Camogie All-Stars over the weekend when the winners were announced at the Citywest Hotel in Dublin.

All-Ireland finalists and League winners Cork took home four, Tipperary two and Derry, Dublin, Galway and Limerick claimed one All-Star each.

Mary and Una Leacy from Wexford made history when they became the first sisters to win Camogie All-Stars.

They were joined by Gala All-Ireland Championship top scorer Kate Kelly, goalkeeper Mags D'Arcy and defender Catherine O'Loughlin.

Cork duo Gemma O'Connor, in midfield, and Jennifer O'Leary, in the forwards, received a record fourth successive award, while team-mates Rena Buckley and Catriona Foley were also named in the backs.

### Winning

Derry and Limerick claimed their first All-Star awards when Aisling Diamond, who scored the winning goal in the All-Ireland Junior final, was named in the forward six.

Rose Collins was named in the backs following the Treaty County's league and championship double.

Tipperary won two All-Stars with Philly Fogarty named at midfield, while Claire Grogan won her third All-Star in the forwards.

Galway forward Veronica Curtin picked her second All Star while Dublin back Eimear Brannigan won her first to complete this year's Energise Sport Camogie All-Star team.

Wexford were further honoured when Stella Sinnott was named as the O'Neills Camogie Manager of the Year for guiding her side to their first All-Ireland success in 32 years.

The Young Player of the Year went to Niamh Mulcahy of Limerick.

### ENERGISE SPORT CAMOGIE ALL-STARS 2007

**Goalkeeper** — Mags D'Arcy (Wexford); **Backs** — Eimear Brannigan (Dublin), Catherine O'Loughlin (Wexford), Rose Collins (Limerick), Rena Buckley (Cork), Mary Leacy (Wexford), Catriona Foley (Cork); **Midfield** — Philly Fogarty (Tipperary), Gemma O'Connor (Cork); **Forwards** — Veronica Curtin (Galway), Aisling Diamond (Derry), Jennifer O'Leary (Cork), Kate Kelly (Wexford), Claire Grogan (Tipperary), Una Leacy (Wexford).

**O'NEILLS CAMOGIE MANAGER OF THE YEAR**  
Stella Sinnott (Wexford)

**O'NEILLS CAMOGIE YOUNG PLAYER OF THE YEAR**  
Niamh Mulcahy (Limerick)

## Cork football and camogie players honoured



ABOVE: Rena Buckley (centre), camogie and ladies football all-star with her parents Tim and Helen Buckley at the GAA Cork Ladies Lunch at Rochestown Park Hotel. Picture: Patrick Hogan/Provision

RIGHT: Footballer Briege Corkery who was presented with the Vodafone GAA All Star Players of the Month Award for October. Picture: Brendan Moran / SPORTSFILE





## Foley and Buckley get All Star honours

by Peter Ledwith

RENA Buckley and Catriona Foley were among the four Cork players named in the 2007 Energise Camogie All Stars Awards announced in the Citywest Hotel, Dublin on Saturday last. Rena, who was the 2006 Corkman Supreme Sports Award winner, plays for the Inniscarra club.

Catriona, recently led Muskerry to the Cork Senior title, and next Sunday lines out her club Rockbawn in the county senior B semi final against Valley Rovers. The other Cork players to receive awards were Gemma O'Connor and Jennifer O'Leary.



Rena Buckley, Cork, is presented with her Energise Camogie All-Star award by the Guest of Honour - Ireland and Leinster rugby player - Gordon D'Arcy in the company of Liz Howard, Uachtaran Chumann Camogieochta na nGael, at the Energise Sport Camogie All-Star Awards 2007

PICTURE: RAY MCMAHON / SPORTSFILE

# Victory for Douglas in Evening Echo Senior B

Douglas 1-15  
Valley Rovers 1-6

by Mary Newman

A STRONG second half display ensured Douglas were crowned Evening Echo Senior B camogie champions as they defeated Valley Rovers in an exciting final in Tracton. The excellent playing surface aided the game as both sides gave it their all in quest of the title. Valleys, having lost out in last year's final, were devastated at the final whistle, but credit was due to Douglas, who got the blend just right. Their younger players worked well this season with the more experienced players to acquire the club's first Senior B title.

Amanda O'Regan at centre back was outstanding for Douglas as she turned defence into attack with her long clearances, which put the Valley Rovers defence under constant pressure. It was nip and tuck as both sides battled to gain control. Elaine Burke gave Valleys an early lead with a point, but Douglas struck four without reply, Eileen Morgan with one and Katriona Mackey striking three in a row as Douglas settled. With 10 minutes to the break, Valley upped the pace and were back on level terms, with points from Liz Bugler, Majella McCarthy and Lucy Hawkes putting

Douglas under pressure. Douglas hit back and finished the half with points from Moira O'Donovan and Katriona Mackey to give them a two point lead, 0-6 to 0-4.

Valley Rovers got the second half off to a great start, with Elma O'Mahony finishing the ball over the Douglas line with their first attack. But Douglas responded, with Katriona Mackey pointing in replay. Two points from Elaine Burke saw the advantage again with the Innishannon girls, but Amanda O'Regan

steadied Douglas nerves, striking a long-range free between the posts. A minute later, Katriona Mackey converted a close in free and it was level again.

With Amanda O'Regan dominant at centre back, Valley Rovers were finding it difficult to break down the Douglas rearguard, and with their forwards piling on the pressure, the Valley defence were feeling the strain. Amanda O'Regan converted a 45 before Katriona Mackey pointed a free. Deirdre Murphy struck a

point between frees and now Douglas controlled matters.

With the gap now at three points, Valley Rovers needed scores and they almost snatched an equaliser, but Amanda O'Regan neatly tidied up after her back line had scrambled to safety. Douglas swept up field, with Deirdre Murphy neatly picking up O'Regan's clearance and striking on the run to the Valley Rovers net. Now in control, Douglas turned the final screws with Julia White, Katriona Mackey and Amanda O'Regan

to secure the title for Douglas.

Amanda O'Regan was named a Player of the Match following a superb display which helped in no small way secure Douglas's victory.

And so, heartbreak again for Valley Rovers, who gave it their all and contributed enormously to an excellent game, but for the second year in a row tasted defeat, having lost out last year to St Catherine's.

Douglas certainly deserved their hour of glory this year. Building on the strength of their successful underage sides of recent years, it was nonetheless the contribution of players such as Amanda and Louise O'Regan, Eileen Morgan, Sarah O'Regan, Helen O'Mahony and captain Fiona Mc Sweeney, who brought vital experience and blended it in with the youthfulness of the Mackeys, Murphy and White to form a winning combination.

## Easy win for a strong Douglas

Douglas 3-5  
Ballygarvan 0-5

DOUGLAS also took the Junior Shield title for the first time, as they proved too strong for Ballygarvan in a highly entertaining match. Ballygarvan led at the half-time whistle by two points, 0-4 to 0-2, after they took the lead from the sixth minute, with three points from Rachel Keohane and one from Michelle Donovan putting Douglas under pressure. Jill Kelleher pointed a Douglas free, and she struck a second before the interval to ensure Douglas kept in touch.

On resumption, Douglas set about getting into the game — a point from Jenny O'Donovan cut Ballygarvan's lead to just a point.

Substitute Clara Kavanagh made her presence felt quickly when she gave Douglas the lead with a goal, and now having gained the upper hand, Douglas took control.

Ballygarvan battled hard, with Lorraine Browne adding a point to their tally, but they could find no way past the much improved Douglas defence. In attack, Clara Kavanagh and Jenny O'Donovan struck a point each before two goals from substitute Orla Curtin

ensured the title was secured on a 3-5 to 0-5 score line.

**Douglas:** D. Boyle; N. Leo, U. Dunphy, S. Long, C. Murphy, C. O'Driscoll, T. McCarthy; M. O'Mahony, C. Murphy; A. O'Donovan, J. Kelleher, C. Clarke, R. O'Sullivan, J. O'Donovan, A. Cotter. Subs: C. Kavanagh for R. O'Sullivan (34); D. Connolly for U. Dunphy (39); C. Lynch for N. Leo (41); O. Curtin for A. Cotter (42); L. McCarthy for C. Murphy (46). Scorers: O. Curtin 2-0, C. Kavanagh 1-1, J. O'Donovan 0-2, J. Kelleher 0-2.

**Ballygarvan:** A. Keohane; G. Lynch, (C) B. Browne, L. O'Callaghan, D. O'Mahony, B. Keohane, R. Ni Shee; M. Moynihan, K. O'Sullivan; L. Browne, A. Browne, A. Byrne, C. Dillon, R. Keohane, M. Dunne. Subs: L. Kenefick for R. Ni Shee (34); C. Oulligan for C. Dillon (42); M. Keohane for M. Dunne (45); F. O'Halloran for D. O'Mahony (49). Scorers: R. Keohane 0-4, M. Dunne and L. Browne 0-1 each.

**DOUGLAS:** J. Kavanagh; S. O'Regan, F. Mc Sweeney (c), P. Mackey, A. Barrett, A. O'Regan, L. O'Regan; D. Murphy, H. O'Mahony; J. White, K. Mackey, E. Morgan, M. O'Donovan, E. Jordan. Sub: S. O'Leary for S. O'Brien (40). Scorers: K. Mackey 0-8 (0-4f 0-4p), D. Murphy 1-1, A. O'Regan 0-3 (0-2f 0-1 45"), J. White, M. O'Donovan & Morgan 0-1 each.

**VALLEY ROVERS:** G. Harrington, A. O'Callaghan, C. Deasy, L. Davis, A. Coughlan, L. Hawkes, A. M. Murphy (c), M. A. Hawkes, M. McCarthy; O. Deasy, M. Cottrill, L. Bugler, E. O'Mahony, E. Burke, E. Foley. Sub: E. Butler for E. Foley (25). E. Coughlan for A.M. Murphy (31). Valley Rovers: E. Burke 0-3 (0-1f 0-2p), E. O'Mahony 1-0, M. McCarthy, L. Hawkes, L. Bugler 0-1 each.

Referee: James Birmingham (Bride Rovers).

# Lovett breaks O'Neills' heart as 'Collig impress

Ballincollig 2-6  
Fr O'Neills 2-2

BALLINCOLLIG and Fr O'Neill's served up an entertaining hour as they replayed their Evening Echo Junior 'A' championship semi-final in Rathcormac. A week earlier it finished all square in a low scoring contest but this time out the Ballincollig girls made no mistake to book their place in the final. Fr O'Neill's set the pace through the opening half but Ballincollig re-

sponded well and in the finish they had four points to spare.

Nora Ahern pointed to open the scoring but Ballincollig responded with an Ashley Lovett point after four minutes. Inside the opening ten minutes Ciara McGrath gave Fr O'Neill's an early advantage when she finished to the Ballincollig net. Now in the driving seat the east Cork girls held the upper hand as Ballincollig struggled to keep pace. They fell further behind when Nora Ahern struck for Fr O'Neill's second

goal as they continued to hold all the aces.

Sarah Buckley pointed a free and now there was five points between the sides but with half-time approaching Ballincollig began to get to grips and it was 2-1 to 0-2 in favour of Fr O'Neill's at the break.

Sarah Buckley converted a free to narrow the margin on the resumption but O'Neill's replied swiftly as Nora Ahern showed her accuracy pointing a free, Ciara McSwiney struck for a vital goal for Ballincollig

and Ashley Lovett kept the pressure on hitting a superb point to minimise the gaps between the team.

With their defence on top and their midfielders delivering great ball to their forwards, Ballincollig hit the front. Ashley Lovett struck an excellent goal to put Ballincollig two points ahead. Fr. O'Neill's struggled to stay in touch but found the lively Ballincollig were too much to handle. Two points from Denise Cronin ensured their place in the final against Killeagh.

**FR O'NEILLS:** G. Kearney; C. O'Leary, L. Sweetnam, C. Day, Y. Murphy, N. Ahern U. Day; F. Wiggins, K. Harrington; S. Kearney, S. Harrington, K. O'Sullivan, K. Ahern, D. O'Leary C. McGrath. Subs E. Sweeney for F. Wiggins, F. Wiggins for K. O'Sullivan, C. Phelan for K. Ahern. Scorers: N. Ahern 1-2 (0-2f) C. McGrath 1-0.

**BALLINCOLLIG:** T. O'Donnell; B. O'Callaghan, A. Kiely (c), A. Coughlan, A. Cotter, L. Weste, K. O'Donoghue; S. Buckley, E. Nolan; A. Lovett, M. O'Donoghue, P. Buttiner, C. Ryan, D. Cronin, C. McSwiney.

Subs O. Ni Chasaigh for P. Buttiner, M. O'Sullivan for C. McSwiney.

Scorers: Ciara McSwiney 1-0, A. Lovett 1-2, D. Cronin 0-2, S. Buckley 0-2f.

Referee: John O'Leary, Mallow.



Nov. 2007

## All Ireland Camogie Club Final

# It's Cashel's day of glory ... at last

### All-Ireland Camogie Club Final

**Cashel 1-18  
Athenry 0-9**

By Gerry Slevin at the Gaelic Grounds  
Photographs by Bridget Delaney

Much easier than expected but for all that, a tremendous feeling of elation in the knowledge that at long last, the most earnest desire in Cashel camogie, the capture of the All-Ireland senior club trophy was achieved. Such was the reaction of the blue and gold clad players in Limerick's Gaelic Grounds on Sunday when Armagh referee Frank McDonald sounded the long whistle.

It was never a secret that Cashel yearned for this accolade, having gone to within a point back in 2001, and with ten of that side back in action on Sunday it was going to take much more than Athenry had in the tank to stop them. Alas, from the Galway side's viewpoint their tank was emptied by half time when they found themselves 0-5 to 0-7 in arrears. In a four minute spell immediately after the break Cashel lofted over four points and the easing away process had begun in earnest. It now became only a matter of what the final margin would be as the Cashel machine, beautifully oiled, proceeded to stamp its authority nail on the day's proceedings.

It was 0-12 to 0-6 after nine minutes, 0-15 to 0-6 at the end of the third quarter, 1-18 to 0-6 eight minutes after that. Game well and truly over. Then, some understandable slackness set in in the Cashel defence and three points were conceded. They were only face saving scores for a well-beaten opposition that had tried so valiantly throughout but which had come up short in terms of strength, balance and scoring know-how.

It's over forty years since the All-Ireland club title came to the Premier County, St Patrick's, Glengoole winning in 1965 and '66. The Cashel status of recent years clearly suggested that if this gap was ever to be breached, they would be the team to do it. And yet they entered Sunday's final as underdogs, not because of any doubts about the Tipp and Munster champions abilities but because Athenry had shocked the reigning champions St Lachtain's, Freshford in the semi final.

On Sunday they were never allowed to display

the attributes they showed then, Cashel making sure that their preparatory work had covered everything and taking the game to their rivals from the start. Peppered with county stars and All-Ireland medal winners Cashel oozed confidence and flair, their back up play superb, the deployment of their forces to meet the expected threats of the opposition very well executed.

Full back Una O'Dwyer was sent out to the centre back berth to take on Athenry's greatest threat Therese Maher. The Galway captain tried very hard but lacked support around her. Along with that, the Cashel defence as a unit was extremely solid and the amount of ball released was a god-send to an eager and accurate attack.

The opening quarter was even enough, Cashel leading 0-3 to 0-2 at the end of it. Midfielder Philly Fogarty whose partnership with Jill Horan was highly productive then moved to the corner in a swap with Claire Grogan, the move proving to be a very valuable one, both from the viewpoint of both players and what it did for Cashel as a team. Philly soloed her way through and ended it with a fine point. She also accepted a well delivered hand pass from Emily Hayden to add another while it took a fine save from the Athenry keeper to deprive her of a goal. Certainly, Philly was providing headaches for the Athenry defence and such would continue well into the second half when she had now moved to the full forward position.

As for Claire Grogan, she opened up to deliver lethal blows to the Athenry morale with her speed, her long deliveries and, of course, her expert free taking. Claire was an ideal support for Jill Horan's excellent running performance.

How the second half would begin was going to be crucial. Clearly, the Cashel plan was to take control straight from the throw-in and that was exactly what happened. A Cora Hennessy point after twenty seconds and one each from Alison Lonergan, Philly Fogarty and Emily



Cashel senior camogie team that defeated Athenry in the All-Ireland club Final at the Gaelic Grounds on Sunday last. Back row: (l to r) - Julie McGrath, Philly Fogarty, Helen Breen, Mairead Morrissey, Claire Grogan, Noelette O'Dwyer, Linda Grogan. Seated: Jill Horan, Alison Lonergan, Sarah Morrissey, Sinead Millea (captain), Emily Hayden, Paula Buffin, Cora Hennessy, Una O'Dwyer.



Player of the match Philly Fogarty moves away from Athenry's Catherine Glynn at the Gaelic Grounds.

Hayden in quick succession gave clear indication of what the end result would be. Laura Linnane pointed an Athenry free after eight minutes but it failed to do anything for a dispirited side that was finding itself overrun by the superior strength and all-round skill of a rampant Cashel team. Points followed almost at will and seven minutes from the end the icing came when Mairead Morrissey and Philly Fogarty combined to provide Emily Hayden with the opportunity for the game's only goal, one she did not shirk. The closing minutes, with the Billy Carroll Cup well and truly secured, allowed the Cashel mentors to give a

run to some great stalwarts like Libby Twomey, Kaiffe Moloney and Deirdre Ryan. The final whistle brought the inevitable explosion of relief and delight from the team and supporters as team captain Sinead Millea received the trophy from National Camogie President Liz Howard.

A great day for Cashel, therefore. A great day for Tipperary camogie too and, hopefully, the catalyst that will see the Premier County back on top of the inter-county ladder very soon. Each player gave it everything on Sunday, a star studded team showing composure, flair, strength and ability in abundance. And if such as Philly

Fogarty, Sinead Millea, Claire Grogan, Cora Hennessy, Jill Horan, Una O'Dwyer, Mairead Morrissey and Emily Hayden figured more in the limelight, the remainder of the team were no less imaginative and effective in their contributions, generously bringing about an All-Ireland winning performance, truly deserving of the spoils.

What an occasion too for team manager T.J. Connolly. He had his homework done efficiently and well. Nothing was left to chance and the end result was all that could have been hoped for as Cashel, at last, reached their long desired goal.



Cashel camogie captain Sinead Millea holds the All-Ireland Club Cup after leading her side to their first All-Ireland senior title.

## Match Digest

**Player of the Match:** Philly Fogarty (Cashel)

**Scorers:** Cashel: C. Grogan 0-7 (2 45s, 2 frees) E. Hayden 1-2, P. Fogarty 0-3, A. Lonergan, C. Hennessy, 0-2 each. L. Grogan and M. Morrissey 0-1 each.

**Athenry:** L. Linnane 0-4 (3 frees), J. Gill 0-2 (1 free), D. Ward 0-2, K. Glynn 0-1.

Cashel had nine wides in the hour to their opponents four. They also forced a 45 in each half and were awarded ten frees, four less than Athenry.

**Cashel:** Helen Breen, Sarah Morrissey, Noelette O'Dwyer, Julie McGrath, Paula Buffin, Una O'Dwyer, Sinead Millea (captain), Philly Fogarty, Jill Horan, Linda Grogan, Mairead Morrissey, Cora Hennessy, Alison Lonergan, Emily Hayden, Claire Grogan. Subs: Libby Twomey for Alison Lonergan, Deirdre Ryan for Sarah Morrissey, Kaiffe Moloney for Emily Hayden.

**Athenry:** Stephanie Gannon, Katherine Glynn, Alice Poniard, Dorelle Coen, Regina Glynn, Krystel Ruddy, Emma Costello, Sarah Donohue, Laura Linnane, Jessica Gill, Therese Maher (captain), Sharon Quirke, Mary Keogh, Nicola Nally, Noreen Coen. Subs: Deirdre Ward for N. Nally, Katie O'Dwyer for K. Ruddy.

**Referee:** Frank McDonald, Armagh.



# Lovett is hero as Ballincollig reach final

By MARY NEWMAN

Junior A camogie final

Ballincollig	2-6
Fr O'Neill's	2-2

BALLINCOLLIG reached their first ever Junior A camogie final after a thrilling comeback and excellent second-half performance to defeat Fr O'Neill's at Rathcormac.

A week earlier it had finished all square in a low-scoring contest, but this time out the Ballincollig women made no mistake as they turned a five-point half-time deficit into a four-point win to set up a meeting with Killeagh, two weeks from tomorrow.

As had been the case in the 0-5 apiece draw the previous week, Ballincollig had better chances and more possession, but the O'Neill's defence was solid.

However, Ashley Lovett played a vital role for Ballincollig in the half-forward line, smashing a brilliant late goal to ensure victory and also pointing two neat points from play. Aoife Cotter and Leah Weste were dominant in the half-back line, while Maria O'Donoghue and Denise Cronin were to the fore in the final quarter.

O'Neill's had a blistering start.

Nora Ahern pointed an early free before Ciara McGrath and Nora Ahern capitalised on mistakes to plunder two goals and drive O'Neill's into a 2-1 to 0-1 lead after only 15 minutes.

Ballincollig dug deep and a Sarah Buckley pointed free gave the mid Cork side hope. With half-time looming Ballincollig began to settle and win more possession but still trailed 2-1 to 0-2 at the break.

Ballincollig opened the second half in the best possible manner as Sarah Buckley converted a free to narrow the margin but O'Neill's replied swiftly through Nora Ahern, who again showed her accuracy pointing a free.

But Ballincollig took control of the game and Ciara McSweeney struck for a vital goal to leave them 2-2 to 1-2 in arrears.

In a pivotal moment O'Neill's swept up field and were unlucky as a shot came off the upright and bounced wide.

Then Ashley Lovett hit a superb point at the other end.

With their half-backs on top and driving great ball into their forwards, Ballincollig hit the front.

After the winners fluffed a handful of goal chances, Ashley Lovett got possession inside the 21 and rifled the sliothar into the net.

O'Neill's struggled to stay in touch and two points from Denise Cronin ensured their place in the final against Killeagh.

**Scorers for Ballincollig:** A Lovett 1-2, Ciara McSweeney 1-0, D Cronin 0-2, S Buckley 0-2.

**Fr O'Neill's:** N Ahern 1-2 (0-2 f), C McGrath 1-0.

**BALLINCOLLIG:** T O'Donnell; B O'Callaghan, A Kiehy, A Coughlan, A Cotter, L Weste, K O'Donoghue, S Buckley, E Nolan, A Lovett, M O'Donoghue, P Buttimer, C Ryan, D Cronin, C McSweeney. **Subs:** O Ni Chasaigh for Buttimer, M O'Sullivan for McSweeney.

**FR O'NEILL'S:** G Kearney, C O'Leary, L Sweetnam, C Day, Y Murphy, N Ahern, U Day, F Wiggins, K Harrington, S Kearney, S Harrington, K O'Sullivan, K Ahern, D O'Leary, C McGrath. **Subs:** E Swayne for Wiggins, Wiggins for O'Sullivan, C Phelan for K Ahern.

Ref: John O'Leary, (Mallow).



Liz Howard, Uachtarán Chumann Camógaíochta na nGael, presents the Bill Carroll Cup to Sinead Millea, Cashel captain.

Picture: Stephen McCarthy / SPORTSFILE

# Cashel win has black-and-amber hue for captain

CASHEL, backboned by eight senior All-Ireland medal holders, became All-Ireland club champions for the first time in their history when they defeated Athenry of Galway 1-18 to 0-9 in the Gaelic Grounds, Limerick last Sunday.

The Bill Carroll Cup has not rested in the Premier county since St Patrick's, Drumgoole made it back to back victories in 1965 and 1966 and then the Tipperary ladies had to call on a Kilkenny intercounty player Ann Carroll to assist them in their victory.

Cashel's captain Sinead Millea also played with the Black and Amber.

There was no doubt about the outcome of this final in the Gaelic Grounds as the Cashel back room team had their homework done and smartly moved player of the match and 2007 All-Star, Philly Fogarty from midfield to corner-forward, a move that allowed Tipperary's only other All-Star of 2007, Claire Grogan to move out to midfield where she played very effectively between the half-forwards and mid-field area.

Athenry, who were seeking their second ever title and their first since 1977 tried hard, but their cap-



tain and Galway senior star Therese Maher was given little room when Una O'Dwyer moved from her starting position of full-back to centre-back to curb the classy Maher.

It worked, the Galway player was held scoreless.

The opening half saw the Con-naught champions give it their all as they just trailed by two points at the break, 0-5 to Cashel's 0-7. By the second half it appeared they just did not have enough steam left to curb the fast and hungry Cashel girls who had full-forward Emily Hayden to thank for their only goal of the day in the 23rd minute of the second half when, once again, inspirational Claire Grogan was the girl on hand to pass to Hayden who smashed to the net.

With captain fantastic Sinead Millea having a great game at left half back, Jill Horan at midfield and Claire Grogan up front, it was not long before the Cashel machine made life very difficult for the Galway champions, who having defeated last year's champions St

Lachtain's of Kilkenny in the semi-final may have thought this was going to be their year. A delighted Cashel captain Sinead Millea was presented with the cup by Uachtarán Chumann Camógaíochta na nGael, Liz Howard.

She could not hide her happiness after the game. "It is just a great feeling, a crowning glory, I always hoped for a club All-Ireland medal and now I am just thrilled," commented the player who is the proud holder of two All-Ireland medals, National League, an All-Star, as well as Gael-Linn Interprovincial medals — all with her native Kilkenny.

A striking difference between the sides was the fact that of Athenry's total scoreline, four of their scores came from frees, while only two of Cashel's eighteen points came from frees, with two further scores coming from 45s.

There was no dispute on this occasion as to who the eventual winners would be.

Will this be the inspiration Tipperary need to become a force once again on the inter-county scene? Only time will tell.

Speaking of 2008, the Cork Annual Camogie convention is on December 6.

As of this minute the Cork senior team do not have a manager, coach

or selector. John Cronin, Fiona O'Driscoll and selector Lillian Zinkant have all stepped down after a highly successful three years at the helm.

Muskerry, having won the county title, will be afforded a selector and as of yet I don't think anyone has expressed an interest out in mid Cork. In fact they may not have discussed it yet, given that they only won the title two weeks ago, and the fact that Ballincollig, Éire Óg and Rockbawn were all in junior A and senior B action since.

Managing the Cork senior team is an honour and Cork should have little trouble in filling the position. However the county board and senior panel should put their thinking caps on about who they would like in the role and not just accept anyone.

People won't come up and offer their services, particularly those who aren't involved in camogie at present but once you pick up the phone and ask them if they would consider the role, you'd be amazed at the response. If we leave this too late, we will lose out on top quality managers.

We need to think outside the box for this one and possibly fill it with someone outside camogie.

Remember what Michael Cleary did for Tipp?



# Harps play victory tune

## ALL-IRELAND JUNIOR CLUB CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

At Stabannon, Co. Louth

THE HARPS 2-8  
KEADY 2-7

BY COILIN DUFFY

VICTORY is sweet, sweeter when it's taken in circumstances like this All-Ireland final victory for The Harps which took a huge display of grit, determination and heart before the Cullough/Durrow outfit eventually took the silverware.

Aine Mahony will be forever remembered for that last

gasp 64th minute winning point that place The Harps Camogie club in the annals of Gaelic Games history as the first Leinster team to achieve back-to-back successes in this competition, only the second club overall to do it; and also maintain an impressive unbeaten record outside the O'Moore County.

The Phil McBride Cup was once again in the grasp of The Harps on Sunday night and deservedly so after they came from a 1-4 to 0-1 deficit after 16 minutes to take a 1-5 to 1-4 interval lead and from there The Harps knew they had it in them to dig deep and claim victory.

It looked as though The Harps had settled early when Louise Mahony scored the first point of the day after two minutes but during a free flowing opening half an hour Keady opened up the contest and impressive displays by midfielder Colleen Conway

and half-forwards Claire Kinsella and eventual Player of the Match Noeleen McKenna, along with goal-scorer Collette McKeever ensured they opened up a six point gap.

But McKeever's 16th minute goal, was to be Keady's final score of the opening half as The Harps hit a purple patch of their own with impressive displays throughout the field.

Goalkeeper Maeve Brophy was getting more confident as the game progressed and produced an excellent display while The Harps were now beginning to get tighter at the back.

Points from chief-scorer Elaine Mahony and her sister Louise cut the gap to four points before a well struck goal from Elaine in the 28th minute after a pass by Teresa Bennett as the full-forward went on a bursting run towards goal before blasting home.

All that was needed was a brace of points to ensure the in-

terval lead and that's what happened with Louise Mahony on target for both scores.

The Harps got off to a perfect start in the second half with Elaine Mahony scoring a second goal following a well placed pass from her sister Aine.

However The Harps were certainly made to work hard for any sniff of the lead and Keady hit hard, showing that they really wanted this title.

The Harps continued to hold the lead but a 40th minute goal from half-forward Michelle Murphy reduced the gap to two points as the Laois outfit were now living dangerously.

A Noeleen McKenna point cut the gap to the minimum two minutes later but it would be a further 15 minutes before the next score was produced as defences got on top.

Laura Mahony and Aoife Donohue were coming under a lot of pressure on the half-

back line at this stage but still gave solid performances while centre-half-forward Erinne Dunne was unlucky not to see her goal shot hit the net with seven minutes of normal time remaining.

A point from midfielder Mairéad Doyle saw Keady level the contest with just four minutes left after Michelle Murphy had an excellent chance to take her second goal from close range.

This game continued to hang in the balance right until the finish as both teams vied hard for scores with players becoming bunched as the battle for possession became very intensive.

The next seven minutes failed to yield a score but eventually Aine Mahony broke the duck to send The Harps supporters into raptures and ensured Caitriona Phelan and Louise Mahony jointly lifted the cup after the game.

**THE HARPS:** Maeve Brophy; Elaine Cuddy, Denise Quigley, Patricia Dunphy; Aoife Donohue, Caitriona Phelan, Laura Mahony; Louise Mahony (0-5, 4f 1 45); Joanne Prior; Theresa Bennett, Erinne Dunne, Claire Walsh; Aine Mahony (0-1), Elaine Mahony (2-2), Angela Hanlon. Sub: Linda Byrne for Walsh (HT).

**KEADY:** Laura Comiskey; Brenda McQuade, Eileen McGrory, Michelle Murray; Colleen Comiskey, Katrina Kinsella, Ciara Keenan; Colleen Conway, Mairéad Doyle (0-1, 1 45); Claire Kinsella (0-3, 1f 1 45); Aine O'Farrell, Noeleen McKenna (0-2); Michelle Murphy (1-0), Collette McKeever (1-1), Patricia McCabe. Sub: Helena Murray for O'Farrell (54)

**REFEREE:** Cathal Egan (Cork)

## MAN OF THE MATCH

Elaine Mahony  
Although Noeleen McKenna of Keady picked up the award on the day from the Camogie Association, there was unquestionably one player who gave huge commitment and an impressive performance. Full-forward Elaine Mahony may not always get the plaudits she deserves but on Sunday she was the top scorer with 2-2 and is fully deserving of the Player of the Match tag.

## SCORE OF THE MATCH

Aine Mahony  
One score sums up this game and the spirit shown by The Harps and that is without doubt Aine Mahony's 64th minute point. This was an excellent point and it was hard to believe it was scored in such testing circumstances as Mahony slotted the ball between the posts with the confidence of a veteran.  
Collette McKeever

## SAVE OF THE MATCH

There were some excellent saves in this game but probably the most crucial one came after just six minutes of the contest when Harps goalkeeper Maeve Brophy pulled off a save from Keady full-forward Collette McKeever. Although McKeever did manage a goal later, Brophy's early stop was crucial as Keady's dominance early on could have caused problems later.



Elaine Cuddy, Harps, Laois, in action against Collette McKeever, Keady, Armagh. All-Ireland Junior Camogie Club Championship Final, Keady, Armagh v Harps, Laois, Stabannon Parnells, Stabannon, Co. Louth. Picture credit: Caroline Quinn / SPORTSFILE



# Winning Words

COILIN DUFFY

THE Harps captain Caitriona Phelan gave a memorable speech after the game.

"I'm very honoured and very proud to be standing up here to accept the cup on behalf of the best Junior team in Ireland.

"It's just unbelievable to be part of this team and you are just a brilliant bunch of girls. It hasn't been easy and we have had to give up an awful lot during the year and put in huge commitment and huge work and everyone, every single player and every single person involved with the team has given up so much during the year but it is worth it. We have the All-Ireland Cup!!

I have so many people to thank for getting us here today and not just the team but there are so many people behind us. I'm just going to start with our management team which any team in the country would be lucky to have and we are just privileged to have ye involved. I can't put in to words how much they have done for us all year, and the last two years.

Girls I would very much like to show your appreciation. A round of applause for Margaret Murphy, Ann Mahony, Breda Prior, Tommy Walsh and all of the rest of the committee who have helped us so

much throughout the year.

There is one man that joined us two years ago and came into the club unknown to us and unknown to the parish and he is now the most respected man in the area. He came into the club two years ago and I tell you he has made some difference, he has got us here to our second All-Ireland in a row and he is an unbelievable man and I can't thank him enough - Aidan Franks.

An awful lot of people had to help out to get us here today as well and I would like to thank all the sponsors who have been so generous and I want to thank Sean Conroy in the GAA for the use of the lights, the bunting and all they have done for us over the last few years so thanks a million to them.

I have to thank all our supporters. Ye have come here in such large numbers today and ye have been following us all along and thanks a million for being here.

I just would like to thank our families and friends for putting up with our unsociable behaviour for the past year. I tell you one thing we are going to make up for it now in the next few weeks!

I finish by just thanking Keady. That was an unbelievable display of camogie out there today and I think we have just proven to everyone what



The Harps team huddles together to hear some final words of motivation

standard Junior camogie is at in this country. We would have liked to play along with the Seniors today but we have brilliant facilities here and we thank them for that.

Junior camogie is brilliant and I know Keady for a second year you are very disappointed but all I can say is I know how unlucky you are having had a disappointment myself in the last couple of weeks but I know you will come back and will be back again next year.

Three cheers for Keady! Finally on a personal note I want to thank everybody for being so nice to me over the last couple of weeks. Thanks a million to everyone!"

## Victory Point

Forward hits winning score in injury time

COILIN DUFFY

CORNER-FORWARD Áine Mahony was certainly relishing the moment as her 64th minute point ensured that The Harps snatched victory in Sunday's eagerly contested final at Stabannon.

Áine was delighted with the win and spoke to the Laois Voice just moments after her sister Louise and Caitriona

Phelan jointly lifted the cup.

"I don't think it has sunk in for me at the moment to be honest," Áine told the Laois Voice.

"It's just amazing and it was such a close match as well."

Tension increased as this game ebbed and flowed and both sides searched for the winning score. The corner-forward could feel it on the pitch as the supporters also got very vocal.

"The supporters were great and fair play to them. During the match it was score for score, with both teams stepping up to the mark and then when I heard that there was three minutes to go and it was level, it was just on the edge stuff."

It took almost four minutes of injury time before Áine finally got that winning score and she was thrilled to see it go over.

"I was just willing the ball to go over the bar at that stage. I didn't really know how much time was left at that stage but I knew we didn't have much of a chance so I went for it."

"It was just one of those things, that second I was watching it and wondering would it go over and I was just glad to see it go over the black spot."

Possession was certainly crucial so late in the game but The Harps came up trumps and held their composure very well.

"We would have taken a draw but the backs played well and the half-back line blocked the ball at that stage very well and got it up to us. They came at us again but we just stayed at it and kept going and were very lucky to win."

Keady started the game well but The Harps came into their own as the contest progressed and Áine was delighted with the effort from her side.

"It took us a while to settle I guess but once we got going properly we kept it spread out and Aidan (Franks) settled us down well."

"It's brilliant to be involved and I don't know if we will ever see the likes of it again. The commitment we give is unreal."



Cheers of joy: A delighted Harps team celebrate as their captain lifts the cup



Camogie: U16 'B' County Final

# More silverware for the Mines



The U16 'B' Co. Champions Silvermines after they beat Clonoulty in extra time. Back row left to right: Brid Gleeson (Manager), Michelle Ryan, Brid Quinn, Sarah Murray, Maria Fogarty, Dorothy Cullagh, Laura Power, Maria Ryan, Fiona Kennedy, Katie Fogarty, Rachel Green, Laura Collins, Rachel O'Doherty (Manager). From row left to right: Rachel Kennedy, Sarah Cunneen, Niamh Slattery, Maria Kennedy, Laura Green (Captain) Caitriona Kennedy, Danielle Slattery, Roisin Stanley. Photograph: Dee Keogh.

## U16 'B' County Final

Silvermines 7-5 Clonoulty 3-6

After extra time

Report by Rose Mannion

In a thrilling under 16 'B' County Final at The Ragg Hurling Pitch on Sunday last, Silvermines and Clonoulty battled it out and could not be separated after normal time which brought the game to extra time where the Mines came away easy winners.

On a very cold showery afternoon, both young sides are to be complimented for serving up a great display in such dreadful weather conditions.

Both sides have been knocking on various doors over the year. Silvermines

have already the under 14 'B' under their belt, are waiting on a fixture for the under 18 Semi-Final and were beaten in the under 12 Final earlier in the year. This is Clonoulty's third final this year and while they looked as if they could have won this out, the Mines made the important positional moves on the pitch that worked better for them in extra time.

Both sides were slow to start and while the Mines had all the possession for the first quarter, they were unable to curb a strong Clonoulty backline which forced the Mines to error on occasions before Laura Power raised the white flag in the eight minute.

Clonoulty worked hard and as play entered the second quarter, midfielder Cait Devane found Amy Quinn who fired over to level proceedings. Three minutes later Amy Quinn had her second point to send Clonoulty ahead. Silvermines were back in possession where Brid Quinn in midfield was doing a lot of hard work and her efforts paid off when after a scramble around the goalmouth,

Sarah Murray struck for goal. With the interval looming, Laura Power took off on a solo run making a huge burst through the Clonoulty back line and picked off a point under pressure to leave Silvermines leading 1-2 to Clonoulty's 0-2.

It was Silvermines who started the better after the break and Caitriona Kennedy converted a placed ball to put four between the sides. The Mines were once more enjoying most of the play,

but were unable to break down a solid Clonoulty defence, in particular Maria Maloney and Becky O'Brien who made great clearances time and again. On two occasions, Silvermines could have goaled, but instead it was down to full forward Maria Ryan who pushed the Mines further ahead with a point. Clonoulty were at sea and despite some great efforts Silvermines worked just as hard and with some great team work up the field Maria Ryan netted. Clonoulty responded with a free by Cait Devane, which she sent to the Mines net.

Within a minute, the Mines had the ball back down the field and bagged their third goal courtesy of Maria Ryan. Clonoulty refused to give up with Cait Devane and Clodagh Quirke covering a lot of ground and sending in plenty of ball where Maria Maloney brought the sides closer with a goal. The Mines were now under siege and when Cait Devane raised the green flag, the spectators knew that this game was going to be a close finish. Maria Ryan's point so close to

full time put three between the sides but Clonoulty forced the game to extra time after drawing level - Silvermines 3-5 Clonoulty 4-2.

In extra time, both sides were anxious to take the spoils, and the evening light closing in, the Mines were the better side in the first half scoring two goals through Maria Ryan and Sarah Cunneen. Clodagh Quirke managed a quick point in the second half for Clonoulty but it was Silvermines who overpowered the opposition scoring two further goals from Caitriona Kennedy before the final whistle. The Mines girls had some great and long displays of team work throughout the game while Clonoulty had a sound backline and midfield but lacked the power up front when needed in extra-time. Both sides had their stars which shone on the day and had the weather been kinder, perhaps both would have enjoyed a better game. Well done to both.

## Match Digest

Player of the Match: Laura Power (Silvermines)

Silvermines: Dorothy Cullagh, Fiona Kennedy, Michelle Ryan, Rachel Kennedy, Rachel Green, Laura Green, Niamh Slattery, Brid Quinn, Caitriona Kennedy, Danielle Slattery, Laura Power, Maria Kennedy, Sarah Cunneen, Maria Ryan, Sarah Murray.

Clonoulty: Aine Ryan, Laura O'Dwyer, Becky O'Brien, Shauna Corcoran, Mary Kate Maher, Maria Maloney, Emily O'Brien, Cait Devane, Clodagh Quirke, Sarah Fryday, Amy Maher (Capt), Amy Quinn, Aisling Hickey, Tracy Forestal, Aoife Ryan. Sub used Eva Ryan for Aisling Hickey.

Referee: Willie Kennedy (Knockavilla / Kickhams).

## Valley girls have the quality to march on

By MARY NEWMAN

Camogie

SUNDAY  
Evening Echo Senior B  
Championship semi-final:  
Rockbán v Valley Rovers,  
Carrigaline 2.45pm

ROCKBÁN and Valley Rovers battle it out on Sunday in Carrigaline in a bid to reach the final of the Evening Echo Senior B Camogie championship as Douglas wait patiently in the wings to wind down what has been a long season for all concerned.

Rockbán have been inactive since their last game in the round robin series against Bishopstown on September 26 but the long lay off has been unavoidable with players tied up with inter county camogie and football commitments, plus the involvement of several of their panel with Muskerry in the senior county championship.

Valley Rovers played their last game in the round robin series a month later on October 27, again senior inter county championship commitments held this fixture up. With everything now out of the way, the scene is set for a cracking semi final as last year's defeated finalist, Valley Rovers, bid to go one better this season and take the title.

They will meet stern opposition from a Rockbán side who last season took the Junior A league and championship and in this their first season at Senior B level, they have looked very impressive. In their path to this weekend's decider they recorded victories over Glen Rovers, Douglas and Bishopstown but had to give way to the strong challenge posed by Newcestown.

Several of their side were involved with the Muskerry team which won the Evening Echo Senior county championship recently and they are a physically strong side backed by Cork senior players Caitriona Foley and Sile Burns while Malread Burns, Sinead Keohane, Colleen Foley, Sarah Coleman and Margaret Howard have all featured prominently in their campaign to date.

Valley Rovers came through their group with four victories out of five losing out in their last game to an Éire Óg side who were under pressure to secure a victory on the day to keep their interests alive while Valley Rovers already safely through, weren't under any pressure to deliver a result.

When the going was tough earlier in the season, they had good victories over Carrigaline, Kilbrittan/Timoleague, and Ballinhassig and they will be confident of acquitting themselves well on Sunday next.

They have worked hard under the guidance of James Bugler and Colm Flaherty and with players such as Elaine Burke, Lucy and Mary Ann Hawkes and Liz Bugler in their line out, they will push Rockbán to the limits.



Silvermines were crowned County U16B champions last weekend. Left to right: Brid Gleeson (trainer), Laura Green (capt) and Rachel O'Doherty (trainer).



# Douglas close decider in style

By MARY NEWMAN

Junior Shield

**Douglas** 3-5  
**Ballygarvan** 0-5

**DOUGLAS** took the Junior Shield title for the first time as they proved too good for Ballygarvan in a highly entertaining final.

Ballygarvan made the better start and led at the interval 0-4 to 0-2.

They had settled quickly and hit the front inside six minutes with three points from Rachel Keohane and one from Michelle Donovan as they took the game to Douglas.

Jill Kelleher opened the Douglas

account with a pointed free and she struck her second before the interval to ensure Douglas remained within striking distance.

On the resumption, it was a much improved Douglas side that now began to show fierce determination and set about getting into the game quickly, with a point from Jenny O'Donovan cutting the Ballygarvan lead to just a point.

Sub Clara Kavanagh made her presence felt quickly when she gave Douglas the lead with a goal.

Ballygarvan battled hard with Lorraine Browne adding a point to their tally but they could find no way past much improved Douglas defence.

In attack Clara Kavanagh and Jenny O'Donovan struck a point each before two

goals from substitute Orla Cotter ensured the title was secured on a 3-5 to 0-5 score line.

**Scorers for Douglas:** O Curtin 2-0, C Kavanagh 1-1, J O'Donovan 0-2, J Kelleher 0-2 f.

**Ballygarvan:** R Keohane 0-4, M Dunne and L Browne 0-1 each

**DOUGLAS:** D Boyle, N. Leo U Dunphy, S Long, C Murphy, C O'Driscoll, T McCarthy, M O'Mahony, C Murphy, A O'Donovan, J Kelleher, C Clarke, R O'Sullivan, J O'Donovan, A Cotter. **Subs:** C Kavanagh for R O'Sullivan (34), D Connolly for U Dunphy (39), C Lynch for N Leo (41), O Cotter for A Cotter (42), L McCarthy for C Murphy (45).

**BALLYGARVAN:** A Keohane, G Lynch, B Browne, L O'Callaghan, D O'Mahony, B Keohane, R N Shee, M Moynihan, K O'Sullivan, L Browne, A Browne, A Byrne, C Dillon, R Keohane, M Dunne. **Subs:** L Kenefick for R N Shee (34), C O'Leary for C Dillon (42), M Keohane for M Dunne (45), F O'Halloran for D O'Mahony (49).



Rena Buckley, left, and Una Leacy, Oulart, Wexford at the Energise Sport Camogie All-Star Awards 2007 in association with O'Neills at the Citywest Hotel in Dublin recently. Picture: Sportsfile

# McCarthy's goal ensures safe Passage

By MARY NEWMAN

Minor C championship

**Passage** 4-4  
**Grenagh** 2-2

**PASSAGE** led from the start in a highly entertaining Tower View Developments Minor C championship semi-final at Glen Rovers on Sunday last.

Louise Murphy pointed an early free and extended the Passage lead with a pointed 45.

Grenagh battled to get into the game, Aine Donovan striking a goal to which Caoimhe Doyle replied as both sides showed plenty of commitment.

It was Passage who held the half-time advantage as they turned over holding a two-point lead.

From the start of the second half it was nip-and-tuck as they both gave it their all and through the second half both sides battled to gain control. Louise Murphy sent a 45 metre free to the Grenagh net but Ellen O'Sullivan replied with a point to keep Grenagh in touch.

Laura McCarthy and Aine Murphy traded goals as play swung from end to end and supporters were treated to some thrilling camogie, the

excellent playing surface making for ideal conditions.

With 10 minutes remaining just a goal separated the teams but Louise Murphy and Lisa O'Sullivan pointed as Passage held the advantage and began to pull away.

Grenagh battled hard to cut the lead and were rewarded with a point from Aine Murphy, again they worked hard to get the vital goal but the Passage defence soaked up the pressure clearing to safety on a number of occasions.

They put the game out of reach with Laura McCarthy goal which ensured safe passage for the winners in the final.

**Scorers for Passage:** L Murphy 1-3 (0-2 f, 1-1 45), L McCarthy 1-1, L O'Sullivan 0-1 f.

**Grenagh:** A Donovan 1-0, A Murphy 1-1, E O'Sullivan 0-1.

**PASSAGE:** E Lydon, C Murphy, N O'Sullivan, E Hyde, S Jordan, L O'Sullivan, C O'Brien, K Twomey, L McCarthy, L Murphy, G Foley, S O'Reilly, N O'Sullivan, C Doyle, L McCarthy.

**GRENAGH:** M O'Connell, S Sexton, R Jones, M Jones, M Sexton, A Sheehan, E O'Sullivan-Barrows, E McSweeney, Y O'Keefe, N Hurley, A Donovan, K Donovan, A Murphy, C O'Connell, A O'Connell. **Sub:** R O'Connell for A O'Connell.

**Referee:** James Birmingham (Bride Rovers).

## CAMOGIE CLUB NOTES

for winter) New members welcome old faces welcome to rejoin the fun.

### MALLOW

#### Junior 'B' League Final

On Saturday last, Mallow and Buttevant met at Churchtown in the Junior B League Final. This was the last game of the season for both teams and the final chance to win some silverware.

Having suffered the disappointment of losing to Slahy Rua in the first round of the Championship, the Mallow girls were committed to winning the league title and this showed in the turnout at training.

Unfortunately, the weather on Saturday was deplorable but the high standard of camogie displayed by both teams was a joy to watch.

Following the throw-in both sides showed great commitment and Mallow were first to score with a goal scored by Shona Fitzgerald. Buttevant responded with a goal but Mallow scored a second goal from Kathleen O'Brien, two points from Leonie Fitzgerald from play, a second goal from Shona Fitzgerald and points from frees and play by Michelle Browne which left the half time score Mallow 3-5, Buttevant 1-1.

After the half-time break the weather conditions took a turn for the worse with persistent rain fallings.

Buttevant had the better start in the second-half scoring 1-2 without reply, leaving five points between the teams.

Mallow had to dig deep and excellent points from Miriam Byrne, Michelle Browne, Shona Fitzgerald and Kathleen O'Brien kept Mallow in control of the game. Emma Forde had her usual reliable game in goals and was well supported by a strong and confident full back line of Elaine Lenihan, Karen McAuliffe and Karen O'Halloran.

The half-back line of Aoife O'Rourke, Sinead Ducey and Sarah Daly had one of their better games of the season. In midfield, Kathryn Coakley and Rachel O'Leary put in a steady performance.

The young and experience mix of the full and half forward line of Jane Fitzpatrick, Kathleen O'Brien, Shona Fitzgerald, Leonie Fitzgerald, Michelle Browne and Miriam Byrne were sharper and more inventive and took the majority of chances given to them. Mallow played with great heart and determination the final whistle was greeted with scenes of great celebration. The cup was presented to the Mallow Captain Michelle Browne by the Chairperson of the Cork County Camogie Board, Marian McCarthy.

**Final score:** Mallow 3-10, Buttevant 2-4.

The club would like to thank the selectors Fr. Denis Stritch, John O'Leary and especially Esther O'Leary who put in a lot of time and effort with this team.

**Panel of players:** Emma Forde, Elaine Lenihan, Karen O'Halloran, Karen McAuliffe, Sarah Daly, Sinead Ducey, Aoife O'Rourke, Rachel O'Leary, Kathryn Coakley, Miriam Byrne (0-1), Michelle Browne (0-5, 2f), Leonie Fitzgerald (0-2), Jane Fitzpatrick, Kathleen O'Brien (1-1), Shona Fitzgerald (2-1), Elaine Carroll, Sinead Cremin, Shona Lenihan, Catriona O'Sullivan, Katie Healy, Sinead Coakley, Laura Tanner, Deirdre Crowley, Naomi O'Callaghan, Lenora Hayes.

### SEANDÚN

#### U13 Seandún finals

As the season draws to its conclusion, we have scheduled the U13 finals which were postponed due to the unavailability of a venue two weeks ago the games will now take place as follows in Glen Rovers on Saturday next, December 1 we will have all three matches will be played on the same day.

Proceedings will get under way at 11am when Passage meet St Vincent's in the A final, this will be followed by the B final at 1pm.

Noon, when Douglas meet Blackrock, the big one is the Premier final and here Douglas and Glen Rovers are scheduled to meet at 1pm.

With so many of the divisions clubs involved on the day it is hoped that all clubs especially those not involved will come along and lend a hand to the committee in order to keep the day running smoothly.

#### U10 Christmas blitz

It's been decided to hold an under 10 Christmas blitz this year and it will be held in Blackrock on Sunday the 9th of December starting at 11am. It will be a 7-a-side competition with panels of ten players only, one team per club many be entered.

Clubs are reminded to email Secretary Taryn Lynch with their entries for the blitz.

### AGM

The Seandún Annual General Meeting will be hosted this year in Glen Rovers club on Monday, December 10, at 7.45pm sharp. Clubs to be notified of the agenda in the coming week.

### ST VINCENT'S

The inaugural St Vincent's junior camogie tournament took place on Saturday last. On a wet, windy day we faced Ballinora in the final and our visitors got off to a flying start with a goal straight from the throw-in. Slowly we got into the game with the half-back line of Michelle Gould, Leanne Carroll and Vanessa McCarthy dominating. Two quick points from Sarah King and Emma Healy brought us right back into the game and after piling on the pressure we had a goal just before the interval.

In the second half, we picked up where we had left off with Sarah King running riot from half forward and Helena O'Keefe and Nicole Crean dominating midfield. Goals from Lorraine Lynch and Shauna Carroll settled the issue, the final score being St Vincent's 3-7 Ballinora 1-0. Team captain Vanessa McCarthy was presented with the cup and Sarah King was named as Player of the Tournament. It was great to see three sets of sisters all playing for the club in the tournament the future looks good for Naomh Uinsinn.

Our team was: Meabh Waters, Hazel Hegarty, Nicole Cahill, Christine Walsh, Michelle Gould, Leanne Carroll, Vanessa McCarthy, Nicole Crean, Helena O'Keefe, Sarah King, Pamela Lynch, Alison O'Brien, Emma Healy, Lorraine Lynch, Judy Buckley, Anne Mair O'Keefe, Kim Carroll, Shauna Carroll.

### Winter training times

Mondays 5.30 to 6.30 all U12s and 13s (1994s + 1995s)  
Wednesdays 6.00 to 7.00 under 10s (1997)  
Thursdays 6.00 to 7.00 under 11s (1996)  
Saturdays 1.00 to 2.00 567s (2000, 2001, 2002)  
Saturdays 2.00 to 3.00 8s 9s (1998 + 1999s)  
New members welcome at all sessions.  
The club shop is now open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7.00 to 7.30.  
All Christmas draw tickets are to be returned ASAP.

### ROCKBÁN

Replay U16C: Rockbán vs Brian Dillon's. The replay was played in Coachford on a wet and miserable Saturday. We played with the wind in the first half and with scores coming from Sinead Dilworth and Kate Howard.

In the second half, Brian Dillon's, now with the wind to their backs, levelled the game. But with 10 minutes to go Samantha Scanlon scored a goal for Rockbán putting us in the lead once more. With eight minutes to go, Brian Dillon's fought hard and came back

and scored 2-1 and was worthy winners on the day.

Best for Rockbán on the day were Ciara Coleman, Laura Ryan, Colleen Foley and Megan Brickley. Rockbán have a young team and look forward to next year already.

Katie Grace, Aisling Furlong, Muireann McSweeney, Sarah Carey, Megan Brickley, Colleen Foley, Ann Marie O'Sullivan, Ciara Coleman, Laura Ryan, Gemma Cahill, Samantha Scanlon, Eve O'Mahony, Shauna Brickley, Sinead Dilworth, Kate Howard. **Subs:** Kate Daly, Niamh Coleman Lorraine O'Riordan.

### DOUGLAS

#### Junior Shield Final

We competed in the Junior Shield final on Sunday last. This was the first time the club entered this competition and it was done so to keep girls playing who are U18 and also to welcome back some older players who had taken time out. We had defeated St Catherine's in the semi-final and went on to meet Ballygarvan in the final (match report above). We had met many times before in underage finals so one would say it was a local derby and would make for a good game.

Ballygarvan open the scoring with two points inside six minutes but we replied with two points from Jill Kelleher. Ballygarvan looked to be in control added a further two points while we could not find our form with seven wides by the whistle.

With changes in the second half, Orla Cotter, Clara Kavanagh, Clara Lynch and Danielle Connolly all entered the fray we made an immediate impact with a point from Jenny O'Donovan followed by a goal from Clara Kavanagh. Jenny stepped up again to convert a point from a free.

Douglas had now turned the tables and Ballygarvan were on the rack. The Douglas defence of Danielle Boyle in Goal, Danielle Connolly, Semma Long, Chloe Murphy, Cianna O'Driscoll, Clara Lynch, Tracy McCarthy stood tall, and with half-forwards, Maire O'Mahony, Clionadh Murphy, Clara Clarke supplied plenty of ball to the forwards.

Orla Cotter goaled twice. Ballygarvan got a late point but the title was going back to Douglas which was a huge achievement on their first outing in this competition.

Special mention of captain Jenny O'Donovan, Rachel O'Sullivan and Orla Cotter. It was great to see the girls back playing and we look forward to seeing a lot more of them. While one does not like to single out players, I would have to mention Clara Clarke (half-forward) who had a tremendous game.



# Douglas step up to Senior

Douglas  
Valley Rovers

1-15  
1-6

DOUGLAS will take on the big guns next season thanks to a superb display that saw them crowned Evening Echo Senior B camogie champions yesterday in Tracton.

The victory was just reward for a club that has done tremendous underage work over the past decade, and their elevation to Senior is a great addition to the grade, and medium term will be of great benefit to Cork camogie.

But for all the quality of their youngsters, it was their marquee player that dominated the game.

Inter-county star Amanda O'Regan proved her worth for the champions, with a majestic display at centre-back. She soared high time and again to pluck sliothars from the sky and turned defence into attack with long sweeping clearances which put Valleys under constant pressure.

She finished with the player of the match award after a Ronan Curran-esque performance.

She had plenty of support from Fiona McSweeney, Louise O'Regan and Aisling Barrett who never allowed the Valleys' attack much room.

Up front Julia White and Katriona Mackey's pace proved a handful for the Valley Rovers' back line while at midfield Deirdre Murphy and Helen O'Mahony kept the ball moving quickly in the right direction for Douglas.

Valleys battled hard to stay in the game and without doubt would have been further in arrears at the half-time whistle were it not for their excellent goalkeeper Gillian Harrington. On the balance Douglas simply had to much speed and hurling for Valleys but though it was only in the final nine minutes they pulled away.

The scoring sequence tells the story. Valleys failed to score from the 11th minute of the second half to the full-time whistle as Douglas notched up nine scores without reply.

Through the opening half it was nip and tuck as both sides battled to overcome final day nerves and settle into the game. Elaine Burke gave Valleys an early led with a point but four without reply from Eileen Morgan and Katriona Mackey (3) drove Douglas ahead.

Valleys settled and were back on level with 10 minutes to the half-time whistle. Liz Bugler Majella McCarthy and



Julia White of Douglas is challenged by Mary Ann Hawkes of Valley Rovers during their Evening Echo Cork County Senior B camogie final in Minane Bridge.

Picture: Howard Crowley

By MARY NEWMAN

Evening Echo Sen B camogie final

centre-back Lucy Hawkes finding the range as they pressurised the Douglas defence.

With the half-time whistle looming Douglas finished stronger Moira O'Donovan and Katriona Mackey edged Douglas ahead as they turned over leading 0-6 to 0-4.

James Birmingham had hardly resumed proceedings when Valleys grabbed the lead, Elma O'Mahony getting the last touch. But immediately Douglas upped the ante with Katriona Mackey responding with a point.

Valleys struck again through Elaine Burke (2) but Amanda O'Regan steadied her side striking a tremendous long range free straight between the posts. A minute later Katriona Mackey converted a close in free and it was all to play for.

With Amanda O'Regan continuing to dominate at centre-back, Valleys could find no way through and the Douglas forwards piled on the pressure winning vital frees.

O'Regan converted a 45 before Mackey pointed a free, Deirdre Murphy struck a neat point the tide was turning in Douglas' favour to the tune of three points.

Valleys driven on by Clodagh Deasy, who had an excellent hour in defence, almost snatched an equaliser but again Amanda O'Regan was on hand to tidy up.

It was from O'Regan's sweeping clearance that Deirdre Murphy struck the killer blow, picking and striking on the run from far out to give Gillian Harrington no chance.

With the finishing line now in sight Douglas pushed on. Julia White, Katriona Mackey and fittingly O'Regan with the final score pointing to secure the title for the Douglas outfit.

There were scenes of wild celebration at full-time.

Valley Rovers must not be forgotten on this occasion, they gave it their all and contributed enormously to a super game but once again for the second year in a row they have ended up defeated in the final.

There was no denying Douglas their hour of glory.

This side was built around their successful underage sides of recent years but let's not forgetting players such as Amanda and Louise O'Regan, Eileen Morgan, Sarah O'Regan, Helen O'Mahony and captain Fiona McSweeney who brought the vital experience.

Blended with the youthfulness of the Mackeys, Murphy and White they formed a winning combination for a club very much on the rise on Leaside.

**Scorers for Douglas:** K Mackey 0-8 (0-4 f, 0-4 p), D Murphy 1-1, A O'Regan 0-3 (0-2 f, 0-1 45), J White, M O'Donovan, E Morgan 0-1 each.

**Valley Rovers:** E Burke 0-3 (0-1 f, 0-2 p), E O'Mahony 1-0, M McCarthy, L Hawkes, L Bugler 0-1 each.

**DOUGLAS:** J Kavanagh; S O'Regan, F McSweeney (c), P Mackey; A Barrett, A O'Regan, L O'Regan; D Murphy, H O'Mahony; S O'Brien, J White, K Mackey; E Morgan, M O'Donovan, E Jordan.

**Sub:** S O'Leary for S O'Brien (40).

**VALLEY ROVERS:** G Harrington; A O'Callaghan, C Deasy, L Davis; A Coughlan; L Hawkes, A M Murphy (c); M A Hawkes, M McCarthy; O Deasy, M Costrell, L Bugler; E O'Mahony, E Burke, E Foley.

**Subs:** E Butler for E Foley (25), E Coughlan for A M Murphy (h-t).

**Referee:** James Birmingham (Bride Rovers).



Helen O'Mahony and Siobhan O'Brien of Douglas celebrate their county success over Valley Rovers in Minane Bridge.

Picture: Howard Crowley

## Aftermatch reaction

AMANDA O'REGAN  
(Player of the Match)

CALM and cool as ever, traits she also displays on the playing field, Amanda O'Regan was gracious and appreciative at being named Player of the Match.

"It was a team effort here today and every one of the players deserves this award as much as I do, they did everything that was asked of them and I am just thrilled that we have won.

"We never let them settle and we closed them down at every opportunity, it was important not to let them have a good start and once we did that we never let them get away from us.

"We were ahead at half-time and that was important to our younger players as it helped us settle quickly.

"It was a great effort from our selectors and everyone in the club who worked so hard this year from start to finish, the younger girls have had tremendous success and have won so much but for myself and a few of the older players who two years ago won our first medal with the club, this is just brilliant."

MICK O'REGAN  
(Selector)

"We knuckled down in the second-half and got on with the job, after not playing to well in the first half we went in two points ahead and we knew we had missed a lot of chances.

"We were winning the possession in the first half and we knew if we converted it into scores the title was within our grasp.

"This year we brought several of the younger players into the senior set up and it has paid off for us. They blended in well with the older, experienced players in the club and they all worked very hard it was without doubt a team effort and I want to compliment everybody for the huge commitment they gave. It has been a long hard year but this is a great finish to it, we will enjoy the celebrations."

FIONA MCSWEENEY  
(Captain)

LONG-SERVING Fiona McSweeney led by example from her position in the Douglas defence and she paid tribute to every one of them at the presentation at the full time whistle.

"I want to thank each and every one of our panel, they worked so hard to give me this, the proudest moment of my sporting life. I am so proud I also want to pay tribute to our backroom team of Mary Harrington, Mick O'Regan, Pat Harrington and Christine O'Regan—they were out in all weathers with us from the start of the year and this win is tribute to their hard work.

She also had special words for the Mackey twins Katriona and Pamela and she dedicated the victory to their late father who passed away just four weeks ago.

"I want to mention Pamela and Katriona Mackey and thank them, it's been hard for them recently, but today we dedicate this win to their late Dad."



## CLUB NOTES

### DOUGLAS

Our Senior B team topped the year off with taking the Evening Echo Senior B Championship Final last Sunday.

The team looked calm as they arrived in Tracton under the guidance of the long serving Mick & Christine O'Regan who have been with the club now for 26 years, selector Mary Maher who only retired from play after winning the Junior A title in 2005, and Pat Harrington who has a wealth of experience. Deirdre Murphy & Helen O'Mahony battled to hold midfield. Douglas had all the play in the Valley's square but failed to convert and paid the price in the 6th minute when Valley's scored a point. Douglas upped the ante and it fell to Eileen Morgan to score the equalising point. On the eighth minute, O'Donovan was fouled and Katrina pointed giving Douglas a one point lead. Moments later Katrina Mackey pointed. Douglas were up two points. Again Deirdre Murphy was fouled and Katrina Mackey once again pointed. Douglas now were looking for that elusive goal through White and although she made many fine runs and shot attempts, it was the excellent skill of Harrington in goal for Valley's that kept Douglas scoring points. It was now Valley's turn to put Douglas' defense under pressure and with points from Elaine Burke & Liz Bugler they brought Douglas's lead back to a mere point. Then Mary Anne Hawkes made a run down the left wing putting over the equalising point. O'Donovan pointed for Douglas to steady the ship. A minute later it was O'Donovan again who won the sliotar and hand passed to Katrina Mackey who pointed again. Amanda O'Regan who was playing centre half back was ably assisted by Louise O'Regan and Aisling Barrett who stood up to the pressure on the wings. With half time upon them the two sides retired on a scoreline of: Douglas 0-6 Valley's 0-4.

On the restart Valley's won a free and Elaine Burke sailed the sliotar to Douglas' goalmouth and out of a scramble, Orla Deasy of Valley's pulled on the ball to the back of Douglas's net. Valley's pointed a free soon after but it was Katrina Mackey who pointed to bring the margin back to a point again. Helen O'Mahony was fouled in side the Douglas half, Amanda O'Regan came up to take the free and put over a seventy meter free. This was the turning point of the game. Douglas came on the attack again and Katrina Mackey was happy to convert a free after some fierce pressure. Douglas now were in control and tagged on some points. Soon they had opened up a four point lead with the scores 0-12 to 1-5. Douglas had tried many times in the game to beat the Valley's brave goalkeeper Gillian Harrington and finally succeeded on the 54th minute when Deirdre Murphy was quickest to react and whipped the ball to the back of the net after a goalmouth scramble. With Valley's shattered Douglas had victory in sight and kept their foot firmly on the pedal. A point each from Katrina Mackey & Julia White and a pointed free from Amanda O'Regan really put them in the driving seat.

Valley's did have a late attack on the right wing but with Sarah O'Regan in their way and Jessica Kavanagh making a fantastic save the full time whistle went to give Douglas the Senior B Championship Cup. The scenes of celebration were immense as the huge crowd cheered their team in delight. Douglas were now up to Senior, a milestone for this club that have worked so hard over the number of years to promote and encourage girls to play camogie and put Douglas Camogie Club firmly on the map.

Congratulations to all concerned with the team. We remember Pamela & Katrina Mackey on the sad death of their dad to whom the win was dedicated. Also, congratulations to Jessica Kavanagh on getting a call up for international soccer trials. Unfortunately, they were held on the same day as her camogie final and Jessica made the decision to give her commitment to her camogie team mates. Hopefully she will get the opportunity in the future. Well done to the camogie club committee and special mention to the caterers Therese Lynch, Susan Kavanagh, Katherine Jordan, Denise McCarthy, and Anne O'Donovan. A big thank you to all who have sponsored the team in any way and, of course, many thanks to all those who turned out on the day to support.

### ANOTHER WEEKEND OUT

Our U16A team travel to Mallow to face Milford on Sunday for the league final game at 2.30. Best of luck to all.

Our U13 teams are in action this Saturday 1st Dec in their Seandún finals in the Glen Rovers G.A.A. club.

U13A are playing at 12 noon against Blackrock and U13Premier, at 1.00pm, play Glen Rovers.

Douglas Camogie club Shop will open on Monday 3rd Dec 4.30 - 8pm in the sports hall in Douglas G.A.A. club. All enquires to Jackie Shanahan 0876884909.

### SEANDÚN

The Annual General Meeting of Coiste Camógaiocht an tSeandúna will be held in the Glen Rovers G.A.A. Club at 7.45pm sharp on Tuesday next 4th December.

### GLEN ROVERS

The long awaited Seandún U13 championship final takes place this afternoon when we meet Douglas in the Premier decider at 1pm. It will be a busy day for us as we play host to the under 13 A and B finals. Proceedings get under way at 11 am. Best of luck to our girls as they meet Douglas in what should be an exciting contest.

### UNDER 16 TO SENIOR

While most of the onfield activities are now scaling down, our teams from U16 up to senior are still keeping themselves active during Winter. Contact Cornelia Short or Laura Davis.

### CHRISTMAS DRAW

Players and members have been circulated with tickets for our annual Christmas draw and everyone is reminded to make a big effort.

### BACK PACKING

As is tradition our Feile panel will be doing back packing this year, which will take place in Super Valu Merchants Quay on December 20, 21st and 22nd.

### GAA CLUBS DRAW

By now all members of the GAA clubs draw should have got their receipts and information regarding the new draw which started this weekend with the Sept/Oct draws being held together. Any body renewing their membership and not already paid up or who still wished to join contact treasurer Deirdre Coleman or Secretary Mary Newman.

### CLUB SHOP

The club shop is open every Friday evening from 7pm and on Sunday mornings from 12 to 1pm.

### TRAINING

U13 to U14 teams Wednesday and Friday 5.30PM  
Beginners up to and including 12 year olds, Sunday



Julia White of Douglas about to be challenged by Mary Ann Hawkes of Valley Rovers during the Cork County Senior B camogie final in Minane Bridge.

Picture: Howard Crowley

# Dooleys star in Dillon's win

Brian Dillons 2-3  
Rockbán 1-2

**BRIAN DILLON'S** got it right at the second time of asking.

They proved best when defeating Rockbán in an exciting U16 C championship final replay.

First day out Brian Dillon's came from behind with two goals deep into injury-time to snatch a draw. This time it was once again a close encounter.

Rockbán played with the wind in the first-half and put the Dillon's defence under severe pressure to lead at the break, 0-2 to no score. Sinead Dilworth and Kate Howard were on target with points.

Brian Dillon's turned with the wind to their backs and put the Rockbán defence, who were under pressure.

Ten minutes into the half Jane Dooley opened the Brian Dillon's

FIXTURES	
<b>TODAY</b>	
<b>Under 16 A league final:</b> Milford v Douglas in Mallow New School pitch 2.30 pm	<b>A Final 12. Douglas v Blackrock</b>
<b>Tower View Developments Minor C Championship Semi final:</b> Fr O Neills v Brian Dillon's Rathcormac 11am	<b>Premier Final 1pm Glen Rovers v Douglas</b>
<b>Seandún Evening Echo Under 13 finals:</b> All at Glen Rovers (New Pitch, Ballincollie Road)	<b>TOMORROW</b>
<b>B Final 11a m St Vincent's v Passage</b>	<b>Tower View Developments Minor B Championship final:</b> Valley Rovers v Clonakilty Cloughduv 12
	<b>Under 16 C League Semi final:</b> Watergrasshill v Brian Dillon's in Watergrasshill 12

By MARY NEWMAN

U16 C championship

account with a point before Susan Kate Brosnan hit the equaliser.

With 10 minutes remaining, Samantha Scanlon found a way past the Dillon's rearguard to restore Rockbán's advantage.

Back came Brian Dillon's with Claire Dooley levelling matter.

Dooley edged her side ahead, pointing a free and with time almost up Jane Dooley finished the ball to the net to give her side a

four-point cushion.

Claire Dooley of Brian Dillon's was named as the player-of-the-match following her excellent display.

**Scorers for Brian Dillon's:** J Dooley 1-1 C Dooley 1-15 K Brosnan 0-1.

**Rockbán:** S Scanlon 1-0, K Howard, S. Dilworth 0-1 each.

**ROCKBÁN:** K Grace, A Furlong, M McSweeney, S Carey, M Brickley, C Foley, A. M O'Sullivan, C Coleman, L Ryan, G Cahill, S Scanlon, E O'Mahony, S Brickley, S Dilworth, K Howard.

**BRIAN DILLON'S:** S Rodgers, E Kelly, S Cotter, K O'Brien, E Burns, L Bradfield, S Attridge, S K Brosnan (c), J Dooley, D Carroll, C Dooley, M Ring, O Ni Shuilleabhain, R O'Mahony, N Gleeson.

11:45am and Tuesday 5:45pm (Tuesday sessions are indoors).

New members are welcome.

### ST CATHERINE'S

Club Sponsor Cork Builders Providers

### U12 Blitz

On Saturday last our U12's finished off the year with an inter-club blitz. All our players were catered for with U12 and U10 games. Well done to Yvonne O'Neill and Kevin Galvin who managed these players throughout the year. Thanks to Ann Galvin, Jill Hurley and Elaine Harpur who helped out on the day.

Medals were presented by Cork senior camogie player, Orla Cotter. The following are the teams:

### U10's

#### Team 1 -

B.O' Keefe (c), G. Ahern, S. Corcoran, L. Hayes, F. Leahy, A. O' Keefe, N. Philpot.

#### Team 2

M. Teehan (c), C. Hayes, A. Hurley, E.O' Keefe, E. Walsh, S. Mellerick.

### U12's

#### Team 1 -

E. Murphy (c), L. Ahern, K. Mulcahy, E. O'Brien, M. Walsh, H. Leahy, C. Mc Carthy.

#### Team 2

L. Burnstercic, N. Corcoran, A. Fitzgerald, M. Galvin, C. Mc Auliffe, A. O'Brien, R. Spillane, G. Walsh.

### BRIAN DILLON'S

#### U16 "C" County Final 2007

In the first half, both sides fought extremely hard to gain the upper hand. Rockbán led by two points to nil at half-time.

Ten minutes into the second half Jane Dooley scored a point which was added to shortly afterwards when Susan Kate Brosnan scored the equaliser from play. Saoirse Rodgers saved several shots at goal and the backline of Emma Burns, Sarah Cotter and Kate O'Brien

## Mallow show class to land title

Mallow 3-10  
Buttevant 2-4

DESPITE having to contend with deplorable weather conditions Mallow and Buttevant served up an excellent contest when the sides met in the Junior B league final in Churchtown, writes MARY NEWMAN

Mallow took an early lead thanks to a Shona Fitzgerald goal.

Buttevant responded with a seventh minute point from Eimear Healy.

Niamh Walsh and Kathleen O'Brien exchanged points as the sides battled hard.

Two points from Leonie Fitzgerald gave Mallow the upper hand before Shona Fitzgerald struck for her second goal.

Before the half-time whistle Michelle Browne had extended the Mallow lead, showing her accuracy from both play and frees as her side opened up a 3-5 to 1-1 advantage.

Buttevant had the better start to the second-half.

Fiona O'Connell and Eimear Healy pointed before Triona O'Connell struck for a goal.

With 11 minutes remaining just five points separated the sides.

Miriam Byrne, Michelle Browne, Shona Fitzgerald and Kathleen O'Brien helped them regain control with five points without reply to ensure the title was secured for Mallow.

**Scorers for Mallow:** Miriam Byrne (0-1), Michelle Browne (0-5), 2f), Leonie Fitzgerald (0-2), Jane Fitzpatrick, Kathleen O'Brien (1-1), Shona Fitzgerald (2-1).

**Buttevant:** N Walsh, T O'Connell 1 goal each, E Healy 0-2 (0-10), F O'Connell 0-2.

**MALLOW:** E Forde, E Linehan, K O'Halloran, K McAuliffe, S Daly, S Ducey, A O'Rourke, R O'Leary, K Coakley, M Byrne, M Browne, L Fitzgerald, J Fitzpatrick, K O'Brien, S Fitzgerald.

**Subs:** K Healy for L Fitzgerald (47), E Carroll for J Fitzpatrick (56).

**BUTTEVANT:** D O'Keefe, M Lee, T Roach, J O'Callaghan, K Burke, E Harrington, T O'Reilly, F O'Connell, D Farrell, N Walsh, N Curran, M O'Keefe, E Healy, J Farrell, T O'Connell.

**Subs:** A M Sheehan for M O'Keefe (40), S Breen for K Burke (35), K Burke for T Roach (45), S Buckley for M Lee (50), A Madigan for F O'Connell (55).

**Referee:** Collette O'Mahony.

capably held the fort.

With about 10 minutes to go, each side clocked up a further goal with Claire Dooley scoring for Dillon's. The sides were again level.

With 5 minutes to go Clair Dooley scored a point from a free and victory was clinched when Jane Dooley buried the sliotar into the Rockbán net.

Claire Dooley received player of the match.

**Team:** Saoirse Rodgers, Eadaoin Kelly, Sarah Cotter, Kate O'Brien, Emma Burns, Lucy Bradfield, Sara Attridge, Susan-Kate Brosnan, (c) Jane Dooley, Donna Carroll, Clair Dooley, Michelle Ring, Orlaith Ni Shuilleabhain, Rebecca O'Mahony, Nicole Gleeson.

**Subs:** Rebecca Myers, Aoife O'Mahony, Aoife Daly, Jessica Kenny, Niamh O'Mahony, Sarah O'Mullane.

**Mentors:** Therese Drummond and Claire O'Mahony.

**Scorers for Brian Dillon's:** Jane Dooley 1-1, Clair Dooley 1-1, Susan Kate Brosnan 0-1.

**Fulltime Score:** Brian Dillon's 2-3, Rockbán 1-2



Mary Leacy lifts the All-Ireland trophy

# WEXFORD GIRLS BRIDGE LONG GAP

**Sunday, September 9 2007 was a red letter day for Wexford camogie as the Slaneysiders came in from the cold to claim their first All-Ireland senior title since 1975. For all associated with the team, it was a dream come true after years of frustration and disappointment.**

One of the sporting stories of 2007 was Wexford's capture of the brand new O'Duffy Cup after a 32-year lapse.

The long-awaited success sparked the biggest party the Model County has seen since the hurlers' All-Ireland triumph of 1996 and has ensured Stellah Sinnott and her magnificent team of their place in Wexford GAA folklore.

Wexford's memorable 2-7 to 1-8 victory over reigning champions Cork at Croke Park on September 9 was the realisation of a dream for the Wexford players who had given a phenomenal effort all year. The journey began in earnest last November when Stellah Sinnott, who had tasted defeat as a player in the All-Ireland finals of 1990, '92 and '94, was appointed manager in succession to Willie Carley.

Along with assistant manager Alan Aherne, selector Noel Ryan and joint-trainers Eddie Flynn and Jim Kieley, Stellah met the players for first time at Good Counsel College in New Ross on November 18. By the time Wexford faced Cork in the All-Ireland final, the players had 62 training sessions, 13 competitive games and five challenge

matches behind them.

Having flattered to deceive in previous years, Wexford were determined to make their mark early and they did just that when beating Cork by a point in their opening National League game. The victory was a huge psychological boost and gave the Wexford players the belief that they could not only compete against, but beat the best.

Both teams made it through to the final where a late Jennifer O'Leary point gave Cork a dramatic 3-8 to 2-10 victory at Nowlan Park. Unrealistic demands were placed on five of Wexford's dual players, who had lined out for the ladies football team in their National League decider the previous evening, and it certainly didn't help the camogie side's cause.

Cork looked set for victory when goals from O'Leary, Una O'Donoghue and Sile Burns in the space of five minutes propelled them into a 3-6 to 0-9 lead. But Wexford hit back with a brace of goals from Michelle Hearn to restore parity, only for O'Leary to grab the winning point in injury-time.

In the weeks before the National League final in early May, Wexford



Wexford - All-Ireland senior camogie champions 2007

had accounted for Dublin to win the Leinster final and, in doing so, claimed their first piece of silverware since 2004. They also beat Tipperary in a competitive fixture for the first time in 16 years with an injury-time point, a result that provided them with a further fillip ahead of the start of the All-Ireland championship.

Wexford's championship opener was a daunting trip to Ballincollig to face their National League final conquerors. Anxious to turn the tables, the Slaneysiders produced an impressive display to run out 4-12 to 0-14 winners and signal their intentions for the rest of the campaign.

The visitors never trailed after Una Leacy swooped for her first goal in the second minute and further majors from the Wexford captain and Michelle Hearn (two) had the purple and golds perched on a 4-5 to 0-7 interval lead. Cork tried to close the gap following the restart but Wexford were resilient with Sinead Kelly scoring six points, while Ursula Jacob, Brona Furlong and Michelle O'Leary also made valuable contributions.

Wexford subsequently beat Dublin (2-10 to 0-8) and Kilkenny (1-20 to 4-5) before an inexplicable late fade-out saw them lose their unbeaten record to Tipperary (0-11 to 1-17). However, a 3-13 to 0-11 victory over Galway in their final match of the round-robin series sealed their place in the semi-finals where they squared up to Galway for the second game in succession.

Once again, Stellah Sinnott's charges underlined their superiority over the Westerners with an emphatic 2-18 to 0-14 victory at Nowlan Park. Midfielder Kate Kelly scored 1-11 in a player of the match performance as the Model girls secured their place in the final for the first time since 1994.

The St. Ibar's-Shelmaliar player netted midway through the first half and this score, combined with Michelle Hearn's earlier goal, had Wexford ahead by 2-3 to 0-5 after 23 minutes. But Galway finished the half with a flurry of points from Anne-Marie Hayes, Lourda Kavanagh, Veronica Curtin and Jessica Gill to trail by 0-11 to 2-7 at the break.

However, Wexford took control in the second half thanks largely to the efforts of Kelly, Ursula Jacob, Rose-Marie Breen and substitute Brona Furlong. Kelly added six more points, while Una Leacy was unlucky not to score a third goal when her shot rebounded from the upright four minutes from the end.

Wexford went into the All-Ireland final as underdogs, but proving that their earlier victory over the three-in-a-row chasing Rebels was no fluke, they reached the Promised Land with a stunning victory. Showing few nerves on what was their first Croke Park appearance in 13 years, they led from start to finish and survived six minutes of injury-time to become All-Ireland champions for only the fourth time.

The challengers set the pace with a fourth minute goal from the younger Leacy, Una, and a second from the same player 11 minutes later. Thereafter, Cork were always chasing the game and their forwards were never allowed any time on the ball by an heroic Wexford defence, which was superbly marshalled by centre back and team captain Mary Leacy.

Wexford's early goals were effectively the winning of the



Stellah Sinnott played a crucial role in managing Wexford to camogie honours



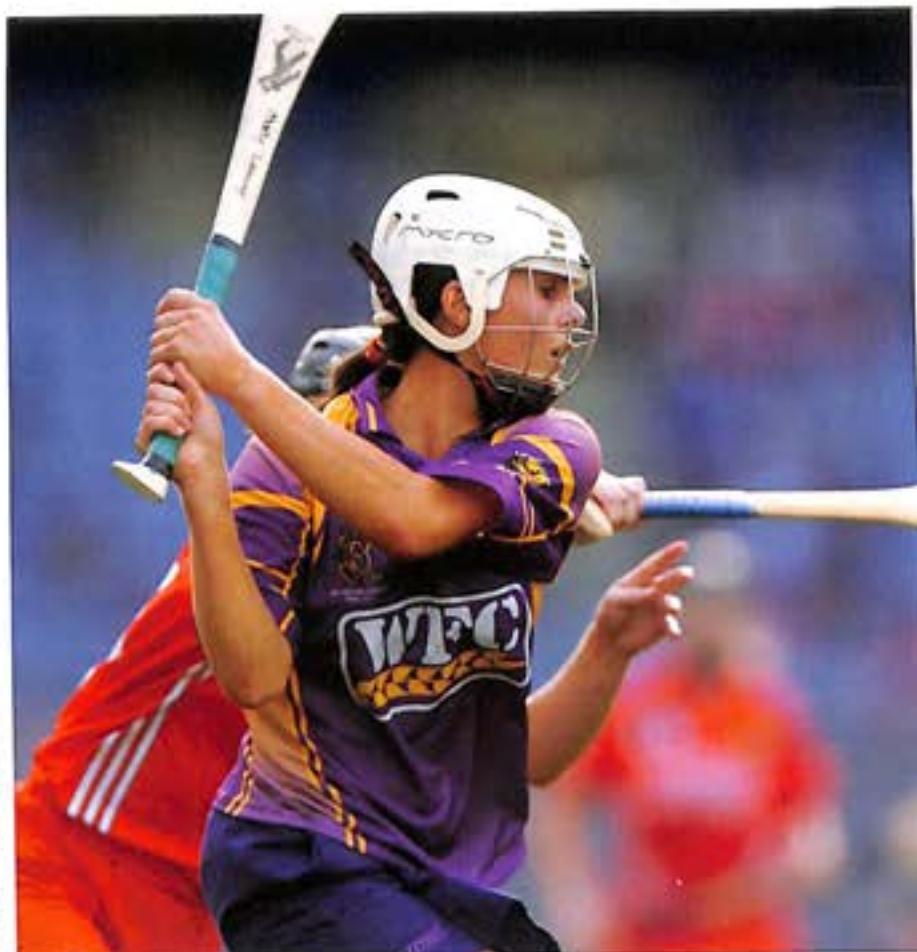
game for them. From their first attack, Una Leacy latched onto a long delivery and sent an unstoppable shot past Aoife Murray in the Cork goal.

Kate Kelly and Emer Dillon traded points before Leacy struck for a second time when she smartly hand passed beyond Murray on the quarter-hour mark. Cork had just two points on the board by the 22nd minute and they could only muster one more before half-time as Wexford went into the break leading by five.

Team captain Gemma O'Connor raised hopes of a Cork comeback with the first score of the second half, but Ursula Jacob's reply made a clear statement. Then, in the 37th minute, Wexford were dealt a blow when Emer Dillon goaled after a rare mistake by the otherwise flawless Avis Nolan, who was the only Wexford link with '94.

Now Wexford's character was being seriously tested and when O'Connor landed another point to reduce the deficit to the minimum, 2-4 to 1-6, it seemed only a matter of time before the holders would regain parity. But despite being subjected to intense pressure, the Wexford defence stood firm, preventing Cork from pulling level.

It was Kate Kelly who lifted the siege with a crucial Wexford score seven minutes from time, and Ursula Jacob and



Una Leacy lets fly in the final win over Cork

17-year-old substitute Katrina Parrock followed up with further points to put the Leinster side four clear. Cork replied with late points from their midfield pairing of O'Connor and Briege Corkery, but these scores weren't enough to deny Wexford a famous win.

It was entirely fitting that Oulart-The-Ballagh's Mary Leacy should skipper the Slaneysiders to their long-awaited success as her mother Margaret (formerly O'Leary) was on the last Wexford team to savour O'Duffy Cup glory in 1975. It was appropriate too that Mary's younger sister Una



Kate Kelly was a driving force in midfield



Mary Leacy played a captain's role in the final

would prove the ultimate difference between the sides with her goal-poaching instincts.

"She's had a great year scoring goals and she finished those well," Mary said in reference to Una's first quarter two-goal salvo.

"We knew getting a good start was crucial. We knew what to expect and we said we'd try to give it our all for the last 30 minutes and not come off the pitch with any regrets."

Paying tribute to Stellah Sinnott, the Wexford captain added: "Because she was there herself, it just means so much to her. Everyone in that team would die for Stellah." And she certainly wasn't exaggerating!

Wexford's All-Ireland winning camogie team was: M Darcy; N Lambert, C O'Loughlin, A Nolan; A Codd, M Leacy, D Codd; K Kelly (0-3, 1 free), C Murphy; B Furlong, RM Breen (0-1), M O'Leary; U Leacy (2-0), M Hearne, U Jacob (0-2). Subs: A O'Connor for A Codd, K Parrock (0-1) for O'Leary and C O'Connor for Nolan.



Cork's Catriona Foley

Nov. 2007





Cork were aiming for a three-in-a-row but were not able to match Wexford's hunger

a row, they certainly knew it now!

Murray came off her line brilliantly to divert the next dangerous ball into their goalmouth and Wexford full forward Michelle Heame felt the full force of a collision with the Rebel 'keeper.

With just two points on the board in 22 minutes, the holders were under enormous pressure. Angela Walsh failed to relieve this pressure as her shot was pulled wide.

Wexford's insatiable hunger was demonstrated by some tremendous teamwork. A feature of this was the Wexford forwards - most notably goalscorer Leacy - coming back deep into their own defence to harass the Leaside attackers.

In contrast, the elusive Kelly found the space to clip over her second point of the match. Wexford were doubling up on the Cork forwards every time and the pre-match favourites were struggling to create scoring opportunities.

Briege Corkery, who had a tremendous game in defeat, produced some rousing play in the Cork midfield in an attempt to lift her colleagues and full forward Orla Cotter took the cue as she came out deep to gather possession and float over an impressive point.

Worryingly for Cork, it was their first score in some 25 minutes and only their third point of the entire first half. The Wexford full back line of Noeleen Lambert, Catherine O'Loughlin and Avis Nolan had a tremendous first half-hour and the underdogs were full value for their five-point interval cushion.

Gemma O'Connor raised Cork spirits with the first score of the second half and Ursula Jacob replied with a rasping drive from close range after being set up by the ever-dangerous Kelly. The Rebelettes still had no answer to the considerable menace being wreaked by Wexford's No.8.

Seven minutes into the second half, Cork were back in the match when Ballygarvan girl Emer Dillon drove emphatically to the net. A low ball from Sile Burns evaded Nolan as Dillon turned and the Cork No.13 found herself with just goalkeeper Mags D'Arcy to beat.

The result was conclusive as Dillon - Player of the Match in the 2005 decider - made no mistake.

Rosemary Breen and Angela Walsh swapped points and there

were two points between the sides with 40 minutes of the hour played: 2-4 to 1-5.

Cork were much more competitive than they had been in the first half and O'Connor landed another point from distance after a breath-taking spell of intense, frenetic camogie. Leacy almost got in for her third goal but this time her shot was blocked magnificently by Cork full back Caitriona Foley.

Joanne O'Callaghan, who had switched corners to deal with the threat posed by Leacy, did well to repel the next Wexford attack and the Model County had a lucky escape when the ball squirmed across the face of their goal to safety in the 48th minute.

The pressure from Cork was relentless now but O'Connor fired wide from out around the middle after great work from Amanda O'Regan and Walsh. The Leaside continued to press for a leveller but they were restricted to shots from distance and the all-important score was not forthcoming.

It was Kate Kelly who lifted the siege with a lovely Wexford score seven minutes from time and Ursula Jacob followed up almost immediately with a fine score from an acute angle on the left. Suddenly, Wexford were three points to the good, 2-6 to 1-6, and the holders were hanging on by a thread.

Substitute Katrina Parrock provided the insurance point with three minutes remaining and O'Connor replied straight away with a timely individual point.

When you're a goal ahead bidding for a first All-Ireland in 32 years, the last thing you want to hear is that there will be four minutes of injury time - but that's exactly what happened Wexford.

D'Arcy made a fine save to deny Cotter in the last minute of normal time and Cork didn't manage another attack until Corkery ran at the heart of the Wexford defence and took her point in the 64th minute.

With that, Cork's three-in-a-row bid was over as Wexford held on for a remarkable, historic victory.

Wexford - M Darcy; N Lambert, C O'Loughlin, A Nolan; A Codd, M Leacy, D Codd; K Kelly (0-3, 1 free), C Murphy; B Furlong, RM Breen (0-1), M O'Leary; U Leacy (2-0), M Heame, U Jacob (0-2). Subs - A O'Connor for A Codd (34), K Parrock (0-1) for O'Leary (41), C O'Connor for Nolan (65).



The mini games participants on All-Ireland finals day



Clare were beaten junior finalists

Cork - A Murray; J O'Callaghan, C Foley, A O'Regan; R Buckley, M O'Connor, A Geary; B Corkery (0-1), G O'Connor (0-3); U O'Donoghue, A Walsh (0-1), J O'Leary (0-1, free); E Dillon (1-1), O Cotter (0-1), S Burns. Subs - E Watson for O'Donoghue (52), S O'Donovan for Walsh (56).

Referee - John Morrissey (Tipperary).

## DERRY'S DIAMOND SPARKLES WITH LATE WINNER

Derry won their first All-Ireland junior camogie title in seven years when they secured a 3-12 to 2-14 win over Clare at Croke Park.

A late goal from centre half forward Aisling Diamond was pivotal in shaping the end-result in Derry's favour.

Powered forward by impressive attacker Grainne McGoldrick in the opening half, Derry impressed in the opening half although Clare gave as good as they got with Player of the Match Claire Commene in sparkling form in particular.

A draw looked on the cards when Commene netted to leave the sides deadlocked (1-11 apiece) for the sixth



Derry captain Claire Doherty raises the All-Ireland junior trophy

time in the match.

Within two minutes, Derry had conceded another goal after Clare's Sharon McMahon did the business.

However a Paula McAtamney goal and a point from sub Katrina O'Kane once again levelled matters with two minutes of normal time remaining.

A fifth point from Commene eased Clare ahead in injury time and another point from the same player then left two between the sides.

Derry refused to throw in the towel though and Diamond struck the ball to the Clare net after nearly eight minutes of injury time to give the Oak Leafers a dramatic victory.

Derry - C O'Kane, C Pickering, H Kelly, C Cushenhan, K Lavery, C Doherty, J Carey, G McGoldrick 0-3, B Convery, K McAuley, A Diamond 1-3, E Henry, S Cassidy 0-3, P McAtamney 1-3, A Lavery 1-0. Subs: M McGoldrick for Pickering.

Clare - D Lynch, H McMahon, D Corcoran, A Collieran, K Hally, D Murphy, S Lafferty, K Lynch, J Scanlon, C Roseingrave 0-1, C O'Loughlin, A Ryan 0-2, C Commene 1-6, S McMahon 1-3, S O'Loughlin. Subs: F Lafferty for Hally, K Hally for J Scanlon, S Moloney for S O'Loughlin, A O'Brien for C O'Loughlin, Catherine O'Loughlin for Ryan. Referee - Cathal Egan (Cork)



Derry impressed greatly in taking the All-Ireland junior title

Nov 2007



Nov. 2007

#### LEINSTER COLLEGES

A Final: St Brigid's Callan 5-11 (D Gaulle 2-7, 1-5 fs, O-165, C Holden 2-1, M Farrell 1-0, L Fenerty, A Manning, A Farrell 0-1 each) Castlecomer CS 1-3 (M O'Keefe 1-0, M Nolan 0-2, 0-1 free, M Mansfield 0-1)  
B Final Loreto Wexford 4-8 (K Parrock 4-8, 0-5 frees, Lisa Bulger 1-1, L Rowe 1-0, M Hayes 0-2, L Bulger 0-1) St. Brendan's Berr 4-4 (A Cordal, E Dunne 1-0 each, B Kennedy 0-2, M Gleeson 0-2, both frees)

Camogie: U18A County Final

## Toome claim U18A county title



Toomevara U18A County Champions - back row left to right: Elaine Martin, Cheryl Bentley, Moira Ryan, Kate Duggan, Rianna Minogue, Anna Marie Quigley, Emma Louise Coffey, Fiona Young, Shauna Rabbittie, Aine Brislane, Noelle Hassett, Michelle Ryan. Front row left to right: Aoife Ryan, Shelia Ryan, Christine Kenny, Niamh Kelly, Noirin Stapleton, Laura Young, Bonnie Kennedy, Nicole Walsh, Sandra Dunne, Marguerite Cleary.

#### U18A County Final

Drom 4-2 Toomevara 4-8

Toomevara were pushed all the way to the final whistle before they could claim the U18A county final title on Saturday last in the Ragg Hurling Field. These sides met in last year's final in which Drom took the spoils and with a number of that team they entered the game slight favourites.

Toome opened the scoring with a point from Christine Kenny and Fiona Young furthered their lead with a pointed 45. Play moved furiously throughout the field with both sides battling gamely for possession. Aine Brislane was next on target for Toome with a point. Drom pressed forward but found the Toome backline resolute in their defending in particular Shauna Rabbittie. Attacking play from Christine Kenny and Nicole Walsh saw the ball break to Bonnie Kennedy who raised the green flag for Toomevara, the same player

added a point before Fiona Young pointed a 45 to leave Toome 1-5 to 0-0 at half-time.

Drom were by no means out of the game and began the second half with an impressive point from Siobhan McGrath. Within the next ten minutes spectators were treated to some of the finest goal taking opportunities. Toomevara struck first when Nicole Walsh crashed the ball to the top of the net this was followed minutes later by a second goal from Aine Brislane leaving Toome 3-5 to 0-1 ahead. Drom true to their nature began to show their fighting spirit and Eimear Shanahan popped up to claim back a goal. The same player proved inspirational to Drom as she added two more goals to bring Drom right back into contention. Toomevaras reply came from a pointed 45 from Fiona Young to leave the

score Toomevara 3-6 Drom 3-1. Both sides now had winning firmly in their sights and produced some fine free flowing Camogie.

Toomevaras Christine Kenny finished her shot to the net as Bonnie Kennedy added a further point to push Toome back in control. Antoinette Kennedy kept Drom in touch with a point to which Toome replied to with a point from Nicole Walsh. Drom continued to press forward and forced a number of close range frees and eventually forced a defensive error which yielded them a goal. This was to be the last score of the game and it was Toomevara who held out for the win.

This was an exciting game of Camogie with some fine taken scores from both sides. Drom were well served by Patricia McGrath, Therese & Caitriona Shortt and Eimear Shanahan. Toomevara can thank the efforts of all their players in particular Shauna Rabbittie, Fiona Young, Bonnie Kennedy, Anna Marie Quigley, Christine Kenny, Sandra Dunne and team captain Laura Young.



Toomevara captain Laura Young receives the cup from Chairman Lar O'Brien.



Linda Grogan on the move for Cashel with Jill Horan supporting against Athenry at the Gaelic Grounds. Photograph: Bridget Delaney.



# Dillon's bring back the camogie cup

Nov. 2007

MAYFIELD locals have been celebrating Brian Dillon's win in the under-16 Camogie County Final.

It rained heavily for most of game in Coachford with Rockbán last weekend.

The weather presented both sides with extremely challenging conditions for the replay of the earlier drawn match at Ballinlough.

Many loyal supporters on both sides braved the elements to cheer the girls on in what was an outstanding battle.

In the first half both sides fought hard to gain the upper hand. Every attack was met with a counter attack as players dug deep to find the wherewithal to open the scoring.

Rockbán led by two points at half-time but, ten minutes into the second half, Jane Dooley scored a point which was added to shortly afterwards when Susan Kate Brosnan scored the equaliser from play.

From then Rockbán threw everything they had at Dillon's but Saoirse Rodgers saved several shots at goal while Emma Burns, Sarah Cotter and Kate O'Brien were excellent in defence.

Lucy Bradfield, Eadaoin Kelly and Sara Attridge on the half-back line frustrated their opponents and put the ball into the Rockbán half where midfielders Susan-Kate Brosnan and Clair



Coaches Therese Drummond and Claire O'Mahony with the Brian Dillon's U16 girls. Congratulations!

Dooley fed it into the forwards.

Half-forwards Michelle Ring and Orlaith Ni Shúilleabháin succeeded in helping to weaken the Rockbán defence while Rebecca O'Mahony, Donna Carroll and Nicole Gleeson opened up gaps in Rockbán's backline that were to prove fatal.

With about 10 minutes to go each side clocked up another goal

with Dooley scoring for Brian Dillon's.

The sides were again level but with five minutes to go player-of-the-match Dooley scored a point from a free and victory was clinched when Jane Dooley buried the sliotar into the Rockbán net.

At the final whistle the scoreboard read Brian Dillon's 2-3

Rockbán 1-2.

In accepting the Thady Roche Memorial Perpetual Cup Dillon's captain Susan Kate Brosnan thanked the County Camogie Board and referee Ger Sheehan along with players, mentors, officials and supporters on both sides.

Congratulations to all the girls involved.



## Double reason for women GAA players to celebrate

A delighted Tina Sheehan with players Jessica Kavanagh and Emma Jordan after the win.



THERE was a double celebration for the women GAA players of Douglas last week.

The first was their magnificent win over Valley Rovers in the Evening Echo Senior B camogie final.

This win is a culmination of years of hard work at underage level and now it's paying off in the senior ranks.

There were many magnificent performances on the day, but Amanda O'Regan deserves special mention and was worthy winner of the Player of the Game award.

Following on from this a meeting was held last Thursday night to form a women's GAA club in Douglas, which was ratified, and they hope to enter teams in the leagues next season and emulate the success of the camogie stars.



## Camogie Chat

by Mary Newman

### Clonakilty and Valley Rovers meet in final

AS championship reach their conclusion on Saturday at 11am in Rathcormac Brian Dillon's and Fr O Neills meet in the Minor C championship semi final. Clonakilty and Valley Rovers meet on Sunday in Cloughduv at 12 noon to decide the destination of the Tower View Develop-

ments Minor B championship crown. On Sunday Douglas and Milford meet in Mallow to decide the destination of the Under 16 A league title while in the under 16 C league semi final Watergrashill and Brian Dillon's meet on Sunday in Watergrashill at 12 noon.

# Title for Douglas

DOUGLAS took the Evening Echo Senior B camogie champions title as they defeated Valley Rovers in an exciting final in Tracton on Sunday last. Two committed sides gave it their all in quest of the title, Valleys having lost out in last year's

Elaine Burke gave Valleys an early lead with a point but Douglas replied striking four without reply, Eileen Morgan with one and Katriona Mackey with three in a row settled Douglas Valley's were back on level with points from Liz

Bugler Majella mc Carthy and Lucy Hawkes but it was Douglas who finished the half stronger with Moira O Donovan and Katriona Mackey pointing as they lead 0-6 to 0-4.

Elma O Mahony struck for Valley Rovers goals inside a minute of the restart but Douglas responded as Katriona Mackey pointed. Two points from Elaine Burke saw the advantage again with Valleys but it was the reliable Amanda O Regan who steadied Douglas striking a long range free over the bar, a minute

later Katriona Mackey converted a close in free and it was level again.

With Amanda O Regan dominant at centre back Valley Rovers were finding it difficult to get through, Amanda O Regan converted a forty five before Katriona Mackey pointed a free and when Deirdre Murphy struck a point Douglas were in control. With the gap at three points Deirdre Murphy was quick to react to a long Amanda O Regan's clearance and finished it to the net. Julia White Katriona Mackey and Amanda

O Regan added points to secure their first Senior B title for Douglas.

Amanda O Regan was named a player of the Match following a superb display and once again it was heartbreak for Valley Rovers who gave it their all and contributed enormously to an excellent game but for the second year in a row they tasted defeat having lost out in last years final to St Catherine's

Well done to Douglas and to their back room team who worked hard to secure a famous victory.

## Seandun under 13 finals

A busy day on Saturday for the Seandun division as they hold their under 13 championship finals first into the ring at Glen Rovers will be Passage who meet St Vincent's in the B final at 11am, its Douglas versus Blackrock in the A final at 12 noon before the Premier decider where Douglas take on Glen Rovers at 1pm.

## Camogie Chat

by Mary Newman

### VALLEY ROVERS INTO FINAL

VALLEY Rovers defeat Rockban to book their place in the Evening Echo Senior B camogie championship final which takes place on Sunday next.

Elaine Burke had the games opening goal after ten minutes, Elma O'Mahony and Sile Burns having swapped early points after Elaine Burke had earlier point to edged Valleys ahead.

It was nip and tuck as the sides swapped points Gillian Harrington proving inspirational as she denied Rockban on numerous occasions through the opening half.

Mary Ann Hawkes finished an Elaine Burke forty five metre free to the net to give Valleys the half time lead and with the wind favouring Rockban in the second half Sile Burns cut the deficit with two early points.

Again Harrington denied Rockban but the goal arrived when Valerie Mulcahy kicked to the net following good work from Margaret Howard.

With thirteen minutes remaining and two points between the teams Majella McCarthy had two Valley Rovers points.

With the game still up for grabs Bernie Shields set up Elma O'Mahony for a goal that effectively finished the contest, Sile Burns pointed forty five metres free and Elaine

Casey had a late point but by now Valley Rovers had their place in the final secured

### SHIELD FOR DOUGLAS

DOUGLAS took the Junior Shield title when they proved to strong for a Ballygarvan side that led at the interval 0-4 to 0-2. Jill Kelleher kept Douglas in touch with two pointed frees but Douglas with points from Jenny O'Donovan cut the deficit before substitute Clara Kavanagh edged them ahead with a goal.

Further points from Kavanagh and Jenny O'Donovan had them in control before two goals from substitute Orla Curtin ensured the title was secured.

### PASSAGE INTO FINAL

PASSAGE booked their place in the Tower View Developments Minor C championship final as they recorded victory over Grenagh last weekend.

With Aine Donovan Louise Murphy and Caoimhe Doyle to the fore they laid the foundations for victory Ellen O'Sullivan and Aine Murphy, worked hard for Greagh but with Laura McCarthy grabbing a goal it ensured Passage of their place in the final.

## Grant equality: Camogie Association wants parity for women's game

by Michael Moynihan

THE Camogie Association has called for its members to be given the same recognition as hurlers and footballers in the wake of this week's resolution of the grants issue.

Liz Howard, president of the Camogie Association, said top-level female Gaelic games players deserve to be recognised in the same way their male counterparts have been.

"I am delighted that a resolution for grants has finally been agreed between all those involved; this is a big step for Gaelic games in the country and players deserve to be recognised in this way," she said.

"However, the commitment shown by top-level female GAA players is on a par with their male counterparts. With this in mind we feel that our players should be included in a similar grants scheme."

Ladies football ace Cora Staunton

also called for a grants scheme for female players.

"We put in every bit as much effort, sacrifice and time as the men," argued the Mayo forward.

"In fact, this year the Mayo ladies' football team were involved training later in the summer for the All-Ireland Championship than the Mayo men's team were. So I feel that there should be no discrimination and that equality should prevail between both men and women."

Nov. 2007

### Camogie:

1. Lyndsey Condell (30 pocs 34m)
2. Patricia Jackman (30 pocs 8m)
3. Fionnula Carr (31 pocs 51m)
4. Caitriona Daly (31 pocs 24m)
5. Laura McGuinness (32 pocs 11m)
6. Pam Nugent (33 pocs 8m)
7. Mary Hendry (34 pocs 48m)
8. Catherine Magee (39 pocs 30m)

### UNDER 16:

1. Aaron Murphy (24 pocs)
2. Michael Devlin (27 pocs)
3. Daire McKiernan (32 pocs)



Ladies winner Lyndsey Condell, sponsor Martin Donnelly and Brendan Cummins on the Cooley Mountains



# THE CAMOGIE CHAMPIONS

It was another great year for camogie in 2007. Wexford and Cork contested the All-Ireland final and teams like Galway, Tipperary and Limerick were pushing hard for honours. Derry took the Junior title with the game of the year against the Banner. Here are the Queens of Camogie from the year.



## SENIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONS

# WEXFORD



## 2007 ROLL OF HONOUR

### CHAMPIONSHIP

SENIOR ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONS  
**WEXFORD**

JUNIOR ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONS  
**DERRY**

MINOR ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONS  
**KILKENNY**

### NATIONAL LEAGUE

DIVISION 1 CHAMPIONS  
**CORK**

DIVISION 2 CHAMPIONS  
**WATERFORD**

DIVISION 3 CHAMPIONS  
**WESTMEATH**

DIVISION 4 CHAMPIONS  
**MONAGHAN**

### COLLEGES

ASHBOURNE CUP WINNERS  
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN (UCD)

ASHBOURNE SHIELD WINNERS

GARDA COLLEGE

PURCELL CUP WINNERS

ATHLONE IT

Pitch Invaders! Wexford girls just wanna have fun as the final whistle sounds on their heroic victory over Cork to win their 4th All-Ireland title.

Top Right: Wexford captain Mary Leacy in action against Cork's Emer Dillon.

## MINOR CHAMPIONS

Kilkenny captain Noreen O'Keeffe lifts the Sighle Nic an Ultaigh trophy after beating Cork to claim the All-Ireland Minor A title.



## JUNIOR CHAMPIONS

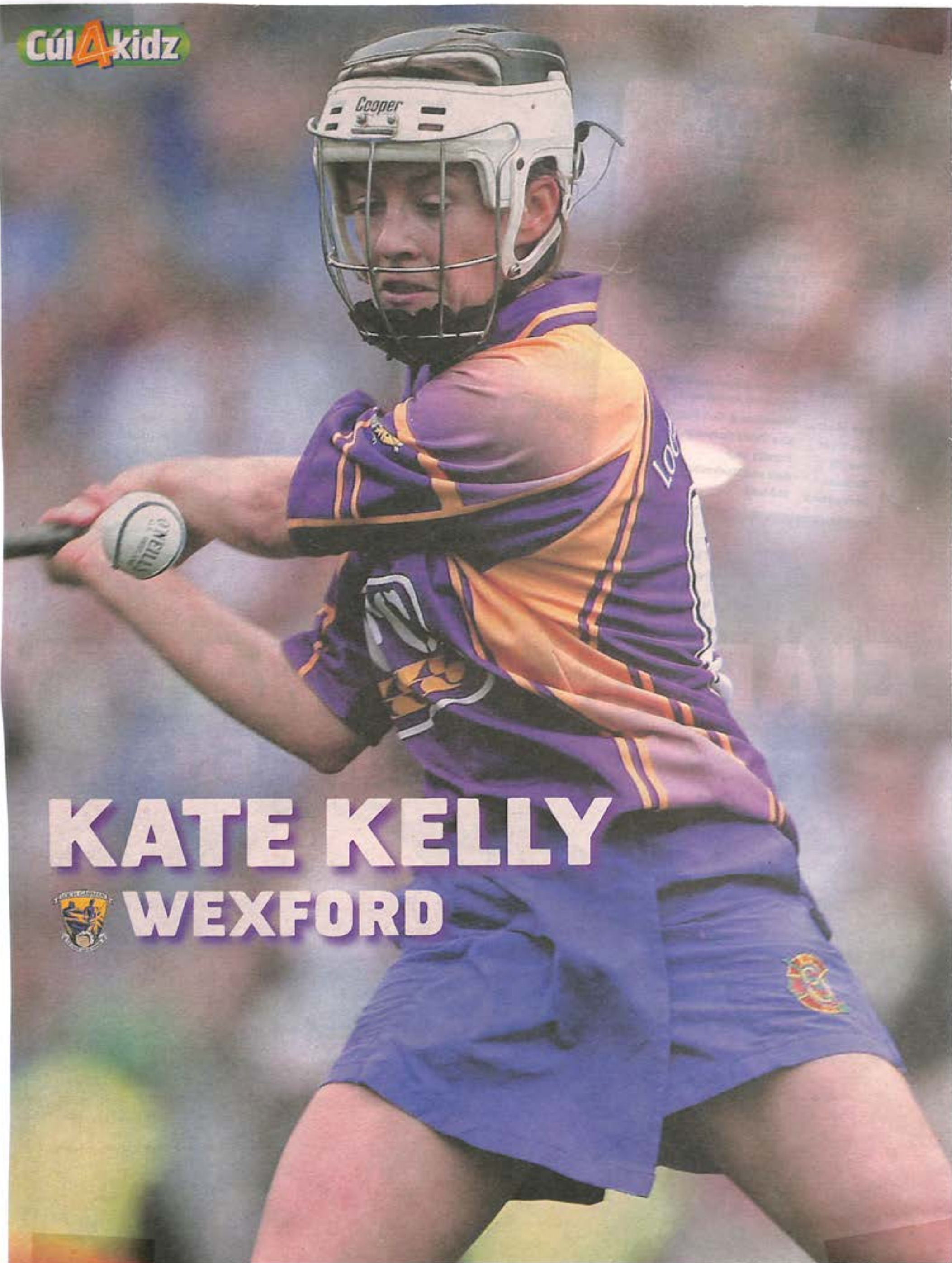
# DERRY



Derry's Julie McVeagh (left) and Aileen Lavery, celebrate at the end of the great game.







**KATE KELLY**



**WEXFORD**





## STAR FILE!

Name	Niamh Mulcahy
Age	17
Team	Limerick
Position	Forward
Honours	1 All-Ireland Senior B title, 1 National League Div 1B title, 1 Munster Intermediate title, 1 Munster Gael Linn Junior title, 1 All-Ireland Féile U-14 title, Young Player of the Year 2007.
Club	Ahane
Fav Food	Beef Stirfry
Fav Book	Angels & Demons by Dan Brown
Fav Band	U2
Fav Film	Bridget Jones
Fav TV	Prison Break

# NIAMH MULCAHY LIMERICK

“Enjoy it, train hard and try to learn something from every match”

14

**S**eventeen-year-old camogie star Niamh Mulcahy comes from one of Limerick's best-known hurling families. Her granduncle was the famous Mick Mackey, her grandfather was John Mackey, her father Ger lined out for Limerick and her mother Vera also wore the green and white with pride. The Limerick camogie team scaled new heights this year, winning the Division 1B final with victory over Cork. They then added the All-Ireland Senior B Championship after a replay win over Cork and Niamh was named Player of the Match. Indeed, it was a late free from Niamh in the first match against the Rebels that drew the match and gave them another shot at the title. At just 17, Niamh also finds time to play for the Ireland Women's U-19 soccer team! A proud Ahane woman, Niamh's sisters Ruth and Claire also play camogie.

## Limerick had an amazing year with a Div 1B League and the Senior B Championship double. What was your highlight?

Winning the Championship was the tops. It was a long time coming and I was delighted for the more experienced players like Rose Collins, Vera Sheehan and Eileen O'Brien.

## Who was the toughest team in 2007?

Every team is tough but Cork were very difficult to beat.

## Who was the toughest player you faced?

Every player has a different style and approach so you just have to concentrate on your own game and who you are marking.

## What player do you admire?

Vera Sheehan. I always admired her attitude towards the game when I was underage, so to be playing on the same team is something I'm very proud of.

## What is it like being managed by Limerick legend Ciaran Carey?

It has been a great experience to have a top-quality hurler like Ciaran around. He brought a new freshness this year and had the respect of everyone from day one.

## You play soccer at a very high level. How do you balance school, soccer and camogie?

I try to just focus on one thing at a time. If it's school, you focus on that and your homework; if it's camogie or soccer you have to be ready to train or to play. I am lucky in that my teachers and my managers all work together.

## What are your hopes for next year?

We are a Senior A team now and we've come a long way. We have had very good underage sides and we were used to being beaten but now we are putting it up to the best teams and that's an inspiration for the future.

## What is the most important skill?

All skills are important but you must improve your weak side and focus on your fitness.

## What advice would you give young players?

Enjoy it, play as if it's your last game, train hard and try to learn something from every match.



Niamh's mother Vera was on the only ever Limerick Senior team to reach Croke Park on All-Ireland final day in 1980, when Cork beat them after a replay.





## Spot the Ball?

Brid Convery of Derry in front of Clare's Jane Scanlon in the All-Ireland Junior Camogie final. Can you work out **which zone** the sliotar is in?

### McGrath takes over Tipperary hot seat

**CAMOGIE:** John McGrath has been appointed as Tipperary senior manager.

McGrath replaces Tony Delaney, whose side were beaten in the Gala All-Ireland Senior semi-final by Cork. This was the first time that a Tipp side had not reached the final since 1999.

The Borrisleigh clubman said: "The whole thing came as a bit of a shock to me. I thought Tony had done a great job. When I was offered it I was bit shocked and a bit worried if I'd be able for it, but I thought, hurling is hurling, it's not rocket science and I'd give it a go."

"The talent is certainly there. We beat Wexford this year and they're the All-Ireland Champions. We've got a huge amount of experience in the squad; yet the girls are still young, just look at Philly Fogarty and Claire Grogan and what they've achieved at their age. There's also players coming through like Cora Hennessy, so the future is very bright for camogie in Tipperary."

# Search for new camogie boss

David Forsythe

dforsythe@corkindependent.com

THE Cork senior camogie team hope to announce the appointment of a new manager within the next two weeks.

The team has been looking for a new manager following the

resignation of former boss John Cronin who resigned after Cork lost in this year's All-Ireland final to Wexford.

Current Cork coach Fiona O'Driscoll has been hotly tipped to take over the position but she has recently distanced herself from the vacancy. In a recent state-

ment O'Driscoll said categorically that she wouldn't be taking up the manager's position.

The county board are due to meet next week to discuss the vacant manager's position. Whoever takes up the post will have a tough act to follow after Cronin who has been one of the most success-

ful Cork camogie managers of all time leading the team to three consecutive All-Ireland finals and winning two of them.

It is understood that the county board are keen to make a new appointment prior to the commencement of the new National League campaign in February.

Nov. 2007



Finbar McCarthy with Joanne O'Callaghan and Linda Mellerick launching his new book, Great GAA Moments 2007



Cork City manager Damien Richardson with camogie bursary recipients Michelle Browne, Lucy Hawkes, Eimear O'Sullivan, Julie McGrath and Gillian Harrington.

sport@examiner.ie

### Coach O'Driscoll not interested in top job

**CORK:** Camogie coach Fiona O'Driscoll has ruled herself out of the race to replace manager John Cronin, who stepped down after the All-Ireland final loss to Wexford.

Said O'Driscoll: "There had been some talk around the county of me taking on the role but I can say now that I definitely won't be in charge for next year's campaign."

"There's a county board meeting scheduled for sometime next week and there should be a decision made around then. I'm not really concerned about

Fiona O'Driscoll: won't be in charge next year.

who gets the job because I know there are plenty of talented people out there who can take the county forward."

Cronin was one of Cork's most successful managers, leading the Rebels to All-Ireland titles in 2005 and 2006. The farmer from Cloughduv guided the county to five All-Ireland minor titles from 1998 to 2003 before his step up to the senior side but sees now as the right time to leave. "I've been around for almost 10 years and I think it's best for things to be freshened up. Nobody wants to hear the same voice at training and matches every week, that'd leave things very stale."

"We all feel now is the perfect time for an injection of something new and it leaves things very exciting for the future of Cork Camogie," said Cronin. "I'm very proud of what I've achieved and proud of the girls I've worked with."

Ghaeltacht, Kerry).  
Camogie Player of the Year: Philly Fogarty, (Cashel, Tipperary).  
Ladies Football Player of the Year: Valerie Mulcahy, (Cork).  
Handballer of the Year: Seamus O'Carroll (Limerick).  
Distinguished Service Awards.  
Administration: Pat Fitzgerald (Clare).  
Coaching & Schools GAA: John Hanly (Clare).  
Media Award: Finbar McCarthy (Cork).  
Refereeing Award: Pat Moore (Water-

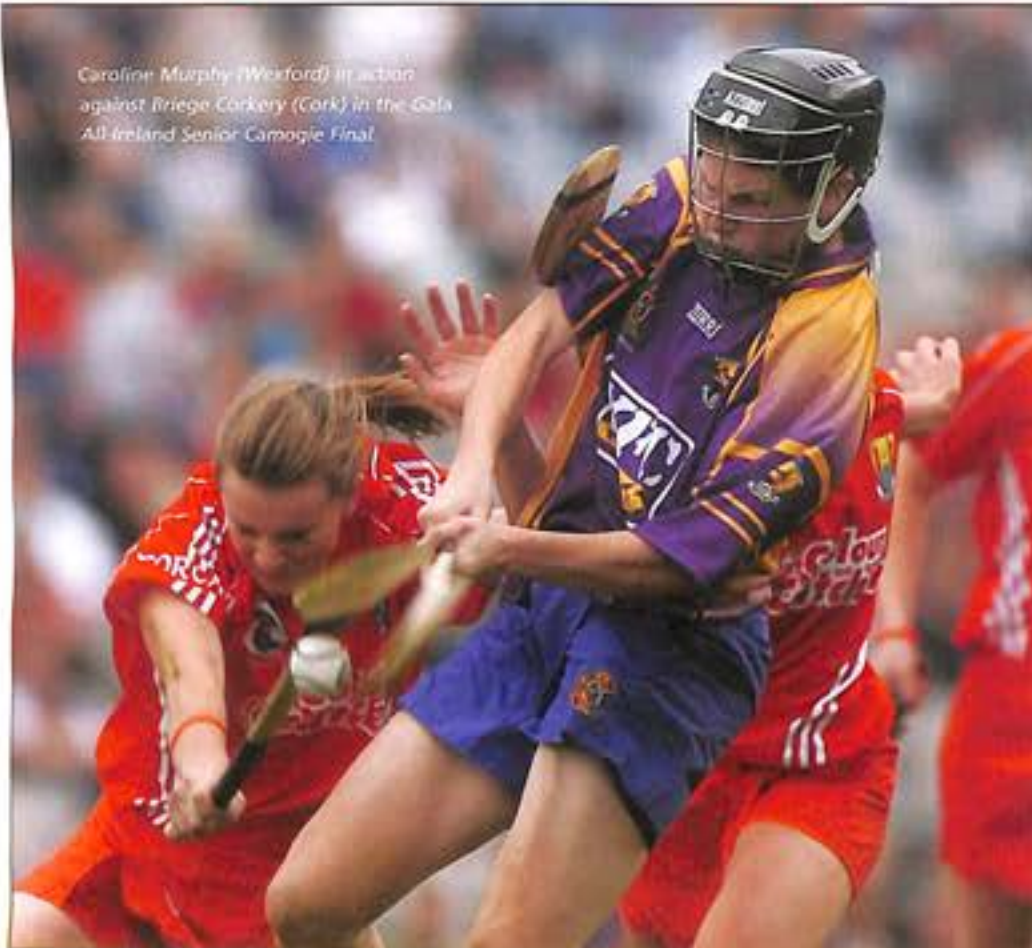
AIB Munster Council GAA Awards.  
Hurler of the Year: Dan Shanahan, (Lismore, Waterford).  
Footballer of the Year: Darragh Ó Sé (An





2007  
Nov.

# Good year for Camogie on and off the field



Caroline Murphy (Wexford) in action against Briege Corkery (Cork) in the Gala All-Ireland Senior Camogie Final.

which the Rebels won by a single point. It was an indicator of how the Model County players were shaping up under a new management team.

## ROUND ROBIN

The Gala Senior Championship played on a Round Robin system saw Wexford defeat the champions Cork in the first round. They, with Galway, Cork and Tipperary, made it through to the semi-finals. Galway played great camogie in the first half but Wexford showed their superior fitness in the last 15 minutes to make it to their first All-Ireland final appearance since 1994. Tipperary, one of the major forces at senior level since 1999, were beaten by Cork in the second semi-final.

Two great teams provided marvellous entertainment. Wexford had the homework done and survived a late Cork rally to record a first All-Ireland victory since 1975. Led by their inspirational captain Mary Leacy who had the honour of accepting the beautiful new O'Duffy Cup for the first time. The scenes of celebration and joy at the final whistle were wonderful. We salute the great Cork team that won two All-Ireland titles back-to-back but we acknowledge the new and very worthy Champions, Wexford.

The Gala All-Ireland Junior Final, which was back in Croke Park this year, went down to the wire. It looked as if Clare were on their way when deep into injury time Derry cracked home a goal to see them win by a point. Laois and Meath contested the Nancy Murray Cup. Laois won but the Royal County has plenty to build on. Carlow won the Máire Ní Chinnéide Cup. Europe entered a team in this competition for the first time. — Continued on page 66.

As the song says "it was a very good year" and so it was for Camogie. The skill level, the dedication and the commitment of the players gave us some great games during the year. The Gala All-Ireland Senior Final was considered by many to be the best of all the Gaelic Games Finals in 2007. Off the field, too, it has been an exciting year for camogie.

The year started, as always, with the Third Level Competitions. The Purcell Cup was won by Athlone IT. The Ashbourne hosted by NUIG followed. UCD won it for the first time since 1988. It was to be the first of two cups Mary Leacy would lift as she accepted the Ashbourne Cup from Brídín Uí Mhaolagáin. Life President of CCAO. Garda College won the Ashbourne Shield and Sheena Howard, niece of President of the Camogie Association Liz Howard, accepted the trophy. The Second level Colleges Senior A Championship was won by St. Mary's Magheraleit (Derry). St Mary's Nenagh, won the Senior B, while Carrick on Sur won the Senior C.

The National League provided some marvellous games at all levels. Waterford, who had won Division 3 in 2006, stepped up to win Division 2, defeating Down in the final. Westmeath defeated Meath in the Division 3 final. A re-energised

Limerick won the Senior B in style, defeating the Rebels. Monaghan won the Division 4 Blitz for the second year in a row.

Cork and Wexford contested the Division 1 Final

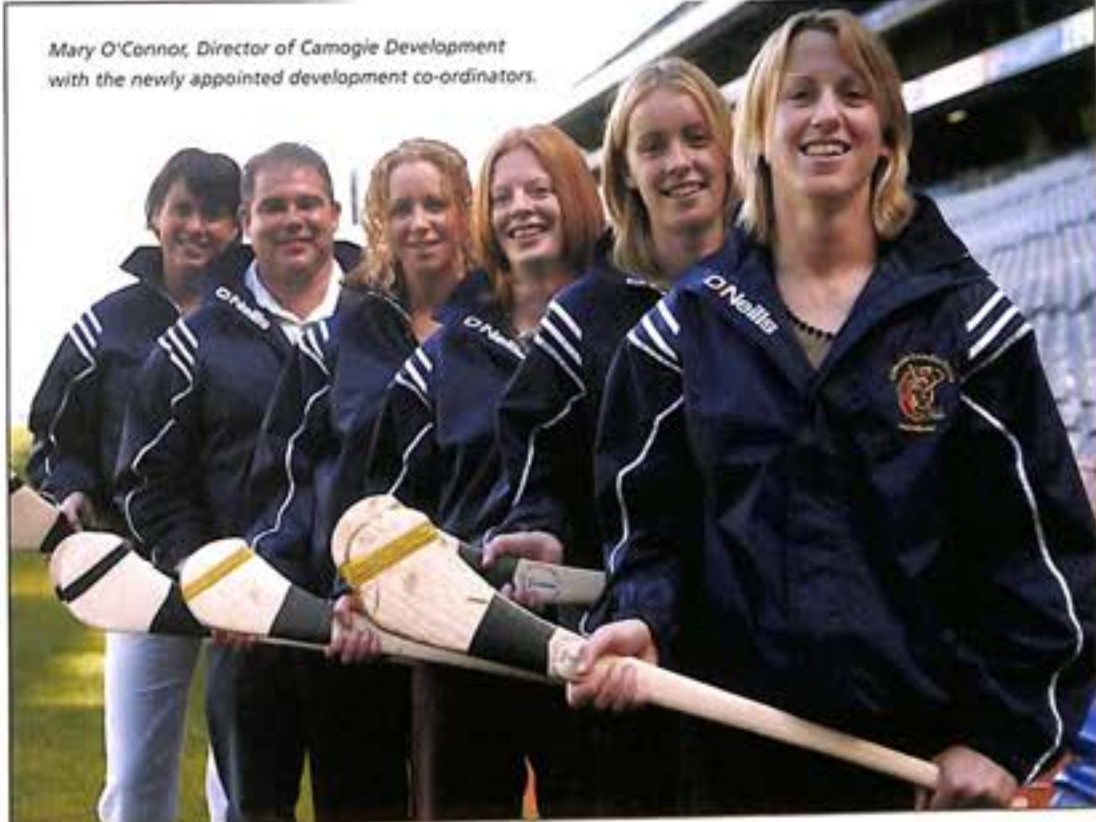
Caoimhe Spillane of Kerry gets a few tips from Mary O'Connor, Cork dual star and Director of Camogie Development at the Coillte Development Squad Blitz day in Croke Park.



## NEW CO-ORDINATORS

Off the field too it has been an exciting year for camogie. Four additional Regional Development Co-ordinators were appointed in the late summer. Jennifer Duffy (Cork) is based in Áras Laighean, Portlaoise with responsibility for Carlow, Wicklow, Wexford, Kilkenny, Laois and Offaly. Deirdre Murphy (Clare) is the Munster Development Co-ordinator. Eve Talbot of Dublin takes on responsibility for Dublin and Kildare while Gerard Gribben's remit includes Meath, Westmeath, Louth, Longford, Cavan and Monaghan. A Second Level Development Co-ordinator has also been appointed. Jennifer Steede is working to promote camogie in secondary schools across the country. Kevin Kelly continues his great work as Ulster Development Officer. Caroline Murray is based in Galway with responsibility for Connacht while Mary O'Connor heads up the team as Director of Camogie Development.

If 2007 is any indicator then we are in for a feast of camogie in 2008.



Mary O'Connor, Director of Camogie Development with the newly appointed development co-ordinators.



All Star Team — The 2007 Energise Sport Camogie All Stars in association with O'Neills with Liz Howard, President of the Camogie Association, Gordon D'Arcy, Guest of Honour, Christine Keohane, Energise Sport and Cormac Farrell of O'Neills.



# CAMOGIE *world*

## ALL-IRELAND TITLES FOR CASHEL AND HARPS

The All-Ireland club senior and junior titles wound their way to Cashel of Tipperary and Harps of Laois after two thrilling finals in November.

Cashel backboned by eight senior All-Ireland medal holders became All-Ireland club champions for the first time in their history when they defeated Athenry of Galway 1-18 to 0-9 in the Gaelic Grounds, Limerick.

The Bill Carroll Cup has not rested in the Premier County since St. Patrick's Drumgoole made it back to back victories in 1965 and 1966 and ironically then the Tipperary ladies had to call on a Kilkenny intercounty player Ann Carroll to assist them in their victory, while Cashel's captain Sinéad Millea also played with the Black and Amber!

There was no doubt about the outcome of this final in the Gaelic Grounds as the Cashel back room team had their home work done already and smartly moved player of the match and 2007 All-Star, Philly Fogarty from midfield to corner forward, a move that allowed Tipperary's only other All-Star of 2007, Claire Grogan to move out to midfield where she played very effectively between the half forwards and midfield area.

Athenry, who were seeking their second ever title and their first since 1977 tried hard, but their captain and Galway senior star Therese Maher very soon was given little room when Una O'Dwyer moved from her starting position of full-back to centre back to curb the classy Maher. It worked, the Galway player was held scoreless.

However, the opening half saw the Connacht champions give it their all as they just trailed by two points at the break, 0-5 to Cashel's 0-7. By the second half it appeared they just did not have enough steam left to curb the fast and hungry Cashel girls who had full-forward Emily Hayden to thank for their only goal of the day in the 23rd minute of the second half when once again inspirational Claire Grogan

was the girl on hand to pass to Hayden who smashed to the net.

With captain fantastic Sinéad Millea having a great game at left half back, Jill Horan at midfield and Claire Grogan upfront it was not long before the Cashel machine made life very difficult for the Galway champions who having defeated last year's champions St. Lachtain's of Kilkenny in the semi-final may have thought this was going to be their year, but a delighted Cashel captain Sinéad Millea, could not hide her happiness after the game "it is just a great feeling, a crowning glory, I always hoped for a club All-Ireland medal and now I am just thrilled" commented the player who is the proud holder of 2 All-Ireland medals, National League, An All-Star, as well as Gael-Linn Interprovincial medals all with her native Kilkenny.

A striking difference between the sides was the fact that of Athenry's total scoreline, four of their scores came from frees, while only two of Cashel's eighteen points came from frees, with two further scores coming from '45's. There was no dispute on this occasion as to who would be the eventual winners would be and so the Cashel can rock the night away. Athenry will have to come again and no better person than Manager Midge Glynn, (nee Poniard) who was on the winning All-Ireland team of 1977 to rally the troops again.

Cashel - H Breen; S Morrissey, N O'Dwyer, J McGrath; P Bulfin, U O'Dwyer, S Millea; J Horan, P Fogarty; L Grogan, M Morrissey, C Hennessy; A Lonergan, E Hayden, C Grogan. Subs: L Toomey for A Lonergan, D Ryan for S Morrissey, J Moloney for E Hayden. Scorers: Cashel: 1-18: E Hayden 1-2, C Grogan 0-7 (0-2'45, 0-2f), P Fogarty 0-3, A Lonergan, C Hennessy 0-2 each, L Grogan, M Morrissey 0-1 each.

Athenry - S Gannon; K Glynn, A Poniard, D Coen; R Glynn, K Ruddy, E Costelloe; S Donohue, L Linnane; J Gill, T Maher, S Quirke; M Keogh, N Nally, N Coen. Subs: D Wyer for N Nally, 27mins. K O'Dwyer for K

Cuddy 50mins. Scorers: 0-9: L Linnane 0-4 (0-3f), J Gill 0-2 (0-1f), D Ward 0-2, K Glynn 0-1.

Stabannon, Co. Louth was the venue for the 2007 All-Ireland junior club championship final between the holders, Harps of Laois and last year's defeated finalists, St. Patrick's, Keady of Armagh, when only a point divided the sides at the final whistle, 2-8 to Keady's 2-7. Those who came to this game got real value for money as the result was in doubt until the very end and it was action packed all the way.

Right corner-forward, Aine Mahony was the hero of this thrilling final when she popped over the winning point three minutes into time added on to record a second All-Ireland medal on the trot for the Laois ladies.

This was a tough game for captain Caitriona Phelan who had to sit this game out as she unfortunately injured her ankle recently in training, however, she was there with captain of the day, Louise Mahony to lift the Phil Mc Bride cup for the second year in a row.

It only took the holders two minutes to record their first score a -'45 from star player Louise Mahony who finished the day with 0-5, however Keady then began to get to grips with the game very smartly and quickly showed the large crowd what they could deliver. With player of the match Noleen Mc Kenna racing goalwards and creating all sorts of problems for Harps the Harps goalie Maeve Brophy had to give it her all to stop a powerful shot from Keady full-forward Colette Mc Keever just four minutes later. However, within the minute, Keady equalised with Mc Kenna's first point.

Then the Ulster champions stepped up the gears and were 1-4 to 0-1 up after a 16th minute goal from Colette Mc Keever. However, Harps were not prepared to lose their title without a fight and within the final five minutes of the opening half sent over 1-4 to put them marginally ahead at the break, 1-5 to Keady's 1-4, the goal having come from full-forward Elaine Mahony two minutes from the whistle.

The same player stung the Keady

girls with her second goal just two minutes into the restart to put Harps ahead 2-5 to Keady's 1-4. Both sides exchanged further scores before Michelle Murphy got the final touch to Keady's second goal of the day, to leave just two points in the difference, Harps 2-7, Keady 2-5. Both sides played very defensively, especially Keady, where captain Michelle Murray was very accurate with fine long clearances, especially in the opening half.

Roared on by the very enthusiastic crowd the sides were level with four minutes to go when Keady's Mairéad Doyle popped over a neat point. All were now looking towards a draw, but Harps fine tuned in the end with a superb point from corner forward Aine Mahony who broke the Keady hearts with the winning point. Although the ball broke down the field, the Keady forwards a met a tough Laois defence who denied them any entry towards goal and with that Cork referee Cathal Egan blew his whistle to signal an end to this year's club championship and the final intercounty game of 2007.

Harps - M Brophy; E Cuddy, D Quigley, P Dunphy; A Donohue, C Phelan, L Mahony; L Mahony, J Prior; T Bennett, E Dunne, C Walsh; A Mahony, E Mahony, A Hanlon. Subs: L Byrne for C Walsh, 30mins. Scorers: 2-8: E Mahony 2-2, L Mahony 0-5 (0-1'45, 0-4f), A Mahony 0-1.

St. Patrick's Keady - L Comiskey; B Mc Quade, E McGroary, M Murray; C Comiskey, K Kinsella, C Keenan; C Conway, M Doyle; C Kinsella, A O'Farrell, N Mc Kenna; M Murphy, C McKeever, P Mc Cabe. Sub - H Murray for A Farrell 53mins. Scorers: 2-7: C McKeever 1-1, M Murphy 1-0, C Kinsella 0-3, (0-2f), N Mc Kenna 0-2, M Doyle 0-1.



Cashel captain Sinéad Millea with the All-Ireland senior camogie trophy



# Ballincollig can rise to challenge

By MARY NEWMAN

Camogie

**SUNDAY**  
**Evening Echo Junior A**  
**camogie final:**  
**Ballincollig v Killeagh,**  
**time and venue tbc**

THE curtain comes down on the *Evening Echo* Junior A championship on Sunday.

All-Ireland finals in two codes, draws, section play-offs and semi-final draws all conspired to push the final back, but it's finally arrived and no doubt their will be sighs of relief in both camps come Sunday evening, barring of course the dreaded draw!

Last season Killeagh were favoured to take the title but lost to Rockbawn who went on to lift the crown. The previous year it was Douglas who stopped them in their tracks and as both of those sides went on to contest this year's senior B final (with Douglas winning). Killeagh no doubt feel they're overdue a return to the senior stage.

A young Ballincollig side will have other ideas.

It's been a tough six months since the first ball was thrown in on July 9 in the two sections of the round robin series, and both finalists came through the same section.

Killeagh won their first group meeting with the Collig as well as recording victories over Tracton, Clonakilty and Newtown to book their semi-final spot.

It was a slightly different route for Ballincollig, who on Sunday will be playing their ninth junior championship game this season.

In their opening game they beat Newtown but lost to Killeagh and Tracton and needed a win over Clon to se-



Denise Cronin, left, and Leah Weste will gunning for glory against Killeagh on Sunday.

cure an unlikely three-way play-off for a semi-final berth.

They beat Clon again, with a brilliant Denise Cronin proving vital, and then Tracton to secure a semi date with Fr O'Neill's.

The first game was a dour low-scoring draw where Ballincollig missed a host of chances and a number of scoreable frees, but in the replay they bounced back from conceding two early goals with a great second-half display. Ashley Lovett struck over some sweet scores and drilled home a goal, while Leah Weste dominated from centre-back as they turned a

six-point deficit into a 2-6 to 2-2 win.

It's a huge achievement for the club given they decided to step up from junior B to improve their players. This, as well as Muskerry's senior county win in which four of their players started with five more on the bench, has worked a treat and they're a far better side than they were at the start of the summer.

Leah Weste, Tina O'Donnell, Denise Cronin, Maria O'Donoghue and Brea O'Callaghan are excellent performers who have gained plenty of experience at inter-county and colleges levels.

After years of success at senior, camogie in Killeagh fell into decline and they re-graded to junior B but took that championship title in 2002 and have been a force at junior A for a few of years.

The injury to senior inter-county player Mary O'Connor is a huge blow but they still have the players for the big occasion. Cork senior Angela Walsh, Ciara Walsh, Anne Marie Walsh, Clare Keohane and Amy O'Shea are all experienced campaigners. They have a nice blend of youth and experience and they will not be overawed by the occasion, though they may be quite

tired after a long season, which included an All-Ireland club football appearance with Inch.

Killeagh have been there before, look stronger (their physicality could be factor if the conditions are poor) and as favourites may just shade it. However Ballincollig in the words of their coach "have the heart to win it". They have played four games since Killeagh last played and this momentum, and the experience garnered by their four key players in the senior county final with Muskerry, means they just might do it.

**Verdict:** Ballincollig

## Fitness could be the key Killeagh coach is wary

DAVE COLLINS, the young Ballincollig coach, is under no illusions as to the task facing his charges in Sunday's County Camogie Junior final.

"The game will be a hard one, no doubt about it. With the conditions at the moment it will be tough I feel it will come down to fitness, it really may just be a case of that the fittest team over the hour will be the ones to survive."

"They've beaten us already this year. In the second game in the round robin series we suffered a bad defeat and no doubt that will be a boost to them."

"Mary O'Connor is a huge loss to them but we were as strong then as we are now. So even if we've improved we have huge task if we are to turn it around."

This is Ballincollig's first year in the Ju-

nior A grade and Dave's first year as coach. The 27-year-old is determined to make it a winning one.

"It's our first year in Junior A and we might have to wait another 10 years to get to a county final again so we have to grab this with both hands. We lost a junior B semi-final last year and we chose to go up a grade mainly to play better teams and this has helped the club."

"It's the biggest day the club has had, we lost U16 A and B Championship finals this year, but last year we won the U16B Championship and this year we're in the U18A semi-finals and several of these girls backbone the side on Sunday."

The final word to Dave who says: "It will be tough I feel and know we have it in our hearts to win it. Hopefully we can."

KILLEAGH joint-coach John O'Connor, brother of injured All-Star Mary, is eagerly looking forward to Sunday's challenge.

"It's a county final but we will be under pressure, no doubt about it. Mary is a huge loss to us and as we well know it could go either way."

"We are going in to win but we know it's a huge task, I saw them twice recently and they are very good. All of their forwards can score."

"No doubt they will be very determined to win as well. I know we beat them twice already this year but that counts for little as both sides were short key players."

"Since those games they have improved a lot."

"In their two games against Fr O'Neill's they showed great resolve, particularly in the second half of the second game, their forwards notching up the score when they needed them and their defence was very strong."

"We will be hoping to settle early and get a few early scores and take it from there, it's a huge incentive to try and win and get up to Senior B."

"There is a great camogie history in club and we have an excellent underage structure in place and hopefully the glory days will return."

"It's a big occasion for the younger girls but we have a few girls with experience behind them and we will be looking to them to lead the way," concluded John.



## Crawford facts

CRAWFORD College of Art and Design is part of Cork Institute of Technology.

The college has its origins in the Cork School of Design of 1850 which was associated with the Royal Cork Institution.

The building that originally housed the college was built in 1724 as Cork's Custom House. Crawford College of Art and Design is one of the leading

colleges of art and design in Ireland.

The College has produced graduates such as Maud Cotter, Alice Maher, Michael Quane and Vivienne Roche.

The college offers well-recognised courses in Fine Art, Ceramic Design, Art Therapy, and Art and Design Education, with facilities for 300 students.

## Brian Moore

**A**CTING Principal at the Crawford School of Art and Design Orla Flynn is looking forward to the year ahead.

Ms Flynn has taken over the reins from the former principal Geoff Steiner-Scott who retired last year after 30 years in charge of Cork's acclaimed Crawford School of Art and Design.

She said: "I want to ensure that the Crawford College remains with a strong identity and association with the arts in Cork. I want to be a strong advocate for the arts and the courses available at the Crawford. I would also see it as a priority that we achieve a similar level of accommodation as our colleagues in the wonderful new Cork School of Music."

When asked if the Crawford College of Arts will be moving perhaps to the CIT Campus in Bishopstown, Orla Flynn said: "It is most unlikely that the Crawford will move to Bishopstown, indeed the staff and students here would certainly view that the proximity to the city centre is hugely important."

"I see students from the school going to the Crawford Gallery or the Glucksman and its a wonderful facility."

A location for a new School of Art on White Street, has been mentioned, and Ms Flynn confirmed that a number of possibilities are being explored in relation to the area.

"There certainly seems to be goodwill on behalf of the city council and so on to enabling the development of a creative centre, while Bishopstown would be an option it certainly would not be the preferred option," she said.

New York-born Orla, grew up in Waterford and studied Mathematical Physics and computer science at University College Cork.

In the late 1980s Orla went to the

then Regional Technical College in Bishopstown to teach computer graphics.

In 1992 the RTC act saw the amalgamation of the Crawford College of Art and Design and the Cork School of Music and Orla became Head of Printing, Graphics and Editorial studies.

Orla said she was fascinated by the actual process of producing art.

"The process whereby an idea is brought from a concept to a finished product. There is the individuality of this creative process but also the idea of problem-solving; whether this is for an artist completing a commissioned piece of work, or a graphic designer working on a brief for a client. I have a particular affinity for object creation, whether it is

in ceramics or sculpture — the CIT Crawford College of Art and Design has a long tradition of producing excellent work in these areas," she said.

As arts venues go Orla said: "The new CIT Cork School of Music is definitely my favourite arts venue in Cork, in the broadest sense of the word."

"It is a beautiful yet functional building; designed to support musical culture primarily but at the same time encouraging a sense of visual purpose."

"The Lewis Glucksman Gallery has brought a renewed energy in terms of the visual arts, and has proven to be a strong support of graduates of the CIT Crawford College of Art and Design."

# Orla has designs on the challenges facing the Crawford



## From New York to Cork

**NAME** Orla Flynn.

**BORN:** "I was born in New York and grew up in Waterford. So, I consider myself a Waterford woman."

**HOME:** "I live just outside Mitchelstown."

**GRADUATED:** "I graduated from University College Cork after studying Maths, Physics and Computer Science."

**HOBBIES:** "My main hobby

## Factfile

could be described as a three-dimensional time-based medium, involving form, and texture and which evolves over time. I am a gardener. I used to participate in sports when I was younger, including camogie, and badminton, but I only play golf now."



## WHAT THEY SAID



Killeagh coach John O'Connor.

## O'Connor delighted with team's resilience

Killeagh joint coach, and brother of All-Star Mary, John O'Connor was in jubilant mood after the game, despite getting dunked into an oversized puddle.

He paid tribute to his side's display and in particular their resilience.

"We knew it was going to be a dogfight here today but we felt that if we could get enough quality ball into our forwards we'd have a good chance.

"It wasn't easy out there and it certainly wasn't pretty, but I'm just thrilled for our girls, we'd been waiting a long time for it, didn't want to be known as a crowd of 'nearlies' after losing to Rockbawn and Douglas in the last two years, so we're just thrilled."

When I asked him what he thought won it for his side, he commented on the importance of the side's experience.

"Our experience of being in big games told a lot and the boost of having Mary fit was a huge boost too," he said.

"During the week she wasn't playing, but she went training Friday night and it just lifted everyone to see her there."

Big games require big players and Mary O'Connor delivered when the need was greatest.

Sustaining a bad knee injury only three months ago, in crutches for two months and a fitness doubt up until Friday night, it would take a lot more to keep O'Connor sidelined.

"It's absolutely fantastic, it's been a very long year, the football a few weeks ago was the spur for us to win today.

"Nobody likes losing county finals and we're a proud club and always wanted to be up senior. It took us longer than we wanted to, but we're back up now and we'll be putting the shoulder to the wheel at the end of January so we can compete at that level."

On a day like yesterday, there always has to be a loser and Balinacollig coach Dave Collins was bitterly disappointed but gracious in defeat.

"Right now I'm absolutely gutted, I genuinely thought we were going to win but in hindsight, I suppose we didn't build enough of a lead at half-time and all credit to Killeagh, they took their chances and they deserved their win.

"We'll be back next year though, we all made an agreement and promised ourselves that we'll be back," he added.

# O'Shea hits a

## Adverse conditions spoil event

By BRIAN CANTY

Junior camogie

Killeagh

1-8

Balinacollig

1-4

SOMETHING told me as I went to yesterday's *Evening Echo*-sponsored Junior A camogie county final between Killeagh and Balinacollig that it wouldn't be a day for ol' fancy stuff, and it certainly wasn't.

Balinacollig was the venue for this one after being changed from Buttevant at late notice but with the kind of mood Mother Nature was in yesterday, it wouldn't have mattered if it had been on in the Antarctic.

Conditions were nothing short of atrocious and the chattering teeth of the Balinacollig girls, swaddled in mud as they despondently plodded off the field to a rousing reception, was a sight to behold.

Huge credit must be given to them for a highly-spirited performance, where they led by a goal at half-time but facing into a gale force wind in the second half, their buffer simply wasn't strong enough.

They will take solace though in the fact that they fielded a young side and will have learnt more in defeat than perhaps had they won.

Their coach Dave Collins was notably dejected after the game but vowed his side would be back. "We made a pact out on the field after the match to stay together and promised ourselves we'd be back next year."

The day belonged to the east Cork girls though and as we zipped up our overcoats and huddled for warmth to combat the elements, they jumped and leaped around the mucky field like spring lambs, having achieved a truly sweet victory.

What decided this game is hard to pinpoint but the driving rain and howling wind were a huge factor in the outcome.

Not only did it pose huge logistical problems, especially in the second half where Balinacollig struggled to get the ball out of their half, but simple things like gripping the hurley and such elementary skills were made look like sizeable tasks as the game wore on.

With such unforgiving conditions, it possibly favoured the physically-stronger side and this undoubtedly was Killeagh.

They had a very solid half-back line of Ciara Walsh, Ann Marie Walsh and Eanna O'Neill, who repelled attacks with frequency, but as well as this had a half-forward line where player of the match Clare Keohane and Cork senior Angela Walsh caused endless problems with their probing runs and tireless work rate.

Full forward Amy O'Shea also gave an immense contribution and her superb goal midway through the second half was the turning point in



Killeagh captain Carmel Deane holding up the cup to after they beat Balinacollig in the final of the Evening Echo Junior Camogie Championship in Balinacollig.

Picture: Richard Mills

### Score of the match

Angela Walsh's sweet score on 58 minutes from out on the wing effectively sealed the game, and the title, for Killeagh.

### Player of the Game

Possible candidates included Angela Walsh, Amy O'Shea or Clara Walsh, but the award goes to Clare Keohane of Killeagh.

### Entertainment value:

A small crowd turned out due to abysmal weather but witnessed a good hour's entertainment with plenty honesty and heart on display. 7/10.

### Referee watch

Referee Oliver Webb was impartial, consistent and showed common sense but had no difficulty with two very sporting teams.



Nov. 2007

# Killeagh blow



Eve Talbot Camogie Development Officer for Dublin and Kildare



The Killeagh team, with trainers John and Noel O'Connor after the final of the Junior Camogie Championship in Ballincollig.

Picture: Richard Mills.



Ballincollig's Leah Weste shows her disappointment after they lost to Killeagh in the final of the Evening Echo Junior Camogie Championship in Ballincollig.

Picture: Richard Mills.



Killeagh's Katie Kelleher racing away from Ballincollig's Denise Cronin.

Picture: Richard Mills.



David Kennedy, Dublin Camogie Senior Manager

## THREE REASONS WHY KILLEAGH WON

1

### Physical Strength

On an dreadful day for any kind of a match, it was a true case of the strongest surviving and against a youthful Ballincollig side, Killeagh took full advantage. Working hard all over the field, they squeezed the life out of their opponents, didn't allow any free space and from a solid half-back line and bossed proceedings, especially in the second half.

2

### Experience

Last season Killeagh were favoured to take the title but went under to Rockbawn. The year previous they lost out to Douglas, who won the Senior B title this year, and Killeagh felt they were overdue some success. They have enjoyed years of success prior to this in the senior grade and the likes of Mary O'Connor and Amy O'Shea guided them with this experience yesterday.

3

### Amy O'Shea's second half goal

Prior to O'Shea's strike, Ballincollig coped reasonably well and had they weathered the Killeagh storm at the start of the second half there is no telling how different the game might have been. They didn't, and O'Shea's goal signalled the start of their demise, and spurred Killeagh on to claim the title.

but two wide balls was all they could muster, while at the other end Angela Walsh raced clear and made it a four-point game with a peach of a score on 58 minutes.

With the game slipping from Ballincollig they went all-out in search of a goal and it very nearly came when a high ball into the square from Sarah Buckley could have ended up anywhere.

It wasn't the net though and it spelled their last attack.

There was time for Keohane to fittingly notch the final score of the game with her fifth point, this time from out on the wing and wrap up a thoroughly-deserved win and unleash scenes of utter satisfaction after a long and arduous year that saw the Killeagh girls defeated only two weeks ago in the All-Ireland football final, but they weren't to be denied yesterday.

Chairperson of the Cork Camogie Board Maura McCarthy presented the winning trophy to team captain and goalkeeper Carmel Deane as well as the player-of-the-match award to Clare Keohane.

**Scorers for Killeagh:** C Keohane 0-6 (0-4f, 0-1 65), A O'Shea 1-0, M O'Connor, A Walsh 0-1 each.

**Ballincollig:** C. Ryan 1-0, S Buckley (0-1f), P Buttimer, A Lovett, M O'Donoghue 0-1 each. **Killeagh:** C Deane, C O'Brien, L O'Connor, C Meade, C Walsh, AM Walsh, E O'Neill, M Smiddy, K Kelleher, A Walsh, C Keohane, N O'Donovan, G Cunningham, A O'Shea, S Smiddy.

**Subs:** M O'Connor for Smiddy, K Walsh for O'Donovan.

**Ballincollig:** T O'Donnell; B O'Callaghan, A Kelly, A Coughlan, A Cotter, L Weste, K O'Donoghue; S Buckley, E Nolan; A Lovett, M O'Donoghue, P Buttimer; C Ryan, C McSwiney, D Cronin.

**Subs:** M O'Sullivan for Nolan.

**Referee:** O Webb (Tracton).

the game after which her side never looked back.

The home side won the toss and elected to use the elements in the opening half.

The decision was a wise one and after sustained pressure eventually got off the mark through a Maria O'Donoghue point which was quickly followed by a fine effort from Patricia Buttimer.

A minute later they were in again when a long ball broke to Claire Ryan and she first-timed it to the net to give the scoreline a rosy complexion of 1-2 to no score.

Sarah Buckley then added a free to open up a six-point gap before Clare Keohane registered Killeagh's first score with a pointed free on 22 minutes.

Sensing danger, they introduced the supposedly injured Mary O'Connor, and sporting a hefty bandage over her left knee, the inspirational Cork senior didn't take long to make

her mark when she fired over with her first touch.

Ballincollig were then given a glorious opportunity to widen the margin when Oliver Webb awarded a penalty for a foul on Denise Cronin but Carmel Deane saved expertly and the danger was averted.

Clare Keohane had her second point just before half-time to bring them within three of Ballincollig, and facing into the breeze for the second half there was the belief that they hadn't inflicted enough damage.

The penalty miss was crucial as not only would they not score again for nearly half an hour but it gave Killeagh the wake-up call and the injection of confidence that Ballincollig could have avoided.

The second half resumed in whirlwind fashion, Amy O'Shea in particular stood out for Killeagh with her ability to win ball in ruck-like scenarios and abscond with the sliotar.

One of these forays led to a penalty after only three minutes of the second half but this was also saved superbly by Tina O'Donnell to maintain Ballincollig's advantage.

It wouldn't last long though as Killeagh proceeded to turn the screw.

The dam finally broke on when a goalmouth scramble was only partially-cleared but on hand was O'Shea to rattle the net and tie the scores at 1-3 each.

Buoyed by this score, Killeagh tacked on two 65s and a close-in free, all through Keohane who now began to stamp her authority on the game.

Ballincollig needed something, anything, just to keep them within arm's length, but like the world title fight between Ricky Hatton and Floyd Mayweather only hours previously, endeavour and energy was no match for class.

Denise Cronin and Ashley Lovett tried in vain to revive their hopes



Eimear Brannigan Camogie All Star 2007



# Fr O'Neills too good for Passage

Fr O'Neill's Passage 2-4  
0-0  
by Mary Newman

AIDED by the strong wind Fr O'Neill's held the upper hand inside three minutes of the throw in as they battled to take the Tower View Developments Minor C championship title.

Emma Swayne gave them an early lead and with Rhiona Abernethy adding their second point seven minutes later their confidence grew. Passage battled against the strong Fr O'Neills defence but found the going tough. Kate Harrington extended the O'Neills lead to four points with further points, but despite winning plenty of possession they failed to grab a goal and so it remained 0-4 to no score in

favour of O'Neills at the half-time whistle.

Weather conditions made life difficult for both teams, but through the second half they continued to battle hard, Passage now aided by the strong wind failed to capitalise and it was Rhiona Abernethy who struck for a goal 11 minutes into the half and now Fr O'Neills were well in control. Passage enjoyed plenty of possession, but failed to breach the O'Neills defence, and when they did their shooting left them down, striking narrowly wide as they battled to get on the score sheet.

A second Rhiona Abernethy goal effectively put the game beyond Passage and ensured the title was on its way to Ballymacoda for the first time. County board chairperson Marian McCarthy pre-

sented the trophy to Fr O'Neill's Captain, Denise O'Leary, while two-goal heroine Rhiona Abernethy was named as Player of the Match following her contribution.

**Fr O'Neill's:** Yvonne O'Keefe, Marie Harrington, Clara McGrath, Annette Griffin, Joy Dunne, Sarah Harrington, Caroline Ahern, Kate Harrington, Yvonne Murphy, Oriagh Farmer, Emma Swayne, Denise O'Leary (Captain), Rachel Ahern, Rhiona Abernethy and Ashling McMahon. Subs: Paula Kenneally, Linda Hayes and Tamara Broderick. Scorers: Rhiona Abernethy 2-1, Kate Harrington 0-2 frees, Emma Swayne 0-1.

**Passage:** Laura McCarthy, Clodagh Murphy, Nicola O'Sullivan, Emer Hyde, Claire O'Brien, Lisa O'Sullivan, Erin Twomey, Karen Twomey, Shauna Jordan, Laura McCarthy, Gillian Foley, Louise Murphy, Natasha O'Sullivan, Caoimhe Doyle, Sinead O'Reilly. Subs: Gemma Cooney for E Hyde, Maireann Doyle, Enya McMahon, Tia McMahon.

**Referee:** John O'Leary, Mallow

# Coachford make two finals

CAMOGIE players at Coachford College have created school history by qualifying for both the Munster Colleges Senior and Junior A finals. Recent victories over St Mary's, Nenagh, on a scoreline of 4-12 to 0-3, at Senior grade, and the mighty St Mary's, Charleville, at Junior grade (5-2 to 4-3), means the Muskerry school must prepare for two finals.

The Junior encounter was a close affair, with the visitors from Avondhu taking an early lead. Goals from Fiona Moloney, Sinead Dennehy and Mariah Reidy put them well ahead but Coachford, reigning Junior B All Ireland champions, rallied. Aoife Barry Murphy and player of the match Rosie O'Mahony regained control at midfield and allowed Joanne Casey and Aoife Hennessy to score vital goals past Mary's netminder Karen Biganne.

Casey added a point but Charleville responded with another goal from Fiona Moloney after good approach play from Louise and Sinead O'Flynn. Coachford full back Laura McCarthy im-

proved her play considerably and, with Susan Buckley operating effectively next to her, it was inevitable the home side would regroup. Emma Kingston, Katie McCarthy and Liz Buckley cleared competently from the half back-line and Aine O'Connor narrowed the deficit to two points. Casey added her second goal before half time to put Coachford in front.

After the resumption, Louise O'Flynn converted a free for Charleville to draw level but Michelle O'Sullivan managed to finish a good move to flick the sliotar to the Charleville net. Mariah Reidy fired over another point but, with three minutes remaining, Charleville elected to go for goal from a close in free. Susan Buckley blocked the effort and her clearance was added to by the colossus Rosie O'Mahony whose incisive pass released Grace O'Sullivan. The Cloughduv girl fired over the bar. Coachford now await the winners of Christ the King and St Caimin's, Shannon, for the final on January 26. The Coachford senior pan-

## Munster Colleges Camogie results

**Senior A semi-final**  
Coachford 4-12 Nenagh 0-3  
**Senior B**  
Christ King 1-12 St Flannan's 2-3, Coláiste Choilm 4-9 Clonakilty 1-4  
**Senior C**  
St Mary's, Middleton 1-3 BCS Usmore 3-4  
**Intermediate A**  
Carrig On Suir 2-12 Doon 2-5  
Waterford 0-3 Tulla 6-11  
**Intermediate League**  
Middleton 3-7 Mallow 1-6  
Dromcollogher 2-3 Roscrea 5-1  
**Hayes Intermediate Final**  
Tramore 3-4 Blarney 2-4  
**Junior A**  
Coachford 5-2 Charleville 4-3  
**Junior B**  
Carrigaline 4-0 Fermoy 1-0  
Cashel 1-4 Usmore 5-5  
**Junior C**  
Hospital 2-3 Roscrea 2-1  
Dromcollogher 7-9 Tulla 1-2  
Carrigavarr 1-4 Mallow 3-0  
**U16 1st B**  
Ballyphehane 0-2 Tipperary 1-1  
Blarney 9-4 Mount Mercy 2-6  
Bruff 4-3 Kilfinane 0-2

el had a comfortable victory over Nenagh, at Newtownshandrum. Niamh Dilworth (2-4), Joanne Casey (1-5), Aoife Barry Murphy (1-2) and Caroline Kiely (0-1) were the scorers in the semi-final. Charleville await them in the final on Saturday, February 2.

Nov. 2007

## Ulster Colleges All Stars

# Clon show their class in title win over Rovers

Clonakilty Valley Rovers 4-6  
1-1  
by Mary Newman

CLONAKILTY took the Tower View Developments minor B championship title after defeating Valley Rovers in difficult conditions in Cloughduv on Sunday last.

Clon made the better start with Sinead O'Neill opening the scoring after two minutes. Scores were hard to come by as the sides battled for supremacy. Mary Ann Hawkes equalised for Rovers 13 minutes into the game. Sharon Whelton edged Clon ahead, pointing a long-distance free. Now gaining the upper hand, Clon stretched their advantage with a Mairéad Connolly goal seven minutes to the break and so it stayed to the half-time whistle as Clon led 1-2 to 0-1.

Playing with the aid of the gale-force wind for the second half, Clon stretched their lead with an early point from Sharon Whelton and a goal from Aine O'Leary. Whelton added another point for Clon as Rovers battled to stay in contention.

Whelton was again on hand to finish to the net after good work from Lynn Kelleher and now Rovers were finding the going tough against a Clon defence with Marie O'Donovan, Beulah McManus, Carmel Desmond and Niamh Deasy on top. Sinead O'Neill added to Clonakilty's tally with ten minutes remaining before Erica Jennings added a fourth goal. Orla Deasy added a goal for Rovers before Clon substitute Treasa O'Brien pointed to ensure a



Clonakilty's Sinead O'Neill maintains possession as she is challenged by Valley Rovers' Ena Coughlan during the U18 Minor 'B' Championship final in Cloughduv. Picture: Richard Mills

first minor B title for Clonakilty. Sinead O'Brien of Clonakilty was named Player of the Match.

**Clonakilty:** Marie O'Donovan, Beulah McManus, Carmel Desmond, Niamh Deasy, Mary Beamish, Clare O'Mahony, Sinead O'Brien, Juanita Brennan, Aileen Kearns, Aine O'Leary (1-0), Sharon Whelton (1-3), Erica Jennings (1-0), Mairéad Connolly (1-0), Sinead O'Neill (0-2), Lynn Kelleher. Subs: Holly Hayes for Sinead O'Neill (56), Treasa O'Brien for Lynn

Kelleher (56), Eimear O'Donoghue for Mairéad Connolly (56), Sorcha Crowley for Niamh Deasy (56), Maeve Beechinor for Mary Beamish (56), Aoife O'Donovan, Aoife O'Neill, and Amy Hayes.

**Valley Rovers:** Tessa Hawkes, Aisling Lynch, Ena Coughlan, Claire Duggan, Aoife O'Callaghan, Sinead O'Shea, Claire Ryan, Aine Coughlan, Maire Forde, Aisling Glavin, Maryanne Hawkes, Katie Richardson, Eilish Butler, Orla Deasy, Eimear O'Reagan. Subs: Jessica Hawkes for Ena Coughlan (56), Julie O'Mahony for Aisling Glavin (50).



## News in brief

DOUGLAS made it a double as they took the Under 16 "A" league title defeating Milford. Ciara Lynch, Moira O'Donovan, Emma Jordan and Katriona Mackey to the fore.

Fr O' Neills and Brain Dillon's served up an exciting semi final in the Tower View Developments Minor C semi final extra time finally deciding the issue as O Neills booked their place in the final with a point to spare 1-8 to 1-7.

In the Under 16 C league semi final Brian Dillon's were to strong for Watergrahill as they booked their place in the final.

County Convention elected a new president as Kay Dunne was elected to the position. Former President Sile Golden takes over as secretary with Yvonne Lane joining the officer board as registrar. Next week we will have a look back in detail at convention.

Victory for Killeagh and Father o Neills

Killeagh collected the Evening Echo Junior A championship title 1-8 to 1-4 over Ballincollig.

Fr O' Neills completed the east cork double when they were crowned Tower View Development Minor C champions after victory over Passage.



## Douglas are all White on the night

By MARY NEWMAN

Cork U16A league final

Douglas 5-9  
Milford 2-2

DOUGLAS rounded off their year in style adding the U16A league title to the championship crown which they won earlier in the season.

Despite the appalling weather conditions, both teams served up an exciting contest.

Julia White gave Douglas an early lead with a point.

A goal soon after from Aileen O'Donovan helped extend the lead.

Milford replied with a goal from Rebecca Sheehy and points from Katie Galvin and Clara Curtin to stay in touch.

Douglas upped the pace and finished the first-half the stronger.

Aileen O'Donovan notched two further goals, while they had six unanswered points from Julia White and Katrina Mackey to leave the half-time score 4-8 to 1-3 in favour of Douglas.

With heavy rain spoiling the second-half conditions were miserable.

Milford came out fighting from the resumption and a goal from Katie Galvin narrowed the gap.

Douglas replied with points from Julia White and Aileen O'Donovan, before a Katrina Mackey goal gave Milford no way back.

Pamela Mackey received the player of the match award after turning in an impeccable display.

Scorers for Douglas: J White 1-6, A O'Donovan 3-1, K Mackey 1-3.

Milford: R Sheehy and K Galvin 1-0 each, C Curtin 0-2.

# Clon win first title

Clonakilty  
Valley Rovers

4-6  
1-1

By MARY NEWMAN

Minor B championship

THIS was an historic occasion as Clonakilty took the club's first trophy at minor level in the Tower View Developments minor B championship in difficult weather conditions in Cloughduv on Sunday last.

Clonakilty laid the foundations for victory from the throw-in and signalled their intentions early with a Sinead O'Neill points after just two minutes.

Conditions made scores hard to come by as the side's battled for supremacy. Mary Ann Hawkes equalised 13 minutes into the game as Valleys found the going tough against the physically stronger Clonakilty defence.

Sharon Whelton edged Clon ahead pointing a long distance free and they stretched their advantage with a Mairead Connolly goal seven minutes to the break.

At the half-time whistle it was Clon who led 1-2 to 0-1.

Playing with the aid of the gale

force wind for the second half, Clon stretched their lead with a Sharon Whelton point and in control at midfield they increased their advantage with an Aine O'Leary goal.

Sharon Whelton added a point as Valleys battled to stay in contention.

Sharon Whelton was again on hand to finish to the net after good work from Lynn Kelleher and now Valleys were finding the going tough against a Clon defence with Maire O'Donovan, Beulah McManus, Carmel Desmond and Niamh Deasy were on top.

Sinead O'Neill added to Clonakilty's tally with 10 minutes remaining before Erica Jennings added a fourth. Orla Deasy added a goal before Clon substitute Treasa O'Brien pointed to ensure a first minor B title for Clonakilty.

The superb Sinead O'Brien was named as Player of the Match.

**CLONAKILTY:** Marie O'Donovan, Beulah McManus, Carmel Desmond, Niamh Deasy, Mary Beamish, Clare O'Mahony, Sinead O'Brien, Juanita Brennan, Aileen Kearns, Aine O'Leary (1-0), Sharon Whelton (1-3), Erica Jennings (1-0), Mairead Connolly (1-0).



Clonakilty's keeper Marie O'Donovan clearing the ball past Valley Rovers' Mary Anne Hawkes and Orla Deasy during the U18 Minor B final.

Sinead O'Neill (0-2), Lynn Kelleher.

**Subs:** Holly Hayes for Sinead O'Neill (56), Treasa O'Brien for Lynn Kelleher (56), Eimear O'Donoghue for Mairead Connolly (56), Sorcha Crowley for Niamh Deasy (56), Maeve Beechinor for Mary Beamish (56), Aine O'Donovan, Aoife O'Neill, and Amy Hayes.

**VALLEY ROVERS:** Tessa Hawkes, Aisling Lynch, Ena Coughlan, Claire Duggan, Aoife O'Callaghan, Sinead O'Shea, Claire Ryan, Aine Coughlan, Maire Forde, Aisling Glavin, Mary Anne Hawkes, Katie Richardson, Eilish Butler, Orla Deasy, Eimear O'Reagan. **Subs:** Jessica Hawkes for Ena Coughlan (in injury), Julie O'Mahony for Aisling Glavin (50).

## Harrington point seals the deal for Dillion's after extra time

Fr O'Neill's  
Brian Dillons  
(AET)

1-8  
1-7

By MARY NEWMAN

Tower View developments  
Minor C championship

IT TOOK extra-time to separate Fr O'Neill's and Brian Dillons in this semi final of the Tower View Developments Minor C championship last Saturday in Rathcormac.

At the finish it was Fr O'Neill's who advanced by the narrowest of margins to book their place in the final.

Conditions were awful as

both sides battled against the driving wind and rain on the day.

It was Fr O'Neill's who dominated the opening 30 minutes.

This was reflected on the score board as they held a 1-4 to 0-1 interval lead.

Rachel Aherne had the games opening goal.

Points from Emma Swayne, Denise O'Leary, Rhiona Abernethy and Kate

Harrington helped O'Neill's set the pace, as Emma Lane replied with a point for Brian Dillon's.

From the start of the second half Brian Dillon's used the wind to their advantage.

Now in the driving seat, it was they who were calling the shots.

They put the Fr O'Neill's defence under pressure.

Claire Dooley, Donna Carroll and Megan Kelly pointed as Kate Harrington replied for Fr O'Neill's.

A goal from Donna Car-

roll was the boost Brian Dillon's needed, but Fr O'Neill's Kate Harrington showed her accuracy pointing a last-minute free to force the game to extra time after it ended 1-6 each at the end of normal time.

Brian Dillon's hit the front with a Claire Dooley point.

Once again Harrington brought O'Neill's back in the game pointing a free.

With the sides level 1-7 apiece, Kate Harrington pointed the match-winning free and with time almost

up, Brian Dillon's had no time to respond.

Credit to two superb teams for their efforts in atrocious weather conditions.

**BRIAN DILLON'S:** S Rodgers; L Bradfield, S Cotter, A Russell, E Burns, A Dorgan, D Ring; S Brosnan, C Dooley; E Lane, O Ni Shuilleabhain, M Kelly, D Carroll, J Dooley, N Gleeson.

**FR O'NEILL'S:** Y O'Keeffe; M Harrington, E McGrath, A Griffin, J Dunne, S Harrington; C Aherne; K Harrington, Y Murphy; D O'Leary, E Swaine, O Farmer, R Aherne, R Abernathy, A McMahony.

**Sub:** I Hayes for A Griffin (50)

## Wow! Women in sport



AWARDS NIGHT: Cork City FC Manager Damien Richardson and CIT sports officer Miriam Deasy, with the FAI Ford Cup, at the Cork Institute of Technology Sports Awards recently.

Picture: News Digital

## CIT sports in Miriam's care

Name: Miriam Deasy

Position: CIT Sports Officer

Age: 31

When and how did you become a sports officer in CIT?

I graduated from CIT with a Bachelor of Business Studies in 1998 and then just took up the role of sports officer.

What are your duties?

That's an impossible question to answer as there's so much to do! Basically the organisation and administration of all sports activities and related sporting facilities within the institute.

What's the best thing about your job?

I love to see the impact that sport has on students — the camaraderie and the bringing together of students from all different courses and counties. Working with students also keeps you young!

Do you play sport?

I've played with Kilbrittain and Cork at all levels and retired from intercounty in 2006 after captaining the Cork senior Bs to All-Ireland glory. I still play camogie at club level, and badminton, pitch and putt and a little bit of golf — it's preparation for retirement!

If you could share a pint with anyone from sport, who would it be and why?

Brian Corcoran — I just think he's a God! He's a living legend and a really nice guy too. Rather than share a pint with him, I'd love a game of golf instead!

● Miriam recently organised the CIT sports bursary awards night in Oriol House Hotel with Cork City Manager Damien Richardson, in which a number of students received sports scholarships.



Nov. 2007



# 50th Texaco Sportstars of the Year 2007



The ten top Irish sports stars, selected to receive the 2007 Texaco Sportstars Awards on this, the 50th Anniversary of the Awards, have been announced. Chosen from a shortlist of twenty sports by sports editors representing print and broadcast media, north and south, the full line-up is:

## ATHLETICS

David Gillick

Early this year, he ran 45.91 in Düsseldorf, becoming world leader over 400 metres indoors and in March he went to the European Championships in Birmingham where he won the final in a sensational 45.52. In August, he went to the World Championships in Osaka where he ran the second and third fastest times of his career to get through to the semi-finals.



## BOXING

Katie Taylor

A world champion, two months ago the Bray, Co Wicklow boxer won her third European title. Fighting at lightweight and weighing in at 60 kilograms, she is so far ahead of the opposition that she can be considered one of the best pound-for-pound fighters in the world. In her four fights in Denmark where she won the European crown, she conceded only four points while amassing a total of 49. In the final, she led 8-0 after the first round, and when the referee stopped the fight midway through the second round, Katie led 15-0.



## CRICKET

Trent Johnston

He moved from Australia to Dublin in 2004 to chase the opportunity of playing in a Cricket World Cup. His dreams were more than realised in March as Ireland shook the cricketing world with their performances in the Caribbean. Trent and his team earned



a draw against Zimbabwe before their stunning defeat of cricketing superpower Pakistan in Jamaica. This guaranteed another six games in the competition and Ireland went on to claim another victory in beating Bangladesh. He went on to captain Ireland as they retained their Intercontinental Cup title and finished the year as the tenth ranked team in the world.

## Gaelic FOOTBALL

Marc Ó Sé

After the championship concluded in September, people began to reflect on the year and increasingly, it became evident that the impeccable standards of one player, throughout the league season, throughout the championship, were almost faultless. That person is the youngest of the three Ó Sé brothers from Ceann Tra in Dingle. Marc is a classic man-marker with quick feet, balance, pace and a tendency not to foul the man. He is also very comfortable on the ball.



## GOLF

Pádraig Harrington

In July, the golfing world officially acknowledged his elevation to that rarefied world peopled by major champions. Two months earlier, he won the Irish Open, winning a play-off against Bradley Dredge at Adare Manor. But those moments of anxiety pale considerably compared to when Pádraig negotiated the 72nd hole at Carnoustie with a mix of impending doom followed by courageous shot-making. And then we looked on with him as Sergio Garcia almost imploded after a championship-winning putt agonisingly stayed out. Harrington then played impeccably through the tie holes to push Fred Daly's success of 1947 a little further into the mists of history.



## HORSE RACING

Aidan O'Brien

Aidan has been setting the standard in Europe for many seasons and is continually raising the bar. With 18 winners in England this year, Aidan managed to muster the UK trainers' championship with a cushion of almost £1m over his nearest rival, Michael Stoute. By comparison, Stoute clocked a total of 111 winners. It goes without saying that the domestic title fell to the Master of Ballydoyle, whilst victories in the French Guineas at the start of the season followed by his first ever Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe with Dylan Thomas book-ended a steadily indelible influence on the French scene.



## HURLING

Dan Shanahan

Waterford's star forward enjoyed an outstanding season, scoring a whopping 8-13 in just five championship games. He opened up with a 2-1 salvo against Cork and then, on July 8, wrote his name into the history books once again by firing home 3-3 in the Munster final against Limerick. Shanahan registered all three goals during a lightning second-half blitzkrieg and he rubber-stamped his reputation as the modern game's great goal-getter by subsequently firing 1-3 against Cork in the All-Ireland quarter-final and then 2-1 in the replayed game.



## LADIES GAELIC FOOTBALL

Angela Walsh

Although only 22, it's not surprising that Angela Walsh has three All Ireland senior football medals. She was selected for the seniors in 2004. Cork's first Munster title was won that year, and the last three has seen them crowned All Ireland champions each September. Full back in a defence that has been extremely parsimonious in this year's championship, Angela was outstanding in big wins over Dublin and Laois and, in a much closer final against Mayo, showed true class to guide the Rebels to victory.



## RUGBY

Brian O'Driscoll

During a hugely disappointing World Cup he scored Ireland's first try in France in the game against Namibia. In the do-or-die battles against France and Argentina, he broached the standards he expects of himself, particularly in the Argentina game when he scored one try, his 31st for his country, and made the other. During the Six Nations he missed one match, against France, and it was the only one that Ireland lost. He also guided Ireland to the Triple Crown, and played with distinction for his province, Leinster.



## SOCCER

Richard Dunne

At 28, the defender is reveling in the growing levels of trust placed in him and has developed into the leader both Manchester City and Ireland craved during a turbulent year for both. While many would have disappeared off the radar after early difficulties in their career, Dunne has matured into a fine professional and his hard work is now reaping its rewards with performances brimming with consistency and commitment. One of Ireland's brightest stars, Dunne is just one cap short of reaching 40 appearances for his country.



Pádraig Harrington



## ANGELA'S GOT TEX APPEAL



Cork footballer Angela Walsh shows off her 2007 Texaco Sportstar Award. Angela played a key role in Cork's and Inch Rovers' successes this year. Picture: INPHO/James Crombie

## Angela lands a Texaco award

By CONOR GEORGE

Texaco Sportstars

ANGELA WALSH has been named as one of the ten Texaco Sportstars of the year for 2007 following her exploits on the football field with Cork.

Angela, just 22 years of age, collected her third All-Ireland winning football medal this year as part of the famed Cork three-in-a-row and was also honoured last month with an All-Star award, her second in succession.

Angela was first selected on the senior team in 2004, when the Munster title was annexed for the first time in Cork's history, while the last three years have seen Cork take Munster and All-Ireland titles.

Angela was also part of the Inch Rovers team that brought Donoughmore's domination of the Cork senior football championship to a close this year. Inch reached the All-Ireland club final but were unsuccessful.

Killeagh-based Angela works as a PE teacher in Dungarvan, having qualified from University of Limerick last year.

A full back of rare ability Angela was outstanding in Cork's wins over Dublin, Laois and in particular against Mayo in the final.

Chosen from a shortlist of 20 sportstars, nine other recipients of the 50th anniversary Texaco Awards were announced last night.

Other sportstars honoured are David Gillick (athletics), Katie Lawlor (boxing), Trent Johnston (cricket), Marc Ó Sé (Gaelic football), Pádraig Harrington (golf), Aidan O'Brien (horse racing), Dan Shanahan (hurling), Brian O'Driscoll (rugby) and Richard Dunne (soccer).



A Texaco Sportstar award finished the year on a high note for Cork footballer Angela Walsh.

Nov. 2007



Waterford hurler Dan Shanahan, left, Cork ladies footballer Angela Walsh and Kerry footballer Marc Ó Sé with their awards at last night's 50th Texaco Sportstars Awards in Dublin.





Eimear Braunnigan, Dublin, is presented with her Energise Camogie All-Star award by the Guest of Honour – Ireland and Leinster rugby player – Gordon D'Arcy in the company of Liz Howard, *Uachtarán Chumann Camógáíochta na nGael*, at the Energise Sport Camogie All-Star Awards 2007 in association with O'Neills at City West Hotel.



Eimear Braunnigan (right), in action during the Dublin v Clare All-Ireland Junior Camogie Final, Croke Park 2005.



# Camogie Results from 2007

**GALA ALL-IRELAND SENIOR FINAL:**  
Wexford 2-7 Cork 1-8  
Mary Leacy

**NEW IRELAND CUP FINAL:**  
Derry 3-12 Clare 2-14  
Claire Doherty

**Derry:** Clare O'Kane, Aimee McInerney, Catherine Pickering, Helena Kelly, Ciara Cusnahan, Kate Lavery, Claire Doherty, Jane Carey, Grainne McGoldrick 1-3, 0-2 frees, Brid Convery, Katie McAuley, Aisling Diamond 1-3, Edelle Henry, Siné ad Cassidy 0-3, Paula McAtamney 0-3 frees, Aileen Lavery 1-0.  
Subs: Maeve McGoldrick for C Pickering (49), Roma McDonald, Emma McIlvar, Paula Bell, Patricia Murray, Katrina O'Kane, Mary K McNicholl, Julie McVeigh, Shauna Murphy, Dearbhla McGuigan.

**ALL-IRELAND MINOR A FINAL:**  
Kilkenny 3-12 Cork 0-7

**ALL-IRELAND MINOR B FINAL:**  
Antrim 3-18 Down 5-3  
Brianna McDonnell

**Antrim:** Shaunaie McAuley, Caitriona Hasson, Roisin O'Boyle, Brianna McDonnell, Siné ad Lavery, Emma Connolly, Sarah McNicholl, Claire Lavery, Shannon Graham 0-3, Joanne Campbell 0-2, Michaela Convery 0-1, Raquel McCarr 2-4, 0-2 frees, Orla McCall 0-2, Louise McAleese 0-4, Cathy Carey 1-1.  
Subs: Emma McMullan 0-1 for C Carey (37), Katie McAleese for O McCaul (51), Louise McKeown for C Lavery (60), Aileen Martin, Eleanor Mallon, Selena McKillen, Helen Wilson, Eimear Donaghy, Julie McFerran, Aine Connolly.

**Down:** Jordan Hynds, Laura Brennan, Suzelle Johnston, Stephanie O'Hare, Paula Gribbin, Carol-Anne Sloan, Joanne Fitzpatrick, Karen Tinnelly capt 0-1 free, Jenny Fowler, Nicola Braniff, Lisa McPolin 1-0, Lisa Hughes 0-1, Sabrina McCullough, Sarah Louise Carr 3-1, 0-1 free, Nicola O'Hagan.  
Subs: Niamh Mulhern for J Fitzpatrick (35), Amy McCarthy 1-0 for S McCullough (44), Megan O'Reilly for L Hughes (56), Colleen Fearon, Ciara Murphy, Claire Quinn, Sara Ann Smyth.

**ALL-IRELAND U16 FINAL:**  
Kilkenny 8-11 Cork 0-6

**ALL-IRELAND U16B FINAL (REPLAY):**  
Derry 3-14 Waterford 2-2

**Derry:** Joni McEldowney, Conagh Devlin, Grainne O'Kane, Mary Brigid McGilligan, Aine Kelly (Capt), Keelin Bradley, Mary Jo McCullagh, Michelle Rodgers 0-2, Siobhan McKaigue 1-2, Eilis Ni Chaiside 0-1, Eimear Mullan 0-2, Rachel Bradley, Danielle McCrystal 0-2, Rachel Kelly 0-1, Emma Mullally 2-4.  
Subs: Clodagh O'Neill, Lorraine Quigg, Mary T Scullion, Caislin Boyle, Katrina McCormack, Mia Glasgow, Shauneen Donaghy, Ciara Quigley, Teresa Bradley, Alicea McGonigle, Nuala Moohan, Anne Marie Logue, Shona Mullan, Christine Darragh, Aine Groogan, Meggie McGuigan, Grainne Cassidy.

**SENIOR INTER-PROVINCIAL:**  
Ulster 2-12 Leinster 3-8

**Ulster:** Clare O'Kane (Derry), Ciara McGovern (Down), Moya Maginn (Down), Kate Lavery (Derry), Karen McMullan (Down), Claire Doherty capt (Derry), Maureen Stewart (Antrim) 0-1, Gráinne McGoldrick (Derry) 0-2, Fionnuala Carr,

Karen Gribbin (both Down), Jane Adams (Antrim) 2-5, Brid Convery 0-1, Siné ad Cassidy 0-2, Katie McAuley 0-1, Aisling Diamond (all Derry).  
Subs: Jane Carey (Derry) for C McGovern, Jacinta Dixon (Antrim) for K Gribbin, Sara Louise Carr (Down), Rhona Torney (Antrim), Collette McSorley (Armagh).

**JUNIOR INTER-PROVINCIAL:**  
Leinster 3-16 Munster 0-11

**NATIONAL LEAGUE FINALS:**  
DIVISION 1 Cork 3-8 Wexford 2-10  
DIVISION 1B Limerick 1-14 Cork 0-5

**DIVISION 2 Waterford 0-18 Down 2-13**  
Sally O'Grady

**Down:** Theresa McGowan capt, Gráinne O'Higgins, Moya Maginn, Pauline Greene, Karen McMullan, Fionnuala Carr (0-1), Deborah Kelland, Jennifer McHugh (0-1), Ciara McGovern, Roseleen McCann, Karen Gribbin (1-1), Orla Maginn, Máirín McAleenan (1-6), Catherine McGourty (0-3), Cáitíona McCrickard (0-1).  
Subs: Emma Keith for G O'Higgins (h-1), Karen Tinnelly for R McCann (45), Sarah-Louise Carr for O Maginn (55), Cathy Mulholland, Lisa McCrickard, Kelly O'Higgins, Ann Morgan, Naomi Morgan, Claire Quinn, Angeline Fearon, Aoibheann O'Neill, Claire Trainor.

**Division 3 Westmeath 3-7 Meath 2-8**

**ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CLUB FINAL:**  
Cashel, Tipperary 1-18 Athenry, Galway 0-9  
Sinead Millea

**ALL-IRELAND JUNIOR CLUB FINAL:**  
Harps (Laos) 2-8 Keady (Armagh) 2-7  
Louise Mahony

**Keady:** Laura Comiskey, Brenda McQuade, Eileen McGrory, Michelle Murray, Colleen Comiskey, Katrina Kinsella, Ciara Keenan, Colleen Conway, Mairead Doyle 0-1, Claire Kinsella 0-3, Aine O'Farrell, Noleen McKenna 0-2, Michelle Murphy 1-0, Collette McKeever 1-1, Patricia McCabe.  
Subs: Helena Murray for A O'Farrell (53), Kerry Mone, Roisin Murray, Danielle McBirney, Sarah Molloy, Connie Conway, Patrice Murphy, Lucy Conway, Kelly Anne Comiskey, Nicole Hughes, Nicole Conway, Orlagh Murray, Edel McKee, Nicole McQuillan, Amy McAtavey, Kerryann Tomany, Deirdre McGahan, Rachel McCabe.

**ALL-IRELAND COLLEGES' FINALS:**  
Senior A  
St. Mary's Magherafelt 0-11  
Presentation Athenry 3-2

**REPLAY:**  
St Mary's Magherafelt 2-9  
Presentation Athenry 2-6  
Michaela Convery

**St. Mary's:** Natasha McEldowney, Danielle McCrystal, Aileen McCusker, Sarah Lennon, Eimear Lavery, Christine McKenna, Niamh Doyle, Cathy Carey, Attracta McPeake 0-5, Sarah O'Kane 1-1, Keelin Bradley 0-1, Michaela Convery capt, Eimear McKenna 1-0, Sinead McLaughlin 0-1, Claire Lavery.  
Subs: Aileen Kearney, Eleanor Mallon, Aileen McIvor, Roisin O'Boyle, Ciara O'Kane, Cailin Quinn, Caoimhe Toner, Eimear Donaghy, Eimear Murphy, Janine O'Neill, Laura Quinn, Leona Quinn, Niamh Clayton, Roisin O'Kane, Sarah Louise Henry.

**SENIOR B FINAL:**  
St. Mary's Nenagh 3-6  
Castlecree Community Sch. 1-8

**SENIOR C FINAL:**  
Scoil Mhuire, Carrick on Sulr 4-9  
St. Brendan's Blir 1-4

**JUNIOR A FINAL:**  
Loreto Kilkenny 0-7 Portumna Comm Sch 0-5

**JUNIOR B:**  
Coachford Comm College 3-5  
St. Dominic's Dublin 2-5

**JUNIOR C:**  
Colaiste Cholm Ballincollig 4-12  
Pres De La Salle 0-3

**THIRD LEVEL COMPETITIONS:**  
**ASHBOURNE CUP FINAL:**  
UCD 2-10 UCC 1-4  
**Ashbourne Shield Final:**  
Garda College 3-9 UUJ 0-6

**UUJ:** Shauneen Henry, Bernie McKinley, Moya Maginn, Michelle McManus, Karen McMullan, Fionnuala Carr 0-1, Ceara Cushman, Briege Convery 0-1, Jane Carey capt., Charlene Hamill, Aileen Lavery 0-4, Caitriona O'Boyle, Brenda Clarke, Alisha Wilkinson and Paula Bell.  
Subs: Suzanne McKeown for B Clarke, Mary K McNicholl, Stephanie McParland, Kathryn Convery, Julie McVey, Sarah Murphy, Emma McCormick, Louise McNeill, Cáitíona O'Doherty, Kathleen Brogan, Mary Scullion, Cáitíona Rogers.

**PURCELL CUP FINAL:**  
Athlone IT 0-8 DCU 0-6

**PURCELL SHIELD FINAL:**  
Queens, Belfast 4-2 Trinity 1-3  
**QUB:** Bronagh Keenan capt., Anne McGuigan, Emma Keith, Roisin Devlin, Brenda Toner, Aidene Mullen, Orla McGinn, Edelle Henry, Kerri Crossey 0-1, Claire Dallet, Niamh McGeown 1-1, Maria Jordan, Maeve Boyle 1-0, Anitta McNicholl 1-0, Karen Gribbin 1-0, Adelle Archibald.



St. Mary's Magherafelt

Subs: Niamh Archibald, Siobhan McDonnell, Catherine Higgins, Mary McPolin, Shauna McKee, Claire Jordan, Caoimhe Crossey

**ULSTER JUNIOR CAMOGIE FINAL:**  
Down 1-6 Derry 0-10 Claire Doherty  
**Derry:** Claire O'Kane, Edelle Henry, Claire Doherty, Jane Carey, Kate Lavery, Grainne McGoldrick 0-3 frees, Ciara Cusnahan, Briege Convery, Aisling Diamond 0-3, Sinead Cassidy, Aileen Lavery 0-1 free, Katie McAuley 0-2, 0-1 free, Paula McAtamney 0-1, Patricia Murray, Helena Kelly.  
Subs: Meabh McGoldrick for H Kelly (42), Emma McIlvar for S Cassidy (54), Roma McDonald, Shauna Murphy, Mary Kate McNicholl, Julie McVeigh, Katrina O'Kane, Paula Bell, Catherine Pickering, Shauna McDermott, Andrina O'Kane, Alisha Wilkinson.

**ULSTER SENIOR CLUB FINAL:**  
Rossa 3-18 Lavey 1-5 Jane Adams  
**Rossa:** Theresa McGowan, Teresa Adams, Hannah Healey, Shauneen McGourty, Ciara Gault, Maureen Stewart 0-1 free, Pauline Green, Colleen Doherty 0-1, Seainin Daykin, Sinead O'Neill, Grainne Connolly 0-2, Natalie McGuinness, Orla McCall, Mairiosa McGourty 2-2, Jane Adams 1-12, 0-7

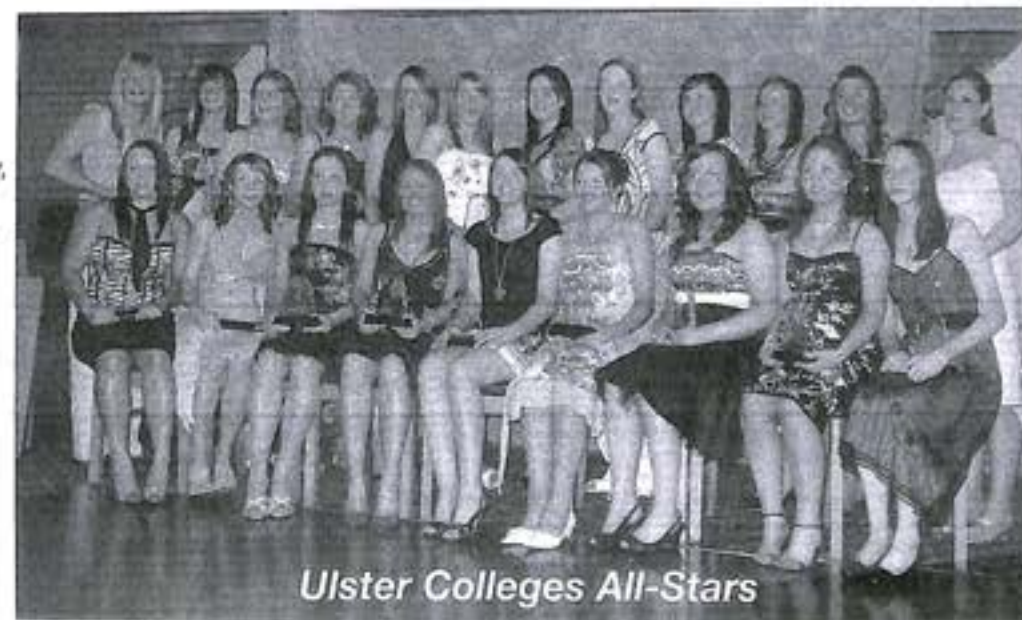
frees, Máiré ad Rainey.  
Subs: Kerrie O'Neill for M Rainey, Orla McCall for S O'Neill, Aisling McCall for S McGourty, Bró nagh Orchin for M McGourty, Fiona Kennedy for N McGuinness, Ciara Armstrong, Laura Adams, Dine Lawlor, Mairin Quinn, Caoimhe Quinn.

**ULSTER JUNIOR CLUB FINAL:**  
Keady (Armagh) 3-9 Clonduff (Down) 2-11  
**Keady:** Patrice Murphy, Brenda McQuade, Eileen McGrory, Kerry Mone, Colleen Comiskey, Katrina Kinsella, Ciara Keenan, Mairead Doyle, Colleen Conway, Michelle Murray 0-3 capt, Aine O'Farrell, Claire Kinsella 0-4, Noleen McKenna 0-2, Collette McKeever 3-0, Lucy Conway.  
Subs: Michelle Murphy for A O'Farrell, Kelly Anne Comiskey for L Conway, Helena Murray for K Mone, Patricia McCabe, Sarah Molloy, Danielle McBirney, Nicole Hughes, Nicole Conway, Roisin Murray, Connie Conway, Orlagh Murray, Edel McKee, Nicole McQuillan, Amy McAtavey, Kerryann Tomany, Deirdre McGahan, Rachel McCabe.

**ULSTER COLLEGES' CHAMPIONSHIPS:**  
**CORN UAN ULADH (SENIOR A) FINAL:**  
St. Mary's Magherafelt 3-9  
Cross & Passion Ballycastle 0-6



St. Louis Ballymena



Ulster Colleges All-Stars



# BALLINASCREEN WIN CAMOGIE FEILE TITLE

Ballinascreen represented Derry for the fifth consecutive year in the Camogie Feile na nGael and this season added a second All-Ireland crown to the one claimed in 2003, which more than made up for a single point defeat in the final last year.

## DERRY TITLE

To qualify for the event Ballinascreen first had to win the Derry title with three comfortable wins seeing them take on Swatragh in a competitive county decider.

Ballinascreen camogie girls started their Feile journey when they travelled to Dungiven to play in the first round. The Screen girls got off to a great start and were leading 3-3 to no score at half time. In the second half, Dungiven put up a great fight but the Screen girls came out winners at the end by 6-6 to 0-0.

The quarter-final was a much tougher encounter for the Screen girls and the score line does not reflect the intensity of the game. Kilrea were unable to breach Screen's defence, but put up a good fight and the game produced a high standard of camogie as Ballinascreen won 3-4 to 0-0.

In the semi-final, the Screen girls got off to a flying start, scoring 7-7 in the first half. In the second half Screen continued on where they left off and earned a place in the final as Banagher were beaten 10-9 to 0-0.

The Derry final was a very closely contested match and the outcome was never a certainty. Swatragh had won the U12 competition for the last two years and the Screen girls were going to have to dig deep to be able to win this game. It took both teams a while to settle and get the measure of each other. Screen went into half time leading by 1-4 to 0-1. Swatragh came out in the second half and were the stronger team for the next ten minutes. The Screen girls were not to be outdone and raised their game at the end to come out deserving winners and county champions by 3-4 to 2-1.

The club thanked all those who helped in any way for the

preparations for their trip to Feile, especially those who helped in our various fund raising activities.

## FEILE

Ballinascreen opened their Division 3 Feile campaign in Kilkenny with a match against their host club Ballyhale Shamrocks. 'Screen started the game strongly with a goal from Aimee Kelly in the opening minutes. This was the first of Aimee's tally of 1-5 for the day, the next score, a point coming from her as well.

Dania Donnelly was the next 'Screen player to score when she lifted the net with a cracking goal from outfield. Aimee and Dania took the next two points and this was followed by two points from Louise Kennedy to complete the first half and meant Screen went into half-time 2-6 to no score ahead.

The second half proved to be more of the same and although the Ballyhale goalie and defence battled gamely, the 'Screen girls seemed to penetrate their defence at ease. Dania Donnelly opened the second half scoring with a '45 and Aimee Kelly took the next two points. Dania followed with another goal and then Leona Groogan completed the scoring for the day with a goal. The Ballinascreen scorers in the 4-9 to 0-0 win were: Aimee Kelly (1-5), Dania Donnelly (2-2), Louise Kennedy (0-2), Leona Groogan (1-0).

'Screen travelled to Piltown on Saturday morning to play Piltown in the second of the games in their qualifying section. 'Screen took control of the game right from the start and the Piltown defence was under constant pressure from the 'Screen midfield and forwards who seemed to be



Pauline McGuigan is the longest serving Ballinascreen camogie player and she is pictured alongside Hannah Scullion, the club's youngest player and Dania Donnelly



All-Ireland Feile winning captains, Aileen McIvor was captain in 2003 and this year's captain Dania Donnelly



Patricia Murray captained Ballinascreen to intermediate championship and league honours in 2006

able to score at will. 'Screen went in at half time with a comfortable lead of 6-3 to 0-0 and this trend continued in the second half as they ran out 11-7 to 0-0 winners. Scorers Aimee Kelly (3-2) Catriona McBride (2-2) Dania Donnelly (3-0) Louise Kennedy (1-0) Bronagh McGillion (0-1) Theresa Kelly (0-1) Eimear Friel (1-0) Jenny Clerkin (1-0) Caoimhe McCormack (0-1)

The final game was the tightest match for the 'Screen girls in this qualifying round against the Offaly champions who had also beaten Ballyhale Shamrocks and Piltown comfortably. The 'Screen girls took on the challenge and in a marvellous display of camogie led at half time by 1-3 to 0-0. The girls knew that a spot in the semi-final was within reach and they started the second half determined to get their place there. The forwards battled for every ball, the defence cleared their lines and when the final whistle blew, 'Screen had booked their place in the place in semi-final by

winning 3-6 to no score. Scorers Aimee Kelly (1-3) Louise Kennedy (1-0) Dania Donnelly (0-1) Theresa Kelly (0-1) Catriona McBride (1-1)

After a busy afternoon getting autographs and photographs with Kilkenny stars Henry Shefflin and Jackie Tyrrell, the 'Screen girls got back to business when they travelled to Palmerstown to play the Waterford champions Lismore in the semi-final. This game proved somewhat tougher than the three games in the qualifying section, with the Lismore defence putting up a brave effort to stop the 'Screen forwards. 'Screen midfielders Sarah McAllister and Dania Donnelly ensured a good supply of ball into their forwards and 'Screen went into half time with a 0-6 to 0-0 lead. In the second half, Lismore tried to attack the 'Screen defence several times but the half back line of Kelly Marie Hegarty, Charlene Scullion and Grace Kelly held firm as they won 0-8 to 0-0. Scorers Dania Donnelly (0-1) Catriona McBride (0-1) Caoimhe McCormack (0-2) Aimee Kelly (0-4).



The All-Ireland winning Ballinascreen squad and mentors



Dania Donnelly with Lawrence Cleary, chairman Ballinascreen and Brenda McGillion, chairperson Ballinascreen camogie



Proud Ballinascreen players. lr: Roisin O'Kane, Louise Breen, Ciara O'Kane, Eimear McKenna, Christine McKenna, Aileen McIvor, Sarah O'Kane, Natasha McEldowney



# Enniskeane camogie stars go on victory tour



Pictured celebrating with students on a visit to St Mary's national school Enniskeane to celebrate winning the West Cork U12, U14 and Junior County Final are members of the Enniskeane Camogie team: kneeling from left Katie Butimore; Natasha Butimore; Eilish Miller; Aisling O Callahan; Kate McCarthy and Marita Collins.

by Áilín Quinlan

WITH a string of glittering victories and no less than three cups to their name, a West Cork camogie club has launched a tour of honour of local schools to celebrate its success.

Enniskeane Camogie Club won the West Cork Under-12s, the West Cork Under-14s and was runner up in the 'C' County final for the under-14s. The club also won the Junior B County final for the second year in a row.

Following its series of victories, representatives of the club and their mentors toured schools in Enniskeane, Ahiohill, Coppeen, Kilnadur, St Mary's National School in Dunmanway, Ballincarriga and, at a later date, will visit Drinagh and Derrinacarra.

"Representatives of the camogie teams and their mentors are visiting schools to highlight their wonderful victories and to inspire more and more players to join this very successful club," explained Club



Eilish Miller with students Sinead Mulcath; Orla Duggan; Ema O'Donovan and Jane O'Donovan. Picture: Denis Boyle

Chairperson Eileen Scannell.

"In rural areas there are very little team sports organised for girls. In Enniskeane we have a wonderful club and a set of very committed and talented trainers. It's a great opportunity for any girls in the area to get involved in a team sport.

"It's very much a team thing. It gives girls the opportunity to make friends,

experience teamwork, improve their fitness, and it's a great confidence builder. Children from different schools are involved in the club, and as a result children get to mix with other kids from outside their immediate area."

Three years ago, said Ms Scannell, the club was struggling to get players — now it had an abundance of players, and, as a club, was growing stronger and getting better all the time.

"We're hoping to get as many victories next year as we did this year," she said.

A victory social to celebrate the club's achievements will be held in the Parkway Hotel, Dunmanway on Friday, January 4, next.

Training for girls under 10 and girls under 12 takes place in the local community hall, the BEDA Hall, on Tuesday nights between 6.30pm and 7.30pm. Under-14 and Under-16 training takes place in Enniskeane pitch on Sunday mornings — between 10.30am and 11.30am weather permitting.

## Double for Carrigaline

CARRIGALINE complete the under 16 b league and championship double as they recorded a narrow victory over Eire OG. Trying weather conditions made the going hard but both teams are to be credited for their superb efforts.

Patti O'Keeffe pointed an early free to give Carrigaline the lead and Orla Cotter extended their advantage after three minutes. Eire Og's Clare Meaney pointed to settle her sides and as the sides battled to gain control Carrigaline held their lead. Róisín Murray gave Eire Og the lead with a goal but Carrigaline were back in the driving seat when Linda Collins palmed the ball to the Eire OG net.

Again both defences came under sustained pressure Maria Moran pointed a forty five to keep Carrigaline ahead but Clare Meaney had narrowed the gap to a point before Patti O'Keeffe pointed just before half time to maintain Carrigaline lead and as

they turned leading by two points 1-4 to 1-2 it seemed remarkable that this was to be the last score of the game but so it was.

Eire Og turning to play with the advantage of a very slight breeze for the second half won plenty of possession but they failed to breach the Carrigaline rearguard that having brought several players back to help defence their lead made it impossible for Eire Og.

Marie Gleeson Claire Meaney and Katie McCarthy were outstanding for Eire Og and did trojan work while for Carrigaline Maria Moran, Donna Smyth and Deirdre O'Leary, did superb work in a defence whose performance in hold their opponents scoreless for the second half contributes enormously to their success.

Tracey Sheehan presented the trophy to Carrigaline captain Maria Moran while Eire Og's Claire Meaney was named as Player of the Match.

## Glen Rovers long puck



Pictured at the Glen Rovers Long Puck on St Stephens Day were the winning team in the camogie section Lydia Cunningham, Ciara O'Keeffe and Denise Luby.



Pictured at the Glen Rovers Long Puck on St Stephens Day were camogie players Lorna Crowley, Denise O'Flynn, Mary Newman, Ciara O'Keeffe and Zoe Buckley.



All Star Nominees Eimear Butler and Aisling Jordan with All Star Eimear Brannigan (centre), (all St. Vincents)

DEC.  
2007



St Vincents, winners of Senior A Championship



Angela Walsh from Cork, winner of three All Ireland senior football medals is pictured here with Irish rugby star Brian O'Driscoll at the 50th 2007 TEXACO SPORTSTARS OF THE YEAR



# GALWAY U14 A TEAM - THE SUCCESS OF GALWAY CAMOGIE 2007

Galway U14 A team won the first piece of silverware for Galway Camogie in 2007 by winning the James Hurley All Ireland Blitz in Cork on the 2nd of June under the Management of Noel Kelly. Emer Kearney and Coach Gerry Kearney.

This was followed up with a great win in the Fr. Higgins tournament in July with a win over Tipperary in the Final on a score line of 1-4 to 1 goal. In October, Our U14 side made it three in a row with a great win over Tipperary again when they took part in the Orla McDonagh tournament in Thurles Sarsfields pitch on Saturday last. Having beaten Tipperary in the Cork and Galway blitz we knew they would be out for revenge in their own tournament. Tipperary have been training since last July for this tournament.

In the final Tipperary got off with a good start with a point from a free. Rebecca Hennelly got Galway's first point from play. Tipperary were given two close in free and put them over the bar. Half time score Tipperary 3 point to Galway's 1 point. Galway started the best in the second half.

Laura Mitchell sent in a long ball into the path of Ruth Mooney and she put the ball into the back of the Tipperary net. Tipperary tried had to find the back of the Galway net but goalkeeper Olivia Lane brilliantly saved the Tipperary efforts. With the match in injury time it looked like we were going to win but Tipperary were awarded two close in frees. The match ended in a draw with a score line of 1 goal and 2 point to 3 points and we were going into extra time. In the first 5 minutes of extra time Galway and Tipperary traded points. Niamh McGrath got Galway's point. Galway got the first two points in the second half of extra time with points from Katie O'Brien and a great score from Ruth Mooney. Galway had one last change to win the game when Niamh McGrath was fouled 50m out from goal. The referee said it was the last puck of the game and the free had to be scored direct.

Niamh stood up to take the pressure free and put the ball straight over the cross bar. When she pointed this point the Tipperary supporters were jeering her but she quietened them by putting the ball over the bar. Galway players were over the moon to have won their 3rd cup in 2007. Galway scorers on the day were Niamh McGrath 1 goal & 10 points, Ruth Mooney 4 goals & 1 point.

Aine Mannion 1 goal & 1 point, Rebecca Hennelly 5 points, Katie O'Brien 1 point.

Deirdre Kelly, Laura Mitchell, Niamh Cormican, Sharon Barrett, Rachel Byrne (1 goal each).

The Galway panel is as follows: Noreen Murphy (Capt), Róisín Gardiner, Rebecca Hennelly, Sheila Forde (Ardrahan), Bridie Scully (Athenry), Rachel Cahill (Craughwell), Sarah Gilgrest (Liam Mellows), Olivia Lane (Turloughmore), Niamh McGrath (Vice Capt), Clodagh McGrath, Rachel Spelman, Tara Kenny (Sarsfields), Rachel Cloonan (Salthill), Laura Donnellan (Mouthbellew), Sharon Barrett (Pearses), Aisha O'Reilly (Oranmore), Ruth Mooney (Clarinbridge), Laura Mitchell (Killimordaly), Tracey Murray (St Thomas), Lorraine Burke (Shamrocks), Aine Mannion (Ahascragh), Lisa O'Neill (Ballinasloe), Rachel Byrne (Cappataggle), Niamh Briscoe, Lorraine Donnellan (Davitts), Louise Loughane (Eyrecourt), Chantel Muldoon (Kiltormer), Karen Kennedy, Niamh O'Brien, Deirdre Kelly, Niamh Cormican (Mullagh), Nicola Muldoon, Katie O'Brien (Portumna).

Galway's U14 B side won the Shield with an impressive win over Cork Colleges in the final of the Shield of the Father Higgins Tournament. Galway had played Cork in the group games with Cork winning but it was Galway's turn to come out on top. Galway's Orla McGrath smashed home a goal for Galway and Capt Emma Lynskey had a point from play. Cork only managed to score a point from a free by Lorraine Browne. The fine performance from the B side that had to beat Tipperary by 3pts in the Play off to the Final earned them the Shield on the day on a scoreline of Galway 1-1 to Cork 1pts. Galway's U14 B panel: Jessica Dooley, Danielle Forde, Anna Marie Lagana, Emerald House, Sinead Carey, Azarah Gordon, Aileen Carthy, Shauna Healy, Emma Lynskey, Aoibhin Kenny, Micehl Donnellan, Catherine McLoughlin, Grainne Mulkerrins, Orla McGrath, Aoife Dolan, Katie Kilbane, Jenna Donohoe, Sarah Keehan, Tara Treacy, Meghan Byrne, Sile Maguire Connolly, Shannen Freaney, Amy Murphy, Aisling Egan, Deana Creaven, Donna Larkin, Kathleen Kavanagh, Olivia Keehan, Michelle Curley, Manager Joe Maguire, Selectors Johnny Keane and Ann Freaney.

In October, 32 players from the Galway B panel took part in the blitz in Dr Morris Park, Thurles organised in memory Orla McDonagh, a juvenile palyed with

Silvermines killed in a road accident.

Galway's first game against Tipperary B was scheduled only 15 minutes after our arrival and in a rather sluggish performance against a team that had improved considerably since Galway met them in Galway B lost by 1-1 to no score. Galway's second game was against an impressive Laois team who had already beaten Cork B. Galway B led by one goal to no score at half time, but Laois drew level shortly afterwards. The team upped its performance after that to win by 3-0 to 1-0.

The third group game was against Cork B. Cork took an early lead but Galway ran out fairly comfortable winners in the end by 0-6 to 0-1. This qualified Galway for a final of the Shield against Tipperary. Tipperary put Galway under fierce pressure from the outset but the defence held firm and Galway in fact took the lead with a goal, somewhat against the run of play. The lead did not last long as Tipperary scored a goal of their own. Tipperary went into the lead with 2 early second half points, but a terrific display by Galway saw the girls retake the lead and then extend it to win by double scores 3-1 to 1-2.

Galway U14 B panel: E.Lynskey, J.Dooley (St Thomas), S.Healy, E.Geoghegan, S.Keehan, O.Keehan (Ardrahan), A.Kenny, O.McGrath, A.Spellman (Sarsfields), E.House, M.Divilly (Athenry), M.Donnellan, A.Carthy, C.McLoughlin (Mouthbellew/Moylough), T.Treacy, M.Bryan (Kilconicron), A.Conroy, J.Gill, D.Creaven (Castlegar), C.Donohue, A.Gordon (Mullagh), A.Dolan, M.Curley (Kiltormer), A-M. Lagana, S.O' Hara, D.Larkin (Killimor), E.Finnegan (Davitts), K.Kavanagh (Kinvara), L.Lane (Ballindereen), D.Forde (Clarinbridge), G.Mulkerrin (Bothar na Tra), J.Donohue (Moycullen).

Credit is due to both management Teams for Galway. It has been a fantastic year for Underage camogie in Galway with All-Ireland glory in Cork in June, in The Father Higgins Tournament in July and again in Tipperary in October. With Sarsfields winning the All-Ireland Feile, it's the work that's being put in by the clubs and the county that is making this success happen. The future of Camogie in Galway is looking very bright.

The Galway Senior A team lost out this year in the All-Ireland semi final to Wexford. After a slow start to the year, Galway found themselves in the Semi final against the

battled hard throughout the game it was Wexford who walked away with the victory on the score line of 2-18 to 14pts.

The Galway Senior B team made it into the semi final with wins over Tipperary, Dublin and a drawn game with Cork. Galway fought hard against a strong Limerick side in the Semi final but never got of the mark as Limerick controlled the game from the start.

Galway Camogie are most grateful to all



Results From Galway Camogie U14 Skills Competition. Joint 4th, Laura Mitchell (Killimordaly) and Niamh McGrath (Sarsfields), 3rd Caitriona Daly (Mullagh), 2nd Clodagh McGrath (Sarsfields), 1st Rebecca Hennelly (Ardrahan).



Mounthbellew/Moylough U12 Team which Defeated Ardrahan in the B County Final.

the sponsors who have contributed to Galway Camogie this year. Our main Sponsors Pat and Una McDonagh of Supermacs.

New on board this year at Club level: Sponsors for Galway Club Leagues & Championships 2007: Paul Connolly of Honey Glen Homes who sponsored Galway Camogie Adult Championships, John Curley of Curley Furniture, who sponsored Galway Camogie Adult Leagues, Tomas Gullane of Gullane's Hotel, Ballinasloe who sponsored

Kiltormer Team Which Defeated Pearse's in The U14 C County Final. Back Row: Liz Dolan (Manager), Shannon McDermott, Claire Rodgers, Amy Coen, Katie Glynn, Marguerite Lynch, Chantal Muldoon (Capt), Aoife Curley, Sinead Cormican, Caitriona Curley, Laura Staunton. Front Row: Claire Curley, Sara Curley, Michelle Curley, Aoife Dolan, Nicola Lynch, Shauna Broderick, Amy Fahy, Chloe Kelly, Ciara Mannion, Catherine Furey.



Caitriona Daly, Mullagh who competed in the Poc Fada In The Cooley Mountains-Poc Fada 07



# TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL KENNEDY

*On September 13th 2007, Michael Kennedy, passed unexpectedly to his eternal reward. The man from Banogues, Castleblakney, was the father figure behind the birth, development and success story that became the Pearses camogie club. Sean Walsh, his son in law, pays this tribute.*

Strange how all the good people are plucked while in their prime. Mike Kennedy would certainly fall into the category of only the good die young. The gentle giant from Kilchreest left an indelible mark on all who met him, and particularly on the people of Banogues, Castleblakney and Pearses. After his work as a machine driver brought him to the Mountbellew and Ballymacward areas in 1962, he bravely delved into the world of camogie and set up the Pearses camogie club.

His achievements were many. Success at u-10 & u-12 levels was the prelude to Pearses' All-Ireland Feile success in 1988, and an appearance in the 1989 final. The first county senior title arrived in 1992 and then onto the dizzy heights of 5 All-Ireland senior club titles, incorporating a 2 in a row (1996 & 1997) and a 3 in a row (2000, 2001, 2002). Names like Sharon Glynn, Tracey Laheen, Aine Hillary, Martina Haverly, Martina Harkin, Anne Ryan and Carmel Hannon, to name but a few, became household names along the way.

Mike also managed Galway and Connacht teams. Fittingly, he was chairperson of the County Camogie Board when, under manager Tony Ward, Galway won their historic first All-Ireland senior title. A picture taken with Captain Imelda Hobbins and the O'Duffy cup sticks in the memory as a unique moment.

Mike was a great administrator, with his wisdom and knowledge being frequently sought. He served on the Galway County Board, the Connacht Council, and had involvement at national level. He more often than not championed the cause of the smaller club and the weaker county. They never forgot him for it either. One of his later feats was the establishment of the North Board which provided competition to help the development of various clubs on his own doorstep. Typical of the man.

Often you wonder about the difference between achievement and impact. People often achieve a lot in life, but did they have an impact? At times other people make an impact, but achieve little. Mike managed to marry both and his impact was more significant.

The many people whom he came into contact with could bear testimony to this. So many grown men cried when they heard of Mike's shock passing. Often there is a special bond between teams and managements that

taste success at the highest level. But the bond between Mike and "his women" seemed even more unique. The players respected, admired, trusted and believed in Mike and he reciprocated this. The scenes at his funeral spoke volumes. The grief, sorrow and genuine sense of loss expressed by the Pearses club players and members smacked of losing a hero, and their mentor. They gave him a "send off" at his funeral fitting of the man. They can be forever proud of that. Mike Kennedy had indeed made a profound impact. Typical of the man, he eased away from management at the highest level and had spent the latter years back with the Pearses underage section, cajoling, praising and imbuing the stars of the future with the foundations they needed. He had gone full circle. The looks of anguish and tears in the eyes of many of his young protégés at his removal spoke volumes. They too felt the loss.

For the purposes of this tribute we concentrate on the sporting aspect of Mike's life, but there were so many other strands to his life. One significant one was his work. He built up a successful garage business, developing it the hard way to such an extent that it became a fundamental part of the community it served. It would only be fitting to remember the many people who passed through the gates of the garage and who became friendly, and in many cases friends for life, with the man that always seemed able to solve any mechanical problems.

The stories about the genial giant with the silver in his hair are many. It is alleged that the bank was never broken in the quest for success, and that ONE old nuri sliothar was repeatedly produced in training during the glory years, with the mantra "mind the nuri". Thus when the players got a new ball in a game, their striking and control improved dramatically it is alleged! Sounds good anyway!

Memories of taking a particularly heavy championship beating from the then kingpins Glenamaddy in the late 1980s were often recalled. After the trimming on the field, Pearses had to watch in anguish as Glenamaddy went on to train afterwards. When questioned on it Mike responded that maybe someday the wheel would turn. It surely did. Kennedy's car packed with camogie players, the "Gone to a match" sign up on the garage door and the pen writing down the scores of the game on a spare hurl were all part of the Kennedy package. Only last January, Pearses had a function to honour their All-Ireland wins of 1996 and 1997. All of the players and management got a warm reception as they were introduced. There wasn't a chance to introduce the manager though. When it came to Mike's turn to step forward for his presentation, the crowd spontaneously burst into applause and gave him a standing ovation. It was a telling display of the esteem in which Mr. Camogie was held by his own people.

On a personal level, he often approached



me to see if I could give a mention, as he termed it, via the airwaves to many and various camogie activities. He well appreciated that camogie rarely got the exposure it deserved, but instead of lamenting that fact, he operated on the basis that any publicity was a bonus. His devotion to the game was such that you could get a missile on happenings in the Connacht Council or in his beloved North Board as easily as some information about Pearses. In truth it was hard to refuse any request from him, and that was despite the obvious connections.

Mike Kennedy was a gentleman. A man whose very presence lit up a room, he was clever, sincere and unassuming, preferring the shadows rather than the limelight. He always saw good in everyone, everything and in every situation. Nothing was ever a problem. Invariably there was a smile on his face, and in many ways he was ahead of his time. His love of camogie, hurling, sport, his work, his friends, his neighbours, comedy films and a good meal served him well. Above all though, his wife - you never saw Mike without Mary - and family were the apple of his eye, his whole existence revolving around them. No wonder their loss is so great. It is not easy to give up something so special.

A wise man once said that you will be judged by what you leave behind you. Well Mike Kennedy has left a rich legacy after him. A true legend. He has left his imprint on many of his grandchildren. His heartbroken wife of 43 years Mary, daughters Collette, Ann, Maura and Nuala, sister Myra and brother Sean, along with all of the extended family and his wide circle of friends will forever cherish the fond memories they got to share with a special man.

His presence will never leave them. In what has been a hard year for the Pearses camogie club, Mike is joined on the camogie pitches of heaven by the stylish Mairead Meehan and one of the club's greatest supporters John Kenny. There will be a lot of balls pucked up there. Br. Robert Ruane, another staunch Pearses man, will cast an eye on proceedings too. They will watch over those who are left. As Mike would so calmly say: "Be god aye, be god yes".

## VERONICA CURTIN'S BACK TO BACK AWARDS



Galway's Camogie All-Star 2007, Veronica Curtin, pictured at the annual Cumann Camogaíochta na nGael night-out in Dublin, where she received her award from national Camogie Association president Liz Howard. Photo: Ray McManus, Sportsfile.

## ATHENRY - ALL-IRELAND CAMOGIE FINALISTS



Athenry Senior Camogie team, beaten All-Ireland Club finalists, 2007, back row, left to right: Shauna Coll, Mary Ward, Amanda Cannon, Katie O'Dwyer, Jessica Gill, Sharon Quirke, Krystel Ruddy, Stephanie Gannon, Thérèse Maher, Sarah Donoghue, Alice Ponlard, Katherine Glynn, Maeve Carr, Madeleine McDonagh, Martina Molloy. Front row, left to right: Jenny Ponlard, Fiona Page, Natalie Jordan, Deirdre Ward, Laura Linnane, Mary Keogh, Regina Glynn, Emma Costelloe, Noreen Coen, Darrelle Coen, Nicola Nally, Stephanie O'Dwyer, Elaine Healy.

DEC. 2007





The Cork Camogie team in a relaxed mood during a photocall prior to the 1978 All-Ireland final. (ref221/029)



Cork team which defeated Antrim in All-Ireland Senior Camogie final in 1972 and 12 months later completed the four in a row. Back: B Sugrue, P Moloney, L Garvan, A McAuliffe, M Sweeney, M McCarthy, D Sutton, R Hennessy. Front: A Keane, A Comerford, N Guilly, H Dineen, M Whelton, S Dunne, M Costine.



# CAMOGIE CONFUSION

Last Thursday's Clare camogie convention highlighted the room for off-field improvement in the sport, writes **Peter O'Connell**



■ (Top) Newly-reappointed chairperson of the Clare County Camogie Board, Maura Sheedy. Photograph by Arthur Ellis ■ (Above) The end of the 2007 season for Clare camogie: Catherine O'Loughlin and the rest of the junior team head to the dressing room following defeat by Derry in the All-Ireland junior camogie final in Croke Park. Photograph by John Kelly

A LIGHT was shone into the wondrous world of Clare camogie last week. The size of the crowd that turned up for the 2007 convention at the Auburn Lodge Hotel would suggest that camogie in the county isn't short of woman or man power.

However the scenes which followed didn't reflect that promise. First off it emerged that Clarecastle's Bernie Ryan, who had allowed his name to go forward for the position of chairman, wasn't at the meeting. He had, however, forwarded a letter to the county board stating that he couldn't be in two places at once. He had committed a while back to travelling out of the country and couldn't change his plans. It didn't seem like a big ask; camogie people know Bernie Ryan and a contest for the chair would have done no harm surely?

Amidst a blur of confusion it was decided that because Ryan wasn't there he couldn't stand. This despite the fact that Clarecastle delegate Mike Griffin told the meeting that he had consulted with camogie Ard Comhairle and they had said that Ryan could stand for the post even if he wasn't present at the meeting.

Good enough for those who run camogie in Ireland but not good enough for the Clare camogie board.

Maura Sheedy told the meeting that she had considered not attending and that she had received a number of unwanted, camogie related, phone calls.

She decided, however, to remain in the chair and is in place for the coming year. Although the chairperson sent out mixed signals regarding the possibility of Bernie Ryan challenging her, at least she possesses the strength of character required to sit in

the chair again.

If she really wanted out Maura Sheedy could have stepped down but she insisted that Bernie Ryan couldn't stand because, "this is the rule within our own board." However she later admitted that "there isn't a by-law."

Confusion escalated. It doesn't exactly augur positively for Clare camogie. If the AGM night is up in the air, it's hard to see the organisation in Clare running smoothly on the field.

As the minutes added up to long hours, debate raged. Fifty nine motions found their way onto the agenda. The first motion wasn't discussed until about 10pm and the thought that 58 more of them were to be discussed at length couldn't have enthused all but the most hard-core of the gathering.

Indeed, many of the motions should never have made the agenda as they were clearly issues that need to be examined by a structures committee. Furthermore a sizeable proportion of motions were narrow in the sense that they applied to the welfare of individual clubs and had nothing to do with the development of camogie in Clare.

Maura Sheedy touched on the divisions that will continue to scupper camogie in Clare when she told the meeting that "we are not working together."

That definitely appears to be true. Treasurer Michael Maher addressed the funding deficit in Clare camogie and his point is a valid one. Unless the county board provides clear and authoritative leadership, the sport in Clare will flounder.

Of course, if the county board step up to the mark, clubs will have to follow their lead. At the moment it seems that clubs are preoccupied with their own concerns and not with the broad development of Clare camogie.

DEC. 2007



# Maura back at the helm once more

DEC. 2007

FOLLOWING a protracted, emotional and often heated Clare Camogie Convention last Thursday evening in the Auburn Lodge Hotel, outgoing chairperson Maura Sheedy was returned as the premier board officer.

Bernie Ryan (Clarecastle) and current PRO Orla Considine were also nominated for the position of chairperson. However, Orla Considine withdrew, while Bernie Ryan informed the meeting via a letter that he was willing to stand.

The letter had been submitted to the Clare camogie board in advance of the meeting and explained that Ryan was unavoidably abroad but was interested in contesting the post.

However, Maura Sheedy cast

doubt as to whether Ryan could stand for the position or not, given that he wasn't present at the meeting.

A number of delegates claimed that a county board bylaw indicated that a candidate had to be present in order to stand for a position. However, Maura Sheedy indicated that no such bylaw existed.

"There isn't a bylaw," she said. "This is the rule within our own board. You must be present to take part in the vote," the chairperson explained.

Clarecastle delegate and club chairman Mike Griffin outlined how he had checked with camogie Ard Comhairle in Croke Park and that they had indicated that Bernie Ryan could stand, while the outgoing committee could "see out the meeting".

In reply, Maura Sheedy said that she was "just going by the rules of what we have done in Clare".

"I'm going on what we have done here over the years," she added.

Earlier in the debate, the chairperson had asked the meeting for direction on the issue.

"If this meeting wants him (Bernie Ryan) to go forward, he can. What does the meeting want?" she queried.

During the debate, Maura Sheedy told the meeting that she "very nearly" had decided not to attend at all.

"What has gone on in the county with phone calls that I've had is absolutely unreal," she said.

"All we have here is clubs coming in here with their own agenda," the chairperson had said earlier.

She claimed that conflict had stalked the Clare camogie board "from last June to last night. I don't want to be here," she stated.

The chairperson also claimed that she had been "stabbed in the back", before adding that she "had fully intended not standing".

Maura Sheedy advised the meeting not to be "in any rush to get me in here".

However, having been proposed from the floor by Kevin Halpin (Newmarket on Fergus) and seconded by Michelle Mahon (Éire Óg), the outgoing chairperson accepted the role.

"I will see it as far as I can," she promised.

## Board secretary raises fixtures issue

CLARE Camogie Board Secretary Mary Hogan has raised the issue of girls playing too many games for club and county, which leads to fixture difficulties. She made her comment in her secretary's report to the camogie convention.

"The board had extreme difficulty in getting the fixture programme completed," Mary Hogan admitted. "The extra games associated with the All-Ireland competitions at all grades is putting huge pressure on counties trying to get their club competitions played," she added.

The question of camogie players suffering from burnout was also addressed in the secretary's report. "This can be made even more difficult where girls are playing two or even three games for their club, as well as representing their county and at the same time playing football," she pointed out. "It can be near impossible to make fixtures that ensure players have reasonable time between games."

In her report, Mary Hogan reflected upon the hard luck of the Clare junior camogie team in Croke Park, when they lost the All-Ireland final to an injury-time Derry goal.

"Hopefully the girls will bounce back next year, more determined than ever to win that elusive title," she said.

She also made reference to the fact that the Clare U14 development squad lined out in Croke Park. "The excitement and awe in their voices as they spoke of actually getting to play in Croke Park



■ Board secretary Mary Hogan said the board had difficulty in completing the fixtures programme due to the number of games that girls are playing for club and county. Photograph by Arthur Ellis

was just wonderful to hear. All of them are determined to get back to play there again some day," she said.

She stressed the significance of continuing to work at developing young camogie talent in

Clare.

In conclusion, Mary Hogan paid tribute to her fellow officers, field caretakers, referees and sponsors who had helped Clare camogie during 2007.

## Clubs urged to raise more funds

THE Clare Camogie County Board balance at the end of 2007 is €10,577.60. Income for the year amounted to €62,245.27, while total expenses for the 12 month period were €57,372.36.

The biggest expense was 'food for teams'. This figure amounted to €13,806, while €12,675 was spent on travel expenses for teams going to games.

On the income front, €17,527 was collected in gate receipts, while the fundraising dog night resulted in a profit of €7,020 and the annual flag day resulted in a total of €3,999 being collected.

Having distributed his report to delegates, treasurer Michael Maher pointed out that there were no expenses available for managers of the various Clare camogie teams. They had to give of their

time completely voluntarily and weren't supplied with petrol expenses.

He pressed clubs to be more proactive on the fundraising front and asked parents if they were happy that their daughters weren't as well looked after as their sons were, in terms of representing Clare.

"What are people doing about it? What are you doing about it?" he asked.

He also mentioned the player grants, which male inter-county hurlers and footballers are due to receive. "There wasn't a word about camogie or ladies football," the treasurer noted. "I want a bit of equality for everybody that's involved in the GAA. We haven't got equality," he said.

Michael Maher also noted that despite the fact that he has been integration officer in Clare for

14 months, he has never once attended a meeting dealing with the issue of integration.

"There was no meeting held," he explained. "They (GAA) would have had to fork out some money," he stated.

The board treasurer thanked Clare GAA Secretary Pat Fitzgerald for his co-operation throughout the year. "Only for Pat Fitzgerald, Clare camogie would be non-existent in the GAA," Maher said with reference to the provision of venues for camogie fixtures.

However, he repeated his view that Clare camogie must improve its fundraising structure. "I think it's time that people with a bit of influence cop onto this. What I'm after presenting here is not the way forward," he said pointing out that raffles and various collections were not modern fundraising methods.

## Camogie board to work on Ballyline facilities?

CLARE GAA may fund the Clare Camogie County Board's voluntary improvement works at the GAA's pitch in Ballyline, Crusheen.

Camogie treasurer Michael Maher told last week's county convention

that the camogie board had access to Ballyline once the GAA teams are finished their physical training programmes there. However, he admitted that the condition of the dressing rooms and shower areas in Ballyline are unacceptable.

"If you don't go in and do a bit of remedial work there, it's very hard to use it," he said. "I'd love to be in a position to say we'll spend x amount of money to do it up."

However, Munster Camogie Development Officer Deirdre Murphy

informed the meeting that she was confident that the GAA county board would help to fund improvement works if the camogie board did the work. "The thought of the facilities there is what puts people off because the surface is quite good during the summer months," she commented.

### SPORTS AWARDS

**Tipperary United Sports Star Awards**  
**Athletics:** A Farrell, Borrisokane AC;  
**Boxing:** D Fahy, Clonmel;  
**Camogie:** Cashel senior team;  
**Cycling:** S Bennett, Carrick-on-Suir;  
**Gaelic Football:** J Williams, Moyle Rovers;  
**Golf:** A Pierce, Tipperary;  
**Handball:** P Mullins, Clonmel;  
**Hurling:** Loughmore senior team;  
**Pitch and Putt:** M McCarthy, Clonmel;  
**Soccer:** J Walsh, St. Michael's;  
**Special Achievement:** E Ryan, Clonmel; Billy Keane, Cashel; J McGrath, Templemore and S McMahon, Roscrea athletes who represented Tipperary and Ireland in the World Special Olympic Games;  
**Sports Executive:** T Toomey, Arravale Rovers;  
**Knocknagow Award:** F Rothwell, Clonmel.

### CAMOGIE

**Munster Colleges camogie fixtures:** Today: JA semi-final: St. Columba's Shannon v Christ The King at St. Patrick's GAA, Limerick, 12.15pm. Ref. P Fox.  
**Saturday Jan. 12:** IA final at Dundrum 1pm - Carrick-on-Suir v Tulla. Ref. E Brown.  
**Sunday 13 Jan:** IB league final 1pm at Kilslogh: St. Mary's Midleton v Roscrea. Ref. C Egan.

### Connacht Colleges Update

**Connacht Colleges Camogie Update**  
**Senior A Final**  
Presentation Athlery v Portlanna C.S., Sat. Jan. 19th  
**Senior B Final**  
St. Killian's, New Inn v Holy Rosary, Mountbellew, Sat. Jan. 19th  
**Senior C Final**  
Colaiste Na Coimbe v (Mercy, Roscommon v St. Cuan's), Sat. Jan. 26th  
**Junior A Final**  
Presentation, Athlery v St. Brigid's, Loughrea, Sat. Jan. 26th  
Venue and referees tbc





■ Maura Sheedy was returned as chairperson of the Clare Camogie Board at the convention last week.

Photograph by Arthur Ellis

## Management not appointed but Hanley likely to return

ALTHOUGH the 2008 Clare junior camogie management team was expected to be ratified at last week's camogie convention, the meeting ran over and the issue wasn't dealt with.

Over 20 Clare camogie clubs were represented in the huge gathering at the Auburn Lodge Hotel. A total of 59 motions were on the agenda and the meeting concluded before midnight.

However, because of time constraints, not all of the motions were discussed and therefore the meeting didn't reach any other business. It was during this part of the meeting, that the junior management team was due to be ratified. Although it's expected that Colm Hanley, Eoghan Hanley and John Nihil will

be returned for 2008, there has been considerable doubt over the make up of the 2008 management in recent months.

Despite the fact that Clare reached the All-Ireland junior final, the outgoing management were forced to undergo an interview process if they were interested in staying on.

During the meeting, board chairman Maura Sheedy slammed the outgoing junior management, claiming that they had "withheld our U-18 players from training".

She also claimed that Kilmaley Camogie Club had withdrawn players from the Clare U-18 team during the year.

"This is an issue that the board need to take a long serious look at," the chairperson said with reference to both issues.

However, Kilmaley senior camogie manager John Carmody, Kilmaley, told *The Clare Champion* that his club had offered to play the Clare senior championship final on the Friday evening before Clare's All-Ireland U-18 camogie final. He said that Kilmaley did not agree to that suggestion.

Maura Sheedy also apologised to delegates for what she termed an "ill-timed interruption" of the November board meeting.

During that meeting Colm Hanley, Eoghan Hanley, Deirdre Murphy, Jane Scanlon, Sharon McMahon and Denise Lynch attempted to speak on a number of issues relating to the Clare junior camogie team. However, they were prevented from contributing to the meeting because they were not club delegates.

## Clare County Board Camogie Executive

THE following Clare County Board Camogie Executive was returned during the 2007 AGM:

President: Fr Murray (Whitegate); chairperson: Maura Sheedy (Ogonnelloe); vice-chairperson: Kevin Halpin (Newmarket on Fergus); secretary: Mary Hogan (Tulla); assistant secretary: Brid McNamara (Ruan); treasurer: Michael Maher (Kilmaley); assistant treasurer: Mike Griffin (Clarecastle); registrar: Orla Hayes (Broadford); PRO: Orla Considine (Clooney); assistant PRO: Kathleen McMahon (Kilmaley) and Marie McDonnell (Clarecastle); Munster Council delegate: Bridie O'Looney (Newmarket on Fergus); delegates to congress:

Bridie O'Looney and Mary Hogan; integration officer: Patricia O'Grady (Newmarket on Fergus); child officer: Bridie O'Looney; youth officer: Kate Lynch (Kilkishen). The appointment of an Irish officer was deferred.

The fixtures committee will comprise of: Mary Hogan, Orla Considine, Mary Dinan, Mary Griffey, Veronica Bleach, Brid McNamara, Brid Canny and Niamh McInerney.

The finance committee will comprise of: Michael Maher, Mike Griffin, Patricia Frawley, Brid McNamara, Mike McNamara, Kevin Halpin and Michelle Mahon. Field and development: Maura Sheedy, Michael Maher, Kevin Halpin and Michael O'Halloran.



■ Munster Council delegate and delegate to congress, Bridie O'Looney.

Photograph by Arthur Ellis

The disciplinary committee will comprise of: Maura Sheedy, Mary Hogan, Brid McNamara, Orla Hayes and

Mary Griffey. The referees committee will comprise of: Mary Griffey and Maura Sheedy.

## Criticism for clubs who didn't sell tickets

CLUBS who didn't contribute in any way to the Clare Camogie Night at the Dogs were heavily criticised at last week's Clare Camogie Convention.

While the fundraising meeting, which was held at the Galway Greyhound Track last summer, realised a profit of €7,020, treasurer Michael Maher was disap-

pointed at the lack of effort from some Clare clubs. "Some of the clubs failed to function," he said. "There's nothing new in that," the treasurer added.

However, Michael Maher thanked the clubs who had sold tickets for the fundraising night but pointed out that he had hoped to make a profit of €10,000.

"I'm very disappointed with some of the bigger clubs that just

do nothing," he noted.

Kilmaley Camogie Club topped the list of ticket sellers with a total of 89, while Clooney sold 50 tickets.

Éire Óg sold 39 tickets, Corofin, Kilkishen and Kilmaley sold 30, Ogonnelloe sold 26, Newmarket sold 24 and Broadford sold 23 tickets. Inagh sold 21 tickets, while Ballyea, Clarecastle, Killanena, St Joseph's and

Tulla sold 20 tickets apiece.

However, Sixmilebridge, Wolfe Tones, Bodyke, Scariff, Whitegate and Parteen did not sell any tickets.

A total of 553 tickets were sold, with €2,000 distributed in prize money, while the cost of hiring the track also amounted to €2,000 and printing and phone costs amounted to €600.

Camogie also adds greatly to our list of sporting connections, Mamie Kerneally who was on the Cork team which won its first All-Ireland was a member of the famous Barrs family of that name and her brother Johnny, while still a minor, hurled magnificently on the Cork team which defeated Kilkenny in the 1929 senior final having had earlier been withdrawn from the minor curtain raiser. Maureen and Pattie Hegarty were the first twins to win All-Ireland Camogie medals

when Cork defeated Dublin in 1941 and some years earlier the Cotters of Mayfield, Joan and Kitty, became the first sisters to win those coveted medals. Mary Fitzgerald a winner of three medals (1939-41) was a granddaughter of Sir Edward Fitzgerald and her father Andy, a Rockies stalwart, played with Cork in the 1912 final. She was also a sister-in-law of Peggy Hogg who won four medals. In modern times the glorious camogie exploits of the Dunleas, Lyn and Stephanie are still fresh in memory. Marion McCarthy who has more Duffy Cup medals (8) than any other Leesider is sister of Seanie who starred on the Cork side which completed the first leg of the historic double in 1990 — where would I be without 'Mary Moran's Cork Camogie Story'! Cork's all conquering Ladies Football team currently has three sets of sisters on the panel, Norita and Mairéad Kelly of Rockchapel, Deirdre and Sinéad O'Reilly and Angela and Ciara Walsh of Inch Rovers. Between them they have

ended his career as second highest goal scorer (182 goals) in the history of Irish soccer. Jackie actually won four League Championship medals with Waterford. Pat, who played 16 times with the League and was PFA & PFAI Player of the Year, won a League medal with Cork City and a Cup medal when Shels defeated Derry in 1996. Basketball fans are never likely to forget the immense contribution "the Flying Forde's" Miriam, Caroline and Annette made to the game in Cork after their arrival in Blarney. The Tipperary natives were revered in their adopted county and had their names etched in sporting history. Miriam went on to win over 120 internationals, a record unlikely ever to be surpassed. Regularly in the news are the Scannell family of Team Montonotte / Glanmire who won u18, u20 and National Senior Cups in 2007. Jessica played on all three teams and her father Mark, a former International and winner of three National Leagues in his

accumulated 18 senior All-Irelands. Angela is a Volleyball International and along with Ciara has won All-Ireland medals in cross country and track with Glenbrow AC. Ladies All-Star forward Nollaig Cleary who is also a National Cup winner in Basketball is brother of John Cleary who starred on the Cork teams which won back-to-back titles defeating Mayo and Meath in 1989 & '90 Hurling All-Star Sean O'Leary, holder of four Senior hurling medals, heads another distinguished family; he inherited the skills of his grandfather Tom O'Mahony who excelled when Cork (Dungourney) beat Dublin and London in 1902; Seanie's son Tomás is a rugby international and sister Mary a former camogie great. Cork's Interprovincial Camogie star Joan Clancy married Jack Morley who has won every honour in League of Ireland soccer except an FAI Cup medal. Children Pat, Dave and Sheena have all represented Cork. Sheena followed in her mother's footsteps while Pat an Inter League player like his dad





Top, The Cork ladies team which won the All-Ireland SFC. Included are three sets of sisters. Left, the Cloughduv camogie sister act in training for the county final in 2005. From left: Ciara and Aoife Cronin, Katherine and Siobhan Corkery, Stephanie and Lyn Dunlea, and Orla O'Callaghan.

playing days, was the coach. Where would sport be without referees? The Kelly family are synonymous with refereeing in Cork; Tim was a League of Ireland referee in the 60s and his son Pat, now manager of referees in the FAI, used his father's whistle when commencing his own glittering career which saw him take charge of FIFA Internationals and FAI Cup finals, accolades also attained by his son, third generation, Alan who has now been joined on the National League panel by brother Graham who was recently given charge of Ireland v Chile U19 international.

**D**id you know that former Inter League goalie Derry Barrett refereed the Texaco Cup (All-Ireland) final and his assistants were his nephews Kevin O'Sullivan and Noel Kearney. Kevin and Derry refereed FAI Cup finals as well as European Internationals. Derry's brother Noel played in the League with

Cork Utd. Noel Kearney's brother Barry was also a knight of the whistle as was Kevin's brother-in-law Jerry McGrath. John, Mick, Frank and Joe O'Keeffe from Evergreen Street all were popular referees. Mick, known by the fans as Slap, took up the whistle after a very successful playing career with Evergreen/Cork Celtic and his son Mick played with Cork City and Cobh. They were not related to the other sporting family of the same name who lived on Evergreen Road — Rooker O'Keeffe a great Redmonds player who won All-Irelands with Cork in 1902 and '03 and his son Jimmox who played in the League of Ireland in the lean thirties. Gene Clifford, who was forced to curtail a promising career with Celtic, was delighted when son Mark got to play with Cork City, Waterford and Ramblers. He was a nephew of Johnnie Clifford and Ray Cowhie. Johnnie was immortalised in 1954 when he scored the winning goal in the all-Ireland final against Wexford which gave Christy Ring

his eighth medal and in later years had the honour of helping Cork to further All-Ireland glory as a selector in '77 and coach in '86. Ray Cowhie was wing half on the classy Cork Celtic team of the sixties and was on the bench when Ireland played mighty England in 1964; his son Kevin went on to play senior football with Cork and was superb when Nemo hammered Castlebar in the All-Ireland Club final in 1994. Cobh's great sporting fame has been embellished through its association with legends like Jack Doyle, Sonia O'Sullivan and Roy Keane. It has always been a traditional soccer stronghold and from its earliest days family continuity has been maintained. Irish international Jack O'Sullivan of Spike captained Fordsons in 1926 and his son Jerry, though a useful soccer player, was a prominent Rugby Inter Pro with Munster. Tom Burke, Jackie O'Reilly, Johnny McGowan, Pat Saward, and Stephen Ireland were others born

CONTINUED ON PAGE 42



1997 was a good year for the the Morley family. Pat's Shelbourne won the FAI Cup, his brother David won the MSL title with College Corinthians while sister Sheenagh was on the Bishopstown team which won the County camogie title. They are pictured with parents Jack and Joan who played inter-league soccer and inter-pro camogie respectively.

## ENNISKEANE CAMOGIE STARS CELEBRATE U14 SUCCESS



At the Enniskeane Camogie Club victory dinner at the Parkway Hotel, Dunmanway last night were Cork camogie star Rachel O'Mahony, centre, guest of Honour, with Aine O'Leary and Aisling Duggan, members of the West Cork U14 team. Picture: Denis Boyle



# Carrig win out and secure the double

By MARY NEWMAN

Camogie	
Carrigaline	1-4
Éire Óg	1-2

A NARROW two-point victory margin was enough to see Carrigaline complete the Under 16 B league and championship double in Owens on Sunday. Already this year they had defeated Killeagh in the championship decider and the pressure was on to deliver the double last weekend. Earlier in the year the sides had met in the first round of the championship and it was close with Carrigaline shading it narrowly, this time out it was much the same as two committed sides gave it everything in quest of victory. At the finish, it was Carrigaline who prevailed but all credit to Éire Óg, who contributed enormously to an excellent contest.

Bitterly cold weather conditions made it difficult for the players.

Pattie O'Keeffe pointed an early free for Carrigaline and Orla Cotter extended their advantage from play after just three minutes. Éire Óg were on the score board inside the eight minute with a Clare Meaney point and play swung from end to end as the sides battled to gain control.

It was Róisín Murray who edged Éire Óg ahead with a goal but Carrigaline failed to panic and regained the lead ten minutes later when Linda Collins palmed the ball to the Éire Óg net. Again both defences came under sustained pressure. Maria Moran pointed a forty five to keep Carrigaline ahead but Clare Meaney had narrowed the gap to a point before Pattie O'Keeffe pointed just before half time to maintain Carrigaline's lead and as they turned leading by two points 1-4 to 1-2 it seemed remarkable that this was to be the last score of the game but so it proved to be.

Éire Óg, playing with the advantage of a very slight breeze for the second half, won plenty of possession but they failed to breach the Carrigaline rearguard that, having brought several players back to help defend their lead, made it impossible for Éire Óg. Marie Gleeson, Claire Meaney and Katie McCarthy were outstanding for Éire Óg and did trojan work while for Carrigaline Maria Moran, Donna Smyth and Deirdre O'Leary did superb work in a defence whose efforts to hold their opponents scoreless for the second half contributed enormously to their success.

After the game, juvenile board chairperson Tracey Sheehan presented the trophy to Carrigaline captain Maria Moran while player-of-the-match went to Éire Óg's Claire Meaney who all through the game gave a superb display in her side's quest for victory.

**Scorers for Carrigaline:** L Collins 1-0 P O'Keeffe 0-2 (0-15) O Cotter 0-1 M Moran 0-1 45

**Éire Óg:** R Murray 1-0, C Meaney 0-2  
**CARRIGALINE:** D Smyth; D O'Sullivan, J Foster, C O Connell, S Barry, S Cotter, A Crowley, M Moran (c) G O'Keeffe, P O'Keeffe, O Cotter, D O'Leary, M Scully, L Collins, J O Shea. **Sub:** N Crowley for J O'Shea (15).

**ÉIRE ÓG:** L Stack; E Crowley, M Gleeson, A Hennessy, C O'Connor, K McCarthy, D McAuliffe, C Meaney (0-2), O Meaney, C O'Keeffe, R Murray (1-0), A McCarthy, M Hennessy, O Boyle, A Cronin.

# O'Neill's end the year with a flourish

By MARY NEWMAN

Camogie	
Fr O'Neill's	2-4
Passage	0-0

FR O'NEILL'S brought the curtain down on 2007 with a flourish as they took the Tower View Developments Minor C Championship title for the first time with a deserved victory over Passage.

With the wind in their favour in the opening half, Fr O'Neill's set about laying a foundation and inside three minutes of the throw-in, they took the lead Emma Swayne striking an early point.

Rhiona Abernethy added their second point seven minutes later and O'Neill's were now settled and dictating matters.

Passage battled against the strong Fr O'Neill's defence but found scores hard to come by, time and again the O'Neill's defence clearing efficiently under pressure.

Kate Harrington extended the O'Neill's lead to four with two points and maintaining their dominance, they searched for a goal but the Passage defence held them at bay.

However, up front Passage still battled to get on the score board against a solid Fr O'Neill's defence.

At the break O'Neill's held a 0-4 to 0-0 advantage but were turning to play against the strong wind.

Miserable weather conditions made life difficult for both teams but through the second half they continued to battle hard.

Passage, despite being favoured by the elements, failed to capitalise, and it was Rhiona Abernethy who gave O'Neill's the better start to the half when she struck for a goal after just 11 minutes.

Now Fr O'Neill's were well in control but still Passage enjoyed plenty of possession but failure to breach the O'Neill's defence was proving costly as the minutes ticked away.

Passage did have scoring chances but struck narrowly wide on several occasions.

Fr O'Neill's, sensing victory, kept the pressure on the Passage defence and a second Rhiona Abernethy goal effectively put the game beyond their opponents and ensured the title was on its way to Ballymacoda for the first time.

County board chairperson Marian McCarthy presented the trophy to Fr O'Neill's captain Denise O'Leary while Rhiona Abernethy was named as player of the match following an excellent display.

**Scorers Fr O'Neill's:** R Abernethy 2-1, K Harrington 0-2, E Swayne 0-1.

**FR O'NEILL'S:** Y O'Keeffe, M Harrington, C McGrath, A Griffin, J Dunne, S Harrington, C Ahern, K Harrington, Y Murphy, O Farmer, E Swayne, D O'Leary (capt), R Ahern, R Abernethy, A McMahon.

**PASSAGE:** L McCarthy, C Murphy, N O'Sullivan, E Hyde, C O'Brien, L O'Sullivan, E Twomey, K Twomey, S Jordan, L McCarthy, G Foley, L Murphy, N O'Sullivan, C Doyle, S O'Reilly. **Subs:** T McMahon for L McCarthy, G Cooney for E Hyde.

DEC. 2007

## Munster Colleges Update

Intermediate A Final  
Carrig on Suir v St Joseph's Tulla Sat Jan 12th @ 1pm Venue: Dundrum Ref: E Browne

Intermediate B League Final  
St Mary's Middleton v Roscrea Sun Jan 13th @ 6pm Killeagh Ref: E Egan

Senior A Final  
St Mary's Charleville v Coachford College Sat Jan 26th @ 1pm Venue: Newtownshandrum Ref: J O'Leary

Senior B Final  
St Joseph's Borrisoleigh v Christ the King Cork Sat Jan 26th @ 2pm Venue: Borrisoleigh Ref: F McNamara

Senior C Final  
Roscrea v Blackwater Comm School Sun Jan 27th @ 1pm Venue: Lisnore Ref: J O'Donnell

2nd A Final  
Coachford College v St Camins/Christ the King Sat Feb 2nd @ 1pm Venue: TBA Ref: TBA

Junior B Final  
Nenagh/Kinsale v Thurles/Lismore Sat Feb 2nd @ 1pm Venue: TBA Ref: M Sheehan

Junior C Final  
Dromcollogher / St Mary's Mallow v Hospital Sat Feb 2nd. 1pm Venue: Drom/Mallow Ref: E Browne


**Munster Colleges Senior A Championship Semi-Final:**  
St Mary's Charleville 1-08 St Camins (Shannon) 1-05  
St. Mary's of Charleville put an end to St. Camins' run in the Munster Senior A Championship just before the Christmas break. Charleville were the stronger team but luck played its part for the Cork side also - the difference between the sides on the scoreboard in the end a long distance goal which deceived Aine Lawlor in the Camins' goal. This was very unfortunate for the Newmarket girl as she pulled off a fine save throughout the game and especially in the second half when Charleville were searching for those goals which would close Camins' out of the game. Charleville were to the fore at half time by the minimum score 0-05 to 1-01. Charleville's first half scores came from Rosemary Rea 0-01, Annette McAuliffe 0-02, Eimear Healy 0-02. While Aileen O'Shea 1-00 and Carina Roseingrave 0-01 accounted for Camins' tally. The second half was a true game of sheer grit and determination, with both sides looking for the break that would see them into the Munster Final. Louise O'Flynn had Charleville to a dream start with the opening point after Maire McGrath had foiled a goal attempt. Indeed Charleville laid siege to the Camins' goal for most of the second period and as stated Aine Lawlor pulled off numerous saves to keep Camins' in contention. In this attempt there was great support from Carol O'Leary and Maire McGrath in the full back line. Camins' got few chances for their forwards to make use of but on a rare occasion Rachel O'Halloran chased down what looked like a fruitless attack, and to the amazement of the Cork attendance and the delight of the Clare followers, but from the corner flag she pointed to give Camins' a huge lift. Eimear Healy with another free kept Charleville to the fore. Roseingrave of Camins' pointed to reduce the margin to 2. Then Healy put the nail in the Camins' challenge with a free from 40 yards slipped to the back of the net. This gave Charleville the break and breathing space that they needed.

Camins' fought on and that was Charleville's last score as Camins' added two more with Chloe Money converting the first Camins' scores from frees. Camins' did have a free late on from which they would try to level matters but to no avail. Charleville were the stronger team on the day. Fionnuala Dore controlled much of the Charleville game from centre back and curtailed many Camins' attacks as they tried to get through this solid line of defence. Rebecca Finn, Rosemary Rea, Orlath O'Mahony and Louise O'Flynn were others to impress on the day while Eimear Healy's accuracy with frees always kept Charleville ahead. For Camins' Rosin McMahon, Aine Lawlor, Carol O'Leary, Rachel O'Halloran and Chloe Money impressed.

**St. Camins Shannon:** Aine Lawlor, Maire McGrath, Carol O'Leary, K Connor, Chloe Neyon, Chloe Money, Niamh Corry, Leanne Boyle, Rosin McMahon, Rachel O'Halloran, Aileen O'Shea, Sinead Touhy, Shauna Chaplin, Carina Roseingrave, Laura McMahon  
**St. Marys Charleville:** Eileen Hanley, Aisling McAuliffe, Rebecca Finn, Clona Galvin, Maria Walsh, Fionnuala Dore, Erin Reidy, Rosemary Rea, Orlath O'Mahony, Sinead O'Flynn, Annette McAuliffe, Louise O'Flynn, Maria Reidy, Eimear Healy, Daria O'Callaghan

**Scorers:**  
St. Mary's Eimear Healy 1-04, Annette McAuliffe 0-02, Louise O'Flynn 0-01, Rosemary Rea 0-01

**St. Camins Aileen O'Shea 1-00, Carina Roseingrave 0-02, Rachel O'Halloran 0-01, Chloe Money 0-02**  
Referee: Eamon Browne (Tipperary)



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# West Cork honours its young camogie stars

by Áilín Quinlan

MORE than 230 people attended a glittering New Year awards ceremony at which medals and plaques were presented to some of West Cork's most talented young sportswomen.

Around 80 camogie players, from under-12s upwards, received medals at a special awards dinner, following a year of tremendous effort and well-deserved achievement. The awards function organised by the Enniskeane Camogie Club.

Rachel Moloney of the Cork

Camogie Panel and Mary Buglar, Vice Chairperson of the Cork County Camogie Board, attended the event in the Parkway Hotel, Dunmanway, on Friday, January 4.

"It was a marvellous night, which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone," said Club chairperson Eileen Scannell, who oversaw the presentation of the awards to a wide range of players, including the Under-12 winners of the West Cork camogie finals and the Under-14s, who were runners up in the C-grade of the County Final. Medals were also presented to members of the Junior

team, who won the County Final B grade.

The club, which boasts about 100 members, draws players from Enniskeane, as well as areas such as Coppeen, Drinagh and Dunmanway.

Ms Scannell spoke of the sheer effort, determination and commitment displayed by the club's players over the year, and encouraged them to continue striving to hone and polish their skill on the field.

However, it wasn't just the players who received an award for their efforts.

Ms Scannell also paid warm tribute to the club's eight coaches — Noel Buttimer, Dermot Curtin, Pat Mulcahy, Tomas McCarthy, Denis O'Driscoll, Michael O'Leary, Michael O'Regan and Denis O'Riordan for their hard work with the players over the year. They were presented with special commemorative plaques in appreciation of their ongoing effort and commitment.

Ms Scannell also thanked the club's supporters, who had faithfully chronicled the players' activities throughout the year in a series of stunning photographs.



# St Mary's Charleville book place in provincial decider

St Mary's Charleville  
St Caimin's Shannon

1-8  
1-5

by Mary Newman

ST MARY'S, Charleville, secured their place in the Munster Senior A colleges final, when they proved too strong for St Caimin's, Shannon, in a close contest recently. Just a goal separated the sides at the full-time whistle — through the game, there was little to separate the sides as both battled for a place in the final.

Points from Rosemary Rea, Annette McAuliffe (2) and Eimear Healy (2) gave St Mary's a slender

one-point lead at the half-time whistle. Aiveen O'Shea settled the Shannon girls with a first-half goal and a point from Carina Rosengrave ensured St Caimin's matched Charleville stride for stride as both sides worked hard to gain control through the opening 30 minutes. It was 0-5 to 1-1 at the interval and all to play for in the second half.

From the restart, both sides showed plenty of determination as the battle to gain control continued. Louise O'Flynn stretched the Charleville side's lead with a point as they put St Caimin's defence under enormous pressure. With Aine

Lawlor superb in the Shannon goal, denying Charleville the goal they battled for with some excellent saves, St Caimin's remained in contention, but with Charleville enjoying plenty of possession, their defence was under severe pressure.

Rachel O'Halloran narrowed the gap with a splendid point from the corner flag, but Eimear Healy again showed her accuracy pointing a free to keep Charleville ahead. Corina Rosengrave replied as Caimin's reduced the margin to two points.

Charleville worked hard to maintain their advantage and winning a free near the 45-metre line, Eimear

Healy's shot deceived St Caimin's defence and ended up in the net to stretch the Charleville lead.

Still determined to remain in contention, Chloe Morey converted two frees as St Caimin's battled on. Now just the goal separated the sides, and with time running out, the Shannon side had a chance to level matters, but the Charleville defence stood firm to book their place in the provincial decider.

**St Mary's Charleville:** E Hanley, Aisling McAuliffe, R Finn, C Galvin, M Walsh, F Dore, E Reidy, R Rea, O O'Mahony, S O'Flynn, Annette McAuliffe, L O'Flynn, M Reidy, E Healy, D O'Callaghan. **Scorers:** E Healy 1-4, Annette McAuliffe 0-2, L O'Flynn and R Rea, 0-1 each.

**St Caimin's:** A Lawlor, M McGrath, C O'Leary, C Neyon, C Morey, N Corry, L Boyle, R McMahon, R O'Halloran, A O'Shea, S Tuohy, S Chaplin, C Rosengrave, L McMahon, A Mahon. **Scorers:** A O'Shea 1-0, C Rosengrave 0-2, Chloe Morey 0-02, R O'Halloran 0-01. **Referee:** Eamonn Browne (Tipperary)

■ **Munster Colleges Intermediate A Camogie Final — Carrigaline v St Joseph's, Tulla (Clare)** takes place on Saturday, January 12, at 1pm in Cahir.

■ **Munster Colleges Intermediate B Camogie Final — St Mary's Middleton (Cork) v Roscrea (Tipperary)** takes place on Sunday, January 13, at 1pm in Killeagh.

## Carrigaline girls complete the double

Carrigaline  
Eire Og

1-4  
1-2

by Mary Newman

CARRIGALINE completed the Under 16 B league and championship double recently when they beat two points to spare over Eire Og in the league decider.

Two evenly matched sides turned in an excellent contest in quest of the title and in the finish it was Carrigaline who were ahead, but Eire Og must be complimented for a superb display in a game where the result was in the balance to the final whistle.

Conditions were hard for both sides on a bitterly cold day however the excellent playing surface helped.

Pattie O'Keeffe pointed an early free to give Carrigaline an early lead and it was extended when Orla Cotter pointed from play after just three minutes.

Clare Meaney replied with an Eire Og point and as the sides battled to gain control Róisín Murray gave Eire Og the advantage with a goal. Carrigaline dug deep and held their composure and they regained the lead ten minutes later Linda Collins palming the ball to the Eire Og net.

With both defences coming under pressure Maria Moran pointed a 45



Carrigaline under-16 B celebrating winning the county championship.

session but they failed to breach the Carrigaline rearguard that brought several players back to help defend their lead and it made it impossible for Eire Og to get through.

Both defences were on top through the second half, and it remained scoreless as Carrigaline clung to their two point lead. Eire Og battled to find a way through but it was not to be.

At the full time whistle it was Carrigaline who held the upper hand and so completed the double, much to the delight of their followers who made the journey to Ovens for an excellent contest.

After the game juvenile board chairperson Tracey Sheehan presented the trophy to Carrigaline captain Maria Moran, while player of the match went to Eire Og's Claire Meaney who all through the game gave a superb display in her side's quest for victory.

**Carrigaline:** D Smyth, D O'Sullivan, J Foster, C O'Connell, S Barry, S Cotter, A Crowley, M Moran, (c) G O'Keeffe, P O'Keeffe, O Cotter, D O'Leary, M Scully, L Collins, J O'Shea, Sub, N Crowley for J O'Shea (h/t). **Scorers:** L Collins 1-0, P O'Keeffe 0-2 (0-1), O Cotter 0-1, M Moran 0-1.

**Eire Og:** L Stack, E Crowley, M Gleeson, A Hennessy, C O'Connor, K McCarthy, D McAuliffe, C Meaney (0-2), O Meaney, C O'Keeffe, R Murray (1-0), A McCarthy, M Hennessy, O Boyle, A Cronin. **Scorers:** R Murray 1-0, C Meaney 0-2.

to help Carrigaline hold their lead but again Clare Meaney was to the fore as she narrowed the gap to a

point. Pattie O'Keeffe pointed before half time to maintain Carrigaline's lead 1-4 to 1-2 to the break.

Eire Og turning to play with the advantage of a very slight breeze for the second half won plenty of pos-



The North Presentation Convent, O'Callaghan Cup camogie winners of 1946. Several of the girls later played senior with the Glen, Cork and Munster. Back: Miss Jones, Norma O'Brien, Kathleen Walsh, Mary Daly, Betty Walsh, Eileen Howe, Eileen Lehan, Miss Daly. Seated: Peggy Howe, Eleanor O'Flynn, Noelle Deane, Anne Hanley, Sheila Cahill, Jo O'Shaughnessy, Mary Woods. Front: Mary Maher and Bridie Lucey.

Picture: Ref Exam photo



JAN. 2008

# Angela is a



**DENIS HURLEY**

**IN EARLY** December, Cork ladies' footballer Angela Walsh was presented with the Texaco Award for her outstanding performances as the Rebels won their third All-Ireland in a row.

However, football is just one string to this talented lady's already-cluttered sporting bow.

And like any star, she is quick to credit her team-mates for the award:

"It is a great honour to win it of course, but I'm accepting it on behalf of the rest of the girls, it was a real team effort to win the three-in-a-row," she says.

With Angela being a key member of both the Cork camogie and ladies' football teams, does she have any preference between the two sports?

"I never answer that question, it's definitely the most popular one that I get asked," she replies, giving a reality check to my notions of journalistic originality.

"I couldn't pick between the two. I'm probably benefiting more at the moment from the football in terms of awards and the like, but it's great to be able to play both."

She does admit, however, that the time may come, sooner rather than later, for her to make a choice.

"This year especially has been very hard, the way the formats changed, leading to more games, basically when we weren't training we were playing."

"My clubs, Killeagh in camogie and Inch Rovers in football, were very understanding, it must be said."

"Because of county commitments, I would have done very little training with the clubs during the summer, but once the county season was over I was back with them again."

"It's been like that for the last three or four years," Angela says.

Obviously, with so many sporting commitments, a social life comes in a good way down on the list of priorities?

"Unfortunately it does!" she agrees.

"I've a huge lack of a social life, but these are the sacrifices you make."

"I've had to miss a load of 21st birthday parties, but my friends would understand."

"Winning trophies makes it all

worthwhile, and we have enough nights out when we do win anyway."

Cork came agonisingly close to three-in-a-rows in both camogie and ladies' football this year, but the camogie team were pipped in the final by Wexford.

No doubt it was tough for Angela, and the other dual players, to pick themselves up for the football decider against Mayo two weeks later?

"I was gutted after losing the camogie alright, but the thought of coming back to Croke Park for the Mayo game inspired us," says Angela.

When I interviewed Rena Buckley, a fellow dual player, in these pages a

month said that who were on ball team, but camogie, were help, would agree?

"Definitely, us get our feet were totally the football."

As well as activity on year, Angela with her club winning the ball senior title annexing the crown.

Inch also c

Angela celebrates with teammates Jennifer O'Leary and Rachel Moloney at the final whistle of the 2006 All-Ireland senior camogie final victory over Tipp.

## FACTFILE

**Age:** 22

**Education:** Clonpriest NS, Gortree; St Mary's, Middleton; University of Limerick (studying PE and maths)

**Clubs:** Killeagh (camogie), Inch Rovers (ladies' football)

**Honours:** Ladies football — Texaco

award 2007, All-Star 2006 and 2007, senior All-Irelands 2004, 2005, 2006, Munster senior titles 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, Munster club title 2006, county senior title 2006, county intermediate title 2005. Camogie — senior All-Irelands 2005, 2006, county junior A title 2007.



Rockingham Park Hotel



Evening Echo

LADIES

SPORTSTAR

AWARDS





JAN. 2008

# shining dual



Angela, pictured here with Brian O'Driscoll at the Texaco Sport Awards, won the Cork ladies' football senior title with Inch Rovers and the and junior A camogie crown with Killeagh in December, a feat which won her the Evening Echo Ladies Sportstar of the month award.

ago, she the girls in the foot- but not the e a massive d Angela

they helped focus, as they committed to

he inter-county two fronts this was also busy os, Inch Rovers Cork ladies' foot- tle, and Killeagh junior A camogie

claimed a Munster, but lost the All-Ireland final to Carnacon of Mayo.

"We were all very disappointed, of course, but at the same time we had only just come up from intermediate the year before.

"Credit has to be given to Noel O'Connor, he has done an absolutely brilliant job over the last few years.

"On the day, Carnacon were better, Cora Staunton was absolutely im- mense, but I think the 2-14 to 1-5 scoreline flattered them a bit.

"They lost the All-Ireland final last year, so hopefully we can replicate that next year!"

The same way that the dual players bene- fit Cork, does hav- ing so many county play-

ers, including the likes of Amy O'Shea, Mary O'Connor, Angela's cousins Annie and Ann Marie Walsh and sister Ciara, help Inch?

"It really does," says Angela. "We'd all have experience of big games, and that helps the younger players and makes them more assured."

Killeagh's junior A camogie win came at the expense of Ballincollig, but Angela wasn't best pleased with the setting for that game.

"It was great to win with Killeagh," she says.

"But it was a bitter day, you really don't want to be playing a county final on December 9, it was probably the toughest game I've ever played, what with the wind and the rain that day."

As well as the camogie and football, Angela is also very accomplished at

athletics and volleyball.

"I started running with Glenbower at a very young age, and I think that is really standing to me now, the fitness I would have developed then."

The volleyball came about when she went to secondary school in St Mary's in Midleton, where that was the num- ber one sport.

"Yeah, volleyball was the main sport there, there was little or no camogie or football," Angela explains.

"Myself and another girl were lucky enough to get trials for Ireland, and got to play at the World Youth Games."

After St Mary's was the University of Limerick, where Angela studied PE and Maths.

I have never met an alumnus of UL who did not like the place, myself in-

cluded, and Angela is the same.

"I loved my time there," she says.

"UL are always strong at camogie and I was lucky enough to win an Ashbourne (colleges' camogie title) while I was there."

Angela is now teaching PE and Business at St Augustine's College in Dungarvan, county Waterford.

Outside of sport, when she gets the time that is, Angela likes to go to the cinema and is partial to a bit of Chinese food.

She says that her biggest influ- ences have been her parents, Fr Liam Kelleher and Noel O'Connor.

Those people have certainly done a good job in moulding her into the player that she is today, and at only 22, only a fool would bet against her bagging more awards in the future.



Rochestown Park Hotel



Evening Echo

LADIES SPORTSTAR

AWARDS





## ST VINCENT'S

Training for our underage section has started - times as follows:

- Mondays 5.30 to 6.30 players born 1994 and 1995
- Wednesdays 6pm to 7pm for those born 1997
- Thursdays 6pm to 7pm for 1996
- Saturdays 1pm to 2pm, U6s 2pm to 3pm U9s

**U10 blitz:** Well done to the young Saints who did the club proud at the Seandún Christmas blitz. The team was Amy O'Regan, Teigan Russell, Chloe O'Shea, Shelly O'Hanlon, Chloe Dunne, Chelsea Dalton and Karen Daly. Well done girls.

## GLEN ROVERS

While on-the-field activities are limited at this time of year with the traditional January break for our underage section, we can look back on a busy December where we had plenty to keep us occupied off the playing pitches. It was all hands on deck as our underage players converged on the club for their annual Christmas party. There was no shortage of entertainment with the highlight of the day the visit of Santa whose visit was greeted by a huge cheer. Well done to everybody who helped make the day a huge success special mention to Carol Bridgeman, Karen Kelly, Deirdre Coleman and Kelly Newman who worked hard to ensure our young players had a day to remember.

When all our younger members had re-

turned home it was the turn of our adult players to get into the Christmas spirit and led by captain Aoife Walsh and vice-captain Cornelia Shortt the girls helped make our Christmas raffle night in the club an enjoyable one.

We thank everybody who donated prizes bought and sold tickets and supported our raffle which once again was a huge success. Thanks to Maria Dowling Mary Newman and Deirdre Coleman who organised same on Sunday night a full list of winners is on display in local shops or on the club notice boards.

**Poc Fada:** Well done to everybody who played in the club's Long Puck competition on St Stephen's Day. Congratulations to Lydia Cunningham, Denise Luby and Clara O'Keeffe who were the first in the camogie section and were third in the overall event beating off stiff opposition from the lads. Well done also to Zoe Buckley, Lorna Crowley and Denise O'Flynn who were second in the camogie section.

**Congratulations:** We extend congratulations to our new hurling club chairman Tony Callanan we wish him and his officers every good wishes, thanks also to outgoing chairman Liam O'Tuama for his help and co-operation to the camogie club. Best wishes also to Michael Hackett who takes over as chairman

## CAMOGIE CLUB NOTES

of the underage male section and thanks to outgoing Liam Cashman and his officers who worked hard in hand with the camogie club through their term of office.

**Holidays:** Our underage section is taking a break for January and training will resume at the end of the month.

## CARRIGALINE

The AGM of the Carrigaline Camogie Club was held in the Carrigaline GAA Pavilion recently. Tom Kiely opened the meeting before a large attendance and a very busy year was reported at both Senior B and underage level. At senior level there was much praise for the management skills of Pat Moran and the team trainers Adrian O'Meara and John Middleton, which led to Carrigaline winning its first championship matches at senior level, although failing by a whisker, to qualify for a semi-final spot.

At U16 level, Marie Scully led a team to Donegal for a weekend to play in the Pan Celtic competition, where they won the B section and were runners up in the A section in March.

Two U16 teams were entered in competition and the U16 B team, trained by Tom Jones, won the championship by beating Killeagh in the final. It was noted that this was the best U16 team that the club has pro-

duced and there are a number of potential senior players there. Nine teams in all were entered in underage competition.

Marie Moran captained Carrigaline in the final of the inter-divisional blitz, which they narrowly lost. Two teams were also entered at U14 level, one at B and one at C level and both narrowly missed out on qualification for the knock out stages.

A new Committee was elected on the night and is as follows: chairman: Tom Kiely, vice-chairman: Brian Maye, secretary: Jan Kiernan, assist sec. Marie Scully, treasurer: Sharon O'Connell, assist treasurer: Elaine Egan, PRO, Andrew O'Farrell, president: Jackie O'Connor and vice-president, Agnes O'Reilly.

South East Board Delegates: Nuala O'Connor, Siobhán O'Crowley, Eleanor O'Keeffe. County Board Delegates: Pat Moran, Jan Kiernan and Tom Kiely.

Team Manager Senior B: Pat Moran John Middleton Adrian O'Meara.

U16 manager: Paul Buckley, train

Mondays 6-7pm outdoors

U14 manager: Brian Maye, Nuala O'Connor, train Mondays 6-7pm outdoors

U12 manager: Angela Egan, Ger Hoey train Thursdays 6-7pm outdoors.

U10 manager: Dave Fleming, train on

Mondays 5-6pm in the Community Complex

U8 manager: Michael Murphy

U6 manager: Sharon O'Connell, train on Thursdays 5-6 pm in the Community Complex.

U7/Beginners manager: Eleanor O'Keeffe with Megan Scully and Ciara O'Connell, train on Mondays 4-5pm in the Community Complex.

All underage training is finishing and will recommence week of 7th January. New members welcome, phone Marie @ 087-2381181

Saturday 19th January our Dinner Dance will be held in the Carrigaline Court Hotel. Tickets 35euro (players under 16 must be accompanied by a parent as this is the law and the rules of the hotel). Tickets available from Committee members

Pat Moran has been chosen as a selector for the Cork U18 team. Marie Scully will serve as a GPC member on the juvenile county board.

Carrigaline completed the double of Under16B league and championship as we narrowly defeated the team we beat in first round of the championship back last September.

**Panel:** Donna Smyth; Dara O'Sullivan, Jennifer Foster, Ciara O'Connell; Sarah Barry, Sarah Cotter, Aine Crowley; Maria Moran, Grainne O'Keeffe; Patsie O'Keeffe, Orla Cotter, Deirdre O'Leary; Megan Scully, Linda Collins, Jennifer O'Shea, Niamh Crowley.

## Camogie Chat

by Mary Newman

IN THE coming weeks as preparations begin for the season ahead we will take a look back at a busy year gone by

## CLUB SCENE

On the club scene it was a busy season and it was a good years for several clubs with new names coming to the fore. The county board were fortunate to secure sponsorship of their adult championship commotions from the Evening Echo while Tower View Developments again sponsored the minor championship competitions

## SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

Muskerry and holders St Finbarrs faced each other in the final to decide the destination of the senior county championship title and it was divisional side Muskerry who bridged a seventy four year gap to take the title. Backboned by players from Eire Og, Ballincollig Rockban and Grenagh they dethroned the champions as they ran out inners in a low scoring final with three points to spare.

## SENIOR B

In the senior B grade the teams were divided into two sections with the competition played on a round robin basis Douglas and Valley Rovers emerged to contest the final and backboned by players from several of their successful their under age teams in recent years Douglas took their first Senior B crown.

## JUNIOR A

In Junior "A" Killeagh and Ballincollig played out the final in atrocious weather conditions with Killeagh taking the title.

## JUNIOR B

Enniskeane made the step up to Junior B grade where they turned in splendid performance to take the spoils at the expense of Butervent.

## THIRTEEN A SIDE JUNIOR FINAL

Grenagh lost out for the second year in a row as Ballyhea proved too strong.

## JUNIOR SHIELD

Douglas rounded off a good year by taking the junior shield title defeating Ballygarvan in the final.

## MINOR

At the time of writing the Minor A competition has yet to be completed, in the Minor B championship Clonakilty took their first title in the grade when they defeated Valley Rovers while FR O Neills defeated Passage to take the C championship crown

## UNDER AGE ACTIVITIES

Camogie continued to gain in popularity and extra competitions were introduced in both league and championship at under age level with a D grade in all age groups.

Douglas took the double at under 16 level winning the A championship and league titles. At under16 B level Carrigaline did like wise as they also recorded the double

In the C grade Brian Dillon took the championship title and will to meet St Catherine's in the league final. Victory for Bishopstown in the D championship final while Youghal took the league crown. In under14 competition Feile Na NGael continued to be the big one and here Milford and Glen Rovers battled it out for the right to represent Cork at Nation Feile the Milford girls proving to strong in an exciting final. They also took the league crown defeating Ballinhassig in the final, in the B league victory went to Courcy Rovers while in the C league Brian Dillon's proved best while the D title went to Charleville.

At Under 12 A Douglas took the league title in the B victory went to Cloughduv in the C competition Killeagh were victors while the D title went to Bishopstown. Six teams participated in the twelve a side competition with Tracton winning the title.

Another hectic season at club level done and dusted while off the playing field work is already under way to get competitions up and running at senior and juvenile level for 2008.

## Players' focus on Ashbourne

THIRD level camogie players' minds are very much focussed on the Ashbourne and Purcell Cup, which is without doubt the most prestigious of camogie's competition in college life, writes MARY NEWMAN.

It will take place late January and February.

The competition is in existence since 1915 when Lord Ashbourne donated a cup for the universities championship.

The scope of the competition grew with the increase in third level colleges and the draw for this year's competitions have thrown up some interesting clashes for us to look forward to in the coming weeks.

UUJ host this year's Ashbourne Cup and Shield competitions and huge preparations are under way by all concerned since term began with a date of February 23 pencilled in for the finals.

Holders UCD are drawn to meet UL and this promises to be a cracker, as both have been very much to the fore in recent years.

UL captured three titles in-a-row from 2004 to 2006 before UCD finally broke their grip last season.

Without doubt one to keep a close eye on will be the meeting of UCC and WIT.

The Cork students, defeated in last year's final by UCD have been putting in huge preparations under the guiding eye of Cork senior and Munster camogie co-ordinator Mary O'Connor. They will be determined to go all the way and atone for last season.

CIT, who last season were winners of the Ashbourne Shield, will be hoping to take it a step further and qualify for the cup competitions and they will meet NUIG, while hosts UUJ meet Garda college.

The four qualifiers are pencilled in for the weekend of February 13 with the winners going forward to the Ashbourne Cup finals, while the losing teams will meet in the Ashbourne Shield.

The Purcell Cup is a competition for Colleges in division two.

Paddy and Agnes Purcell donated the cup in 1977. Agnes Purcell gave a lifetime of devoted service to camogie.

GMIT will host this year's Purcell Cup competition which takes place on the weekend February 16th & 17th and the draws are as follows: Mary I / Sligo v DCU; QUB / St Pat's v Tralee/Dundalk; DIT/St Mary's v GMIT; TCD v LIT / NUIM v Carlow v AIT.

League competitions are drawing to their conclusion and in the Division One League, UCD and WIT both topped their respective groups and will meet in the final on Sunday February 3.

## Major blow for Cork as quartet to sit out season

**CAMOGIE:** Cork will be without the services of Jennifer O'Leary, Anna Geary, Brieghe Corkery and Rena Buckley for the 2008 season.

The four will be unavailable as they will all be spending time across the globe during the year. Four-time All Star O'Leary is travelling to Australia for the

year, while full back Geary will spend the year studying in Luxembourg as part of her course in the University of Limerick.

Brieghe Corkery has decided to take a year out and travel to San Francisco, while half back and All Star Rena Buckley will also be in US for the year.

The loss of this influential quartet will be a serious blow to Cork's hopes of recapturing their All-Ireland title, which they lost to Wexford last September.

The Cork side will also be without manager John Cronin and coach Fiona O'Driscoll, who both stepped down at the end of last year. Cronin led Cork to back-to-back Championships in 2005 and 2006, while also winning the National League in 2006 and 2007. It is expected that Cork will name a new manager and backroom team in the coming weeks, ahead of the start of the National League in March.

## Leinster Colleges Update

### Leinster Colleges Camogie Update

**Senior A:** St. Brigid's, Callan - Winners  
Castletown C.S - Runner up

**Senior B:** Loreto, Wexford - Winners  
St. Brendan's, Birr - Runner up

**Senior C:** Sacred Heart Tullamore 4-4 Grennan College, Thomastown 1-2.

**Senior D:** St McDara's, Dublin 5-7; Mean Sc. an Chlochair, Kibeggan 1-1.

**Junior A:** Loreto, Kilkenny - Winners  
Coláiste Bhríde, Enniscorthy - Runner up

**Fixtures:** Provincial Semi-Finals and Finals:  
Venues and dates tbc

**Junior B:** Loreto Wexford v Borris VS  
Presentation College, Kilkenny v Bunclody

**Junior C:** Kilcormac VS v St. Marys, New Ross/Col. Mhuire, Johnstown

**Junior D:** Grennan Coll, Thomastown v Skerries CS/Heywood CS

**Junior E:** Columba College, Kilkenny v St Leos, Carlow  
Ramsgrange CS v Presentation College, Kildare

## Ulster Colleges' Council Fixtures

### Corn Eimhear

St. Patrick's Maghera v. St Mary's Magherafelt  
holders Cross & Passion Ballycastle v St Louis Ballymena  
**Liaistrom Fontenoy's Cup**  
St Plus X Magherafelt v. St Columban's Killeel  
Loreto Coleraine v St Patrick's Dungannon.  
**Junior Medallion Cup**  
St MacNissi's Garra Tower v. St Louis Killeel  
St Paul's Killea v. Our Lady's Newry.

All the Senior semi-finals will take place on or before January 26th.

### Corn Uan Uladh

St. Patrick's Maghera v. holders St Mary's Magherafelt  
Cross & Passion Ballycastle v St Patrick's Keady  
**Fr Davies' Cup**  
Loreto Coleraine v Our Lady's Newry  
St Patrick's Dungannon v. Assumption Ballynahinch  
**Senior Medallion Cup**  
St MacNissi's Garra Tower v. St Columban's Killeel  
St Louis Killeel v. St Colm's Droghda  
**Senior Shield final**  
St Malachy's Castlewellan v. St Patrick's Ballymena

## CAMOGIE

**Ulster Colleges Championship**  
**semi-finals:** Corn Eimhear: Lunn AI St. Patrick's Maghera 4-1 St Mary's Magherafelt 0-2; Cross & Passion, B'castle, 7-14; St Louis Ballymena 0-1  
**Liaistrom Fontenoy's Cup semi-final:** Loreto, Coleraine, 3-3 St.Pats Dungannon 1-2  
**Junior Medallion Cup:** St. Mac Nissi's Garra Tower 9-2 St. Louis, Killeel 4-5.

## CAMOGIE

**MUNSTER COLLEGES CSHIP FINALS**  
St Mary's Charleville 2-7 (K Brosnan 1-1, M Reidy 1-0, E Healy 0-3 (0-2)), R Finn, R Rea, O'Callaghan 0-1 each) Coachford  
Comm. Sch. 0-3 (J Casey 0-3 (0-1), 0-145)  
**Senior B Final**  
Christ the King 3-15, St Josephs Borrisoleigh 4-5.



# CASHEL HIT THE JACKPOT IN '07

Having knocked loudly on the door since the turn of the millennium, Cashel finally came good on their promise in 2007 by claiming the All-Ireland senior club camogie championship. Hogan Stand visited the Tipperary camogie stronghold to investigate a historic breakthrough.

Tipperary and Munster champions Cashel made 2007 a year to remember when they captured the All-Ireland senior club camogie championship with a stunning victory over Athenry in Limerick on Sunday November 18.

Backboneed by eight All-Ireland intercounty medallists, including Emily Hayden, Una O'Dwyer, Philly Fogarty, Cora Hennessy and Sinead Millea, Cashel became All-Ireland club champions for the first time by virtue of an emphatic 1-18 to 0-9 win against highly-rated Galway opposition.

Indeed, Athenry were many people's favourites to win the national decider. They had eliminated holders St Lachtain's of Kilkenny at the semi-final stage and had previous experience of annexing the All-Ireland - albeit 30 years earlier. They also included in their ranks the prodigious talent of Connacht Young Player of the Year Jessica Gill as well as the deadly Therese Maher. But Cashel were not to be denied their moment...

There was a real sense of history to the breakthrough as the Bill Carroll Cup hadn't forayed into the Premier County since 1966, when St Patrick's of Drumgoole completed back-to-back victories. Having won a third successive provincial title, Cashel progressed to their second-ever All-Ireland final, having lost to Pearses of Galway in 2001.

While they were confident and well prepared, one couldn't have blamed the Cashel girls if they'd been a little apprehensive in the run-up to the big game. After all, finals can be notoriously fickle affairs and the occasion brought incredible pressure bearing down on their young shoulders.

However, on the biggest day of all, the players produced an exceptional display. There was never any doubt about the outcome at the Gaelic Grounds as the Tipp and Munster queenpins bounced back from their All-Ireland semi-final defeats of 2005 and '06 with a devastating performance.

The Cashel backroom team had their homework done, cleverly re-locating Player of the Match and 2007 All Star Philly Fogarty from midfield to corner forward in the second half, a tactical switch that allowed Tipperary's other '07 All Star Claire Grogan to move out the field, where she exerted a big influence between the half forward and midfield sectors during a viral period.

Another key switch saw Una O'Dwyer moved from full back to centre back to curb dangerous Galway senior star Therese Maher, who was held scoreless. The opening exchanges were tentative and Cashel led by two points at the interval, 0-7 to 0-5. They turned the screw thereafter and Emily Hayden's goal 23 minutes after the resumption effectively sealed Athenry's fate.

The outstanding Grogan provided the assist for the game's

only goal and Cashel were also well served by captain and Kilkenny native Sinead Millea at left half back and Jill Horan at midfield, though it is unfair to single out individual efforts as the team produced a solid and comprehensive team display from whistle to whistle. The fact that 14 of the winners' 18 scores came from open play tells us just about all we need to know about what was a stellar display in the depths of winter.

Anne Moloney has acted as secretary of the Cashel camogie club for the past 22 years. She got involved when her daughter Kaiffe (O'Connell), who was on the All-Ireland winning panel, started to line out for the club. She has given sterling service, also acting as a selector on the all-conquering team last year. Reflecting on the '07 triumph, she admits that it was a relief to finally see the door open after Cashel had knocked for so long:

"We felt we should have won an All-Ireland in the past three or four years but things just didn't go our way, so we were delighted to finally get one in the bag. We've been waiting so long we thought it would never happen. The All-Ireland was the icing on the cake."

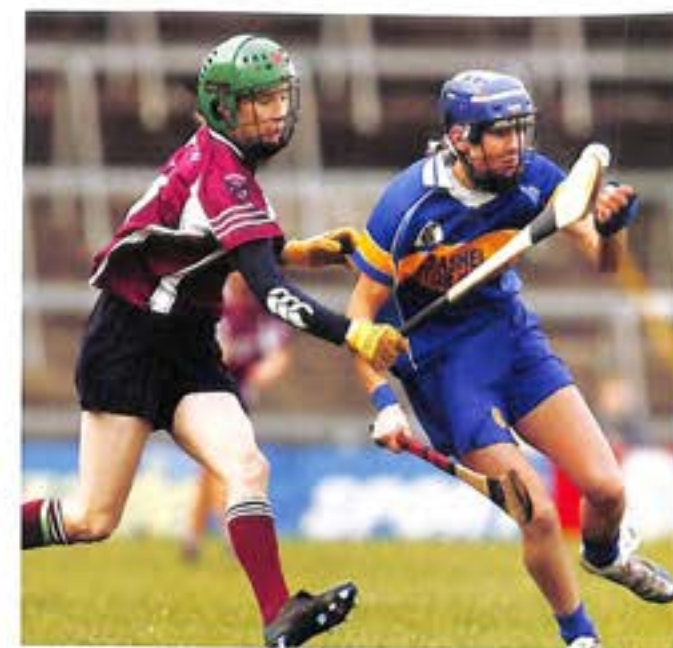
With 14 county titles to their credit inside 20 years, as well as five Munster championships, Cashel were desperate to land the biggest prize of all. With TJ Connolly at the helm and the triumvirate of Mickey Browne, Michael Lawrence and Anne Moloney alongside him on the sidelines, they rallied in '07 to put those heartbreaking defeats to Freshford and Davitt's in 2006 and '05 respectively behind them.

Considering that traditionally Cashel didn't have a particularly good record against Galway teams, the conviction exhibited by the players in the All-Ireland final was worthy of nothing but the highest praise. "We felt we should have beaten Freshford in 2006 and we went into last year's competition determined to make amends," Anne continues. "We knew Athenry would be tough but we were ready."

"The girls played very well in the semi-final against O'Donovan Rossa of Antrim in Newry. That was our hardest game of the year and O'Donovan Rossa were our toughest opposition. I'm sure they can win an All-Ireland in the next couple of years if they stick together - but we wanted it this year."

A panel of 25 players got together in March and participated in over 60 training sessions between then and the All-Ireland final in mid-November. This represents massive commitment from a special crop of girls. "They showed great commitment," Anne confirms. "They are a great panel to train and always have been. And they are all young enough to win another All-Ireland, so hopefully there's more success to come."

After completing another three-in-a-row of county titles with victory over the Duharra amalgamation, Cashel were trailing in the provincial final with six minutes to go but



Una O'Dwyer shows close control as Athenry's Mary Keogh closes in

staged a dramatic late revival to eclipse Killeady (Limerick) on a 3-16 to 1-10 scoreline. That was the first sign of the awesome character that would see history made in true Cashel style.

Cashel, 2007 All-Ireland senior club camogie champions: H Breen; S Morrissey, N O'Dwyer, J McGrath; P Bulfin, U O'Dwyer, S Millea; J Horan, P Fogarty (0-3); L Grogan (0-1), M Morrissey (0-1), C Hennessy (0-2); A Lonergan (0-2), E Hayden (1-2), C Grogan (0-7). Subs: L Toomey, D Ryan, J Moloney.



The best in the land - Cashel, All-Ireland senior club winners 2007

guard, gave Coachford CC no chance of a comeback. Goals from Kerry Brosnan and Mariah Reidy in the third quarter paved the way, with Erin Reidy, Rebecca Finn, Sinead O'Flynn and Darina O'Callaghan also in fine form.

However, the 2-7 to 0-3 final tally could have been far greater except for the brilliance of Maria Gleeson in the mid Cork side's goal.

Elsewhere, Christ the King Cork tasted success in their first Munster senior B appearance.

Their 3-15 to 4-5 win over St Joseph's Borrosleigh sparking the celebrations. Julie White and Catriona Mackey were very prominent, and shooting 15 points was always going to put them in pole position.

However, it was the goals from Nicola Leo, Christina Murphy and Aileen O'Donovan ensured a first title for the Rebel girls.

Bonnie Kennedy and Mairead Devaney tried hard for a youthful Tipp team.

Meanwhile, Clare school, St Joseph's of Tulla had two points to spare over Greenhill, Carrick-on-Suir, 1-7 to 1-5, in the Munster intermediate final.

Therese O'Callaghan

## St Mary's rally to seal eighth title on trot

**CAMOGIE:** St Mary's, Charleville recorded an amazing eighth consecutive Munster senior A colleges camogie title at the weekend.

While the outcome hung in the balance, 0-2 apiece at half time, a wonderful second half performance, especially from their resilient rear-

JAN.  
2008



Jan 2008

# Colleges shape up for major camogie cups

THIRD-level camogie players' minds are very much focused on the Ashbourne and Purcell Cup, without doubt the most prestigious of camogie's competition in college life which will take place late January and February.

An Ashbourne or Purcell cup medal is a cherished possession. The competition has been in existence since 1915 when Lord Ashbourne donated a cup for the universities championship.

The scope of the competition grew with the increase in third-level college down through the years, and the draws took place recently and have thrown up some interesting clashes for us to look forward to in the coming weeks.

January and February traditionally signal the business end of competitions at third level and 2008 will be

no exception with Ashbourne and Purcell Cups and third-level league competitions drawing to their conclusion.

The University of Ulster Jordanstown is hosting this year's Ashbourne Cup and Shield competitions. One of the game's oldest competitions the Ashbourne Cup is a hugely competitive and is without doubt the highlight of college sporting life.

Huge preparations are under way by all concerned since term began and with a date of February 23 pencilled in for the finals. Holders UCD are drawn to meet UL and this promises to be a cracker as both have been very much to the fore in recent years, UL taking three titles in a row from 2004 to 2006 before UCD finally broke their grip last season to take their first title since

1998.

Without doubt one to keep a close eye on will be the meeting of UCC and Waterford IT. The Cork students, defeated in last year's final by UCD, have been putting in huge preparations under the guiding eye of Cork senior and Munster camogie co coordinator Mary O'Connor and they will be determined to go all the way and atone for last season.

Cork Institute of Technology, who last season were winners of the Ashbourne shield, will be hoping to take it a step further and qualify for the cup competitions, and they will meet NUIG, while hosts UUJ will be meeting Garda college.

The four qualifiers are pencilled in for the weekend of February 13, with the winners going forward to the Ashbourne cup finals while the

losing teams will meet in the Ashbourne shield.

## PURCELL CUP

The Purcell cup is a competition for third-level colleges in Division 2 Championship. Paddy and Agnes Purcell gave a lifetime of devoted service to camogie where she promoted the game in UCD, Dublin, Leinster and also through her writing for newspapers. She was President of the Camogie Association 1976-78 while Paddy was a well-known gaelic games correspondent for the Irish Press.

GMIT will host this year's Purcell Cup competition which takes place on the weekend February 16th & 17th and the draws are as follows

Mary I / Sligo v DCU

QUB / St. Pats v Tralee/Dundalk

DIT/St. Marys v GMIT

TCD Vs LIT / NUIM v Carlow Vs AIT

## Division 1 League

League competitions are drawing to their conclusion and in the division 1 league, UCD and WIT both topped their consecutive groups and will now meet in the final on Sunday, February 3. Both teams will be eager to claim the first trophy of the year, while players will be out to put the final touches to their Ashbourne Cup preparations.

## Division 2 League

In the division 2 league the following are the semi-final pairings: Queens v DIT, St Pats v Tralee IT.

## St Mary's goals secure Munster camogie title

St Mary's (Charleville)  
Coachford CC

2-07  
0-03

by Terry O'Brien

ST MARY'S Charleville emerged deserving winners of the Munster Senior A post primary schools competition when they overcame the spirited challenge of Coachford CC. Despite blustery conditions both teams set out their defensive stalls early in the game keeping scoring opportunities at a premium. Coachford enjoyed the lion's share of possession in the first half, but were unable to turn it into scores. Charleville defended well, particularly Rebecca Finn and Erin Reidy, who curbed the scoring threat of Coachford captain Niamh Dilworth. Charleville were not getting any change out of Coachford who defended well, particularly Michelle Healy and Rosie O'Mahony who covered back well from her midfield berth.

Coachford keeper Marie Gleeson kept her side in the game when in



St Mary's (Charleville) won the Munster Senior A post-primary schools Camogie Final with a decisive victory over Coachford Community College.

the 29th minute she reacted well to a through ball to centre forward Darina O'Callaghan, saving an almost certain goal. Half time saw both sides retire tied at 2 points each courtesy of frees by Charleville's Eimear Healy and Coachford's Joanne Casey.

Charleville upped the gears considerably at the start of the second half and put the Coachford defence under severe pressure. Quick direct

ball from midfield to the half forward line saw Charleville grab an early initiative.

Firstly Rebecca Finn pointed a 31st minute free and then disaster struck for Coachford when a mix up in the full back line saw Kerrie Brosnan goal for Charleville on the 35th minute. Points from Darina O'Callaghan (39th) and an Eimear Healy free (42nd) extended the Charleville lead, and when Mariah

Reidy found herself at the receiving end of a long ball into the Coachford square from Eimear Healy on the 44th minute she made no mistake flicking the ball to the Coachford net.

Further points by Kerry Brosnan and Rosemarie Rea put the game beyond Coachford whose only score in the second half came from a 50th minute point by Joanne Casey.

Charleville will now make the long trip north next month when they play either Ballycastle or Magherafelt in the All Ireland semi-final.

**Charleville:** E Hanley (Cpt), A McAuliffe, R Finn, C Galvin, O O'Mahony, M Walsh, E Reidy, F Dore, R Rea, S O'Flynn, D O'Callaghan, K Brosnan, A McAuliffe, M Reidy, E Healy.

**Subs:** L O'Flynn for E Healy (55), K Curtin for D O'Callaghan (56).  
**Scorers:** K Brosnan 1.02, M Reidy 1.00, E Healy 0.03 (ft), R Rea 0.01, R Finn 0.01.

**Coachford CC:** M Gleeson, S McCarthy, C O'Brien, A O'Keefe, M Healy, M Vaughan, E Kingston, R O'Mahony, B Twomey, C Kiely, N Dilworth, (Cpt) C O'Keefe, A Twomey, J Casey, A O'Connor, Subs: K McCarthy for An O'Connor (HT), A Barry-Murphy for C Kiely (51st).  
**Scorers:** J Casey 0.03 (0.02).

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

## Cooper is ready for major move from minor

FROM minor to major - Brendan Cooper, the new chairman of the Dublin Camogie Board.

He's prepared well for the task. Four years as minor supremo is as solid an apprenticeship as you could get.

"I have got a good grounding, and I'm looking forward to this role with a lot of enthusiasm," he says.

Brendan knows the score. He's been in the game long enough.

And, at the end of the day, it's all about the players. Officials are there to make their life as enjoyable and as easy as possible.

And that's why having a distinct season will remain a priority of the board.

"The bottom-line is to continue to run the competitions as smoothly as possible," relates Brendan.

"We pride ourselves on starting on time and finishing on time. And we feel it's essential to conclude everything within schedule and never to carry competitions over to the following year."

"We have a strict calendar of dates, and we stick to that. In that way, everybody knows where they stand."

"If players want to plan holidays and so forth, they can do so well in advance because the season is set in stone."

Already, the camogie crew have been back at their desks. "It's going to be a big year for Dublin camogie and we have hit the ground running," relates the new supremo.

"I have an exceptional team around me. They are all so committed, and I can say the same for the minor board, who are also in good hands."

"The structures are in place and it's up to us to build and improve on them."

"The Dublin team continue to make progress and we have increased our number of All Stars. That's a trend we'd obviously like to see continue. Off the field, we have many plans in store with a view to fundraising, etc."

"Presently, we have been busy with the registrations. Then the Fixture and Contact Book will be completed, and we regard that as the Bible."

"We don't know where we'd be without it. It's such a help to all the clubs."

"The seasons are getting longer and the breaks shorter, but everybody is relishing the year ahead," comments Brendan.

**O'LEARY (Cork):** On January 25, 2008, peacefully, at the South Infirmary, ANTHONY, Delaney Park, Dublin Hill, late of Hanover Tyres, Glen Rovers Camogie Club and Northern Harriers Club, Blackpool, beloved son of the late John and Julia and loving brother of Tadhg, Anna, Seanie, Jim, Sheila and the late Mary and Eily. Sadly missed by his loving brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces, grandnephews, grandnieces, brother-in-law, sisters-in-law, relatives, neighbours and a large circle of friends. Requiem Mass on today (Saturday) at 12 noon in St. Oliver's Church, Ballyvolane. Funeral afterwards to Rathcooney Cemetery.

Requiescat in pace

23.01.2008

ber 14 along with the All-Ireland U21 HC decider.

This will be the third year that the U21 Final has been played before the All-Ireland Senior camogie decider.

The triple header was a huge success last year attracting a crowd of over 35,000 to Croke Park. The record crowd witnessed Wexford winning their first senior Camogie title in 32 years, while Derry took the junior crown and Galway won the U21 Hurling Final.

Liz Howard, President of the Camogie Association said: "We in camogie have been in discussion with the GAA through Liaison Officer and Leinster Chairperson Liam O'Neill regarding the continuation of the playing of the Gala All-Ireland Junior and Senior Finals with the U21 Hurling final in Croke Park. I welcome the decision by the GAA Management Committee to rubber stamp this for 2008. Combining camogie and hurling finals in Croke Park brings together the hurling family."

Therese O'Callaghan

## All-Ireland finals set to follow U21 hurling

**CAMOGIE:** The Camogie Association has announced the junior and senior Gala All-Ireland Finals, will take place in Croke Park on Septem-

JAN. 2008



# INTER COUNTY REVIEW

A DISAPPOINTING end to a season which saw the Senior Division 1B team contest two final and come ever so close to retaining their All Ireland crown while the Senior Division 1A team suffered the disappointment of losing out narrowly in the All Ireland final to Wexford their dream of three in a row narrowly denied.

Earlier in the season the senior side were crowned national league champions after a successful campaign saw them defeat Wexford in a thrilling final.

The Wexford girls were to gain sweet revenge as they reserved the best performance for Croke Park where they held on to the final whistle despite storming closing ten minutes which saw Cork almost snatch victory with practically the last shot of the game. Wexford keeper Mags Darcy denying Cork with a super last minute save.

It was always going to be tough for the Senior B team given that the several of the team from 2006 had either gained promotion to the Senior division 1A side or had retired but never the less games in the national league went well the only stumbling block being Limerick who having re graded from Division 1A were always going to prove tough.

## Defence of crown

Preparations began early in the season with selectors Sile golden Kay Dunne Willie O'Regan and Coach Aidan Crowley assembling their panel and preparing for the defence of the crown.

Cork travelled to the Gaelic grounds and lost out narrowly to the home side by a single point in a St Patrick's weekend snow blizzard hey continued their campaign and recording victories over Galway Dublin and Kilkenny they set up a league final meeting with Limerick.

On the day a strong Limerick fifteen brushed aside the challenge posed by Cork's second string the selectors received a double blow when they lost the services of two key players Ann Marie Fleming and Charlotte Kearney's seasons coming to premature ends with serious leg injuries no doubt these players were vital to Cork and their loss was sorely missed.

Again in the round robin championship series Limerick were Cork's bogey team. Cork turned in a good display to defeated Tipper-

ary before recording a draw with Galway they receiving a walk over from Dublin in their last scheduled game of the series before going on to carve out a hard earned two point semi final victor over Wexford to booth their place in the championship decider.

The task facing them was an enormous one but they travelled to the Gaelic Grounds in confidence and turned in an excellent display they looked set to cause a major upset but it was not to be as a Niamh Mulcahy long range free sail over the bar heading into the eight minute of injury time to give the pre-match favourites a second chance they scarcely deserved.

The disappointment was clearly etched on the face of the Cork players and backroom team as they trailed off the field they had given it everything in quest of glory only to see victory snatched from their grasp amid controversial circumstances the eight minutes of injury time the major talking point as supporters left the stadium.

It was back to Pairc Uí Rinn a week later and from the throw in it was clear that having got off the hook seven days earlier Limerick embraced their second chance. Showing several positional changes from the previous week they played with fierce determination and never allowed Cork settle.

## Limerick on top

From the throw in it was Limerick who dictated terms and at the finish there was no denying they were the better side. As a contest the game failed to reach the same heights as the first encounter and so a disappointing ends for a side who had given so much during a season which started so well.

For 2008 it been decided that the second major competition is to be renamed Intermediate, no doubt when the selectors come around to assembling their panel several of the side will possibly make the step up to Senior Division 1A.

No doubt the majority will be back stronger and more determined than ever, a word also about the superb effort of coach Aidan Crowley and his selectors Sile Golden Kay Dunne and Willie O'Regan who left no stones unturned in their quest for glory in the finish the strength of Limerick proving the only obstacle to their aspirations.

Next week - Inter County Under Age activities.

## St Mary's Secondary School Nenagh Junior camogie panel - Munster 'B' champions



St Mary's Secondary School Nenagh Junior camogie panel - Munster 'B' champions. Back row: Ger Dullea (Manager), Marie Kennedy, Slobhan Peters, Mary Walsh, Amy Kennedy, Brid Quinn, Aiden Hackett, Aine Lucey, Gemma Grace, Rachel Kennedy, Ciara Holohan, Paula Kelly, Caoimhe Maher, Emily Bergin, Sarah Maher, Rebecca White. Kneeling: Sarah Murray, Gemma Morris, Ciara McGrath, Danielle Slattery (captain), Mary Dillon, Rena Minogue, Laura Power, Aine O'Carroll, Niamh Slattery, Lisa Shoer, Catriona O'Connor. Picture: Bridget Delaney.



St Mary's Secondary School camogie captain Danielle Slattery receives the Junior 'B' Cup from Eamonn Browne after her side defeated BCS Lismore in the Munster Final in Nenagh. Picture: Bridget Delaney.

## WIT take title as UCD refuse to play

**CAMOGIE:** The 2007/8 Third level Colleges Division One League final between UCD and Waterford IT had a controversial ending in Cloneen, Kilkenny yesterday.

Intercounty referee Eamonn Browne declared the pitch playable but UCD disagreed and did not take to the pitch.

WIT toggled out and Wexford All-Ireland winner Ursula Jacob had the honour of scoring a goal to take the game.

Meath cruised to victory over Louth 11-17 to 0-2 in the opening game of the 2008 National Camogie league at Ashbourne yesterday.

The game between Roscommon and Carlow was postponed due to bad weather.

## "Spring into Shape ...

### My Story by Lillian

The Motivation Programme has made me feel very good about myself. It has eliminated all my bad habits. I can now say no to all temptations. It has helped me to reach my goal without ever being hungry. It has made me feel very healthy. The staff at the clinic were wonderful and encouraged me all the way. I can still enjoy eating out, and feel I am still in full control of my habits. The CD's have helped me to become more positive. They have made me think before I eat. I could relate some of Dr. Laroque's case studies to myself and my bad habits. His encouragement put me on the right track for life!



Lillian lost 5 stone

... and enjoy the rest of your life"

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## McGrath hoping to see CIT past NUIG

**CAMOGIE:** The remaining three qualifiers of the Ashbourne Cup take place tomorrow with NUIG making the long trip to CIT, the Garda College meet UUJ in Dublin in a repeat

of last year's Shield final, while UCC travel to Ballygunner in Waterford to play WIT. For CIT All-Ireland Club winner, Cashel's Julie McGrath will be hoping to get the better of NUIG who have Laura Linnane in their side.

Cork players Catriona Foley and first year Orla Cotter make up a formidable force for UCC, along with Tipperary player Jill Horan. Waterford IT will be looking to improve on last year's performance where they were beaten at this stage by UCD.

Their team will include Wexford All Ireland winners Stacey Redmond and Ursula Jacob along with Grainne Brennan and Michelle Quilty from Kilkenny, Tipperary's Michelle Shortt captains the Garda College.

**Fixtures: Tomorrow:** CIT v NUIG, CIT, 1pm; Garda College v UUJ, Garda Social Club, Westmanstown, Clonsilla, Dublin, 2pm; Waterford IT v UCC, Ballygunner, Waterford, 2.30pm. **Saturday:** Purcell Cup (hosted by GMIT) semi-finals: Mary I v QUB/Tralee IT, Castlegar GAA Grounds, 1pm; DIT/GMIT v Athlone IT, Liam Mellows GAA Grounds, 2pm. Shield Semi Finals: DCU v QUB/Tralee IT, Liam Mellows GAA Grounds, noon; DIT/GMIT v NUJ, Maymooth, Mervue GAA Grounds, 1.30pm. **Sunday:** Purcell Cup Final, Pearse Stadium, 3pm; Purcell Shield Final, Pearse Stadium, 1.30pm.

**Camogie**  
Ashbourne Cup: UCD 2-13 University of Limerick 1-7.  
**Ulster Colleges Finals**  
Section A: Cross and Passion, B'castle, Antrim 3-9 St.Marys Magherafelt 2-7;  
**Sen. Medallion Shield Final:** St.Mac Nissi's Garraon Tower 1-3 St.Colum's Drogheda 0-4.





The Carrigaline U16 camogie team who captured the Championship 'B' and League double this year.



Club chairman Tom Kiely presents Vikki O'Doherty with a bouquet of flowers at the Carrigaline Camogie Club dinner in the Carrigaline Court Hotel recently.



Tom Kiely, club chairman and Seán Óg Ó hAilpín pictured making a presentation to Marie Moran in recognition of her success with the Cork U16 team.

# Carrigaline U16s celebrate double



Emily Phelan receives her medal from Cork hurler Seán Óg Ó hAilpín at the Carrigaline Camogie Club dinner.



At the Carrigaline Camogie Club dinner were Saidhbh O'Connell, Leah Healy, Danielle Neville, Laura O'Sullivan and Patti O'Keeffe.



Trainer Paul Buckley pictured with Danielle Neville, Patti O'Keeffe and Jessica Buckley at the Carrigaline Camogie Club dinner.

**CARRIGALINE** Camogie Club celebrated an historic double at their awards night in the Carrigaline Court Hotel recently, having captured the U16 B Championship and League titles in recent weeks.

At a packed hotel, tributes were paid to the background team, supporters, committee and players who had brought double county success to Carrigaline, with club chairman Tom Kiely remarking that it was "an historic and wonderful year for the club."

Speaking at the function, Mary Newman of the Cork County Camogie Board added that she saw potential in this current team a few years ago, and was delighted to see that they had achieved the double this year.

Tracey Sheehan, chairperson of the Cork underage board, said that it had been a tremendous year for the club, paying tribute to the players who were a credit to themselves, their club and their parents for their excellent conduct and sportsmanship.

"This team have stayed together for a number of years, and I have think many will wear the Cork jersey with pride in the not too distant future," she said.

Tribute was paid to captain Marie Moran, who was on the Cork U16 team which won the Munster title, and to Pat Moran, a selector on the U18 panel, while a presentation of flowers was made to Vikki O'Doherty, representing the O'Doherty family for their support on the annual Philip O'Doherty Memorial Sponsored Walk.

By **HOWARD CROWDY**

*Carrigaline camogie celebrations*

from their Pan Celtic success in Donegal in the U16 B grade and runners up-spot in the A grade to their county U16 B victory over Killagh last November.

"From our first final back at U10 when we lost to Ballinhassig, I knew that this team were going to do well in the future, and now they deserve to be champions through their commitment and great heart," she said.

Special guest on the night Seán Óg Ó hAilpín also congratulated the girls on their success, adding that the women had certainly done better than the men in recent years, not only in GAA but in other sporting fields, and was confident that this team will create their own success in the future.

Seán Óg presented the players with their medals, with special presentations to former chairman Des O'Connell, trainers and selectors Paul Buckley, Marie Scully, Pat Moran and Tom Jones and to Kieran O'Keeffe, who received the Best Supporter Award.

John Middleton went on to outline the Carrigaline senior team's season, and said that the outlook was looking favourable after a relatively good season after a disappointing debut season the year before. He too was confident of building on the success of the U16 team.

The U18 Personality of the Year was announced as Maeve Barry, while Jan Kiernan was presented with the Jo Maye Memorial Perpetual Trophy by Brian and Thos. Maye.



## CAPTURING THE U16 B CHAMPIONSHIP AND LEAGUE TITLES



Youngsters enjoying themselves at the recent Carrigaline Camogie club dinner in the Carrigaline Court Hotel.



Sarah Cotter receives her U16 County medal from Seán Óg Ó hAilpin at the Carrigaline Camogie Club dinner in the Carrigaline Court Hotel.

**Images by Howard Crowdy**



Seán Óg Ó hAilpin and Nicholas Murphy pictured with Kieran O'Keeffe, who was presented with the 'Best Supporter' Award at the recent Carrigaline Camogie Club dinner.



Pictured at the Carrigaline Camogie Club dinner were Nicholas Murphy, Tom Kiely (chairman), Jackie O'Connor (club president), Jan Kiernan, (Senior Personality of Year), Thos Maye, Seán Óg Ó hAilpin and Brian Maye.



Trainers Pat Moran and Tom Jones receive an award from Jen O'Shea, Marie Moran, Deirdre O'Leary, Dara O'Donovan and Elaine Curtin at the recent Carrigaline Camogie Club dinner.



Deirdre O'Leary receives her U16 County medal from Seán Óg Ó hAilpin at the Carrigaline Camogie Club dinner in the Carrigaline Court Hotel.



Nicholas Murphy and Thos Maye pictured with Jan Kiernan, who was presented with the Jo Maye Memorial trophy for the Senior Personality of the Year.



Donna Smyth pictured receiving her U16 County medal from Seán Óg Ó hAilpin at the Carrigaline Camogie Club dinner in the Carrigaline Court Hotel.



Nicholas Murphy pictured presenting the U16 Personality of the Year Award to Maeve Barry.





# Not to be...

by Linda Mellerick

Though their ultimate goal, a remarkable three-in-a-row, was a bridge too far against a hungry Wexford, it was a still a decent enough year for Cork camogie.

Cork became National Senior Division 1A League Champions after three highly competitive games in just eight days at the start of the summer. Having drawn with Tipperary in the semi-final and winning the replay four days later they had just 90 hours to recover before meeting Wexford in the final in Nowlan Park on May 6th. Trailing by five points at half-time, Cork turned around a six-point deficit ten minutes into the second half to clinch the winner two minutes into injury time in a game that had the large crowd on the edge of its seat.

Based on Cork's league victory over Wexford in the league final, it was always going to be hard to achieve the same result against a side who felt they had left league honours behind them. So when the sides met the following Saturday in the first round of the championship the ball was in Wexford's court. Four first-half goals saw the visitors to Ballincollig take a commanding lead into the second half and unlike the previous week Wexford held firm. Wexford ran the show from the throw-in. Out in front, winning possession and hitting diagonal balls across the pitch, they split the Cork defence apart. An understandably tired looking Cork team had no answer. Add to this the fact that they had to line out without star goalkeeper Aoife Murray and full back Catriona Foley through injury, they had to yield to a better side on the day. The final score stood at 4-12 to 0-14 and it was Cork's heaviest defeat in years.

Cork had that defeat in the back of their minds as they

a break to study for her final pharmaceutical exams. Marie O'Neill filled the vacancy on this occasion. A good display saw Cork back on winning ways with four points to spare.

The month of June was fixture free due to exams. The rebels travelled to Athenry for round three with one positional and one personnel change to the team which lined out against Tipperary. Emer Dillon came into the side in place of Marie O'Neill. Breige Corkery moved out from right half forward to centre field in a direct switch with Orla Cotter.

While not overly impressing Cork justifiably took the points. The only goal of the game came after five minutes when Sile Burns gathered from Dillon and hit an unstoppable shot low into the far corner of the net. Ten minutes in, Galway began to find their rhythm. Cork's supply inside stopped as their defence came under huge pressure. It was Galway's inability to punish Cork when they had the chance that let them down... they couldn't shake the tenacious Cork defence, nor could they shoot accurately under pressure. The half time score read Cork 1-5, Galway 0-6. Cork's performance was scrappy with little fluency. There were some pluses - Sile Burns who had come back into the side for the 2007 campaign continued to impress while Emer Dillon's sharpness was improving. Cork took the game 1-10 to 0-8.

Round four on July 15th could have proved a dangerous one for Cork but in fact it was Cork's best display of the year to date and they tore asunder the poor Kilkenny challenge. Ann Downey was back at the helm of a team that promised so much twelve months ago but a young

half comeback. Cork's performance was very impressive, most notably their point scoring, work rate and teamwork. They dominated from centre field up. All of Cork's six forwards got on the scoreboard and substitute Emer Farrell also got in on the act once introduced. Cork emptied the bench comfortable in the knowledge that they were now through to the All Ireland semi-final regardless of the result in their remaining group game against Dublin on July 28th after a comprehensive 4-16 to 1-4 win.

This was a poor game in Pairc Ui Rinn. Dublin needed to get something out of the game if they were to have any hope of forcing a play off with Galway to advance to the semis. As the rain poured down for the entire duration, the game was always going to be a scrappy affair. The outcome was never in doubt. The gap in standard was clearly evident and Cork just ran out the clock. Even without the services of dual players Mary O'Connor, Rena Buckley, Breige Corkery and Angela Walsh Cork were in control. They ran out convincing winners by 3-10 to 1-3.

Semi-finals are 'nomans land'. So close and yet so far! Teams are at their most vulnerable at such a stage of the competition. Rumour had it that Tipp were working very hard behind the scenes. Their nine point victory over Wexford was an eye-opener particularly as they were the only side to beat the Slaneysiders in the championship. For this reason Cork were worried and on their guard. It paid off. Apart from Cork doing their job, Tipp were poor and a disappointing game yielded a score of Cork 2-11, Tipp 0-9. Cork dominated midfield and their defence were far too disciplined for an ineffective Tipp forward line. The signs were there at half time after Tipp had scored a solitary point from play in the opening 33 minutes. Catriona Foley gave a masterful display at full-back. Angela Walsh caused problems for the Tipp defence and but for some excellent goalkeeping from Paula Ryan the gap would have been far greater at full time.

The only worry from a Cork point of view was their lack of scoring prowess with the supply they enjoyed. The Tipperary defence were poor and yet Cork as a unit failed to ignite.

Cork prepared for their sixth final on the trot and three in a row of All-Ireland titles. Unfortunately the dream ended on September 9 when Wexford, the team who had impressed so much throughout the season, played with a maturity far beyond their years and snatched Cork's title away. They weren't intimidated by what was for many their first visit to Croke Park. Two goals in the third and fifteenth minutes from Una Leacy rattled Cork and saw trail by five points. Wexford played a two-player full forward line of Michelle Hearne and Ursula Jacob. Wexford knew they had the speed up front on one to one marking and wanted to break up Cork's sextet, the backbone of their successes in the past.

## CORK SENIOR LADIES CAMOGIE RESULTS

**National League Final**  
Cork 3-04 Wexford 2-10

**Cork's Championship Path 2007**  
Cork 0-14 Wexford 4-12  
Tipp 1-5 Cork 0-12  
Galway 0-6 Cork 1-10  
Kilkenny 1-4 Cork 4-16  
Cork 3-10 Dublin 1-3

**All-Ireland semi-final**  
Cork 2-11 Tipp 0-9

**All-Ireland final**  
Wexford 7-7 Cork 3-08

**Cork Panel 2007**

A Murray, J O'Callaghan, C Foley, A O'Regan, R Buckley, M O'Connor, A Geary, B Corkery, G O'Connor (c), U O'Donoghue, A Walsh, J O'Leary, E Dillon, O Côtier, S Burns, E Clifford, R Holland, S Hayes, J Duffy, R Moloney, E Watson, S O'Donovan, M O'Neill, E Farrell, E Burke

**Linda Mellerick's All-Star Selection 2007**

Mags Darcy - Wexford  
Aine Codd - Wexford  
Catriona Foley - Cork  
Catherine O'Loughlin - Wexford  
Rena Buckley - Cork  
Mary Leacy - Wexford  
Dentire Codd - Wexford  
Gemma O'Connor - Cork  
Caroline Murphy - Wexford  
Kate Kelly - Wexford  
Clare Grogan - Tipperary  
Jennifer O'Leary - Cork  
Una Leacy - Wexford  
Ursula Jacob - Wexford  
Eileen O'Brien - Limerick



### Player of the Year Gemma O'Connor:

Played a captain's role throughout the season! Gave 100% in every game. Scored some magnificent points, defended and attacking incessantly. Gemma was unfortunate not to lift the O'Duffy cup in Croke Park.

came within a point of Wexford but never managed to draw  
to take their first title in 32

JAN

2008





# Muskerry magic

by Linda Mellerick

It was a glorious year for a divisional side again in Cork camogie. Following in the footsteps of impressive Carrigdhoun and Imokilly sides in recent years, Muskerry pushed all the way to the final this season.

And the mid Cork side gained sweet revenge for their 2006 semi-final defeat to St Finbarr's by edging out the reigning champions in a low-scoring, scrappy decider. Catriona Foley was an outstanding leader at centre-back, while the enthusiasm of Linda Dorgan in midfield and the sharp shooting of Sile Burns, Denise Cronin and Margaret O'Herlihy up front gave Muskerry a 0-8 to 0-5 win.

Ballygarvan and Aghabullogue began the 2007 Evening Echo Cork Senior Club Championship proceedings in Brinny on July 9th. Ballygarvan took this preliminary game 1-10 to 0-8 and advanced to round three with Aghabullogue moving to round two. Imokilly overcame Avondhu in round one by a massive 8-15 to 2-5 and while Avondhu may not have been one of the favourites for this year's title, Imokilly certainly became one after that display. The divisional clash between Carbery and Carrigdhoun ended all square with Carbery taking the replay by two points; 1-10 to 1-8.

With round one fielding all divisional sides, and no second chance, Seandun exited the championship at the hands of Muskerry. Aghabullogue suffered their second defeat in two outings when they were beaten narrowly by champions St Finbarr's. Milford had an eight-point advantage over Courcsey Rovers, Barryroe defeated Inniscarra 1-11 to 1-07 and one of the favourites Cloughduv had a convincing victory over St Catherine's.

Heading into round three a blistering encounter between Ballygarvan and Imokilly produced seven goals and 19 points, drawing this Cork County Senior Championship game at 2-14 to 5-5. The replay was just as exciting, the lead changed hands twice in the second half until a nine-minute scoring spell from Ballygarvan saw them hit 1-4 without reply and effectively secure their place in the quarter final of the championship.

Aghabullogue put up a fight against Inniscarra but a high scoring game; 5-11 to 4-06 saw them play their final game of 07. Muskerry advanced against Carbery and St Catherine's, in their first year at senior, defeated Courcsey Rovers and proudly glided into the County quarter finals. August, and the championship gained momentum. Leading Ballygarvan by nine points five minutes to half-time Milford were almost caught by their fight back. A point separated the sides with seven minutes remaining with Milford pushing ahead to win 3-13 to 1-14. St Catherine's ended a commendable campaign when the Barrs defeated them by three goals.

Cloughduv accounted for Inniscarra and a Sile Burns demolition of Barryroe in which she scored 5-6 out of 5-11, ended the west Cork side's ambitions at the hands of Muskerry.

With Cork through to the All-Ireland senior final and Cork's B side in the semi-finals the month of September saw no club action. A clear run up to the senior final on September 9th was afforded the inter-county squad and the Senior Bs were up six days later against the new All-Ireland champions Wexford. Winning that tremendously



CORK SENIOR A CHAMPIONS 2007 - MUSKERRY





# Stumbling block

by Linda Mellerick

There was a disappointing end to a season which saw the Senior Division 1B team contest two finals and come ever so close to retaining their All-Ireland crown.

It was always going to be tough given that the several of the team from 2006 had either gained promotion to the Senior Division 1A side or had retired. Never the less games in the national league went well, the only stumbling block being Limerick, who having re graded from Division 1A were always going to prove tough. Preparations began early in the season with selectors Sile Golden, Kay Dunne, Willie O'Regan and coach Aidan Crowley assembling their panel and preparing for the defence of the crown. Paired with Wexford, Tipperary, Galway, Kilkenny, Dublin and Limerick the campaign got off to a great start as Cork defeated Wexford by a single point and went on to brush aside the challenges posed by Tipperary and Galway in rounds two and three.

Cork travelled to the Gaelic Grounds and lost out narrowly to the home side by a single point in a St Patrick's weekend blizzard. Undaunted they continued the campaign and recording victories over Galway, Dublin and Kilkenny they set up a league final meeting with Limerick. On the day a strong Limerick 15 brushed aside the challenge posed by Cork's second string as they took the counties first Division 1B National camogie league title at Nolan Park.

The selectors received a double blow when they lost the services of two key players Ann Marie Fleming and Charlotte Kearney, their seasons coming to a premature end with serious leg injuries - no doubt these players were vital to Cork and their loss was sorely missed.

Again in the round robin championship series Limerick were Cork's bogey team. Cork turned in a good display to defeat Tipperary before recording a draw with Galway and receiving a walk over from Dublin in their last scheduled game of the series before going on to carve out a hard earned two point semi-final victory over Wexford. The task facing them was an enormous one but they travelled to the Gaelic Grounds in confidence and turned in an excellent display. They looked set to cause a major upset but it was not to be as a Niamh Mulcahy long range free sailed over the bar heading into the eighth minute of injury time to give the pre-match favourites a second chance they scarcely deserved.

The disappointment was clearly etched on the face of the Cork players and backroom team as they trailed off the field. They had given it everything in quest of glory only to see victory snatched from their grasp amid controversial circumstances with the eight minutes of injury time the major talking point as supporters left the stadium.

It was back to Páirc Uí Rinn a week later and from the throw-in it was clear that having got off the hook seven days earlier, Limerick embraced their second chance. Showing several positional changes from the previous week they played with fierce determination and never allowed Cork settle. Limerick dictated terms and at the finish there was no denying they were the better side. As a contest the game failed to reach the same heights as the first encounter and so a disappointing ends for a side who had given so much during a season which started so well.



For 2008 it been decided that the second major competition is to be renamed intermediate, no doubt when the selectors come around to assembling their panel several

of this year's side will possibly make the step up to Senior Division 1 A. No doubt the majority will be back stronger and more determined than ever. We must pay tribute to the efforts of coach Aidan Crowley and his selectors who left no stone unturned in their quest for glory, in the finish the strength of Limerick proved the only obstacle to their aspirations. □



# Busy, busy, busy

by Mary Newman

Another busy season has reached its conclusion and it's been a good years for several clubs with new names coming to the fore taking championship titles. The county board were boosted early in the season as the Evening Echo came on board to sponsor the adult championship competitions, and with Tower View Developments again row in with sponsorship of the minor championship competitions, the scene was set.

## Senior championship

Back doors were the order of the day in championship from senior to junior and when the dust settled it was Muskerry and holders St Finbarr's who faced each other to decide the destination of the senior county championship title. Poor weather greeted supporters on the first Sunday in November but on an excellent pitch it was divisional side Muskerry who bridged a 74 gap to take the title. Backboned by players from Éire Óg, Ballincollig, Rockbawn and Grenagh the divisional side turned in a superb display to dethrone the champions. Captained by inter-county player senior player Catriona Foley who led by example, they made all the running and put the champions under pressure from the throw-in. In the finish they ran out worthy winners in a low scoring final - 0-8 to 0-5.

## Senior B

In the senior B grade the teams were divided into two sections, with the competition played on a round robin basis. Douglas and Valley Rovers emerged to contest the final and backboned by players from several of their successful their under age teams in recent years Douglas took their first Senior B crown and here again it was an inter county player who stood tall. Amanda O'Regan was the driving force of the Douglas side. Douglas can now look forward to competing at senior level for the first time in their history next season

## Junior A

Killeagh atoned for crushing defeats in 2005 and 2006 by defeating Ballincollig in the final on a miserable day in early December. Mary O'Connor played through the pain barrier after surgery on a cruciate knee injury, which highlighted how important it was for the east Cork club to land the championship. A youthful Ballincollig did well to reach the final after losing two of their first three group games and will be fancied to go one better next year.

## Junior B

The first competition to be decided this year saw 13-a side champions of 2006, Enniskeane make the step up to Junior B grade where they turned in splendid performance to take the spoils at the expense of Buttevant.

## Junior 13-a-side

Heartbreak again for Grenagh as they lost out for the second year in a row, this time out it was at the hands of Ballyhea.

## Junior Shield

Douglas rounded off a good year by taking the Junior shield title for club's second teams, defeating Ballygarvan in the final.

## Minor

At the time of writing the minor A competition has yet to be completed, while Fr O'Neill's and Passage are through to the C final. In the minor B championship, Clonakilty took their first title in the grade when they defeated Valley Rovers in a final.

## Juvenile

Plenty of activities once again at underage level and as camogie continued to gain in popularity extra competitions were introduced in both league and championship with a D grade in all age groups. It was a superb year for Douglas as they took the double at U16 level winning the A championship and league titles. At U16 B level Carrigaline took the championship title, while at the time of writing in the league competition Éire Óg and Valley Rovers have a semi-final date to fulfil with Carrigaline awaiting the winners. In the C grade Brian Dillon's took the championship title and will to meet St Catherine's in the league final. Victory for Bishopstown in the D championship final as they overcame Barryroe, while Youghal took the league crown at the expense of Glen Rovers' second team as the club fielded two teams at U16 level.

In U14 competition Féile na nGael continued to be the big one and once again the magic was as strong as ever as Milford and Glen Rovers battled it out for the right to represent Cork, with Milford getting through. They got back on the victory rostrum as they took the A league crown defeating Ballinhassig in the final, in the B league victory going to Courcy Rovers over Mallow.

In the C league Brian Dillon's defeated Enniskeane while the D title went to Charleville who eventually got the better of Bishopstown the game having twice ended in a draw. U12 continued to be the grade that is most enjoyable with the sheer determination of the participants a joy to behold. In the A grade Douglas took the league title defeating Inniscarra, in the B victory went to Cloughduv over Buttevant, in the C competition Killeagh defeated Bride Rovers while the D title went to Bishopstown who defeated Barryroe. Six teams participated in the 12-a-side competition with Tracton winning the title.

And so another hectic season draws to an end on the playing fields and with months of hard work now over mentor's players alike will enjoy a brief rest before through of doing it all again surface. Off the playing field the work going on to get competitions up and running is organised by two hard working county boards at senior and juvenile level and 2008 promises to be a historic one for Cork camogie with the opening of Cork's own camogie grounds. We look ahead with confidence to the pucking of the first ball in early spring. □

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2008



# Ashbourne Cup gets underway on Sunday

By MARY NEWMAN

Ashbourne Cup

THIS SUNDAY sees the opening game of the Ashbourne Cup with a mouth-watering tie in prospect as current holders UCD visit UL.

This is a big game for both teams, as a win guarantees a spot in the Ashbourne Cup semi-final which take place in Belfast on February 23.

The losing team will have to contend with a place in the shield semi-final.

Holders UCD will field an impressive line-up, with a number of big names who played key roles in last year's successful campaign.

Wexford sisters Mary and Una Leacy, Cork's Rena Buckley and Tipp's full-back Mairead Luttrell are the stars of the side. UL will look to Waterford's Aine Lyng to lead their challenge on home soil.

UCD will go in as favourites to make it to the semi-final.

The remaining three qualifiers take place on Wednesday next, February 13, with NUIG making the long trip to Cork to do battle with CIT.

Garda College and UUJ meet in a repeat of last year's Shield final in Dublin while UCC travel to Ballygunner in Waterford to play WIT.

CIT will field an impressive line-up, Cashel's Julie McGrath and Corks Luck Hawkes will be hoping to get the better of NUIG who have Laura Linnane in their side.

Newly-elected Cork senior captain Catriona Foley is joined by her inter-county team mate Orla Cotter, who is lining out in her first Ashbourne Cup for a formidable UCC side. They are joined by the experienced Tipperary player Jill Horan.

Waterford IT will be looking to improve on last year's performance, where they were beaten at this stage by UCD.

Their team will include Wexford players Stacey Redmond and Ursula Jacob along with Grainne Brennan and Michelle Quilty from Kilkenny.

Tipperary's Michelle Shortt captains Garda College, who have made great progress since winning the Purcell Cup in 2005.

They will look to Marie O'Connor up front to lead the way against a UUJ side with Fionnuala Carr in defence.

An exciting few days of camogie is in store as varsity camogie's most prestigious competition gets underway.

## FIXTURES

Ashbourne Cup Qualifiers

SUNDAY: UL v UCD, Limerick, 1pm WEDNESDAY: CIT v NUIG, Cork, 1pm; Garda College v UUJ, Garda Social Club, Westmanstown, Clonsilla, Dublin, 2pm; Waterford IT v UCC, Ballygunner, Waterford, 2.30pm.

# Disappointment for CIT as they lose in quarters

By MARY NEWMAN

Camogie

CIT 0-7  
NUIG 1-9

THERE was disappointment for CIT as they failed in their bid to reach the concluding stages of the Ashbourne Cup on home soil yesterday.

After an even first-half, CIT led 0-5 to 0-4 after playing against the stiff breeze.

Last season's Cork minor captain Deirdre Twomey was very much the thorn in the CIT side, firing over two first-half points while Laura Linnane added a third.

NUIG led 0-3 to 0-1 with Galway player Breda Hanney scoring for CIT.

Trailing by the midway stage, CIT began to find their feet and two points without reply from Michelle Browne and Katie Ahern Long had them on level terms, before Colleen Long edged them ahead inside the 20th minute.

Laura Linnane pointed a long-range free to restore parity but it was Long who had the CIT girls ahead with an excellent point on the half-time whistle.

Early indications were that the second half would follow a similar pattern to the first as Laura Linnane and Michelle Brown traded early points but NUIG had other ideas.

Deirdre Twomey edged them two points ahead with the game's only goal 11 minutes into the half. Now applying the pressure, NUIG began to pick off the scores, Linnane pointed a 45-metre free, in between Deirdre Twomey firing over two excellent points to send NUIG four points clear.

CIT battled hard but failed to make any real impressions up front, Michelle Browne pointed a free but again Twomey replied. Catherine Cormican put five points between the teams with eight minutes remaining.

From here to the finish there was no way past the NUIG defence as CIT battled in vain, twice they

came close but strong defending saw the Galway students hold firm to book their place in the Ashbourne semi and set up a meeting against holders UCD.

Scorers for NUIG: D Twomey 1-4, L Linnane 0-4 (0-2 45, 0-1), C Cormican 0-1.

CIT: M Browne 0-4 (0-2), 0-1 45), C Long 0-2, K Ahern 0-1.

CIT: G Harrington; P Moloney, AM Ryan, A Hogan; J McGrath, L Hawkes, S Lee; C McKenna, E O'Sullivan; C Long, U Day, M Browne; C Kearney, B Hanney, K Ahern.

Sub: E Roynane for K Ahern (54).

NUIG: S Eamer; C Naughton, S Boyle, J Coone; C Gill, N Kilkenny, C Moran; A McPeake; C Cormican; E O'Sullivan, L Linnane, M McAllister; N Ryan, D Twomey, N McCabe.

Subs: E Costello for C Moran (h-t), L Young for M McAllister (40), K Ruddy for S Boyle (42), C Moran for C Naughton (53), F Kennedy for N Ryan (55).

Ref: James Dorgan (Nemo Rangers).

WIT 2-11  
UCC 1-8

NO JOY either for UCC as their bid for a place in the last four fell short of the required performance as they were edged out by a determined WIT side.

It was nip and tuck through the hour as the sides battled for a place in the semi final stages.

Wexford's Ursula Jacob was to the fore for the Waterford girls but despite the scoreline they had to wait until the closing stages before they finally pulled away from a dogged UCC.

Tipperary's Jill Horan led the way with a first half goal for UCC while Mary Dalton, Aoife McLoughney and Ann Dalton kept UCC in touch.

Jacob fired over 1-3 in the opening half as she put the UCC defence under pressure and through the second half the Wexford star was again to the fore, adding four points to her tally.

Michelle Quilty snatched WIT's second goal to ensure their safe passage to their semi-final meeting against Garda College, who edged out this year's hosts UUJ by 3-7 to 2-9 in a thrilling encounter.

## NEW BACKROOM TEAM

ACTIVITIES resumed on Monday night last and the first meeting of the year approved the appointments of three senior selectors who will guide the fortunes of the county as they set about retaining the National league title and bid to regain the O'Duffy Cup.

As the outgoing selection committee did not seek re-election Pat Murray of Bishopstown was elected at the county convention and he is now joined on the backroom team by former All-Ireland winning captain Denise Cronin and Con Malone the nominee of the county champions Muskerry. All three are hugely experienced and they will be joined as trainer by Jim McCarthy. Again Jim is somebody who is hugely experienced having coached St Nick's to the under 21 county title in 2003 he also acted in that capacity with the clubs senior football side and was also trainer with Glen Rovers senior side, he was also a member of Pa Finn's backroom team in 2002 when Cork defeated Tipperary and denied them of a fourth successive All-Ireland title.

Pat Murray has coached the Cork senior 'B' team to two All-Ireland titles, he has been actively involved at under age level in his club and he is a former County Board Secretary.

Con Malone previously served as a senior selector in the 1980's, and brings vast experience to the position and has guided his club Eire Og to county titles in various grades including senior, and was also a member of the Muskerry selection committee that defeated St Finbarrs in last years county final.

It's a first venture at this level for Denise Cronin, she captained Cork to All-Ireland honours in 1995 and is the holder of 6 All-Ireland senior medals and won County, Munster and All-Ireland club medals with Glen Rovers, she retired from inter-county in 2005 and from club activity a year later.

With Cork first game pencilled in for the first weekend in March preparations are under way for what is sure to be a cracker as they take on All Ireland champions Wexford.

## Glen rovers lose loyal member

THE recent death of Anthony O'Leary has robbed Glen Rovers of one of its most loyal members, well known through Cork and beyond he was renowned for his cheerfulness and good humour and was a regular at camogie games.

Anthony was a very efficient umpire and worked closely with Cathal Egan umpiring at games both at local and national level but it was his love of the Glen that shone through. Since 1983 "Anto" as he was affectionately known was a member of the club and he rarely missed a game from under age to senior he was there. When the girls played or trained at home in the Glen Field

he was first at training making sure the dressing rooms were open and in the winter switching on the floodlights, he was last to leave making sure doors were locked and lights switched out.

Anthony also loved hunting and he was a member of the Northern Harriers Blackpool, in his younger days he was deeply involved in athletics running marathons all over Ireland and in London. His untimely death after a short illness has left huge sadness in our club and beyond we extend sympathy to his sisters, brothers and their families as we join them in mourning our dear friend.

## Garda best in Ashbourne thriller

by C  l  n Duffy

GARDA COLLEGE, Waterford IT and NUIG advanced to the Ashbourne Cup semi-finals — camogie's premier third level competition — yesterday after some keenly-contested encounters.

The game of the day was in Westmanstown where Garda College edged out weekend hosts UUJ 3-7 to 2-9 in a thriller. UUJ held a 0-6 to 0-4 interval lead, Fionnuala Carr, daughter of Down football manager Ross in fine form.

A quick goal from Noelle O'Rourke put Garda College in the driving seat

on the restart but found it hard to break away from UUJ. However, goals from Margaret Kelly and Marie O'Connor kept Garda in front despite the best efforts of Ail  she Wilkinson for UUJ, who finished with 2-1.

Wexford's Ursula Jacob was in fine form for Waterford IT as they recorded a 2-11 to 1-8 win over UCC. But Waterford could only manage to pull away in the second-half with Tipperary's Jill Horan taking a first-half goal for the visitors, while Mary and Ann Dalton along with Aoife McLoughley helped to keep UCC in touch.

Jacob fired over 1-3 in the opening

half and added a further four points on the restart with Michelle Quilty snatching WIT's second goal which ensured the win.

Cork's Deirdre Twomey scored 1-4 for NUIG as she helped to plot Cork IT's exit with a 1-9 to 1-7 victory.

Cork IT were strongest in the opening half with Katie Ahern, Colleen Long and Michelle Browne working hard. However, NUIG edged the way to a semi-final spot in the second half.

The third level action moves to Galway this weekend where GMIT host the penultimate stages of the Purcell Cup.

JAN. 2008





## Féile Overview

1. Inniscarra Under 14 Camogie selectors, Mary Kingston, Owen Sheehan, Rita O'Brien and Emma Dineen with team captain Aine Ni Rinn.
2. Andrew Hayes (Feile), Chris Ahern (U13 league) and Stephen Mahon with U16 championship and County trophies.
3. Douglas' Josh Kra boots the ball upfield against Carrigaline during the Feile Peil semi-finals at Ballinlough.
4. Carrigaline's Jamie Kind makes a pass despite an attempted block by Douglas' Paul Beale in the Feile tairnt A semi-final.
5. Jim Mulcahy, U14 Selector, Paulie Coughlan, Captain of the U14 Feile and City Football Championship winning teams.
6. Finola Neville St Catherine's who took the Cork Féile Skills title recently.
7. Douglas Camogie Club after winning three in a row for Féile na nGael 2006 beating Inniscarra in the final.

JAN 2008



## Another camogie trophy for St Mary's

ST MARY'S High School Middleton added yet another camogie honour to their collection when they won the Munster Intermediate B League final recently.

The setting was St Patrick's College in Thurles with opposition provided by Roscrea.

Backboned by players from established camogie clubs Fr O'Neill's and Dungourney the East Cork girls led by Carolyn Motherway fashioned a deserved victory.

The victorious St Mary's panel which was coached by Peter Dowling and Nicola Nagle comprised of Aoife O'Neill, Caroline Ahern, Marie Harrington, Yvonne Murphy, Clara McGrath, Carolyn Motherway, Joy Dunne, Orlagh Farmer, Ella Ryan, Evelyn Rohan, Cliona McGovern, Denise O'Leary, Jessica O'Shea, Riona Abernethy, Linda Hayes, Rachel Ahern, Carol Cullinane, Aisling McMahon, Niamh O'Sullivan, Emma Colbert, Roisin Culligan and Shauna Landers.

## LIMERICK SERVICE TO SPORTS AWARDS 2007



Lizzie O'Dea (Adare Camogie Club) pictured with Ronnie Delany.

## DIT dethrone Cup holders

**CAMOGIE:** A strong display from DIT saw them stun Purcell Cup holders Athlone IT in yesterday's Purcell Cup semi-final, 3-11 to 3-5.

Level at the break (DIT 1-6 Athlone 2-3), it was the challengers who finished the winners with goals from Noeleen Hoary, Noelle Corrigan and Amy Murphy.

They will meet Tralee IT - who overcame DCU 2-11 to 0-7 - in today's final at Pearse Park.

CAMOGIE			
PURCELL CUP FINAL			
QUB	4-11	DIT	4-10
PURCELL SHIELD FINAL			
NUI	3-9	IT Tralee	3-2

CAMOGIE			
PURCELL CUP			
Semi-finals: DIT 3-11 (J Hoary 1-3, N Corrigan, A Murphy 1-0 each), D Codd 0-7 (D-6), N Byrnes 0-1) Athlone IT 3-5 (D Rice 2-0, F Stephens 1-0, M Dunne 0-2, E Devlin, L Lyons, E Watkins 0-1 each), IT Tralee: 2-11 DCU 0-7.			

## Women in sport



**CHANGE OF SCENE:** Former Cork camogie player Mags Finn, who plays rugby with Highfield. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

**Name:** Margaret Finn  
**Club:** Highfield Rugby Club  
**Position:** Full back

**Age:** Somewhere between 38 and 40.

**Occupation:** E&I maintenance technician for ESB.

**When and how did you start playing rugby?** I bumped into a former Cork camogie teammate, Breda Kenny, at a match last summer and she asked me would I be interested in playing. Obviously, they were desperate!

**What's the best thing about rugby?** As I never played before, the whole learning process of how to play the game and the skills involved. The Highfield girls are very patient.

**What's the worst thing about your sport?** That it's played during the winter, so pitch and weather conditions aren't great.

**What song would you listen to before a match?** *California Dreaming* sung by Liz O'Neill, Liz Towler and myself.

**I drive a:** Very old Fiat Punto.

**My ringtone is:** *Rio* by Duran Duran.

**If you could share a drink with a famous sportsperson, who would it be and why?** Runner Haile Gebrselassie, to confirm that he is human and not a machine. What an athlete.

Mary White





# DOUGLAS DIARY

WITH RORY NOONAN



**SISTER ACT:** The O'Donovan sisters, Jenny, Aine, Moira and Ailin with a selection of trophies won by the Douglas camogie teams in 2007. Picture: Damien Quirke



Members of the Douglas U16 Camogie players enjoying at their awards night at the Rochestown Park Hotel last Friday night. Picture: Damien Quirke

## QUB are crowned Purcell Cup champions

By Colin Duffy  
DIT led by 0-3 to 0-0 after five minutes but once Jordan netted for Queen's a minute later, the northern outfit always edged the lead.  
The English player took two first half goals and completed her hat-trick on the restart with Jodelene Honey keeping the Dublin side in touch with 1-3 in the opening half, after which Queen's held a 3-6 to 1-6 lead, with Michelle Cassidy also taking a goal for the eventual winners.  
Queen's started strongly in the second half and points from Down's Karen Gibbin and a brace from Collette McSorley of Armagh helped their side to a 3-9 to 1-5 advantage in the 37th minute.  
However DIT responded well with Siobhan McGrath and Honey firmly the orchestrators of the Dublin sides comeback.  
Goals from McGrath and Honey left just four points between the sides as the game entered the final quarter.  
However Queen's always held the edge and although Jordan and Valerie Reaney swapped goals, to leave just a point between the sides, with five minutes remaining, Queen's hung on for a historic first title since 1997.  
Meanwhile NUI Maynooth were crowned shield champions thanks to a 3-9 to 3-2 victory over IT Tralee.

Two goals from full-forward Natalie Behan and a powerful display by Claire Donnelly at midfield saw NUIM lay the foundation for this win, and helped them to a 3-5 to 3-0 interval lead.

Ann Marie McGann, Grace McManara and Elaine Hough tried hardest for a determined IT Tralee side.  
PURCELL CUP ALL-STARS: Bronagh Keenan (QUB); Sarah Ryan (DIT); Anne McGuigan (QUB); Adele Archibald (QUB); Grace McManara (IT Tralee); Karen Gibbin (QUB); Martina Conroy (GMT); Claire Donnelly (NUI Maynooth); Deirdre Codd (DIT); Martha Kirwan (NUI Maynooth); Elaine Hough (IT Tralee); Collette McSorley (QUB); Sinead Cassidy (QUB); Molly Dunne (Athlone IT); Jodelene Honey (DIT).

Purcell Cup final scorers:  
QUB: M Jordan 3-0; S Cassidy 1-4; C McSorley 0-4; C Dailat, K Gibbin, S Jordan 0-1 each.  
DIT: J Honey 1-5; S McGrath 1-1; V Reaney, O Codd 1-0 each; J Dolan 0-3; N Conran 0-1.

## New Ulster champions

Ulster Senior final  
Cross & Passion College Ballycastle 3-9 St Mary's Magherafelt 2-7  
Cross & Passion Ballycastle bridged a 44-year gap to collect only their third Ulster Colleges' Senior A camogie title in a tremendous camogie spectacle in Ballycastle on Saturday.  
St Mary's - with many of last year's All-Ireland medalists on show - failed to get to grips with the home side in the first half and the challengers turned over 2-8 to a single Roisin O'Boyle point at the break despite the heroics of Aileen McCusker at the back.  
Louise McKewen fired in an early goal, while Rebecca Walsh was able to gather a clearance from her own mis-hit free and find the net after 22 minutes.  
Crucially Cross & Passion picked off points throughout the half with the wind at their backs, scores that kept the momentum with them.  
At the start of the second half, points from Keelin Bradley and Claire Lavery were followed by a rather fortuitous 37th minute goal from Sinead McLaughlin and it looked like St Mary's were going to get back into contention.  
However Ballycastle hit back almost immediately with a goal from the excellent Emma McMullan, who had moved to midfield releasing Emma Connor to a sweeper role.  
The Magherafelt score was cancelled and Ballycastle regained their composure all over the pitch. The three Connolly sisters and Emma Connor excelled at the back, soaking up plenty of pressure, while midfield and Louise McKewen up front chased everything.  
As the game entered injury-time, Sinead McLaughlin batted home a second Magherafelt goal narrowing the gap to 3-8 to 2-7, but again Ballycastle found the reserves to hit back and Louise McKewen's point could easily have hit the net.  
Five more minutes of added time couldn't deliver any more scores and couldn't deny Ballycastle a famous victory.  
Within the space of five days 10 of the team completed the Ulster Junior / Senior double in an impressive manner and both teams will take on Munster champions St Mary's Charleville in the All-Ireland series.  
Cross & Passion College: Louise Watt, Clara McCarry, Aine Connolly, Laura Connolly, Catherine McAuley, Emma Connolly (capt), Rebecca Mooney, Emma Connor 0-2, Rebecca Walsh 1-3, 0-2 frees, Emma McMullan 1-0, Kerrie Smyth, Samantha McGillen 0-2, Grainne McShane, Louise McKewen 1-1, Aisling McFadden 0-1.  
Subs: Aoife Lavery for G McShane.

St Mary's Magherafelt: Eimear Murphy, Shauneen Donaghy, Aileen McCusker, Danielle McCrystal, Eleanor Mallon, Christine McKenna, Ailin Quinn, Cathy Carey, Claire Lavery 0-3 frees, Roisin O'Boyle 0-1, Keelin Bradley 0-2, Eimear McKenna, Rachel Kelly, Sinead McLaughlin 2-1, Leanne McCrystal.  
Referee: Colin Canning (Dunloy)

Senior Medallion Shield final:  
St MacNissi's Garron Tower 1-3 St Colm's Draperstown 0-4  
St MacNissi's made it third time lucky with a narrow but deserved 2 point victory over St Colm's Draperstown in the Senior Medallion Shield final at windy Ballycastle on Saturday.  
St Colm's had first use of the breeze and Mary Jo McCullagh popped over the first of her three first half points inside 30 seconds.  
The Tower settled though and closed them out for most of the first half with Maria McManus, Clara Campbell and Aoife Connolly outstanding in their defence.  
An Alex McLaughlin free on 22 minutes eased the pressure on the back line at 0-3 to 0-1, but Michaela McBride pushed forward for a point to leave three points the margin at the break.  
Although facing the stiff breeze, Draperstown carried the game to Garron Tower in the second period, despite suffering the setback in the 36th minute of a brilliant ground strike from the excellent Maeve Connolly hitting the roof of their net to tie the scores.  
St Colm's were always dangerous on the break, but the strength of the breeze, meant that the momentum was with Garron Tower and eventually points from Mairi Mulverna and Bronagh Heggarty secured the Shield for the first time.  
It was a disappointing result for Draperstown in their first final, but Joni McEldowney, Michaela McBride, Fiona Breen and Mary Jo up front almost pulled it off for them.  
St MacNissi's had big performances from a number of players and now look forward to hosting Lismore from Waterford in the All-Ireland series on February 23rd.

St MacNissi's Garron Tower: Noleen Cosgrove, Fionnuala McDonnell, Clara Campbell, Anne Burke, Aoife Connolly, Maria McManus, Colleen Patterson, Bronagh Heggarty 0-1, Alex McLaughlin 0-1 free, Siobhán McAllister, Maeve Connolly 1-0, Tessa McDonnell, Mairi Mulverna 0-1, Aisling Ward, Terri-Marie McLaughlin capt.  
Subs: Emma McCambridge for F McDonnell, Bernadette Convery, Ruth Haughey, Danielle Scully, Cártriona McKay, Sarah Lynas.  
St Colm's Draperstown: Kathym McNamee, Kelly Marie Haggarty, Joni McEldowney, Gemma Conway, Grace Kelly, Michaela McBride 0-1, Charlene Scullion, Fiona Breen, Roisin Conway, Mary Jo McCullagh 0-3, 0-2 free, Cathy Convery, Teresa Bradley, Michelle McIvor, Patricia McNamee, Bronagh McGillan.  
Subs: Mary McCullagh for M McIvor, Louise Murphy for P McNamee.  
Referee: Sean Brogan (Dunloy)

Photos: St MacNissi's Garron Tower (white with Purple and Gold stripes), Cross & Passion: Orange and black taken by

## Ashbourne Cup

ATTENTION this weekend is very much focused on third level activities as University of Ulster Jordanstown host third level camogie's most prestigious competition the Ashbourne Cup and Shield.  
UCD are aiming for back to back titles and following on their convincing win over UL in the qualifier they will be hot favourites. Led by impressive captain Susie O'Carroll who notched up a tally of 1-10 they will be hard to stop. Many of last year's winning side still available and they are backboned by sisters Mary and Una Leacy from Wexford along with Cork's Rena Buckley. In defence Wexford's Mags Darcy will guard the goal while Tipperary's Mairead Luttrell lines out at full-back.  
Their opponents NUI Galway who last lifted the Ashbourne Cup in 1994 will go in as underdogs but they will be eager to cause an upset. They fought out a closely contested battle in their qualifier seeing off CIT on a score line of 1-9 to 1-7.  
Cork's Deirdre Twomey scored 1-4 of her side's tally that day and NUIG will look to her to lead their attack again on Saturday. Clare's Laura Linnane will also be hoping to help her sides book their place in Sunday's final.  
The second semi final will be contested between Waterford IT and the Garda College. Both teams con-

tested last year's shield and have shown great progress to date to reach this years Cup semi-final. Garda College defeated UUI in their qualifier, thanks to impressive displays from Kilkenny's Marie O'Connor Tipperary's Michelle Shortt and goalkeeper Vanessa O'Donnell. Waterford IT defeated UCC by six points to book their semi final spot with a superb display from their defence where Therese Shortt a sister of the Garda College's Captain Michelle Shortt, captain Ursula Jacob Wexford and Collette Dorner. They last contested the final 2001 while Garda College have never won an Ashbourne Cup they first took part in the competition in 2006 after winning the Purcell Cup in 2005 and since then they have made great strides but WIT will also be determined to succeed. After losing their qualifier games the four teams in this year's shield final have since re-grouped and are now completely focussed on bringing silverware back to their respective colleges. UL take on CIT while UCC play hosts UUI. CIT will be looking to players of the calibre of Katie Aherne, Colleen Long and Michelle Browne to defeat UL. UCC have plenty of talent in their side including Catriona Foley, Orla Cotter and Jill Horan.

## Cork schools contest semis

A LONG journey faces two Cork schools this weekend as St Marys Charleville make the journey to Ballycastle to meet Cross and Passion where they will battle it out for a place in the All Ireland colleges Senior A final, they will look to Eimear Healy Maria Reidy and Kerry Brennan to lead their challenge. Pres Athenry and St Bridgid' Callan contest the second semi final in Athenry.  
In the Senior B semi final Christ the King travel to Dungannon to meet St Pats Dungannon and here Sinead Duggan Maeve Moynihan and Sarah Carroll will be to the fore for the Cork girls.

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few

competition, the Ashbourne gets underway this weekend in Jordanstown, Belfast taking on NUIG while last year's Shield winners Garda take on WIT on Saturday the finals taking place on Sunday.

that the holders UCD will go in as champions since their three in a row from 1986 D Manager David Kennedy is excited about this prospect "It is a nice feeling, it carries some h, it is always difficult to retain an Ashbourne, but we have reached our goal this year again and this stage of the competition".

owning an Ashbourne medal and so all players who take part over the weekend will be out to win will be tough. The Dubs College will have to enter as favourites as they still carry a lot of very from last season including four All-Stars, the Leacy sisters, Mary and Una, and Mags d'Arcy of Rena Buckley making up a strong foursome. Playing in her first Ashbourne is new Dubs kid on Alison Maguire who had a brilliant quarter final game against UL, add to her Kilkenny player Tipperary's Mairead Lutterell and Galway player Terese Manton and one can see the girls from Dubs to reckon with.

ger Adrian Hassett is happy that his side will enter this match as underdogs and is delighted that have reached this stage of the competition "Galway have not reached the semi-finals in recent at boost for us to be here and taking on the champions". Their semi-final opponents UCD may fairness Galway also have plenty of household names, such as Galway players Susan Eamer, Cornican together with Derry player Treasa Mc Peske and Clare's Laura Linnane to name but a

omises to be close it would be a major shock if the Dublin college went out at semi-final stage.

between Garda College and WIT promises much and for one family there will be mixed feelings Shortt sisters of Tipperary will play on opposite sides. Playing for Garda is Michelle while her the Waterford jersey. The fact that Garda are competing in the Ashbourne cup this year is the work over recent years. Last year was the first time they won the Ashbourne Shield. What may day's semi-final is the fact that they had a very tough quarter final against the host College UUJ are.

very different to the other colleges taking part as each time a training session is called players at make the long trek from Letterkeny to Templemore while according to co mentor Sandra avel from Wicklow, Wexford while her two mentors must travel too - Valerie O'Keefe travels from mentor Clara Moran coming from Roscommon. Despite, this Sandra Gillick has no complaints, "this years just get on with it, and so we will not be travelling on Saturday to make up numbers, we are on in the Cup on Saturday and will give it our best shot". In action for WIT is Wexford star who most times finds the back of the net and causes problems for defenders.

ible WIT victory here but with Garda having done so well in the quarter final one must not rule chance in the final on Sunday.

at UCC are just taking part in the Shield, considering they were so strong some years ago, but as depends on what students enter the college each year. They will take on the host side, UUJ ame's most stylish players Fionnuala Carr, daughter of former Down dual player Ross Carr, a Caithra Foley, Orla Cotter and Premier County star Jill Horan will start as favourites but any ame is always anxious to reach the Final and so UUJ will not go down without a fight.

final will see UL and CIT against each other. UL are managed by Mike Chawke who gave merick Club Granagh Ballynary. The Limerick side had one major problem in the quarter final as Deise star Aine Lyng got all their scores. CIT may shade this game and if Galway star y can knock enough over the bar they may find themselves in the Ashbourne Shield Final on

edged  
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side

2-11  
1-8

place in the last they were edged ned WIT side in f a tough hour.

evenly matches as they battled it sula Jacob was to aterford girls, but until the closing inally pulled away UCC.

loran led the way d for UCC, while ife McLoughney keep UCC in over 1-3 in the e put the UCC sure, and through Wexford star was dding four points Michelle Quilty cond goal to enage to their semi st Garda College, s year's host UUJ in a thrilling



There was no joy for Cork's third-level colleges at the Ashbourne Cup. The picture shows Grainne Casey of UCC in a contest with Kay Ryall (WIT) Picture: Sean Byrne.

## UCD on course to retain Cup

**CAMOGIE:** Reigning Ashbourne Cup champions UCD powered their way into today's final with a 4-13 to 2-4 win over NUI Galway in yesterday's first semi-final.

Backed by a gale force wind in the opening half, two goals from Wexford All-Ireland winner Una Leacy and Laois star Aine Mahony meant this game was over at the break as UCD led 2-9 to NUIG's 0-2.

Two further goals from Mahony and Mary Murtagh put the game beyond reach.

UCD's opponents will be WIT who recorded a 3-11 to 0-6 win over Garda College

in the second semi-final.

Wexford's Ursula Jacob bagged a brace for WIT.

FEB. 2008

## CIT, UCC out of Ashbourne Cup

NUIG 1-9  
CIT 0-7

by Mary Newman

NO joy for the Cork students from CIT or UCC as both failed in their bid to reach the concluding stages of the Ashbourne Cup in the week gone by. Over the last number of years the competition has been dominated by UL and UCD, and the failure of either Cork side to make it to the last four is a huge disappointment given the superb efforts put in by both in the last few months.

CIT and NUIG were evenly matched in the opening half of their clash out in the splendid CIT sports complex where CIT led 0-5 to 0-4 at the interval. Deirdre Twomey had two first half points for NUIG, Laura Linnane added a third as NUIG led 0-3 to 0-1, Galway inter-county player Breda Hanney pointing for CIT.

CIT came more into the game and two points without reply from Michelle Browne and Katie Ahern Long had them on level terms. Colleen Longs edged them ahead inside the 20th minute with a point, but Laura Linnane pointed a long range free to get NUIG back on level terms. Colleen Long had the

CIT girls ahead with an excellent point on the half-time whistle.

Laura Linnane and Michelle Browne swapped second half points but NUIG edged ahead thanks to two Deirdre Twomey points. Now applying the pressure NUIG began to pick off scores. Linnane pointed a 45 metres free while Deirdre Twomey scored two points as NUIG went four points clear.

CIT battled hard, Michelle Browne pointed a free and again Twomey replied. Catherine Cornican had five points between the teams with eight minutes remaining, and from here to the finish CIT battled in vain as the NUIG defence held solid to win their place in the Ashbourne semi-final against holders UCD.

**CIT:** G Harrington; P Moloney, A. M. Ryan, A. Hogan, J. Mc Grath, L. Hawkes, S. Lee; C. Mc Kenna, E. O. Sullivan; C. Long, U. Day; M. Browne, C. Kearney, B. Hanney, K. Ahern. SUB E. Roynane for K. Ahern (54mins). SCORERS: M. Browne 0-4(0-21 0-1 45"), C. Long 0-2 K. Ahern 0-1

**NUIG:** S. Eamer; C. Naughton, S. Boyle, J. Coone, C. Gill, N. Kilkenny, C. Moran; A. Mc Peake, C. Cornican; E. O. Sullivan, L. Linnane M. Mc Allister, N. Ryan, D. Twomey, N. Mc Cabe. SUBS E. Costello for C. Moran (54mins), L. Young for M. Mc Allister, (40mins) K. Ruddy for S. Boyle (42mins) C. Moran for C. Naughton (53mins) F. Kennedy for N. Ryan (55mins). SCORERS: D. Twomey 1-4, L. Linnane 0-4(0-2 45" 0-1) C. Cornican 0-1  
**Referee:** James Dorgan Nemo Rangers



## CAMOGIE CLUB NOTES

## BUTTEVANT

WE HELD our Annual General Meeting recently where a good attendance saw Robert Harrington (chairperson) open the meeting. Ellen Walsh and Phil Healy, joint secretaries, gave a very detailed report for last year and this was followed by the financial report from the treasurer, Declan Corbett.

Robert then gave the chairperson's report for the year. Following this, all the officers stepped down for the election of new officers and committee for the coming year. This was overseen by the chairperson of the junior club Sean Guinnane.

The following officers were elected for this year: Chairperson: Phil Healy; Vice Chairperson: Geraldine Barrett; Secretary: Deirdre Madigan; Assistant Secretary: Majella Jenks; Treasurer: Leona Cronin; Assistant Treasurer: Anne Donovan; Child Welfare Officer: Ann Walsh; P.R.O.: Anne Donovan.

Trainers were also decided for most of the teams on the night.

U8: Dawn O'Keefe, Marie Therese O'Connor.

U10: George O'Callaghan, Geraldine Barrett, Leona Cronin.

U12: Anthony O'Mahony, Sean Guinnane, Geraldine Barrett.

U14: John Madigan, Anne Donovan, Geraldine Barrett.

U16, U18 and Juniors have not yet been finalised. Margaret O'Donoghue has decided to stay with the U18 and junior team but we need to get more people involved with these teams.

On the night there were some new people at the AGM and all of these have joined the committee. We also formed a finance committee on the night and we have a lot of new people on this as we are always looking for new ideas for fundraising. The cost of running the club is high every year so we need to fundraise from the start to keep the club running. Keep watching this space for updates on the Camogie Club for 2008.

Congratulations to Eimear Healy and Darina O'Callaghan who won a Munster A camogie medal with their school on Saturday last. They both gave a great account of themselves.

## MUSKERRY

Following on a tremendous season, the Muskerry Division will hold the victory celebration of honour the Senior Camogie county champions of 2007. A victory dinner will take place on Friday 29 February in the Leo Valley Golf and Country Club and tickets are available from Mairead Donovan, Rose Malone and Bernice O'Brien.

## GLEN ROVERS

A meeting of players junior and seniors was very well attended recently as the selectors outlined their plans for the season ahead. Training began on Wednesday night last and will continue every Wednesday at 7pm sharp.

The youngest section of the club from the U6-U12 are back in the action and coaching continues at usual times of Sunday at 11.15am and Tuesday at 5.45pm in the club hall, new members welcome to join.

Our U13 team are back in the fray also Sunday at 11.45am in the Glen Field and on Friday last we began our visits to the Glen Resource centre, players to be in attendance at 5.20pm on the pitches for 5.30pm.

We'll done also to everybody concerned as we lit up the sky in Ballyvolane with our new floodlights we look forward to plenty of games in the week ahead in all codes.

Training: Senior/Junior/Minor and U16 teams Wednesdays at 7pm sharp.

We look forward to welcoming everybody back and invite new members to come along and join.

## ST FINBARR'S

Colette Hurley was a popular winner of the St Finbarr's Club person of the Year for 2007. Perhaps better known as Colette Cronin in camogie circles, she won All-Ireland Junior and minor medals with Cork. Nowadays, Colette puts her skill and enthusiasm to great use as chairperson of our Juvenile Committee. Our future lies in the hands of Colette and her band of great workers.

A number of changes in personnel were seen our AGM. After seven years at the helm, Claire Barry stepped down as chairperson and handed the reins over to the Claire Harrington. Joan Doolan completed three years as President and her shoes have been filled by Catherine O'Brien, who has been a member since the present club was formed. Mary Moran (secretary) and Marian McCarthy (treasurer) retain their positions. Current player, Claire Spellman comes in at vice-chairperson.

The officers are joined by Toinette Santry, Deirdre Clarke, Colette O'Mahony, Ellen Clifford, Colette Kirby, Barbara Ann Concoran and Maria McCarthy to form the club committee. Colette Hurley leads the Juvenile Committee and is ably supported by Mary Cooke (secretary), Orla Hurley (treasurer) and daughter of camogie great, Kitty Barry Murphy. Joan Doolan, Marie Santry, Toinette Santry, Mary O'Regan, Alice O'Donovan, Niamh Cooke and Dolores O'Sullivan.

## ST CATHERINE'S

Our AGM was held recently in Conna Hall and was reasonably well attended. Outgoing chairperson Ann Galvin addressed the meeting; she welcomed everyone and thanked all club members and officers for their hard work throughout the year. Ann had a special word of thanks for our club sponsor Cork Builders Providers for their generous sponsorship over the past few years and to all who contributed to our various fundraising

activities such as poker classic, table quiz and church gate collection in 2007. Outgoing secretary Rena O'Leary gave a detailed report on the club's activities during the past year and outgoing treasurer, Marie Clancy, presented the financial report which shows the club in a healthy financial state.

The meeting carried on with the election of officers which was presided over by Kevin Galvin.

The following officers were elected: — Chairperson Ann Galvin; Vice Chairperson Orla Cotter; Secretary — Faith Noonan; Asst. Secretary — Rena O'Leary; Treasurer Marie Clancy; Asst Treasurer Lisa Higgins; PRO Brigid Cotter.

The following team managers were selected: Senior A and Junior B — Marie Clancy; U14 Mary Mulcahy; U12 Rena O'Leary. Managers for the U16 and U18 teams have yet to be selected.

This year's membership fee is now due to be paid by all members: Adults €30, Students €20 Juvenile €10.

The following are this year's County Board Delegates: Adult — Marie Clancy, Annemarie Hayes, Faith Noonan, Maria Daly, Juvenile — Rena O'Leary, Mary Mulcahy, Billy Neville.

## Table Quiz

Our annual fundraising table quiz was held on Friday night last in The Big Tree, Aghern. Many thanks to all who supported us... A special word of thanks to Mike and J Jeanette Barry for hosting the event and to our excellent quiz master, Denis McCarthy for all his hard work.

Thanks also to those who contributed spot prizes and to those who provided refreshments on the night. A very enjoyable night was had by all.

## CORK COLLEGES

The following are the draws for the Cork Colleges 1st Year League:

A. Charleville v Bandon; Bandon v Christ the King; Christ the King v Charleville.

B. Coachford, Millstreet, Col Choilm, Carrignavar, Middleton, Fermoy, Clonakilty, Kinsale, Carrigaline, St Angela's.

Teams to Play each other once (max eight games each). Top two with most points qualify for final on May 9.

C. Youghal v Carrigrohilly; Carrigrohilly v Lismore; Youghal v Lismore; St Pat's v Mount Mercy; Mount Mercy v North Pres; North Pres v St Pat's; St Vincent's v Mallow; Mallow v Col Daibheid; Col Daibheid v St Vincent's. (First group — top two to semi-finals with winners of other two groups to semi on May 9.)

## CIT

Like all the centres of education privileged to attain the standard needed to participate in colleges competitions, CIT Camogie Club are no different in the way they prepare and the level of effort and commitment the players, coaches and mentors have given to the cause. Throughout this season the team have been training very hard, putting in long hours. T All this could not have gone ahead without the dedication and loyalty being put in also by manager Pat Spratt and selector Barry Day. Credit also must go to the work and support from the CIT GAA Development Officer Keith Ricken, who gives a lot of time in coordinating the GAA activities, as do the CIT Sports Department.

Since winning the Purcell Cup five years ago under the guidance of Miriam Deasy, camogie in the college has gone from strength to strength. CIT won the Ashbourne Shield two years ago and competed in the Ashbourne Cup last year, being the first team to ever do so in the history of the college.

In previous years, the college has seen many talented camogie players pass through its doors, with the likes of past Cork players, Mags Finn, Nora Ahern, Fr O'Neill's, Paula O'Connor, Newtownshandrum, current Cork senior Jenny Duffy, St Finbarr's, who is currently working with the Camogie Association as Regional Development Officer for Leinster, current Kilkenny senior Deirdre Delaney (who captained Kilkenny last year) and Mairead Kelly, a Limerick Senior. Through playing College camogie in CIT, many of the above players were given the opportunity to develop and improve their talents.

This year is no different for CIT with Cork players Eimear O'Sullivan, Lucy Hawkes, Gillian Harrington, Michelle Browne, Evelyn Ronayne, Shona Cunningham, Charlotte Kearney, Galway's Brenda Hanney and Tipperary's Julie McGrath.

On Wednesday last we played the quarter-final of the Ashbourne Championship against NUIG at CIT's Sports Complex.

Unfortunately victory was not ours but the players and mentors have 10 days to recuperate before making the long awaited journey to the Ashbourne weekend, which is being held in Belfast by University of Ulster Jordanstown on February 23 and 24, where CIT will take part in the Ashbourne Shield competition.

The CIT Sports Department offer numerous sport bursaries along with a number of Munster Council Scholarships. Each bursary awarded is valued between €500-€1000. Many of these Bursaries are reserved for first year students. Currently the Camogie Club have five students on scholarships, they consist of Tipperary player Julie McGrath and Cork players, Eimear O'Sullivan, Lucy Hawkes, Gillian Harrington and Michelle Browne. The closing date for any student to apply for a sports bursary is October 4.

For any further information contact Keith Ricken, CIT GAA Development Officer on '021-4327678' or Email 'kelthicken@cit.ie'

## Cork senior team are still minus a boss

WHILE all the focus round the Cork hurlers and footballers these past three months, the Cork Camogie Board had their own worries.

Who was going to manage their current successful Cork senior side?

John Cronin, manager of the side for the past three years, enjoyed tremendous success and wisely decided to step down while at the top.

I'm not sure whether training coach Fiona O'Driscoll stated that she was putting herself forward for the managerial role, or merely expressed an interest.

Perhaps it was just assumed by everyone that she would take on the mantle.

Either way, no formal approach or enquiry was made and when Fiona and her co-selector Lillian Zinkant formally withdrew from their positions just a short time before convention, there was panic.

Mary Moran's spell as Cork's third selector effectively ended once St Finbarr's lost their county title.

So in one sweep, Cork's entire backroom team were gone.

In recent years this present Cork squad were treated very professionally, with Fiona raising the bar in terms of preparation.

The success of the supporters club in creating the funding played a major role in this.

It is imperative that this consistency is maintained.

You can't give something only to take it away again.

The players will correctly expect a high level of professionalism in preparations on and off the pitch in the year ahead.

For that reason a complete change can be dangerous.

The only nominee for a selector position at convention in December was Bishopstown's Pat Murray.

He naturally went through unopposed.

Muskerry secured a position based on their county final triumph, but had not decided on who would go forward.

It was January before Con Malone was confirmed as the Muskerry representative.

Cork was still without a manager, coach or third selector.

In stepped former Cork and Glen Rovers star Denise Cronin as a welcome third selector.

The board were having problems trying to secure a manager/coach.

At this stage most potential candidates would have already committed themselves to other teams.

The manager and coach were one and the same in camogie for years.

In bringing in Fiona O'Driscoll, John Cronin



LINDA MELLERICK

changed that concept and it seems the trend is to continue.

The three selectors set about their first task and secured the services of Jim McCarthy from Glen Rovers to coach the side.

Jim was involved in 2002 when Cork won the All-Ireland after a lapse of four years. He alone was responsible for the physical coaching of the side and was excellent.

This time round he also has control of the hurling and will relish the challenge.

The managerial title has yet to be bestowed on someone.

It will come from within the present four. None of them seems eager to assume the responsibility but someone has to.

It is critical that there is a leader who delegates and ensures things are right, a leader who has the final say and a leader the players regard as boss.

This is an important factor and should be determined now.

This is going to be a tough year for Cork. Apart from the managerial change many of the players have decided to travel or pursue other interests in the coming 12 months.

Jennifer O'Leary, Cork's most consistent forward over the past number of years, departs for Australia in June and her loss will be immense.

Rumour has it that Rena Buckley and Anna Geary also intend to travel in the near future, with Geary expected back for the latter part of the championship.

These thoughts go through every player's mind during the off season and very often never come to pass.

Time will tell.

At present many of the players are unavailable for selection.

Cork played Galway in a challenge match last Sunday and only four of last year's starting All-Ireland XV took to the field.

Maybe that's not a bad thing. This new management are united in their belief in giving many new players a chance.

Now, and throughout the league campaign is the time to try out these players.

I believe our panel was weak last year with very few options on the bench.

For a county like Cork, this shouldn't be the case.

Cork faces Wexford at home on Sunday, March 2 in the opening round of the league. 2008 promises to be a very interesting year.

## Cork girls must make trips north for semis

By MARY NEWMAN

Camogie

## TOMORROW

All-Ireland Colleges semi-finals  
Senior A: St Mary's, Charleville v Cross & Passion, Ballycastle, Ballycastle, 12 noon

Senior B: Sacred Heart, Turner's Cross v St Patrick's, Dungannon, Dungannon, 1pm.

IT'S a big weekend for post-primary camogie as two Cork schools travel north in a bid to reach the All-Ireland Colleges Senior A and B finals.

For St Mary's of Charleville it's now almost a rite of passage, such has been their success at colleges camogie level in recent years, while it's a first for Sacred Heart, Turner's Cross, as they bid to reach their first senior final.

A tough hour awaits the Charleville girls as they strive to put a halt to the progression of Cross & Passion from Ballycastle, who bridged a 44-year gap to collect their third Ulster Colleges' Senior A camogie title against St Mary's, Magherafelt.

They turned over 2-8 to a point ahead at the break.

Mary's, the holders, battled back in the second-half and cut the deficit, but superb play from a determined Ballycastle side saw them hold their composure to run out deserving winners.

Amongst the stars of that famous victory were the Connolly sisters Louise, Laura and Emma, who captained the side, while Charleville will need to keep an eye on Emma Connor, Rebecca Walsh, Emma McMullan and Samantha McKillen, who all contributed.

Charleville's record in the competition speaks for itself - they captured seven titles between 1996 to 2006.

They failed to make it to the final stages last season and are determined to reach this year's final.

They recorded an impressive victory over Coachford in the provincial final and their challenge will be led by Darina O'Callaghan, Rebecca Finn, Eimear Healy, Kerry Brosnan and Maria Walsh.

It's also a big day for the Turner's Cross girls as they contest the Senior B semi-final against a St Patrick's Dungannon side, who were only crowned Ulster champions on Tuesday when they beat Our Lady's, Newry.

They have been somewhat of a surprise package this year having earlier in the season defeated a strong Assumption Ballynahinch side.

Very much to the fore for them have been Cathy Jordan, Emma McAliskey and Brid O'Hagan, but they will need to be at their best to deny Christ the King a place in the decider.

Backbone by players from the successful Douglas and Ballygarvan club sides, Christ the King are a young team, with only one sixth year playing.

Aine Moynihan, who captains the side, is that person, while the bulk of the team is made up of third and fourth years, but players of the calibre of Jessica Kavanagh, Cianna O'Driscoll, Pamela and Katrina Mackey, Maave Moynihan, Mary Ellen O'Donovan, Ashling Byrne and Blackrock's Sarah Carroll are more that capable of facing the challenge which St Patrick's will pose.



## Garda College GAA



## Historic win for Garda College Camogie Team

equipped Garda team that displayed great heart and courage throughout the game, but lady luck did not play its part for the Garda team on this day.

Sport in the Garda College is an integral part of the training and development. It is an essential part of these students training to be integrating with the community and business leaders of tomorrow. It is a prestigious honour for the Garda College to be able to compete at the highest levels of Third Level Education Sport. Sport plays a huge part within the organisation with a strong relationship between the Gardaí and the society they police.

### Garda College Camogie

Garda College camogie team created history once again when they won the senior Third Level Colleges Championship (Ashbourne Shield) title, beating University of Ulster in the final. Another milestone for the Garda College was made two years previously when they won the Purcell Cup Championship in Belfast beating host team Queen's University qualifying them to compete at Ashbourne Championship.

Garda College camogie was resurrected from the doldrums in 2000 when they started out competing at the lower end of the scale in the Fr Meachair Shield. They have since moved swiftly through the ranks to compete at the highest level.

They were narrowly beaten in the preliminary round by University Limerick to compete in the Ashbourne Cup. It must be noted that U.L. at that stage were challenging to retain the Ashbourne title for the fourth consecutive year! However Garda College picked up the pieces and focussed their sights on going one step further than last year when they were pipped at the post by Cork IT in the Ashbourne Shield Final. CIT stole the game in injury time with a point, which was a bitter pill to swallow for the Garda College.

Saturday February 17 2007 saw the Garda College camogie team travel to Galway to compete in the semi-final of the Ashbourne Shield, competing against host team National University of Ireland Galway (NUIG). A tough and gritty performance by the girls in blue putting them back in the Ashbourne Shield Final for the second consecutive year this time eager to do one better and come out victorious.

The opposition standing in the way were University of Ulster Jordanstown (UUJ), a tough, physical outfit who had beaten Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT) in the other semi-final.

On Sunday February 18 the Garda team made the journey to Ballindereen to compete for the Ashbourne Shield. Victory was all they had in their sights and from the off they fought hard against a very physical side in UUJ. Once Garda got their noses in front they never relinquished their lead, coming out with a convincing score line of 3-9 to 0-6.

Great credit must be give to the management and players for their commitment throughout the years, considering all adversities they battle through, with work commitments and students stationed and placed all across the country. ■

## Morgan is new Munster Camogie chairperson

Friday, February 15th, 2008

Former Waterford Secretary and Chairperson, Morgan Conroy, has bridged a 62-year gap by becoming only the second ever Waterford Chairperson of Munster Camogie Council, thus also becoming one of the vice-presidents of the association.

Morgan from Ballygunner, formerly of the Gaultier Club and now with Tramore, first served as Waterford Secretary and later Chairperson. Whilst involved with the administration he also found time to act as selector/coach to Waterford adult and underage teams, ending one of the country's longest losing sequences and rebuilding the image of Waterford Camogie.

He was Munster selector/coach from 2003/'05 when the province won three interprovincial tournaments in a row. In 2005 he was a selector as Ireland won the Camogie/Shinty international in Inverness, Scotland. Central to all of this was the involvement of Waterford players on all occasions.

A well respected inter-county referee he has refereed a number of All-Ireland's and been involved in countless others. For the past number of years he has also refereed camogie and hurling finals at the National Community Games in Mosney.

Originally from Wexford, he served as Secretary of the famed "Shelmaliars" GAA club and later secretary of Wexford and District Soccer League and coach to the county's under 18 squad.



Christ The King, Turner's Cross, who contest the All Ireland senior B colleges semi-final tomorrow. See page 8 for preview.



# Powerful UCD cruise to title



**Therese O'Callaghan**

A RAMPANT UCD powered their way to a second successive Ashbourne Cup title at Casement Park, yesterday with a facile 15-point win over Waterford Institute of Technology (5-9 to 0-9).

Backbone by an unyielding back-line of Emma Dunne, Mary Leacy, and Leona Monaghan, two first half goals from Aine Mahony and Rena Buckley gave the victors a 2-5 to 0-4 interval lead.

Further goals from Mahony and Una Leacy (2) completed the rout against a Waterford side overly reliant on Ursula Jacob for their scores.

In the Shield final, UL came with a late surge to defeat UCC (4-9 to 2-12). UCC led at the interval 2-5 to 1-4 with the goals from Aoife McLoughney and Mary Dalton. However, it was stalemate at the three-quarter stage.

But with Aine Lyng adding to her first half goal, Tina Hannon raising her own green flag and Caroline Kelly also finding the net, the Limerick girls held out for a thrilling three-point victory.

Meanwhile, St Mary's Charleville meet St Brigid's Callan in the All-Ireland senior college's final on March 8.

The Kilkenny school secured a comfortable win over Presentation Athlone 3-10 to 0-6 on Saturday. Backbone by Katie McDonald and Leann Fennelly, Callan took full advantage of the strong wind to lead 3-9 to 0-4 at the break.

The adage that goals win matches was certainly true.

A double strike from Anna Farrell (2-3), Ciara Holden (1-0) and Denise Gaule with four points led the way while Jessica Gill was chief scorer for Athlone with four points.

St Mary's turned in a powerful second half to pick up a hard-earned five point victory over Cross and Passion



**TOP CLASS:** UCD players celebrate their Ashbourne Cup final victory over Waterford IT in Casement Park, Belfast.

Picture: Sport

Ballycastle, (3-8 to 2-6). The northern team who did all their scoring in the first half, were overwhelmed by the north Cork side who hit 2-7 after the turnover. Goals from Emer Healy ei-

ther side of the half, plus a green flag from Sinead Healy were crucial.

Elsewhere, St Patrick's Dungannon fell to Cork's Christ the King 3-13 to 0-2 in the All-Ireland senior B semi-fi-

nal. Julia White dominating here with her total of 1-3 sending them to their first All-Ireland final ever.

They will have to wait on their opponents as St Killian's New Inn and

Loreto Wexford finished deadlocked 3-4 to 1-10.

And St Caimin's Clare defeated Coachford CC in the Munster B final 2-5 to 1-3.

## Ballycastle blown away by St Mary's Charleville

**T**HE strong breeze in Ballycastle in the Corn Scelge semi-final pushed St Mary's Charleville on to win 3-8 to 2-6 against Cross and Passion.

The Ballycastle team took first advantage and pinned St Mary's Charleville back into their own half, but their pursuit goals didn't pay off. Aisling McFadden's goal in the 15th minute put them 1-3 up but Mariah Reidy was able to respond with a goal in the 23rd minute.

Although Emma Connor's break from midfield resulted in a scrambled goal just before the break, Charleville were not out of it at 2-6 to 1-1 down, as they were playing with the wind in the second half. They got a break early in the half when Eimear Reidy's free went all the way to the net and Rosemary Rea was able to level the tie at 2-6 each with 10 minutes remaining. Eimear added another free

before Mariah Reidy ran through for a superb goal that secured the victory for the Munster champions.

**CPC:** L. Watt, C. McGarry, A. Connolly, L. Connolly, C. McAuley, E. Connolly, R. Mooney, E. Connor (1-0), R. Walsh (0-3 frees), E. McMullan (0-1), K. Smyth (0-1), S. McKillen, A. McFadden (1-0), L. McKelown, A. Lavery.

**Sub:** Claire Neill for R. Mooney.  
**St Mary's:** E. Hanley, A. McAuliffe, R. Finn, C. Galin, O. O'Mahony, M. Walsh, E. Reidy (1-2) frees, F. Gore, R. Rea (0-2), S. O'Flynn, D. O'Callaghan, K. Brosnan (0-1), A. McAuliffe (0-1), M. Reidy (2-0), E. Healy (0-4)

**ST PATRICK'S** Dungannon failed to follow through from their midweek eclipse of the Fr Davies Cup when they fell to Cork's Christ the King 2-12 to 0-2 in English.

Cork senior panellist Julia White dominated the play despite the industry from the Tyrone girls, notably Michelle O'Neill, who made some spectacular saves.

White scored 1-3 in the opening half



**CAMOGIE pitch**

By Seamus McAleenan

as the Academy were held scoreless, and although the Tyrone girls played well, the game was beyond them.

**Christ the King:** J. White (1-3), C. Murphy (1-0), C. Mackey (0-5), A. O'Donovan (0-3), C. Lynch (0-1).

**St Patrick's:** E. McAliskey (0-1), E. McEneaney (0-1).

**TWO** goals in the last five minutes put Munster champions Blackwater CS clear of a spirited Garron Tower side in the All-Ireland semi-final at Cushendall.

Despite Michelle Tobin firing through a mass of players for a Lismore goal, Ashling Ward first timed a 20th minute ground shot to the net and Alex McLaughlin added a point as the Tower pressurised the visitors.

Yet right on half-time Aoife Hannon lobbed in a goal to tie the sides and with the breeze picking up force, Lismore were favoured to qualify. They added two quick points in the third quarter, but Garron Tower dug deep and were unlucky not to put themselves ahead. But tiredness set in and two Lismore goals left the final score at 2-2 to 4-4.

**BCS Lismore:** Tracey Kelly, N. Prendergast, J. Forbes, J. Walsh, E. McCarthy, S. Kiernan, S. Prendergast capt, M. Russell, M. Tobin (1-0), S. Fenton, S. O'Gorman, C. McGilone (1-3).

A. Hannon (1-0), K. Heneghan (1-1), G. Tobin.

**Sub:** R. Geoghegan for G. Tobin (HT)  
**St MacNissi's Garron Tower:** N. Cosgrove, F. McDonnell, C. Campbell, A. Burke, A. Connolly, M. McManus, C. Patterson, B. Heggarty, A. McLaughlin (0-2 frees), S. McAister, M. Connolly, T. McDonnell, M. Mulvenna, A. Ward (2-0), T. McNaughton (capt)

**Subs:** Emma McCambridge for F. McDonnell

**THERE** was no luck for Ulster either in the Ashbourne Cup hosted by Jordanstown over the weekend. Despite the brilliance of Fionnuala Carr, UUJ went out in the Shield semi-final on a 4-16 to 3-7 scoreline to UCC who in turn lost the final by 4-9 to 2-12 to UL in Casement Park yesterday.

In the Cup itself, there were clear-cut wins on Saturday as UCD beat NUIG by 4-13 to 2-4, while Waterford beat the Garda College 3-11 to 0-6. In the final UCD picked up a 37th title on a 5-9 to 0-9 scoreline.



# UCC ladies are pipped by Limerick in shield final

**BACKED** by four current All-Stars, UCD captured back-to-back Ashbourne Cup camogie titles for the first time since the 1980s thanks to a 5-9 to 0-9 final victory over Waterford IT at Casement Park on Sunday.

David Kennedy's charges blitzed through the weekend, hosted by UUJ, with a strong backbone in defence with goalkeeper Mags Darcy of Wexford, Tipperary's Mairead Luttrell, Wexford dual-star Mary Leacy and Leona Monaghan of Galway churning out strong performances in both the semi-final and final.

WIT relied heavily on the input of Wexford's Ursula Jacob from frees as their forwards couldn't get motoring due to a strong UCD defensive display.

By **CÓILÍN DUFFY**

Camogie

First-half goals from Laois's Aine Mahony, and a Rena Buckley penalty strike gave the champions a 2-5 to 0-4 interval lead, with both goals coming inside the opening quarter.

Kildare's Suzy O'Carroll also made a strong input to a resounding UCD display which was added to in the second half with a brace of goals in the third quarter from Una Leacy, while Aine Mahony sealed the win, with her side's fifth goal, eight minutes from the end, with a powerful strike from the left wing.

UCD's victory keeps their hopes for a first three in a row since 1986-1988 alive for next year's competition.

In the Ashbourne Shield final, which was also hosted at Casement Park, following semi-final victories over CIT and UUJ respectively, UL and UCC played out a thrilling encounter before the Limerick side emerged winners by 4-9 to 2-12 in a fine decider.

UL got off to a positive start in this game thanks to an early goal from Waterford's Aine Lyng but goals from top-scorer Aoife McLoughney and Kilkenny's Mary Dalton in the final eight minutes of the opening half,

ensured the Cork University took a 2-5 to 1-4 interval lead.

UCC started the second half well, with Grainne Kennelly taking a point but goals from Tina Hannon and Aine Lyng propelled UL into the lead.

Despite UCC continuing to perform strongly they couldn't convert their possession to much needed scorers as UL pulled away in the closing ten minutes, with a Caroline Kelly goal sealing the win.

**UL:** A Lyng (1-3f) 2-3; T Hannon, C Kelly 1-0 each; C Johnson, E Maher 0-2 each; M Coleman 0-1.

**UCC:** A McLoughney 1-8 (2f); M Dalton 1-0; O Cotter, G Kennelly 0-2 each.

## Healy is the hero as Mary's fight back

By **MARY NEWMAN**

Colleges' camogie

**ST MARY'S** Charleville and Christ the King are celebrating today after booking places in the All-Ireland colleges A and B finals respectively.

St Mary's beat Cross and Passion, Ballycastle 3-8 to 2-6 after a superb second-half comeback.

Charleville trailed 2-6 to 1-1 at half-time, with Eimear Healy keeping St Mary's in touch.

On the resumption, the Charleville girls began to settle and showed their class and experience and set about cutting the deficit.

Healy was very much to the fore, grabbing her second goal while Sinead O'Flynn also found the net for a Charleville side whose defence tightened up considerably.

As their confidence grew they began to pick off points — Rosemary Rea, Annette McAuliffe, Louise O'Flynn and Finola Dore were all on the score-sheet, while the impressive Healy added three second-half points to her tally, ending up with an impressive 2-4.

Charleville meet St Brigid's, Callan — who recorded an impressive 3-9 to 0-6 victory over Presentation Athenry — in the final.

Charleville's selector Ger O'Donovan expressed delight at his side's comeback.

"We are really thrilled to have come out of this one. It was tough but the girls responded magnificently and never let the heads drop."

In the B competition, Christ the King hammered St Patrick's, Dungannon 3-11 to 0-2.

Christ the King dominated proceedings from the throw-in as they took the game to the Ulster champions on their home patch.

Chris the King settled quickly and had 10 points on the scoreboard thanks to the accuracy of Catriona Mackey, who fired over points from all angles, while Julia White and Ciara Lynch also added to the tally.

Fifteen minutes into the contest, Christina Murphy grabbed the game's opening goal and when Julia White had her side's second four minutes from the half-time whistle, the home side was in deep trouble.

Facing the elements for the second half, the Turner's Cross girls knew what they had to do and with their defence solid and reliable, St Patrick's found it impossible to make any headway.

They will meet either New Inn, Tipperary or Loreto, Wexford in the final.

## Coachford unlucky to lose final

**St Caimin's (Shannon)** 2.05  
**Coachford CC (Cork)** 1.03

by **Terry O'Brien**

**DEFENDING** Munster champions St Caimin's deservedly retained their title at a windswept Coachford when they defeated the host school in a pulsating final. St Caimin's opened the scoring in the fourth minute with a free by outstanding centre back Chloe Morey.

Despite the fact St Caimin's enjoyed a lot of possession in the opening 20 minutes they found the Coachford defence in no mood to concede scores. The Coachford halfback line in particular harried a St Caimin's forward line where Sinead Tuohy and Niamh Corry were prominent. In the 13th minute a great block by wingback Katie McCarthy on St Caimin's Sinead Costello prevented a goal and from the resultant breaking ball Sinead Tuohy extended her side's lead. Coachford swept up the field where Laura Burke, who impressed at wing forward, reduced arrears with a well taken point.

However, St Caimin's finished the first half on a roll when between the 23rd and 30th minute they extended their lead courtesy of a Chloe Morey free and a well taken goal and point from Niamh Corry.

Coachford went straight into the attack in the opening minutes of the second half and were rewarded with a Joanne Casey free. In the 36th minute St Caimin's full forward Mairead Hyland crashed the ball to the net.

With Rosie O'Mahony & Joanne Casey doing trojan work for their side it wasn't long before Coachford



Coachford captain Joanne Casey, right, shakes hands with her counterpart Marie McGrath, before referee M Sheehan.

laid siege to St Caimin's goal. A terrific run from Joanne Casey saw her upended in the square but from the resultant penalty St Caimin's full-back Marie McGrath deflected the sliothar over the bar.

From the puck out St Caimin's advanced upfield and Sinead Costello tapped over a good point.

It was the home side who got the score of the game when in the 55th minute Joanne Casey scored a terrific goal. However, the defending champions were not to be denied and now face Cross and Passion,

Ballycastle (Antrim) in the All Ireland semi on Saturday in Shannon.

**Scorers:**  
**St Caimin's:** N Corry 1.01, M Hyland 1.00, C Morey (0.02f), S Costello 0.01, S Tuohy 0.01  
**Coachford CC:** J Casey 1.02 (0.02 f), L Burke 0.01

**St Caimin's:** R O'Halloran, C Whelan, M McGrath (Cpt), S Hyland, L Boyle, C Morey, C Neylon, L McMahon, C Danagher, S Tuohy, N Corry, T Fawc, S Costello, M Hyland, R O'Brien  
Sub: J Hartigan for R O'Halloran (57th min in).

**Coachford CC:** E O'Donovan, L Buckley, L McCarthy, E O'Connell, S Buckley, E Kingston, K McCarthy, R O'Mahony, A Barry-Murphy, L Burke, J Casey (Cpt), G O'Sullivan, M O'Sullivan, A O'Connor, A Hennessy.  
Ref: M Sheehan (Charleville).

### UCD capture historic back-to-back

By **Cóilín Duffy**

David Kennedy's charges blitzed through the weekend, hosted by UUJ, with a strong back-bone in defence with goalkeeper Mags Darcy of Wexford, Tipperary's Mairead Luttrell, Wexford dual-star Mary Leacy and Leona Monaghan of Galway churning out strong performances in both the semi-final and final.

WIT relied heavily on the input of Wexford's Ursula Jacob from frees as their forwards couldn't get motoring due to a strong UCD defensive display.

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Kildare's Suzy O'Carroll also made a strong input to a resounding UCD display which was added to in the second half with a brace of goals in the third quarter from Una Leacy, while Aine Mahony sealed the win, with her side's fifth goal, eight minutes from the end, with a powerful strike from the left wing.

UCD's victory keeps their hopes for a first three in a row since 1986-1988 alive for next year's competition.

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UL got off to a positive start in this game thanks to an early goal from Waterford's Aine Lyng but goals from top-scorer Aoife McLoughney and Kilkenny's Mary Dalton in the final eight minutes of the opening half, ensured the Cork University took a 2-5 to 1-4 interval lead.

UCC started the second half well, with Grainne Kennelly taking a point but goals from Tina Hannon and Aine Lyng propelled UL into the lead. Despite UCC continuing to perform strongly they couldn't convert their possession to much needed scorers as UL pulled away in the closing ten minutes, with a Caroline Kelly goal sealing the win.

**Shield Scorers:**  
UL: A Lyng (1-3f) 2-3; T Hannon, C Kelly 1-0 each; C Johnson, E Maher 0-2 each; M Coleman 0-1.  
UCC: A McLoughney 1-8 (2f); M Dalton 1-0; O Cotter, G Kennelly 0-2 each.

### Camogie

**Ashbourne Shield semi-finals:** UL 6-14

Cork IT 1-4, UCC 4-16 UUJ 3-7;

**Ashbourne Cup semi-finals:** UCD 4-13

NUI Galway 2-4, Waterford IT 3-11 Garda

0-6; **Ashbourne Shield final:** UL 4-9

UCC 2-12; **Ashbourne Cup final:** UCD

5-9 Waterford IT 0-9; **All-Ireland**

**Colleges semi-finals:** **Corn Sceltge:**

Cross and Passion, Ballycastle 2-6

St Mary's, Charleville 3-8; **Senior B:**

St Patrick's, Dungannon 0-2 Christ the

King, Cork 2-10; **Senior C:**

St MacNissi's, Garron Tower 2-2

Blackwater C Lismore 4-4



# CAMOGIE *world*

## CHARLEVILLE CLAIM MUNSTER POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS SENIOR A CAMOGIE FINAL

St Mary's Charleville emerged deserving winners of the Munster Senior A post primary schools competition when they overcame the spirited challenge of Coachford CC by 2-7 to 0-3.

Despite blustery conditions both teams set out their defensive stalls early in the game keeping scoring opportunities at a premium.

Coachford enjoyed the lion's share of possession in the first half but were unable to turn it into scores. Charleville defended well particularly Rebecca Finn and Erin Reidy who curbed the scoring threat of Coachford captain, Niamh Dilworth. Charleville were not getting any change out of Coachford who defended well particularly Michelle Healy and Rosie O'Mahony who covered back well from her midfield berth. Coachford keeper Marie Gleeson kept her side in the game when on the 29th minute she reacted well to a through ball to centre forward Darina O'Callaghan saving an almost certain goal. Half time saw



The Munster title winning Charleville squad

both sides retire tied at 2 points each courtesy of frees by Charleville's Eimear Healy and Coachford's Joanne Casey.

Charleville upped the gears considerably at the start of the second half and put the Coachford defence under severe pressure. Quick direct ball from midfield to the half forward line saw Charleville grab an early initiative. Firstly Rebecca Finn pointed a 31st minute free and then disaster struck for Coachford when a mix up in the full back line saw Kerrie Brosnan goal for Charleville on the 35th minute.

Points from Darina O'Callaghan (39th) and an Eimear Healy free (42nd) extended the Charleville lead and when Mariah Reidy found herself at the

receiving end of a long ball into the Coachford square from Eimear Healy on the 44th minute she made no mistake flicking the ball to the Coachford net. Further points by Kerry Brosnan and Rosemarie Rea put the game beyond Coachford whose only score in the second half came from a 50th minute point by Joanne Casey. Charleville will now make the long trip north when they play either Ballycastle or Maherafelt in the All-Ireland semi-final.

Charleville - E Hanley (Capt), A McAuliffe, R Finn 0-1, C Galvin, O O'Mahony, M Walsh, E Reidy, F Dore, R Rea 0-1, S O'Flynn, D O'Callaghan, K Brosnan 1-2, A McAuliffe, M Reidy 1-0, E Healy 0-3. Subs: L O'Flynn for E Healy (55), K Curtin for D O'Callaghan (56).

Coachford CC - M Gleeson, S McCarthy, C O'Brien, A O'Keeffe, M Healy, M Vaughan, E Kingston, R O'Mahony, B Twomey, C Kiely, N Dilworth (Capt), C O'Keeffe, A Twomey, J Casey 0-3, A O'Connor. Subs: K McCarthy for An O'Connor (HT), A Barry-Murphy for C Kiely (51st).

Referee - John O'Leary (Mallow)



Coachford CC lost out in their provincial decider

# IRELAND'S No.1 Gaelic Games MAGAZINE

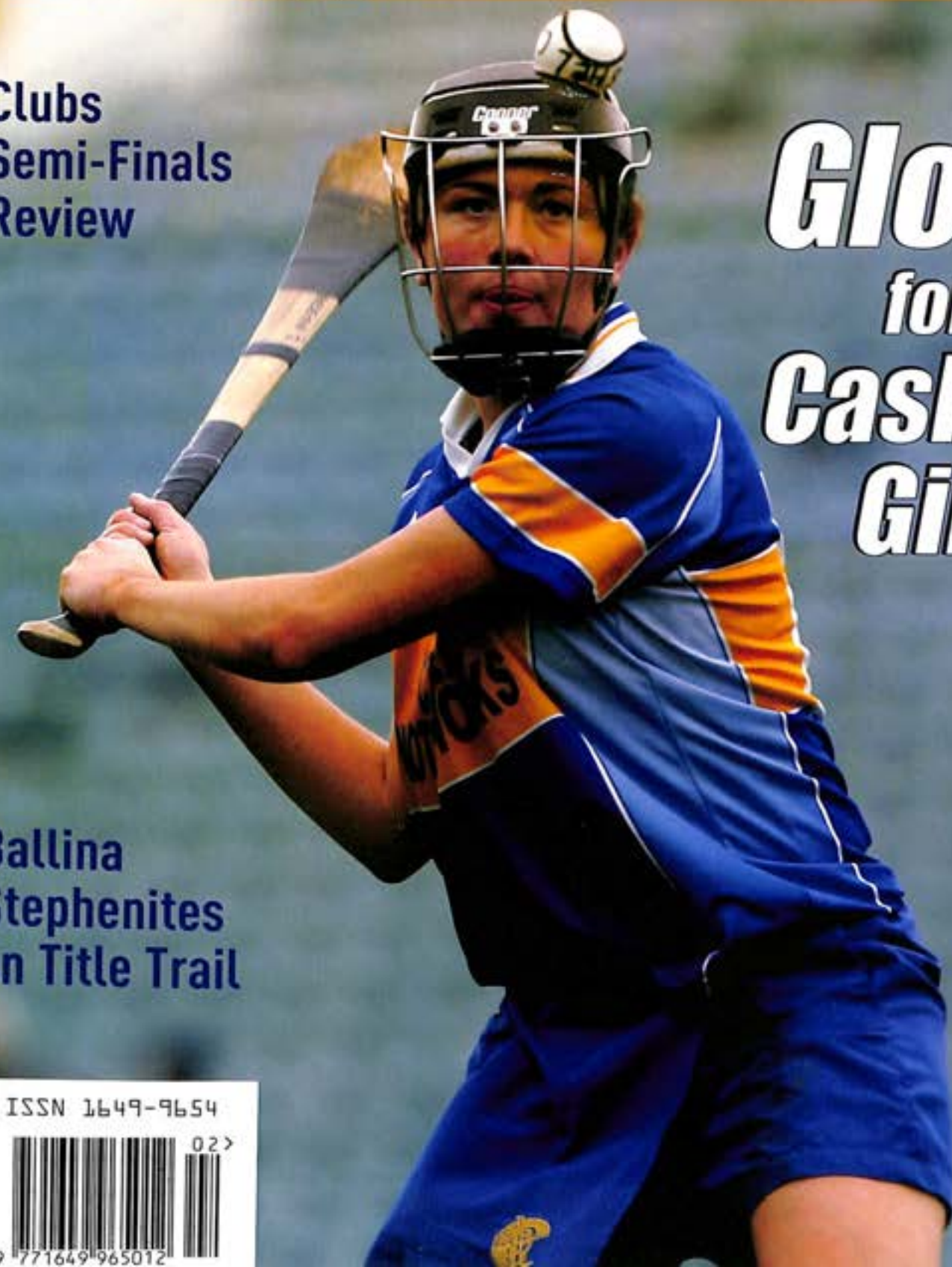
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## Clubs Semi-Finals Review

## Glory for Cashel Girls

## Ballina Stephenites on Title Trail



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# A Famous First for Cashel in All Ireland Camogie

It is always an extra special occasion for any county or club to win an All-Ireland title in any grade of Gaelic Sport for the first time ever. The success is enhanced when it is also achieved in impressive manner and with flair, writes Sean O'Brien.



**T**hat is exactly how Cashel made their entry to the All-Ireland Club senior camogie championship Roll of Honour towards the end of last year. They displayed skill, flair and class when seeing of the challenge of a fine Arthenry, Galway, outfit in the final at Limerick.

The success was not only a tribute to the high quality of the Cashel side, but also an excellent advertisement for the standard of the game in the Premier County. This was the first title win by a Tipperary club since St. Patrick's, of Drumgoole, won the crown in 1965 and again in 1966.

It is inevitably a difficult road to an All-Ireland club crown, via the county championships and national semi-final and final. Such a successful campaign not only takes all round ability but consistency.

Cashel travelled that road in a manner that left no doubt they are very worthy newcomers to the national rankings.

They lost the 2001 All-Ireland final by a point to Na Piarsaigh, Galway. In 2006 Cashel went down in an All-Ireland semi-final to then defending champions St. Lachtain's, Kilkenny, who went on to retain the All-Ireland crown.

The Tipperary side had a solid framework of survivors from the 2001 team, so they brought much





Cashel's Emily Hayden scores past goalkeeper Stephine Gannon of Athenry

valuable big game experience to their latest title bid.

Athenry went into the final buoyed up by 3-11 to 3-6 win at Ballinasloe over St. Lachtain's, who were bidding to advance their prospects of a fourth All-Ireland crown in a row.

There was much to admire in the Tipperary team's performance in the final. They were in top form right from the start and six points from play powered them to an 0-7 to 0-5 lead at the end of a keenly contested first half.

#### SECOND HALF SPARKLE

Cashel really excelled in the sec-

ond half. They scored four points in the opening four minutes and went on to finish very convincing winners by 1-18 to 0-9.

Their goal was scored by full forward Emily Hayden twenty three minutes into the second half. A fine movement involving centre half forward Mairead Morrissey and left half forward Claire Grogan put the full forward in possession, and she provided the perfect finish.

Cashel had many stars. Claire Hogan, no stranger to match-winning roles, stamped her personality on the success with her clever general play and finishing technique.

She did well first in attack and later in the midfield area and also led the scoring parade with a splendid return of seven points, three from frees.

Emily Hayden highlighted her polished all round performance with that solitary and splendid goal of the game.

Mairead Morrissey got through much valuable work in attack, while Philly Fogarty, first at midfield, and later up front, also did really well.

Una O'Dwyer was an outstanding pivot, with her dependability and well placed clearances, while former Kilkenny ace. Sinead



Philly Fogarty leads the team in the pre match parade

Millea, played a real captain's role in the half backline, with her leadership and solid play.

#### TEAM PERFORMANCE

However, while the players mentioned caught the eye, this was still a good all round team performance by Cashel. Every member of a well-drilled side contributed in rich measure to an impressive all round performance that ended with the coveted Bill Carroll Cup traveling to the Premier County..

Scorers in the final were Claire Grogan 0-7, Emily Hayden 1-2, Philly Fogarty 0-3, Allison Lonergan 0-2, Cora Hennessy 0-2, Linda Grogan 0-1, Mairead Morrissey 0-1.

In the All-Ireland semi-final Cashel had a convincing 2-13 to 1-3 win over Rossa, of Antrim, at Newry.

Claire Grogan did much to fashion the success by scoring an impressive 2-5, just one point from a free.

## TOPS IN THE CLUB SCENE

This was the team that wrote a bright new chapter in the annals of Cashel camogie by capturing the Bill Carroll Cup for the All-Ireland club senior camogie championship for the first time:

	Helen Breen	
Sara Morrissey	Noelette O'Dwyer	Julie McGrath
Paula Bulfin	Una O'Dwyer	Sinead Millea
Philly Fogarty	Jill Horan	
Linda Grogan	Mairead Morrissey	Cora Hennessy
Alison Lonergan	Emily Hayden	Claire Grogan

*Substitutes: Libby Twomey for A. Lonergan. Deirdre Ryan for M. Morrissey. Kaiffe Moloney for E. Hayden.*



# Big Double for Claire Grogan & Fogarty

The past national senior camogie season could not have ended on a brighter note for two of the outstanding personalities in the sport—Claire Grogan and Philly Fogarty.

Both were included in the latest Energise All Stars selection—Tipperary's only representatives in the elite squad—and a week later they played prominent roles in bringing the Bill Carroll Cup for the All-Ireland club senior title to Cashel for the first time.

Grogan, named as full forward in the 2007 All Stars team, chalked up scores last season with both Tipperary and her club almost as if they were going out of fashion. Although Tipperary's O'Duffy Cup hopes were ended by Cork in an All-Ireland senior semi-final, she still finished the second highest scorer in the championship with a splen-

the target for Cashel in the march to the club Blue Riband crown and is undoubtedly one of the cleverest and most lethal finishing players in the game.

The Cashel player now has three All Stars awards. She was honoured in the first such team in 2004 and won her second trophy a year later.

Claire, who represented Tipperary at minor level, was also prominent in Tipperary's golden spell between 1999, when they won their first-ever All-Ireland senior title, and 2004 when they county brought their

record to five crowns.

Grogan was left full forward in the team that retained the title in 2000 and scored two points in the final win over Cork. She also helped her county to their titles of 2001, 2003 and 2004.

## LEADING SCORER

Indeed, in 2004 she finished the leading scorers for both counties—Cork provided the opposition in

the final—with an impressive return of 0-9.

Philly Fogarty went in as a substitute in the Tipperary team that made history

on the double in the 1999 All-Ireland senior final.



*Claire Grogan takes a shot.*

That was the first 15-a-side final, and the Premier County beat Kilkenny to capture the title for the first time.

Interestingly, Cashel's 2007 All-Ireland club title winning captain, Sinead Millea, was at midfield for Kilkenny in that final, and was their top scorer with 0-7.

Fogarty won her third successive All-Ireland senior medal in 2001 when she played at midfield and added to her collection two years later.

The Camogie Association reached a milestone in 2004—the Centenary Year of an organisation that has gone from strength to strength.

So, the All-Ireland senior final that year was just a little special and brought Tipperary and Cork into opposition for the second successive year.

Philly Fogarty was again at midfield as the Premier County

retained their crown with eight points to spare.

## PLAYER OF FINAL

Star of the show was full back Una O'Dwyer, who gave a polished display of all that is best in defensive play, and not unexpectedly emerged as the Player of the Final. Later in the year she joined a short list of camogie players in the Texaco Sports Stars of the Year Roll of Honour.

O'Dwyer was one of the most commanding and consistent stars in the golden era that brought those five All-

Ireland senior titles to Tipperary between 1999 and 2004.

She filled the full back spot with class and distinction, led the Premier County to the 2003 title, and was also Player of the Match that year.

After her splendid contribution to the 2004 success it was hardly surprising that she found her place in the first All Stars selection in the Centenary Year.

She also won All-Ireland championship medals at minor (one), junior (one) and intermediate (one).

Una was at full back in Tipperary's last All-Ireland senior final outing in 2006 when they lost to Cork. Her team-mates included Philly Fogarty at centre half back and Claire Grogan at midfield.

The half forward line was an all Cashel affair—Jill Horan, Emily Hayden and Cora Hennessy, all of whom helped the club to the All-Ireland senior title.

Una O'Dwyer's colleagues in the initial O'Duffy Cup winning team of 1999 included two club-mates, Jovita Delaney and Emily Hayden, while as already stated, Philly Fogarty went in as a substitute.



*Philly Fogarty in action.*

did 2-34 (40 points).

Kate Kelly, a giant in the Wexford team that captured the All-Ireland senior title, finished three points ahead of the sharpshooting Cashel forward with 1-40.

Grogan was also impressively on



# CASHEL AND TIPPERARY'S GOLDEN ERA



*Deirdre Hughes celebrates a goal.*

OWEN McCANN spotlights Cashel's proud contribution to Tipperary's golden era in the All-Ireland senior camogie championship.

**T**ipperary ended a long wait on an early September afternoon in 1999 when they beat Kilkenny by the minimum margin—0-12 to 1-8—in the All-Ireland senior camogie final before an attendance of 15,084.

The win ended a run of seven All-Ireland final defeats for the Premier County between 1949 and 1984, all but one to Dublin. The 1999 game was doubly historic as it

was the first 15-a-side decider.

The win was all the more pleasing in that it was forged out in what ranked as one of the best-ever finals up to then.

Tipperary went into the decider as outsiders and also under the shadow of crushing defeat earlier in the year by Cork in the National League summit.

The Premier County were appearing in their first final since

1984 when they lost to Dublin, once almost unbeatable in the championship, but who that day won their first final in 18 years. Surprisingly, the Metropolitans have not captured the O'Duffy Cup, the prize for the winners of the All-Ireland final in the meantime.

Tipperary started their history-making win in fine style, but a goal four minutes from the end left them trailing by 1-5 to 0-7 at the break.

The Noresiders were two points clear after eleven minutes of the second half, but Tipperary battled back bravely, and were on level terms with thirteen minutes remaining.

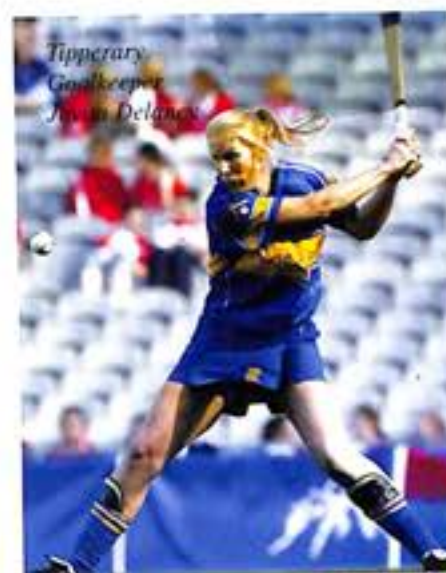
Then with time ebbing away into the picture stepped substitute Caitriona Hennessy (Drom and Inch). She sent a "45" over the bar, but Kilkenny hit back to level matters again.

Then, with time almost up, and excitement at fever pitch, Hennessy expertly sent the ball over the bar

to her collection of All-Ireland medals at minor, junior and intermediate.

**GOALKEEPING DEPENDABILITY**  
Jovita Delaney, another link with the county's All-Ireland minor, junior and intermediate title winning teams completed the Cashel representation at the back with her dependability in goal.

Emily Hayden, who also won All-Ireland medals in the lower grades, completed the club's representation in the starting line-out at midfield, where she, too, also stamped her personality on the success.



*Tipperary Goalkeeper Jovita Delaney*

Cashel had one representative in the official substitutes panel—Philly Fogarty, who was then in her first year as a senior.

So, the club can feel well pleased with their contribution to that memorable break-through for the sport in the county.



*Noelle Kennedy of Tipperary bursts through the Kilkenny defence*

from 30 yards to secure the historic win—and a new name on the Roll of Honour.

Noelle Kennedy was top scorer for Tipperary with six points.

Cashel club players were very much to the fore in the break-through. Meadhbh Stokes played a real captain's part with her leadership and solid play at right half back.

She went into that game with All-Ireland medals to her credit at junior in 1992 and intermediate in 1997.

Una O'Dwyer was another tower of strength at full back as she added

Tipperary joined the elite of camogie the following year when they made a successful defence of the O'Duffy Cup. They also gave another polished and fluent display when seeing off Cork by 2-11 to 1-9 at sun-splashed Croke Park before an attendance of 12,880.

Their team included Jovita Delaney, who captained the side, Una O'Dwyer, Emily Hayden, Philly Fogarty and Claire Grogan.

Tipperary competed a memorable treble in 2001 when Emily Hayden captained them from right half forward to a handsome win over Kilkenny. Her team-mates included

Delaney, Paula Bulfin, O'Dwyer, Fogarty and Grogan.

Many felt that the golden era had come to a close when Tipperary went down to Cork in the 2002 summit, but how the "dismal Jimmies" were made to look silly as the Premier County bounced back to win the next two championship, and bring their record to five All-Ireland crowns.

And, yet again Cashel club players contributed in rich measure to the success story.

Una O'Dwyer captained the side that regained the title at the expense of Kilkenny and was also rated by many as the player of the match.

Delaney was again in goal, while Fogarty, Hayden and Grogan were on duty in attack.

Delaney made it a remarkable five All-Ireland senior medals in goals in 2004 when Tipperary had eight points to spare over Cork.

O'Dwyer, Fogarty, Hayden, Grogan and Jill Horan were in the starting line-up, while Bulfin went in as a substitute.

So, the Cashel club is linked proudly with the golden era of Tipperary camogie in the All-Ireland series in recent times.



## Camogie Chat

by Mary Newman

### National League opens on the double for Cork

A RETURN to inter county activities this weekend as the Division 1 and 2 teams get their national league campaigns off to a start.

The structure of competitions was changed in 2006 and Cork's now fielding a second senior team in the league while they will participate in what will now be called the Intermediate championship this championship replacing the Senior B grade where Corks second team played last season.

The structure for Division 1 will see seven teams divided into two groups the first comprising of Tipperary Galway and with Cork Wexford Kilkenny and Dublin in group two the top team from each group will play in the division 1 final.

Given that there will be no semi final every game is going to be vital and with little margin for error Cork will need to be at their best in all games if hopes of retain the title are to be fulfilled.

The new backroom team of former All-Ireland winning captain Denise Cronin, Con Malone Pat Murray and coach Jim Mc Carthy will be anxious to get off to a winning start on Sunday but they face a tough test against All Ireland champions Wexford out in Cloughduv at 2pm.

Cork will not be under any illusions as to the task ahead disappointed to lose out in Croke Park in their bid for three in a row last September they will be determined to stamp their authority early in 2008 over Wexford.

With several of last season panel unavailable through injury and travel it will be a somewhat new look Cork side that takes to the field. Currently Anna Geary Jennifer O'Leary Mary O'Connor Eimear Dillon Joanne O'Callaghan and Briege Corkery are amongst the player who are not available but preparations have been going well and with a victory over Galway under their belt in a recent challenge game all is in readiness.

Players such as Amanda O'Regan, Aoife Murray, Rena Buckley, Gemma O'Connor and Rachel Moloney will spearhead Corks



New Cork camogie captain Catriona Foley who will lead the Cork Team as they open the defence of their national league title on Sunday

challenge to retain their league crown.

Former inter county senior player Stella Sinnott led Wexford to the promise land last season now she will be determined to add a nation league title to the list and players such as Kate Kelly Ursula Jacob Louise Codd and the Lacey sisters Mary and Una should once again back bone her side.

The Division 2 Cork side will also feature many new faces this season and the selectors have been busy in the closed season working hard to unearth new talent.

Amongst the players who should feature on the sides are Michelle Browne Charlotte Kearney and all experienced campaigners from last season, again the competition consists of two groups Cork paired with Waterford, Clare and Kilkenny while Tipperary Galway Wexford and Derry make up group two.

Waterford will be Cork first port of call on Saturday next in Cappoquin at 2.30pm and here the home sides will be determined to make their mark in their first senior outing in the counties history.

Boosted by a successful 2007 which saw them capture titles at junior and Intermediate level they will field a strong side which should include Tanya Morrissey, Trish Jackman Aine Breathneach Aine Lyng and Karen Kelly.

Rea and they forged ahead Sacred Heart with Juli White Christine Murphy and Katrina Mackey in superb form comprehensively defeated St Patrick's Dungan non to book their final spot. No joy for Coachford who lost out to St Caimen's Sharon in the Munster Junior final.

ST MARYS Charleville and Sacred Heart Turners Cross and booked their places in the All Ireland Colleges senior A and B final with victories last weekend. A superb second half display saw Charleville turn an eight point half time deficit into a five point winning margin as spearheaded by Eimear Healy Rosemary

# Tough opener for the Rebels



LINDA MELLERICK

**SUNDAY  
Gala National Camogie  
League Division 1: Cork v  
Wexford, 2pm, Cloughduv**

CORK couldn't have asked for a tougher start to 2008 when they take on Wexford this Sunday in the opening round of the National Senior Camogie League.

It's straight into the fire but it'll give the new management team a clear indication of where they're at and where they need to be.

However, it's very early days yet so no one is going to be getting unduly carried away.

Trying to get your squad together is difficult at this time of the year. Many of the players are in various colleges or work placements around the country and making midweek trips home isn't an option at present.

While going out to win all games, Cork will at the same time experiment throughout the league, possibly more so than in recent years. This present squad have been on the road a long time and a fresh injection is needed.

Wexford on the other hand won't have that problem for a while. Young and vibrant, they brought a welcome enthusiasm to last year's league and championship campaign and had a fairytale year.

It began with Cork's thrilling national league final triumph over Wexford on May 6.

Trailing by five points at half-time, Cork turned around a six-point deficit 10 minutes into the second half to clinch the winner two minutes into injury time in a game that had the large crowd on the edge of its seat.

Despite losing, this game signalled Wexford's arrival as grown-ups on the national stage.

Wexford were hurt when they travelled to Cork just six days later for the first round of the champion-



Lynda O'Connell is in the Cork team to face Wexford at Cloughduv on Sunday.

ship. They felt they had left their first major trophy behind them and with an impeccable performance blew the home side away as Cork suffered their heaviest defeat in years, 4-12 to 0-14.

Cork, in their defence, had played three extremely tough competitive games in the two weeks leading into the game and weary limbs were evident.

When Wexford reached the All-Ireland final Cork were cautious but possibly deep down believed they would gain revenge for that first round defeat and take their third All Ireland title in a row.

But winning breeds confidence! Wexford's performance in the league final and first-round victory had instilled a belief not typically associated with 'new kids on the block'.

They took the game to Cork from the throw-in and the rest as they say is history. Wexford had stopped Cork from doing the three-in-a-row, elusive to the rebel county since 1972.

Wexford manager Stella Sinnott is delighted to be getting back to playing again.

"While we have taken a similar approach to training as last year, we are aware of the many trips the girls have been making with the Cup throughout the county and therefore we are not making the girls from Dublin and other areas travel for all the League training."

Stella is fortunate to have had a lot of players in action over the last few weeks in the Ashbourne Cup and reports a clean bill of health. Last Sunday on the UCD winning team the two Leacy sisters, Mary

and Una, as well as Mags D'Arcy were in action while Ursula Jacob played with WIT in the final.

There seems to be an air of confidence in Wexford and despite missing Aine Codd this week they expect to be able to call on the rest of the last year's panel. Michelle Aherne is the only other player unavailable.

Linda Dorgan, Elaine O'Riordan, Lynda O'Connell, Emer Farrell and Deirdre Twomey are all named Cork's starting 15 for Sunday.

It'll be a tough baptism of fire for some but these players are all experienced Cork players at various grades and won't be found wanting.

**CORK:** A. Murray, L. O'Connell, C. Foley (capt), E. O'Riordan, J. Duffy, G. O'Connor, S. Hayes, Dorgan, O. Cotten, U. O'Donoghue, A. O'Regan, E. Farrell, D. Twomey, R. Moloney, S. Burn.

### Cork schools into colleges finals

ST MARYS Charleville and Sacred Heart Turners Cross and booked their places in the All Ireland Colleges senior A and B final with victories last weekend. A superb second half display saw Charleville turn an eight point half time deficit into a five point winning margin as spearheaded by Eimear Healy Rosemary

Rea and they forged ahead Sacred Heart with Juli White Christine Murphy and Katrina Mackey in superb form comprehensively defeated St Patrick's Dungan non to book their final spot. No joy for Coachford who lost out to St Caimen's Sharon in the Munster Junior final.

## Tipp should get the better of Galway

OTHER senior counties in action this weekend are Galway and Tipperary, who meet in Kenny Park, Atherry, on Sunday.

These two teams would hope to reach the closing stages of this year's league as they continue

to build but one feels that Tipperary will shade it. Tipp lost out to Cork in a replay last year at the semi-final stage after a thrilling drawn encounter.

Going ahead on Saturday in Nowlan Park is the clash of Dublin and

By LINDA MELLERICK  
Roundup

Kilkenny. Dublin Manager David Kennedy will be hoping that his success as manager of UCD will rub off on the Dubs as they take on the Cats, man-

aged again this year by twelve-time All-Ireland winner Ann Downey. With Kilkenny having won back to back minor All-Ireland titles and three All-Ireland U16 titles in a row, one begins to think that the kittens are slowly maturing

into what may be a fine, dangerous side pretty soon.

With just seven senior counties involved Limerick receive a bye on this occasion. A further nine games take place in Divisions two, three and four.

**2008 President's Award winners:**  
Tom Moynihan (Limerick); Vincent Linnane (Kerry); Michael Kelly (Galway); John Harte (Leitrim); John Ryan (Longford); Fr. Moline Lennon (Carlow and Kildare); Peter Sherry (Monaghan); Brian McEniff (Donegal); Peadar O'Tuathail (Derry); Mick Fitzgerald (Kerry); Brendan Falvey (Kerry); Una Kearney (Armagh); Martin Mullin (Derry); Jimmy Connor (Mayo); Seamus Dooley (New York and Monaghan); Michael Noel Byrne (Offaly); Declan O'Neill (Tyronne).



2007 Senior B  
captain Lynda  
O'Connell returns  
to Division 1.



# Rebels looking good as they get ready for Wexford

## Jim has troops fired-up

THE Cork players looked lively as they went through their paces under the watchful eye of Jim McCarthy in the Supernova complex in Ballincollig last Tuesday evening.

Minus a number of the familiar faces, the extended panel displayed a healthy spring in their step for such an early stage in the season.

When the side face Wexford tomorrow it will show a number of changes, some enforced, others experimental.

Gone for the 2008 season is Jennifer O'Leary who heads to Australia in May. Anna Geary is currently studying in Luxembourg and Breige Corkery is in San Francisco.

Mary O'Connor is still recovering from the serious leg injury she sustained late last year while Angela Walsh, captain of the Cork ladies' footballers this season, has decided to concentrate on playing just one code for 2008.

It's a big chunk to lose from any team but it affords the new management an opportunity to give many new players a chance.

Into the panel comes Milford's Aishling Thompson alongside her clubmate Elaine O'Riordan, who makes a welcome return after a year's absence.

St Catherine's Denise Twomey, one of Cork's most exciting forwards during the early stages of last year's national league, had a troublesome 2007. Plagued with injury she sat out almost the entire season and one hopes she gets the opportunity this year to show what she can do on the big stage.

Her sister Deirdre joins her on the panel.

2007 senior B captain Lynda O'Connell



LINDA  
MELLERICK

returns to Division One and she is joined by Ann Marie Fleming (Barryroe) and Emer O'Sullivan of Ballinhassig.

Nine-times county championship medal winner Denise Cronin, who holds four All-Ireland club championship medals and six senior All-Ireland titles with Cork, is looking forward to her year as selector and the challenges ahead.

It was 2007 captain Gemma O'Connor who approached the former camogie star and asked if she'd consider getting involved.

Denise knew the role was a big commitment. She had turned her back on camogie over four years ago when her mother Nora took ill.

Sadly Nora passed away three years ago and only now, after a long discussion with her partner Conor, does Denise feel she is ready to return to the sport she had given most of her life to.

"I know this is going to be a big task," she admits. "It was nice to be asked, I feel I have something to give. I've been attending the All-Ireland finals and other championship games over the past number of years and I feel ready to get involved again and give something back to the sport."

The entire backroom team has changed, which is in itself a challenge. Only four weeks in, the management team have more than found their way.

County board chairperson Marian McCarthy, liaison officer between the board

and the team, has been a huge help.

"Marian has been extremely helpful in setting us on the road," she says.

"She takes a lot of the workload and pressure from us, organising pitches, etc. We're all working very well together. It was a great boost securing Jim McCarthy and no one knows camogie and the players in Cork better than Con Malone and Pat Murray!"

So what are Denise's hopes and ambitions for 2008, apart from winning back Cork's All-Ireland crown?

"There is room for improvement in every player."

"No matter how good a player is there is always something to improve on."

"We want to help those players improve; I'm looking forward to working with them."

"While trying out new players we will send out a strong team every time. Our ambition is to win every game. Come championship time we need to be prepared."

The championship begins that bit earlier this year and Cork have a gruelling, if not unfair, schedule.

Commencing on June 1 with an away game to Dublin, the side have a three-week break before travelling to Wexford. Sundays 6, 13, 20 and 27 of July see Cork in action four weeks on the trot against Tipperary, Galway, Limerick and Kilkenny respectively.

It's a ludicrous scenario and once again fails to take account of the effect this is having on club fixtures.

Any break at all and club games will have to be squeezed in, which isn't fair on Cork, the clubs or the players.

Tomorrow's opening league fixture is in Cloughduv at 2pm between Cork and Wexford.

## Underage camogie grading

THE first meeting of the year of the juvenile county board was held recently. A comprehensive list of league fixtures from U12 to U16 age groups will be circulated to the clubs in the coming weeks and teams have been graded as follows.

**UNDER 16 A** One group of six last seasons Under 16 B county championship and league winners Carrigaline promoted to A grade where they will join holders Douglas 1, Milford, Mallow, Ballinhassig, Inniscarra.

**UNDER 16 B** Under 16 B there are sixteen teams and they are divided into two groups of eight teams as follows: Cloughduv, Brian Dillon's Fr. O'Neill's St. Finbarr's Valley Rovers 1, Glen Rovers, Newtownshandrum, Blackrock, Courcey Rovers Killeagh Rockban Passage 1 and Ballincollig.

**UNDER 16 C** Nineteen teams in the Under 16 C grade and this will be divided into two groups of six and one group of seven participating clubs as follows: Douglas 2, Newtown Bishopstown Kilbrittain Sliabh Rua Blarney Sarsfields St. Catherine's, Buttevant, Eire OG, Bride Rovers Enniskeane, Ballinora Tracton Youghal Watergrasshill.

**UNDER 16 D** Eleven teams two groups of five participating teams are Banteer, Passage 2, Valley Rovers 2, St. Mary's, Castleyons, Kildorrey, Barryroe, Aghbullogue St. Vincent's Bantry, Glen Rovers 2.

**UNDER 14 A** Eight teams will participate in the "A" grade Douglas Milford Ballinhassig St. Vincent's Valley Rovers Glen Rovers Eire OG and Inniscarra make up the teams in what will be a tough "A" grade.

**UNDER 14 B** Thirteen teams participating here one group of seven and one group of six teams as follows Killeagh, Cloughduv, Ballincollig 1, Brian Dillon's, Carrigaline, St. Finbarr's, Sliabh Rua, Buttevant, Ballygarvan, Bride Rovers, Blackrock, Courcey Rovers, Newtownshandrum.

**UNDER 14 C** The largest of the under 14 leagues the C grade has twenty three teams participating and this is divided up into three groups two groups of eight and one group of seven, participating clubs are Sarsfields, Mallow, Ballincollig 2, Passage, Aghbullogue, Douglas 2, Fr. O'Neill's, Tracton, Kilbrittain, Bishopstown, Blarney, St. Catherine's Watergrasshill, Newtown, Enniskeane, Youghal, Ballinora, Clonakilly, Na Piarasigh Charleville, Ballinascorthy, Grenagh, Millstreet.

**UNDER 14 D** Eleven teams in two groups one of six and one of five, recently formed new clubs participating here are Carrigrohilly Bantry and Banteer who have entered for the first time.

Banteer, Douglas 3, St. Vincent's 2, Dungourney, Ballyhea, Castleyons, Bandon, Bantry Kilbree, Barryroe, Carrigrohilly.

**UNDER 12 A** Five teams participating in what will be a double round system of home and away games Douglas 1, Ballinhassig, Valley Rovers, Inniscarra and Blackrock.

**UNDER 12 B** Eighteen teams divides into three groups of six teams Cloughduv, Milford, Ballincollig, Brian Dillon's, Carrigaline, Fr. O'Neill's, St. Finbarr's Mallow, Blarney, Glen Rovers, Ballygarvan, St. Vincent's, Na Piarasigh, Newtownshandrum, Courcey Rovers, Killeagh, Rockban, Eire OG.

**UNDER 12 C** Seventeen teams one group of eight and one group on nine Millstreet, Dungourney, Kilbrittain, Bishopstown, Sarsfields 1 Buttevant Bride Rovers, Enniskeane, Ballinora Tracton Clonakilly Watergrasshill Charleville Ballinascorthy Newtown, Sliabh Rua.

**UNDER 12 D** Twenty teams two groups of seven one group of six Cobh, Banteer, Passage, Carrigrohilly, Aghbullogue, Douglas 2, Valley Rovers 2, Ballyhea Sarsfields 2, St. Vincent's 2, Bandon, Bantry, Kilbree, Castleyons, Youghal, Brian Dillon's 2, Barryroe, Ballinhassig 2, St. Vincent's Fr O'Neill's 2.



# Rebels lose in the first league game



Orla Cotter gave a battling performance for Cork against Wexford.



LINDA MELLERICK

Wexford 1-14  
Cork 2-8

DESPITE losing this first round national league tie with Wexford yesterday afternoon, Cork can be heartened by the fact that only three points separated the sides at the finish.

Lining out with just six of last year's All-Ireland 15, Cork refused to throw in the towel and with any luck could have snatched a draw in the end.

Cork made a switch before the ball was thrown in. Sarah Hayes and Jenny Duffy switched wings as the latter picked up danger woman Kate Kelly, lining out at right-half-forward.

Cork may have opened the scoring through a Sile Burns point after 20 seconds but for the next 15 minutes it was all Wexford.

In fact, it was all Kate Kelly. Effortless points in the second, third and fourth minutes rushed Wexford into a three-point lead after Rose Marie Breen had initially drawn the visitors level.

Kelly was majestic: four shots in four minutes resulted in three points (the other slightly to the right) and it obvious a change was needed. The bench were slow to make the move. It was only when Kelly hit her fourth and Wexford's fifth point that Gemma O'Connor was switched to left-half-back with Duffy moving to the centre. The effect was immediate.

O'Connor won the next three balls and launched Cork on the attack. She threw Kelly off her stride as the Wexford star hit the next couple of placed balls wide.

Wexford weren't to score for the next 13 minutes as Cork pulled back two. Rachel Moloney converted a free on 16, and three minutes later Orla Cotter picked up the breaking ball, after O'Connor again won the aerial battle with Kelly, to point from 50 yards.



Rachel Moloney put in a very accurate performance for Cork yesterday converting four frees against Wexford.

Wexford looked sharper. Their inter-play and ability to find a supporting teammate was superior to Cork's; evidence of Cork's young experimental selection. Michelle O'Leary was doing good work around the middle. Lenny Holohan stretched Wexford's lead to three, a Cotter free bringing the margin back to two as half-time approached.

With Cork on the attack, full-back Noleen Lambert confidently cleared to the running Kelly, who finally shook off her marker after O'Connor slipped. She duly converted leaving the gap three points at the break, 0-7 to 0-4.

The Slaneysiders stretched their lead to four inside two minutes of the re-start. Cork attacked and while Wexford had time to clear, they fumbled. The ball fell to Burns, who calmly brushed aside two defenders to palm to the net and sud-

denly Cork were right back in the game. A Moloney free levelled it minutes later.

Ursula Jacob and a Kelly free edged the visitors in front again when suddenly Cork, who never looked like scoring a goal in the first half, hit the net again.

A good cross from Amanda O'Regan broke to Burns, who pulled first time into the far corner to claim her and Cork's second goal as the Rebels took the lead for the first time. Moloney converted another free and Cork led by two with 14 minutes of the second half gone.

Wexford upped the ante. Points from Holohan and Jacob levelled the game again before the home crowd were silenced by a Jacob goal. The puck out from Jacob's point fell to the same player, who gathered, ran and struck past Aoife Murray in the Cork goal.

Inside three minutes Wexford had

turned a two-point deficit into a three-point lead. Both sides swapped points on two occasions in the remaining 12 minutes. With time running out Cotter lobbed a free high into the Wexford goalmouth in search of an equaliser. Harshly referee Eamonn Browne blew for a foul on the Wexford keeper and the game was over.

**Scorers for Wexford:** K. Kelly 0-9 (0-1 45, 0-20), U. Jacob 1-2, L. Holohan 0-2, R. M. Breen 0-1.

**Cork:** S. Burns 2-1, R. Moloney 0-4, O. Cotter 0-3 (0-10).

**WEXFORD:** M. D'Arcy, N. Lambert, C. O'Loughlin, A. Nolan, C. O'Connor, M. Leacy (capt), A. O'Connor, B. Furlong, M. O'Leary, K. Kelly, R. M. Breen, B. Curran, U. Leacy, U. Jacob, L. Holohan.

**Subs:** D. Codd for A. Nolan (41), K. Parrock for B. Curran (39), L. Codd for R. M. Breen (50).

**CORK:** A. Murray, L. O'Connell, C. Foley (capt), E. O'Riordan, J. Duffy, G. O'Connor, S. Hayes, L. Dorgan, O. Cotter, U. O'Donoghue, A. O'Regan, E. O'Farrell, S. Burns, R. Moloney, D. Twomey.

**Subs:** M. Corkery for E. O'Farrell (41), L. Hawkes for S. Hayes (51), A. Thompson for D. Twomey (56).

**Referee** Eamonn Browne

## ROUND-UP

## Galway far too strong as Tipp disappoint

ELSEWHERE in the national league, Galway had a surprising comprehensive 2-11 to 0-5 victory over Tipperary in Kenny Park yesterday.

Veronica Curtin and Orla Kilkenny took the game to the visitors from the throw-in and, scoring 1-3 a piece, tore the Tipp defence apart.

Tipperary, under new management, never got to grips with the pace of the game.

Scoring just three points from play, it was a poor return from last year's beaten semi-finalists.

Kilkenny didn't have it all their own way as a spirited Dublin side put the Cats to the test in Nowlan Park.

A strong second-half display by Kilkenny ensured they set the 2008 national league underway in a positive note with a late Sinead Millea goal the decisive score, Kilkenny 1-10, Dublin 1-7.

Kilkenny play host to Wexford next Sunday, again in Nowlan Park. Cork travel to Dublin to play the hosts on March 23 while Limerick host Galway the same day.

## RESULTS

Camogie results

**National League, Div 1:** Wexford 1-14 Cork 2-8; Galway 2-11 Tipperary 0-5; Kilkenny 1-10 Dublin 1-7; **Div 2:** Galway P. Tipperary P. Wexford P. Cork P. Derry 1-11 Wexford 0-5; **Div 3:** Down 1-10 Clare 1-19 Kilkenny 1-3; **Div 4:** Down 1-10 Westmeath 1-8; Carlow 3-18 Louth 0-2; Meath 4-8 Kildare 0-3; Offaly 7-8 Derry 2-1.

CORK selector Pat Murray was happy enough with his side's performance.

Playing the All-Ireland champions, who lined out with 11 of last year's starting 15 and finished with 12 was always going to be a mammoth task for an inexperienced Cork outfit.

"It was a reasonably good

performance. We'd only six of the team which started in last year's All-Ireland and we'd a lot of newcomers to the team.

"Wexford had a lot more of their All-Ireland team so we're reasonably happy.

"Obviously there's room for improvement and hopefully as the year goes on, the

## What they said

team will get better and more confident."

Pat admits that Wexford looked sharper on the day.

"Their combination play was a lot better than ours.

"You could see that a lot of ours weren't used to play-

ing together.

"Hopefully, that'll improve as well."

A positive on the day was Cork's fighting spirit.

All players seem eager to impress and claim a permanent spot on the side.

"Yes, that was the case, says Pat.

"And we've a few more

players to come back from injury like Rosalie Holland and Mary O'Connor.

"They were here today watching and obviously when some of these players come back, that'll improve things a bit further as well.

"It was a good workout, hopefully we'll learn from this."



# Sineád the star turn as the Cats tame the Dubs

MICHAEL O'LEARY

A SCORING contribution of 1-6 from Kilkenny's Sineád Millea was the primary reason why the county's senior camogie ladies got their National League campaign off to a winning start at Nowlan Park on Saturday.

This year's Kilkenny side is under the stewardship of the county's legendary player Anne Downey and no doubt Anne will be mighty pleased to see her team come from half time arrears of six points against the Dubs to record a three point win.

After trailing 1-5 to 0-2 at half-time breeze, Kilkenny upped the pace significantly with substitutes Marie O'Connor, Marie Dargan and Anne Dalton providing an injection of flair and creativity to the home attack.

Millea was at her most inspirational during the closing ten minutes when it mattered most.

A wonderful deceptive point from an acute angle reduced the margin to just two points, before she drove a 45 direct to the net.

For good measure Sineád added two further points to confirm Kilkenny's victory.

There was late drama when Kilkenny sub-goalkeeper Siobhán Murphy denied Dublin full-forward Louise O'Hara a certain goal in the 3rd minute of injury-time, pulling off a fantastic stop.

A low-scoring first-half saw both sides only register a point during the opening 20 minutes from Dublin's Clara Lucey 45 and Katie Power for the home side.

The Dublin girls, making good use of the wind, upped their play a gear or two as they added four unanswered points from Clara Lucey (2), Aisling Jordan and the industrious Clara Burgess.

## National Camogie League

Clogh Sunday, March 2

KILKENNY 1-10 DUBLIN 1-7

Kilkenny suffered a setback when goalkeeper Catriona Ryan had to be substituted in the as a result of an accidental collision, but her Tullagher colleague Siobhán Murphy proved an able deputy.

She was unfortunate to concede a 30th minute goal, as a long delivery from the right-wing by Clara Burgess, saw Murphy bravely come off her line to claim possession, but the sliotar took a touch off the stick off Louise O'Hara to put Dublin in a very strong position, leading 1-5 to 0-1.

Kilkenny finished the half

positively with a point from Lizzie Lyng.

Pittown prodigy Katie Power was always a livewire threat bearing down on goal, and despite being watched closely by the Dublin fullback line, she struck over a great point early in the second-half to begin the Kilkenny revival.

Two further points from Sineád Millea (a free and a 45), whittled the margin down to a puck off the sliotar, before Aisling Jordan struck over her second point in the 40th minute. Dublin now led 1-6 to 0-5.

However, Kilkenny were unquestionably the dominant team and points from a Millea free and a Katie Power point following a long clearance by Elaine Alyward left just two points between the sides. Dublin's final score was a point from a Clara Lucey 45 in the 45th minute, as Kilkenny added 1-3 without reply in the

final quarter.

Millea's great point from the right-wing was an inspirational effort before the crucial moment came in the 57th minute.

Her 45 attempt appeared to have dropped short, but the sliotar took an unfortunate bounce off the stick of Dublin goalkeeper Eimear Butler and Kilkenny led outright for the first time.

A further two points from the twice All-Ireland medal winner ensured victory, before Siobhán Murphy produced her late heroics to deny Dublin a share of spoils.

Along with the match-winning Millea, Kilkenny were best served by the speed and skill of Katie Power, Catriona Ryan (before substituted), substitute goalkeeper Siobhán Murphy and the half-back line of Jacqui Frisby, Kelly-Anne-Cotterrell, and Elaine Alyward.

## PLAYER OF THE MATCH:

Sineád Millea (Kilkenny).

The experience of the talented Sineád could prove vital to Kilkenny's hopes of All-Ireland glory later in the year and her tally of 1-6 was the ultimate difference in gaining Kilkenny two valuable points.

**KILKENNY:** Catriona Ryan, Áine Fahy, Catherine Doherty, Eimear Lyng, Jacqui Frisby, Kelly-Anne Cotterrell, Elaine Alyward (capt.), Lizzie Lyng (0-1), Aoife Neary, Claire Ryan, Lucinda Gahan, Kate McDonald, Michelle Quilty, Sineád Millea (1-6, 0-2 frees, 0-1 '45), Katie Power (0-3).

**Subs:** Siobhán Murphy (sub goalkeeper), Marie O'Connor, Anne Dalton, Marie Dargan.

**REFEREE:** Declan Magee (Down).

## Wexford come out on top

ALL-Ireland champions Wexford took the two points on offer in this opening round of the senior Division 1 Camogie national league on Sunday last but in an entertaining hour's camogie both sides will have been reasonably pleased with their first competitive outing of the year.

It was a new look Cork side that took the field minus several regulars and fielding just seven of the sides that contested the All Ireland final against the same opposition it was always going to be a big ask against a Wexford side fielding twelve of their victorious championship winning side in the finish despite coming out on the wrong side of the score line the new Cork backroom teams will have been reasonably pleased at the manner in which their charges performed.

Sile Burns had Cork on the score board from the throw in with an early point to which Rosemary Breen replied but with Kate Kelly proving a hand full for Jenny Duffy knocking over four points without reply between the fifth and twelfth minute Cork trailed 0-5 to 0-1.

The cork backroom team switched Jemma O'Connor to left half back and she quickly put the shackles on Kelly while the move also benefited Duffy who settled and performed well in the central position. Rachel Moloney and Orla Cotter had narrowed the gap before Lennie Houlihan struck an excellent long range effort to keep Wexford ahead.

Cotter had the gap down to two points before Kelly converted a free as Wexford led 0-7 to 0-4 at the break.

The gale force wind fa-

voured Cork for the second half but on the turn over it was Wexford who were quick off the mark as the converted an early forty five courtesy of Kate Kelly but Cork had a timely boost when Sile Burns hand passed to the net after good work by full forward Amanda O'Regan.

Inside the sixth minute Burns had Cork on level pointing a free but still Wexford hung in there. Ursula Jacob and Kelly with a free had the lead again at two point before Burns struck for her second goal again Amanda O'Regan the provided with a sweet cross to the edge of the square which Burns expertly tucked away.

Rachel Moloney pointed a Cork free and now two points in front Cork battled to try and pull away. Wexford always that bit sharper pressed for a score Lennie Houlihan pointed before Ursula Jacob had the sides level for the second time, from the puck out Jacobs gathered a low ball and fired it past Aoife Murray who it must be said had a superb hour in the Cork goal.

Now back in the driving seat Wexford pressed for home Kelly converted a free and had one from play in between Rachel Moloney pointed a placed ball as Cork striving desperately for an equaliser had three frees wide before Orla Cotter had one from play they almost snatched a late goal but Wexford just hung on to take the points on offer.

While defeated Cork will take many positives from the afternoon and with outings against Dublin and Kilkenny to come they will be hoping to strengthen their panel as the season progresses.

## Wexford get off to winning start

National Camogie League Roundup

By Cólín Duffy

All-Ireland Senior Camogie champions Wexford got off to a winning start in Division 1 of the National League on Sunday thanks to superb displays from Kate Kelly and Ursula Jacob ensuring a 1-14 to 2-8 win over Cork at Cloughduv. Before the match the Cork players held a guard of honour for the Wexford side, but the formalities were left off the pitch, as in a keenly contested encounter, the visitors had just about done enough to hold on for a win.

Wexford led by 0-7 to 0-4 at half-time, during a thrilling encounter with no quarter asked or given with an excellent display by both sides, but Sile Burns' charges held enough in reserve to hold on for a hard earned three points win.

Wexford looked confident throughout this contest taking just three scores from placed balls, with Cork hitting five points from frees. It was an Ursula Jacob goal which was the decisive score in the 18th minute of the second half.

Cork already had rifled the ball to the back of the net twice with Sile Burns on target in the 32nd and 42nd minutes.

However Wexford's early groundwork stood to them until the end as they took the first league points of the season.

At Kenny Park, Galway produced a solid performance, as Liam O'Donoghue's charges finished convincing 2-11 to 0-5 winners over a disappointing Tipperary side.

Although the hosts were convincing in this game, they could only manage a 0-4 to 0-3 interval lead with Orla Kilkenny on target with three of their points, while Lourda Kavanagh was also on target.

Claire Grogan, Jill Horan and Mairead Morrissey kept the visitors in touch, and although Emily Hayden equalised within a minute of the restart, nothing could keep Galway at bay.

An excellent defensive performance from 19 year old Niamh Kilkenny, was just one of the highlights as her sister Orla, and Veronica Curtin rifled home second half goals to pave the way to victory.

Tipperary's second point of the half, came in the second minute of injury time from Claire Grogan but this was mere consolation as Galway took a convincing 12 points win.

On Saturday Kilkenny set their campaign off to a winning start with a 1-10 to 1-7 victory over Dublin at Nowlan Park. It was late Sineád Millea goal, which proved to be the decisive score. The Cats played second fiddle for most of the opening half and Dublin held a 1-5 to 0-3 interval advantage thanks to a Joleene Horary goal. The loss of Kilkenny goalkeeper Catriona Ryan, unsettled her side in the opening quarter, and the home side failed to get going until the second half.

The early stages after the interval were keenly contested and it wasn't until Millea sent a 59th minute free to the net, that Kilkenny paved the way for victory.

Wexford scorers: K Kelly 0-9; U Jacob 1-2; L Holohan 0-2; R Breen 0-1. Cork scorers: S Burns 2-1; R Moloney 0-4; O Cotter 0-3.

Galway scorers: V Curtin, O Kilkenny 1-3 each; J Gill 0-3; L Kavanagh, S Kane 0-1 each. Tipperary scorers: C Grogan 0-2; J Horan, H Morrissey, E Hayden 0-1 each.

Kilkenny scorers: S Millea 1-6; K Power 0-3; L Lyng 0-1. Dublin scorers: C Lucey 0-4; J Horary 1-0; C Burgess, A Maguire, L O'Hara 0-1 each.

Division 2 Wexford 0-05 Derry 1-11 Kilkenny 1-13 Clare 1-19 Waterford v Cork Postponed

Division 3 Antrim v Dublin Cancelled Offaly 7-08 Derry 2-01 Westmeath 1-06 Down 1-10

Division 4 Carlow 3-17 Louth 0-02 Kildare 0-03 Meath 4-08

## Jacob goal ace for Wexford

by Cólín Duffy

ALL-IRELAND Senior camogie champions Wexford got off to a winning start in Division 1 of the National League with superb displays from Kate Kelly and Ursula Jacob ensuring a 1-14 to 2-8 win over Cork at Cloughduv.

Wexford looked confident, relying on just three scores from placed balls, with Cork hitting five points from frees. Eventually Ursula Jacob's goal proved decisive in the 18th minute of the second half. Cork already had rifled the ball to net twice with Sile Burns on target in the 32nd and 42nd minutes, but it wasn't enough.

At Kenny Park, Galway produced a solid performance, as Liam O'Donoghue's charges finished convincing 2-11 to 0-5 winners over Tipperary.

The hosts could only manage a 0-4 to 0-3 interval lead with Orla Kilkenny on target with three of their points, while Lourda Kavanagh was also on the mark.

Claire Grogan, Jill Horan and Mairead Morrissey kept the visitors in touch, and although Emily Hayden equalised within a minute of the restart, nothing could keep Galway at bay.

## Camogie

An excellent defensive performance from 19 year old Niamh Kilkenny, was just one of the highlights as her sister Orla, and Veronica Curtin rifled home second half goals.

On Saturday Kilkenny made a winning start with a 1-10 to 1-7 victory over Dublin at Nowlan Park, a late Sineád Millea goal proving decisive. Dublin held a 1-5 to 0-3 interval lead thanks to a Joleene Horary goal and it wasn't until Millea's 59th minute free went to the net that Kilkenny were sure of the win.



Claire Mulcahy, HR Business Partners

"I train for hockey twice a week with University of Limerick and I train for camogie twice a week as well for Limerick Senior Camogie Team. I play a camogie match and a hockey match most weekends. I try and eat healthily too."

## Junior Munster final

CORK and Clare meet on Sunday in Delaney's at 2.30 in the junior provincial final as both counties are graded senior for championship and are ineligible to participate at national junior level this competitions gives players

a chance to wear the county colours but as Cork and Clare were the only counties to enter they go straight to the final. At half time the youngsters from the primary schools will play a nine a side exhibition game.



MARCH 2008

# All Ireland champs Wexford get one over on Rebels first day out

NATIONAL CAMOGIE LEAGUE DIVISION 1

CORK.....2-8  
WEXFORD.....1-14

by Peter Ledwith at Cloughduv

CORK'S opening round of the National League ended on a losing note - going down to All Ireland champions Wexford at Cloughduv. However, it was an encouraging display from the Cork ladies, who lined out with just six of last years regulars.

Sile Burns gave the home side an early boost, with a point straight from the throw in. But, the Slaneysiders were soon on terms through Rose Marie Breen - before Kate Kelly put them ahead with four sublime points. Rachel Moloney narrowed the gap from a free, Cork switched last season's skipper Gemma O'Connor to mark the Wexford danger woman - the move paid dividend's as O'Connor set up Orla Cotter to point from long range. The half ended with Lenny Holohan and Kelly registering minors for Wexford, while Cotter's free

made the half time score 0-7 to 0-4 in the visitor's favour.

The Slaneysiders went four points up on the resumption - before the a Sile Burns goal and a Moloney free restored parity. It was nip and tuck - Ursula Jacob and Kelly restored Wexford's lead. But it was short lived as Rockbáin hot-shot Burns claimed her second goal to give the 'ladies in red' the lead for the first time. Moloney pointed a free to put the two between the teams mid way through the second half.

But Wexford responded like All Ireland champions do - points from Holohan and Jacob's brought the sides level - before the latter found the net to open up a three point gap. The remaining minutes seen the teams exchange points on two occasions. In a last throw of the dice, Orla Cotter delivered a teasing ball

into the square - but the referee blew for a foul on the 'keeper'. The game was over, with Wexford winners on 1-14 to 2-8 scoreline.

Despite the defeat, Cork captain Cathriona Foley was in upbeat mood when she spoke after the match. "While we are disappointed to have lost, we were happy with the overall performance of the team, particularly that of the newcomers," she said. "The girls are confident that we will improve over the coming months, and by the time the championship arrives, we will be a force to be reckoned with."

Next up for Cork an away tie with Dublin on Easter weekend.

**WEXFORD:** M O'Arcy, N Lambert, C O'Loughlin, A Nolan, C O'Connor, M Leacy (capt), A O'Connor, B Furlong, M O'Leary, K Kelly, RM Breen, B Curran, U Lacey, U Jacob, L Holohan Subs: D Codd for A Nolan, K Parrock for B Curran, L Codd for RM Breen

**CORK:** A Murray, L O'Connell, C Foley (capt), E O'Riordan, J Duffy, G O'Connor, S Hayes, L Dorgan, O Cotter, U O'Donoghue, A O'Regan, E O'Farrell, S Burns, R Moloney, D Twomey Subs: M Cokery for E O'Farrell, L Hawkes for S Hayes, A Thompson for D Twomey

**REFEREE:** Eamonn Browne



PICTURE: MIFF BROWNE / SPORTS ILLUSTRATED

Cork's Sile Burns in action against Wexford during last year's Camogie league final

## Derry test facing St. Mary's

By Shane Brophy

The Junior girls of St. Mary's Secondary School, Nenagh face a stiff test in the form of Ulster champions St. Pius of Magherafelt in Saturday's All Ireland semi-final.

The Nenagh girls are fortunate to have home advantage for the clash with MacDonagh Park hosting the last four clash with a 2pm start.

The Derry side are not coming south just to make up the numbers and have signalled their intentions by travelling down on Friday night and staying in the Abbey Court Hotel.

St. Mary's manager Ger Dullea does not know much about their opponents but taking their tradition of camogie into consideration, Nenagh will face a tough challenge to reach the All Ireland final.

"There is a good tradition of Camogie in the North and it is also organised very well. They won the All Ireland Senior 'A' title in 2007. We are expecting a very tough game," he admitted.

It is four weeks since St. Mary's won the Munster title, defeating Blackwater College of Lismore in the decider and the manager is reporting a clean bill of health with 29 players to choose



Nenagh CMS junior camogie team members gets advice from their Manager Ger Dullea ahead on next Saturday's All-Ireland Colleges semi-final against Magherafelt Co Derry. Kneeling: Lisa Mulqueen (Burgess), Danielle Slattery captain (Silvermines), Brid Quinn (Silvermines), Maria Kennedy (Silvermines), Niamh Slattery (Silvermines). Standing: Caoimhe Maher (Burgess), Gemma Grace (Burgess), Caitriona O'Connor (Nenagh Eire Og), Ciara Houlihan (Burgess), Mary Walsh (Kilruane MacDonaghs), Emily Bergin (Moneygall) and Rena Minogue (Toomevara). Photograph: Bridget Delaney.

from.

The team is backed by a number of the girls that won the All Ireland Senior 'B' Championship with the school last year in the form. Girls such as Laura Power, Amy Kennedy, Lisa Shor and team captain Danielle Slattery will provide the experience as St. Mary's

look to create another piece of history on Saturday.

**St. Mary's SS Panel:** Aine Lucey (Duharra), Niamh Slattery (Silvermines), Aine O'Carroll (Duharra), Lisa Shor (Kilruane), Laura Power (Silvermines), Brid Quinn (Silvermines), Paula Kelly (Kildangan), Mary Dillon (Nenagh), Danielle Slattery (Silvermines), Amy Kennedy (Duharra), Riana Minogue (Toomevara), Clara McGrath

(Nenagh), Emily Bergin (Moneygall), Gemma Grace (Duharra), Sarah Cuneen (Silvermines), Caoimhe Maher (Duharra), Mary Walsh (Kilruane), Siobhan Peters (Kilruane), Maria Kennedy (Silvermines), Rachel Green (Silvermines), Rachel Kennedy (Silvermines), Sarah Murray (Silvermines), Lisa Mulqueen (Duharra), Aisling Cremin (Duharra), Gemma Morris (Nenagh), Clara Houlihan (Duharra), Eadoinn Hackett

(Kildangan), Caitriona O'Connor (Nenagh), Sarah Maher (Nenagh), Rebecca White (Nenagh).

**Fixture:** St. Mary's SS, Nenagh v. St. Pius High School, Magherafelt in MacDonagh Park, Nenagh on Saturday at 2 p.m.

## Millea nabs it for The Cats

KILKENNY 1-10  
DUBLIN 1-7

**CAMOGIE:** A strong second half display by Kilkenny ensured they set the 2008 National Camogie league underway yesterday on a positive note, with a late Sinead Millea goal proving to be the decisive score.

The Cats played second fiddle for most of the second half and Dublin held a 1-5 to 0-3 interval advantage thanks to a Joleene Fhorary goal.

The loss of Kilkenny goalkeeper Catriona Ryan, unsettled her team in the opening quarter, and the home side failed to get going until the second half.

The early stages after the interval were keenly contested and it was a 59th-minute Millea free that ended up in the back of the net that paved the way for a Kilkenny victory.

Elsewhere yesterday in Division 2 Clare were 1-19 to

1-3 winners over Kilkenny at Nowlan Park, while Derry had a comfortable 1-11 to 0-5 win over Wexford at Paire Tailteann, Navan.





**Irish Examiner 2007  
National Junior Sports Stars**

**Athletics:** Niamh Whelan (Waterford)  
**Basketball:** Orla O'Reilly (Cork)  
**Boxing:** John Joe Nevin (Cavan)  
**Camogie:** Niamh Mulcahy (Limerick)  
**Cycling:** Sam Bennett (Tipperary)  
**Gaelic Football:** Paul Conroy (Galway)  
**Golf:** Paul Cutler (Derry)  
**Handball:** Aisling Reilly (Antrim)  
**Hockey:** Amy Stewart (Armagh)  
**Horse Racing:** Paul Townsend (Cork)  
**Hurling:** Noel McGrath (Tipperary)  
**Ladies Football:** Amanda Murphy (Cork)  
**Paralympics:** Luke Evans (Dublin)  
**Rugby:** James Sandford (Armagh)  
**Sailing:** Annalise Murphy (Dublin)  
**Snooker:** Vincent Muldoon (Galway)  
**Soccer:** Sean Scannell (Crystal Palace)  
**Swimming:** Andrew Meegan (Dublin)

**CAMOGIE: NIAMH MULCAHY**

**One point down, deep in injury time. When Limerick needed someone to rescue the All-Ireland camogie final Niamh Mulcahy stepped up. THERESE O'CALLAGHAN takes up the story**

# FINAL MOMENTS ...

**M**AYBE the achievements of the Limerick camogie team were overshadowed by the extended run of their county hurlers in 2007. Be assured though, it was a phenomenal 12 months for the Shannonside ladies. The spin-off from their unique double (winning the Division 1B league and All Ireland senior B championship) puts them back in top-flight camogie.

Let's put this in context. At the start of 2007 Limerick had never won a senior All Ireland camogie title.

We will rewind a few months to September and All Ireland final day against age-old rivals Cork at the Gaelic Grounds. The home side is a point down as the clock ticks into the seventh minute of injury time.

"We were awarded a free about 70 metres out," recalls then 17-year-old Niamh Mulcahy, who was told by her coach, the renowned Ciarán Carey, to have a go at converting it.

"I was completely outside my zone. But, I decided to take it anyway."

The rest is sporting history. She converted, securing a precious replay. They travelled to Páirc Uí Rinn for the rematch a week later and came away with a famous 2-9 to 0-6 win. Niamh was the replay's Player-of-the-Match but, more significantly, changed the course of Limerick camogie.

"It took a few weeks for it all to sink in. When Ciarán took over as manager we had already played a few rounds of the national league. We would have struggled to beat Cork then. But, he instilled a massive self-belief. I remember thinking we could actually win this game."

Overcoming Cork quite convincingly in the league final in Nowlan Park was regarded as a giant leap forward. Niamh's versatility was spotted too.

Then again, she always stood out. Dad Ger recalls when the county team were looking for her at the age of 10 to play in goals for the U16s. Or when she played in three All Ireland Féile competitions with her club Ahane — football and hurling with the boys, and camogie. They won the hurling and were beaten by eventual victors Douglas in the camogie. These games were played on the one weekend, but she still managed to fit them all in.

There's serious heritage on her side too. Mum Vera is daughter of John Mackey and niece to the legendary Mick Mackey, and made her own name winning an All Ireland junior medal with the county. Dad played many years of senior club hurling with Dromin/Athlaca and Ahane, and played with the Limerick seniors too. Both parents then progressed to serving on various management teams. Niamh's other siblings Claire (eldest) and Judith (youngest) also wear the county colours, and there is great satisfaction derived from all three being involved.

Niamh was only seven when she changed her grip. Dad explains: "She wasn't holding the hurley the wrong



Picture: Liam Burke/Press 22

way, it was kind of the unorthodox way. But, when she changed, it made her a better player."

At the moment Niamh is studying for her Leaving Cert in Castletroy College. Ideally, she would like to continue her education, hopefully in UL, where no doubt, a much-coveted Ashbourne medal could be in sight.

For now though, this star athlete is enjoying the moment. Last year's breakthrough brought a National League medal and an All Ireland senior championship medal, and a Munster minor medal — all in the one season. She was also voted Young Player

of the Year at the All-Stars gala banquet in November, which proved to be yet another highlight.

"My ultimate goal would be to play with Limerick in an All Ireland final in Croke Park. However, you have to be enjoying yourself above all else. Play every match like it is your last," she says.

A simple, but, effective motto. Niamh has learned well. Her primary teacher in Lisnagry, Paul Kennedy, her underage coach in Ahane Sean Og Herbert, and Carey get special mention. Her parents too, who gave her the greatest gift of all.



# Mulcahy oozing with talent

by Daragh Ó Conchúir

**HARD** work and sacrifice were major themes yesterday. Of course many of the recipients had already made sacrifices. Some of them major ones.

Take camogie star Niamh Mulcahy. A multi-talented young woman, Mulcahy had managed to combine performing at a high level in both camogie and soccer but when the inevitable fixture clash came, it was no ordinary one.

Having helped Limerick win an historic Division 1B league — the county's first ever senior title — the Ahane prodigy played a starring role as the Shannonsiders reached the All-Ireland senior B final, where Cork lay in wait.

On the same weekend, Ireland's U19 soccer team was due to play Slovakia in a European Championship Qualifier. She was invited to take her place in the panel. A choice had to be made.

Being a grand-daughter of Jim Mackey, and grand-niece of Mick, it was

predictable what way she would go.

"I had a decision to make and camogie came up trumps. It was a very big decision and obviously I was gutted that I couldn't go (with Ireland) but I'm underage for the soccer again next year so hopefully I can perform again and get called back."

"But another big factor is that Limerick don't get to too many All-Ireland finals

so I don't think there was any way I was going to give up the opportunity."

For now she'll continue to line out with Ashling Annacotty in the soccer and hopefully Ireland. And having to choose between the two permanently is a sacrifice she will be putting off for as long as possible.

"Until I'm really forced to make a big decision I'm going to try and combine the two."

## All Ireland Colleges

All-Ireland Colleges Senior Results Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>

<b>Senior A</b>			
St. Mary's Charleville	3-08	Cross and Passion, Ballycastle	2-06
St. Brigid's, Callan	3-09	Presentation College, Athenry	0-06
<b>Senior B</b>			
Christ the King, Cork	3-12	St. Patrick's, Dungannon	0-01
Loreto, Wexford	1-10	St. Killian's, New Inn	3-04 (replay March 1)
<b>Senior C</b>			
Blackwater C.S. Lismore	4-04	St. Macnissi's, Garron Tower	2-02
Sacred Heart, Tullamore	5-03	Coláiste na Coirbe, Galway	0-04

All-Ireland finals: Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup> Venue and time tbc

## Banner girls too good for the Kittens

### Intermediate camogie

Nowlan Park  
Saturday, March 1

CLARE	1-19
KILKENNY	1-3

### MICHAEL O'LEARY

KILKENNY'S Intermediates camogie side was comprehensively beaten 1-19 to 1-3 by a skilful Clare in Nowlan Park last Saturday.

The Banner girls were always in control, and playing with the advantage of a first-half strong breeze, built up a 1-12 to 0-2 lead by the interval.

The Clare goal came in the 27th minute as an overhead shot from Claire Commene bounced off the stick of Kilkenny goalkeeper Siobhan Murphy and the slot end in the bottom corner of the net.

Clare were superior in every position as they took advantage of slack marking by the Kilkenny defence.

The corner-forward duo of Claire Commene and Sharon O'Loughlin scored 1-6 between them, midfielder Deirdre Murphy converted 0-3 from placed balls, while fellow midfielder Aoife Ryan, along with Carina Rosingrave and Fiona Lafferty were also on target.

Kilkenny's only first-half points came from Edwina Keane and a Claire Alyward free.

Matters became worse for Kilkenny during the 3rd quarter, as Clare added six unanswered points from Rosingrave, Lafferty (2), Commene and Deirdre Murphy (free), along with a second point from midfielder Aoife Ryan.

An Edwina Keane free in the 47th minute finally got Kilkenny off the mark in the 47th minute, before Sharon O'Loughlin added a final point for Clare in the 50th minute.

Bronagh Neary's goal in the 58th minute was only scant consolation as they received a 16-point drubbing.

**KILKENNY:** Siobhan Murphy, Mariga Nolan, Elaine O'Shea, Sinead Long, Niamh Butler, Amy Butler, Lisa Phelan, Briona Langton, Sinead Brennan, Claire Alyward (0-1 free), Bronagh Neary (1-0), Hannah Maher, Laura Kavanagh, Edwina Keane (0-2 0-1 free), Ciara Lyng.

**Subs:** Jenny Reddy, Linda Cotterell, Ruth Bergin.

**REFEREE:** Dermot Connolly (Galway).

MARCH

2008



At the Ahane Bord na nOg awards evening Niamh Mulcahy, herself a former Ahane Bord na nOg hurling star, was given a special award by Mark Brophy, Chairman of Ahane Bord na nOg in recognition of her achievements in 2007. Niamh delighted everyone present by confidently predicting a Munster final spot, at least, for the Limerick Senior Camogie team this season.

## MUSKERRY'S CAMOGIE STARS Celebrate



PICTURE: MIKE ENGLISH

Rockban players who featured on the Muskerry Senior Camogie team Sile Burns, Sarah Coleman, Catriona Foley (Captain), Mairead Foley and Valerie Mulcahy photographed at the Division's Victory Dinner



# Colleges classic as Cork and Kilkenny champions clash

by Therese O'Callaghan

A CRACKING All Ireland senior camogie colleges final is in store this afternoon at Moyle Rovers in Clonmel.

The Cork/Kilkenny decider is generating huge interest, and considering the tradition attached to both St Mary's, Charleville and St Brigid's, Callan, it is no wonder.

But there is an extra dimension, as the Cats' manager is a Cork woman who has the unique distinction of winning six All Ireland senior medals — evenly divided between Cork and Kilkenny.

## All-Ireland senior camogie colleges' final preview

However, Noelle O'Driscoll, who teaches in St Brigid's, directs the attention to her team.

"Today is not about me," she insists. "We are facing one of our most difficult tasks. We won Leinster and the All Ireland semi-finals fairly well, but we faded in the second halves."

"We haven't won the All Ireland since 1993, so there is a mixture of excitement and trepidation."

Incidentally, county star Sinead Millea captained that team 15 years ago. O'Driscoll is joined in management by school principal Pat Power, the holder of U21 and All Ireland minor medals with Tipperary.

They have a strong 15 to field, boosted by multiple county under-age victories in Kilkenny at U16 and minor.

"Leann Fennelly is our captain," explains O'Driscoll. "She is a daughter of Liam. We have Katie McDonald at centre back, the two Farrells, Anna and Michelle, and Denise Gaule. We draw mainly

from Thomastown and Mullinavat and we have one from Tipperary — Eileen Brennan is from Slievenamon."

St Mary's and St Brigid's met in the semi-final two years ago, with St Mary's going on to win the final. Twelve months ago Athenry ended their hopes, but this Cork school side has a massive record of All Irelands at junior, senior and sevens.

"We have a very balanced side," says mentor Ger O'Donovan. "We are fortunate to have girls from Cork and Limerick."

"Maria Walsh, Eimear Healy,

Darina O'Callaghan, Rebecca Finn, Mariah Reidy and Orlagh O'Mahony have worn the red and white, while Fionnuala Dore, Aisling and Annette McAuley, Kerry Brosnan, Rosemary Rea and Lisa Potter donned the green and white."

Meanwhile, Christ King Cork are appearing in their first All Ireland B final against St Killian's New Inn, Galway in Feenagh.

In the C decider, Blackwater CS Lismore will be hoping to emulate their hurlers when they meet Sacred Heart Tullamore at the Ragg.

## Leeside schools are going for a double

### TOMORROW

All-Ireland Colleges Senior

A Final: St Mary's,

Charleville v St Brigid's,

Callan, Moyle Rovers GAA

Grounds, Clonmel, 2.30pm.

COLLEGES Camogie takes

centre stage this weekend as

St Mary's, Charleville and Sac-

red Heart, Turner's Cross go in

search of a Leeside double.

Charleville have a superb

backroom team with teachers

Ger O'Donovan and Vince

Harrington, the driving forces

behind the schools superb re-

cord.

Charleville have excellent

players in Rosemary Rea, An-

nette McAuliffe, Louise

O'Flynn and Finola Dore.

St Brigid's are coached by former Cork and Kilkenny All-Ireland medallist Noelle Driscoll from Ovens.

They were impressive winners 3-9 to 0-6 over Presentation Athenry in their semi-final.

Lee Ann Fennelly is no stranger to All-Ireland finals as she is the daughter of former Kilkenny star Liam Fennelly.

Cork and Kilkenny clashes seldom fail to live up to expectations and Saturday should be no different. The title should return to North Cork but only after a struggle.

All-Ireland Colleges Senior

B Final, St Killian's, New Inn

By MARY NEWMAN

Camogie

v Christ The King, Cork, to-

morrow, 1pm, Feenagh.

Chasing their first Senior B colleges All-Ireland titles on Saturday, Christ the King, Turner's Cross and St Killian's New Inn, Galway meet in Feenagh.

The sides have arrived at Saturday's final by contrasting paths.

Christ the King demolished St Patrick's, Dungannon, whilst St Killian's had to go to a replay on Monday before gaining the upper hand over Loreto, Wexford.

Ballygarvan's Aine Moynihan captains the Cork side that is backboned by players from the Douglas, Ballygarvan and Blackrock clubs.

The Mackey twins, Katriona and Pamela and Julia White and have already made their mark at under age level with Douglas.

Ciara Lynch is no stranger to the big time having led Douglas to Feile na NGael honours, while Ballygarvan's Ashling Byrne, Maeve Moynihan and Mary Ellen O'Donovan and Blackrock's Sarah Carroll won't be lacking in determination.

In defence St Killian's Moira

Connoughton, Tara Kenny and Catriona Kelly will keep a close eye on the Christ the King attack, but its their mid field pairing of Sarah Staunton and Clodagh McGrath, who have run the show in all their games to date.

The Cork girls will have to cut off the supply to the inside line where they have fine performers in Niamh Mc Grath, Rachel Byrne and Maureen Tierney.

A good start is crucial to Christ the King's cause but expect them to stand up and be counted and bring a All-Ireland College's trophy to the parish of Turner's Cross.

## Hopkins paves way for Rossies

ROSCOMMON 2-6  
CARLOW 1-5

**CAMOGIE:** Although they could only scored only two points in the second half, Roscommon did enough early groundwork to book a

National Camogie League Division 4 clash against Meath following a four-point win over Carlow at Woodmount, Ballinasloe.

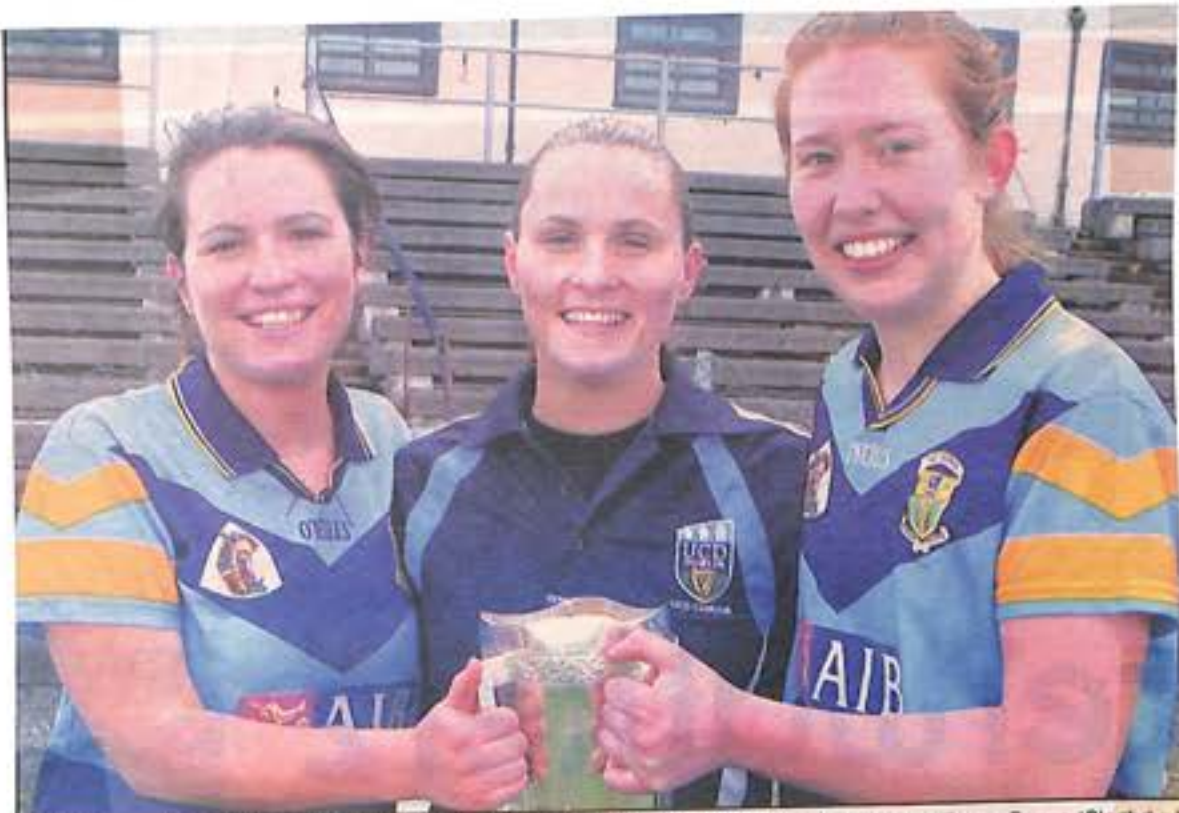
First-half goals from Kelly Hopkins and Caitriona Regan helped a wind-assisted Roscommon take a 2-4 to 0-2 lead at the break.

Hopkins broke through for the first goal in the 10th minute, planting the ball in the top corner of the net.

This was soon followed up by Regan's effort as Roscommon took an eight-point half-time lead.

However they were made to work hard on the restart as Carlow battled back, with Kate Purcell getting a goal. Despite this flourish, Carlow's comeback wasn't enough as Roscommon held out for victory.

Scorers — Roscommon: K Hopkins, C Regan 1-2 each; A McGee and C Rogers 0-1 each. Carlow: V O'Leary 0-3; K Purcell 1-0; N Quirk 0-2.



In jubilant mood after UCD beat WIT in the Ashbourne Cup final in Casement Park Belfast were Emma Dunne (Cloughduv), Aoife Murray (Cloughduv) trainer and Rena Buckley (Inniscarra). Both Emma and Rena have won two Ashbournes in a row with UCD.

## O'Driscoll joy as Brigid's coast to colleges crown



Therese O'Callaghan

never let Charleville play. Success starts at school level, U16 and minor. Senior inter-county is the next step," she added.

Captain Leanne Fennelly — daughter of All-Ireland medallist Liam — is a naturally talented athlete, and her presence at midfield alongside Michelle Farrell was a key factor.

Farrell's sister Anna was another tormentor in attack, while the commitment of Denise Gaule at centre forward was apparent. And the work ethic of the entire half-back line, Lisa Carey, Kate McDonald and Mairead Power, was their mainstay.

Selector and school principal Pat Power said: "I am thrilled and proud of the players and the support they received. We haven't won an All-Ireland since 1993, and had to dig very deep. Special mention is due to Noelle, who has served the school and camogie so well."

No doubt, Cats boss Ann Downey was also impressed watching a



St Mary's Orlaith O'Mahony breaks out of defence under pressure from St Brigid's players Aine Manning and Ciara Holden.

Picture: John D Kelly

Kilkenny team rich in heart as well as skill. St Mary's, who looked on disappointingly as the presentation was made, had no complaints. Although Kerrie Brosnan opened the scoring on five minutes, St Brigid's replied

emphatically with four of their own, demonstrating their ability to open up the St Mary's defence. By the time Gaule and Anna Farrell struck two magnificent goals, the Kilkenny team had built up a 2-4 to 0-4 interval lead.

Crucially, Louise Dunne registered the first point of the second half for St Brigid's and when Michelle Farrell sidestepped her way through for a third goal on the three-quarter mark, the game was finally up for St Mary's.

Despite three placed-ball efforts from full back Rebecca Finn and another white flag from sub Louise O'Flynn, the Callan school finished in style, with pointed efforts from Aine Manning and Gaule.

Scorers for St Brigid's: A Farrell 1-2, D Gaule 1-1 (0-1 free), M Farrell 1-0, L Fennelly, C Holden, L Dunne and A Manning 0-1 each.

Scorers for St Mary's: R Finn 0-3 (0-2 frees, 0-45m), K Brosnan 0-2, L O'Flynn 0-1.

ST BRIGID'S: L Walker, C Conway, A Walsh, L Holden, L Carey, K McDonald, M Power, Fennelly (capt), M Farrell, A Manning, D Gaule, Brennan, A Farrell, C Holden, L Dunne.

ST MARY'S: E Hanley (capt), A McAuliffe, R Finn, C Galvin, M Walsh, F Dore, E Reidy, O'Mahony, R Rea, E Healy, A McAuliffe, S O'Flynn, D O'Callaghan, K Brosnan, M Reidy.

Subs: L O'Flynn for E Healy (38); K Curtin for Reidy (49).

Referee: E Browne (Tipperary).

St Brigid's Callan 3-7  
St Mary's Charleville 0-6

KILKENNY camogie followers walked off Moyle Rovers GAA pitch in Clonmel on Saturday knowing their future is safe.

They had just watched an authoritative display from St Brigid's as they outplayed a highly-rated St Mary's in the All-Ireland Senior College's A final.

Delighted manager Noelle O'Driscoll paid tribute to a wonderful team, adding these players must now go on and play for the county.

"It was the manner in which they fought. Hustling and harrying, they



## Camogie Club Notes

### ST CATHERINES

**2007 U16 League Final:** Our Under 16 team will play Brian Dillon's in last year's League final today. The same opposition defeated us in the Championship semi-final last Nov, the game is scheduled to take place at 2pm in Conna.

**Poker Classic:** Our annual fundraising poker classic will take place on Friday March 28th in The Fisherman's Rest Bar, Conna more about this nearer the date.

**Fiona O'Driscoll Camogie Academy:** Fiona O'Driscoll will hold a four day intensive coaching course from 18th March to 21st March. Anybody interested in participating contact Fiona at 087-9137320.

**Third Level Colleges:** We had a number of club players in action in Belfast recently in Ashbourne Cup and Shield Competitions. Deirdre Twomey played with NUIG; Orla Coter with UCC. Andrea Mangan was involved with WIT. Faith Noonan and Liz Power with Garda College.

**2008 National League:** Well done to Orla Coter and Deirdre Twomey who lined-out with the Cork senior team when they played Wexford in the first of this year's league games on Sunday last in Cloughduv.

**Scor Sinsear:** Congratulations to St Catherine's Ballad group that won the county final last weekend. Well done to Marie Clancy, Ann Galvin, Patricia Moroney, Martha O'Brien and Yvonne Ahern.

### BRIAN DILLONS

Having been delayed last year due to bad weather conditions, the U16 League final between Brian Dillon's and St Catherine's will take place Saturday, March 8th at 2pm at St Catherine's. A very close game was played during the championship last year and both teams played great camogie so another tough match is expected today.

County champions Brian Dillon's won their much deserved title when they beat Rockban last November and now they are going for the double. Trainers Therese Drummond and Claire O'Mahony put in a huge amount of work and led the girls to their first county title in a long time and they are certainly deserving of a second victory.

A great night was had by all last week at the victory medals night, where the girls were presented with medals by Tracy Sheehan, Kate Dunne and Tina Sheehan.

Having four players on the Cork minor panel is a huge achievement and is a testament to the talent on this U16 team. It will be difficult to get focused again, given the fact that this final has been put off for so long, however the determination from teams to win this title is sure to provide another superb match.

Training for U8 to U12 takes place with Liz O'Mahony every Saturday morning 11-12 and for U14 and U16 12-1. There is also junior training on Wednesday night and Sunday morning - new and old members always welcome. With the beginning of the new U16 league, your support would be greatly appreciated over the coming year.

### BUTTEVAULT

**TRAINING:** Junior B training is on Friday at 5.45pm.

Under 14 and 16 training are on Fridays at 7.45pm. Mondays at 7.30pm any player is unable to attend please ring John Madigan. For girls in first, second and third class camogie training on Friday at 4.45pm to 6.00pm please note change of time.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** Congratulations to Karen Spratt, Roberta Harrington and Emma Madigan on making the Cork Colleges team for the coming year.

**BEST WISHES:** We would like to wish the best of luck to Eimear Healy and Darina O'Callaghan and all the Avondhu girls who are playing with their school in the All-Ireland final Senior A Camogie this weekend.

**DIVISIONAL TRAINING:** Avondhu U-16 training is currently ongoing in Charleville. Girls from our club participating are Sonia Buckley, Nuala Crowley and Karen Spratt.

**EASTER RAFFLE:** The Easter raffle tickets are still on sale. The draw will take place on Thursday 20th March, 2008. All tickets to be returned by Friday 14th March, 2008.

The deadline for the Centra promotion is 12th April. Please continue to collect the stamps and we are grateful for your support to date.

### INNISCARRA

The AGM of the Inniscarra Camogie Club held recently attracted a large attendance where the following officers were re-elected: secretary Margaret N. O'Sullivan, treasurer Roslyn McCarthy, PRO Tim Buckley, Registrar Rita Kavanagh. Chairman for the past four years John Lane did not seek re-election and Sean Twohig was elected chairperson. In accepting the job as chairman Sean Twohig acknowledged the tremendous work carried out by the board, field committee, coaches, mentors and supporters of Inniscarra Camogie Club. This enables teams from under 8 to senior to compete at the highest levels in the county.

He thanked all those involved in the increasingly popular indoor camogie held throughout the winter months. He also thanked our sponsors. Sean Twohig congratulated the Inniscarra girls who have competed already this year 2008 in 2nd and 3rd level college camogie finals and especially dual star Rena Buckley who added a second back to back Ashbourne medal to her collection.

Finally Sean extended a warm welcome to new members and those returning from study breaks etc and wished everybody a happy, sporting and prosperous 2008.

### CARRIGDHOUN



LINDA MELLERICK

**WHILE** Cork can take many positives from their first round national league fixture against Wexford last Sunday, there are many areas where improvement is a must.

Cork's striking is poor, particularly up front. Yes, it's very early on in the year but at present there is a gap in standards all the same.

One of the many appealing aspects of Wexford's play last year was their ability to pick off points from any angle, sometimes off the back foot, from in and around 60 metres.

They did this again last Sunday. Kate Kelly in particular, but Ursula Jacob, Una Leacy and Lenny Holohan can equally do the same.

I felt last year that our ability to pick off scores was poor.

Cork have found a goalscorer in Sile Burns but goals don't come easy.

Take the points at every opportunity and grabbing the goal if it comes your way is the killer blow.

Cork continuously seek to get that bit nearer to goal all the time.

They're taking too much out of the ball, very often missing the opportunity.

Emer Dillon is one player who can collect a ball, turn and strike long distances with accuracy.

I stress that only a fit Emer Dillon is capable of this and I don't believe she was 100% fit last season.

Studying for her final pharmaceutical exams, understandably, took precedent 12 months ago. I repeatedly voiced last year the fact that I felt Dillon's ability was wasted in at corner-forward.

I still feel the same way.

On a pitch like Croke Park, with the play open and fast she might come up trumps in the corner but if the play is slow and full of small taps and hand passes then her attribute is wasted.

She wouldn't be the fastest up front but her striking and awareness more than compensate.

Dillon herself is extremely frustrated inside.

Cork need to give her the opportunity at half-forward this year.

However, she needs to make herself available for the league if she

### South East U10 Indoors Finals

It is traditional that the Under 10 and Under 11 Indoor Camogie finals start the Carrigdhoun camogie season in South East Cork.

On Sunday last the Riverstick Community Centre was brim full of excitement and full of many teams from The Carrigdhoun camogie division. Referees on hand to officiate were Orla Harte Barry of Ballinhassig, Eileen O'Brien, Sliabh Rua and Johnny O'Mahoney Courcy Rovers. The competition was split into two groups with all teams getting at least two games each.

It was the girls from Ballinhassig who came through in Section A to the final defeating Valley Rovers and Sliabh Rua in the opening rounds and defeating Courcy Rovers in the semi-final.

Valley Rovers coming out of the same original section as Ballinhassig as runners-up defeated Carrigdhoun in the semi-final but lost an excellent final against Ballinhassig. In Section B it was great to see Tracton coming all the way through to the final. Following a shaky start against Courcy Rovers in the first game they won their second game v Ballinhassig. They had a 4 to 3 win over Valley Rovers in the semi-final but went under to Sliabh Rua in the final of this section.

Sliabh Rua on the other hand did well to win and draw their opening games against Valley Rovers and Carrigdhoun respectively. Tracton and Sliabh Rua had another excellent final with Sliabh Rua winning out in the end.

### GLEN ROVERS

**UNDER 12:** Our under 12 team under the watchful eyes of Dave John Mary and Karen are hopeful of getting games shortly. Any



In jubilant mood after UCD beat WIT in the Ashbourne Cup final in Casement Park, Belfast, were Emma Dunne (Cloughduv), Aoife Murray (Cloughduv, trainer) and Rena Buckley (Inniscarra). Both Emma and Rena have won two Ashbournes in-a-row with UCD.

# Point taking is is big problem

hopes to prove a point.

Cork are experimenting at present, so no point in getting too hung up on positional switches.

One or two worked last Sunday, others didn't.

Orla Coter looks more comfortable around the middle of the park.

To her credit she gets stuck in regardless of where she is placed but contributes more when in the thick of the action.

Cotter is first to be moved when more regular players come back in to the side.

This is possibly because while always 'doing her bit', Cotter has yet to grab a game by the scruff of the neck from midfield.

She needs to be more forceful, make her presence felt and establish herself as a permanent fixture.

I'm not entirely sure that Amanda O'Regan will work up front.

She's tall and strong and I'm quite

sure the reason she was placed at full forward last week is down to this.

The management are expecting that O'Regan will grab every high ball reigning down inside and when she does, billow the net.

Full back Noleen Lambert claimed the odd high ball that went in on Sunday.

But it's a period of adjustment for O'Regan and if Cork has decided that this is where they want her for the championship then they must give her time.

Quick off the mark, the first ten yards is crucial in the full-forward line.

O'Regan doesn't have this quick burst. But two high balls, caught by Amanda, will cause havoc.

It'll work or it won't.

It was a gritty performance by Cork.

None of the newcomers 'shone' as

such, but they got stuck in.

Elaine O'Riordan, while small in stature, is as tough as nails and that is what Cork need.

Rachel Moloney, after a difficult 2007, also looks to be coming back to form.

Cork's fitness won't be an issue. Jim McCarthy will have the side in peak condition.

It's our striking that needs work. Our teamwork and support play, impressive by Wexford, should come as the players get to know one another.

Pitches are difficult to access at present and many who do offer their facilities do so at a price.

The Cork Camogie Board's new pitch in Blackrock will be a God-send when open.

The pitch itself is ready for use. It's the changing/showering facilities which are holding things up.

We need to get out there.

### 11.45am

Senior/Junior minor and under 16 teams Wednesdays 7pm sharp. We look forward to welcoming everybody back and invite new members to come along.

### SARSFIELDS

There was a large attendance at our AGM which was held in Sars Pavilion.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** President: Phil O'Shea, vice-president: Marie Kearney, chairperson: Gillian O'Callaghan vice-chairperson: Eithne Allen, secretary: Emer O'Farrell, vice-secretary: Edel Murphy, treasurer: registrar: Maria Dinan, vice-treasurer: Orla Butler, PRO Rachel Hyde, child welfare officer: Trish Dwyer, county board delegate: Lillian Zinkant, juvenile board delegate: Maria Dinan, **GENERAL COMMITTEE:** Kay Whoolley, Anne Barry, Celeste Corrigan, Lillian Zinkant, Bryan O'Leary, Ray Duffy, Orla Barry, Gemma Donohue, Donal Kennelly, Mairead O'Farrell, Margaret Lynch, Isabelle Kearney, Tara Kerrigan.

**TRAINING SCHEDULE:** Training for 7 to 13 year olds every Saturday at All-Weather pitch, 12.30pm. (Under 10's finish at 1.30pm. Older players finish at 2pm.) Juniors, under 11s to under 16s from 7-8pm on Tues at all-weather pitch.

### CARBERRY

History was in the making on Sunday last in Rosmore as we witnessed another historic event with the girls from Clonakilty and Newcestown clashing in first West Cork Under 18 camogie final.

Hosted at Kilmeen and Kilbree GAA pitch by

Cill Bri Camogie, on a fine sunny Sunday morning, Clonakilty dominated from the outset with scoring opportunities coming from all angles.

Juanita Brennan put in a crushing performance.

Their skill and team work outclassed the very brave and determined Newcestown side. The crowd from both sides responded with encouragement for Newcestown, who left the field at the long whistle without once giving up even in the face of certain defeat. The final score was 9-15 to 1-0.

Congratulations must of course go to Clonakilty in their victory.

A special and whole hearted thanks to the Kearney family for donating the Justin Kearney Memorial Cup to the U18 competition.

Justin was a young man who adored sports and it is fitting that he is remembered in this fashion.

May Kearney presented the Memorial Cup to Juanita Brennan, captain of Clonakilty.

**Newcestown:** Alison Crowley, Eimear Hurley, Grace O'Mahony, Treasa Hurley, Alanah Long, Marie Murphy, Geraldine Murphy, Grainne Cronin, Therese McCarthy, Aoife Holland, Sarah Collins, Aebhlinn Keane.

**Clonakilty:** Marie O'Donovan, Niamh Deasy, Clare O'Mahony, Sinead O'Brien, Juanita Brennan (C), Aine O'Leary, Sharon Whelton, Emma Jennings, Sinead O'Neill, Maeva Beechins, Holly Hayes, Amy Hayes, Aoife O'Donovan, Anna O'Hea, Jamie Hayes, Sub: Eimear O'Donoghue.

Compiled by MARY NEWMAN



# Rachel ready

## Cork dig deep to edge out Clare for title

Cork 2-10  
Clare 2-8 (aet)

by Mary Newman

IT was a great start to 2008 for Cork as the county junior sides took the first silverware of the season with a superb victory over Clare at Delaney's on Sunday last.

Cork had to dig deep before victory was secured deep into injury time. Cork made all the opening-half running — Denise Luby had three first-half points while one from Lydia Cunningham gave Cork the edge as Danielle Sheedy pointed to keep Clare in touch. Aided by the strong wind, Cork piled on the pressure and a Denise Luby goal was followed by a point from Margaret O'Herlihy, with Cork leading 1-5 to 0-1 at the half-time whistle.

Clare settled quickly into the second half and had edged in front by the three-quarter stage. Cork drew level with two points from Margaret O'Herlihy and Kathleen O'Brien before Denise Luby pointed a 45. But Cork then conceded a free and when Marion O'Brien tapped it over, extra time beckoned.

Cork made the better start against the strong wind when Denise Luby rattled the net after four minutes. Marion O'Brien converted two Clare frees as Cork led 2-8 to 2-7 at the turn over. On the restart Carol Kaiser pointed to put one between the sides and the Cork defence came under pressure. Luby gave Cork a two-point advantage and Clare piled on the pressure in the two minutes remaining. But a spirited Cork held on for a deserved victory.

Scorers: Cork D Luby 2-6 (0-2f, 0-1 45"), M O'Herlihy 0-2 (0-1f), L Cunningham and K O'Brien 0-1 each.  
Clare: M O'Brien 0-5 (0-3f), R McMahon 1-0, D Sheedy 1-2, C Kaiser, 0-1.

**CORK:** T O'Donnell; C McKenna, N Mulcahy, M Gleeson; S Gleeson, J Browne (c), MA Hawkes; L Cunningham, K O'Brien; M O'Herlihy, A McKenna, R Myers; C Keohane, D Luby, D Leahy. Subs: A Moynihan for M Gleeson (39); A Keating for D Leahy (40); C Kearney for C Keohane (e/t), C Keohane for A Keating (18 e/t).

**CLARE:** A Nic Cormic; A Kelly, A Treacy, A Hoey; S Reidy, I Kaiser, M Rosengrave; R Kaiser, L Hayes, D Sheedy; S Keniry, L Tracey (c), S Vaughan; M O'Brien, C Kaiser. Subs: A McMahon for M Rosengrave (25); E Glynn for S Vaughan (35); R McMahon for S Keniry (e/t).

Referee: Joe O'Donnell, Limerick.

## Cork camogie star to step up preparations for another All-Ireland bid



DENIS HURLEY

CORK camogie player Rachel Moloney says that the senior side are determined to win the senior All-Ireland this year following the heart-breaking loss to Wexford in last year's final that denied the Rebels a three-in-a-row.

"We are, definitely," says the Courcy Rovers star.

"It's not just the fact that it was a three-in-a-row, though. Any All-Ireland final that you lose hurts, you always want to win."

"When you consider the commitment put in, the levels of training and preparation, and to lose makes you more determined to win it next time."

"Just because you lose one, people will say that you've reached the end of the line as a team, but I don't agree with that at all."

"Tipperary lost the final in 2002 and came back and won two more. You can't just write a team off after they lose."

Educated in Ballinspittle NS and Kinsale Community School, Rachel then did a nutritional science degree at UCC, following that up with a master's in nutrition.

Rachel, who has two sisters and three brothers, is now working in that field for the HSE at Wilton, though still lives at home in Ballinspittle with parents Raymond and Imelda.

It is her parents that she regards as having had the strongest influence on her success.

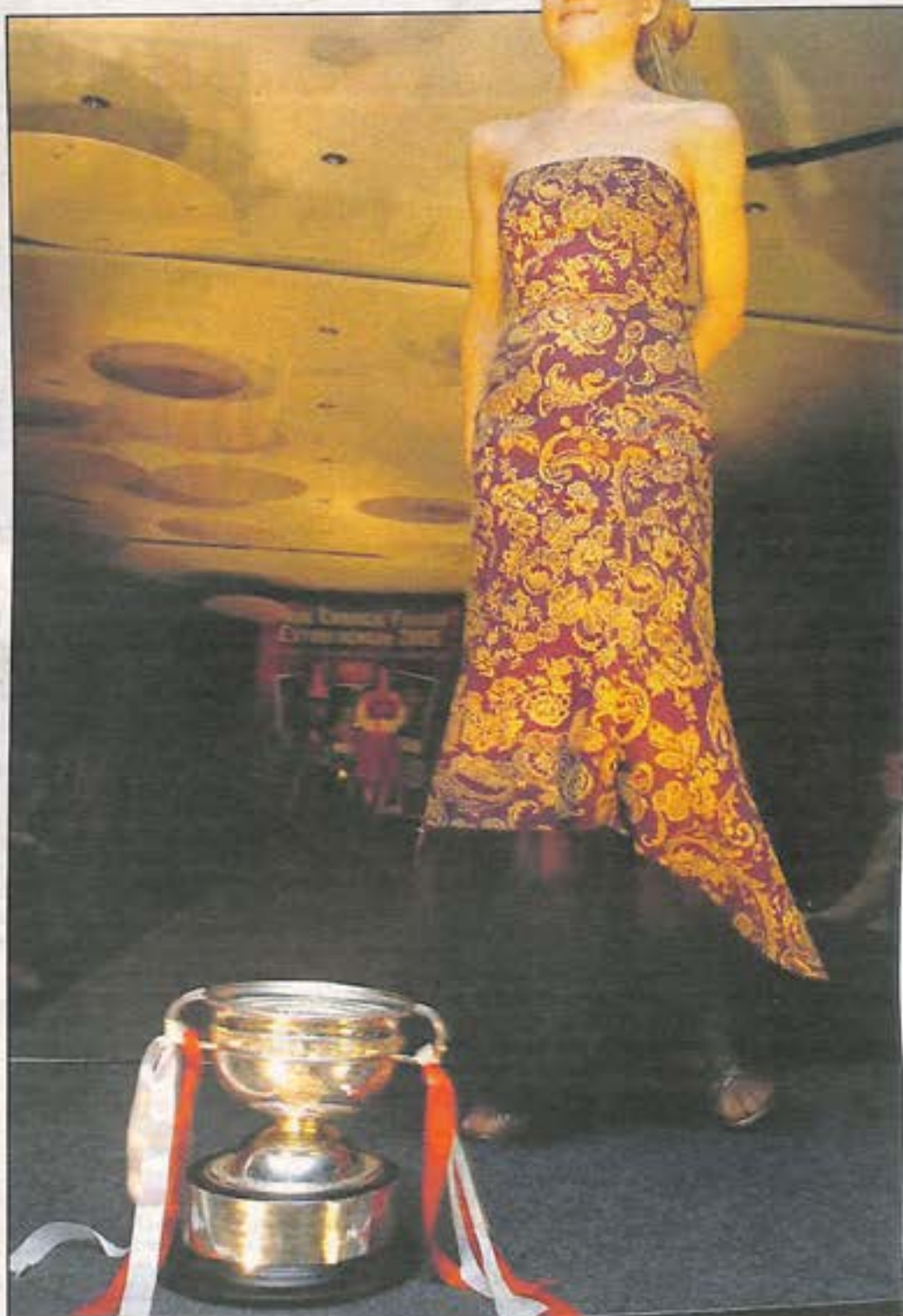
"My parents would definitely have been my biggest source of inspiration," she says.

"Dad always trained me when I was playing underage, and all of my family would always have had a huge interest."

Rachel has won All-Irelands with Cork at minor, junior, intermediate and senior levels with Cork, as well as two Ashbourne Cups in her time at UCC, in 2002 and 2003.

It is a very impressive roll of honour and one that Rachel hopes to add to this year.

Under a new management team of Jim McCarthy (Glen Rovers), Con Malone (Muskerry), Denise Cronin (Glen Rovers) and Pat Murray (Bishopstown), Cork have been back training with just over a month, and Rachel says that while it's good to be back, it will take a while for the team to settle under the new regime, as well as the departures of Jennifer O'Leary to go travelling and with double dual All-Star Rena Buckley also ru-



moured to be doing likewise, and Anna Geary on college placement abroad.

"We're just getting back into it now," she says.

"At this time of year it can be difficult to get numbers together, what with girls playing in the Ashbourne Cup for their colleges and other things like that."

"We played one challenge game before the league started, against Galway a few weeks ago, and we beat them."

"It was a good workout and some new players were given a chance to show what they can do."

"Training is going well though, Jim (McCarthy) has us doing a lot of running out in Ballincollig on the astroturf there, as it's hard to get pitches at the moment."

"I do think it will be a transitional phase in the league for us though."

"As has been well-documented, Jennifer and Anna aren't playing this year, and there

might be others, but those are the only two definitely so far."

"As a result of that, it will take time for the new team to gel, but hopefully come championship, everything will be in place."

"With some girls being gone, it opens up spaces for other players to come in, and it's always good to have new faces."

"As well as that, the likes of Orla Cotter and Caitriona Foley, players who would be in their second and third years on the team, are more experienced and becoming seasoned players for us now."

"An All-Ireland is definitely within our sights, no doubt about that."

"We have the players and we have the talent, so hopefully if we keep our heads down and apply ourselves we will be rewarded with success."

With manager John Cronin and coach Fiona O'Driscoll having stepped down, it's a totally new management regime, but that's no



# to ramp it up



## Diary Dates

### MARCH DATES

- Athletics**  
30: World Cross Country Championships, Edinburgh
- Basketball**  
14-16: Division One National League and Superleague semi finals  
22: Superleague semi finals  
28: Division One National League finals  
29: Superleague finals  
Fencing  
29: Five Nations, Scotland
- Golf**  
26-28: U18 Girls Interprovincials, Bangor
- Gymnastics**  
22: National Tumbling finals
- Handball**  
29-30: All-Ireland 40X20 semi finals
- Hockey**  
29: ESB Junior Cup Final, UCD
- Ladies football**  
23: National league playoffs
- Road bowling**  
21-23: Ból Fada Festival, Armagh
- Rowing**  
23: Skibberen Head of the River
- Rugby**  
15: Six Nations, England V Ireland, London
- Squash**  
15-23: European Junior U19 Championships, Norway
- Surfing**  
29-30: Troggs Surfing Championships, Antrim
- Swimming**  
28-30: Dave McCullagh Memorial Gala, Umerick
- Table Tennis**  
14-16: Six Nations Junior Championships, Guernsey
- Ten Pin Bowling**  
15-24: European Youth Championships, Helsinki
- Tennis**  
10-23: WTA Indian Wells

**CUP OF JOY:** Rachel Moloney is hoping to get back on the All-Ireland winning trail again this year.

bad thing either, says the forward.

"Jim is very up to date as regards fitness," she says.

"He's using a thing called a tracker diary, which Tyrone footballers have used, and other little new things like that.

"It's good to freshen things up like that.

"The previous management team brought a new level of professionalism, which other teams had to catch up with, and I've no doubt that Jim and his selectors will be able to carry that on."

Coach Jim McCarthy says that he feels sure that Rachel will have a big role in any success that Cork have this year, while also saying that the league will be used as a test-bed for trying out some new players.

"Rachel is a very dedicated player," said Jim.

"Unfortunately for her, she didn't play much last year but we're hopeful that she will play a major part in bringing the O'Duffy Cup

## FACTFILE

**Name:** Rachel Moloney.  
**From:** Ballinspittle.  
**Sport:** Camogie.  
**Club:** Courcey Rovers.  
**Education:** Ballinspittle NS, Kinsale Community School, UCC (bachelor's degree in nutritional science and masters in nutrition).  
**Job:** Works with HSE in Wilton.  
**Honours won:** All-Ireland medals in minor, junior, intermediate and senior, two Ashbourne Cups with UCC, All-Star in 2005.

back to Cork this year.

"While we'd obviously like to win the league, the priority is of course the championship.

"With the volume of players in Cork, the league an ideal chance to blood new players, girls who would have played at a lower grade

prior to this."

In China, they have the same word for 'crisis' as they do for 'opportunity', and Jim also takes that attitude:

"Some people have commented on players being missing, but I try to look at it in a positive way, that it gives the players on the fringes a chance to stake their claim for a championship place.

"We have three league games, the first was against Wexford in Cloughduv on March 2, and as well we'll try to keep training fresh.

"You have to remember that some of these players have played in the last six All-Irelands, so it's important to mix it up a bit to get rid of any staleness.

"Caitriona Foley of Muskerry is our captain this year and Sile Burns, daughter of former Cork star Denis, is vice-captain, so hopefully that will bring a new dynamic to it."

"We've been training out in Ballincollig on the astroturf.

"Obviously, you'd prefer to be on grass but at the moment we've no access to a pitch, however that will change in April when we begin using the Farm at UCC.

"We're very hopeful of a good year though, with Rachel being an integral part of the forwards."

Rachel plays her club camogie with Courcey Rovers in Ballinspittle, and is also hopeful of some success in the county championship this year.

"We always seem to be there or thereabouts, we just need a small bit more belief.

"When we play the top sides we always seem to lose by a point or two, and hopefully if we believe in ourselves a bit more we can start coming out on the right side of those scorelines, as we're a good team ourselves."

With a positive attitude like that, you get the feeling that Rachel's own belief could be a very big factor in local and national success this year.





**HAPPY DAYS:** Even back in her school days with Christ King, Amanda was marked out as a top basketball player.

# Amanda is

**YOU** could call it a busier time than usual in the hectic sporting life of Amanda O'Regan.

The 25 years old has managed to combine camogie and basketball for nearly a decade now.

There's a six-week period in which both codes don't actually collide more brush against each other.

And the Douglas dual star is right in the middle of it now, taking a second or two to decide whether it's a hurley or basketball gear she should be preparing.

O'Regan is a self-confessed doer. While many would be content to be successful at the highest level in one discipline she likes to be challenged practically all year round.

So far Amanda's fitted in grabbing important rebounds in basketball with telling clearances from defence in the stick game.

But it can't go on for ever. Last year's All-Ireland final against Wexford clashed with Ireland's game with Holland in basketball.

Take this month for example, too.

Cork meet Kilkenny in camogie on the same weekend as Team Montenegro attempt to clinch a league and cup double.

It's life in the fast lane, like trying to move in both directions at the same time.

"I try and make as much as I can. In fairness both sides are very understanding.

"It's happened now for the past two or three years.

"It's very demanding and I'm not sure if I'll keep the basketball going this year.

**Camogie and basketball star**

**AMANDA**

**O'REGAN has managed to combine two sports at the highest level. She talks to MARK WOODS**



"Camogie gets first calling in summer," she said.

Her position is complicated more by the possibility of earning another call-up to the Ireland basketball team for the Euro qualifiers.

And by the fact that camogie has fiddled with its league and championship fixture programme again.

O'Regan isn't the only Cork camogie player to have other interests.

Half the side indulge successfully in ladies football, another plays hockey.

But Amanda is alone in mixing the outdoor pursuit with her winter indoor schedule.

That she's highly talented in both adds more pressure to maintaining a demanding regime.

A quick glimpse at her achievements is ample proof of that, a medal haul to be proud of.

Yet, it's far from completed. Like being denied a third All-Ireland in-a-row by Wex-

**"Last year's cup win was special, because, apart from Denise Walsh, there was no one else who had won a cup. The feeling at the end was something else."**



ford last September after wins over Tipperary the previous two years.

Time to redress that this summer.

There's little surprise in Amanda's love of sports. As they say it's in the Levis!

Dad Mick played underage football with Cork, mum Chris kept camogie afloat in the Douglas club long before the explosion of recent years.

MARCH 2008



The St Aloysius team which defeated Mourneabbey in the county junior championship at Church Road on March 3, 1957. The final score was 5-1 to 3-1. Front from left: Pauline Hegarty, Rena Manley, Helen Sexton, Mary Moran, Lily O'Grady (captain), Carmel O'Connell, Mary Clancy, Maura Fitzgerald. Back from left: Eileen Good, Betty Hegarty, Enda Wiley, Helen Horgan, Dymptna Langford, Phil Joyce, Carmel Joyce, Carmel O'Sullivan.



# dual in the crown

## Factfile

**Name:** Amanda O'Regan  
**Age:** 26  
**Occupation:** Teacher  
**Sports:** Camogie and Basketball  
**Schools:** St Columba's NS, Christ the King, Turners Cross, UL  
**Interests:** Reading, music  
**Honours won:** Camogie: Two All-Ireland senior championships, All-Ireland junior and minor championships, National Leagues senior and junior, three Ashbourne Cups, three Ashbourne All-stars, Munster championships across the grades, Interprovincial championships senior and junior, Cork Co Senior 'B' Championship, junior league and championship, U16, with Douglas, Cork winner Féile na nGael skills, third in All-Ireland  
**Basketball:** 2 National Cups, League with Glanmire/Team Montenegro, All-Ireland schools cup with Christ the King, MVP  
**Underage titles:** inter-regionals, inter-county with Blarney, Ireland senior international, World Student Games, twice, three inter-varsity championships and one inter-varsity Allstar.

"I've been playing camogie since the day I could walk.

"I played street leagues at five, my first U14 game at eight and played in goal for the juniors at 12."

County recognition duly followed, as did success, lots of it.

"I was on two All-Ireland U16 winning teams, playing at corner-back on side that beat Derry in the first when the games were still 12-a-side.

"It was Cork's first title in a long while in the grade and that made it extra special."

Her athletic prowess seeped into academia as well, electing to study PE and maths at UL, where Amanda's influence grew after a less than conspicuous start.

"I did a right job on my left knee in my first year playing camogie, wrecking the cruciate, cartilage, the works.

"Mind you I reckon dodgy knees run in the family anyway.

"But I believe it made me stronger mentally. It's an injury you can't rush back from and it gets even more frustrating near the end.

"You think you're right to go back, but in fact you're not.

"I was lucky to have dad holding me back and putting a leash on me.

"The temptation is to return too soon. You feel fine, but it's too risky.

"I was up at UL at the time so I had the use of the fabulous facilities there and that helped."

The Ashbourne Cup is the most cherished prize of all at third level, but UL had only won it once, during the Fiona O'Driscoll era.

All that was to change in the most spectacular manner, directed by O'Regan in the key centre-back position.

"We won it three times in a row. I loved it at UL. It was a memorable experience.

"The Ashbourne Cups were all great, made special by the fact that it was the first time the college completed a three-in-a-row.

"The three have blended together now and I can only remember snippets from games not in any particular sequence."

Future Cork colleague, Jenny O'Leary from Barryroe, was also in the side as was Orla Kilkenny from Galway.

Around that time O'Regan progressed to the Cork juniors, once more to general acclaim.

"My first year was in 2000 and we played Derry in All-Ireland and I started out of position at full-forward.

"They had a brain wave in picking the team. That was the first 15-a-side final.

"If I had some practice there, I mightn't have been too bad, but in any case I was switched because the ball didn't come my way in the first 10 minutes and I was soon restored to corner-back."

O'Regan collected a second medal in '04, earning the Player of the Match award in the win over Down.

That season the seniors became interested, too, and the following year she made the team at left corner-back, taking it all in her stride.

"I was in my early 20s so the jump up wasn't that much of a deal.

"The difference is that it's more physical and the games are a lot faster as well."

Amanda was attracted to basketball in her first year at Christ the King secondary school in Turners Cross.

"I remember one day I was asked to play for Blarney against a touring American side just to make up the numbers.

"I stayed with them until I was 18 when the club folded and I went to Cobh for a year or two."

Mother Chris came on board to help out with the school team, culminating in an All-Ireland colleges title.

"Basketball really took off for me when I started playing with Glanmire at national league level in 2002.

"It was big step up in standards and something I hadn't encountered before.

"We started off from a very low base. I

mean winning a game in our first season was considered an achievement.

"It was a young team generally and we worked our way up.

"Glanmire were very strong underage, but needed time at national level to find their feet.

"They were actually developing the club so that the youngsters had something to aim for.

"It took us about two or three years to reach the required standard and I think when we did start to win titles we appreciated them all the more.

"Last year's cup win was special, because, apart from Denise Walsh, there was no one else who had won a cup.

"It was a new achievement for us and the feeling at the end was something else.

"You only get so many chances to win cups and titles that you must try and take them when they come around."

Amanda's progress was such that she gained a place on the Ireland's women's senior team last year.

"I really enjoyed it, playing in the win over Norway and the unlucky defeat by Iceland.

"This year we've Montenegro, Slovakia, Iceland, Holland and Switzerland, played home and away over two years.

"It's a very tough group, you'd want to win three games to have a chance of qualifying."

That's for another day. Now it's about finishing off one job and starting another.

"The league finals in basketball are coming up.

"We won the regular season recently so we want to keep that winning run going."

While that campaign comes to a close, the other began last week, one of only three league games in camogie.

"The system in place last year resulted in us playing everyone in league and championship.

"It meant six championship games. It's a lot. You can afford to lose three games and still progress.

"It takes out much of the cut and thrust.

"It's demanding as well because you play every weekend in July and you have to try and fit club games in too.

"We didn't finish our club championship with Douglas until December last year because everything got pushed back.

"I think you'd want to play more league games to be ready for the championship.

"They're trying to bring on the weaker counties, but I don't think that kind of a format will work.

"A couple of years ago they split the championship into two groups and it seemed to work okay.

"Last year we played Dublin in the final game. We had already qualified and they were out of the running effectively.

"I think the stronger teams get stronger with a format like that."

Douglas's promotion to senior A status is another entry to un-chartered waters. As if Amanda didn't have enough on her plate already!



Camogie was Amanda's first love having taken up the sport at five years of age.



The Atherry half-back line of Emma Costello, Krystle Ruddy, and Regina Glynn







# Charleville girls can't match Kilkenny's Brigids

ALL IRELAND SENIOR COLLEGES A FINAL

ST BRIGIDS (Kilkenny).....3-7  
ST MARYS (Charleville).....0-6

ST BRIGID'S proved too good for St Mary's Charleville in Saturday's All Ireland Senior A Colleges final played in Clonmel. The Kilkenny girls produced a superb performance to run out winners on a scoreline of 3-7 to 0-6.

St Mary's failed to live up to

pre-match expectations - registering just three points from play. The remainder coming from placed balls by full-back Rebecca Finn. They began well with a point from Kerrie Brosnan. However, it was quickly wiped out as Brigid's swept into the lead with four unan-

swered minors. St Mary's tried everything they could to stem the tide - but splendid goals by Denise Gaulle and Anna Farrell helped the Noreiders to a 2-4 to 0-4 interval.

Brigid's inspired by captain Leanne Fennelly - daughter of hurling legend Liam - continued to rule the roost on the turnover. A third goal scored by Michelle Farrell wrapped the game up. The Charleville girls played their socks off up to the final whistle - but on the day the better team won.

ST BRIGID'S: L Walker, C Conway, A

Walsh, D Holden, L Carey, K McDonald, M Power, L Fennelly (capt), M Farrell, A Manning, D Gaulle, E Brennan, A Farrell, C Holden, L Dunne.

ST MARYS: E Hanley (capt), A McAuliffe, R Finn, C Galvin, M Walsh, F Dore, E Reidy, O O'Mahony, R Rea, E Healy, A McAuliffe, S O'Flynn, D O'Callaghan, K Brosnan, M Reidy Subs; L O'Flynn for E Healy, K Curtin for E Reidy.

Scorers for St Brigid's: A Farrell 1-1, D Gaulle 1-1 (0-1 free), M Farrell 1-0, L Fennelly, C Holden, L Dunne, A Manning 0-1 each.

SCORERS FOR ST MARYS: R Finn 0-3 (0-2 frees 0-1 45), K Brosnan 0-2, L O'Flynn 0-1.



St Marys Charleville player Orlaith O Mahoney breaks out of defence under pressure from St Brigids callan players Aine Manning and Ciara Holden during the All Ireland senior A Camogie Schools final

## Juniors take Munster crown

THE first title of 2008 was annexed by the junior team who recorded a superb victory over Clare on Sunday last in a game that took extra time to decide. With the lead changing hands several times Cork had to dig deep before securing the title with two points to spare, all credit to the eighteen players who worked so hard to secure victory. All over the field Cork had stars Denise Luby at full forward contributed 2-6 to Cork's tally of 2-10 whilst Margaret O Herlihy Lydia Cunningham and Kathleen O'Brien were also on the score board for Cork, in defence Siobhan Gleeson and goalkeeper Tina O'Donnell and captain Jennifer Browne were superb but in truth Cork had eighteen stars who battled to the final whistle and beyond well done girls on a superb victory.

## All-Ireland for Christ the King

WELL done to the girls from Christ the King Turners Cross who won their first All Ireland colleges Senior B title at a wind swept Feenagh on Saturday last.

On four occasions the sides were level and St Killian's looked to have done enough entering injury time as they led but credit the Cork girls who never gave up and snatched victory deep into injury time.

It was level pegging 0-8 to 2-2 at the interval as Christ the King had to defend against the gale force wind. Rachel Spellman's goal edged the Galway girls ahead after Katrina Mackey had converted three Christ the King frees in reply to Caoimhe Staunton's point.

Julia White and Mackey edged Christ the King ahead with points but it was nip and tuck to the half time whistle. St Killian's Rachel Burns and Niamh Mc Grath stretched

their lead to four points but Christ the King Captain Aine Moynihan at centre back superbly driving them on.

Up front Julia White pointed before Ailin O'Donovan had the side's level for the third time Mackey pointed but St Killian's were back on level with twelve minutes remaining.

Niamh Mc Grath edged St Killian's ahead and it looked to be enough as we entered the fourth minute of injury time Aisling Byrne's won possession and her excellent cross was first timed to the net by Emma Jordan, Ailin O'Donovan pointed in the fifth minute of injury time to ensure the title was secured, well done to all concerned.

St Mary's Charleville had to give way to a strong Callan side in the Senior A colleges final 3-7 to 0-6 the final score line on a disappointing day for the north Cork girls.



Cloughroe NS who participated in a mini sevens exhibition game at Munster junior camogie final

## Mini sevens

AT HALF time in the Munster Junior final the pupils from Ovens and Cloughroe national schools gave an exhibition of camogie when they played a mini sevens game, great skill was shown by the youngsters on both sides what a pity the elements were not kinder well done to the teachers and players who showed the games future is in safe hands

## Ryan hat-trick fires Dublin to shock win

by C6ilin Duffy

THE 2008 senior camogie championship began in Skerries yesterday with Dublin pipping All-Ireland champions Wexford in the Leinster semi-final (4-6 to 2-11).

The visitors led 2-9 to 1-4 at the three-quarter stage but Dublin's Sarah Ryan produced a late hat-trick to shock the Model County.

A Lenny Holohan goal gave the visitors a 1-5 to 1-2 advantage after Dublin had raced into an early 1-2 to 0-2 lead thanks to a Ryan goal.

But the switch of Ciara Lucey to half-back and the superb play of substitute Niamh Taylor and Fiona Ni Chiorc6ar6in secured a home win.

Dublin now face Kilkenny in the

provincial decider, but must first do battle with Cork in the National League.

There were two games down in Division Two with Tipperary's second string side recording a 1-16 to 3-7 victory over Galway at Lorr.

The hosts held a 1-6 to 1-4 interval lead, with full-forward Ailish Langton scored Tipperary's goal, while Stephanie O'Dwyer

### Camogie

struck for Galway. Third-quarter goals from Martina Conroy and Stacey Coen seemed to have secured victory for the Tribeswomen but Tipperary, led by midfielder Caitriona O'Meara, reeled off the points to take victory.

In the Division's other game, Cork shaded Waterford in a six goal thriller at Cappaquinn (3-12 to 3-5).

### Weekend Camogie Review

By C6ilin Duffy

A 55th minute goal from Marie O'Connor was the decisive score in an entertaining 2-11 to 1-11 victory for Kilkenny over Wexford in Division 1 of the National Camogie League yesterday in Kilkenny.

In a game played with tremendous skill and pace, the All-Ireland champions didn't get off to the start they wanted, and trailed by 1-5 to 0-2 after 21 minutes, with Katie Power smashing the ball to the back of the Wexford net after 19 minutes, when she coped brilliantly with a tenacious defence.

Wexford responded well thanks to good points from Kate Kelly and Una Leacy but still trailed by double scores at the interval by 1-7 to 0-5. However they were to experience a change of fortune in the second half, holding Kilkenny to just a point in the third quarter with Katrina Parrock (2) and Kelly (3) sending over superb points leaving the score at 1-8 to 0-10 with 15 minutes remaining.

A 50th minute goal strike from Una Leacy put Wexford into a late lead, but Kilkenny remained resilient and O'Connor's 55th minute strike put the Cats back into a lead they wouldn't relinquish as they held out for a hard earned win.

Elsewhere in the league Wexford were comfortable 5-12 to 1-4 winners over Tipperary in Division 2. Fiona Kavanagh, Shelly Kehoe (2) and Sandy Carr were the goal scorers for the victors.

In Division 3 Laois, Offaly and Down all recorded comfortable victories while Roscommon and Meath were winners over Kildare and Carlow respectively in Division 4.

There was plenty of major action on the Colleges front on Saturday with a strong second half display ensuring St. Brigid's Callan were crowned All-Ireland Senior A Camogie champions at Moyle Rovers following a 3-7 to 0-6 victory over Kingsins St. Mary's Charleville. Callan captained by Leinster young player of the year Leanne Fennelly were in strong form, and held a 2-3 to 0-2 interval advantage, with goals from Anna Farrell and Denise Gaulle.

Although playing against a strong wind in the second half, they continued to play well with good displays from Fennelly, Mairead Power and Shelly and Anna Farrell. A late goal from Emma Jordan was the decisive score as Christ the King, Cork took the Senior B All-Ireland title thanks to a 2-12 to 3-6 win over St. Killian's, New Inn at Feenagh. Goals from Rachel Spellman and Michelle Skehill saw Killians in strong contention at half-time but with Caitriona Mackey and Aileen O'Donovan impressive, it paved the way to a Cork victory in the second half. Despite holding a 1-5 to 0-0 interval advantage with Laura Dooley taking their first half goal, Sacred Heart Tullamore, lost out in the Colleges C decider at Drom-Inch by 3-3 to 1-7 with second half goals from Sarah Fenton, Jessica Gavin Johnson and Caitriona McGlinn paving the way for a Blackwater Community School two point win.



## Cork girls facing a tough test by Déise

By MARY NEWMAN

Camogie previews

**TOMORROW**  
**Cork v Waterford,**  
**Division 2 League,**  
**Cappoquin, 2.30pm**

A RETURN to inter-county activities this weekend as the Division two team get their national league campaign underway.

Given that only two teams will qualify and go straight to the league final every game is going to be vital and with little margin for error Cork will need to be at their best in all games.

This year the league will consist of two groups. Cork are paired with Waterford, Clare and Kilkenny while Tipperary, Galway, Wexford and Derry make up group two.

The structure of competitions at all levels received a major overhaul in 2006.

While Cork now fields two teams in the senior leagues, the division two team will participate in what is now known as the intermediate championship, this competition replacing the Senior B grade of the last two years.

With the promotion of several of last season's division two Cork side to the division one team the second team will feature many new faces.

Among the players who should feature on the sides are Marion Jagoe, Michelle Browne, Ciara Murphy, Noreen Mulcahy and Charlotte Kearney. Cork will be slight favourites but one must remember it Waterford's first-choice 15.

**TOMORROW**  
**Cork v Tipperary,**  
**Munster U16 A semi-final,**  
**Toomevara, 2.30pm.**

With the All-Ireland series played on an open draw basis, both will be hoping to advance to the closing stages of the provincial competition, for valuable competitive games.

Cork disappointedly lost out in the last two All-Ireland finals to Kilkenny and there is urgency in the county to get back to winning ways at this level.

Last season Cork lost out in a thrilling Munster final to Clare but bounced back to reverse that result in the All-Ireland series meeting with the same county.

This is very much a new look panel with just eight survivors from last season.

Selectors Ger Sheehan Esther O'Leary and Tracy Sheehan will be keeping a close eye on their charges as they battle to secure a place in the provincial final.

**MONDAY**

**Cork v Waterford, Munster minor**  
**championship, Glen Rovers, 2.30pm.**

With the All-Ireland series now played on an open draw format for the last two years, the provincial competitions has lost a bit of their gloss.

Waterford have been putting huge efforts into under age camogie with players such as Patricia Jackman who took the All-Ireland Féile Skills title in 2004, leading the way.

Cork lost out comprehensively to Kilkenny in last season's All-Ireland final but eight of the panel from 2007.

Again it's a first venture into a somewhat unknown arena for the minor selectors. But they have worked hard to gather their panel together and it will be interesting to see if they have come up with the right combination.

# Cork start off with a victory

**Cork** 3-12  
**Waterford** 3-5

**CORK'S** second string opened their Division Two national league campaign with a win when they came away from Cappoquin with seven points to spare over a Waterford side that made them fight to the finish.

Michelle Browne's ability to convert frees was a feature of Cork's strength while the impressive Marie Corkery and Eimear O'Sullivan always proved a handful for the home side.

Eimear O'Sullivan opened the scoring with a Cork point and in a close opening half, the sides were evenly matched as they traded scores.

Aine Lyng replied to O'Sullivan's opener with a pointed Waterford free before Michelle Browne edged Cork ahead.

Marie Watson extended Cork's lead when she handpassed to the net but the home side responded with a Jenny Simpson goal inside five minutes.

Michelle Brown was on target with three Cork points as Waterford, aided by the stiff breeze, kept pace with points from Lisa Prendergast and Aine Lyng, but it was Cork who led by two points at the interval, 1-5 to 1-3.

Inside seven minutes of the second half, Cork had increased their lead to seven points, Charlotte Kearney firing home and early goal after points from Marie Watson and Kearney.

Waterford battled to stay in touch, Marie Maher pointed before substitute Katie Marie Ahern signalled a revival with a goal on the three-quarter mark.

With the game in the melting pot, Cork rallied, scoring three points without reply from Michelle Browne and Eimear O'Sullivan, restoring the lead to six points.

Aine Lyng and Brown again traded points as Cork hung on to



Charlotte Kearney was in fine form for Cork scoring 1-1 in their win over Waterford.

By MARY NEWMAN

Camogie

their lead.

Marion Jagoe's goal five minutes from full-time looked to have Cork out of sight but Waterford were not giving up without a fight, Kate Marie Ahern struck for her second goal with five minutes remaining but Cork had done enough to secure the

points before Michelle Browne converted a late point to give Cork a perfect start to their league campaign.

**Scorers for Cork:** M Browne 0-7, M Watson, C Kearney 1-1 each, M Jaego 1-0, E O'Sullivan 0-2 (0-1 45, 0-1 pen).  
**Waterford:** KM Ahern 2-0, A Lyng 0-3, J Simpson 1-0, L Prendergast, C Maher 0-1 each.  
**CORK:** E White, AM Fleming, N Mulcahy, E Dunne, L Hawkes, L O'Connell, J Browne, M Corkery, E O'Sullivan, L Weste, R Myers, M

Jaego, M Browne, M Watson, D Twomey, Subs: K O'Brien for M Jaego (56) C Deasy for J Browne (57), C Kearney

**WATERFORD:** F Kiely, A Kelly, V Gaffney, A Cummins, N Ryan, S O'Grady, J O'Grady, J Simpson, C Maher, A Lyng, T Morrissey, N Morrissey, P Jackman, A Breathnach, M Murphy, Subs: A O'Brien for F Kiely, KM Ahern for T Morrissey (both half-time), E Hannon for J Simpson (50), A Dunphy for N Ryan, R Heylin for A Murphy (both 55).

Referee: A O'Brien (Wexford).

## U16s make it through to Munster final

By MARY NEWMAN

Cork 2-13 Tipperary 1-3

answered points from Ailín O'Donovan and the excellent Katrina Mackey (2) had Cork back in the comfort zone.

Twice Tipp came close to grabbing a goal but again the Cork defence, superbly marshalled by keeper Tessa Hawkes, never yielded.

And when Finola Neville grabbed a Cork goal with nine minutes remaining the gap was at 10 points as Cork pushed on.

Cork safely advanced to meet holders Clare who recorded a 1-4 to 0-4 victory over Limerick.

With the All-Ireland series to be played on an open draw basis we will no doubt see a lot more of this Tipperary side as former All-Star Noelle Kennedy settles her charges down to championship business.

Cork will be happy to advance to the provincial decider but will not get carried away by the result.

**Scorers for Cork:** K Mackey 0-6 (0-1 45), F Neville 1-1, A O'Donovan

0-3, J Fitzpatrick 1-0, K Buckley 0-1.

**Tipperary:** N Walsh 1-0, N O'Donoghue, A Kennedy, A Fogarty 0-1 each

**CORK:** T Hawkes, M E O'Donovan, A Coughlan, K McCarthy, R O'Mahony, P Mackey (cl), F Cotter, M Reidy, E Kingston, S Coomey, K Mackey, A O'Donovan, F Neville, K Buckley, S O'Halloran.

**Subs:** C Meaney for S O'Halloran (41), C Lynch for M E O'Donovan (49), J Fitzpatrick for K Buckley (55), J Kavanagh for T Hawkes (57).

**TIPPERARY:** K Ahern, S Ryan, S O'Meara, N Stapleton, M Barry, E Spillane, B Quinn, C Shortt, E Kelly, A Kennedy, E Carey, A Fogarty, N Maher, G Grace, S Butler.

**Subs:** A Ryan for N Maher (22), K Hackett for N Stapleton (44), N Walsh for E Carey (59), C Devane for E Kelly (59).

Ref: Aidan Ryan, Limerick.





Ann Downey will ensure that there is no stone left unturned as Kilkenny senior bid to add to their recent underage success.

# Beware of the up and coming Cats

**EVERYWHERE** you turn these days it seems Kilkenny are behind you.

Like a cat sneaking up on its prey, they lay low, back arched, before finally pouncing for victory.

Two All-Ireland U16 championships in 2006 and '07, the All-Ireland minor title last year.

And just last Saturday, St Brigid's of Callan were crowned All-Ireland Senior A Camogie champions at Moyle Rovers following a 3-7 to 0-6 victory over kingpins St Mary's Charleville.

Callan, captained by Leinster young player of the year Leanne Fennelly, were in strong form, and held a 2-3 to 0-2 interval advantage, with goals from Anna Farrell and Denise Gaulle.

Despite playing against a strong wind in the second half, they continued to impress with good displays from Fennelly, Mairéad Power and Shelly and Anna Farrell.

Now someone tell me that Kilkenny aren't on the way back.

It's only a matter of time before the Black and Amber will come back to haunt us all again.

Virtually off the scene since



LINDA MELLERICK

1999, Kilkenny have obviously gone back to the drawing board and realised that if they want to be a major force in camogie again, the grassroots is where to begin.

It's 14 years since Kilkenny have won the All-Ireland senior camogie title, many of the current members of the successful underage sides just about learning to run without falling back then.

We all know that success at underage does not guarantee success at the top level and that few players actually make it to the top.

But in camogie that has changed somewhat.

Teams are getting younger all the time, players retiring earlier.

When I joined the Cork set-up in the 80s, most of the players were in their late 20s-early 30s.

One or two players were added to the panel each year but that was it.

The turnaround meant there was always a mature, experi-

enced element in the side mixed with youth.

Very few counties have 30-year-olds playing today.

Getting a call-up for the senior panel at 17-years-old is now the norm more so than the exception.

Mary Leacy, captain of Wexford last year, won her second All-Ireland colleges title in 2004 with Coláiste Bríde of Enniscorthy, meaning she must have been about 20 years of age when she walked up the steps of the Hogan stand.

Catriona Foley captains Cork this year and is just 21, turning 22 in September.

For this reason, Kilkenny winning so many underage titles isn't something the rest of the country should be taking lightly.

Underage (minor) and senior are very close to being one and the same in camogie.

Ann Downey is at the helm in Kilkenny again. There'll be no stone left unturned, be assured of that.

Maybe they're a year or two off the mark yet, but that's all it is if they maintain this momentum.

And to enforce the point, the Cats defeated hot favourites Wexford last Sunday in their

second round league tie.

A 55th-minute goal from Marie O'Connor was the decisive score in an entertaining 2-11 to 1-11 victory.

In a game played with tremendous skill and pace, the All-Ireland champions didn't get off to the start they wanted, and trailed by 1-5 to 0-2 after 21 minutes, with Katie Power smashing the ball to the back of the Wexford net after 19 minutes, when she coped brilliantly with the Slaneysiders' tenacious defence.

Wexford responded well thanks to good points from Kate Kelly and Una Leacy but still trailed by double scores at the interval, 1-7 to 0-5.

Wexford experienced a change of fortune in the second half, holding Kilkenny to just a point in the third quarter with Katrina Parrock (two) and Kelly (three) sending over superb points leaving the score at 1-8 to 0-10 with 15 minutes remaining.

A 50th-minute goal strike from Una Leacy put Wexford into a late lead, but Kilkenny remained resilient and O'Connor's goal with five minutes left put the Cats back into a lead that they wouldn't relinquish as they held out for a hard-earned two-point win.

## CLUB NOTES

### ÉIRE ÓG

Best of luck to Claire Meaney and Katie McCarthy in the final trials for the Cork U16 panel.

Congratulations to Marie Gleeson for succeeding in getting on to the Cork minor panel for the coming year.

Congratulations also must go to Alanna McKenna, Clara McKenna, Siobhan Gleeson, Margaret Herlihy and Marie Gleeson as they represented Cork in the Munster Junior final last weekend.

### ST FINBARR'S

Ellen Clifford will captain St Finbarr's in their bid to win back the Cork Senior Championship title this season. Ellen, who holds All-Ireland senior and junior championship medals, will be joined on the management team by Derek McCarthy and Johnny Sweeney.

Colette O'Mahony, Colette Kirby, Claire Harrington and Claire Spellman will take charge of the U16 and U18 teams. The U14 panel will be cared for by Bab's Corcoran, Marie McCarthy, Ellen Clifford and Deirdre Clarke.

The U11 and U12 sides will be the responsibility of Toinette Santry, Colette Carey and Marian McCarthy.

### BRIAN DILLON'S

A fantastic match was enjoyed by many on Saturday when Brian Dillon's took on St Catherine's in the U16 C League final.

Both teams displayed great skill and determination and battled it out for the title. However, Brian Dillon's were absolutely superb on the day and it was clear from the outset that they were the stronger team.

Team: Saoirse Rodgers; Eadaoin Kelly Sarah Cotter Kate O'Brien; Emma Burns Lucy Bradfield Sara Attridge; Susan Kate Brosnan Claire Dooley; Jane Dooley Orlaith Ní Shuilleabhain Michelle Ring; Donna Carroll Nicole Gleeson Rebecca O'Mahony

Subs: Denise O'Flynn for Nicole Gleeson Rebecca Myers for Eadaoin Kelly Aoife O'Mahony for Rebecca O'Mahony

Scorers: Jane Dooley 1-3, Rebecca O'Mahony 1-1, Donna Carroll 0-4, Susan Kate Brosnan 1-0

### ST CATHERINE'S

On Saturday last our U16 team met Brian Dillon's in last year's league final. This was the second time that we met this Brian Dillon's team as they had already defeated us in the 2007 Championship semi-final last year. Despite our girls best efforts, the visitors proved too strong for us on this occasion also and ran out winners on 3-8 to 1-4 score line.

Team: L. Bumster, C. Clancy, A. O'Keefe, A. Ahern, R. O'Callaghan, F. Cotter, J. Mangin, K. Hannan, S. Barry, K. Murphy, S. Gallagher, N. O'Donoghue, C. Kearney, F. Neville, F. Feeney.

Subs: K. Mellerick for S. Barry, E. Neville, A. Doyle, C. McAuliffe, E. Murphy.

Scorers: F. Neville 1-1 (f), C. Kearney 0-2, F. Cotter 0-1 (f)

### GLEN ROVERS

Last weekend was a busy one as our U16 team began their league campaign for 2008 whilst two U12 teams travelled to Riverstick to participate in the Ballinhassig indoor tournament, on the inter county scene three of our girls helped Cork bring home the first silverware of 2008 as they helped the junior sides defeat Clare in the Munster Junior championship final.

Newtownshandrum travelled to the Glen field on Sunday both clubs got their league campaign off the ground.

Signs of the long lay off were very evident in both teams but that quickly disappeared as the game progressed.

We opened the scoring with a Sinead O'Halloran point and when the same player finished to the net minutes later we settled. Points from Nicole O'Brien, Sinead Fahy and Sinead O'Halloran were replied to by Mariah Reidy with a Newtownshandrum point as her side opened their account. Avril Lee struck for a Newtownshandrum goal as our defence began to feel the pressure three points without reply from Sinead O'Halloran gave us an interval lead of 1-7 to 0-1 as we turned to play with the wind.

Mariah Reidy had just three points between the teams with an early Newtown goal but from here to the finish our defence tightened up, goalkeeper Alison Rea, Stephanie Callanan and Lorna Crowley holding the Newtown forwards at bay with excellent play.

The hard working Sinead Fahy struck for two excellent goals before points from the two Sineads O'Halloran and Galien put the game beyond our visitors reach. On Tuesday it's the turn of our second team under 16 to take to the playing fields as we meet Castlelyons in the Glen Field at 4.30pm while the first team will travel to Fr O'Neill's on Thursday week to meet the home side in a league game at 2.30pm we hope to get in other fixtures during the Easter break.

U12s Mary Sheehan and John O'Halloran expressed satisfaction at the performances of their young charges who participated in the Ballinhassig tournament.

Fielding two teams it was an action packed day for all concerned with one of our teams losing out by a single goal to Cloughduv in the shield final.

WELL DONE Well done to Lydia Cunningham Alice Keating and Denise Luby who played their part on Sunday last as Cork annexed the Munster Junior Championship title defeating Clare in extra time, special mention has to go to Denise Luby who contributed 2-6 to Cork's total of 2-10.

SYMPATHY It was with great sorry that we learned out the death of Siobhan Gough on Tuesday last, down through the years she was a great follower of every team in the club and travelled the length and breadth of the country and beyond in the 1980s with our camogie teams.

She also lined out at under age with the club and was involved at junior level, a great character who loved the matches and all that went with them Siobhan had been ill for the last few years but was always in great form, to her family we offer our sincere sympathy and support, may she rest in peace. As a mark of respect our AGM which was scheduled for last Thursday was postponed.

GOOD LUCK Best of luck to our girls on the Cork U16 and minor panels this weekend.

FIXTURES TUESDAY MARCH 18 U16 team 2 v Castlelyons in Glen Field players to meet at 3.30pm

THURSDAY MARCH 20 AGM in club at 7.30pm

FRIDAY MARCH 21ST U11 friendly v Na Piarasigh in Glen Rovers TRAINING

U5 to 12 year-olds Sunday morning 11.45am (No training this Sunday bank holiday). Indoor in Glen Rovers Hall on Tuesday nights 6.45pm to 7pm. U13/14 teams Friday in Glen Field starting at 5.30pm sharp and Sunday mornings at 11.45am.

Senior/Junior minor and under16 teams Wednesdays 7pm Sharp

We look forward to welcoming everybody and invite new members to come along and join.

COMPILED BY MARY NEWMAN





The Tipperary Association have named Liz Howard, president, Cumann Camogaiochta na nGael, as Tipperary Person of the Year and Tony Wall, right, as the Hall of Fame recipient. Former Tipperary hurler Tony Wall, captained Tipperary to All-Ireland success in 1958 and won four more senior titles. Liz Howard is the first Tipperary person to serve as Cumann Camogaiochta na nGael president and is a former PRO for Tipperary GAA Board. Also included is Michael Fenton, president, Tipperary Association.

Picture: Sportsfile

## Cork book their place in the Munster final

**Cork**  
**Tipperary**

**2-13**  
**1-3**

A GOOD opener for the Cork under 16 squad as they advanced to the Munster championship final following their victory over Tipperary in Toomevara on Saturday.

The continuous downpour failed to thwart the efforts of two committed sides that battled it out on an excellent pitch which held up exceptionally well given the appalling weather conditions.

Cork led at the interval 0-6 to 0-1 after playing against the wind, Katie

Buckley Emma Kingston, Ailin O Donovan and Katrina Mackey notched up the vital points as Cork set about stamping their authority on proceedings.

Six minutes from half-time Tipperary were on the scoreboard with substitute Niamh O Donoghue pointing with her first touch. Tipperary enjoyed plenty of possession and put the Cork defence under pressure but goalkeeper Tessa Hawkes had plenty of assistance from her defence where Alison Coughlan Katie McCarthy and Rosie O Mahony worked hard as

Cork held their lines to the half time whistle.

On the resumption Finola Neville pointed but Tipperary began to battle back and points from Amy Kennedy and Alice Fogarty put just four between the sides.

Cork responded superbly and three unanswered points from Ailin O Donovan and the Katrina Mackey (2) restored their composure. Finola Neville struck for a Cork goal with nine minutes remaining as Cork stretched their lead to 10 points.

Emma Kingston and Katrina

Mackey pointed but in between Tipperary substitute Nicole Walsh grabbed a goal. From the puck out, Cork sub Jane Fitzpatrick finished to the net after the ball struck the crossbar. Katrina Mackey pointed a 45 on the full time whistle to see Cork safely through to an Easter Monday meeting with holders Clare, who recorded a 1-4 to 0-4 victory over Limerick.

With the All Ireland series to be played on an open draw basis, we are sure to see more of these two sides before the championship titles finds a home.

**Cork:** T Hawkes; M E O Donovan, A Coughlan, K McCarthy; R O Mahony, P Mackey (c), F Cotter, M Reidy, E Kingston; S Coomey, K Mackey, A O Donovan; F Neville, K Buckley, S O Halloran.  
**Subs:** C Meaney for S O Halloran (41); C Lynch for M E O Donovan (49); J Fitzpatrick for K Buckley (55); J Kavanagh for T Hawkes (57).  
**Scorers:** K Mackey 0-6 (0-1 45), F Neville 1-1, A O Donovan 0-3, J Fitzpatrick 1-0, K Buckley 0-1.

**Tipperary:** K Ahern; S Ryan, S O Meera, N Stapleton; M Barry, E Spillane, B Quinn; C Shortt, E Kelly; A Kennedy, E Carey, A Fogarty; N Maher, G Grace, S Butler.  
**Subs:** A Ryan for N Maher (22), K Hackatt for N Stapleton (44), N Walsh for E Carey (59), C Devane for E Kelly (59).  
**Scorers:** N Walsh 1-0, N O Donoghue, A Kennedy, A Fogarty 0-1 each.

**Referee:** Aidan Ryan (Limerick).

## Cork open Division Two league campaign with a win

**Cork**  
**Waterford**

**3-12**  
**3-5**

CORK got their division 2 national league campaign off to a good start as they recorded a seven point's victory over Waterford on Sunday last in Cappoquin.

Aided by the wind in the opening half, the home side matched Cork step for step as Eimear O'Sullivan opened the scoring with a point. Aine Lyng replied with a pointed

Waterford free before Michelle Browne edged Cork ahead. Marie Watson stretched the Cork lead when she hand passed to the net but Jenny Simpson responded with a Waterford goal inside five minutes. Michelle Brown pointed three Cork frees as Waterford stayed the distance and kept pace with points from Lisa Prendergast and Aine Lyng as Cork led by two points at the interval 1-5 to 1-3.

Cork upped the pace from the

restart as Charlotte Kearney struck for an early goal after points from Marie Watson and Kearney stretched the visitors lead. Waterford battled to get back into contention and they were rewarded with a Marie Maher point before substitute Katie Marie Ahern signalled a revival with a goal on the three quarter stage.

Cork dug deep and three points without reply from Michelle Browne and Eimear O'Sullivan re-

stored the lead to six points. Aine Lyng and Brown again traded points before Marion Jaego's goal five minutes from time looked to be enough for Cork, but Waterford hit back. Kate Marie Ahern struck for her second goal with five minutes remaining, but Cork had done enough even before Michelle Browne converted a late point.

**Cork:** E White, A M Fleming, N Mulcahy, E Dunne, L Hawkes, L O Connell, J Browne, M Corkery, E O Sullivan, L Weste, R Myers, M

Jaego, M Browne, M Watson, D Twomey, C Kearney. Subs: K O Brien for M Jaego (56), C Deasy for J Browne (57).  
**Scorers:** M Browne 0-7 f, M Watson C Kearney 1-1 each, M Jaego 1-0, E O Sullivan 0-2 (0-1 45 0-1p).

**Waterford:** F Kiely, A Kelly, V Gaffney, A Cummins, N Ryan, S O Grady, J O Grady, J Simpson, C Maher, A Lyng, T Morrissey, N Morrissey, P Jackman, A Breathnach, M Murphy. Subs: A O Brien for F Kiely (h/t), K M Ahern for T Morrissey (h/t), E Hannon for J Simpson (50), A Dunphy for N Ryan (55), R Heylin for A Murphy (55).  
**Scorers:** K M Ahern 2-0, A Lyng 0-3, J Simpson 1-0, L Prendergast, C Maher 0-1 each.

**Referee:** A O Brien Wexford



# Easy win for Rebel minors

Cork 3-18  
Waterford 1-2

By MARY NEWMAN

Minor camogie

A STRONG show by the Cork minor side as they overpowered Waterford in the first round of the Munster championship at Glen Rovers yesterday.

Cork's strength was evident from the throw-in and aided by the gale force wind they had built up an impressive half-time lead of 1-14 to 0-0 as the visitors struggled to come to terms with the wide open spaces and hurricane-like wind.

Three points had Cork in the driving seat inside the fifth minute before Roisin De Faoite finished to the net for Cork's opening goal.

Piling on the pressure on a playing surface that was excellent for first-time hurling, Cork picked off their scores, Niamh Dilworth, Ashling Thompson, Julia White and Roisin De Faoite allstriking points.

Despite playing with the elements in the second half, Waterford failed to match their opponents.

Niamh Dilworth extended the lead with a goal inside seven minutes of the resumption and Cork had stretched their advantage to 2-18 before Waterford finally got off the mark, scoring 1-2.

However, Niamh Dilworth rounded off Cork's scoring with a third goal and Cork advance to a semi-final meeting with Tipperary on March 29.

**Scorers for Cork:** N. Dilworth 2-5, R. De Faoite 1-4, J. White 0-4, D. Luby 0-3 (10-1f, 0-1 45, 0-1p), A. Thompson 0-2.

**Waterford:** P. Jackman 1-0, M. Russell 0-2 (0-1f, 0-1).

**CORK:** M. Gleeson; M.A. Hawkes, S. O'Brien, C. O'Neill; M. Walsh, L. Cunningham, S. Cotter, J. Lynch, S. Buckley; J. White, N. Dilworth (capt), A. Thompson; R. De Faoite, D. Luby, C. O'Keefe.

**Subs:** E. Harrington for S. O'Brien, S. O'Neill for G. O'Keefe (both half-time), K. O'Connell for R. De Faoite (45), M. Moran for J. Lynch (49), A. Sheehan for S. Cotter (50).

**WATERFORD:** T. Kiely; C. Dunne, J. Forbes, J. Walsh; K. Rockett, S. Kiernan, S. Kavanagh; M. Russell, P. Jackman; S. Fenton, D. Fahy, D. Nugent; G. Tobin, E. Fitzgerald, N. Ryan.

**Subs:** O. O'Neill for J. Walsh, J. McCarthy for S. Kavanagh (both 45), S. Whelan for D. Nugent (48), A. Hale for J. Tobin (50), L. Behan for E. Fitzgerald (51).

## U16 team book final place

THE Cork under-16 team travelled to Toomevara on Saturday, a superb display saw them book their place in the Munster final where they will meet Clare on Monday next.

Appalling weather conditions failed to deter the two sides as Cork led at the interval 0-6 to 0-1 after playing against the wind. Katie Buckley, Emma Kingston, Ailin O'Donovan and Katrina Mackey all on the score board for Cork. Niamh O'Donoghue pointing with her first touch for Tipperary after her introduction to the fray as Tipperary enjoyed plenty of possession. Cork goalkeeper Tessa Hawkes had plenty of assistance from her defence where Alison Coughlan, Katie McCarthy and Rosie O'Mahony worked hard as the Cork defence held out under severe pressure.

On the resumption Finola Neville pointed but Tipperary began to battle back and points from Amy Kennedy and Alice Fogarty put just four between the sides. Cork responded superbly and three unanswered points from Ailin O'Donovan and the Katrina Mackey (2) restored their composure. Finola Neville struck for a Cork goal with nine minutes remaining as Cork stretched their lead to ten points. Emma Kingston and Katrina Mackey pointed but in between Tipperary substitute Nicole Walsh grabbed a goal. From the puck out Cork sub Jane Fitzpatrick finished to the net after the ball struck the crossbar and came back into her path, Katrina Mackey to point a forty five on the full time whistle to see Cork safely through to an Easter Monday meeting with holders Clare who recorded a 1-4 to 0-4 victory over Limerick.

With the All Ireland series to be played on an open draw basis we are sure to see more of these two sides before the championship titles finds a home.



Trish Jackman prevents Noreen Mulcahy from clearing in the National Camogie League at Cappoquin.

## Win for senior div 2 team

CORK got the best possible start to their division 2 national league campaign with a victory over Waterford on Sunday last in Cappoquin. Cork's Eimear O'Sullivan opened the scoring with a point as Aine Lyng replied for Waterford. Michelle Browne edged Cork ahead with a free and when Marie Watson stretched the Cork lead hand passing to the net the lead was extended. Jenny Simpson responded with a Waterford goal inside five minutes but Michelle Brown pointed three Cork frees to keep their noses ahead. Waterford kept pace with points from Lisa Prendergast and Aine Lyng as Cork turned over leading 1-5 to 1-3. Charlotte Kearney struck for an early second half goal after Marie Watson and Kearney

had pointed to stretch the lead. Waterford worked hard to get back into the game with a Marie Maher point before substitute Katie Marie Ahern struck for a goal on the three quarter stage. Cork held their composure and replied with three points. Michelle Browne and Aine O'Sullivan restored lead to six points. Aine and Brown again points before Marie goal five minutes from time looked to be enough but Waterford's Kate Marie Ahern for her second goal with minutes remaining, ever Cork had done to secure the point. Michelle Browne scored a late point to give Cork points on offer.

# Huge camogie achievement

I HAVE to admit to being a huge fan of the great work being done by our Camogie sisters in the county. They really don't get the profile or indeed the support that their male counterparts get when it comes to League or Championship action. That's why I think we should all stand up and take notice this week of Clare's wonderful achievement in reaching the Division 2 League Final for the first time ever. Having won Division 3 in 2006 and powered their way to the Junior All Ireland Final last year only to lose heartbreakingly to Derry in Croke Park, it shows that the progress made over the last two years was no fluke and indeed that we have some great talent on the way up. Take Chloe Morey from Sixmilebridge.

She's only 15 but she made her debut after 16 minutes two days ago against Waterford when she replaced the injured Kate Lynch. Seven of the team are Under 18 this year including Aileen O'Shea also from the Bridge who scored two fine goals against Waterford at the weekend. Once upon a time, in fact for a very long time we depended on Deirdre Murphy to do everything but thankfully that situation is changing a little. She is now the team Captain and nobody anywhere in the country could be more passionate or more inspirational for any team. Dual star Fiona Lafferty scored two points on a day when the team obviously fired on all cylinders with Laura Linnane scoring an incredible 3-2 including a

point from a '45. Goalkeeper Denise Lynch was in top class form as she made one brilliant save only to be followed up minutes later with a fine double stop from Aine Lyng who was easily Waterford's best player.

Claire Commene and Sharon O'Loughlin by all accounts worked hard and were quite impressive as they scored 1-4 between them. Part One of the Plan for 2008 has now been achieved. Getting to the League Final of Division 2 is quite a task but the sights remain firmly fixed on returning to Croke Park later on in the year and winning that All Ireland title that eluded them last September. But that's for later.

Now the attitude must be right for the League Final. No point getting to the Final and then not going all out to win it.

Their opponents will be Derry - the team they should have beaten in last year's All Ireland Junior Final. Now who wants more motivation than that? All talk of what we should have, could have done last September can be washed away in one hour. I expect the Clare women to be highly motivated and almost unbeatable in that League Final. It is a chance to make things right for the Banner. All they have to do is remember the pain and anguish caused by losing in Headquarters last year. Nobody wants to experience that I'm sure again. Remember the pain girls and you will not be beaten by the same opposition again. The date for the Final has not been decided yet but it's at least three weeks away.

Clare are also on their way in the Munster Senior Championship after an absence of almost 10 years in the top flight. This is Clare's award for winning the Munster Intermediate Championship two years in a row so the Camogie world in Clare is definitely on the up and up. Next Saturday Clare will play Limerick in the Munster Championship at a Limerick venue yet to be decided but with a 2.30 throw-in, it just might be a nice way to spend a Saturday afternoon. Go for a nice drive and support a Clare team that deserves your support. They have earned that respect surely.



Left: Laura Linnane, who was player of the game for Clare on Sunday.



Tia McMahon, who was on the U14 Cork team last season, receives an award from Cork senior camogie captain Gemma O'Connor, at the Passage West GAA medal presentation night in Passage West GAA Club.



Katie O'Mahony, Inniscarra, was presented with the Mortell Cup in recognition of her dedication to camogie at the St Aloysius School awards ceremony. Congratulating her is Carmel McCarthy, president of St Aloysius past pupils union. Picture: Mike English



# THE RIVERSTICK COMMUNITY HALL IS A GREAT SUCCESS



The Ballinhassig B team, runners-up in the U11 Plate final.



The Ballincollig team who took part in the section B tournament.



At the Ballinhassig indoor camogie blitz in Riverstick were Niamh McCarthy, Becky Dineen, Katie Verling, Niamh O'Leary, Aoife Twomey and Aishling Kelleher from Cloughduv.



The Coursey Rovers team, runners up in the U11 section A final.



Relaxing in between matches at the Ballinhassig U11 indoor camogie blitz in Riverstick were Lorna and Emma Bateman, Ellen Buckley Keating, Michaela Buckley and Heather Walsh from Ballygarvan.



Orla Crowley and Tania Walsh from Carrigaline at the recent indoor camogie blitz in Riverstick.



# ANNUAL BALLINHASSIG INDOOR CAMOGIE BLITZ HELD IN



The Ballinhassig B team who won the U11 final at the Ballinhassig indoor camogie blitz in Riverstick.



The Carrigaline team of Fiona Crowley, Ganel Mulcair Stanton, Orla Hickey, Orla Crowley, Tania Walsh, Sally Griffin, Ellen Twomey and Caoimhe Hoey.



Lauren Kelleher, Isobel O'Regan and Niamh O'Mahony from Ballygarvan at the recent Ballinhassig U11 indoor camogie blitz in Riverstick.

## Ballinhassig and Cloughduv on top in camogie blitz

By HOWARD CROWDY

Camogie

THE annual Ballinhassig indoor camogie blitz was held in the Riverstick Community Hall and attracted teams from right across the Carrighoun division and beyond over two days of matches.

The first day involved the U11 players from Ballinhassig, Carrigaline, Ballincollig, Courcsey Rovers, Valley Rovers, Ballygarvan and Cloughduv, with teams divided into groups with the top two in each group competing in the semi finals and finals.

After some very competitive games, the Ballinhassig B team defeated Courcsey Rovers 2-0 in the main final, with Valley Rovers taking the honours

in the Shield final defeating Ballinhassig A also on a 2-0 score line.

The following day involved the more senior players, albeit at an U12 level, with the standard and competitiveness even more apparent, with a high degree of skill coming to the forefront.

This year's winners in the U12 grade were Cloughduv, who defeated Glen Rovers 6-2 in the final, with the Ballinhassig A team getting the better of their club mates Ballinhassig B in the Plate final by a solitary goal in a very tense finale to the weekends activities.

The organisers went on to thank the continued sponsorship of the event by Walsh Traders, the assistance and co-operation given by the Riverstick Community Hall group, the band of referees and to the many players and supporters who made the event such a success this year.



Rachel Collins and Alison Condon from Courcsey Rovers.



# CLUBS NOTES

## SLIABH RUA

The U16 team got their league campaign off to a great start on Wednesday last with a hard-fought victory over Enniskeane. The long winter took its toll on the team with first-half hurling looking a bit rusty. However the second half was a different story when Slabh Rua began to hit their stride.

Playing with the full in the first half meant Slabh Rua had the lion's share of the possession but Enniskeane's solid defence made scores hard to come by.

The small crowd had to wait until midway through the first half before they were treated to a score which came in the form of a point from Aisling Whitnell. This was closely followed by an equaliser by Enniskeane. Slabh Rua's chances in front of goal were not converted and it was late in the half before a second point was added. This left the half-time score 0-2 to 0-1 in favour of Slabh Rua.

The second half was much better, and the uphill battle did not effect Slabh Rua as much as would have been thought.

Better hurling and a more cohesive team performance resulted in an early goal by Aisling Whitnell. Solid defending from the half back line of Aisling McCarthy, Chloe Sheehan, and Jenny McAuliffe meant Enniskeane had few opportunities to rein in the deficit and Slabh Rua pushed on to widen the margin.

Hard work by Jillian O'Leary, Aisling Coleman, and Rachel Sheehan, afforded Aisling Whitnell with yet another scoring opportunity which she took with a great shot to the back of the net. Aisling Coleman added another goal and Aisling Whitnell another point before Enniskeane registered their first score of the half. This came late in the game and so left the full time score at Slabh Rua 3-3 to Enniskeane's 0-2.

## FR O'NEILL'S

Our AGM was held recently at Ahavine sportsfield, at which there was a great attendance. Outgoing chairperson Denis McCarthy addressed the meeting he welcomed everyone and thanked all club members and officers for their hard work throughout the year.

Dennis had special thanks to both sponsors Southern Fork lifts senior level, Ger Finn Sand and Gravel AT Juvenile Level. Many thanks were also expressed to all who contributed to various fundraising activities in 2007.

Outgoing secretary Margaret Hyde gave a detailed report on the club's activities during the year. The treasurer Bridget Murphy presented the financial report which shows the club a relatively healthy financial state. Many thanks to those who stepped aside this year, all your dedication and hard work was greatly appreciated. Now we would like to welcome on board the following officers who were elected.

Chairperson: Carrie Higgins; vice-chairperson: Deirdre Finn; secretary: Francis Wiggins; assistant secretary: Myra Bernard; treasurers: Bridget Murphy, Anne-Marie Griffin; PRO: Florie Cullinane.

The following team managers were selected: U9, Fiona O' Driscoll and Carrie Higgins; U12, Mary Kennefick; U14, Nora Aherne; U16, Liz Sweetnam; U18 and junior, Billy Harrington.

Special congratulations to Kate and Sarah Harrington, who were recently listed for the U16 Cork panel.

Congrats also to all the girls, 11 in total, who played with St Mary's Secondary school winning team in the Munster final recently.

All training sessions our now underway and hopefully 2008 brings an exciting and fun filled year for all concerned. Keep watching this space for updates on the Camogie Club for 2008.

## ST CATHERINE'S

**Senior Division 2 National League**  
Cork defeated Waterford in the opening round of the above competition in a game played last Sunday in Cappoquin. Well done to Noreen Mulcahy who lined out with Cork in full back position in this game.

**U16 Munster semi-final:** On Saturday last two players from our club played with Cork when they defeated Tipperary in a game played in continuous downpour in Toomevara. Fiona Cotter lined out at left-half-back and Finola Neville played at right-corner-forward. Well done to both players who did well in a very competitive game.

## Poker Classic

Our annual poker classic will take place on Friday, March 28 in The Fisherman's Rest Bar in Conna.

## ST FINBARR'S

Douglas were welcome visitors to the club last Friday night where they played a challenge match as part of the activities to mark the switch on of lights on the new pitch. This new facility together with the all-weather area add greatly to the playing amenities at St Finbarr's.

The match proved to be a useful workout. The Barrs were short a number of regulars, including Vivienne Harris, Orla O'Sullivan, Claire Spellman and Ellen Crowley.

In addition, the Kirby twins, Colette and Clare, have retired since the county final. Douglas had to line out without a number of players who were on Cork duty over the weekend. This allowed both managers to experiment with fringe players.

Of the two managers, Derek McCarthy was the more pleased with his charges. The Barrs' girls showed good commitment, particularly in the first half when they took control and ran up a satisfactory score.

A long free from Jenny Duffy found the Douglas net and Gemma O'Connor dispatched a second with aplomb. Douglas found scores hard to come by and were over-reliant on Amanda O'Regan. The game finished 2-15 to 0-6 in favour of St Finbarr's.

It is still very early in the season and both teams will improve considerably before the serious stuff commences.

# Female stars should get the grants as well

I THINK we are all happy that a resolution for player grants has finally been agreed between all the parties involved. This is a big step for Gaelic games in the country.

The scaled ratification is well thought out. The level of grant is determined by a team's involvement in the championship.

Should the inter-county camogie and ladies footballers not receive the same government funded performance/support scheme, then it will be a highly contentious issue.

I hope and I'm assuming that it's only a matter of time before the grants are passed onto the female hurlers and footballers.

The Camogie Association recently voiced concern over the issue. Liz Howard, president of the Camogie Association, feels that top level female players deserve to be recognised in the same way that their male counterparts have been.

"I am delighted that a resolution for grants has finally been agreed," said Howard.

"Players deserve to be recognised in this way. However, the commitment shown by top level female GAA players is on a par with their male counterparts.

"With this in mind, we feel that our players should be included in a similar grants scheme to recognise the outstanding contribution that they make to our national sport and



LINDA MELLERICK

to meet the additional cost and expenses that they incur when competing at the highest level."

She added: "We have an excellent relationship with the Irish Sports Council and we are conscious that they have always been well balanced in their distribution of government grants to both males and females throughout Irish sport."

"We hope that, given the level of inclusiveness that has always been present in the ISC, we can come to an agreement that will also recognise the contribution and needs of our top female GAA players."

"We will be in touch with Minister Brennan on this subject over the coming weeks and we will expect a positive outcome."

One line which stood out in a statement issued over the past few days was that 'Players will be entitled to claim a refund of eligible expenses in same way they currently claim from the county committee'.

The hurlers and footballers will receive this grant on top of their reimbursed expenses. I don't begrudge them a cent. The GAA is a large profit making organisation and thanks to the GPA, players are now getting what they richly deserve



Cork's Linda Dorgan is challenged by Wexford's Claire O'Connor during their Senior Division One National League game in Cloughduv. Picture: Cillian Kelly

while remaining within the 'amateur status' (which should never change).

It's not a huge amount of money by any means but its significance is invaluable.

That line stood out to me because once again it highlights the vast difference between male and female GAA players.

Sure, camogie and ladies football will never be the draw that hurling and football are. They will always struggle.

And struggle we do, from one end of the year to the next.

Camogie players don't receive a cent towards their expenses. Some players are doing 60-80km round trips three times a week to training. They pay for their own boots, shin guards, hurleys and helmets.

They make their own way to physio, paying as they go, to be reimbursed at the end of their treatment from their insurance. There is no meal after training.

Despite having not eaten since lunchtime, it will often be 10pm before players get home and eat again (apart from a banana they purchased themselves).

Many of these players are students. It's an expensive and hungry sport for some.

But the players know the limitations of our sport and individual county boards. It's difficult to get sponsorship and when we do secure it, there's just not enough to cover player's expenses.



Cork's Emer O'Farrell and Wexford's Claire O'Connor in action in their Division One National League game. Picture: Cillian Kelly

Cork, thankfully, is a successful county in camogie. We are well respected. But success comes at a price. To take two teams to All-Ireland final day in Croke Park, as Cork has done so many times in the past, costs approximately €10,000. And that's just one weekend.

We are used to watching the pennies and to the sport's credit, will always get there.

But when it comes to government grants, which isn't determined by a cash-rich county board, it's the one chance the female players of our country have to get something back.

And oh how they deserve it!

## GLEN ROVERS

**U11 and U12:** Our U12 players got onto the playing fields last Friday as Sarsfields were visitors for a friendly game as we begin preparations for the forthcoming leagues and despite coming away on the wrong side of the scoreline, selectors Mary, Dave and John were pleased with the performances of the girls and they are looking forward to the league which begins on the first week of April. We had good displays from Laura Din-

een, Cloe Noonan, Emily McCarthy and Mikaela Hyde who all impressed.

It's the turn of the U11 girls this weekend when they play Na Piarasigh in friendly game.

**U16:** Our first U16 side are back in action this coming week when they travel to Ballynacoda on Thursday next, March 27 for our second game of the league. Players will be notified regarding the time bus will leave club.

**U13 Seandun final:** The long-awaited Seandun final will take place on Monday next, Easter Monday, in the Glen Field at 4pm when we host the final where Douglas will be our opponents in what is a repeat of last year's final and we urge everyone to come along and support the girls.

Well done: Congratulations to Sinead O'Halloran, who lined out with the Cork U16 side who defeated Tipperary on Saturday last in the Munster semi-final and to Denise Luby,

Lydia Cunningham and Karen O'Connell, who played their part with the Cork minor team who defeated Waterford to reach the Munster semi-final.

**Good luck:** Best of luck to Sinead O'Halloran and Sinead Gallen, who line out with the Cork U16 teams who contest the Munster A and B finals in Mallow on Monday and to Denise Luby and Lydia Cunningham as Cork play Clare in the senior Division Two National League in Clare on Saturday.





Members of the Muskerry camogie team, who were 2007 Evening Echo County champions, at their victory dinner at Lee Valley Golf Club.

Picture: Mike English



Peggy Mitchell from Blarney was at the Muskerry victory dinner, where she displayed Championship and League medals she won with Shournagh United in 1947. BELOW: Tina O'Donnell (Ballincollig), Linda Dorgan (Grenagh), Sile Burns and Máiréad Foley at the Muskerry dinner.

Picture: Mike English

# Muskerry celebrate camogie victory

**MUSKERRY** Camogie Club celebrated their first county title in 74 years in some style at Lee Valley Golf Club recently.

By ÉAMONN MURPHY  
Muskerry Camogie

The victorious panel, which was drawn from Éire Óg, Ballincollig, Rockbán and Grenagh GAA clubs, were joined by members of the divisional board and family at a glamorous dinner.

The club eked out a tough 0-8 to 0-5 victory over the Barrs in the Evening Echo county final last November, winning the title for the mid-Cork division for the first time since 1933.

There were special presentations on the night for Catriona Foley, who was an inspirational captain, and coach Con Malone.

On the back of their exceptional season, Catriona was appointed Cork captain for 2008, while Con is now a county selector.

Sile Burns, a key attacker last season, is Cork's vice-captain for the season.

Con's divisional selectors last season were Mary Weste (Ballincollig) and Dan Joe Foley (Rockbán) and both enjoyed the celebrations with their daughters who played for the side — Leah Weste and Catriona Foley.

Muskerry chairwoman Máiréad

Donovan is from Ballincollig, while interestingly three of the Collig stars on the divisional team have brothers who played for Cork.

Leah Weste's brother Colin was a minor football sensation, Maria O'Donoghue's brother Stephen is involved with the Cork senior footballers, while Denise Cronin's brother Pa is a hurling ace.

Three McKenna sisters from Éire Óg, twins Catriona and Ciara and Alanna, were on the panel, while Margaret O'Herlihy was the player-of-the-match in the county final.

Ella Kelleher has a link to the 1933 outfit through Ina, Agnes and Nan Kelleher, who all played for that historic side.

Interestingly, her aunt Bina O'Callaghan's daughter Joanne O'Callaghan was Cork captain two years after her club Cloughduv won the county.

Peggy Mitchell was at also at the dinner, where she displayed the league and championship medals she won in 1947.

Rockbán's Val Mulcahy also enjoyed the night. She was a late addition to the panel on county final day and is better known as a ladies football scoring machine.





MARCH

2008

## Cork go in search of U16 double on Monday

By MARY NEWMAN

Camogie

**MONDAY**  
**Munster U16 A final**  
**Cork v Clare**  
**Mallow, 3pm**

A DOUBLE bill in Mallow on Monday as Cork go in search of a Munster U16 camogie double with the A team taking on holders Clare while the B side are in action against Waterford.

Who will forget last year's epic A final where Clare had to hang on for dear life to take the title from a plucky Cork?

Despite the All-Ireland series taking place on an open draw basis both counties will be anxious to take the silverware.

Last weekend Cork notched up an impressive victory over Tipperary while Clare had a one-goal win over Limerick.

Cork went into last weekend's contest with eight survivors from last season and that has been increased to nine as Joanne Casey joins the panel for this weekend's encounter. Cork looked impressive against Tipp.

Goalkeeper Tessa Hawkes commanded her defence where Alison Coughlan, Katie McCarthy, Rosie O'Mahony and captain Pamela Mackey impressed, while up front Emma Kingston, Finola Neville and Katrina Mackey kept the Tipp defence under constant pressure.

Selectors Ger Sheehan, Esther O'Leary and Tracy Sheehan expressed satisfaction at last weekend's performance and they will be looking for a similar display this time out.

Clare had to battle all the way to book their place in the final with just four survivors from last season Niamh Corry, Louise Woods, Catriona Hennessey and Marie Bell.

Having guided the county to a junior division three national league and intermediate provincial honours, Francie Mahon has now turned his attention to coaching the U16 side.

### CORK U16 A PANEL

Tessa Hawkes (Valley Rovers), Mary Ellen O'Donovan (Ballygarvan), Alison Coughlan (Ballincollig), Emma Kingston (Inniscarra), Finola Neville (St Catherine's), Katie Buckley (Mallow), Mariah Reidy (Newtownshandrum), Katrina Mackey (Douglas), Pamela Mackey (Douglas), Jane Fitzpatrick (Mallow), Aileen O'Donovan (Douglas), Claire Meaney (Eire Ogi), Sinead O'Halloran (Glen), Jessica Kavanagh (Douglas), Samantha Coomey (Ballincollig), Katie McCarthy (Eire Ogi), Rosie O'Mahony (Inniscarra), Maebh Moynihan (Ballygarvan), Fiona Cotter (St Catherine's), Sarah Harrington (Fr O'Neill's), Niamh O'Brien (Milford), Ciara Lynch (Douglas), Joanne Casey (Inniscarra).

**MUNSTER U16 B FINAL**  
**Cork v Waterford**  
**Mallow 1pm**

Cork and Waterford are again the only counties to have entered the U16 B Munster championship.

In last year's decider, Cork took the title and they will be hoping to make it the first leg of a provincial double on Monday.

With places up for grabs on the A panel the Cork girls will be hoping to perform to the best of their ability in an effort to catch the county selectors' eyes.

Among those on the panel are Ashling Byrne, Sinead Gallen, Sinead Dilworth, Claire Dooley and Pattie O'Keefe who captains the side.

The Waterford management team is a new one this year and with 12 of the side that contested last season's U16 B All-Ireland final, they will be confided of giving a good account of themselves.

### CORK U16 B PANEL

Sorcha Rodgers (Brian Dillon's), Emer O'Sullivan (Ballincollig), Ena Coughlan (Valley Rovers), Lorraine Browne (Ballygarvan), Katie Healy (Mallow), Christina Murphy (Ballygarvan), Orla Burke (Na Piarasigh), Claire Dooley (Brian Dillon's), Karen O'Reilly (Courcey Rovers), Patti O'Keefe (Carrigaline), Celia O'Driscoll (Courcey Rovers), Kate Harrington (Fr O'Neill's), Sinead Gallen (Glen Rovers), Jane Dooley (Brian Dillon's), Aine O'Donovan (Douglas), Susan Kate Brosnan (Brian Dillon's), Sinead Dilworth (Rockban), Sinead O'Flynn (Milford).



At the Brian Dillon's camogie victory celebrations were: Tracy Sheehan chairperson Junior Camogie Board, Mary O'Sullivan, chairperson Brian Dillon's camogie club, Kay Dunne, president Cork Camogie Board and Tina Sheehan, secretary Junior Camogie Board.



Margaret O'Herlihy (Eire Og), Lisa O'Callaghan (Ballincollig) and Erin Corkery (Eire Og) celebrated Muskerry's win in the Senior Camogie Championship in 2007 at victory dinner at Lee Valley Golf Club. Picture: Mike English

### CAMOGIE

#### NATIONAL LEAGUE

Div 2: Derry 3-13 (M Mc Goldrick 1-5, K O'Kane 1-2, S Cassidy 1-0, A Lavery 0-4, (0-1), 0-145), C Scullen, K Mc Auley 0-1 each) Galway 3-4 (E O'Sullivan 2-0, S O'Dwyer 1-2, C Murray, J O'Brien 0-1 each)

Clare 1-14 (F Lafferty 1-1, D Murphy 0-5 (0-2'45, 0-1), L Linnane 0-4, C Commene 0-2, S Moloney, A O'Shea 0-1 each) Cork 0-4 (M Browne 0-4 (0-3f))

Waterford 3-9 (K M Aherne 1-2, P Jackman 1-1, J Simpson 1-0, N Morrissey, A Lyng 0-2 each) Kilkenny 2-10 (D Aylward 1-3, B Neary 1-1, E Keane 0-3f, J Reddy 0-2, J A Woodcock 0-1)

Div 3: Kildare 5-5 Louth 1-0

## Downey buoyant as Cats on course for League final

IT'S a make-or-break weekend for three teams in the Camogie National League as the final round of games take place tomorrow.

Cork, Wexford and Kilkenny are all still in the running for the right to face Galway in the Division 1 final on April 20.

Kilkenny travel to the reigning League champions, Cork, knowing a victory will earn them a place in this decider.

Wexford, meanwhile, will have to beat Dublin and hope that Kilkenny slip up to have any chance of making the final.

Cork and Wexford, have both endured difficult starts to this year's league,

registering only one win each. Wexford claimed their only two points in the opening round against Cork, while the Rebels had a comfortable win over Dublin last weekend.

Kilkenny have been the surprise package of this year's campaign, registering two wins from two games, and are on course to add to their eight National League titles with their first success since 1993.

Kilkenny manager Anne Downey is in buoyant mood ahead of the crunch encounter this weekend: "Preparations are coming along nicely for the weekend. We know that this is a big opportunity and we don't want to let it slip at the final stage."

Elsewhere in the league, Tipp host Limerick in Group 1 of Division 1 with both teams looking for their first win of the season.





Michelle Browne in possession during the Clare v Cork National League Division Two camogie match at Tulla on Saturday.  
Picture: Eamon Ward

## Clare have too much experience for Cork

Clare 1-14  
Cork 0-4

CLARE'S first-choice 15 always held the upper hand, as they bagged their second set of points against Cork second senior team in this Division 2 national senior camogie league clash in Tulla, writes **MARY NEWMAN**.

Cork had to travel minus several of their panel who were also members of the Division 1 squad that faced Dublin on Sunday and their loss was several felt as in all sectors the experience of the Clare side was evident and playing as a unit they set about clinching the valuable points on offer from the throw-in.

Captain, Munster development officer Deirdre Murphy, was the home side's top scorer helping her self to five points while they had excellent performers in Laura Linnane Fiona Lafferty and Clare Commene.

It was Cork who opened the scoring Michelle Brown on target with an early pointed free to which Aine O'Brien replied immediately. Deirdre Murphy pointed two 45s in succession as Clare applied early pressure on the Cork defence.

By the 17 minute Michelle Brown had Cork on level pointing two free but from here to the half time whistle it was Clare who held the upper hand Laura Linnane, Aileen O'Shea and Clare Commene striking points from

play as Deirdre Murphy convert her third to give the home sides a four point lead 0-7 to 0-3

With the game still very much there for the taking Cork battled hard but they could never match the strength or experience of a Clare side who having contested and lost the last two All-Ireland junior final were just that bit craftier than Cork.

Fiona Lafferty had stretched the lead inside two minutes before she struck for the games only goal within five minutes of the restart giving Cork a mountain to climb, battle on they did but with Clare knocking over five points without reply the gap was 1-13 to 0-3 before Corks had their only score of the second half.

Laura Linnane brought proceedings to a close with a late Clare point on a day when Cork really had no answers.

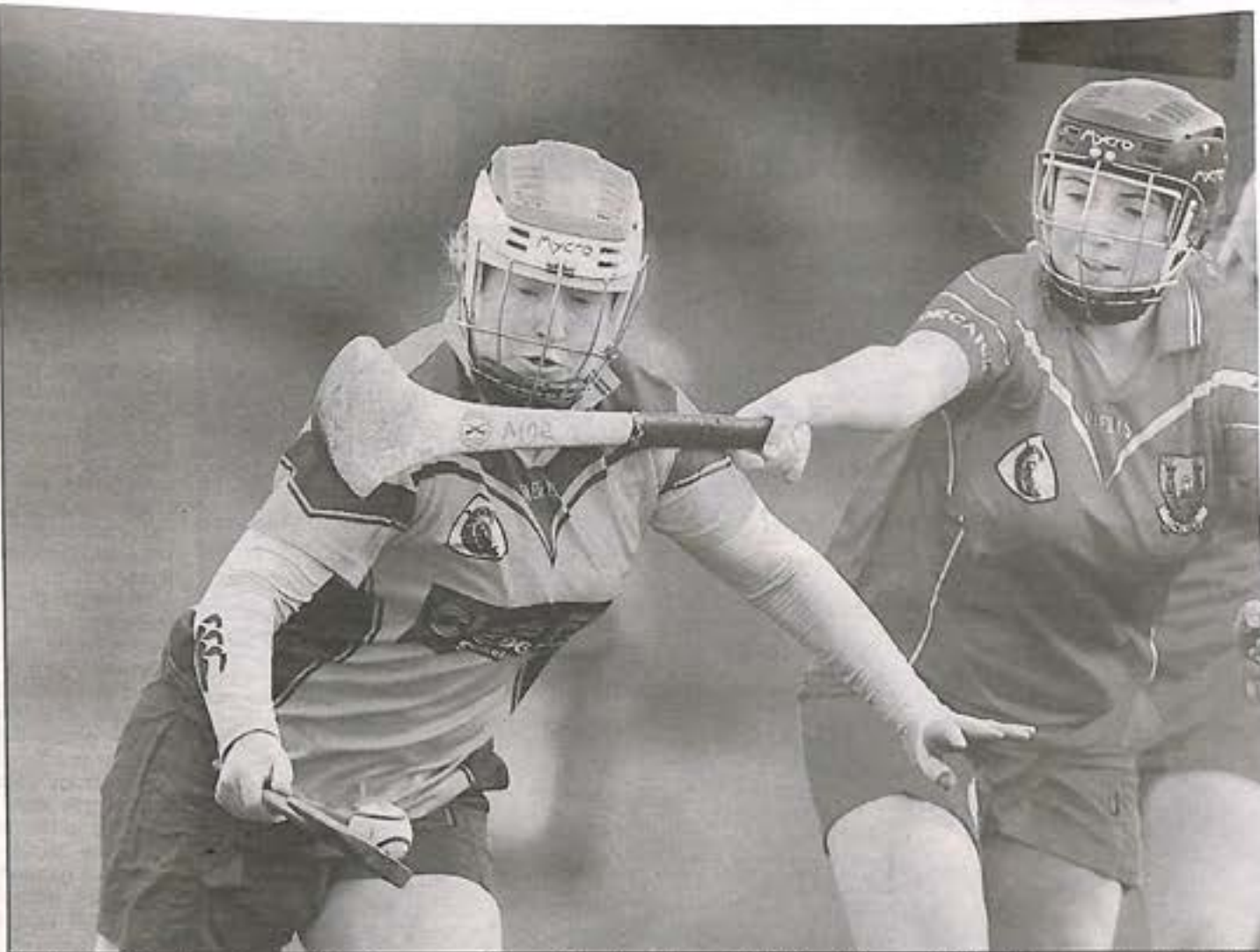
**Scorers for Clare:** D Murphy 0-5 (0-3 45, 0-2 pen), F Lafferty 1-1, L Linnane 0-3, C Commene 0-2, A O'Brien, A O'Shea S Moloney 0-1 each.

**Cork:** M Browne 0-4 (0-3f, 0-1 pen).

**CLARE:** D Lynch; J Scanlon, S Lafferty, A Mc Inerney; K Lynch, D Corcoran, O Slattery; D Murphy (c), A Ryan; C Rosengrave, L Linnane, A O'Brien; C Commene, F Lafferty, A O'Shea. **Subs:** S Enright, A Ryan (41), S Moloney for F Lafferty (43), A Colerain for A Mc Inerney (47).

**CORK:** D Leahy; S Gleeson, C O'Neill, E Dunne; N Mulcahy, A Moynihan, L Weste; J Browne, S Buckley; R Myers M Browne; J White; C Kearney M Watson; D Luby. **Subs:** S Lynch for J Browne (38), P Murphy for C O'Neill (47), L Cunningham for E Dunne (48), R De Feolite for D Luby (52).

**Referee:** Morgan Conroy, (Waterford).



Cork's Aine Moynihan chases Claire Commene of Clare during the Clare v Cork National League Division Two camogie match at Tulla on Saturday.  
Picture: Eamon Ward

# Cork win it in the first half

Cork 2-10  
Dublin 1-8

**A LAST-MINUTE change of venue to Silverpark, Stillorgan didn't dampen Cork's early enthusiasm in their second round national league fixture against Dublin yesterday.**

Cork's first-half performance, aided by a wind which had more of a say than it appeared, effectively won them two points and their first competitive win of 2008.

Considering their 7.30am start on the road to Dublin, Cork showed no signs of weariness as they burst into action from the throw-in, hitting over five points inside 10 minutes.

From the outset, Cork were in control as Dublin struggled to come to terms with the pace of the game. Rena Buckley's return was a major contributory factor and she received great support from Catriona Foley and Sarah Hayes.

Hayes' ground hurling in the opening minutes spread the game wide open and Cork's inside six took full advantage.



LINDA MELLERICK

Cork were also winning the midfield battle with Orla Cotter playing well and Una O'Donoghue having her best game in a red jersey in a while. O'Donoghue likes the open space and once she has accelerated is difficult to catch.

She epitomised this 15 minutes in when winning a ball around the middle of the park she shrugged aside the challenge of three markers. Leaving her pursuers in her wake, she soloed towards the 40. Continuing, she found herself in open space around the 30 and unleashed an unstoppable shot past Dublin goalkeeper Eimear Butler.

Leading 1-5 to 0-1, Cork were in the driving seat.

While Cork enjoyed plenty of possession they should have made greater use of their superiority at times. A Buckley free, O'Donoghue point and an excellent score from Silé Burns saw the visitors lead 1-8 to 0-1 with 24 minutes played.

Cork's momentum eased in the remaining minutes of the half. Dublin managed to grab a point but still the lead at the break was comfortable for the Rebels.

From Cork's point of view they could be happy that at this stage four of their forwards as well as both midfielders had registered scores.

When goalkeeper Eimear White made a magnificent save from point-blank range, seven minutes into the second half little did Cork realise its importance. Yet important it was because it was all Dublin for three-quarters of the second half. Slowly they whittled away at Cork's lead. Points in the seventh, 10th, 16th and 19th minutes had the gap down to five points.

The introduction of Linda Dorgan and Deirdre Twomey halted Dublin's momentum.

Twomey won possession well under pressure and passed sweetly to Burns who pointed (Cork's first score of the second half).

Joleen Hoary narrowed the gap to five again. Three minutes later it was Dorgan who this time found Burns and the latter hit a beauty low and

hard into the bottom right hand corner of the net. Game over!

Dublin captain Louise O'Hara, who had a fine game throughout, hit over her fifth free of the day as Dublin battled on. Niamh Taylor scored a goal of quality as the stopwatch hit full time but it was too little too late as Burns, for good measure, struck again as the full time whistle blew.

It was a good win for Cork who faces table toppers Kilkenny at home next Sunday.

**Scorers for Cork:** S Burns 1-3, U O'Donoghue 1-1, R Moloney 0-2f, O Cotter, A Thompson, A Maguire, C Buckley (0-1f) 0-1 each.

**Dublin:** L O'Hara 0-5f, J Hoary 0-3, N Taylor 1-0.

**CORK:** E White; L O'Connell, R Holland, E O'Riordan; S Hayes, C Foley (c), R Buckley; U O'Donoghue, O Cotter; E O'Farrell, M Corkery, A Thompson; S Burns, A O'Regan, R Moloney.

**Subs:** L Dorgan for A O'Regan (49), D Twomey for R Moloney (49), J Duffy for S Hayes (58).

**DUBLIN:** E Butler; J Murphy, E Branigan, A Fitzpatrick; C Lucey, A Cullen, C Power; F Corcoran, A Maguire; C Burgess, S Ryan, E Reid; J Hoary, L O'Hara (c), N Taylor.

**Subs:** A Jordan for E Reid (39), R Ruddy for C Power (40), D Smith for A Cullen (49), A Fanning for J Hoary (61).

**Referee:** P Walsh (Down).



# CAMOGIE NATIONAL LEAGUE CAMPAIGN ENDS DESPITE CONVINCING WIN

## Defeat of Dubs not enough

**Wexford 1-15, Dublin 2-4:** A blistering start to the second-half paved the way for Wexford's convincing victory over Dublin in Division 1A of the National Camogie League in O'Kennedy Park, New Ross, on Sunday last.

However, the success wasn't enough to keep their interest in the competition alive as Kilkenny made it three wins out of three when they pipped Cork by 0-7 to 1-3 at a rain-soaked Páirc Uí Rinn, earning a final date with Galway at the end of this month in the process.

Bearing in mind that they only returned from a one-week holiday in Orlando three days earlier, this was a competent showing by the Slaneysiders who now have a long wait until June 22 before they begin the defence of their All-Ireland title.

They dominated the first-half despite being against the breeze, but a defensive lapse in the 26th minute yielded a Dublin goal and ensured that just one point divided the sides at the break (0-7 to 1-3).

Kate Kelly, confined to corner-forward due to illness, had opened Wexford's account with a point from a pulled pass by the energetic Bróna Furlong in the fourth minute.

Lenny Holohan set up Una Leacy for the second before Michelle O'Leary availed of a slack clearance to hit the target from long range after ten minutes.

While Ciara Lucey got Dublin off the mark with a couple of pointed '45s, the response was good as O'Leary picked out Rose-Marie Breen for a brace of quick-fire points.

Ursula Jacob then converted a free after a foul on Bróna Furlong, but Wexford suffered that setback when a Ciara Lucey free wasn't dealt with and the breaking ball was finished to the net by Niamh Taylor.

Lucey levelled matters from a free, although the home side still led at the break after Kate Kelly was fouled in added time and converted the placed ball (0-7 to 1-3).

Total dominance in the third quarter ensured that Wexford gained revenge for their late loss to the same opposition in the Leinster championship semi-final a fortnight earlier.

Kelly fired over another couple of

early frees after Una Leacy and Ursula Jacob were impeded, and Leacy then struck two points following good work by Jacob and Aoife O'Connor respectively (0-11 to 1-3).

The writing was on the wall for Dublin when Kate Kelly handpassed a goal after a Michelle O'Leary cross midway through the third quarter, and further points followed from Lenny Holohan and Kelly (free).

The dominance of half-backs Aoife O'Connor, Mary Leacy and Deirdre Codd ensured that Dublin didn't add to their sole score from play, while Áine Codd and Bróna Furlong formed an effective mid-field partnership.

Kate Kelly (free) and Una Leacy extended the lead to 1-15 to 1-3 before Dublin did get a consolation goal when Catherine O'Loughlin fouled Louise O'Hara and the resultant penalty was drilled home by Ciara Lucey.

The wing-back also added a late pointed free, but Wexford could be well pleased with their day's work as they re-discovered some of the form which had deserted them in the previous two outings when mental tiredness took its toll.

Unfortunately, their satisfaction didn't last long as news of the Kilkenny win filtered through, but their sole focus is now on retaining the All-Ireland crown and a lot of hard work lies in store.

**Wexford:** Mags D'Arcy; Bernie Holohan, Catherine O'Loughlin, Claire O'Connor; Aoife O'Connor, Mary Leacy (capt.), Deirdre Codd; Bróna Furlong, Áine Codd; Una Leacy (0-4), Rose-Marie Breen (0-2), Michelle O'Leary (0-1); Kate Kelly (1-6, 0-5 frees), Ursula Jacob (0-1 free), Lenny Holohan (0-1). Subs. - Noeleen Lambert for B. Holohan, Katrina Parrock for Kelly, Bridget Curran for L. Holohan, Louise Codd for U. Leacy, also Helena Jacob, Siona Nolan, Stacey Redmond, Colleen Atkinson, Karen Atkinson, Mag Kelly.

**Dublin:** Eimear Butler; Jean Murphy, Eimear Brannigan, Andrea Fitzpatrick; Ciara Lucey (1-4, 1-0 pen., 0-2 '45s, 0-2 frees), Aoife Cullen, Caitriona Power; Fiona Corcoran, Alison Maguire; Ciara Burgess, Sarah Ryan, Aisling Jordan; Joleen Hoary, Louise O'Hara (capt.), Niamh Taylor (1-0). Subs. - Claire Donnelly for Taylor, Danielle Smith for Corcoran, Áine Fanning for Brannigan, inj., Edel Reid for Burgess.

**Referee:** Morgan Conroy (Waterford).



Wing-back Deirdre Codd clears her lines during the second-half as her namesake, Áine Codd, looks on.



Michelle O'Leary on the move for Wexford.



Mary Leacy stretches to make a clearance.

## St. Mary's seeking All-Ireland Junior success on Saturday next

THE WEXFORD ladies' historic win in Croke Park in September inspired many young ladies to a new interest in camogie.

When the first training session was called in St. Mary's (New Ross) for a junior camogie panel, the response was very promising. Training took place at lunch time twice a week.

The first round of the Leinster championship was played in St. Mary's when they hosted Presentation Secondary School, Wexford, on October 14.

The promise of future glory was seen that day when St. Mary's won handsomely by 5-7 to 1-1.

After a few more training sessions, with great confidence the 'Mercy' girls faced Gorey Community School. Once again they won convincingly by 5-2 to 1-4.

The prospect of topping the group and contesting the play-off stages was now in sight. On November 27 the girls travelled to Ballyhale. Things nearly fell apart that day and the girls did not perform to their potential.

However, all was not lost and a draw, 4-5 to 5-2, ensured the Ross girls finished top of their group. Next step was the Leinster semi-final.

A spell of inclement weather caused major pitch problems. St. Mullins was booked and ready but two days of constant rainfall caused the match to be postponed.

Finally the match was played in Ballycullane. Underfoot conditions were heavy and wet. The girls overcame the adverse conditions to beat Colaiste Mhuire, Johnstown, by 1-8 to nil.

Preparations then took on a very serious note as St. Mary's prepared for its first Leinster final in ten years. Socks and shorts were bought for the girls, thanks to the generous donations of a few people who wish to remain anonymous. Buses were booked and the final day arrived.

This match took place in Carlow Town Hurling Club on Saturday, March 1. The opposition, from the strong G.A.A. county of Offaly, was Vocational College, Kilcormac.

St. Mary's were not daunted and won this match by six points, 4-2 to 1-5. A Leinster cup returned to St. Mary's after ten years.

The Leinster champions returned to training and focused on the All-Ireland semi-final. Luckily the Ross team got a home venue.

Geraldine O'Hanrahan had the pitch in excellent condition for this

encounter and so St. Mary's confidently, if a little nervously, welcomed Seamount College, Kinvara, Co. Galway to New Ross.

St. Mary's got down to the business of scoring early in this game and had made their intentions clear by scoring 1-1 in three minutes. By half-time the 'Mercy' girls were ahead by 2-3 to nil.

Seamount played with more determination in the second-half but St. Mary's held strong and won their way to the All-Ireland final. That historic score was 3-4 to 1-1.

During the Easter holidays the girls have trained and played practice matches. Saturday next is final day.

The girls travel to Blanchardstown, Co. Dublin, to play St. Naosa's school, Antrim. This match will start at 2 p.m.

Everybody in St. Mary's, the girls' families and clubs wish them all the luck in the world.

Hopefully this will be an enjoyable and rewarding occasion for the team and their mentors who have put in such a huge amount of work with the girls.

Thanks to Damian McDonald, Briona Langton, Leanne Murphy, Clara Lyng and Andrea Lyng.

Playing an All-Ireland final at any level is a momentous occasion. Hopefully the occasion won't take the girls' attention off the job in hand.

For the final the girls will be presented with kit bags which have been sponsored by Costcutter and Supervalu.

To these generous sponsors, the team, mentors and the school are very grateful.



## Double for Cork U16's

A GREAT afternoon on Monday last as both Cork under 16 teams lifted provincial titles defeating Waterford and Clare respectively.

First into the action were the Under 16 B sides that set the trend for the afternoon with a 6-7 to 1-1 victory over Waterford. A close opening half saw both sides fight hard for every ball and it was Cork who led at the inter 1-3 to 0-1 a goal from Celia O'Driscoll and points from Sinead Gallen. Celia O'Driscoll and Aisling Byrne to which Shauna Kiernan replied for Waterford. From the restart Cork were focused and a double goal blitz from Sinead Gallen and Aine O'Donovan plus one from Kate Harrington gave Waterford no way back despite Una Jackman grabbing a late goal and Shauna Kiernan adding a point. What a pity that as Cork are an "A" graded county they are unable to contest the B

All Ireland series but Waterford will go on to participate in the B All Ireland championship.

The A final was a repeat of last year and again it was a tight affair. Maria Reidy and Katrina Mackey had early points for Cork before Finola Neville grabbed a goal thirteen minutes into game.

Katie Buckley and Katrina Mackey had stretched the lead 1-4 to no score by the half time whistle. Katrina Mackey pointed and early second half free but Carey got on the score board with Lorraine Woods finishing to the net inside five minutes of the restart and an Aisling Considine pointed a free cut the deficit. Katrina Mackey steadied Corks pointing two frees in the 13th and 25th minute before a Katie Buckley goal gave Clare no way back, well done to both teams and to their mentors for a superb effort.



Cork junior captain Jennifer Browne is presented with the Munster Junior trophy by Morgan Conroy after Cork defeated Clare recently

## Mixed fortunes for Senior teams

THE senior division 1 side travelled to Dublin and kept their national league hopes alive with a good victory over the home side while

the division 2 team minus several regulars had to give way to a strong Clare side in their clash.

## Cork minors sail through to semi-final

**Cork** 3-18  
**Waterford** 1-2

NOT to be outdone, the Cork minor team also turned in an excellent display to book their Munster semi final spot as they defeated Waterford in the first round of the Munster minor championship at Glen Rovers.

Cork held the upper hand from the throw in as Waterford battled hard to stay with their opponents who, aided by the gale force wind, built up an impressive half-time lead of 1-14 to 0-0 as Waterford came under enormous pressure with the hurricane like wind blowing into their faces.

Julia White and Denise Luby (2) had early Cork points before Roisin De Faoite finished to the net for the game's opening goal after just 10 minutes.

With Niamh Dilworth, Ashling Thompson, Julia White and Roisin De Faoite striking points from all angles, the Waterford girls battled on to try and contain Cork.

And despite playing with the elements in their favour for the second half, Waterford failed to match their opponents.

Niamh Dilworth ex-

tended the lead with a goal inside seven minutes of the resumption and Cork had stretched their advantage to 2-18 before Marie Russell found the range for Waterford with two points in quick succession.

Waterford girls worked hard and were rewarded with a Patricia Jackman goal seven minutes from full time, however Niamh Dilworth quickly cancelled it out finishing to the net from the puck-out as Cork comfortably advanced to a semi-final meeting with Tipperary on March 29.

**Cork:** M Gleeson, M A Hawkes, S O'Brien, C O'Neill, M Walsh, L Cunningham, S Cotter, J Lynch, S Buckley, J White, N Dilworth (c), A Thompson, R De Faoite, D Luby, G O'Keefe.  
**Subs:** E Harrington for S O'Brien (ht), S O'Neill for G O'Keefe (ht), K O'Connell for R De Faoite (45), M Moran for J Lynch (49).  
**A Sheehan** for S Cotter (50).  
**Scorers:** N Dilworth 2-5, R De Faoite 1-4, J White 0-4, D Luby 0-3 (0-1f 0-1 45 0-1p), A Thompson 0-2.

**Waterford:** T Kiely, C Dunne, J Forbes, J Walsh, K Rockett, S Kiernan, S Kavanagh, M Russell, P Jackman, S Fenton, D Fahy, D Nugent, G Tobin, E Fitzgerald, N Ryan.  
**Subs:** O O'Neill for J Walsh (45), J McCarthy for S Kavanagh (45), S Whelan for D Nugent (48), A Hale for J Tobin (50), L Behan for E Fitzgerald (51).  
**Scorers:** P Jackman 1-0, M Russell 0-2 (0-1f 0-1p).

**Clare** 1-14  
**Cork** 0-4

WITHOUT several of their regular players, the senior Division 1 team Cork struggled against Clare's first choice 15 in this Division 2 national senior camogie league clash in Tulla on Saturday.

The more experienced Clare side always had that little bit extra in hand and it showed on the score board.

It was Cork who opened the scoring with Michelle Brown pointing a free, to which Aine O'Brien replied immediately. Deirdre Murphy pointed two 45s as Clare applied pressure on the Cork defence.

By the 17th minute, Michelle Brown had Cork on level pointing two free but from here to the half-time whistle it was Clare who held the upper hand.

Laura Linnane, Aiveen O'Shea and Clare Commene struck points from play as Deirdre Murphy converted her third to give the home side a four-point lead, 0-7 to 0-3. With the game still very much there for the taking, Cork battled hard but they could never match the strength or experience of a Clare side who, having contested and lost the last two All-Ireland junior finals, were just that bit craftier than Cork.

Fiona Lafferty stretched the lead inside two minutes before she struck for the game's only goal within five minutes of the restart, giving Cork a mountain to climb. Battle on they did but with Clare knocking over five points without reply the gap was 1-13 to 0-3 before Corks had their only score of the second half, while Laura Linnane sealed victory with a late Clare point.

**Clare:** D Lynch; J Scanlon, S Lafferty, A McInerney, K Lynch, D Corcoran, O Slattery, D Murphy (c), A Ryan, C Rosengrave, L Linnane, A O'Brien, C Commene, F Lafferty, A O'Shea.  
**Subs:** S Enright for A Ryan (41), S Moloney for F Lafferty (43).

## Clare show their class



Aiveen O'Shea and Noreen Mulcahy in action during the Clare v Cork National League Division 2 Camogie match at Tulla on Saturday.

Picture: Eamon Ward

**A Coleain** for A MC Inerney (inj 47).  
**Scorers:** D Murphy 0-5 (0-3 45 0-2p) F Lafferty 1-1, L Linnane, 0-3 C Commene 0-2, A O'Brien A O'Shea, S Moloney 0-Teach.  
**Cork:** D Leahy; S Gleeson, C O'Neill,

E. Dunne; N Mulcahy, A. Moynihan, L Weste; J Browne, S Buckley; R Myers M Browne J White; C Kearney M Watson D Luby.  
**Subs:** S Lynch for J Browne (38) P Murphy for C O'Neill (inj47), L

Cunningham for E Dunne (48) R De Faoite for D Luby (52). **Scorers:** M Browne 0-4 (0-3f 0-1p).

**Referee:** Morgan Conroy (Waterford)

## Cork girls in camogie win

Under 16s take Munster title: See Sport



## Dillon's girls take the U-16 league crown with a big win

**Brian Dillon's** 3-8  
**St Catherine's** 1-4

BRIAN DILLON's and St Catherine's met recently in Conna to decide the destination of the 2007 under 16 C league title. Both teams battled it out for the title and in the finish it was Brian Dillon's who took it to add to the under 16 C championship title they had annexed last season.

With St Catherine's applying early pressure Saoirse Rodgers in the Brian Dillon's goal was at her best to deny the home side an early goal. Donna Carroll struck for a Brian Dillon's point after good work by Claire Dooley and three

points further points from Donna Carroll boosted the Brian Dillon's girls as they kept the pressure on the home side's defence.

St. Catherine's worked hard with Finola Neville and Fiona Cotter finding the range to keep them in touch, but they found the going hard against a Brian Dillon's defence well marshalled by Eadaoin Kelly, Kate O'Brien, Emma Burns and centre back Lucy Bradfield.

Brian Dillon's captain Susan Kate Brosnan worked hard at midfield and ensured a plentiful supply of ball to the inside line where Jane Dooley Rebecca O'Mahony and Susan Kate Brosnan grabbed a goal apiece. Jane Dooley

added three points to her tally with Rebecca O Mahony striking one as the Brian Dillon's girls added the league title to their championship crown.

**Brian Dillon's:** S Rodgers; E Kelly S Cotter K O'Brien; E Burns L Bradfield S Attridge; S K Brosnan C Dooley; J Dooley O Ni Shuilleabhain; M Ring; D Carroll N Gleeson R O'Mahony SUBS: De O'Flynn for N Gleeson R Myers for E Kelly A O'Mahony for R O'Mahony. **Scorers:** J Dooley (1-3) R O'Mahony (1-1) D Carroll (0-4) S K Brosnan (1-0)

**St Catherine's:** L Bumster, C Clancy, A O'Keefe (c), A Aherne, R O'Callaghan, F Cotter, J Mangan, K Hannon, S Barry, K Murphy, S Gallagher, N O'Donoghue, C Kearney, F Neville, F Feeney-Subs: K Mellerick for S Barry, E Neville, A Doyle, C McAuliffe, E Murphy. **Scorers:** F Neville (1-1) C Kearney (0-2) F Cotter (0-1)



# Clinical Galway book place in decider

by Jackie Cahill

WINNERS in 2005, Galway advanced to another National Camogie League Division One final after defeating Limerick (2-12 to 2-3) yesterday.

Veronica Curtin bagged 1-6 for the Tribeswomen, who held the hosts scoreless in the second half at the Limerick IT grounds. Curtin hit 1-2 in the first half as Galway recovered from a blistering Limerick start to go in level at the break, 1-6 to 2-3.

The Shannonsiders scored two goals in the first minute as Aoife Sheehan netted from a free after 30 seconds. Moments later the same player had another free blocked by Galway goalkeeper Susan Earner but Veronica Curtin's sister Orla fired home from the rebound.

The visitors battled back superbly, despite playing into a strong wind. Curtin's 16th-minute goal hauled Galway back into contention and three quick-fire points from

## Camogie

Lourda Kavanagh helped bring them level at the break. Limerick failed to register a score in a one-sided second-half as the prolific Curtin added four frees before substitute Clodagh Glynn hit Galway's second goal four minutes from time.

Both Curtin sisters finished as top scorers for their respective teams as Limerick star Orla added a first-half point to her early goal.

Substitute Katrina Davis and Eileen O'Brien were also on target for Limerick during the opening half.

Champions Cork remain in contention for a final place after defeating Dublin 2-10 to 1-8 at a blustery Parnell Park. After playing with the wind, visitors Cork opened up a 1-8 to 0-2 half-time lead as Dublin, out of contention for a final place, struggled.

Una O'Donoghue scored a superb goal for Cork in the first half but the Rebelettes went 22 minutes without a score as Dublin rallied.

Dublin were dominant on the resumption but Sheila Burns grabbed a crucial goal with five minutes remaining to quell the rising Sky Blue tide.

Dublin had a late goal when Niamh Taylor, who bagged 1-3, took a pass from Ciara Burgess before finding the net but it was too little, too late.

For Dublin, Niamh O'Hara landed five points, including three frees, while Joleen Hoary picked off three points from play. Cork will meet Kilkenny and Dublin face Wexford in the final round of Division 1 matches as Galway await their opponents in next month's final.

There were victories for Derry, Clare and Waterford while in Division 2, Offaly and Kildare recorded wins as Roscommon and Meath finished level.

## Kilkenny come to town

It will be like old times down in Pairc Uí Rinn on Sunday as Cork and Kilkenny meet in crucial national league ties. For the division 1 team it's a must win game, Cork having lost out already to Wexford cannot afford to slip up while Kilkenny with victories over Wexford and Dublin know that a win over Cork will give them a place in the league final. A

Cork victory would almost certainly force a play off situation depending on the result of the Wexford Dublin clash.

For the division 2 team a victory might force a play off but that would depend on Waterford defeating Clare. It promises to be an interesting afternoon. The div 1 games throws in at 1.30 with as 3pm start for the div 2 game.

## Cork minors reach semi final

Cork and Tipperary onship semi final in Carmeet on Saturday in the regional on Saturday at Munster minor champi- 2.30pm.



Cork's Maria Reidy breaking away from Clare's Chloe Morey and Niamh Corry during the Munster under 16 Camogie final in Mallow.

Picture: Richard Mills

Cork 2-7  
Clare 1-1

by Mary Newman

A DOUBLE for Cork as the under-16 A and B sides captured provincial titles on Easter Monday in Mallow defeating Clare and Waterford.

Holders Clare faced a determined Cork who played with the aid of the strong wind in the opening half, and they led from the start with Maria Reidy pointing to open the scoring. Katrina Mackey pointed a free to stretch the lead before Finola Neville grabbed a goal 13 minutes into the game. Points from Katie Buckley and Katrina Mackey had Cork in

control as Clare found the going tough as Cork led 1-4 to no score at the interval.

Clare turned to play with the wind in their favour, but it was Katrina Mackey who pointed an early Cork free, but Clare were on the score board, Lorraine Woods finishing to the net inside five minutes of the restart.

Aisling Considine pointed a free and now just four points separated the sides as Clare threw every thing at the Cork defence. Katrina Mackey pointed two frees in the 13th and 25th minute, but still Clare pressed as Cork worked hard to shake them off. With six minutes remaining Katie Buckley grabbed a Cork goal to finally kill the Clare chal-

lenge and give Cork the title at the hands of the defending champions.

**Cork:** T Hawkes; S Harrington, A Coughlan, K McCarthy; R O'Mahony, P Mackey (c), F Cotter, E Kingston, K Mackey, S Coomey, M Reidy, A O'Donovan, F Neville, J Casey, K Buckley. Subs: N O'Brien for F Cotter (45), S O'Halloran for S Coomey (50), J Fitzpatrick for F Neville (50). Scorers: K Mackey 0-5 (0-4 f 0-1 45"), K Buckley 1-1, F Neville 1-0, M Reidy 0-1.

**Clare:** M Bell; C Neylon, M McGrath, J O'Neill; J Walsh, C Morey, J Kelly; C Danagher, N Corry; L Loughnane, L Woods, R O'Halloran; G O'Brien, A Considine, O'Duggan. Subs: M Vaughan for J O'Neill (15), C Hennessey for L Loughnane (26), S Tuohy for J Walsh (26), P Fawcett for G O'Brien (40), M Collins for A Considine (56). Scorers: L Woods 1-0, A Considine 0-1.

Referee: Eamonn Browne (Tipperary)

The Co Cork team that took the Munster Junior Camogie title.



## Douglas's experience will help them

THE last championship competition for 2007 reaches its conclusion on Sunday when Douglas and Ballincollig meet in the Tower View Developments Minor A final in Cloughduv (noon), writes MARY NEWMAN.

Douglas, having enjoyed huge success at underage level from U12 to 16, will be hoping to add the minor titles to their haul, while Ballincollig having annexed league and championship honours at U16 A and B levels in 2005 and '06 will be determined to make their mark and claim their first minor crown.

Douglas overcame Éire Óg on Wednesday last to reach the decider.

They have excellent performers in players such as goalkeeper Jessica Kavanagh, Danielle Connolly, Maire O'Mahony, Ciara Clarke and Julia White.

They will not be overawed by the occasion.

With most of their panel already holders of All-Ireland Féile na nGael honours, they are used to the pressure a county final will bring.

Ballincollig overcame the challenge posed by Ballinhassig to book their place in the final with Aisling Sheehan, Brea O'Callaghan, Claire Ryan and Clodhna Irish very much to the fore in that game.

Douglas will pose a big challenge, but Ballincollig will be prepared to stand the test and go the distance.

They are captained by Leah Weste, who is a member of the Cork senior B panel, as is Sarah Buckley.

For several of the players on both panels, Sunday is a last chance to pick up a minor county championship medal.

We expect a close encounter.

Douglas's experience may just see them shade it, but if they do they will be made earn it by a determined and focused Ballincollig outfit.

**BALLINCOLLIG:** Aisling Sheehan, Brea O'Callaghan, Alison Coughlan, Aoife Cotter, Leah Weste, Kate O'Donoghue, Sarah Buckley, Eimear Nolan, Clodhna Irish, Patricia Buttimer, Samantha Coome, Claire Ryan, Holly Coome, Denise Cronin, Margaret O'Sullivan, Lisa O'Callaghan, Orlaith Ni Chathasaigh, Keely Sheehan, Jenny Walsh, Jenny Bowen, Rebecca O'Callaghan, Jennifer Ryle, Alison Henchon, Laura Barrett.

**DOUGLAS:** Jessica Kavanagh, Danielle Connolly, Ciara Driscoll, Semma Long, Tracy McCarthy, Moira O'Donovan, Pamela Mackey, Maire O'Mahony, Clodhna O'Driscoll, Ciara Clarke, Julia White, Katrina Mackey, Emma Jordan, Jill Kelleher, Ailin O'Donovan, Aisling Cotter, Laura Nason, Ciara Kavanagh, Nicola Leo, Aileen O'Connell, Ciara Lynch, Chloe Murphy, Lorraine McCarthy.

MARCH

2008



Midfielder Stacey Redmond launches an attack.



Fiona Kavanagh battles for possession.



# Déise no match for the Rebels

Cork 6-8  
Waterford 1-1

A TREMENDOUS second-half display from the Cork U16 B team saw them annex the first leg of the provincial double in Mallow yesterday.

The first half was a close affair as Cork took an early lead courtesy of a Sinead Gallen point.

Celia O'Driscoll stretched the lead with a goal inside the opening quarter, but Waterford replied with a Shauna Kiernan point to keep her side within distance.

Substitute Aisling Byrne and Celia O'Driscoll stretched the Cork lead with points before the break as they turned over 1-3 to 0-1 ahead.

A much-improved second-half display saw Cork begin to take control from the restart.

Sinead Gallen and Celia O'Driscoll had pointed before Aine O'Donovan struck for Cork's second goal.

Waterford struggled to go the distance as Cork began to up the pace with Sinead Gallen hand passing to the net before Aine O'Donovan was on hand for a fourth Cork goal, finishing smartly as the ball rebounded off the upright and into her path.

Katie Harrington and Aine O'Donovan pointed before Una Jackman had a Waterford goal, in reply to Sinead Gallen's fifth goal for the Rebels.

Cork were now rampant and they had a sixth goal from Kate Harrington, before Katie Healy and Shauna Kirwin exchanged points on a day when Waterford failed to perform.

As Cork are an A-graded county, they are unable to contest the B All-Ireland series.

It's the end of the road for this side but Waterford will go on to participate in the B All-Ireland championship.

Scorers for Cork: S Gallen 2-2, A O'Donovan 2-1, C O'Driscoll 1-2, K Harrington 1-1, K Healy and A Byrne 0-1 each.

Waterford: U Jackman 1-0, S Kiernan 0-2.

CORK: S Rodgers; E O'Sullivan, E Coughlan, L Browne, K Healy, C Murphy, O Burke, C Dooley, K O'Reilly, S Quilligan, P O'Keefe (capt), C O'Driscoll, K Harrington, A O'Donovan, S Gallen.

Subs: S K Brosnan for K O'Reilly (24), A Byrne for C Dooley (24), S Duggan for L Browne (40), S O'Reilly for S Quilligan (41), J Dooley for C O'Driscoll (45).

WATERFORD: R Nic Dhonncha; N Prendergast, C Hogan, C Fitzgerald, R Murphy, S Kiernan, MC Dunphy, M Tobin, J McCarthy, G Burke, R Whelan, E Heneghan, A Barry, S Denton, R Power.

Subs: M Ni Mhurchadha for G Burke (41), U Jackman (for R Power (41), S Heylin for A Barry (45).

Referee: John Morrissey (Tipperary)



Cork player Alison Coughlan getting a hug from mum Anne Marie after they beat Clare in the Munster U16 final in Mallow.

Picture: Richard Mills

# Cork avenge last year's loss

Cork 2-7  
Clare 1-1

IT WAS A superb day for Cork camogie yesterday, as they recorded a provincial U16 double in Mallow at A and B level.

Holders Clare relinquished their U16 A championship crown to a determined Cork, who avenged last year's final loss.

Aided by the strong wind in the opening 30 minutes, they built up a seven-point interval lead that was to stand to them in the second half, as the visitors aided by the elements played catch up.

Maria Reidy and Katrina Mackey pointed to put Cork two ahead inside 10 minutes as Clare struggled to hold the home side.

Finola Neville grabbed a fortuitous goal 13 minutes into the contest, when Clare keeper Mairead Bell pulled and missed on what looked to be a harmless-looking long ball.

Cork now had the upper hand and piled on the pressure with points from Katie Buckley and a Katrina Mackey 45.

With their defence holding the Clare attack, Cork turned over 1-4 to no score ahead.

Katriona Mackey pointed an



Cork's Samantha Coomey finds her way blocked by Clare's Máiréad Vaughan during the Munster U16 final in Mallow.

Picture: Richard Mills

early free, but with Clare now enjoying a lot more possession they finally got on the scoreboard, Lorraine Woods finishing to the net inside five minutes.

When Aisling Considine pointed a free soon after, just four points separated the sides.

Battling hard to retain their crown, Clare threw everything at the Cork defence but they answered the call and stood firm, and denied

Clare several goal chances.

Katriona Mackey steadied Cork, pointing two frees in the 43th and 55th minute but still Clare pressed.

With time running out and six points between them, Katie Buckley found the net with the late goal to quench any hopes of a Clare rally.

A provincial title for Cork, but both camps know that plenty work lies ahead before their sides are

ready for a shot at the All-Ireland.

Cork selector Ger Sheehan was pleased with his charges' display.

"We set out to win the Munster title and we are pleased with that."

"We know we have a huge amount of work to do, last season we were in the position Clare are in today and we bounced back to make it to the All-Ireland final."

"Every county is in with a chance but we will be working hard to ensure we are thereabouts come the All-Ireland series."

"We're thrilled for the girls they worked hard and to do the double is great for camogie in Cork."

Scorers for Cork: K Mackey 0-5 (0-4f, 0-1 45), K Buckley 1-1, F Neville 1-0, M Reidy 0-1.

Clare: L Woods 1-0, A Considine 0-1.

CORK: T Hawkes; S Harrington, A Coughlan, K McCarthy; R O'Mahony, P Mackey (capt), F Cotter; E Kingston, K Mackey, S Coomey, M Reidy, A O'Donovan; F Neville, J Casey, K Buckley.

Subs: N O'Brien for F Cotter (45), S O'Halloran for S Coomey (50), J Fitzpatrick for F Neville (50).

CLARE: M Bell; C Neylon, M McGrath, J O'Neill; J Walsh, C Morry, J Kelly; C Danagher, N Corry; L Loughane, L Woods, R O'Halloran; G O'Brien, A Considine, O Duggan.

Subs: M Vaughan for J O'Neill (15), C Hennessy for L Loughane (26), S Tuohy for J Walsh (26), P Fawc for G O'Brien (half-time), M Collins for A Considine (56).

Referee: Eamonn Browne (Tipperary).





LINDA MELLERICK

Kilkenny 0-7  
Cork 1-3

**FREE-TAKING** won this crucial national league decider for Kilkenny in Páirc Uí Rinn yesterday and equally it lost it for Cork.

Played in appalling weather conditions, the game was always going to be low scoring and every opportunity had to be taken.

Kilkenny took more than Cork; it's as simple as that.

A total of 11 wides, almost all from placed balls, cost Cork and after yesterday's defeat their next competitive game is the opening round of the championship on June 1 away to Dublin.

It's a disappointment as Cork really needs more big games.

It was a sign of things to come when Cork hit two frees wide within the opening five minutes.

Rain poured incessantly for over an hour before the game and while large puddles of water were evident on the pitch the wind and rain ceased for the first half.

The game started lively but never ignited after as the heavy conditions allowed for little or no open play.

Katie Power opened Kilkenny's scoring on three minutes. The Cats too were guilty of poor shooting and matched Cork's tally.

Both defences were on top. Once again Rena Buckley was magnificent. Sarah Hayes had a very good game at corner-back while Rosalie Holland, Lynda O'Connell, Gemma O'Connor and Catriona Foley were tidy. It was Buckley though whose long clearances put Cork on the attack many a time. But as soon as the ball went in it came back out again as Elaine Aylward, Jackie Frisby and Eimear Lyng nullified Cork's threat up front.

Cork weren't hugely influential around the middle of the park but much of the game passed them by. Orla Cotter got more and more involved as the game wore on.

Linda Dorgan goaled for Cork after eight minutes but a strange decision by referee Eamonn Browne denied the Rebels. It should have been either a free out or a goal



The Cork camogie team that hosted Kilkenny in their National League Division One clash at Páirc Uí Rinn yesterday.

Picture: Damien Quirk

# Cork knocked out of league

but Browne brought the ball out 20 metres and threw it in. It was to prove a costly decision.

A Sile Burns goal after 10 minutes gave Cork a boost and put them two points ahead. A Cotter free was batted out by nervous goalkeeper Catriona Ryan and Burns was on hand to connect with the rebound. It was to be Cork's only score from play for the entire game.

Equally, Kilkenny only managed two points from play as the pitch worsened and it became impossible to find space.

Frees from Sinead Millea on the 19th, 23rd and 28th minutes had the

game level after Rachel Moloney had pointed a free for Cork on 20 minutes.

Joanne O'Callaghan was introduced before the break as Cork knew they had to push forward for scores.

She slotted into corner back, Hayes moved out to left-half and Buckley pushed out to midfield. Cotter switched to left-half forward.

As the rain began to team down, a Cotter free edged Cork ahead five minutes after the re-start.

The game became a battle. Cork had another four wides registered from frees after 22 minutes.

Kilkenny weren't far behind but

Millea was proving that bit more accurate as she pushed Kilkenny ahead by 0-7 to 1-2 with eight minutes remaining.

A Buckley free narrowed the gap and Sile Burns had two golden opportunities to grab a winner for Cork.

With four minutes remaining she turned her marker and bore down on goal. Surrounded by three Kilkenny defenders she ended up on the ground as the ball rolled wide.

Almost on full-time she blasted wide as Cork had to go for goal. A draw wouldn't do the rebels.

A couple of dubious decisions by

the referee allowed Cork no further opportunity as Kilkenny relished defeating Cork in their own back yard.

**Scorers for Cork:** S Burns 1-0, R Moloney, R Buckley, O Cotter 0-1f each.

**Kilkenny:** S Millea 0-6 (0-5f), K Power 0-1, **CORK:** A Murray, L O'Connell, R Holland, S Hayes, G O'Connor, C Foley (capt), R Buckley, O Cotter, U O'Donoghue, E O'Farrell, M Corkery, A Thompson, S Burns, R Moloney, L Dorgan.

**Subs:** J O'Callaghan for A Thompson (28), J Duffy for L Dorgan (35), D Twomey for R Moloney (55).

**KILKENNY:** C Ryan, A Fahey, C Doherty, E Lyng, E Aylward, K A Cotterall, Frisby, L Lyng, A Dalton, A Neary, K Fenneally, K McDonald, M O'Connor, S Millea, K Power.

**Subs:** M Quilty, M Dorgan for K Fenneally and K McDonald (half-time).

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

## Rebels stand firm to squeeze into Munster final

Cork 2-11  
Tipperary 2-10

By MARY NEWMAN  
Camogie

CORK'S minors advanced to the Munster final with just one point to spare over a determined Tipperary sides in Mallow on Saturday.

When Niamh Dilworth tucked away Cork's second goal five minutes into the second half, the dye looked cast for Tipp, as they trailed by 12 points.

But aided by the gale force wind they showed plenty of character and fought back to come close to snatching victory.

Pinning Cork in their own half for almost the entire second half, they proceeded to pick off their scores as they ate into Cork's lead. And in the finish a pointed 45 by the excellent Niamh Dilworth late on was crucial as it was

to be the score that separated the sides at the final whistle.

Aided by the strong wind, Cork led 1-9 to 0-2 at the interval after they had dictated proceedings throughout the half.

Catriona Shortt opened the scoring, pointing a Tipperary free, but from here on Cork took over. Dilworth and Denise Luby pointed before Dilworth's long range free finished up in the Tipp net to stretch the advantage.

Enjoying plenty of possession, Cork troubled the Tipp defence and three points without reply from Dilworth (2) and Julia White had Cork comfortable, before Bonnie Kennedy pointed for Tipp.

With the wind howling, Cork availed

of every opportunity and despite striking eight wides, they had tacked on four points before the break with Dilworth, White and substitute Sinead O'Callaghan all on target.

Tipp started the second half with a Fiona Young point, to which Dilworth replied with a pointed free and within five minutes of the restart Cork again had the Tipp defence under pressure.

Good work from White saw Luby set up Dilworth for a superb goal and it looked as if playing against the elements was not going to trouble Cork.

We were proved wrong as we had to wait 21 minutes for the next Cork score as Tipp proceeded to take the game by the scruff of the neck.

Eight minutes in Shortt won a penalty but Tipp failed to convert as Marie Gleeson saved on the line for Aisling Thomson to clear to safety.

Tipp came again and Niamh O'Connell and Maria Ryan cut the deficit with points before O'Connell sent a long-range free to the roof of the Cork net and they added three points without reply and as they pinned Cork in their own half, the lead was down to five points.

With the Cork defence feeling the pressure, Tipp grabbed a goal as Kennedy's lobbing shot ended up in the net to really put the game back in the mix.

From the puck out Cork made a rare sweep up field and Luby's flick for goal saw Tipp keeper Christine Kenneally concede a 45 which Dilworth superbly converted against the wind and the margin was back to three points.

Undeterred, Tipp again swept down field Fiona Young and Shortt pointed as once again.

Twice Tipp came close to grabbing an equaliser in the four minutes of added time as their wide tally rose to seven for the second half but credit the Cork defence, who showed great resolve to hold out under enormous pressure to reach the final.

**Scorers for Cork:** N Dilworth 2-6 (1-4f, 0-1 45), J White 0-3, S O'Callaghan 0-1, D Luby 0-1(f).

**Tipperary:** N O'Connell 1-2 (1f), B Kennedy 1-1, F Young 0-3 (0-1f), C Shortt 0-2 (0-1f), M Ryan and G Stapleton 0-1 each.

**CORK:** M Gleeson, M A Hawkes, S O'Brien, S Cotter, M Walsh, L Cunningham, C O'Neill, S Buckley, J Lynch, J White, N Dilworth (c), A Thompson, R De Faoite D Luby, C Collins **Subs:** S O'Callaghan for C Collins (21), S O'Neill for R De Faoite (54), A Sheehan for S Cotter (51).

**TIPPERARY:** C Kenneally, M Ryan, S Rabbitte, S O'Neill, S Hayes, G Stapleton, L Greene, N O'Connell, C Devane, C Shortt, F Young, C Walsh, E Shanahan, A Brialane, B Kennedy (c) **Subs:** B O'Brien for L Greene (25), C Kenny for A Brialane (45).

**Referee:** Morgan Conroy (Waterford)





## Linda Mellerick

THE general consensus from last weekend's annual Camogie Congress was that it was progressive and forward-looking.

All agreed it was a resounding success.

History was made when Joan O'Flynn of Kildare became the first ever president-elect of the association.

This will allow for a seamless transition when current president Liz Howard finishes her term of office next year's.

Joan started her career at the Fr O'Neill's club in East Cork and went on from there to become a member of the London-Irish Camogie Club.

Since moving to Kildare she has immersed herself in the game of camogie and has administrative experience at county, provincial and national level.

O'Flynn is current Kildare Camogie Board PRO and has also served as county secretary, chairperson and has managed the county's minor team.

She also documented the history of camogie in Kildare when her book *Soaring Sliothar* was published in 2004.

At provincial level, Joan has been the Kildare delegate to the Leinster Council for several years, while at national level she is the chairperson of the National Strategic Plan Committee and has also been on the Camogie Association's Management Committee since 2006.

She will take up her post next year.

It is critical that the strategic plan continues to be aggressively pursued and Joan is the ideal candidate to carry this forward, holding the chairperson's position at present. She is following in the footsteps of possibly the associations greatest ever presidents, Miriam O'Callaghan of Offaly and Liz Howard.

Máire Uí Scolai stood down as national PRO after nine years of excellent dedicated service. She will remain as results co-ordinator.

Finally the motion to generate revenue by increased affiliation fees for clubs was passed. Delegates voted to change the affiliation fee to €300 per club effective from 2009.

This was a significant development as this particular motion was defeated on three previous occasions. Members now realise that increased finance is a necessity to drive the sport forward.

President Liz Howard said: "Camogie is making great strides but we must always aim to bring it to the next level in line with our strategic plan in relation to games development, greater participation, more effective administrators, along with greater PR and better mar-



The Tracton U10 team who reached the final of their section in the Carrigdhoun division.

# Joan set to be next camogie president

Camogie president-elect, Joan O'Flynn.



keting strategies."

Howard congratulated Joan O'Flynn and vowed last weekend to leave the association in good hands when she steps down herself next year.

Significantly, Kerry voted at congress for the first time in a number of years after setting up a county board in 2007 while Mayo delegates, even though they had no voting rights this time, were also present after setting up their own county board last month.

There has been a huge increase in the number of new camogie clubs established over the last five years and it is estimated that 40 new clubs have come on stream.

Howard praised the work of Mary O'Connor, the director of camogie development, and she is also delighted that rejuvenated Kilkenny and Galway will contest the eagerly-anticipated

Division One league final later this month.

Howard said: "I am delighted to see Kilkenny back in a final as they have been dormant for the last few years, which is never good to see."

"The Tribeswomen have made great strides also through the efforts of their manager and former Galway goalkeeper Liam Donoghue, along with Damien Coleman."

You can understand the associations desire for more competitive championship sides particularly at senior level. But to honest, the national league games to date have been poor. In fact, very poor!

The work at development level is excellent and the future bright but how long will it take for that to mature? Kilkenny are coming good again, no doubt about that but they are still a bit off the mark based on last

Sunday's league performance against Cork. Yes, they defeated Cork but enough about that.

Tipperary's golden days are over for a while. Galway won't do it come championship time. Wexford are still celebrating last year's All-Ireland success and Limerick and Dublin will consider it a good year if they take a few points come championship.

I have to admit that I think the standard has dropped dramatically over the past few years. It doesn't matter who is on top.

Unless the games reach high standards again we won't fill Ballinlough, not to mind Croke Park on All Ireland Final day.

The Division Two final will be a repeat of last year's Gala All-Ireland junior decider between Clare and Derry, a nail-biting game the Ulster county won courtesy of a last-gasp injury-time goal.

## Club notes

### ST VINCENT'S

Training times: U5, 6 and 7 Tuesday 6pm to 7pm U11, Wed 6pm to 7pm, U10 Thursday 5 to 6pm, U12 Thursday 6pm to 7pm, U14 Monday 6pm to 7pm.  
Training is on again as follows at the above times. New members always welcome.

### CARRIGDHOUN

Last weekend the division hosted an inter club blitz for its youngest players in Riverstick Community Centre.  
Six Clubs from the division participated in what turned out to be a truly enjoyable event. This culminated into four finals where medals were won by all winners and runners up.

Representing the various Clubs:

Ballinlough: Jane Harrington, Maggie O'Brien, Leah Cullinane, Ellen Keating, Kelsy Flynn, Laura Mc Carthy, Clodhna Coholan, Evelyn Collins, Nadine O'Driscoll, Rachel Roche, Aoife Casey, Noelle Sheehan, Jennifer Bohane, Clodagh Murray, Orla Mc Carthy, Emma Crowley, Kate Mc Carthy.

Sliabh Rua: Katie Daly, Maeab O'Regan, Aine Cummins, Marie Walsh, Gabriella O'Donovan, Rachel Butler, Aoife Butler, Loise O'Shea, Lesley Ann Pastorino, Shauna Butler, Leah Casey, Niala Daly, Claire Bernard, Michelle Fitzpatrick, Orla Cummins.

Courtesy Rovers: Emma Scannell, Abbey Jeffrey's, Fiona Keating, Grainne Hannon, Cornelia O'Reilly, Orla Nyhan, Mary Collins, Deirdre O'Reilly, Lorraine Collins, Coimhe Hannon.

Ballygarvan: Emma Bateman, Maya Shears, Sarah Jane Brady, Orla Harte, Gabie O'Brien, Aisling O'Mahony and Niamh Lyons.

Carrigaline: Aisling Ryall, Amy Callan, Caitlin Kearney, Caoimhe Hogan, Caoimhe Kirwan, Caoimhe O'Regan, Clara Harrington, Claire Stack, Ellen Griffin, Emer Murphy, Kelly Williams, Lauren O'Brien, Leah Deasy, Megan Mc Carthy, Mollie Ryan, Molly O'Mahony, Roisin O'Connell, Susie Foley, Una Hegarty.

The Division has entered a team into the County Cork Under 16 Blitz, all the teams and selectors from the Clubs have been in training for the last number of weeks.

### ST CATHERINE'S

Club Sponsor Cork Builder's Providers  
On Tuesday last we travelled to Watergrasshill to play our first U16 League game of the season and ran out winners on the above score line. All our girls played very well on the night.

Team: C. McAuliffe, E. Murphy, C. Clancy, A. Ahern, N.O. Donoghue, F. Cotter, J. Mangan, S. Barry, R.O. Callaghan, S. Gallagher, F. Neville, F. Feeney, A. Doyle, E. Neville, M. Mulcahy.

Subs: G Walsh for E Neville, M Mulcahy for A Doyle, L Leahy for K Mellerick. Scorers: F Neville 4-5, F Cotter 1-1.

On Thursday night, March 27th, Youghal were visitors to Ballynoge for our second league match and again our players performed very well on the night and were far too good for a gallant Youghal side.

Team: C. McAuliffe, E. Murphy, C. Clancy, A. Ahern, N.O. Donoghue, F. Cotter, J. Mangan, S. Barry, R.O. Callaghan, S. Gallagher, F. Neville, F. Feeney, A. Doyle, E. Neville, M. Mulcahy.

Subs: C. Kearney for E. Neville, G. Walsh for F. Feeney, L. Leahy for A. Doyle, K. England for M. Mulcahy, M. Kirby for E. Murphy. Scorers: F Neville 5-9, C. Kearney 3-0, F Cotter 3-4(1), E Neville 1-0.

POKER CLASSIC: We held our annual Poker Classic on Friday night last in Fisherman's Rest Bar, Conna. Many thanks to all who supported us and to those who helped out in any way.

Well done to our club members Orla Cotter, Deirdre Twomey, Denise Leahy, Noreen Mulcahy and Yvonne O'Neill who lined out with Cork Senior A and Senior B teams last weekend.

### NA PIARSAIGH

St. Catherine travelled to Na Piarasigh indoor hurling arena recently with their under 10 and 11 squads. A match of ground hurling was played and all players on the day showed great skills. Na Piarasigh team: Carmel Kelly, Rebecca Sheehan, Erin Mc Elhinney, Niamh Conway.

Louise Dorgan Amanda O Leary Sinead Simpson Niamh O Sullivan Emma Buckley Amy Leahy Teagan Ryan.

Scorers on the day were Carmel Kelly, Rebecca Sheehan, Emma Buckley and Louise Dorgan.

### TRAINING TIMES:

Monday: U14s 5pm to -6 pm, Wednesday: Junior Bs 8pm to 9pm, Thursday: U16s 5pm to 6pm.

Saturday: Underage and newcomers noon to 1pm, U10s 1pm to 2pm U12s 2-3pm. New players welcome.

Any club interested in organising a challenge match for the under 10 age group please contact Eddie Sheehan on 085 1501029.

### CARRIGTHOILL

Under 8 training on Saturday in Community Hall from 1pm to 2pm until further notice.

Under 10 and 12 training as usual in the GAA Pitch Carrigthoill from 1pm to 2pm Registration will take place on the GAA Pitch Carrigthoill and in the Community Centre.

Carrigthoill on Sat 5th and 12th of April from 1pm to 2pm.

New Members always welcome. The Camogie Club will be joining the GAA Juvenile Summer Camp this year, which will run for 1 week from 28th July to 1st August 08. Registration for the Summer Camp will take place in early May 08. Contact Sheila @ 085-8540660.

### GLEN ROVERS

Well done to Denise Luby Lydia Cunningham and Karen O'Connell all members so of the Cork minor panel that defeated Tipperary in the Munster Championship semi-final.

UNDER 12: Our second under 12 team which comprises of players from under 11 downwards travel to Aghbullogue today to meet the home sides in their first league game of the season.

UNDER 14: Our U14 team are heading to Ovens on Wednesday night to meet Eire Og in the first game of the league. Players to meet at club at 5.45pm for bus to Ovens.

UNDER 16: Our Under 16 team travel to Passage this evening, players to meet at the club at 5pm.

### CARRIGALINE

#### Douglas 3-17 Carrigaline 1-5

The game was evenly contested for much of the first half and even though we trailed 2-6 to 0-2 at half time it could have been closer.

Carrig battled bravely in the second half but Douglas finished with a flurry of points to march on to the final. Our performance augers well for the 2008 league which is due to start in the next couple of weeks.

Jenny Foster impressed as a second half sub.

For Douglas, Julie White caught the eye with a marvellous point scoring display and Cork Senior, Amanda O'Regan had a great game at centre back.

Carrigaline Team: Ann Kiely, Jan Kiernan, Joann O'Keefe, Vicky O'Doherty, Caroline O'Keefe, Sarah Cotter, Donna Smyth, Maria Moran, Emily Power, Patsie O'Keefe, Grainne O'Keefe (0-1), Deirdre O'Leary, Una O'Farrell, Elaine Egan and Laura Thompson (1-4, 0-2 free). Subs: Laura Kelleher for Caroline O'Keefe, Jenny Foster for Vicky O'Doherty, Meabh De Barra for Una O'Farrell, Roisin Pinfield for Jan Kiernan, Lisa O'Driscoll for Elaine Egan.

#### Ballinlough 3-1 Carrigaline 0-0

Carrigaline lost our second U16 "A" League game to Ballinlough last Friday. Carrigaline settled better in the second half when Aine Crowley went to full-back. Danielle Neville brought a good save from the Ballinlough goalkeeper and Aileen Mac Carthy was narrowly wide from frees from distance. Jane O'Connell impressed as a second half sub and Breffni Irwin and Ciarra O'Connell battled hard throughout.

Carrigaline Team: Kerri Brennan, Edwina Neville, Patsie O'Keefe, Dara O'Sullivan, Niamh Crowley, Aine Crowley, Saidbh O'Connell, Breffni Irwin, Ciarra O'Connell, Jessica Field, Aileen McCarthy, Sarah Barry, Danielle Neville, Kelly Ahern, Stephanie Milner. Subs used Orla Milner, Shauna Mangan, Leah Healy, Jane O'Mahony.

Patsie O'Keefe captained the Cork U16B team, to success in the Munster Championship final win over Waterford.