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Mary Fitzpatrick, St. Fergal's is pressured by Aileen McParland, St. Patricks' in the All Ireland Senior 'B' Camogie Final at Mullingar.

Glory for

All-Ireland title for Rathdowney school

St Fergal's Rathdowney.....2-9

A PERFORMANCE packed with character and resilience ensured victory for the girls of St Fergal's as they defeated St Patrick's Keady in the

St Patrick's Keady.....2-4

Brian Keyes reports



Cathal Moynan, David Kavanagh and Alan Drennan supporting St. Fergal's against St. Patricks's in the All Ireland Senior 'B' Camogie Final at Mullingar.

stage, it was late in the game that St Fergals pushed for the front and sealed victory with a a goal from Linda Moylan - just four minutes of play

Mullingar on Saturday last.

Up until then, this game was a very tight contest, with Patrick's enjoying the early dominance but a focussed Fergal's side stayed in touch and with their free takers Eimear Delaney and

Trailing from an early Aine O'Mahoney in top form, they hit the scores to secure the win. Great credit is due to the St Fergal's panel, and their team manager Fergal Ryan. Facing in to the breeze, he found his side down by four points after just three minutes, yet by half time were just a point off the pace.

> Then on resumption an early goal for the Keady gir;s threatened to upset Fergals planned comeback. Add to that

play was severely All-Ireland Colleges Senior B camogie final in disrupted when an injury to a St Patrick's player forced the teams off the field, awaiting the arrival of an ambulance. Enough to drive any coach chasing a game to despair.

> That injury halted play for over half an hour, as the player in question lay motionless on the ground with a neck injury. By that stage Fergals were 2-4 to 1-4 behind. For the closing 14 minutes or so remaining, they hit 1-5 without a St Patrick's repsonse to claim B honours.

There were some very good displays for Fergals, Emma Davy in goal, Sinead Delaney at full back, Marion O'Grady and Karen Cuddy on the half back line. Eimear Delaney and Mary Fizpatrick did a lot of work at midfield while up front Aine O'Mahony and two goal hero Linda Moylan were the main threats.

St Patrick's opened the scoring with a free from the impressive Michelle Murphy in the first minute, and just ninety seconds later the same player set up Mairead McClelland for an early Keady goal.

At this stage, enjoying the breeze Keady were dominant, showed the more aggression in winning the ball and were striking the better. Fergals soon settled, from O'Mahoney narrowed the gap before an O'Mahoney free was blocked in the 16th minute, but Linda Moylan was there to finish the rebound, 1-2 to 1-1 as Fergals went in

The lead was short lived as Murphy hit a free, and then pointed a '45' in the 19th minute. The closing ten minutes of the half saw Fergals do defending, but just a point off the pace by the break the game looked to be theres.

Keady though posted a big doubt in the Fergals collective when corner forward O'Hanlon scored a good goal, nine minutes into the second half as Fergals missed some



The St. Fergal's team that defeated St. Patrick's in the All Ireland Senior 'B' Carnogie Final at Mullingar.

brian@leinsterexpress.ie

GAELIC GAMES ALL-IRELAND COLLEGES SENIOR 'B' CAMOGIE FINAL



## Fergal's girls



Colette Kennedy, Colleges Committee, makes the presentation to St. Fergal's Captain Eimear Delaney after they defeated St. Patrick's High School, Keady in the All Ireland Senior 'B' Camogie Final at Mullingar.

early chances.

Two points from Aine O'Mahoney settled Fergals down before the injury occured to the St Patrick's player, and play was halted as both teams retired to the dressing rooms.

When play resumed it was Fergals who did all the preessing as Eimear Delaney found her range from frees, and O'Mahoney Aine pointed another to bring the sides level, 1-7 to 2-4 and seven minutes of play remaining.

A crucial free from Delaney in the 54th minute gave Fergals the lead for only the second time in the game, and the deal was sealed when Aine O'Mahoney fired in a delivery at the keady goal, the Armagh girls failed to clear and Linda Moylan bravely followed up to finish from close range. O'Mahoney had the final say with a point two minutes from time to add the icing on the cake for a great St Fergal's display.

This is a fine win for the school, and an Allireland double is on as the boys await the

Munster winners to play their All-Ireland VS SHC 'A' semi-final.

The girls have had a fantastic year, and its a big boost for Laois camogie to claim an All-Ireland colleges title indeed a big boost for gaelic games in the county in general. It's

been a while since Laois hurlers have won an All-Ireland colleges title.

It's obvious though that camogie still has to fight its corner. St Oliver Plunketts ground is not the place to stage any All-Ireland. The pitch was not cut, nor marked. Indeed one

Keady player had to get consultation from the referee for a '45', as there were no lines across the pitch. Both

Emma Davy; Aoife Quinlan, Sinead Delaney, Kate Hyland; Mary Dowling, Marion

teams deserved better. St Fergal's Rathdowney: O'Grady, Karen Cuddy;

Eimear Delaney, Mary Fitzpatrick; Sinead Sinnott, Aine O'Mahoney, Linda



St. Fergal's Captain Eimear Delaney leaves Danielle McBirney on the floor in the All Ireland Senior 'B' Camogie Final at Mullingar.



Karen Cuddy, St. Fergal's holds possession as she is tackled by Geraldine Gray, St. Patrick's, in the All Ireland Senior 'B' Camogie Final at Mullingar.

Sharon: Moylan; Fitzgerald, Marget Kelly, Rachel Hyland. Subs Ciara Quinlan for Mary Dowling.

St Patrick's Keady; Catheirne Toner; Aileen Roisin-McPartland, Murray, Mairead Shortt; Edel McPartland,

Danielle McBirney, Shauna McKee; Sarah Molloy, Grainne Kelly, Mairead McClelland, Murphy, Michaelle Stephanie Mcparland; Noelle O'Hanlon, Kerryann Tomany, Geraldine Gray, Subs Kerry Mone for Murphy.



Past pupil sisters Joan O'Mahony, Sinead O'Mahony, Elaine O'Mahony, Laura O'Mahony and teacher Aishling Phelan celebrate as St. Fergal's defeat St. Patricks in the All Ireland Senior 'B' Camogie Final at



## SLIOTAR ACUS CACDAN



## By Séamas Magiolla Fhinnéin

## **Uister Schools**' Agnes Farrelly Cup final:

St. Mary's Magherafelt 3-5 Cross & Passion Ballycastle 1-5

Cross & Passion Ballycastle may have scored a brilliant semifinal replay win over 4-in-a-row champions St. Patrick's Maghera but it only opened the door for St. Mary's Magherafelt to continue south Derry domination of the Ulster Colleges' Senior competition for the Agnes Farrelly Cup.

On Saturday, St. Mary's dominated the final against the younger Ballycastle side although they didn't seal their seventh title win until Sinead McLaughlin finished a speedy solo-run with a crisp shot to the net in the 53rd minute for her side's third goal.

The fact that St. Mary's were appearing in their 15th consecutive final counted a lot as they handled the occasion much better than their opponents.

Of course a third minute goal from corner-forward Cathy Carey helped them, but their direct running at the 'Castle defence definitely paid dividends on a Newbridge sod that was too heavy for the north Antrim side's ground game.

Claire Dallat kept her side in contention with frees, but it looked bad for them when Cathy Carey once again punished their failure to clear their lines in the 39th minute with a second goal, putting her side 2-5 to 0-3 up.

Emma McMullan though responded by lashing the sliotar to the net four minutes later and two frees from Claire Dallat brought the margin down to 3 points entering the last 10 minutes.

That was as close as it got and Magherafelt finally nailed a third goal in the 53rd minute to take keep the Cup in south Derry for the 14th year in a row.

ST. MARY'S MAGHERAFELT: Natasha McEldowney, Jacinta Conway, Alleen McCusker, Geraldine Lynch capt, Sarah Lennon, Niamh Doyle, Danielle McCrystal, Aisling Gribbin 0-1, Una Devlin, Michaela Convery 0-3, 0-2 frees, Eimear McKenna, Attracta McPeake 0-1 free, Cathy Carey 2-0, Sinead McLaughlin 1-0, Eimear Laverty.

Subs: Keelin Bradley for E McKenna (46), E McKenna for E Laverty (53), Aileen Kearney for N Doyle (53), Donna O'Kane for C Carey (59), E Laverty for A McPeake (60).

CROSS & PASSION BALLYCASTLE: Claire McNeill, Ciara McGuckian, Selina McKillen, Eileen McFarland, Catherine McAuley, Emma Connolly, Éilis Connor, Suzzanne McKeown, Tracey McAfee, Emma Connor, Claire Dallat capt. 0-5 frees, Gräinne McShane, Emma McMullan 1-0, Louise McNeill, Justine

Sub: Dervia Donnelly for G McShane (40). Referee : Una Kearney (Armagh)





## Fr Davies Cup final:

## St. Patrick's Keady 4-4 St. Catherine's Armagh 0-3

St. Patrick's Keady won the Armagh derby in Mullabrack to collect the Fr Davies' Cup on Saturday.

As expected, All-star Collette McSorley posed the sole threat to them but the Tullysaron player could only manage three first half points - all from frees as against 2-2 from Keady, the more balanced side.

Máiréad McClelland hit the net after 10 minutes and Michelle Murphy added a sec-

Despite that control though they failed to add to their total until after the dismissal of Collette McSorley in the 46h minute after her frustrations at being double-marked earned her a second yellow card.

Keady took advantage in the final 10 min-

utes for Geraldine Gray to add two goals and Máiréad McClelland and Stephanie McParland popped over late points that see them through to the All-Ireland semi-

ST. PATRICK'S KEADY: Catherine Toner, Roisin Murray, Patrice Murphy, Mairead Shortt, Shauna McKee, Danielle McBirney (Capt), Edel McParland, Grainne ond in the 22nd minute to put Keady in Kelly 0-1, Sarah Molloy, Stephanie McParland 0-1, Michelle Murphy 1-1, Mairead McClelland 1-1, KerryAnn Tomany, Geraldine Gray 2-0, Noelle O'Hanlon.

> Subs: Laura Comiskey for N O'Hanlon, Kerry Mone for R Murray, Aileen

McParland for S McKee, Angela Clarke for S McParland, Clare McKernan for M

ST. CATHERINE'S ARMAGH: Sunniamhia Quinn, Nadine Campbell, Helen Sheridan, Kelly Mullan, Laura Conlon, Aoibheann Murphy, Ursula Mullan (capt), Leanne Mackle, Eimear Brady, Annette Jordan, Colette McSorley 0-3 frees, Colette Finnegan, Orlagh Murphy, Emma Mullan, Aideen Canavan, Emma McManus.

Subs: Briege Crossan for E Brady.

Referee: Leona Gallagher (Tyrone).

## Strong Start Steers Offaly To Victory Over Derry

Div. 2 Camogie League; Offaly 2-10 . . . . Derry 1-7 By John Horan

Offaly came through with six points to spare over Derry in the National Camogie league played in Rath on Sunday last to record their

the campaign. Offaly managed to do enough during the match to come through with a bit to spare at the finish, and get a useful win against a battling Derry side.

second successive victory of

Apart from the early minutes when Derry led, Offaly were always in front, helped on their way with an early goal sent to the net by Edel Corcoran. The key scores of the first half were goals, two netted by Offaly while Derry also recorded their goal in this half

Offaly led by 2-6 to 1-4 at half time before outscoring Derry by 0-4 to 0-3 in a low scoring second half. Three of the Offaly forwards found the range with scores including Edel Corcoran, Michelle Davis, Emma Carey. Three of the Derry forwardline hit points Katie McAuley with three points, Clare McCloy with



Wing back Marian Crean makes a clearance for Offaly in last Sunday's league encounter with Derry in Rath.



Offaly full forward Aoife Kelly challenging Derry goalkeeper Emma McGovern for the ball in last Sunday's league game in Rath.

a goal in the sixth minute and Denise McCann adding a point. Derry could have had a few more efforts on the board but amassed a series of first half wides playing with the aid of the breeze.

Offaly maintained their lead in the second half though the same amount of chances didn't come their way as was the case in the first half hour. Offaly forward Michelle Davis did well contributing 0-8 of Offaly's final 2-10 total, the bulk of her efforts were from frees. Derry hit a few efforts late on in the contest but it wasn't going to deter the home team from securing victory.

Derry struck with two points in the opening three minutes with efforts by Katie McAuley and Grainne McGoldrick. Offaly got off the mark with five minutes gone when corner forward Edel Corcoran sent the ball to the Derry net. Derry got in for a goal of their own a minute later when Clare McCloy netted. Offaly hit a point when Aoife Kelly was fouled and Michelle Davis pointed the free. With ten minutes gone Derry defender Clare Doherty put her team into a two point lead 1-3 to 1-1.

Two minutes later Offaly cut the lead when Emma Carey pointed. The home team struck with a goal at the end of the first quarter. After a useful move Edel Corcoran passed to Aoife Kelly and Emma Kelly found the net to give Offaly a two point lead 2-2 to 1-3.

Offaly then hit a purple patch Michelle Davis hit two points in as many minutes and the same player then added two points from frees as Offaly led by 2-6 to 1-3. Derry came close with a couple of chances in the closing minutes of the first half before they added the final point of the half through half forward Denise McCann and at half time Offaly led by 2-6 to

Offaly went ahead by six points at the start of the second half when Aoife Kelly was fouled and Michelle Davis pointed the free. Six minutes into the second half Derry came close with a chance of a goal but it went wide. Derry reduced the gap to five points a minute later when centre forward Katie



The Offaly team which recorded their second victory in this year's National Junior League by defeating Derry in Rath on Sunday

McAuley pointed a free.

Ten minutes into the second half Offaly extended their lead to six points once more when

Edel Corcoran pointed, 2-8 to 1-5. Two minutes later Derry found the range with only their second point of the second half

when Katie McAuley hit a free. Offaly went into a six point lead nine minutes from the end. Michelle Davis was fouled and

she sent the free over the bar. The match went through a few scrappy moments in the closing stages though the home team still held the lead at that stage.

Derry came with a late push and Blaithin McIvor was on hand to send over a point. Offaly had the advantage of a five point lead at that stage before the Offaly girls added a final point in the last minute when Michelle Davis added to her tally with a point to come through winners by six points.

OFFALY: Collette Kelly; Michaela Morkan, Lorraine Corcoran, Karen Brady Arlene Watkins, Elaine Dermody, Marion Crean; Fiona Stephens; Karen Nugent; Mary Wyer, Sheila Sullivan, Michelle Davis (0-8, 0-7 frees); Emma Carey (1-1), Aoife Kelly, Edel Corcoran (1-1). Sub: Sabrina Carroll (for Sheila Sullivan).

DERRY: Emma McGovern: Michelle McManus, Jane Carry, Katie Pickering; Blaithin McIvor (0-1), Ciara Cushnahan, Clare Doherty (0-1); Grainne McGoldrick (0-1), Edel Henry; Clare McCloy (1-0), Katie McAuley (0-3), Denise McCann (0-1); Alisha Wilkinson, Elaine Laverty, Sinead Cassidy. Subs: Katriona O'Kane (for Alisha Wilkinson); Emma McIvor (for Katie Pickering); Cara Farren (for Clare McCloy).

Offaly's Sheila Sullivan about the strike the ball goalwards in Offaly's victory over Derry in the tional Junior League in Rath on Sunday last.

REFEREE: Stephen Egan

## Liz Howard new camogie president

by Mary Newman

TIPPERARY'S Liz Howard was elected president for the next three years at the end of a very successful Congress when she defeated Dublin's Pat Rafferty.

Congress was also addressed by Nicky Brennan, incoming GAA president, who expressed his wish to have a camogie representative on the GAC, the National Coaching and Games Development Committee, the Hurling Development

Committee, and to continue its representation on the Overseas Committee.

The staging of the U21 hurling final ahead of the All Ireland Senior Camogie Final on a two-year trial basis, starting this year, was something which Mr Brennan expressed delight, but he said it would require a concerted effort to ensure that the day was a success.

Motions passed at the Camogie Annual Congress included the motion making the wearing of helmets with face guard compulsory for all players under the age of eighteen. A number of playing rules were also passed including a motion in relation to a player taking the ball into her hand to bring it in line with that of the GAA and camogie will now also operate a the use of the yellow card, a motion was passed to introduce a Central Disciplinary Committee.

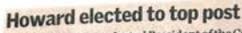
All in all a very successful congress as Liz Howard takes over the leadership

final at Dolla, Co.

Mary's won 1-11 to

Picture: Kieran

Tipperary. St



LIZ HOWARD was elected President of the Camogie Association for the next three years at the end of the Annual Congress in Tullamore. Speaking to the delegates following her election, she said "The strategic plan is our bible".

Nickey Brennan, incoming GAA president, also addressed the delegation and expressed his support for the staging of the U21 hurling final ahead of the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Final on a two-year trial basis.

> MARCH 2006

## Eimear Healy, St. Mary's, Charleville, races past Marie Duane and Catherine O'Meara (Portumna CS) in the All-Ireland Junior A Camogie

## Ryan magnificent as Ballincollig claim title

**Gort Community School, Galway** 

by Mary Newman

CELEBRATIONS are ongoing in Colaiste Choilm Ballincollig after the camogie team brought the school its first camogie All Ireland College's senior title recently by defeating Gort Community College.

Contesting the Senior C final for the first time was a daunting task, but the players who represent clubs Ballincollig, Eire Og, Inniscar-ra and St Finbarrs were coached by former Cork senior player Hilda O'Mahony (Ken-neally) and they were confident going into

the clash. Ballincollig played with the aid of the wind in the opening half and put the Gort defence under pressure as Claire Ryan opened the scoring with a pointed 45, and she converted two further frees to stretch the advantage to

By the mid-way stage Evelyn Glynn had sointed for Gort but strong defending from Ballincollig held them at bay with Leah Weste magnificent in the Colaiste Choilm defence.

Claire Ryan and Maria O'Donoghue struck for points before the half time break as

Ballincollig turned to face the gale force wind defending their four point advantage.

The going was hard through the second 30 minutes but they showed determination as they put the Gort attack under pressure, Ballincollig's Ashley Lovett had a point after 18 minutes as both sides showing huge com-

Gort attacked in waves but again they met with strong resistance. Eventually the goal arrived as Aoibhinne Linnane finish to the net with just five minutes of normal time remain-

Only two points separated the sides now and Gort came in search of a winner, but it was Ballincollig who grabbed the vital score when Claire Ryan reacted quickly after the Gort defence had blocked a Ballincollig free.

Gort did manage a point but it mattered little as the day belonged to Colaiste Choilm as they took the schools first ever All Ireland Camogie title. Well done to all concerned on a wonderful achievement.

Scorers: -Colaiste Choilm: C Ryan 1-4 (0-2f, 0-1 '45), M O'Donoghue and A Lovett 0-1 each.

COLAISTE CHOILM: A Sheehan; A Couphlan, C McCarthy, S Kenefick; K O'Donoghue, L Weste, B O'Callaghan; M O'Donoghue (C), S Buckley; M O'Sullivan, C Ryan, H Coomey, A Lovett, A McCarthy, C McSweeney, Subs: A Scally for C McSweeney (half time).

## Tipp Win Easily

Tipperary ...... 4-16

Tipperary travelled to Ballygran to play Limerick in the second round of the Div I A National League last Saturday and came away very convincing winners in a score line of 4-16, to 0 -8. Tipp lined out missing a number of their regulars and were very slow to start. Limerick had the first score inside a minute, a well taken point from play by their centre forward Meabh Nash. Tipp were gifted a goal after five minutes play when Mary Ryan was given the easiest of chances after both the Limerick full back and goalkeeper failed to clear a high ball. A few minutes later Tipp were in for another goal this time Johanne Ryan was the scorer, this followed good work from Cora Hennessy and Deirdre Dunne. Three points in quick succession by Eileen O'Brien, Michelle Casey and M Langan for Limerick left the score 2 -0 for Tipp and Limerick 0-4 mid-way through the first half.

Claire Grogan and Meabh Nash exchanged points, and with five minutes to go to half time Geraldine Kinane had the ball in the back of the Limerick net for a well taken goal to put two goals between the teams. Limerick battled hard and got their reward with two further points one each from Michelle Casey and Meabh Nash. This left the score at half time Tipperary 3-1 to Limerick-

After the break were first to score a well taken by Eileen O'Brien from play after five minutes. From here in Tipperary were completely on top, in midfield Philly Fogarty having the game of her life, Emily Hayden was getting more into the game on the forty and both Cora Hennessy and Deirdre Dunne were making the best of the ball coming into the forwards. Cora Hennessy pointed for Tipp a few minutes and this was followed

by further points Philly Fogarty [four points], Claire Grogan [two points] and Cora Hennessy another. When Deirdre Dunne helped herself to a goal and a point after twenty two minutes the game was well and truly over. Best for Tipp were Suzanne Kelly and Julie Kirwan in the full back line, Michelle Shortt at centre back, Philly Fogarty at midfield, while Cora Hennessy and Deirdre Dunne were the pick of the forwards.

Tipperary - Johanne Nolan, Suzanne Kelly, Marie Tynan, Julie Kirwan, Sinead Nealon, Michelle Shortt, Paula Bulfin, Philly Fogarty, [0-4] Emily Hayden, [0-1] Johanne Ryan, [1-0] Cora Hennessy,[0-2] Claire Grogan,[0-6, 0 ñ 2 from frees] Deirdre Dunne, [1-1] Geraldine Kinane, [1-0] Mary Ryan. [1-1]. Subs: Jovita Delaney, Lizzie Woods, Lorraine Bourke, [0-1] Eimear Ryan and Aine Mulcahy.

## Loss To Dublin

Tipperary . . . . . . . . . . . . . 0-6

In Div 1B of the National League Tipperary made the long journey to Round Towers to play Dublin and came away second best to a better Dublin team. Tipp played with a strong wind in the first half and were leading by 1 -6 to 1 -3 at the break. However Dublin came with all guns blazing in the second half petting eleven points on the board, without reply from the Tipp girls. Best for Tipp were Lizzie Woods, who was outstanding all through at corner back, Louise Ryan at centre back, and Lorraine Bourke in the middle of the field, while up front Siobhain Bourke and Eimear Ryan made the most of the few chances that came their way.

The Tipp team and substitutes as follows; Rosanne Kenneally, Sarah

Morrissey, Mairead Lutrell, Lizzie Woods, Johanne Nolan, Louise Ryan, [1-0] Noreen Flanagan, [0-1] Lorraine Bourke, Aine Mulcahy, Mary Ryan, C Sullivan, Siobhain Bourke, Deirdre Dunne, Eimear Ryan, [0-4 from frees] Allison Lonergan. [0-1]. Subs Aoifa McLoughney for Eimear Ryan [injured at half time], Ciara Johnson, Michelle Kir-

### PRESENTATION

A presentation to the Tipperary minor team [U/16] of last year will take place on next Sunday night 26th. March @ Youngs Ragg at 7 o clock sharp. These girls won the Munster final last year and were runners up in the All Ireland final; a few special guests will be present on the night to make the presentation of both sets of medals.

Munster U/16 A Championship The first round of this years championship due to be played on next Sat 25th. March has been postponed. It will now be played on the following week end 1st April. Details of venue and time next week

National Congress - The National Congress of the Camogie Association takes place this coming week end 24th & 25th March in the Bridge Hotel, Mullingar, Co Offaly. In the election of President for the coming year Liz Howard will represent Tipperary and we wish her well in that contest.

Referees Meeting - A special meeting to review playing rules for camogie will take place upstairs in the Sarsfield Centre Thurles [beside Semple Stadium] on Mon 27th. March @ 8.30 sharp. All referees should attend; the meeting will be chaired by Eamon Browne and Stephen Egan. Light refreshments will be provided.

Club Championships - The U/14 championship starts on Fri 31st. March - more details next week.

## Borris girls make history with first title for Carlow

## Camogie

Máire Ui Scolai

**BORRIS Vocational School** from Carlow created a little piece of history at The Ragg. Co Tipperary yesterday when they collected their county's first All-Ireland title.

The Borris girls defeated Gort CS of Galway by 2-6 to 0-4 in the Colleges Junior 'B' All-Ireland final. Beaten in last year's All-Ireland decider, the girls from the Black Stairs Mountains were in no mood to travel back empty-handed this time and, despite the harsh weather conditions that prevailed, were ahead 1-2 to 0-2 at the break.

With captain Sinéad Kelly and Celia Culleton in sparkling form at midfield, there was plenty of ball moving into the forward line and

when Niamh Quirke got the opening goal after 22 minutes, there was no stopping the Carlow girls.

Borris were given a great second-half tonic with a firstminute goal from Eleanor Brennan to put them 2-2 to 0-2 ahead. Gort really tried hard and were unfortunate not to have scored possibly two second half goals but a heavy pitch hampered good open play.

And with corner-back Eileen Murphy in super form, nothing was going to get past Borris easily. Despite two further points from Aoibhinn Linnane, Gort who suffered defeat in the Senior 'B' Colleges final a week ago - had to enter the losers' dressing room for the second week in a row.

Meanwhile, St Mary's Charleville won their eighth Junior 'A' title when they defeated Portumna CS by 1-11 to 0-5 on Saturday in Dolla, Co Tipperary.

## **Howard Nominated for Presidency** Of Camogie Association

The election for a new President of the Camogie Association takes place on Saturday 25th March in Tullamore Court Hotel, Co. Offaly.

Tipperary's Liz Howard was nominated by CCIA (Third Level Colleges) When she decided to let her name go forward for the Presidency of Cumann Camogaiochta and said that she had a clear vision as to what I wanted to influence and I put forward my agenda to progress camo-

I was one of the four people who drew up the Strategic Plan for Camogic and firmly believe that the implementation of that plan is the way forward. The four elements, Participation, Quality, Management and Marketing encompass all aspects that will ensure the further development of the game. I have facilitated various counties in identifying their particular needs in relation to the Strategic Plan. Camogie has progressed under the presidency of Miriam O Callaghan and I would continue to build on that. Apart from that my particular priorities are: (not in any

A review of the Rules of the Asso-

The establishment of an Appeals procedure at national level.

The inclusion of people with business and commercial experience on the Management Committee.

The setting up of a Finance Group to work with Sinead O'Connor. Finance and Sponsorship Manager. This would include people with financial and fund raising experi-

Set up a small group to identify and provide training needs for administrators to ensure more effective structures at administrative

Use my experience, links and good relationship with the GAA to progress the integration programme between of the Women's games and the GAA i.e. representation on Hurling Development Committee, GAC, membership, double headers, office and other facilities, training through the GAA Comhairle Training Pro-

Improve the image and profile of the game in a planned and professional manner. This includes the support and expertise of a professional PR company. While there has been a considerable improvement there is much scope for further improvement.

Encourage Camogie County Boards to work closely with Sports Partnerships where applicable. Also to source grant aid from local Authorities i.e. County Councils/City Councils/Corporations/VEC etc

Include the Provincial Councils in a review/exercise to redefine their role so that the experience and skill in that sector is used in a meaningful

Target the second level schools to build on the strength of camogiat primary school level. In line with other sporting bodies the fall-out when students start secondary school is very high. It is essential that this is addressed to ensure the development of the game.

Promote the profile of the top players so that they will be synonymous with camogie.

Be fair, objective in all my dealing with people within camogic.

Be inclusive and open to all views. Use my experience in Human Resources, Management and PR to support camogie.

Encourage fun and enjoyment.

## COLAISTE CHOLIM'S DAY

Choilm Ballincollig who took the All Ireland College's senior Camogie title on Saturday last. Ballincollig played with the aid of the wind in the opening half and they applied the pressure from the start putting the Gort defence under pressure. Claire Ryan opened the scoring with a pointed forty five and converting two further frees they stretched their advantage to three. By the mid way stage Evelyn Glynn had pointed to open the Gort account but strong defend-

ing from Ballincollig held them at bay. Claire Ryan and Maria O'Donoghue struck for points before the half time interval as Ballincollig turned to face the gale force wind as they defended their four point

From the off they showed determination hunting and chasing as they put the Gort attack under pressure. It was eighteen minutes before we had a score and it came from Ballincollig's Ashley Lovett who pointed and with both sides showing huge commitment the

game swung from end to end. Gort threw everything at Colaiste Choilm but time and again they met with strong resistance but eventually the goal arrived as Aoibhinne Linnane burst through to finish to the net with just 5 minutes of normal time remaining. Only two points separated the sides and Gort came in search of a winner but it was Ballincollig who grabbed the vital score when Clare Ryan reacted quickly after the Gort defence had blocked a Ballincollig free. Gort did manage a point

but it mattered little as the day belonged to Colaiste Choilm as they took the schools first ever All Ireland Camogie title. Well done to all concerned and to my good friend coach Hilda O'Mahony (Kenneally) Newcestown and A word of praise to former teacher Colaiste Fiona O'Driscoll who was the main person who got camogie up and running in the school and who would have had a huge influence on many of the players who did the school proud on Saturday last.

## Camogiechat

## Double league victory for Cork

CORK continued their unbeaten run in Division I A of the senior league with a victory over Galway in Ballinasloe while the Division I B team recorded their first victory. A first half from Emer Dillon and points from Jennifer O'Leary, Sarah O'Donovan and Anna Geary helped Cork enjoy a 1-5 to 0-3. Inside five minutes of the restart two Lourda Kavanagh points were quickly followed by a goal and Galway were back in contention. Emer Dillon and Rachel Moloney had two points but back came Galway with a Brenda Kerins point. Elaine Burke pointed and now just two points separated the teams but two goals from Sarah O'Donovan and Jennifer O'Leary finally killed off the Galway challenge before Ashling Connolly and Lourda Kavanagh had late Galway points.

The Division 1 B side bounced back from defeat at the hands of Dublin to secure their first set of points again Galway. Cork dominated and were always in control but a late Galway rally which brought them within just one point saw Cork sweating it out to the final whistle. Cork led 0-8 to 0-2 at the break and extended the advantage with an Emer O'Farrell goal. Three Martina Conroy points were replied to by a Linda Dorgan pointed free before Conroy and substitute Jessie Gill pointed. Sarah Donoghue ensures a late Galway rally when she finished to the net one minuet into injury time but the Cork defence held out to secure victory.

Clonakilty who took the Cork Colleges Senior B championship and Munster Senior "A" league title in the space of four days last week.

Sharon Whelton, Aoife Deasy and Wanita Brennan were all in top form as their side defeated Conchford, Niamh Dilworth and Nicola Moynihan helped keep Coachford in contention through the hour But Clonakilty despite losing the services of their captain Carol Fleming and Ann Marie O Regan through injury played with determination to be crowned champions.

With just the weekend to rest it was back to the action when they took on

Nenagh in the Munster Senior "A" league final. From the throw in Clonakilty were under pressure but they hung in there despite trailing 0-4 to 1-0 at the interval, Martina O'Brien having grabbed the all important goal in reply to four Nenagh points. From the start of the second half the Clon defence tightened up considerably confining Nenagh to just one point in the second half .Sharon Whelton and Aoife Deasy came more into the game and goals by the duo had them in control. Sharon Whelton also added three points with Aoife Deasy and Sharon O'Donovan also getting on the score sheet to seal a tremendous victory for the Liam Nash coached side.

## Off to Egypt

ON Wednesday next twenty members of the All Ireland winning team head to the sun when they take a well deserved break in Egypt, the holiday is a reward for the side who brought the O Duffy cup back to Cork last September and came about thanks to the huge fund raising efforts of team before Christmas. We wish them a happy and safe holiday.

## Charleville do it all again

A POINT minutes into added time saw the senior "A" colleges final end all square and it's was a huge disappointment for the Charleville girls who looked to have the title secured. Having played well Charleville led 2-4 to 1-2 at the interval but inside eleven minutes of the restart Athenry were back in the game and level before Lisa Fitzgerald pointed a free to give a much needed boost. Charleville

worked hard through the half as they battled with the elements against the physically stronger Athenry, Charleville were dogged and determined but the eight minutes of injury time finally took its toll and Athenry eventually got their reward when Jessica Gill showed nerve of steel to point a free from the half way line and both side must do it all again.

## MARCH 2006

## CAMOGIE -CONGRESS Howard elected

TIPPERARY native Liz Howard was elected President of the Camogie Association for the next three years at the end of a very successful Annual Camogie Congress in Tullamore over the weekend.

The new President of Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael expressed her delight at being honoured with the position and is looking forward to working hard for the best interests of camogie.

Speaking to the delegates, following her election Howard said; "The strategic plan is our bible. I will be fair to people, I will be inclusive and I look forward to the challenge."

Motions passed included the compulsory wearing of helmets with faceguard by all players under the age of 18.

A number of playing rules were also passed including a motion to bring the rule in relation to a player taking the ball into her hand into line with that of the GAA.

Likewise with the use of the yellow card which until now was not used in camogie.

Due to an increase in the number of games being played under the new competition structures introduced in 2006, and a consequent increase in the expected number of disciplinary matters, a motion was passed to introduce a Central Disciplinary Committee.

A motion tabled by Ardchomhairle seeking for an affiliation fee of €10 was defeated.



Galway's Katie Kelly at the launch in Croke Park of the 2006 Coillte Camogie Development squads. The programme, part of the Strategic Plan for Camogie, aims to improve the skill level of U14 camogie players. Picture: Brian Lawless

## Liz Howard elected President of Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael

Liz Howard was elected President of the Camogie Association for the next three years at the end of a very successful Annual Camogie Congress in Tullamore, Co. Offaly. The new President of Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael and former Tipperary GAA PRO expressed her delight at being honoured with the position and is looking forward to working hard for the best interests of camogie. Speaking to the delegates following her election she said: "the strategic plan is our bible. I will be fair to people, I will be inclusive and I look forward to the challenge."

The Annual Congress which was held in Tullamore opened with a Civic Reception on Friday evening which was held by Tullamore Town Council. Chairman of the Council, Councillor Tommy McKeigue made a presentation to outgoing Uachtarán Miriam O'Callaghan and commended both her and the Association for its efforts in promoting camogie throughout Ireland. Business got underway following the reception and President Miriam O'Callaghan addressed the congress during which she touched on the highlights of her three-year term, in particular events held during the Centenary Year. She also stressed the importance of the work which remains to be done.

Nickey Brennan, incoming GAA president, also addressed the delegation. As incoming GAA President, Brennan expressed his wish to have a camogic representative on the GAC, the National Coaching and Games Development Committee, the Hurling Development Committee and to continue its representation on the Overseas Committee. He expressed his support for the staging of the U21 hurling final ahead of the All Ireland Senior Camogie Final on a two-year trial basis but stated that it would require a concerted effort to ensure that the day was a success. He also expressed his wish to see more games played in Croke Park including colleges finals. Brennan cited the staging of the junior and intermediate All Ireland Finals in Croke Park as an example of the success of holding more games Croke Park and is open to the staging of more camogie games in Croke Park. The incoming Uachtarán of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael finished his speech by congratulating Miriam O'Callaghan on her leadership skills in her term as President of Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael.

Seán Kelly, outgoing Uachtarán of the GAA, also addressed the delegates. He congratulated Miriam O'Callaghan on an excellent three years in office. He stated that the family of hurling would stand together and that hurling and camogie would grow together. He said that the initiative to hold the U21 hurling final and the All Ireland Senior Camogie final as a double header is a fantastic step forward in integrating the two Associations.

Motions passed at the Camogie Annual Congress included the motion making the wearing of helmets with face guard compulsory for all players under the age of eighteen. A number of playing rules were also passed including a motion to bring the rule in relation to a player taking the ball into her hand to bring it in line with that of the GAA and likewise with the use of the yellow card which until now was not used in camogie. Due to an increase in the number of games being played under the new competition structures introduced in 2006 and a consequent increase in the expected number of disciplinary matters a motion was passed to introduce a Central Disciplinary Committee.

MARCH

## Tulla's All-Ireland triumph

All Ireland Junior Camogie Final

Tulla (St. Josephs) 1-3 Maghera (St. Pats) 0-0

THEY say to get to an All-Ireland Final is half the dream and to win one is to fulfil that dream. Well the girls from St. Josephs in Tulla realised that goal last Saturday when they defeated St. Pats College from Maghera, Co. Derry.

The achievement was all the greater due to the atrocious conditions in which the match was played.

Midway through the first half Tulla had taken the lead through a fabulous free from their centre-back and captain, Kate Lynch. During this early period, Tulla were almost totally dominant with Maghera hardly registering an attack in this period. Tulla's forwards were further rewarded for their endeavours when Ann Marie McMahon pointed from play late in the first half, the only point from play during the game.

In the second half, Maghera seemed to wake from their slumber and launched a fierce onslaught on the Tulla goal. However the Tulla backline would not yield. When one thinks of Tulla's stunning rearguard action, one is reminded of Petain's heroic defence of Verdun and his famous inspirational words, 'They shall not pass'. And this is exactly what Tulla did, Maghera failed to register

Finally Maghera hopes were dashed, when after a great through ball from Ann Marie McMahon and a brief tussle for possession, Elizabeth Askins crashed to the net. The final Tulla score came from a magnificent Kate

## National League Victory

Clare 8-17 Armagh 1-6

THE Clare Junior Camogie Team had a big win over Armagh in Division 2 B of the National League

Clare got off to a good start with a goal by Claire Commane in the 10th minute. Two goals from Catherine O'Loughlin mid-way through the half and a goal each by Claire and Sharon McMahon before the break left the result in no doubt. In the second half a goal from Fiona Lafferty and two further goals from Sharon McMahon to bring her tally to three for the hour.

Clare Denide Lynch, Edel Keating, Deirdre Corcoran, Jane O'Leary, Siobhan Lafferty, Cathy Haly, Marie Whelan, Laura Linnane, Deirdre Murphy, Aoile Ryan, Fiona Lafferty, Sharan McMahon, Catherine O Loughlin, Claire McMahon, Claire Commane Subs Claire Arthur, Siobhan White, Helen McMahon, Elaine Gallery, Marie O'Halloran

Clare meet Limerick in first round of the under 16 competition on Monday April 3rd at Na Phiarsaig GAA pitch in Limerick at 6.30 p.m.

## Reidy goal puts Charleville on road to victory

by Máire Uí Scolai

CHARLEVILLE defeated Portumna Community School, Galway, 1-11 to 0-4 to land the Junior A All-Ireland Colleges camogie title at Dolla, Tipperary on Saturday.

An Erin Reidy goal, eight minutes before the break, gave the Cork girls a 1-6 to 0-4 lead. Captain Aishling Thompson led by example, as did free-taker Eimear Healy.

Meanwhile, Borris Vocational School, Carlow, brought the first evercamogie All-Ireland title to the county when they defeated Gort Community School, Galway, 2-6 to 0-4 in the Colleges Junior B All-Ireland final played in The Ragg. Tipperary yesterday.

Defeated in last year's All-Ireland final, the girls from the Black Stairs Mountains were ahead 1-2 to 0-2 at the break - with Niamh Quirke hitting their goal.



St Mary's, Charleville captain Ashling Thompson and jubilant team-mates celebrate their victory over Portumna Community School in the All-Ireland Junior A Camogie final at Dolla, Co Tipperary. Picture: Kieran Clancy

Within 60 seconds of the restart, Eleanor Brennan goaled to push Borris into a 2-2 to 0-2 lead and there was

simply no way back for Gort.

The inaugural Colleges C Final resulted in a win for the St Josephs Tulla school from Clare when they

defeated St Patricks Maghera 1-3 to 0-0 in Raemore, Virginia, Co Cavan.

Meanwhile, there was an over-whelming 8-17 to 1-6 win for Clare against Armagh in the Division 2B League encounter in Whitegate, Co Clare McMahon, Clare

Commane and Sharon McMahon all goaled in the opening half before Catherine O' Loughlin completed the rout after the break.

Elsewhere, Kildare drew with Antrim 4-4 to 2-10 in the only Division 2A match that went ahead.

Junior'A Final: St Mary's Charleville 1-11

each) Porturna Community Sch 0-4 (T Rutedge 0-3, M Moran 0-1) Junior 'C Final: St Josephs Tulia Clare: 1-1,

unior C Final of Alaphea 0.0. I Patrick's Maphea 0.0. Rational League — Div ZA: Antrim 2-10/J Adam: 2-9, C. Dallat 0-1) Kildare 4-4 (5 D'Carroll 2-3, M Trescy 2-0, C. Mooney 0-1). Clare 8-17 (C. Mt. Mahon 1-10 Clare 8-17 (C. Mt. Mahon 1-10 3-2 (1) Div 28: Clane 8-17 0-50 5 McMahon 3-1

ST. MARY'S, Charleville lived up to their pre-match favourites tag with an outstanding performance to clinch All-Ireland Schools junior camogie title at a rain-lashed Dolla on Saturday last.

The Charleville girls overcame a determined Portumna CS effort to return to the pinnacle of schools junior camogie in an absorbing encounter played in less-than favourable conditions. Despite being with out the services of Celina Dore, St. Mary's fielded a very strong side and took the game to Portumna right from the throw-in.

Annette McAuliffe set the ball rolling for the Charleville girls in the third minute after she capitalised on a poor Portumna puckout and slotted the sliotar between the posts.

St. Mary's dominated the opening exchanges and were rewarded for their efforts when midfielder, Eimear Healy calmly slotted over a close-range free after Portumna keeper, Helen Campbell was penalised for fouling the ball.

Portumna responded well to St. Mary's opening flurry and were back on level terms in the eighth minute after two quick-fire points from the impressive Tara Rutledge.

St. Mary's found themselves battling a stiff breeze but despite the elements and the sticky underfoot conditions, they forged ahead again with Rosemary Rea and McAuliffe restoring St. Mary's two-point advantage.

Charleville's midfield duo of Eimear Healy and Rosemary Rea were now beginning to dom-

inate and with Ashling Thompson and Erin Reidy rampaging through the Portumna defence wasn't long before the Blues took a big lead.

With six minutes to the break, Thompson picked up yet another Portumna puck out and sauntered past three defenders before tapping over her side's fifth point.

St. Mary's were now coming in waves at Portumna and it came as no surprise when Erin Reidy gathered a high ball

rounded Ciara Molloy with ease and rattled the back of the Portumna net to give St. Mary's a commanding lead.

Thompson added to Portumna's woes and despite Portumna mounting a late first half rally and cutting the deficit with two well-taken points, they still trailed by five at the break, 1-6 to 0-4.

The second half saw St. Mary's weather a sustained period of pressure from the Galway girls with Rebecca Finn and Maria Walsh called on to marshal the defence and thwart the best Portumna could throw at them.

Fifteen minutes elapsed before St. Mary's stretched their lead with an Eimear Healy 45



Darina O'Callaghan and captain Ashling Thompson, St. Mary's, Charleville, celebrate victory against Portumna CS in the All-Ireland Junior A Camogie final at Dolla, Co. Tipperary. Picture: Kieran Clancy

# St Mary's win easily

on the edge of the square in the 25th minute, and from there on in was plain sailing for the Charleville girls. Healy stepped up again in the 39th minute to slot over a free from a tight angle and, indeed, Charleville could have been well out of sight were it not for some excellent saves from Helen Campbell in the Portumna goal.

St. Mary's then rang the changes to galvanize their lead and introduced four subs in the closing ten minutes.

Darina O'Callaghan popped up for a great point after she pulled first time on a loose ball in front of goal before Healy sent over another well-struck 45 in the 55th minute.

With the outcome a foregone conclusion at this stage Healy slotted over another free and Thompson stepped up to seal victory with a close-range free after she was fouled in front of

Scorers St Mary's E. Healy 0-5 (0-3f; 0-2 45); A. Thompson 0-3 (0-1f); E. Reidy 1-0; A. McCauliffe 0-2; D. O Callaghan 0-1; R. Rea 0-1.

Portumna CS: T. Rutledge 0-3 (0-1f); M. Morgan 0-1f.

ST. MARY S.: A. McElligott, A. McAuliffe, R. Finn, V. Hennessy, O. O Mahony, M. Walsh, C. Galvin, E. Healy, R. Rea, K. Curtin, A. Thompson (Cl, E. Reidy, D. O Callaghan, A. McAulffe, K. Brosnan.

Subs: L. Potter for O Mahony (27 min); M. Reidy for Reidy (47 min); C. Kelleher for Curtin (51 min); K. Fitzgerald for Hennessy (57 min); T. O Mahony for Brosnan (57 min).

PORTUMNA CS: H. Campbell, B. Conery, M. Duane, L. Shiel, C. Killeen, C. O Meara, C. Molloy, M. Moran (C), T. Rut-ledge, C. Harte, S. Coen, A. Starr, V. Burke, E. Cunningham,

Subs: K. Brien for Conery (h/t); N. Muldoon for Burke (h/t). Referee: C. Cunning (Antrim).

MARCH



CHAMPIONS: Coláiste Choilm's camogie team, who won the ABU Senior C All-Ireland colleges final, when they defeated Gort in

# Sweet success as brilliant Borris makes history

## All-Ireland Colleges Junior B final

Borris VS Gort CS 2-6 0-3



by Leo McGough

sport@carlow-nationalist.ie

"WE'RE singing in the rain, we're singing in the rain, what a glorious feeling I'm ha-ha, happy again"!

The girls of Borris
Vocational School were
entitled to borrow that old
film-song as their themetune following their fantastic victory in the AllIreland Colleges Junior B
camogie final in the rainlashed Ragg, Co.
Tipperary, on Sunday.

Having suffered the heartbreak of narrowly losing this final last year, this win was particularly sweet and lending it even greater significance was the fact that not only was it a first All-Ireland for Borris, it was a first ever later than the same of the

History, then, at the Co
Tipperary venue and, as
the scoreline would suggest, Borris were by far
the better team. From
start to finish the 'maroon
marauders' set the pace,
took the game to Gort
with ferocious intensity,
an intensity that blew the
Galway girls out of the
water (well not really,
given the conditions but

hurl in dry conditions, a real test of a player's ability is provided by wet ground and a damp sliotar.

Indeed Tom Browne of the old Evening Press (a hurling analyst before the term was invented!) always reckoned that the player who could control and strike 'wet ball' was the most skilful player of all.

Fact of the matter was that on Sunday Borris paraded several such players, far more than their opponents, and it was these players' facility to lift and strike to effect that ensured All-Ireland honours were Borris bound.

Take Niamh Quirke. Five times she got the ball to hand in the first half, three times she scored! Her goal and two points had her side in front at half-time, all three scores superbly taken, all three struck while under severe pressure. Skill, strength, speed, style!

Then you had Emma Carroll. She hurled well all through as a play-making centre-half-forward,



you know what I mean!).

They talk of the five S's crucial to camogie sucskill, speed, strength, stamina, style. Borris had them all, throw-in guts and determination to the mix and you have the reasons why the South Carlow school are All-Ireland champi-

Let's focus on the skill aspect for a moment. While it is much easier to

kept the ball moving in, involved in the build up to the crucial first goal. But it was in the second half Emma really flourished. Twice, late in proceedings, she lifted the sliothar. evaded tackles and drove over two priceless points. Skill, speed, style and

If Niamh and Emma provided the cutting-edge, the magnificent Borris half-back line of Jennifer

Skelton, Eileen Murphy and Theresa Ralph blunted the Galway scoring thrust

All three were simply superb and cut off several Gort attacks at sort. Will o' the wisp Jennifer put in amazing tackles, cleared to effect too while the cool, calm, assured Eileen Murphy was a commanding presence at centre-half-back. Her left handed

clearances were inspirational

OInspirational too was Theresa Ralph and it was one mighty clearance of hers, out of the hand amid a cluster of players mid-way through the first half, that gave this scribe the belief that this was going to be Borris' day.

In between those sparky half-backs and the dynamic duo in attack you had the not inconsiderable mid-field partnership of Celia Culleton and Sinead Kelly, both of whom did a power of work and were going as well at the finish as they were at the throwin. Strength and stamina. Mind you the duo have oceans of skill too and, in keeping with the watery nature of the report, we cannot but say Sinead was the ideal skipper!

If we pick out the above seven for special mention that is not to detract one whit from the performances of the others, all of whom played a huge role this success. Goalkeeper Anne-Marie had a quiet day at the office did what she had to do well, and, remember, but for her saves in the Leinster final Borris would not have been here.

The full-back trio would be ideal examples of a 'coaching manual' in action. We're told the inner line of defence should be 'no nonsense'. 'no frills' and 'no way through'! Aoife Jordan,

Grainne Nolan and Michelle Kelly were true to all three, their tackling, blocking and ground clearances first class. Michelle got in a vital second half hook to prevent a goal, the No. 4 having chased her opponent fully 50m. Strength, stamina

Strength and skill were required too by Eleanor Brennan when she forced home Borris' early second half goal, a goal that gave her side a bit of a cushion, albeit a damp one! Brennan's goal takes on particular importance when you consider two similar type goalmouth scrambles at the other end failed to yield a green flag for Gort.

Playing their part too were Ann Murphy, scorer of a terrific late point, hard-working Annie Treacy and live-wire Margaret Simpson whose clever ground strokes were of a huge benefit to the other forwards. Catriona Geoghegan also did her bit when introduced late on.

You can trace the story of the scoring elsewhere, but what that fails to relate is the early Borris dominance that, unfortunately, failed to yield a score. Still that early dominance was vital, it stilled any remaining nerves and bolstered the already strong self-belief.

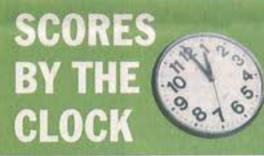
That's it then, Borris Vocational School, AllIreland Colleges camogie champions. Now hasn't that got a nice ring to it!

Borris VS: Anne-Marie

Lennon (Black & Whites); Aoife Jordan (St. Mullins). Grainne Nolan (Mount Leinster Rangers), Michelle Kelly (Mount Leinster Rangers); Jennifer Skelton (Mount Leinster Rangers), Eileen Murphy (St. Mullins), Theresa Ralph (St. Mullins); Celia Culleton (Mount Leinster Rangers) 0-1 f. Sinead Kelly (Black & Whites) Capt; Niamh Quirke (Myshall) 1-2, Emma Carroll (Black & Whites) 0-2, Margaret Simpson (Young Ireland's); Annie Tracey (Myshall), Ann Murphy (Mount Leinster Rangers) O-Eleanor Brennan (Black Whites) 1-0. Sub: Geoghegan Catriona (Ballinkillen) for Tracey. Also: Lisa Lillis (Barrow Rangers), Aine Doran (Black Whites), Zoe Foley (Myshall), Leanne Doyle (Ballinkillen), Colette Malone (Mount Leinster Rangers), Gillian English

Gort CS: Jessica Dooley; Chloe Curtin; Stacey Lynskey, Andrea Lally; Brenda Killilea, Stephanie Taaffe (Capt), Tracy Mahon; Stephanie Broderick. Anibbinn Linnane 0-1: Clare Quinn, April Dooley, Evelyn Glynn 0-1 f; Finola Keely 0-1. Rachel O'Toole, Sarah Hansberry.

Referee: Willie Barrett



16 min: Completely against the run of play Evelyn Glynn inches Gort in front when popping over a close range free. 0-

22 min: GOAL! Niamh Quirke, under pressure close to goal, gets the ball to hand and unleashes a strong left hand shot that had the rain-drops dancing from the net! The earlier approach work had been carried out expertly by Celia Culleton (who clipped the ball out from a cluster of players) and Emma Carroll (who directed the sliothar into the 'danger area') Borris 1-0. Gort 0-1.

25 min: Niamh, again under pressure, manages to get in a shot from the right of the posts that sails between the posts. 1-1 to 0-1.

26 min: Off the puck-out from that point, Gort attack and Finola Keely finds the range for the right wing. 1-1 to 0-2. 28 min: Niamh Quirke

is out in front again to win possession and a good firm stroke on the turn yields a good point.

Half-time: Borris VS 1-2, Gort CS 0-2

31 min: GOAL! From the second half throw-in Borris land the sliothar in the Gort goalmouth. A schemozzle ensues, backs and forwards battling furiously, a battle won by the stick of

ball over the line, 2-2 to 0-36 min: Aolbhinn Linnane whips over a Gort point after her side had mounted a series of

threatening attacks. It was to prove the losers last score, 2-2 to 0-3.

Eleanor Brennan who

managed to force thee

41 min: Emma Carroll, out of the hand, gets in a good clean strike from 40m that has the umpire reaching for the white flag. 2-3 to 0-3:

47 min: Emma proves that previous effort was no fluke, another crisp connection out of the hand dropping delightfully over the bar. 2-4 to 0-3.

55 min: Ann Murphy collects possession on the right wing, opts to 'have a go' and is rewarded with a smashing point. 2-5 to 0-

58 min: Celia Culleton clears the cross-bar with a well judged free, the final score of rain-lashed All-Ireland final.

Final score: Borris VS 2-6, Gort CS 0-3

MARCH



Celia Culleton rounds her opponent as she goes after the ball



Captain Sinéad Kelly sends in a high ball to set up another attack

## Tears of joy for Mary after three decades

plenty but the tears of joy shed by Borris coach Mary Smyth as she reflected on her sides fantastic All-Ireland Colleges camogie victory said far, far more of what this win meant to a woman who has given her life to the promotion of the game.

"The girls were brilliant, brilliant, every one of them, they played really well" beamed Mary who has been teaching and coaching in the South Carlow school for nigh on three decades.

"Thirty years of work and finally an All-Ireland. We learned so much from last year, beaten narrowly in the final, but maybe made too much of the occasion beforehand. Not so to-day, nothing was going to stop us, not the occasion, not the conditions, nothing, it's brilBorris coach who as a player herself suffered the disappointment of losing three All-Ireland Junior semi-finals with Carlow

"The girls have worked hard all year and I cannot over-emphasize the huge input of Orla Bambury Mairead O'Donoghue in the preparation of the team" stated Ms Smyth adding with a smile of content "we knew after beating Shannon in the semi-final that the All-Ireland was ours for the taking!"

Orla Bambury, Kildare inter-county player and regular with Leinster since 1999, too had the height of praise for the Borris girls.

"Yes, they worked very hard in training, put in a huge effort, and this paid off in tight games, a narrow win in the Leinster crowned champions"!

liant" enthused the semi-final and final, again in the All-Ireland semi-final and to-day, in terribly wet conditions, our girls displayed great guts and determination"

Mairead O'Donoghue, herself a club player with Courcey Rovers in Cork is the third member of the back-room team and was equally thrilled. "The girls produced the goods when it mattered most, you couldn't ask more of them to-day, they played really well"

Team captain Sinead Kelly spoke of "being privileged to captain such a great side and lift the cup on behalf of

"We said after the Leinster final that we would do everything we could to win the All-Ireland, to make up for losing the final last year, and we're delighted to be



Two "gutted" Gort players show thair emotion after the final whistle!

## Offaly honours one of its own as camogie conference comes to town

sports correspondent

Offaly hosted the national annual Camogie Conference last weekend in the Tullamore Court Hotel and to mark the occasion Tullamore Town Council afforded the Association a civic reception on Friday evening.

Represented by outgoing President O'Callaghan the event was a fitting curtain raiser to the actual congress which was held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Speaking at the reception, Miriam O'Callaghan said it was a great honour to have Congress in her home town in 2006. She also took the opportunity to urge more local authorities to support the sport of camogic nation-

"A number of members in the council have first hand experience of our game as either former players or as parents of players and thus have been supportive of

"In recent times we have



Outgoing Camogie Association President Miriam O Callaghan and Clir Tommy McKeigue, chairman of Tellamore Town Council at the civic reception last Friday in Tullamore town hall. Photo Paul Molloy.

engaged in a number of partnerships at educational and sporting level however increasingly there will be a need for local authorities, who have an integral responsibility in the development of communities, to engage with and support sporting organisations," said

For our part in the Camogie Association, we



Declan Kirrane, Director of Services; Eoin Boyle, Town Clerk; Clir Tommy McKeigue, chairman of Tullamore Town Council, Miriam O'Callaghan, outgoing camogic President, and Senator Pat Moylan at the civic reception. Photo Paul Mollloy.

have not and will not be found wanting in assisting with the development of local communities through the promotion of a healthy pastime for our young female population, she added.

Since taking over as President the game has enjoyed huge success and is now played at all three levels of our educational sector, however O'Callaghan took most pride in presenting last year's Offaly minors with their All-Ireland winning medals.

"Here in Offaly, camogie has been to the fore as a sport for females and in the last year it was with great pride that they took their first All Ireland championship title when their minor team won the McBride cup. Six players from Tullamore club played their part in this historic win," she said.

Concluding, the President thanked the Chairman Tommy McKeigue and members for the hospitality extended to the Association.



Tadgh O Brien, manager of Tullamore Dew, Miriam O'Callaghan, outgoing President of Camogic Ireland, and Tommy McKeigue, chairman of Tultamore Town Council at the civic reception last Friday in Tullamore town half. Photo Paul



Pictured are (front) Rose Malone, Maire Ui Scolair, Miriam D Callaghan, President Camogie Ireland, Sile De Bhails, Sinead O Connor, Bridin Ui Mhaologain, with (back) Jackie Brien, Mary Moran, Michael Kennedy, Brenda Byrne, Eamon Browne, Philiss Breslin, and Tom Monaghan at the civic reception.

GAA » Offaly Camogie Notes

## Offaly basks in glory of successful Congress

A tremendous amount of compliments paid to the National League work from the band of diligent and hard working members of Offaly camogie saw a very successfully run congress take place in the Court Hotel Tullamore over the weekend, at which Liz Howard was elected President of the Camogie Association for the next three years.

Congress also saw Offaly's motions regarding the introduction of the yellow card passed. The banquet held after congress was a very enjoyable night with many

entertainment on the night especially Rahan Comhaltas.

Also on the night there were Bouquets of flowers presented to Liz Howard Incoming president, Miriam O'Callaghan Outgoing president and Pat Raftree defeated candidate.

Offaly camogie also made a special presentation of a whistle to Miriam, welcoming her back to the fold - not that she was ever far from camogie in the faithful coun-

This Sunday in Navan Offaly will play Antrim in their third round game, time and venue will be announced. Antrim played Kildare at the weekend and the game finished a draw with a score line of 2-10 to Kildare's 4-4.

## **UIG** championship

The U16 championship starts this Friday. U 16 A Friday 31st March. U16 B Tutamore v Seir Kieran Lusmagh v St. Naomh Brid v Ber

Kilcormac/Killoughey v Kinnitty Check with your local club for times

## Curtain comes down for Miriam at National Congress

Last weekend club member Miriam O'Callaghan came to the end of a highly successful three-year tenure as President of the Camogie Association of Ireland.

The weekend began with a Civic reception hosted by Tullamore Town Council. The National Congress was held in the Court Hotel over the weekend and was deemed to be very successful. It was a great honour for Miriam to host the national congress in her home town.

Liz Howard of Tipperary was elected the next President and received her badge of office at the closing banquet on Saturday night. The club was represented on the night by members Emer Keegan, Therese Keoghan, Mary Spollen and Laura Guinan.

The club extends its congratulations to Miriam on her presidency and wishes Liz Howard all the best during her term of office.

Underage training for Under 8s, Under 10s and Under 12s will begin for this year on Saturday next, April 1 in O'Brien Park at 10am sharp. New members welcome.

Senior training continues at 7.30pm on Wednesdays and 6.30pm Saturday. Under 14 training is on Wednesdays at

## Howard replaces O'Callaghan as camogie President

Liz Howard was elected President of the Camogie Association for the next three years at the end of a very successful Annual Camogie Congress in Tullamore.

The new President and former Tipperary GAA PRO expressed her delight at being honoured with the position and is looking forward to working hard for the best interests of camogie.

Speaking to the delegates following her election she said: 'the strategic plan is our bible. I will be fair to people, I will be inclusive and I look forward to the challenge.

The Annual Congress which was held in Tullamore opened with a Civic Reception on Friday evening which was held by Tullamore Town Council. Chairman of the Council, Councillor Tommy McKeigue made a presentation to outgoing Uachtarán Miriam O'Callaghan and commended both her and the Association for its efforts in promoting camogie throughout Ireland. Business got underway following the reception and President Miriam O'Callaghan addressed the congress during which she touched on the highlights of her three-year term, in particular events held during the Centenary Year. She also stressed the importance of the work

which remains to be done. Nicky Brennan, incoming president, addressed the delegation. Outgoing President Sean Kelly also addressed the delegates. He congratulated Miriam O'Callaghan on an excellent three years in office.

Motions passed at the Camogie Annual Congress included the motion making the wearing of helmets with face guard compulsory for all players under the age of eighteen.

A number of playing rules were also passed including a motion to bring the rule in ball into her hand to bring it in line with that of the GAA and likewise with the use of the yellow card which until now was not used in camo-

Due to an increase in the number of games being played under the new competition structures introduced in 2006 and a consequent increase in the expected number of disciplinary matters a motion was passed to introduce a Central Disciplinary Committee.

## Camogiechat

## Coaching

A WORD to remind all camogie players from age 10 to 16 that March 31 is the closing date to register with Fiona O'Driscoll for her camogie academy. It's a four day intensive coaching academy which will be held during the Easter holidays in Ballincollig Community school. Suitable for players with at least two years camogie experience the course will be given by current inter county players and all aspects of the young camogie player's development will be covered. The academy commencing each morning at 10am and finishing at 4pm cost per participant is €80 and Application forms are available on 0879137320.

## CAMOGIE PRES

THE camogie association held a very successful congress last weekend in Tullamore where a new president to succeed Miriam O'Callaghan was elected. In a contest for the position Tipperary's Liz Howard was elected for a three year term defeating Dublin's Pat Rafferty who previous held the position from 2000 to 2003.Liz is a well known official having previously served in the role of Tipperary GAA PRO, she is the daughter of Garrett Howard who won an All Ireland medal with Limerick while her niece is Sheena Howard who is a member of the Tipperary

senior camogie team. In her address following her election she said: "The strategic plan is one of our main aims and I look forward to the challenge the role will bring.

Congress opened with a Civic Reception on Friday evening which was held by Tullamore Town Council, Chairman of the Council, Councillor Tommy McKeigue made a presentation to outgoing Uachtarán Miriam O'Callaghan who is a native of Offaly. Following the reception congress was formally opened and President O'Callaghan Miriam addressed the congress during which she touched on the

highlights of her three-year term, in particular events held during the Centenary Year in 2004.

Nicky Brennan, incoming GAA president addressed delegates and expressed his wish to have a camogie representative on the GAC, the National Coaching and Games Development Committee, the Hurling Development Committee and to continue its representation on the Overseas Committee. The staging of the U21 hurling final ahead of the All Ireland Senior Camogie Final on a two-year trial basis starting this year was something which Mr

Brennan expressed delight about but stated that it would require a concerted effort to ensure that the day was a success. He also expressed his wish to see more camogie games played in Croke Park, Mr Brennan concluded by congratulating Miriam O'Callaghan on superb term as President of Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael.

Congress was addressed by Sean Kelly, outgoing Uachtarán of the GAA, congratulating Miriam O'Callaghan on an excellent three years in office he said that the initiative to hold the U21 hurling final and the All

Ireland Senior Camogie final is a step forward towards the integration of the two Associations.

Motions passed at the Camogie Annual Congress included the motion making the wearing of helmets with face guard compulsory for all players under the age of eighteen. A number of playing rules were also passed including a motion in relation to a player taking the ball into her hand to bring it in line with that of the GAA and camogie will now also operate a the use of the yellow card while a Central Disciplinary Committee will now also be elected.



St Marys Charleville Junior A Colleges All Ireland Champions.

ST Marys Charleville recorded what they hope will be the first leg of an All Ireland double when they defeated to be crowned Junior Colleges champions. Appaling weather condition failed to dampen the enthusiasm of the teams as St Marys took the game to their opponents from the throw in opening up a two point advantage but Portumna were level inside eight minutes. St Marys were back in front thanks to points from Rosemary Rea and Annette McAuliffe, building on their advantage St Marys had added a point from Ashling Thompson before Erin Reidy

struck for a goal with five minutes to the half time whistle. Ashling Thompson had added their sixth point before Portumna upped the pace with two points before the break.

Portumna stated the second half well and put the Charleville defence under pressure but with Rebecca Finn and Maria Walsh dominant they found no way through. It was fifteen minutes into the half before a score was registered and it was Charleville's Emer Healy who pointed to stretch the advantage. From here to the finish it was all Charleville as they held the upper hand in all sectors picking off points with ease to be crowned champions.

Well done to Ger Donovan and Vincent Harrington and to all the Charleville girls on a wonderful victo-

Thoughts now turn to next Saturday and the replay of the Senior A final, last time out it took an eight minuet point from Athenry to bring the game to a replay, next weekends encounter has the makings of another thriller, the venue is Meelick GAA grounds in Limerick with a twelve noon throw in .

## St Mary's to do it all Charleville Juniors again as Pres equalise

ALL-IRELAND COLLEGES SENIOR A CAMOIGE FINAL

ST MARY'S CHARLEVILLE 2-5 PRES, ATHENRY

THEY have to do it all again after this All-Ireland Colleges Senior A camoige final ended level as the elements made it hard for both sides as the bitterly cold conditions took

Charleville played with the wind for the first half but the stronger Athenry took the lead with a pointed free from Noreen Coen before Aine Watson replied for Charleville after nine minutes. Four minutes later Lisa Fitzgerald pointed a free before an excellent Aisling Thompson point gave Charleville control.

Aine Watson had them 1-3 to 0-1 ahead with 12 minutes to the half time whistle but Athenry hit back with 1-1 before a pointed free from Fitzgerald on 27 minutes brought

Annette McAuliffe boosted Charleville with a goal to leave it 2-4 to 1-2 a t the break.

A free after six minutes helped Athenry and two minutes later a second goal for Athenry had them right back in the game. Noreen Coen brought them level before Lisa Fitzgerald pointed a free to give Charleville breathing space again.

Charleville hung on and defended strongly with determination but eight minutes of injury time saw the Athenry side grab an equaliser with the cool Jessica Gill point a free from the half way line and both teams live to fight another day

CHARLEVILLE: A Watson 1-1, L Fitzgerald 0-3(f), A Thompson 1-0, A McAuliffe 0-1. ATHENRY: M McDonagh 2-0, J Gill

0-3 (0-2f), N Coen 0-2 (0-1f)

CHARLEVILLE: E Hanley; F Chawke, R Finn, O Carroll; M Walshe, F.Dore, S Sexton; R Rea, M Coleman (C); F Morrissey; A Watson, A Thompson; A McAuliffe, S Brosnan, L Fitzgerald. Subs: M O'Connor for O Carroll 38min)

ATHENRY: D Ward; K O Dwyer, M Ward, R Kelly; R Waldron, J Gill, L Callanan; L Ryan, D Ryan; S O Dwyer, C Kennedy, M Carr; M McDonagh, N Coen, L Loughnane. Subs:-A Ni Seoighe for M Carr.

## storm to Junior A title

ST MARY'S CHARLEVILLE PORTUMNA 1-12

NEVER a doubt as the girls from St. Marys Charleville turned in magnificent display to take the junior "A" college title on Saturday

Weather conditions were not kind but it mattered little as two determined teams battled the elements to take the honours.

From the throw in Charleville stamped their authority on proceedings and had opened up a two point lead thanks to Annette mc Auliffe and Emer Healy before Portumna's Tara

Rutledge pointed twice. Playing against the stiff breeze, Charleville soon came to grips, Rosemary Rea and Annette McAuliffe restoring their two point advantage. Dominant in midfield, Charleville enjoyed plenty of possession and with six minutes to the short whistle Ashling Thompson put three point between the

Now in control, St Marys continued to apply the pressure on an already overworked Portumna defence and when Erin Reidy gathered possession she had only the goal on her mind as she rattled the

net. Ashling Thompson added a point before Rutledge and Megan Moran pointed for Portumna who trailed at the break 1-6 to 0-4

Portumna upped the pace in search of scores from the restart but came up against a strong Charleville defence that refused to yield. Having sustained the pressure, Charleville set about finishing the game as a contest and six unanswered points - four from Emer Healy, Darina O Callaghan and Ashling Thompson contributing one each killed any chance of a

Portumna rally. Charleville now look ahead to next Saturday when their senior side replay the Senior A final meeting Athenry in

Nenagh.

ST MARYS CHARLEVILLE: A Mc Elligott. A MC Auliffe, R Finn, E Hennessy, O O Mahony, M Walsh, C Galvin, R Rea, E Healy, K Curtin, A Thompson, E. Reidy, D O Callaghan, A MC Auliffe, K Brosnan Subs: L Potter for O. O. Mahony, M Reidy for E Reidy, C Kelleher for K Curtin, K Fitzgerald for V Hennessy, T O Mahony for K Brosnan

PORTUMNA: H Campbell B Connery Duane, L Shield, C Killeen, C O Meara, C Molloy, M Moran, CT Rutledge, C Harte, S Coen, A Starr, V Burke, E Cunningham, A Lynch. Subs: K Brien for B Connery, N Muldoon for E Burke,

## Galway in need of a positive result



Jane Adams

WITH home advantage on Sunday against Tipperary in the National League Galway will be hopeful of reversing the poor -- art they've had to the league so far this season.

Played two, lost two are the statistics for the Tribeswomen having lost to both Cork and

Tipperary on the other hand, lining out minus five of last year's All-Ireland side were still convincing winners against Wexford in their opening league encounter but how much they were tested by the Model County is still debatable.

The pressure will be on Galway to deliver and Tipperary may find them a tougher proposition than Wexford.

In the only other Division 1A game this weekend, Limerick, pointless so far in the league and struggling, take on Wexford in The Gaelic Grounds.

Wexford bounced back from their opening league defeat to Tipperary to beat Kilkenny and anything other than a convincing Wexford win would be a

Seven other games go ahead in Division 1B, 2A,3A and 3B on Sunday with Antrim and Offaly the pick of the day.

The Saffrons drew with Kildare in their opening game last week while the Faithful County also drew with the Lilywhites in their first league outing before they took the points against

Antrim have Jane Adams back in their ranks and the O'-Donovan Rossa player scored 2-9 of their 2-10 total last Sunday.

However, over the past couple of seasons Antrim's problem has been their inability to score and while Adams goes a long way to solving that problem, the Saffrons need more scoring

Westmeath should account for Roscommon while Dublin should be maintain their unrun in Division 1B against Wexford while their secone string may find the going too tough against Derry.

Elsewhere the replay of the Colleges senior 'A' All-Ireland final goes ahead on Saturday in Meelick, Limerick at 12pm between St Mary's Charleville and Presentation Athenry.

## A united approach is the future

## Tohill tasked with 'integration'

BY PAUL WELSH

THE Ulster Council GAA has started the process of integration of the three Gaelic Associations with the appointment of key personnel to facilitate

Ryan Feeney [Ladies Football] and Aileen Tohill [Camogie] took up their posts as In-

"We are

to create

a mindset

move for

[integration]

associations"

Jane Tohill

that it

tegration Officers with the Ulster Council at the beginning of March going to have and have already begun groundwork.

Basically what myself and Ryan are doing is we're going to put a strategy in is a positive place for integration of Ladies and all three Football Camogie with the GAA in Ulster," said Aileen To-

The key will develop a phased integration across the

"Different areas will be ready for integration ahead of others so it makes sense to use a phased approach.

"It is going to be a massive move for some people and we will be putting these steps in place for that reason."

Presently Tohill and Feeney are talking to the various GAA county boards to gauge what the mindsets are towards inte**CAMOGIE** 

gration and also to see what they need to do to plan for it.

Next on the agenda will be discussions with the Camogie and Ladies football county

There are those within Ladies Football and Camogie who are opposed to interga-

tion and Tohill knows it is these people they will have to convince.

"There will be people who will be apprehensive about integration but from what I have encountered so far from the Ulster Council GAA staff, there is nothing to be feared by it. They are more than welcoming of the three associabecoming tions one," said Tohill

"We are going to have to create a mindset that it is a positive move for all three associations.

"There will be people who will resist this but what we are going to have to do is focus on the positives. It won't happen over night

"Naturally there will be some apprehension about change. But by using a phased approach and keeping it as positive as possible people will hopefully be able to see the



aber 2000; Derry Captain Allern Tohill lifts the Cup after victory in the Derry



The Carlow delegation at the Camogie Association Annual Congress held in Tullamore Co. Offaly. Kathleen Thomson, Miriam O'Callaghan, outgoing President, Sean Kelly, President GAA; Margaret Condell, Liz Howard, incoming Camogie

MARCH 2006

## Decades of camogie work rewarded

LAKCH

ONE FRIDAY evening in the Summer of 1976, a group of us were pucking around on the 'outside pitch' of Dr Cullen Park when we were interrupted by a most unusual sight ... two teams of 'lady hurlers' getting ready for action!

While, truth to tell, our teenage interest was drawn more to the female form than the game they were about to play we

stayed around to watch the action!

As it turns out that challenge game between Myshall and Carlow Town was the first camogie match played in Carlow for 14 years. A small match report appeared in the Nationalist the following week, recording a 6-1 to 2-0 victory for Myshall, a cutting I excavated from the archives during the week.

Mentioned as playing well for the winners were Brigid Fenlon, Anne Nolan, Breda Foley, Marie Fenlon, Mary Foley, Mary Quirke and Margaret O'Connor while coming in for honourable mention for the 'Town' were Mary Behan, Therese Jackman, Pat Dunne, Mary Travers and Esther Travers.

We recall that game of camogie this week for a very special reason. Three decades on from that pioneering expedition on the County Grounds 'outside pitch' Carlow has won it's first ever All-Ireland camogie title!

We salute the girls of Borris on a magnificent achievement. Yes, there was a Kilkenny input, a very welcome and helpful input, but this was still an unprecedented triumph for Carlow

While camogie itself dates back to 1904, the first All-Ireland inter-county Championship did not take place until 1932 and it is in the 30s that the game took roots in Carlow though there were sporadic efforts earlier.

A Carlow Championship was run from the early 30s to the early 60s and for a few seasons no fewer than 14 teams began

the race for the county title.

Over those three decades clubs in existence were Ardristan, Aclare, Ballinkillen, Ballyhackett, Bagenalstown, Borris, Bahanna, Ballymurphy, Carlow Town (who fielded A and B teams), Corries, Clonegal, Fighting Cocks, Fenagh, Garryhill, Kildavin, Kilcarrig, Kilbride, Leighlinbridge, Myshall (Blues), Milford, Newtown, Nurney, Rathrush, St. Mullins and Tullow.

Nan Crean, who has given a life-time of service to camogie, both as a player and administrator, recalls that Michael Regan, a Munster man who worked in the National Bank in Bagenalstown, went around the county on his bicycle promoting camogie in the various towns and villages.

Camogie in those days also had a social aspect, House Dances held after matches as entertainment. And no taxi home either, among the modes of transport were pony and

trap and the back of open top lorries! The game has progressed from 12-a-side on a reduced playing surface to 15-a-side on a full pitch while in olden days (up to the 60's) camogie forwards had to contend with point posts

(a crossbar underneath which points were scored!) Something else that has changed significantly in the course of camogie's 100 year history is the playing dress code, the old uniform consisting of gym slip and compulsory black stock-

Carlow fielded an inter-county team in the Leinster Senior Championship (the only grade until the 60s) and from time to time put up useful performances, though the Province was dominated by Dublin who won 24 of the 34 All-Ireland titles on

offer between 1932 and 1966. Upon the introduction of the Junior grade Carlow reached the 1961 Leinster final, losing to Kildare while down the years a number of talented camán wielders represented Carlow on

the Leinster Gael Linn teams. Sadly, the game went into decline, organised camogie non-existent in Carlow from 1962 to 1976 when the present board

From humble beginnings, the game flourished, Carlow win-ning three Leinster Junior titles (1993, 1997, 1998). Alas, the All-Ireland dream was dashed at the semi-final stage on all three occasions, Armagh (in Myshall), Antrim (in Belfast) and Galway (in Carlow Town Hurling Club) breaking Carlow

A Leinster Minor B crown was won in style in 2001, that U16 team going on to contest to qualify for the county's first ever All-Ireland camogie final by beating Down in Dr. Cullen Park. Again, alas, ultimate honours eluded them, Limerick too strong in Nenagh.

Seven vibrant clubs - Ballinkillen, Kildavin, Naomh Brid, Mount Leinster Rangers, Myshall, St Mullins and Carlow Town - are currently up and running, fielding teams from U8 to

The hard work being put in at under-age level played a huge role in Borris Vocational School's current well-being and the South Carlow educational establishment have been knocking on the door of All-Ireland success, beaten in a Senior semifinal a few years ago, the Junior final last year.

Last Sunday, though, made up for all the previous disappointments, be they school or county, an All-Ireland title at long, long last.

And for Mary Smyth, a player on those three county junior teams beaten in All-Ireland semi-finals and a coach to the Borris school teams twice denied national honours, this was well derived fulfillment.

## **Tipperary Camogie Notes**

SENIOR LEAGUE

The Tipperary senior team A & B are down to play Galway this coming week end at a Galway venue. Having beaten both Wexford and Limerick in the previous rounds of the league the Tipp girls will travel to Galway confident of giving a very good account of themselves. Paddy McCormack and his selectors having been using the league up to now as a means of giving new girls on the fringes of the first fifteen an opportunity to stake a claim on the starting fifteen come the championship, and it appears to have worked well so far with some excellent performances from these girls. Both games are on in Killimor on Sun 2nd. April ñ the first game is at 1.30 and the second at 3 o clock, your support for the girls would be appreciated.

### MUNSTER U/16A CHAMPIONSHIP

This game has been postponed again for the coming week end and at this stage there is no date fixed.

### PAN CELTIC

This year 'Pan Celtic' takes place in Letterkenny Co Donegal on the week end 22nd. & 23rd, of April, further details can be had by contact-ing Gabriel Flood @ 086/3267975.

### LIZ HOWARD ELECTED CAMOGIE PRESIDENT

Liz Howard was elected President of the Camogic Association for the next three years at the end of a very successful Annual Camogie Congress in Tullamore, Co. Offaly. The new President of Cumann Camogaiochta na nGael and former Tipperary GAA PRO expressed her delight at being honoured with the position and is looking forward to working hard for the best interests of camogie. Speaking to the delegates' following her election she said: 'the strategic plan is our bible. I will be fair to people, I will be inclusive and I look forward to the challenge."

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Nickey Brennan, incoming GAA president, also addressed the delegation. As incoming GAA President, Brennan expressed his wish to have a camogie representative on the GAC, the National Coaching and Games Development Committee, the Hurling Development Committee and to continue its representation on the Overseas Committee. He expressed his support for the staging of the U21 hurling final ahead of the All Ireland Senior Camogie Final on a two-year trial basis but stated that it would require a concerted effort to ensure that the day was a success, He also expressed his wish to see more games played in Croke Park including colleges finals. Brennan cited the staging of the junior and intermediate All Ireland Finals in Croke Park as an example of the success of holding more games Croke Park and is open to the staging of more camogie games in Croke Park. The incoming Uachtar n of Cumann L thehleas Gael finished his speech by congratulating Miriam O Callaghan on her leadership skills in her term as President of Cumann Cam ochta na nGael.

Sean Kelly, outgoing Uachtar n of the GAA, also addressed the delegates. He congratulated Miriam O'Callaghan on an excellent three years in office. He stated that the family of hurling would stand together and that hurling and camogie would grow together. He said that the initiative to hold the U21 hurling final and the All Ireland Senior Camogie final as a double header is a fantastic step forward in integrating the two Associations.

Motions passed at the Camogie Annual Congress included the motion making the wearing of helmets with face guard compulsory for all players under the age of eighteen. A number of playing rules were also passed including a motion to bring the rule in relation to a player taking the ball into her hand to bring it in line with that of the GAA and likewise with the use of the yellow card which until now was not used in camogie. Due to an increase in the number of games being played under the new competition structures introduced in 2006 and a consequent increase in the expected number of disciplinary matters a motion was passed to introduce a Central Disciplinary Committee.

DATES FOR YOUR CLUB I have been informed by the Fix-

## Cork colleges side set for big decider

By MARY NEWMAN

Meagher Shield camegie final

TOMORROW is a big day for the camogie players from the Cork Colleges of Combined Education when they contest the Fr Meagher Shield final against Carlow IT at Limerick IT.

The Meagher cup and Shield competition is open to any institute not participating in the Ashbourne or Purcell competition. Preliminary round games have taken place to determine the participants in the cup and shield with the winners from round one participating in the cup while the losers went forward to the shield competition.

Cork lost out to a strong St Patrick's Dublin in their opening round game but defeated Tipperary Institute before going down to DIT in the qualifier. They will contest the final against Carlow IT.

The team is made up of players from St John's College, Stiofan Naofa and Cork College of Commerce and they are determined to bring the first camogle trophy to Cork Colleges of Further Education. Four years ago, under the guidance of Bertie Og Murphy, camogie was introduced and the former Inter county hurler from Sarsfields is still at the helm as selector and he is joined by Cian O'Brien from Glen Rovers/ St. Nicks.

The Cork outfit will field a strong side with former inter county junior and minor players Stephanie McInerney, Marion O'Donovan and Noelle Collins and Limerick Junior Ide Ahern in their side while current Inter County Senior division 1B player Linda Dorgan, from Grenagh, captains the side.

Martina Hogan of Ballincollig, Catriona Myers of St. Finbarrs, Cornellia Shortt and Gillian Buckley both of Glen Rovers and Aoife Finnegan of Brian Dillon's are amongst the players who will strive to make it a historic day.

Cork Panel Linda Dorgan Teresa Coughlan, Stephanie McInerney, Marion O'Donovan, Noelle Collins, Catriona Myers, Caroline McCarthy, Cornellia Shortt, Michelle Mc-Carthy, Ide Ahern, Aoife Finnegan, Martina Hogan, Michelle O'Keeffe, Colleen O'Keeffe, Mary Burns, Aileen Kennedy, Claire Coleman, An Marie Moyles, Sinead O'Mahony, Teresa McLoughlin, Gillian

FIXTURES Saturday: FR Meagher Cup semi-finals 11am Venus Limerick IT Limerick IT V DIT 11am Fr. Meagher Shield Final 12.30 Venue Limerick IT Cork College's v Carlow IT Fr. Meagher Cup Final 2pm Limerick IT



LtoR: Catriona Foley, Rena Buckley, captain Juliette Murphy, Mary O'Connor, Angela Walsh and Breige Corkery with the Brendan Martin Cup. Pic Daragh Mac Sweeney



## MICHAEL MYERS, KERRY

MICHAEL enjoyed tremendous success with Dr Crokes and Spa before joining his native Fossa in 1986. His first role was coaching underage teams to East Kerry and County League successes and to two Féile Peil na nÓg All-Ireland finals. Ten years ago he was elected Development Officer and had a major input into the design and construction of new club facilities, which include two full-sized playing pitches, training ground, dressing rooms, clubhouse and stand.



## LIAM STEWART, ANTRIM

LIAM has been chairman of the St Galls Club in Belfast for 28 years. Under his stewardship the club has won 11 county SFC titles; two Ulster SFC titles and reached the All-Ireland Club FC Championship this year losing out to Salthill-Knocknacarra. During his tenure, the club opened new club premises and three new playing fields. Liam has also been a member of the County Disciplinary Committee and the County Hurling Committee.



"The GAA President's Awards are about rewarding the volunteer. It's about recognising the voluntary efforts of members who seek nothing in return, work that has been going on for over one hundred years."

- GAA president Sean Kelly



## Oct of

## JEROME QUINN, BBC

JEROME has been involved in every BBC 'Championship' programme since the station first broadcast highlights of the Ulster Championship in 1990. He has also penned seven books on Gaelic Games, including a celebration of his native Tyrone's All-Ireland success in 2003. He has been a Vodafone Allstars selector but is proudest of his work with Belfast club Bredagh, where an ambitious youth programme has seen their fortunes improve after they lost their pitch in the 90's.



### DONAL HICKEY, DUBLIN

DONAL is a founder member of Na Fianna GAA Club, in 1955, was chairman of the club from 1962-1966 and secretary from 1975-1979. He was secretary of the Dublin Minor Board from 1965 to 1972, selector on the last Dublin minor team to win All-Ireland honours and a senior football selector in 1969 and

In 1971 was appointed full-time Development Officer of the Dublin County Board, a position he held until his retirement in 2002.



### **DECLAN BROWNE, TIPPERARY**

DECLAN is the most famous footballer in Tipperary.

In a remarkable career, he has won two Allstars, five county senior football championships, captained his county to the Tommy Murphy Cup last year and represented his country in two Compromise Rules series.

And he is not lacking in the hurling department either, having won Munster and All-Ireland Intermediate medals and two Fitzgibbon Cup titles.



## PATRICK O'BRIEN, LIMERICK

PATRICK has been involved with Mungret for 55 years. He was club delegate to the County Board for 20 years, was very active in the building of their clubhouse, which opened in 1987, and the development of a new playing field in 2002. For the past 20 years he has acted as caretaker of the clubhouse and looks after all aspects of field maintenance. He coached the club's Minor Hurling teams in to county honours in 1975 and 1993.



## FR SEAMUS GARDINER, TIPPERARY

FATHER GARDINER played for his native Borrisokane until his ordination in 1961 and was involved in coaching St. Flannan's College, Ennis from 1970 to 1990, winning Harty Cup and All-Ireland titles in 1976, 1979, 1982, 1983, 1987.

He represented Munster Colleges on Comhairle na Mumhan from 1973 to 1900 and was PRO of Comhairle na Mumhan from 1978 to 2005



## FRANK BURKE, GALWAY

FRANK played hurling with Turloughmore at all grades from 1964 to 1991, captaining the senior team to county honours in 1985. He also lined out for Galway, winning an U21 medal in 1972 and a senior medal in 1980. He was selected on the Allstar teams of 1976 and 1979. At club level, when vice-chairman with responsibility for development, he helped with fundraising by being buried for 48 hours to raise the final £10,000 required to complete the project.



### DAVID MACKEY, CAVAN

DAVID is one of the founding members of the Croke Park Stadium Executive Committee and its inaugural chairman, a position he held for the past five years until he was succeeded by his close friend Hugh Cauley in January. Under David's chairmanship, the SEC has been responsible for the day-to-day running and development of Croke Park. Their achievements have been applauded not just in GAA circles but by the general public, the business community and the media.



### JIMMY BERGIN, KILKENNY

JIMMY was asked to help cutting the grass at Nowlan Park in 1952.

He ended up cutting grass, lining the pitch, putting up goal nets, putting out flags, cleaning dressing rooms, operating the scoreboard on match days, often spending seven days a week there.

Now 83, Jimmy has given a lifetime of service to Kilkenny GAA.



## **NED POWER, WATERFORD**

NED, a legendary figure on and off the field, was a dual minor in 1947 and represented Waterford in both codes before winning an All-Ireland SHC medal in 1959. His non-playing achievements were equally remarkable, as the Dungarvan native transformed the GAA in Tallow where he taught in Scoil Mhuire. His coaching methods with Tallow GAA paid rich dividends and from 1966 to 1980 Tallow won every available county title in both hurling and football bar the senior football crown.



## GABRIEL KEATING, CLARE

GABRIEL was born in Cross on the Loop Head peninsula but went to Roscommon Town in 1962. He became involved with Roscommon Gaels and was club secretary from 1968 to 1973. He won five county senior hurling championship medals with Gaels and was a member of the Roscommon Junior Hurling side that won All-Ireland honours in 1965. In 1973 he moved back to Clare and formed a club in his native, Killballyown. He became chairman of the Clare Football Board in 1981.



## MARCUS de BÚRCA, DUBLIN

MARCUS'S works include: "The GAA: A History" — three editions, 1980, 1990, 1999".
"Michael Cusack and the GAA — 1989," "100 years of Faughs Hurling — 1985" and "The GAA in Dublin 1884-2000" — three volumes, running to 1,400 pages."



## TADHG DE BRÚN, DUBLIN

TADHG, one of the best known faces behind the camera in RTE, was a radio continuity announcer and a cameraman for a number of years with the broadcaster.

He has been involved with RTÉ Sport at nine Olympic Games, nine World Cups, over 30 Irish Golf Championships, as well as five Eurovision Song Contests and hundreds of soccer and rugby internationals.

But his first love is GAA. Last September he worked on his 80th senior final at Croke Park.



## LILY SPENCE, ANTRIM

LILY has devoted a lifetime of service to camogie at club, county, provincial and All-Ireland level. She won an All-Ireland Senior Camogie medal with Antrim in 1947 before going onto referee in four deciders.

On the administrative side, Lily held the presidency of the Camogie Association from 1956 to 1958 and held the position of treasurer from 1959 to 1979. She was elected Uachtarán at the inaugural meeting of the All Ireland Colleges Council in 1969.



## ITA HANNON, MAYO

ITA has dedicated a huge part of her life to Cumann Peil Gael na mBan. Three decades have passed since her first involvement with Westport and she has graced the game at every level as a player, manager, referee and administrator. Ita is the holder of numerous county, provincial and interprovincial medals as well as an All-Ireland Junior Championship medal with Mayo in 1987. She has held the presidency of the Connacht Council and membership of the national executive.



## JIMMY TREACY, TYRONE

JIMMY was a member of the Tyrone County Board for over 30 years, serving as assistant secretary, treasurer, Uister Council delegate and chairman for two three-year terms (1978-1980) and (1984-1986). He represented Ulster on the GAA Management Committee for three years (1996-1999) and is presently a trustee of the association. He is also a co-founder and chairman of fundraising group Club Tyrone.



## **GEORGE DELANEY, WICKLOW**

GEORGE spent 40 years working in Croke Park, latterly as gate supervisor, and served under 16 different presidents from Dr JJ Stuart to Sean Kelly.

He also worked at the pageant to celebrate the Easter Rising in 1966, the Muhammad Ali-Al Blue Lewis fight in 1971 and the Special Olympics in 2003. On the playing field, he won county honours in both hurling and football and holds three Leinster and two All-Ireland Junior Hurling Championship medals.



## JOHN TWOMEY, CORK

JOHN played for Shamrocks Hurling and Football Club from 1957 to 1991, and was elected secretary of the club in 1966, a position he held until 1990.

He has also served as treasurer, chairman and secretary of the Carrigdhoun Juvenile Board.

In 1998 he was elected chairman of his club and two years later chairman of the Carrigdhoun Divisional Board; he still holds those positions.



## KEVIN HEFFERNAN, DUBLIN

KEVIN is a lifetime member of famed Dublin club St. Vincent's, winning 15 football and four county hurling championship medals.

He captained Dublin to Sam Maguire glory in 1958 and guided Dublin to three All-Ireland football titles.

He is now involved in the underage section of his club.



## CHRISTY KISSANE, LONDON

CHRISTY was born in Killorglin, Co Kerry and played with the Laune Rangers before emigrating to London in 1963. He was selector on the six-in-a-row Championship-winning Kingdom GAA side in the 70s and the club also won two All-Ireland seven-a-side titles in the Kilmacud Crokes seven-a-side competitions, the only club from Britain to win the tournament.

He was a founding member of the Kingdom Kerry Gaels Club and is still its president.

He is the owner of several pubs in London.



## **MARGARET DELANEY, LAOIS**

MARGARET first got involved in rounders in the Community Games and became PRO of the National Rounders Council in 1992. She was involved in the reforming of the Leinster Council and served as Secretary for many years. For the past four years she has been chairman and PRO of the National Rounders Council, helping to introduce the Allstars Awards, revamping the rule book and drafting the Strategic Plan recently adopted at Congress.



## PETER DENNEHY, CORK

PETER became involved with the handball club in his native Hazelwood before joining Cosets Handball & GAA Club in Mallow. He was elected secretary of the Cork Handball Board in 1976 and in 1977 was selected as a Cork delegate to the Munster Handball Council, He still holds both positions.

He has served as vice-chairman (1981-1984) and chairman (1985-1987) of the Munster Handball Council and is currently secretary of the Council, having taken that role in 1993.



## **MARTIN QUIGLEY, WEXFORD**

MARTIN was a dual player with Wexford at Minor, U21 and senior level for 23 years. He holds an All-Ireland Minor Hurling medal, Leinster Minor Hurling and Football medals, Leinster U21 and senior medals as well as four Allstars. He has also managed Wexford senior and U21 hurlers as well as the U21 hurlers. He retired in 1991 and has been chairman of the St Martin's club for five years and manages the club senior hurlers and intermediate footballers.



## DAVID OLSEN, USA

DAVID was a founding member of the Milwaukee Hurling Club 11 years ago. The club now has 240 members and is helping supply equipment to start up hurling teams in St. Louis, Minneapolis, Akron, Loyola University and University of Notre Dame. The club has also introduced 700 children to hurling. David has been Operations Co-ordinator for eight years.

## All the President's men ... and ladies



Winners at the GAA President's Awards, sponsored by the Irish Examiner, front from left: Jimmy Bergin, Kilkenny; Pa O'Brien, Limerick; Ned Power, Waterford; Marcus de Burcha, Dublin; Jim Forbes, chairman, President's Awards; Taoiseach Bertie Ahern; GAA president Sean Kelly; Irish Examiner sports editor, Tony Leen; Gabriel Keating, Clare and Lily Spence, Antrim. Back from left: Jimmy Treacy, Tyrone; Michael Myers, Kerry; Declan Browne, Tipperary; John Twomey, Cork; Peter Dennehy, Cork; Kevin Heffernan, Dublin; Margaret Delaney, Laois; Fr. Seamus Gardiner, Tipperary; Ita Hannon, Mayo; Jerome Quinn, Down; Christy Kissane, London; David Mackey, Cavan; Martin Quigley, Wexford; Donal Hickey, Dublin; David Olsen USA; George Delaney, Wicklow; Frank Burke, Galway and Tadhg de Brún, Dublin.



GAA President Sean Kelly presenting a President's Award to Taoiseach Bertie Ahern, with Irish Examiner sports editor Tony Leen at the GAA President's Awards at Croke Park. Picture: Dan Linehan

### by Brendan O'Brien

TAOISEACH Bertie Ahern was a surprise recipient of a GAA President's award as the grass-root heroes of the association were honoured at the weekend in Croke Park.

Outgoing president Sean Kelly lauded Mr Ahern's "genuine" love of all strands of the GAA in presenting the Taoiseach with one of the 26 awards. He said Mr Ahern had been a dual player with Whitehall Gaels in Dublin and Tracton in Cork, and had continued to attend all codes throughout his political career.

throughout his political career.

Also included was hurling fanatic David Olsen, originally from Sweden, who has nurtured the ancient game since moving to Milwaukee in the United States, and is responsible for the progression of several hurling and camogie teams in the area.

and camogie teams in the area.

Other recipients included veteran
Waterford hurling star Ned Power,
Nowlan Park groundsman Jimmy
Bergin and Antrim camogie enthusiast Lily Spence. Tipp football ace
Declan Browne and his fellow Premier county man Fr Seamus Gardiner
were also honoured.

The awards, sponsored by the Irish Examiner, were initiated by Mr Kelly three years ago, and are likely to be continued by Uachtaräin tofa Nicky Brennan in 2007.



Peter Dennehy, Cork, receiving his President's Award from GAA president Sean Kelly and Irish Examiner deputy sports editor, Colm O'Connor at the GAA President's awards in Croke Park

## Tulla girls make camogie history



St Joseph's, Tulla camogie team made history by winning the All Ireland camogie final for the first time last weekend.

St Joseph's Tulla 1-Maghera 0-

THEY say to get to an All Ireland final is half the dream and to win one is to fulfil that dream. Well the girls from St Joseph's in Tulla realised that goal last Saturday when they defeated St. Pats College from Maghera, Derry in Ballyhaise.

The achievement was all the greater due to the atrocious condition in which the match was played. Underfoot conditions were particularly heavy and the surface cut up badly following the heavy rainfall of the previous twenty four hours.

Tempers and nerves were often frayed due to the magnitude of the event and certainly at times, threatened to boil over. This wasn't helped by the condition of the pitch, which wasn't even lined.

After a long arduous journey to Virginia, in Cavan, the game began with the Maghera supporters in full voice. The bus taking Tulla supporters to the game broke down and it was half way through the first half when the arrived

At that stage after a number of missed opportunities, Tulla had taken the lead through a fabulous free from their centreback and captain, Kate Lynch. During this early period Tulla were almost totally dominant around midfield and the half back line with Maghera hardly registering an attack.

Tulla probably should have been further ahead at this stage of the game. Subsequently the Tulla management acted astutely in moving Ann Marie Mc-Mahon to the forwards, where her presence seemed to settle the attack. They increased their lead when she pointed from plan, the only point from play in the game and this left the Clare side 0-2 to 0-0 in front at the half way stage.

In the second half Maghera launched a fierce onslaught on the Tulla goal. For fifteen minutes, the Tulla supporters held their breath as the Maghera forwards tried to make the Tulla backline crumble and concede a vital score.

However the Tulla backline remained firm, with Orla Moroney, Aisling Hannon and Ruth Learny particularly impressive. The Tulla defence remained steadrast and Maghera failed to register a score, in essence they failed to match Tulla's determination to win in what was their first ever All Ireland camogie final appearance. The few times that the sliotar went beyond Grainne Corry

and her fellow defenders, Aine Me Namara in goal was solid and composed

Finally Maghera hopes were dashed, when, after a great through ball from Ann Marie McMahon and a brief tussle for possession Elizabeth Askins crashed to the net and put the nail in the Maghera coffin. The final Tulla score came from a magnificent free out on the wing by Kate Lynch.

In addition to the scorers, credit must be given to others such as Aine Dinan and Stephanie Moloney for their trogan work. Caitriona McGrath did well when introduced.

The final whistle sparked off great celebrations amongst the Tulla players, mentors and supporters. The victorious team was accorded a tremendous welcome on their return to Tulla on Saturday night.

The winning panel comprised Aine McNamara (Sixmilebridge), Julanne Moloney (Tulla), Grainne Corry (Tulla), Orla Moroney (O'C. Mills), Leah O'Keeffe (Tulla), Kate Lynch (O'C. Mills), Aisling Hannon (Clooney), Ann-Marie McMahon (Kilnamona) 1-5, Michelle Moroney (O'C. Mills), Ruth Learny (Tulla), Stephanie Moloney (Broadford) 1-1, Elizabeth Askins (Sixmilebridge) 1-1, Sile McKee (Feakle)1-0, Aine Dinan (Tulla)1-0, Elaine Hannon (Sixmilebridge) Catriona McGrath (Tulla), Katie Reddan (Broadford), Marie Collins (Sixmilebridge). Grainne McNamara (Tulla), Bella O'Keeffe (Tulla), Sinead McNamara (Tulla), Brid Quig-



■ The Clare delegation at the camogie association annual congress held in Tullamore; Seamus O'Sullivan, Miriam O'Callaghan, outgoing president, Sean Kelly, president GAA; Kathleen McNamara, Fr Liam Murray, Liz Howard, incoming camogie president.

## President's post for Liz

LIZ Howard was elected President of the camogic association for the next three years at the end of a very successful annual camogic association's congress in Tullamore.

The new President, who is the former Tipperary GAA PRO expressed her delight at being honoured with the position and is looking forward to working hard for the best interests of camogie. Speaking to the delegates following her election she said: "the strategic plan is our bible. I will be fair to people, I will be inclusive and I look forward to the challenge,"

Nicky Brennan, incoming GAA president, addressed the

delegates. Brennan expressed his wish to have a camogie representative on the GAC, the National coaching and games development committee, the hurling development committee and to continue its representation on the overseas committee. He expressed his support for the staging of the U21 hurling final ahead of the All Ireland senior camogie final on a two-year trial basis but stated that it would require a concerted effort to ensure that the day was a success. He also expressed his wish to see more games played in Croke Park including colleges finals. Brennan cited the staging of the junior and intermediate All Ireland finals in Croke Park as an example of the success of holding more games at headquarters.

Seán Kelly, outgoing Uachtarán of the GAA, also addressed the delegates, He congratulated Miriam O'Callaghan on an excellent three years in office. He stated that the family of hurling would stand together and that hurling and camogie would grow together. He said that the initiative to hold the U21hurling final and the All Ireland Senior Camogie final as a double header is a fantastic step forward in integrating the two Associations.

Motions passed included the motion making the wearing of helmets with face guard compulsory for all players underthe age of 18.

## Exciting times ahead for camogie

CAMOGIE:Former Tipperary PRO
Liz Howard has begun her threeyear term as President of the
Camogie Association and is
looking forward to implementing
their strategic plan. "I will be fair, I
will be inclusive and I look forward
to the challenge," she said.

Her aim now is to have a camogie representative on the GAC, the National Coaching and Games Development Committee, the Hurling Development Committee and to continue its representation on the Overseas Com-

Next year's U21 hurling final will be staged ahead of the All-Ireland senior camogie final on a two-season trial basis, which should guarantee a much higher attendance at the decider.

Ms Howard will oversee the implementation of Congress motions such as making helmets with face guards compulsory for all players under 18. She wants an impetus on quality, management and public relations during her term in office.



HOWARD: Straight-talker

A number of playing rules were also passed at the recent Congress, including the introduction of the yellow card which until now was not used in the sport.

The new President will ensure that the profile of the Association is now raised even higher. A straight-talker who is steeped in the GAA, she is one of the most passionate observers of hurling and camogie around and her nonnensense approach and refusal to settle for second best will ensure an exciting time for the sport.

## Colleges final now re-fixed for Tuesday

MÁIRE UÍ SCOLAÍ Camogie

YESTERDAY'S colleges senior All-Ireland Final replay between St Mary's Charleville and Presentation College Athenry had to be called off due to an unplayable pitch at Meelick, Co Limerick and the non-availability of an adjacent venue.

The game will now go ahead on Tuesday next, April 4 at the same venue with a 12 noon throw-in.

On the senior front, Dublin maintained their 100 per cent record in Division 1B of the National League yesterday when they demolished Wexford by 5-16 to 1-0.

The game was well out of Wexford's reach by the break as the Dubs went in leading 3-8 to 0-0 for Wexford. The Slaneysiders' only score came midway in the second half following a long range free which Lorraine O'Connor finished to the net.

Ciara Durkan was the Dubs' top scorer with 2-2. Dublin meet Kilkenny in the next round on April 16.

ETAILS

Dublin 5-16 (C Durkon 2-2, A Jordan 1-1; E Brannigan, N Taylor 1-0 each; C Lucry 0-6 (4f, 2-45), L 0 Hara 0-5; A Griffin, J Draper 0-1 each; Wexford 1-0 (L 0 Cornor 1-0).

## Ulster colleges All-Stars

(2006-04-04)

>> Bellaghy's Aisling Diamond picks up her third successive Ulster Colleges'

>> Camogie All-star in the panel announced yesterday in Magherafelt.

- >> The St. Mary's Clady Sixth Former was part of the inaugural event in 2004
- >> to celebrate the Camogie Centenary and that team also took part in an

>> inter-provincial event.

- >> The inter-provincial did not happen for last year's side, but will take
- >> place this coming Saturday at a Dublin venue still to be confirmed.
- >> Aisling though will have plenty of experienced players around her in the
- >> panel of 22 who will pick up their awards at a function at the end of

>> April.

- >> National Young All-star of 2005 St. Catherine's Armagh's Collette McSorley >> picks up a second award - as do 5 other players.
- >> Collette was top-scorer for the Armagh Senior and Minor sides last year,
- >> while Kelly O'Higgins from St. Malachy's Castlewellan was in outstanding
- >> form in picking up her second successive All-Ireland club medal with
- >> Liatroim Fontenoys last November.
- >> Kelly is joined in the All-stars by two of her club mates St. Malachy's
- >> Karen McMullan and cousin Gráinne O'Higgins who studies in Assumption
- >> Ballynahinch and was the first ever Ulster winner of the National Féile na
- > nGael camogie Skills' title in 2002.
- >> Sinéad Cassidy (Coleraine), Clare Dallat (Ballycastle) and Shauna Jordan
- >> (Dungannon Academy) are all back from last year's selection, while
- > Michaela Convery missed out last season but was in the 2004 selection.
- >> Michaela is one of 3 players selected from Ulster Senior winners St.
- >> Mary's Magherafelt, while losing finalists Cross & Passion Ballycastle
- >> have two selected. All-Ireland B finalists St. Patrick's Keady have 3
- >> players in the panel.
- >> All 22 players have represented their counties at under-age level and many
- >> have already broken through into senior inter-county panels.
- >> There are 4 each from Down, Armagh and Antrim, Shauna Jordan representing
- >> Tyrone and the other 9 from Derry.
- >> In announcing the side, Colleges' chairperson Sr. Máiréad Fearon
- >> congratulated the players.
- >> "To be awarded an All-star is the ultimate achievement in schools"
- >> camogie. It is recognition of their talent, hard work, determination and
- >> commitment."
- >> "There is an added incentive this year with the inter-provincial
- >> competition and already the girls are working hard in the training
- >> sessions for that. I am confident that they will do everyone proud
- >> against the other provinces."
- >>
- >> The 2006 Ulster Colleges' All-star selection is:
- >> Sinéad Coulter (St. Columba's Portaferry), Gráinne O'Higgins (Assumption
- >> Ballynahinch), Karen McMullan and Kelly O'Higgins (St. Malachy's
- >> Castlewellan), Collette McSorley (St. Catherine's Armagh), Danielle >> McBurney, Máiréad McClelland and Stephanie McParland (St. Patrick's
- >> Keady), Caoimhe Quinn (St. Louise's Belfast), Clare Dallat and Susanna
- >> McKeown (Cross & Passion Ballycastle), Michaela Convery, Attracta McPeake
- >> and Natasha McEldowney (St. Mary's Magherafelt), Jacinta O'Kane, Emma
- >> Bradley and Shauna Murphy (St. Patrick's Maghera), Aisling Diamod (St.
- >> Mary's Clady), Sinéad Cassidy, Maeve McGoldrick and Maeve Boyle (Loreto
- >> Coleraine).

## **UCC** honours sports stars

## by Alan Good

GAA stars Tom Kenny and Rachel Moloney were among those honoured at the 22nd annual UCC Sports Star Awards last

Eleven students were recognised for their achievements in the past 12 months at a ceremony in the Aula Maxima and, if previous form is anything to go by, the winners are in for bright

Among the former winners who have gone on to

achieve full international honours are Irish rugby players Peter Stringer and Frankie Sheahan, and Kerry football legends Seamus Moynihan and Maurice Fitzgerald.

Guest of honour at the ceremony was Dr Clare O'Leary, the first Irish woman to reach the summit of Mount Everest.

Christine O'Donovan, acting director of sport at UCC, said the college was delighted to honour the sports stars who have



Maria Daly, Handball, Tralee, Co Kerry, and Rachel Moloney, Camogie, West Cork, at the Annual Sports Star Picture: Neil Danton/News Digital

honours. "The standards achieved by these stars bring great credit to the university. UCC is indebted to all involved in providing for and promoting sport here."

The awardees: Marie Breen (basket-ball): Richard Coakley (rowing): Regina Curtin (fadies football); Maria Daly (handball); Orfa Dramm (athletics); Graeme Duniea (golf); Tom Kenny (harling); Rachel Moloney (ramogie); David Murphy (basketball); Brendan O'Connell (seccen); Ross Nocean (rugby).

## **UCC** crowned League champions

(2006-04-01)

UCC were crowned Division 1 league champions after a nail-biting finish to last Wednesday's final in Ballypickas, Co Laois. The Cork college shaded it over a brave UCD side, also runners-up in the Ashbourne Cup, after extra time to leave the scores at UCC 1-13, UCD 0-13.

An excellent standard of camogie was on display as both teams exchanged points throughout the game. Though UCD had the majority of possession in the first half, UCC stayed with them and the halftime score was 0-5 each. UCC?s attacking game impressed, with each of their six forwards and both midfielders scoring from play. The closing stages of the game were played in rapidly fading light, leaving the game finished at 0-12 apiece.

Because of the poor visibility, it was agreed that extra time would last no more than seven minutes a half. At the break, the sides remained level; however, Emilie Darmody scored a point immediately after the break, putting UCD one ahead. UCC quickly equalised. Then, three minutes before the end, came the final, decisive score of the game: UCC's Anne Browne hit a ground shot that wound up in the Dublin side's net, separating the sides by a goal.

This was a fine conclusion to the Division 1 league with both sides giving their all. UCC's Rachel Moloney was tireless at midfield, with Lizzie Lyng impressing at centre forward, while Emilie Darmody and Deirdre Corcoran made good contributions for UCD.

UCC: Brid Aylward; Jennifer Browne, Cathriona Foley, Julie Conran; Clodagh Deasy, Joanne O'Callaghan, Amy Butler; Rachel Moloney 0-5 (0-4 F), Therese Muldowney 0-1; Claire Aylward 0-2, Lizzie Lyng 0-1, Miriam Frisby 0-2; Colette Desmond 0-1, Sarah O'Donovan 0-1, Anne Browne 1-0.

UCD: Sharon O'Shaughnessy; Catriona Phelan, Deirdre Corcoran, Sharon Daly; Ciara Lucey, Mary Leacy 0-2, Fiona Connolly; Rena Buckley 0-3, Louise Mahoney 0-1; Mary Murtagh, Mary Welsh, Clodagh Flanagan; Aoife Maron, Susie O'Carroll 0-3, Emilie Darmody 0-4 (0-2 F).



Colleges Senior A camogie final replay

A POINT eight minutes into injury by Jessica Gill gave Pres, Athenry the chance to fight another day in the All-Ireland Colleges Senior A final against Charleville in Nenagh a fortnight ago.

In appalling weather conditions both teams served up a magnificent game of skill, strength and commitment and while Charleville will have felt hard done by on the day, for sheer effort alone a draw was probably a fair result.

Tomorrow at 1pm in Meelick the North Cork college have another chance to win this final.

Charleville started well with the elements and found themselves 1-3 to 0-1 ahead after 18 minutes.

But a three minute purple patch which produced some outstanding Camogie saw Athenry pounce

Charleville went into the second half four points ahead but facing conditions which would test even the most seasoned of campaigners.

They produced a Trojan effort for theirs. Agonisingly they were denied at the death.

And so they are back tomorrow and with it they bring the All-Ireland Junior title won just seven days ago.

Coach Ger O'Donovan is on top of the world after that tremendous victory and eagerly looking forward to this second chance.

"I'm really looking forward to it," he said. "The All-Ireland Junior win has given the girls a huge boost. Six of the 15 starting on Saturday and three of the subs were on the team last weekend. They got a taste of what it's like to win and want more."

Referring to the game itself, Ger feels that once again conditions may play a factor. "Last time out was like a lottery. The conditions suited Athenry as they are physically taller and stronger than us. Our plan is to play to our strengths."

Without a doubt Athenry are a stronger outfit than Charleville. The Cork side have the speed up front eight. and when they took on the Athenry defence something always developed. They need to keep it open and take on their opponents.

It was evident last time out as the game progressed the conditions were taking more out of Charleville than Athenry.

Conditions this week will be poor, the pitch will be heavy. If Charleville play with the conditions in their favour they need to have a



the next 38 minutes and must surely Joanne Sheehan, Evening Echo, with the Cork County Board Official Yearbook for 2006, sponsored by the Echo. The book have thought that the title was is now on sale in all good bookstores. Picture: Larry Cummins

## Charleville to take title

better lead at half time than they

They looked to be doing that just two weeks ago but the goal and the point within three minutes was the only tonic Athenry needed.

Four-points down at half time seems far more surmountable than

Athenry took to the field for the second half with a mission and for them it was mission accomplished.

They will come into tomorrow's game confident of success.

Charleville know they left the game behind them.

One All-Ireland title in the bag, another only an hour of camogie

Charleville have it all to do. But they can



Darina O'Callaghan (St Mary's, Charleville) scores past Claire Killeen and Laura Shiel (Portumna CS) in the All-Ireland Junior A Camogie final last week.

## Charleville end final jinx with win over Athenry

St Mary's, Charleville Presentation, Athenry

## by Therese O'Callaghan

ST MARY'S, Charleville ended their All-Ireland Senior A colleges final hoodoo in spectacular fashion at Meelay. After contesting the 2004 and 2005 finals, they collected their seventh title following this absorbing replay at the sunny Clare venue.

However, it wasn't until Aisling Thompson (captain of their All-Ireland junior win) scooped the game's only goal, five minutes from time, that the outcome was determined.

Presentation, who came close to claiming the plaudits in the drawn game, can consider themselves un-

Centre-back Jessica Gill and attacker Noreen Coen showed battling qualities, but their trainer, former Galway hurler Joe Cooney, paid tribute to Charleville's work rate.

"St Mary's were much better than us. They were able to pick out players and overall were the more balanced side. That said, we should have won the last day. We had the opportunities to take them, and with a side like Charleville, you generally don't get a second chance. I am disappointed, particularly with our four-point eturn, we are a better team than the coreline.

This contest was the classic game of

Charleville led 0-6 to 0-1 at the break following a wind-assisted opening 30 minutes, during which time the Galway back line, brilliantly led by Gill and captain Mary Ward, sustained much pressure.

After a hesitant start, St Mary's got some splendid points from Annette McAuliffe, Aine Watson, Thompson and Lisa Fitzgerald.

Following the changeover, the Mun-ster girls defended heroically. Fiona Chawke and Fionnuala Dore served up five-star displays, denying Presentation the goal they needed. The game was delicately poised, 0-7 to 0-3, entering the final quarter, but a succession of wides proved the westerners' downfall.

Having withstood Athenry's best spell, Charleville finished impressively.

Thompson pointed before nailing the goal that sealed the match, then she swapped white flags with Gill, who had moved to the attack. Coleman accepted the silverware, while selector Ger O'Donovan heaped praise on his team's performance.

"I'm delighted for the panel because they put in a huge effort all season. For Aine Watson, Fiona Chawke, Mary Coleman and Shannon Brosnan this is the end of their school career. All four are in sixth year and will leave with an All-Ireland senior medal.

"Athenry are a good team and put us



St Mary's Charleville captain Mary Coleman raises the cup after her side's victory over Presentation, Athenry, in yesterday's All-Ireland Colleges senior camogie final at Mellick, Co. Clare. Picture: Sean Curtin Press 22

under a lot of pressure but we gave away nothing.

"We wanted this win more and that showed particularly in the second half when the elements were against

Scorers for St Mary's: A Thompson 1-3, L Fitzger-ald 0-3f, A Watson 0-2, Annette McAuliffe 0-1, Presentation: N Coen 0-2, J Gill 0-2 (0-1 '45). ST MARY'S: E Hanley; F Chawke, R Finn, Ashling McAuliffe; M Walshe, F Dore, S Sexton; R Rea, A Thompson; F Morrissey, A Watson, L Fitzgerald; S Brosnan, M Coleman (C), Annette McAuliffe. Sub: D O'Callaghan for S Brosnan (55 mins).

PRESENTATION: D Ward; K O'Dwyer, M Ward (capt.), D Fahy; R Waldron, J Gill, L Caffanan; L Ryan, C Kennedy; M Carr, D Ryan, N Coen; M Mc-Donagh, S O'Dwyer, L Loughnaise.

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Subs: L Watshe for S O'Dwyer (24 mins), A Seoighe for M McDonagh (55 mins). Referee: E Browne (Tipperary).



St Mary's, Charleville captain Mary Coleman, holds up the cup after beating Pres, Athenry, in the All-Ireland Colleges Senior A Camogie Championship final at Mellick, Co. Clare. Picture: Press 22

## WHAT THEY SAID

## Coaches heap praise on players

ST MARY'S coaches Ger Donovan and Vincent Harrington were full of praise for their side after yesterday's win in County Clare.

Beaten in their previous two final appearances, the Charleville College put the record straight with a stylish, hard-working, team performance in Meelick.

"We were well on top throughout and deserved it on the day as we took our chances and our defence was excellent," said Harrington.

"Ger Donovan deserves enormous credit as he has worked tirelessly with the team this season."

The weather suited us because the last time we met Presentation it was an atrocious day and they scored an equaliser with virtually the last puck of the match.

"All of the team performed well and Aine Watson had a fantastic game in midfield.

"This more than makes up for the disappointment of the last two finals and we are absolutely thrilled with the win," said Donovan. "It's a proud day for St Mary's and everyone associated with the team can take great pride in their efforts all year."

## Double glory for St Mary's

St Mary's College (Charleville) Presentation College (Athenry)

By BERNARD O'NEILL

All Ireland Senior A Colleges Camogle Final

ST MARY'S COLLEGE, Charleville were celebrating a remarkable double yesterday after they added the All Ireland Colleges Senior A Camogie title to their recently-won All Ireland Colleges Junior A crown with a convincing replay victory over Presentation in Meelick, Co Clare.

Aisling Thompson, Lisa Fitzgerald, Aine Watson, and Annette McAuliffe were all on target for St Mary's to cap an fine overall team performance underpinned by a sound defensive display.

These sides originally met two weeks ago when a last gasp injury time equaliser from Pres left the scoreboard reading 2-5 to 2-5, thus requiring a replay for only the second time since the competition's inception in

St Mary's were also involved in the only other replay in 2004, which they lost. But this time out there was no mistake as the Cork side took control of the game early in the first half and ran out deserved winners.

Thompson, who was captain of this season All Ireland winning Junior side, was one of the heroines for St Mary's, with three points and a stunning goal six minutes from

But the Saints defence, with goalkeeper

Eileen Hanley in outstanding form, also deserved enormous credit for keeping out a Presentation side who were a lot better than their eight point losing margin suggests.

The Athenry College, who were playing into a stiff breeze, opened the scoring early on via a close range Noreen Coen effort but that was the only time they were ahead in

That was quickly cancelled out by a fine point from McAuliffe closely followed by another score from the impressive Watson who had a fine game throughout.

Thompson then edged her side further in front for 30 yards before Lisa Fitzgerald who hit 2-3 first time around - added her first of the match with a precise free from

Fitzgerald tacked on another free on 25 minutes before Watson sent St Mary's in at the break five points to the good.

The half time assumption was that with the wind at their backs Pres would come out with all guns blazing and slowly whittle away St Máry's lead.

However, Ger O'Donovan and Vincent Harrington's side hadn't read the script and laid siege to the Athenry goal in the opening five minutes of the second half with Fitzgerald and Watson being denied scores by some last ditch defending.

Having weathered the storm, Pres swept upfield to reduced the deficit via Coen, only for Fitzgerald to restore Mary's advantage with another accurate free from the right.

Jessica Gill notched her first of the game for the Tribeswomen mid way through the half, but then Thompson went on a scoring spree beginning with a 53rd minute point closely followed by a goal of top class quality less than sixty second later.

Watson began the move on the right floating over an inviting free which Thompson, with her back to the right of goal, fielded before turning and unleashing a 15 yard diagonal rasper which flew into the far corner of the net.

Thompson then added her third point of the match with two minutes left on the clock while Gill knocked over a consolation score. for Presentation with the ref looking at his

After the match All Ireland Colleges Camogie President Donal Burke presented victorious St Mary's captain Mary Coleman with the cup amid jubilant scenes at Meelick GAA club.

For the record, St Mary's have won this trophy seven times in the last decade and have also competed in three finals.

ST MARY'S: Hanley, Chawke, Finn, Carroll, A McAusiffe, Dore, Sexton, Rea, Coleman cpt, Morrissey, Watson (0-2) Thompson (1-3) Annette McAuliffe(0-1) Brosnan (O'Callaghan 50) Fitzgerald (0-3)

PRESENTATION COLLEGE: Ward, M Ward (cpt), Kelly, K O'Dwyer, Waldron, Gill (0-2) Kennedy, Ryan, L Ryan, Callahan, O'Dwyer, Carr, McDonagh (Seoighe 50) Walshe, Coan (0-2).

Referee: J Pender (Kildare).

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## Kilkenny's intensity is too much for Cork to handle

By LINDA MELLERICK

Kilkenny Cork

2-10 1-9

THE scoring of 1-2 within three minutes presents a better picture on paper but really Cork were beaten hands down in almost all sections of the field yesterday in this Division 1A National Senior League, tie against Kilkenny.

Cork never got out of the traps and played second fiddle for 57 minutes to a Kilkenny team showing desire, grit and determination.

Playing the All Ireland champions almost in their own back yard was a challenge Kilkenny relished and they, like their Division B counterparts before them, took the game to the rebel county.

Kilkenny's defence were superb in their work rate. They hooked, blocked, harried and found each other when needed. A simple pass to a seemingly never ending supply of free players saw them break up many a Cork attack. Elaine Aylward was masterful throughout, ably assisted by Jillian Dillon and Sinead Costello Cash.

As in the preceding game, Cork lost the battle at midfield where Bridget Mullally and Eileen Fitzpatrick drove long low balls into their inside forwards.

Up front the lightning fast Jackie Frisby was the true tormentor while Sinead Millea was ever the perfectionist from

The game looked tight on the scoreboard after 17 minutes with the home side holding 3 points to 2 advantage. But in general play the Cats were on top. They were showing better teamwork and applying

greater physical strength. Cork's last point of the half came after 8 minutes and from there on in it was all Kilkenny. They were leading by six points when an excellent move led to the all-important goal which gave the rebels too high a mountain to climb in the second half. Marie O'Connor was causing problems up front finding players with intelligent diagonal balls. One such cross was met by the inrushing Frisby who responded first to a 'bat out' by goalkeeper Clifford and hit the back of the net. A further free and Cork were 1-9 to 0-2 behind at the

Cork improved somewhat in the second period but with 20 minutes remaining still found themselves nine points adrift, Kilkenny's tireless workrate giving the impression that there would never be enough time left for Cork.

Two long-range points by Emer Dillon edged Cork closer but once Marie O'Connor connected first time to crossing ball it was the final nail for Cork.

A three-minute drive saw them narrow the gap but the points belonged to Kilkenny long before the final whistle.

Scorers: Cerk:-U O'Donoghue 1-1, J O'Leary 0-4 (0-3f), E Dillon 0-2, R Moloney and A Walsh 0-1 each Kilkenny:-S Milles 0-6 (0-4f), (0-2 '45), J Frisby 1-1, M O'Connor 1-0, E Fitzpatrick, I Kennedy and L Lyng 0-1

connor 1-0, E Prispatrick, 1 Kennedy and C Lyng 0-1
each.

CORK: E Clifford: J O'Calleghan, A O'Regan, L
Hawkes: R Buckley, M O'Connor, A Geary; G O'Connor, B Corkery; U O'Donoghue, A Walsh, J O'Leary; E
Dillon, C Desmond, E Burke.

Subs:R Moloney for L Hawkes (1/2 time), S
O'Donovan for C Desmond (37 min), O Cotter for Angela Walsh (53 min).

KILKENNY: C Ryan: K Kinahan, J Dillon, S Costello
Cash: E Ayhaard, M Lawlor, D Delaney: B Mollially, E
Fitzpetrick: I Kennedy, L Lyng, M O'Connor; A Neary,
S Miles, J Frisby.

Subs: E Kennedy for S Costello Cash (45min), L Gahan
for B Mullally (53min).

## U16 team open campaign

THE Cork Under 16 side face Tipperary in the opening game of the Munster miner championship on Saturday in Inniscarra at lpm. As a result of the new look format this year the under 16 All Ireland championship will be played on an open draw round robin basis and as a consequence Saturdays game will not effect the outcome of the All Ireland series, the game will be of enormous help to the selectors and they will no doubt use it as a guide to judge the strength of their

panel

Tipperary are the provincial champions having edged out Cork in a thrilling final last season, amongst the players surviving from that clash are captain and goalkeeper Christine Kenneally, Geraldine Stapleton and Fiona Young who were impressive in defence.

Survivors on the Cork side from last season include Niamh O'Donovan, Roisin de Facite and Niamh Dilworth.

## Title for UCC

WELL done to UCC were crowned Division 1 league champions after a nail-biting clash with UCD. In a game that went to after extra time UCC were victorious on a 1-13 to 0-13 score line. It was nip and tuck through the game as the teams exchanged points and it was level at the interval 0-5 each through the second half it so remained as they exchanged scores and it finished all square at 0-12 apiece. Again in extra time it remained level but an Emily Darmody point edged

UCD one ahead. UCC quickly equalised and with three minutes remaining UCC's Anne Browne struck for the all important goal, to give her side the Division 1 league Among those who impressed for UCC's were Rachel Moloney, Lizzie Lyng Jennifer Browne, Joanne O'Callaghan and Anne Browne.

## Camogiechat

## Double for Charleville

WELL done to St Mary's Charleville who defeated Presentation Athenry to record an impressive All Ireland colleges double. Two weeks ago their Junior A team set the standards as they took the title and this time out the senior team with ten of the junior side on the panel recorded a historic double

In their first encounter Charleville made all the running and it was a last gasp Athenry point eight minutes into injury time that brought he game to a replay, this time out there was no repeat with Charleville totally dominant taking the title on 1-9 to 0-4. Well done to Coaches Vincent Harrington, Ger Donovan and all the Charleville girls who worked so hard to bring both titles to their school.



Cork selectors John Cronin, Oille Hallihane and Lillian Zinkant with coach Flona O'Driscoll are pleased with their charge's league performances to date.

## LEAGUE ACTION RESUMES

LEAGUE action resumes this weekend as both Cork teams travel to Piltown Co Kilkenny for a double fixture with the home side

It's a return to action for most of the division 1 A team who returned on Thursday afternoon following their week long holiday in Egypt a fitting reward for their victory in last years championship but now with that victory firmly put to one side the focus is on the year ahead.

Already they have recorded two victories in their league campaign over Limerick and Galway and they have certainly looked very focused in both outings. The selectors have continued to include new faces to their starting line outs with Regina

Curtin, Elaine O'Riordan Catriona Foley all slotting in well to the team, Amanda O'Regan who missed the opening games with a hand injury should be ready to make a return to competitive action shortly. Kilkenny for their part have had mixed results in their two games recording a 2-7 to 1-5 victory over Galway in their opening game before going down to Wexford on a 2-12 to 1-7 score line. It's very much a team building process for Kilkenny and they are working hard to build on the successful junior and minor side they have produced in the last four year. Bobby Jackman has returned to the helm as manager this season a position he last held in 2000 while for-

mer inter county star Ann Downey is a selector to the side. Amongst the players who have impressed to date are Sinead Millea Lizzie Lyng and Marie O'Connor and no doubt they will as always test Cork to the limit.

In Division 1 B Cork have enjoyed mixed fortunes to date bouncing back from a one point defeat at the hand of Dublin in their opening game to record a good victory over Galway, while Kilkenny have full points having defeated Galway and Wexford.

Piltown is the venue with the division IB game at 1.30pm followed by the division 1A game at 3.15pm

## Cork U16s get their first outing of year

SATURDAY Munster U16 championship Cork v Tipperary, Inniscarra Camogie Grounds,

Ballyanley 1pm
Under 16 is an unpredictable grade
in any sport and at inter-county
level the first outing is a hard one to
gauge, therefore it's somewhat unknown territory for Cork and Tipperary who meet in the first round
of the Munster camogic championship tomorrow in Inniscarra.

With the All-Ireland series this year being held on an open draw basis the Munster championship will help the participating counties By MARY NEWMAN

Camogic

prepare in a competitive environment, something Cork selector Rose White welcomes:

"Last year we lost out to Tipperary in the Munster championship final and that was the finish of our involvement, where as now that the Munster competition is separate to the All-Ireland the games will help us in our preparation." Rose is joined by Paddy Corkery who was also involved last season while George o'Callaghan from county champions Buttevant is in his first year as an inter-county selector.

Amongst the survivors from last year's panel are Niamh O'Donovan, Niamh Dilworth, Roisin de Faoite, Fiona O Connell and Katie Hickey and Aisling Thompson who played a starring role on the senior and junior All-Ireland winning St Mary's Charleville teams. Cork will be captained by goalkeeper Dawn O'Keeffe from the Buttevant club.

Tipperary can call on several of the side who last season lost out narrowly to eventual champions Kilkenny, amongst them captain Christine Kenneally who had a splendid season last year in the Tipperary goal, defenders Geraldine Stapleton and Fiona Young, while up front Bonnie Kennedy and Aine Brislane also were part of last season's winning side.

As is so often the case with under age players, nerves can sometimes play a huge part on the day. Cork have prepared well, playing several challenge games since December while the interdivisional blitz also helped the management in their quest to gather a winning combination. Saturday will tell if they have got the call right, otherwise it will be back to the drawing board in preparation for the challenges ahead.

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## Rebels always in total control

Cork Tipperary 2-8

FROM the throw-in Cork controlled this Munster U16 camogie championship semi-final in Ballyanley on Saturday and their dominance was reflected on the score board as they advanced comfortably to a final meeting with Clare.

Catriona Collins and Darina O'Callaghan settled Cork with early points before Catriona Walsh opened the Tipperary account.

Collins added a second point before her lofted free from 20 yards deceived Ashling Whelan in the Tipp goal to find the net and stretch the advantage. Cork held the upper hand in the vital areas as they turned to play against the elements 1-4 to 0-1 ahead.

Inside ten minutes of the restart Collins and Emer Shanahan had exchanges points, but the introduction by Cork just before the break of the impressive Claire Keohane had a big impact on proceedings, particularly when she linked up with O'Callaghan for a goal 15 minutes into the second half.

Tipperary battled on and were somewhat unlucky not to grab a goal when Shanahan blocked down goalkeeper Dawn O'Keeffe's attempted clearance only to see her shot spin wide.

Yet two minutes later the pressure paid off when Shanahan first timed Laura Reid's cross to the net. Undeterred, Cork responded and points from Fiona O'Connell and Collins sealed a deserved victory in a game that seldom created much excitement.

Cork coach George O'Callaghan was reasonably please with his charges' performance.

"We are pleased enough, we know we can play better and there is huge room for improvement," he said.

"Today was our first time out in championship and nerves sometimes get to young players, but we stood up and were counted and did enough to make it to the Munster final.

"The open draw for the All Ireland series will be a different story but we will take it one day at a time.

"We are reasonably pleased with a

anad haur's work."

There is huge room for improvement on both sides and with a July 2 open draw meeting to come, it will be interesting to see which side will have learned the most from this outing.

CORK: D O'Keeffe; C O'Neill, M Foley, M O'Donovan; M. A. Hawkes, M Walsh, E Harrington; A Thompson, F O'Connell (0-1); R De Facite J Lynch S O' Callaghan; D O'Callaghan(1-1), N Ditworth, C Collins (1-6,1-4 frees 0-2 play)

(1-6,1-4 frees 0-2 play)
Subs: C Keohane for S O'Callaghan
(28mins), N O'Donovan for J lynch (44mins), E
Kelleher for D O'Callaghan (55mins)
TIPPERARY: A Whelan; G Stapleton, F Young,
S Dunne; N O'Connell, B Kennedy, Michelle
Collins; M Ryan, Marion Collins; A Bristane, S
Hayes, M Gleeson; C. Walsh (0-1), E Shanahan (1-1), L Reid Subs: A M Quinlan for F
Young (htt) S Cahalane for S Dunne (htt) S
O'Dwyer for M Collins (42 mins), M Horan for
S Cahalane (in) 55mins)

S Cahalane (inj 55mins) Referee: M Conroy (Waterford)

## Dismal Cork fail to reach heights

Cork Kilkenny

2-5

KILKENNY were fully deserving of their one-point victory over Cork in this National Senior B League tie in Piltown yesterday, writes Linda Mellerick.

A goal from Catherine Corkery on 58 minutes brought Cork level for the first time in the game having been behind since the start.

Kilkenny however found the reserves to edge ahead in injury time and on the run of play deservedly took the two points after a very poor Cork display.

Indecisive, slow to the ball and lack of direct hurling were the characteristics of Cork's play throughout the hour.

Kilkenny led 1-3 to 0-1 after 15. Playing with a fairly strong breeze to their backs they had a huge sense of urgency to their game. .

The goal came after seven minutes, A long high ball was poorly dealt with by Cork, leading to Cork's goalkeeper and full-back colliding and gifting an easy tap-in for Marie Dargan.

Cork's goalkeeper Gillian Harrington had a good hour overall but was left unprotected by her fullback line. Cork's half-back line of Linda O'Connell, Jenny Duffy and Emer O'Sullivan in particular battled hard and tried to move the ball up the field.

But Cork were struggling at midfield and the defence were under

huge pressure.

Cork's only score from play in the first half came after 28 minutes, a well taken point by Miriam Deasy.

With the wind now behind them Cork were expected to turn this game around and Deasy again scored on the resumption. Two further points however by Therese Muldowney stretched Kilkenny's lead again.

Cork were given a lifeline when Brid Aylward was blocked while clearing her line and in the melee that followed Marie Watson kicked to the net. Kilkenny failed to give in and tapped over another two points compliments of Dargan again. They now led by three.

Then came Corkery's goal and Julie Woodcock's point, giving the cats the one-point victory they merited over the hour.

Scorers for Cork: C Corkery and M Watson 1-0 each, C Healy 0-3(f's), M Deasy 0-2. Kilkenny: M Dargan 1-3, T Muldowney 0-2, B Neary, E Keane, P Comerford and N Corrigan 0-1 each.

CORK: G Harrington; A M Fleming, S Cork-ery, S Hayes; J Duffy, L O'Connell, E O'Sulli-van; L Dorgan, M Corkery; M Watson, M O'Noill, E Watson; E O'Farrell, C Healy, M

Subs: C Corkery for C Healy (43min), M Hol-land for L Dorgan (51min), G Collins for E Watson (59min).

Watson (Smenn).

RILKENNY: B Aylward; A Butler, M Costello, L
Crennan; R Fennelly, A Fahy, N Butler; P
Comerford, T Muldowney; C Doherty, M
O'Keeffe, E Dermody; M Dargan, B Neary, E

Subs: J A Woodcock for E Dermody, D Minogue for L Crennen thalf time), N Cor-rigan for C Doherty (43min), A Gorey for P Comerford (51min).

## Back to the grind for Cork

RELAXED but hopefully not too relaxed is how the Cork senior management will be hoping their players are feeling when they take on Kilkenny in the League in Piltown on Sunday.

Just back after a By LINDA MELLERICK 10-day holiday in Egypt, the Cork players must now put 2005 out of their minds and concentrate on the season ahead.

Cork have four points after wins over Limerick and Galway.

This Sunday it's the

Twelve months ago when the sides met Cork had home advantage and ran out somewhat convincing of victors on a score line of 2-10 to 0-6.

But Kilkenny made them fight all the way on that occasion.

They were dogged and tenacious and it was when Una O'Donoghue netted with 12 minutes remaining that Cork could breathe easily.

As is customary the Cork management are trying out a number of new players, keeping the cycle ever turning.

Stephanie Dunlea has announced that she will not be available for selection this year. A re-occurring injury forcing Dunlea into retirement a couple of years before her time.

Vivienne Harris, while not 'retired', is sitting out the league due to exam commitments.

Yet Cork still have plenty to choose from.

Elaine O'Riordan has slotted into the full back line with ease.

Small in stature but 6ft tall when it comes to tenacity and skill, Elaine will benefit immensely from her league outings.

Senior camogie

performance Galway and the future looks bright.

Sinead Corkery of Cloughduv was invited onto the panel this year following excellent performances with her club.

At just 23 years of age she has given some rock solid performances in defence. Regina Curtin and Sarah Hayes have also rejoined the panel after a years break while Rockbán's Catriona Foley is once again pushing for inclusion.

Kilkenny have yet to produce the camogie they are renowned for.

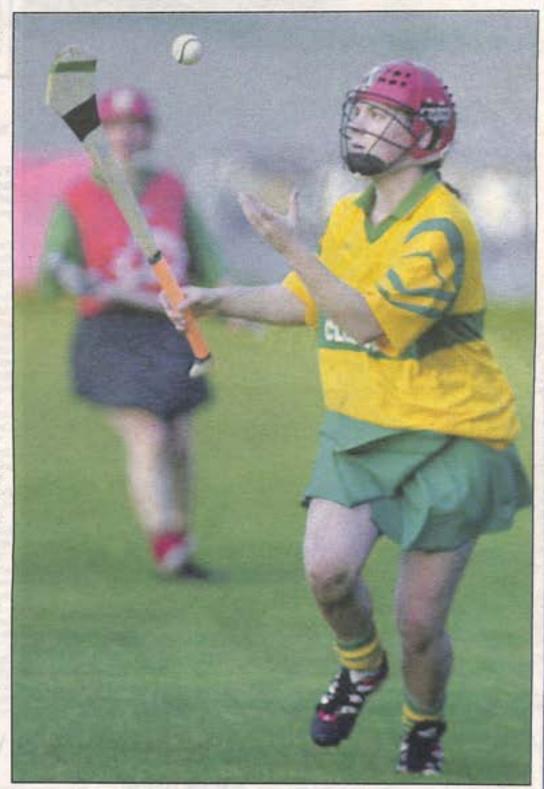
While possessing players of immense talent, the balance isn't there and time and again they rely on moments of brilliance from the likes of Sinead Millea or Lizzie Lyng to swing a game.

Catriona Ryan is a superb goalkeeper and has kept Kilkenny alive in

Should Cork approach this game in the right frame of mind having just returned from their trip abroad, then they should take the points regardless of how inexperienced a side they put out.

The prediction is that Cork will play many of their experienced campaigners and add in three or four newcomers.

Cork should take another two points into their league clash with She gave a towering Tipp in a week's time.



Cloughduv's Sinead Corkery has been added to the Cork camogie panel.

## Cork Bs to have little trouble with Cats

PRECEDING the senior game between the same two counties on Sunday is the National League division 1B

Unlike their senior counterparts Cork do not bring an unbeaten run into this.

Defeated in round one by 2005 All Ireland junior champs Dublin, they took two points from their game against Galway and still have it all to play for.

National League champions in 2005, Cork will be anxious to retain their title.

They had a comprehensive 3-17 to 1-6 victory over the cats twelve months ago and realistically should have little trouble on Sunday.

There are very few counties that have the strength in depth that Cork have. Many of the B side By LINDA MELLERICK

Junior camogle

have figured in league outings with the A's. Kilkenny are not one such county. Any player with significant talent will be snapped up to play with the A side on Sunday leaving their B side struggling. Ann Dalton was the only thorn in Cork's side last time around as she worked tirelessly to drive her team on.

Cork are solid in defence and work hard in midfield, Linda O'Connell and Marie Corkery two such players. They struggle at times up front and need more scoring

Players move up and down between the two grades and typically the B side wait to see what players are available to them after the A side is selected. The one player who moves between both grades at a hectic pace is Ciara Healy and she had a massive influence on the 2005 campaign. So far this year to date the A side have kept her for themselves. Cork could have done with her against Dublin. They may not need such assistance against the cats.

## Cork claim Tipp scalp

by Mary Newman

**Tipperary** 

THIS was a great start for the Cork under 16 team as they defeated holders Tipperary to book their place in next Monday's Munster final.

Cork were aided by the strong wind in the opening half and were stronger and fitter than their opponents. The Tipperary defence had battle through the first half with the driving wind and hailstone that made life difficult for both teams.

Catriona Collins was on target through the first half for Cork, and with Collins and Darina O'Callaghan opening the scoring with points Cork led before Catriona Walsh opened the Tipperary account.

Catriona Collins pointed a free before her free from 20 metres to deceive Ashling Whelan in the Tipp goal and end up in the net. Now hold-ing the upper hand Cork continued to press, but Tipperary also worked hard to get into the game. Laura Reid and Emer Shanahan applied the pressure in attack, but a strong Cork defence with Moira O'Donovan,

Christine O'Neill superb, ensured Cork's dominance to hold 1-4 to 0-1 interval lead.

Cork made a determined start to the second half with Catriona Collins pointing, but Emer Shanahan quickly replied for Tipperary Cork substitute Claire Keohane set up Darina O'Callaghan for Cork's second goal 15 min-utes into the half and now Cork were on their way.

Tipperary could have got a goal back when the alert Emer Shanahan blocked down goalkeeper Dawn O'Keeffe's clearance, but her shot spin wide. Two minutes later Shanahan finished Laura Reid's cross to the net, but it failed to upset Cork who replied with points from Fiona O'Connell and Collins to give them a deserved win.

With the All Ireland series this year played on an open draw basis there is huge room for improvement in both teams, but certainly on Saturday Cork looked to have been more focused.

Cork: D O'Keeffe, C O'Neil, M Foley, M O'Donovain, M.A. Hawkes, M Walsh, E Harrington, A Thompson, F O'Connell (0-1), R DE Facite, J Lynch, S O'Callaghan, D O'Callaghan (1-1), N Dilworth, C Collins (1-6,1-4 frees 9-2 play) Sub's : C Keohane for S O'Callaghan (28mins), N O'Donovan for J Lynch (44mins) E Kelleher for D O'Callaghan (55mins).

## Hungry Cats end Cork's unbeaten run

by Máire Ui Scolai

CORK suffered their first camogie defeat since their All-Ireland final victory when a hungry Kilkenny side got the better of the Rebels, 2-10 to 1-9, in Division 1A of the National League at Pilltown yesterday.

Kilkenny showed their intent from the start with Sinead Millea opening the scoring after just 38 seconds. Backed by the wind, she added two more points before Angela Walsh got Cork's opening score five minutes into

The All-Ireland champions tried hard but the best they could muster in the opening half was two points from Walsh and a Jennifer O'Leary point after seven minutes. They didn't score again until the second minute of the second half, when Kilkenny led 1-9 to 0-3, the Cats goal having come just before the break from Jacqui Frisby. Despite Rachel Moloney's immedi-

ate second-half point for the Rebels, it was quickly cancelled out by a Lizzie Lyng Black and Amber point.

With 15 minutes gone in the second half, Kilkenny were ahead 1-10 to 0-6 when Marie O'Connor found the net to clinch victory for the Cats.

The final 10 minutes were close and tense as the Cats failed to raise a flag, while the Rebels sent over a further 0-3 before Una O'Donoghue got Cork's goal two minutes into injury time. However, time had run out for the Rebels.

It was a similar story for Kilkenny's B side, as with three minutes to go the sides were level, 2-5 to 1-8. However, Julie Ann Woodcock saved the day for Kilkenny by slotting over the winner.

Dublin had a surprising 4-2 to 2-4 win over a fancied Offaly side to record their first win in Division 2A of the League in Rath.

Derry convincingly defeated Antrim 5-5 to 1-7, also in Division 2A, with three first-half goals from Claire Mc-Cloy, Sinéad Cassidy and Jane Kelly putting the Oak Leaf county into a half-time lead of 3-2 to 1-3. The Antrim goal came from top scorer Jane



Sinéad Millea: put Kilkenny on their way to a victory over Cork.

Adams, who finished the day with 1-6 - the other Saffron score coming from Rhona Torney.

As expected, Down overcame a disappointing Armagh side 1-8 to 1-3 in Division 2B.

Tyrone went home happy from Bawnboy in Cavan following their first National League win in over a year when they defeated Cavan 2-6 to 1-4 in Division 3A thanks to goals from

Bronagh Carney and Marie Jordan.

As expected, Waterford remained unbeaten in Division 3B following their 2-12 to 2-3 victory over Carlow at Walsh Park.

## Cork girls win Meagher Shield

by Mary Newman

Cork Colleges FE Carlow IT

FOUR years ago, Bertie Óg Murphy began organising camogie within the Cork Colleges of Further Education, encompassing players from St John's College, Stio-fan Naofa, and Cork College of Commerce.

Given the spread of students, training was difficult to organise, but with student Cian O'Brien, from Glen Rovers/St Nicks, and Bertie Og as coach/selector, they were determined to bring the first camogie trophy to Cork.

The competition helped build up the panel for the Meagher Shield, which is open to any institute not participating in the Ashbourne Purcen trophies. The pre liminary round determined the participants in the cup and shield, and the Cork side lost to a strong St Patrick's, Dublin, in their opening game, but defeated Tipperary T to qualify for the shield final against Carlow IT, on Saturday last.

This is an historic first,

winning the Meagher Shield at the expense of last season's winners. The teams were 13-a-side. Cork set the pace from the throw-in. Points from Captain Linda Dorgan and Marion O Donovan gave them a lead they held to the finish. Cork dictated in midfield, where Theresa McLoughlin partnered the impressive Linda Dorgan. Sleet and hailstone made

conditions difficult, but Cork led 1-5 to 0-0 at the interval. Linda Dorgan scored the vital goal. Cork continued to dominate in the second-half. Ann Marie Moyles and Linda Dorgan scored points to increase the Cork lead, as Carlow pressed for the equaliser. Goalkeeper Aoife Finnegan played her best to prevent Carlow from scoring, and, with Noelle Collins scoring a second Cork no way back for Carlow.

Cork College of FE: Aoife Finnegan, Ide Ahern, Colleen O'Keeffe, Stephanie McInerney, Marion O'Donovan (0-1), Sineed O' Mahony, Linda Dorgan (1-5), Taresa McLoughlin, Aileen Kennedy, Noelle Collins, (1-0) Teresa Coughlin, Claire Colmen, Anne-Marie Moyles (0-1), Subst Caroline McContr line McCarthy for Claire Coleman

## CIT awards



Jenny Duffy, camogie, and John Gardiner, hurling, winners at the CIT/CMP Dairy Sports Awards 2006 achievements of the students. held at the Oriel Hotel, Ballincollig.

By MARY WHITE

CIT Sports Awards

THE Cork Institute of Technology Sports Awards, in association with CMP Dairies, was held on Thursday in the Oriel Hotel, Ballincollig.

This is the 13th year the awards have been in operation and previous graduates and recipients include Brian Corcoran, David Wallace, Eoin 'Bomber' Liston, Joe Kavanagh, Sarah Kelleher, Dave Barry and Connor Counihan.

Having been held in the Gresham Metropole Hotel for the last number of years, the change of venue was selected to coincide with the combining of both the sports awards and the annual CIT sports

More than 200 guests attended a gala dinner where guest of honour Batt O'Keeffe TD, Minister of State at the Department of Environment. Heritage and Local Government presented the various awards.

CIT sports officer Miriam De said: "It's a fantastic night and it allows us to recognise the sporting

"We decided to combine the

## CENTRAL COAST SCORES FIRST EVER

(2006-04-11)



Camogie made its Australian debut over the weekend of March 26th in Gosford on the New South Wales Central Coast. While there have been ongoing efforts to establish the code into the Australasian GAA calendar, up to now players and fans of the game had to make do with the occasional exhibition game. However, all that changed during the annual Central Coast GAA Club's tournament, where Camogie was added to the card along with hurling and both men's and ladies football. Given the enthusiasm illustrated for the code over the past weeks leading up to the tournament, confidence is high that the game will prosper. Five teams from the Sydney participated in the inaugural Camogie tournament, hosts Central Coast, Clan na Gael, Michael Cusacks, St Patrick's and the newly formed Cormac McAnallens Club. Games were played on a nine aside basis of 15 minutes aside and even from early morning Australian GAA fans many witnessing the game for the first time were revelling in the fare on offer.

During the round robin stage of the tournament the hosts Central Coast carved out a 4 point win over fierce rivals Cusacks on a 7-9 to 6-8 scoreline, but it took some last gasp defending from the Coast Susan Henebery to deny the Cusacks an equalising goal. Sandra Tannian from Galway latched on the insurance point for the coast in the final minute of the game. However all who witnessed the game were in no doubt that these two teams would surely meet in the business end of the day. And as it transpired further wins for the Coast and the Cusacks in the day saw them meeting again in the historic final.

A mouth-watering clash was expected with both teams having a mix of experienced inter county players and girls who had only taken up the sport in the last month or so. However, in the finish the Central Coast had too much for the Cusacks, winning on a 6-6 to 3-1 scoreline. Sterling performances in the final from the likes of the Rathnure and Wexford trio of Michelle O Leary, and

Claire and Aoife O Connor, while in the half forward line Sandra Tannian exuded class throughout. Fittingly the final score of the day was a fine point from the Coast captain and longtime stalwart of the Central Coast club Honoria Mitchell.

Darkness was setting in when the Danny Wisner Memorial Cup was presented to the Coast captain Honoria Mitchell while Sandra Tannian was named the best and fairest in the final. Coast Team:

Janet Broderick (Galway), Claire O Connor (Wexford), Susan Henebery (Kilkenny), Nora Sutton (Kilkenny), Helen Murphy (Waterford) Aoife O Connor (Wexford), Michelle O'Leary (Wexford), Sandra Tannian (Galway) and Honoria Mitchell CAPTAIN (Galway) Subs: Annemarie Murphy (Waterford) Nadine Cunningham (Antrim) Natalie Stanfield (Down)

Bernadette, Grace and Elaine Kearney (Carlow) Catriona Ryan (Cork)

The squad was managed and coached by Enniscorthy Shamrocks duo Kevin Dobbs and Adrian Murphy.

Left to right - standing

Honoria Mitchell - CAPTAIN (Galway), Adrian Murphy (Wexford), Bernadette Kearney (Carlow), Sandra Tannian (Galway), Natalie Stanfield (Down), Nora Sutton (Kilkenny), Susan Henebery

(Kilkenny), Janet Broderick (Galway), Helen Murphy (Waterford), Grace Kearney

Left to right - Kneeling

Elaine Kearney (Carlow), Nadine Cunningham (Antrim), Annemarie Murphy (Waterford), Aoife O'Connor (Wexford), Michelle O'Leary (Wexford), Claire O'Connor (Wexford), Kevin Dobbs

## **Players** should not be out of pocket

ALL week the talk has been about the GPA and its 15 minute strike this coming weekend at inter-county games.

The views on this thorny subject are varied.

I think you have to play at inter-county level to realise just how much of a commitment it is.

People hear the stories, talk about what players have gone through, admire them and put them on a pedestal. But despite all this, they don't realise the full extent of what it takes out of a person, and not just in a physical

Your whole life revolves around it and as Mary O'Connor quite rightly put when interviewed on RTE radio last September after winning her second All Ireland senior medal in two weeks, "you've to be selfish with your time."

The players are the lifeblood of the GAA It is the players and the game that the thousands turn out to support. All the incredible administrative work and innovation done at headquarters and across the country won't push the turnstiles.

But these people are also a huge part of our organisation, an organisation which many envy.

From the outset I was never in support of paying players. It never was and never should be the reason someone yearns to wear their native jersey

No matter how 'rich' the GAA are, to start down this road no matter how small would lead to huge problems later on. It may take 10 years but it will happen.

Players will want more, some will get greedy, inter-county transfers would begin (even if disguised under job location) and then where would we be?

County pride and love is what makes the GAA special. Take that away and we become a pale shadow of what we are now.

On the other hand I agree totally with players receiving the very best of gear, expenses, medical attention, training facilities, holidays and appearance contributions.

I even love to see them being presented with complimentary cars and securing commercial deals.

Without a doubt they deserve the very best. The problem is however that only the 'chosen few' will receive the 'deals' and the 'complimentary car'.

While every team has a panel of stars, there is always one or two that the public take to their hearts.

The very minute they touch the ball the sense of anticipation escalates and the crowd rise to their feet.

Children in particular almost



Cork camogie star Mary O'Connor.



dictate a player's rise to super stardom. I'm talking the likes of Sean Òg Ó hAilpin, Colm Cooper and DJ Carey.

For this reason alone the balance is unfairly tipped and I am 100% behind the Government Grant scheme and Croke Park should endorse it immediately.

Every inter-county player regardless of their success rate both on and off the field (commercially) will benefit and that is how it should be.

Strike action, no matter how small, is giving the GAA an ultimatum. It gets peoples' backs up and should only come as a truly last resort.

The GPA has to be prepared to be turned down at times. I hope this doesn't lead to a threat of strike action every time.

Let's look at it from a camogie point of view and I hope that our team in national headquarters are actively pursuing this. What about our grant? I have droned on before about the girls' level of commitment and I'm sorry but I'm going to drone on again.

They get no expenses, gear once a year if they reach an All Ireland final (this is typically a pair of socks, jersey, skirt, tracksuit and polo shirt), no meal after training, sandwiches after a match no matter how great the journey home, no insurance cover unless you take it out through your club and pay for it yourself, no holiday (unless they fundraise themselves for three/four months), no free hurleys (buy your own despite breaking three in one match), no commercial deals, no cars, no masseuse and very little medical attention.

Now please don't tell me - No grant! This cannot happen surely.

I can honestly put my hand on my heart and say that every girl suffers out of pocket expense in a bid to play for her county.

I hope that every female inter-county player in the country let's her voice be heard regarding

Of course there must be rules and regulations governing this grant.

A player should not qualify by turning up for a training session or one league fixture.

But someone like Mary O'Connor or Vivienne Harris who have 10 and 11 years of inter-county service behind them surely should.

An issue we haven't heard the last of, I hope.

# O'Regan presents camogie awards

SEANDÚN camogie players recently celebrated their success in capturing the inter-divisional U16 title at the expense of Avondhu.

Cork camogie star Amanda O'Regan handed out the winners' medals.

Addressing the gathering, Amanda complemented the players and selectors, Cathal Egan, Ger Sheehan and Pat Murray for the hard work which ensured their team's success.

The victory speaks volumes of the work being done by all the clubs in the division and it's a credit to the club that every club in the division had a representative on the panel of

Seandún were the second divisional camogie committee to be set up 11 years ago under the chairmanship of present county chairperson Marion McCarthy as they set about organise camogie for the players within the city clubs.

The current divisional chairperson is Billy O'Sullivan from Bishopstown while runai is Mairead Ni Mhaoileoin from Blackrock.

They organise league /championship competition at U11A and B, U13A and B and U15A and B age levels while they also organise comBy MARY NEWMAN

Canvogie latest

petitions and fun days for the younger age groups.

Egan, speaking on behalf of his fellow selectors, paid tribute to their charges and also thanked all the clubs for their huge contribution and complimented St Vincent's and Glen Rovers who facilitated the divisional side with the use of their facilities for training.

"It was a huge help to be able to organise regular training sessions and this helped us immensely," said Cathal

Captain Katie Hickey, from Bishopstown, had huge praise for her team-mates and thanked the officers of the division for their work within the vibrant division.

The division also participate in the senior county championship and are looking ahead after a great 2005.

The players were joined by parent's, club-mates and friends for a very enjoyable evening where, without doubt, the highlight was the visit of O'Regan who made the medal presentation. No doubt we will hear a lot more from these young ladies in the not to distant future as already six of them were members of Cork U16 panel that recently took provincial honours.



Cork senior player Amanda O'Regan pictured with Denise Luby, Lydia Cunningham, Karen O'Connell and Amand. Dorgan at the Seandún celebration night.



Denise Luby, Lydia Cunningham, Karen O'Connell and Amanda Dorgan show off their silverware at the Seandúr celebration night.



Emma Jordan, Ellen Crowley and Aileen O'Donovan enjoy their Seandún celebration evening held recently.



Aisling Cotter, Katie Hickey, Danielle Boyle, Denise Luby and Lydia Cunningham at the Seand celebration night.



If you want your club featured in these pages contact Echo Sport on 021-4802228

LEFT: Jill Kelleher, Sarah Sisk and Maeve Scanlon at the Seandún celebration night. RIGHT: Pamela and Catriona Mackey Laura Bowen and Orla Ni Dhomhnaill pictured with the trophy.



## **CORK MUNSTER U16 CHAMPIONS**

WELL done to the Under 16 team who were crowned Munster champions on Saturday last thanks mainly to a superb second half display against a determined Clare side.

Cork set the pace with points from Ashling Thompson, Roisin De Faoite and Clare Keohane but Clare were back on level thanks to points from Sharon Enright and Corina Rosengrave (2) Cork fell into arrears

Cork take points on offer

Cork maintained their dominance from the restart

and continued to pick off their scores as Tipperary

struggled in stay in contention. A Marie Watson's

goal 17 minutes into the half had secured the points

long before Tipperary hit back for a goal and a point

in the closing seconds. The victory helps maintain

Cork interest in the league and they face their last

game at home to Wexford on April 30 and it will go

down to results from other games.

when Triona Kelly evaded the Cork defense to finish to the net but to their credit the Cork's response was instant and points from Roisin de Faoite (2) and Fiona O Connell saw it level 0-6 to 1-3 at the break.

On the resumption Cork hit back and points from Catriona Collins and Ashling Thompson had them back ahead before Clare Keohane struck for the games opening goal. Clare were struggling to Collins pointed a Cork
free and when substitute
Sinead O Callaghan
struck for Corks first goal
Clare were in trouble.
Cork had added three
points before Clare had
their first score of the second half two Aine O Brien
pointed frees. Ashling
Thompson replied for
Corks with a point before
Corina Rosengrave

replied for Clare. Captain Dawn o Keeffe was presented with the Munster championship trophy by Eamonn Brown chairman Munster council.

In the open draw All Ireland championship Cork take on Galway on April 30 in their first game, the championship will be played on a round robin series this year and with the provincial crown safely tucked away Cork can now turn their attention to annexing major honours

## Senior Meet Tipperary

THE Senior Division 1 b team recovered from their defeat at the hands of Kilkenny last week to record a good victory over Tipperary on Saturday last. Cork led from the throw in with Cotter particularly impressive at mid field, Marie O'Neill opened the scoring as Eimear Watson, Orla Cotter, and Marie Watson extending the lead with Marie O'Neill for both sides, Cork having making it six points just before the break as they led

This is a crucial game for both sides, Cork having suffered a defeat at the hands of Kilkenny are on four points from three games and they will need to annex two points this evening to stay on course for a semi final spot,

Tipperary are on full points having recorded three wins out of three, as is the norm when these sides meet a lot will

depend on just how strong their line out will be.

Cork introduced new faces through this league campaign and they will be looking with interest to this evening test by a Tipperary side who are pleased with their league campaign to date.

Cork meet Wexford in their last game on April 30th while on the same day Kilkenny face Tipperary, the outcome of all remaining game will have be a deciding factor in what team make it to the final on May 14. THE draws for the Tower View Carrigatine, as

THE draws for the Tower View Developments Cork Camogie championship were made at last Monday nights county board meeting Over the coming weeks we will take a look at the draws as the dates draw nearer we will analysis the various clubs chances.

Senior A Championship Preliminary Round

Muskerry v Carbery Round 1

Aghbullogue v Fr O Neills Inniscarra v Ballygarvan Kilbrittan v Courcey Rovers Cloughduy / St. Finbarrs

Cloughduv / St. Finbarrs Milford V Barryroe

Loser Milford /Barryroe v Imokilly

Losers Cloughduv / ST Finbarrs v Carrigdhoun Losers Aghbullogue/ FR O Neills

v Seandun Losers Inniscarra / Ballygarvan v Avondhu

Losers Kilbrittan / Courcey Rovers v Winners Muskerry / Carbery

Round 3 will be drawn after completion of round 1 and 2 Senior B Championship

Two Groups games to be play on a round robin basis top two teams to come out to contest the semi finals Group 1 Valley Rovers,

Newcestown,

Ballinhassig.

Carrigaline, and St Catherines Group 2 Douglas, Bishopstown,

Camogiechat

Glen Rovers, Eire OG

JUNIOR A CHAMPIONSHIP

Two groups to be played on round robin top four to semi finals

Group 1 Watergrashill, Sarsfields and

Newtownshandrum.

Group 2

Tracton, Blackrock, Rockban,

Ballyhea
JUNIOR B CHAMPIONSHIP

Round 1

A Mallow v Dungourney B Kildorrey v Brian Dillon's C Ballinascarty v Delaney's

Youghal v Ballincollig

Round 2 E: Clonakilty v Winners Mallow /

Dungourney F: Buttervant v Winners Youghal/ Ballincollig

G: Winners Ballinascarty / Delaney's v Na Piarsaig

H: Sliabh Rua v winners Kildorrey/ Brian Dillon's

Semi finals
Winners F V Winners E

Sunday April 23rd

Winners G V Winners H

## Cork can get the better of Clare in U16 decider

SATURDAY Munster U16 final Cork v Clare Tulla 1.45pm

FRESH from their victory over Tipperary last weekend, the Cork U16 team take on Clare in the Munster final on Saturday in Tulla at 1.45cm

Cork held all the aces over a disappointing Premier County side last Saturday but they can expect a much sterner test from a Clare side who had to battle to the final whistle in their semi final outing with Limerick before securing their place in the final. Trailing 3-1 to 1-2 at the interval, they turned in superb second half display to record a 2-9 to 3-3 victory spearheaded by captain Kate Lynch and goalkeeper Susan Vaughan.

Three years ago U16 camogie in Clare received a massive boost when they annexed their first Munster minor championship title and since then they have worked hard to maintain the standard.

Coach Fintan McNamara has built up a new squad this season backboned by players from the St Joseph's Tulla College's side that took the All-Ireland C championship title recently. By MARY NEWMAN

Cork v Clare camogle

Amongst the players that they will look to guide their fortunes are Aine Dinan, Ann McMahon, Stephanie Moloney, and Ruth Leamy.

County board vice chairman Mary Hogan was impressed by their fighting spirit of the side in their clash with Limerick: "They are a very focused side and overall they performed well, trailing at the break they fought tooth and nail to get back into the game and went on to record a splendid win.

"We are looking forward to our

meeting with Cork and it will serve as very good practice for the All-Ireland open draw series which lies ahead of both counties."

Certainly, while the focus is ultimately on winning an All Ireland title for manager George O' Callaghan and fellow selectors Rose White and Paddy Corkery, winning of the provincial crown would be a step in the right direction.

While pleased with his charges' victory last weekend, O'Callaghan did admit there was room for improvement, but given that it was his side's first outing, he was pleased with their display.

The Cork defence was seldom tested but this time out they will be looking for a bigger and better contribution from their forward division.

Last weekend only two of the six forwards contributed to the score sheet and were it not for the accuracy of Catriona Collins, who was unerring with her free taking, scoring 1-4 from frees out Cork's total of 2-8, they would have been in trouble. It's time now for some socks to be pulled up as big test has arrived.

Again, as with all underage matches, it's hard to call but tradition dictates a Cork victory.

## Cork surge clear in second half to win U16 crown

Cork Clare 2-13

A SUPERB second half display ensured Cork were crowned provincial U16 camogie champions on Saturday.

Their superiority can be measured by the statistics as they held the Clare attack scoreless from the 20th minute of the opening half to the 29th minute of the second.

In between Cork showed their dominance in all sectors with their defence well on top, their midfield pairing of Fiona O'Connell and Ella Kelleher dictating proceedings, while up front they picked off scores

at every opportunity.

At the half-time whistle it was level, 1-3 to 0-6 Triona Kelly having shot the home side into the lead in the 20th minute with a well-taken goal which served as a wake up call to Cork.

Thompson, Roisin De Faoite and Clare Keohane helped Cork stay in touch as Clare had points from Sharon Enright and Corina Rosengrave (2). A strong closing 10 minutes saw Cork dominate firing over three points without reply and it was all to play for in the second

In the opening quarter Ashling

half.
From the off Cork were quick out of the traps, Catriona Collins and By MARY NEWMAN

U16 Championship

Thompson firing over points before Clare Keohane struck for the rebels opening goal inside eight minutes. Cork were now well in command and began to pull away as Clare struggled to find their feet. A pointed Collins free was followed by a goal from substitute Sinead O'Callaghan and the title was now heading Leeside.

Cork had added three to their tally before Clare finally found the range with two Aine O'Brien pointed frees with four minutes remaining, Ashling Thompson had Cork's 13th before Rosengrave got one back for a Clare.

Selector Rose White was delighted with her charge's display: "At half time it was anybody's game but we asked the girls to step up the pace and give it their all and they did, we are thrilled with their performance and we will now work harder to bring the All Ireland title back.

"We face Galway on April 30 in our first game in the round robin series and we will have to refocus again for that but we are pleased with today's result and delighted to be provincial U16 champions."

CORK: D O Keeffe, C O Neill, M Foley, M O Donovan, M A Hawkes, M Walsh, E Harrington, F O Connell(0-1), E Kelleher, R de Facite(0-4), C Kechane(1-1), A Thompson.(0-4) D O Caltaghan, N Dilworth, C Collins, Subs: L O Shea for M A Hawkes, S O Caltaghan for N Dilworth, K Hickey for E Harrington, J Lynch for R de Facite, N Donovan for C Kechane

CLARE: S Vaughan, N Martin, A Dillon, O Keane, E Considine, A O Shea, A McMahon, A O Brien, KM Lynch, S Enright, C Kaiser, R O Brien, T Kelly, S Moloney, C. Rosengrave

Referee: J O Donnell Limerick

### CORK CAMOGIE RESULTS

U16 League: Glen Rovers 4-5 Bishopstown 0-1, Ballinora 8-4 Youghal 3-3, Glen Rovers 7-10 Erins Own 0-2, St. Catherines 2-3 Watergrashill 1-1 Inniscarra 3-7 Douglas 0-1, Carrigafine 2-0 Douglas "2" 0-0; U12 League: Ballinora 4-1 Aghbullogue 1-0,Mifford 10-5 Valley Rovers 1-0, Douglas 2-2 Glen Rovers 0-0, Cloughday 1-0 St. Finbarrs 0-0, Douglas 1-0 Clonakity 0-0; U14 League: Glen Rovers 4-5 Courcey Rovers 0-2, Barryroe 1-1 Passage 1-0 , Passage 2-5 St. Finbarrs 0-0 Senior League Glen Rovers 1-13 Valley Rovers 3-4

## Donovan's brace keeps Cork's league interests alive

Cork Tipperary

by Maire Ui Scolai

CORK kept their National league interests alive last night with a hard fought win over arch rivals Tipperary in Golden.

This was a game that the Rebels had

to win and once Una O'Donoghue sent over her side's opening point in response to Cora Hennessey's second minute point for Tipp, they showed they meant business.

Two Cork goals within a minute almost sank Tipperary midway through the first half. First Sarah Donovan was in the right place to bury the ball to the net and then Elaine Burke put Cork in command.

Jennifer O'Leary scored her fourth point of the first half to leave Cork leading 2-7-0-4 at the break.

Tipp's Joanne Ryan sent over the first score of the second half with just two minutes gone and Emer McDonnell crashed home Tipperary's only goal of the game four minutes later to cut the deficit to 2-7-1-6. However, Cork settled the tie with their third goal immediately, when Sarah Donovan found the net.

Two Clare Grogan frees for Tipperary put Cork under pressure at the end but they had done enough.

Scorers for Cork: S Donovan 2-0, E Burke 1-1, J O'Leary 0-4 (0-1f, 0-2'45), U O'Donoghue, G O'Connor 0-1 each.

Tipperary: E Mc Donnell 1-0, C Grogan 0-8 (all frees), J Ryan, C Hennessey 0-1 each.

CORK: A Murray: J O'Callaghan, C Foley, E O'Riordan; S Hayes, M O'Cannor, G O'Connor; B Corkery, R Moloney; U O'Donoghue, J O'Leary, A Waish; E Me Donnell, S Donovan, E Burke.

Subs: A O'Regan for B Corkery 45mins, O Cotter for E O'Riordan 55mins.

TIPPERARY, J Delaney; M Tynan, U O'Dwyer, J Kinwan; S Nealon, T O'Halloran, M Shorts: L Bourke, J O'Halloran; J Byan, C Hennessey, C Grogan; E Mc Donnell, E Hayden, G Kinnane.

Subs: D Dunne for J O'Halioran 44mins, M Ryan for G Kinnane 55mins.

Referee: M Conroy, Waterford.

## Superb Cork take u16 camogie crown in style

Cork Clare

## by Mary Newman

CORK took the Under 16 carnogie champions title at the expense of Clare in Tulia. A superb second half display saw the new champions dominate proceedings in a half where Clare had to wait until the 28th minute to record their opening score helped Cork secure victory.

Points from Ashling Thompson, Roisin De Faoite and Clare Keohane gave Cork the early advantage, but Clare were back on level thanks to points from Sharon Enright and Corina Rosengrave (2). Triona Kel-ly gave Clare the lead in the 20th minute with a well taken goal, but Cork replied with points from Roisin de Faite (2) and Fiona O'Connell to turned over level 0-6 to 1-3 at the break.

On the resumption Cork were focused and points from Catriona Collins and Ashling Thompson had stretched the lead before Clare Keohane struck for the game's opening goal. Cork began to dictate matters as the Clare challenge faded, Catriona Collins pointed a free and it was followed by a goal from substitute Sinead O'Callaghan. Cork added three to their tally before Clare had their first score of the second half with two Aine O Brien pointed frees with four minutes remaining.

Ashling Thompson had Cork's 13th point before Corina Rosengrave replied for Clare on a day when the sharper more focused Cork were full value for their victory. Captain Dawn O'Keeffe was presented with the Munster championship trophy by Eamonn Brown chairman Munster council.

In the open draw All Ireland championship Cork take on Galway on April 30 in the first game. The championship will be played on a round robin series this year, and with the provincial crown won, Cork can now turn their attention to annexing major honours.

CORK: D O Keeffe, C O Neill, M Foley, M O Donovan, M A Hawkes, M Walsh, E Harrington, F O Connell(0-1), E Kelleher, R de Facite(0-4), C Kechane(1-1), A Thompson,(0-4) D O Callaghan, N Dilworth, C Collins.

Sub's: L O Shea for M A Hawkes, S O Callaghan for N Dilworth, K Hickey for E Harrington, J Lynch for R de Faoite, N Donovan for C Keohane.

## Cork's B side need to pick up the points

By LINDA MELLERICK

THE Cork Senior B side travel to Cashel tomorrow and take on the home side in their fourth outing in this year's Division 1B National Senior League campaign.

Cork have made hard work of it to date and they will need victory in the Premier County if they hope to qualify for the latter stages.

They go into tomorrow's game with just two points, having defeated Galway three weeks ago.

A first-round outing against All Ireland champions Dublin resulted in a three-point defeat.

Cork started well in this game but a poor return up front cost them dearly.

Despite having led almost the entire hour a week later in Galway, Cork found themselves a point adrift a minute into injury time after Michelle Glynn struck a goal for the westerners.

However, two long-range clearances from Eimear O'Sullivan saved Cork and presented them the valuable league points.

Seven days ago in Piltown, Cork gave a lethargic display and yet still could have beaten Kilkenny but the Cats edged ahead in injury time and took the game by a single point.

So Cork have two points from three games and really have to win on Saturday to remain in any contention for the closing stages.

Wexford await on the April 30 in the last game of the

There are no guarantees that if Cork win their remaining two games they are through.

They will also be dependant on other games going their

Cork are, on paper, a good side but they need to play more games together and that's why reaching the closing stages of the league is important.

They find it hard to settle a team due to the fact that management tend to wait and see what senior panellists are available to them and selection is normally the day of the match.

Maybe they should work with what they are guaranteed of having and should a senior player become available to them look on it as a bonus and get them to fit in with the structure already in place.

## Rebels in control from start to finish

By LINDA MELLERICK

Cork Tipperary 1-12

IN A game that started 30 minutes behind schedule due to the late appearance of the referee, the result was never in doubt.

Cork took the lead in the first of this Division 1B National Senior League tie against Tipp and never relinquished it.

Conditions were perfect in Cashel but the game itself lacked any real excitement. Cork had 70% of possession from the throw in, due mainly to Orla Cotter lauding it at midfield. Cork should have been more than 0-6 to 0-1 to the good at the break

Tipperary goalkeeper Roseanne Kenneally brought off two magnificent point blank saves in the last 10 minutes of the half but still Cork had the opportunities to hit over at least another five points.

Mairead Luttrell was excellent in defence for Tipp and the winning margin would have been far greater but for her presence. The game was physically tough and tight very little free flowing hurling produced.

Elaine O'Riordan read the game intelligently at full back and made tremendous clearances. Lynda O'Connell once again gave a whole hearted display at centre-back while Cotter was a real termentor.

Marie O'Neill opened the scoring followed by an Eimear Watson point. Cotter hit two (one a free) before Marie Watson made it five.

Despite Cork's dominance, it was another 10 minutes before they registered another score and it came almost on the stroke of half time from O'Neill again.

Cork opened up the play a little better for the second 30 minutes and some good moves resulted in some good scores, most notably Marie Watson's goal 17 minutes into the half. A long ball in from Lynda Dorgan found Eamear atson who passed to sister Marie and

she made no mistake from close range. Tipp fought hard but came up against a solid wall in O'Riordan. O'Connell, Lucy Hawkes and Elmear

O'Sullivan. From Tipperary's point of view it was damage limitation and they put a better reflection on the score board with 1-1 in the dying minutes of the

Scorers for Cork: O Cotter 0-5 (0-3f), M Was-son 1-1, E Watson 0-3, M O'Neill 0-2, C Corkery 0-1.

Tipperary: C Johnson 0-3, A McLoughney 1-0, N Flanagan 0-1.

CORK: G Harrington; A M Fleming, E Q'Ri-orden, L Hawkes: J Duffy, L O'Connell, E D'Sullivan: D Cotter, L Dorgan; E O Farrell, M O'Neill, E Wasson; M Watson, M Dossy, C

Subs: S Corkery, M Jappe, J Lucey for A M Flaming, E O'Fairell and C Corkery (52min), D Hayes and M Browne for M Deasy and L O'Connell (54 min).

TIPPERARY: R Kennesity; M Kirwan, S Mor-rissey, C Heffernen; L Burke, M Lutrel, T Maher; J Nolan, M Ryan; D Dunne, C O'Sul-livan, E Ryan; C Johnson, K Kennedy, N Flanagan.

Subs:A McLoughney for N Flanagan

### CAMOGIE

Division 1A: Limerick 1-5 Kilkentry 3-12: Wexford 3-5 Galway 0-11.

Division 18: Tipperary 1-4 Cork 1-12; Dublin 2-10 Kilkenny 0-7; Wexford 2-10

Division 2A: Dublin 3-0 Antrim 2-12; Derry 3-7 Kildare 1-8.

Division 3A: Cavan 2-2 Westmeath 5-12; Roscommon/Tyrone off.

Division 38: Moath 3-4 Carlow 3-11; Waterford 5-12 London 2-2.

### CAMOGIE

NL Division 28 Play-Off Clare 2-13: C O'Loughlin 1-2, S Donnellan 1-0, C Mc Mahon 0-8, F Lafferry, 0-2, L Lionane 0-1, Dewei, 3-8: K O'Higgins, C Mc Gourty, A Fearon 1-0 each, C Mc Crickard, M Mc Alsenan, K Gribben, F Care D. 2 each

Carr 0-2 each.
Offaly: 3-8: M Wyer 2-0, M Mc Cabe
1-1,M Davis 0-5 (0-3F), E Corcoran, A
Kelly 0-1each Anteim: 1-10J Dickson
1-0, J Adams 0-7 (0-2h, R Torney 0-3.
Pan Celtic Senior 'A' Good Counsel
Dublin 2-7, Mullagh, Galway, 1-6 U16'A'
Mullagh, Galway 3-2,Toomevera,Tipperary 2-2.

APRIL

2006

## Camogie results

Junior A League final 2005: Douglas 5-11 Sarsfields 0-3.

Senior League: Kilbritan 4-9 Barryroe 2-7; Douglas 1-11 Bishopstown 0-2; Aghbullogue 3-12 Inniscarra 1-3; Ballinhassig 2-6 Carrigaline 3-0.

Junior B League: Ballincollig 5-16 Brian Dillons 2-0.

U18 championship (round Robin Series): St Catherines 2-9 Ballincollig 1-7, Buttervant 1-7 Douglas 1-5.

U16 League: Brian Dillons 2-2 Ballincollig "2" 2-0; Newtworshandrum 5-4 Newcestown 2-0.

U14 League: Glen Rovers 2-5 Valley Rovers 1-2; Valley Rovers 2-1 Milford

## **Double for** Douglas as Rachel shines

Douglas Sarsfields 5-11

DOUGLAS ended their term in the junior "A" grade in style, adding the 2005 camogie league title to their championship crown, proving too strong for Sarsfields in Riverstown yesterday morning, writes Mary New-

Despite the scoreline the home side are to be complimented for their wholehearted efforts.

Indeed in the opening quarter it was Sars who won most of the possession, but twice failure in front of goal was their downfall.

Jenny O'Donovan shot Douglas into an early led with a goal inside three minutes but Orla Barry replied for Sarsfields.

We had to wait until the 15th minute for another score and it was Douglas who grabbed the opportunity, Rachel O Sullivan edging Sinead O Leary's clearance over the line.

Sars worked hard but again failed to take their chances, while Douglas picked off four points through Amanda O Regan, Sinead O Leary and Rachel o Sullivan, to which Oria Barry replied with a pointed free as Douglas turned over, leading 2-5 to 0-2. Sarsfields were dealt a killer blow, losing Emer O'Farrell with an ankle injury at half-time whistle.

On the turn-over the young Sars side battled to stay in contention, but the strength of their opponents was too much.

Niamh Donovan and Orla Barry exchanged points inside six minutes but Douglas now began to find their feet. Two goals inside a minute from Rachel O'Sullivan signalled no way back for Sarsfields.

Helen O'Mahony, Amanda O Regan and Jenny O'Donovan picked off points before an Amanda O Regan goal sealed the league and championship double for the Douglas girls.

Credit to Sarsfields for a whole -hearted committed display.

They can look forward to the junior "A" championship and league with confidence while, for Douglas, their concentration will be on Senior B status for 2006

DOUGLAS: C Conway, L Sheehan, F Mc-Sweeney, F O Donovan, A Barrett, A O'Regan (1-3, 0-2 frees, 1 45"), L O Regan (c), H O Mahony (0-1), E Morgan, N O Donovan (0-1), S O Leary (0-2) R O Sulli-van (3-1), L O'Mahony, J O Donovan (1-3, 0-1 free), Z Dunlea.

Subs. S O Regan for A Barrett (44mins),D Murphy for L O Mahony(44mins), O Curtin for N O Donovan (44 min) E Desmond for F O Donovan, K O Driscoti for F Mc

SARSFIELDS: B O Reilly, N Whooley, T O Dwyer, J O Donoghue (c), J Dennehy, E O Farrell, D Murphy, E Murphy, M O Donoghue, M O Farrell, O Barry, 10-3 0-2 frees 0-1 45) C Holland, A Whooley, V O Leary, A Barry.

Subs. O Butler for V O Leary half time), M Kelleher for E O Farrell (injury half sing) M Kelleher for A Whooley (40mins) O Le-onard for M O Farrell (45mins)

Referee: C Looney.

## Camogie draws

by Mary Newman

THE focus of camogie clubs was on Páirc Uí Chaoimh on Monday evening last as the draws for the Tower View Developments Cork County Championship took place.

Last year, the county board successfully introduced back-door system for the Senior A championship and this season it will continue, in a slightly different format. The Senior B and Junior A will be played on a round-robin basis.

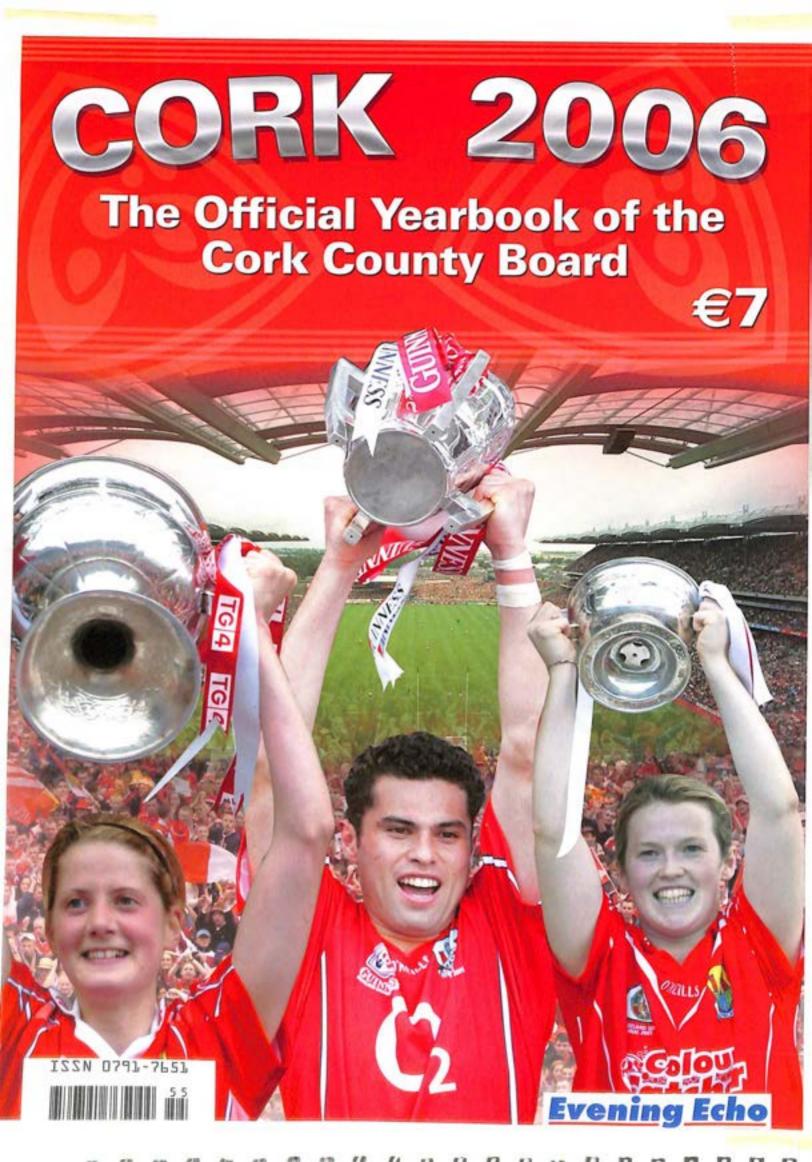
Tower View Developments Cork camo-gie championship draws
Senior A Preliminary Round
Muskerry v Carbery Round 1 Aghabul-logue v Fr O' Neills, Inniscarra v Bally-garvan, Kilbritzan v Courcey Rovers Cloughduv/St Finbarrs Milford V Barry-roe. Round 2 losers Milford / Barryroe v Imokilly, Ioser Cloughduv /St Finbarrs v Carrigdhoun, Iosers AghabullogueFr O' Neills v Seandoun, Iosers Inniscarra/ Ballygarvan v Avondhu, Iosers Kilbrit-tan/Courcey Rovers v winners Musker-ry/Carbery.

tan/Courcey Rovers v winners Muskerry/Carbery.

Round 3 will be drawn after completion
of round 1 and 2. Senior 8, two Groups
games to be played on a round robin
basis, top two teams to come out to
contest the semi-finals. Group 1: Valley
Rovers, Newcestown, Ballinhassig,
Carrigaline, St Catherine's, Group 2:
Douglas, Bishopstown, Glen Rovers,
Eire Og, Junior A, two groups to be
played our round robin, top four to semi-finals. Group 1: Watergrasshill,
Newtownshandrum, Sarsfields. Group
2: Tracton, Blackrock, Rockban, Ballyhea.

JUNIOR B CHAMPIONSHIP A

JUNIOR B CHAMPIONSHIP A
Mallow v Dungourney B Kildorrery v
Brian Dillion's C Battinascarty v Delany's
Youghal v Battincollig E: Clonakity v
winners Mallow/Dungourney F: Buttevart v winners Youghalfbatincollig G:
winners Battinascarty/Delany's v Na Piarsaigh H: Silabh Rua v winners Kildorrery/Brian Dillon's, Semi-finals, winners
F V winners E, winners G V winners H.



## New Heroes Step to the Plate for Cork Camogie



The Cork team which played Tipperary in the All-Ireland senior camogie final at Croke Park. Picture Dan Linehan

### By Linda Mellerick

ands up who predicted Cork's win over Tipp to land their 21st All-Ireland Camogie crown.
Unless you were a member of or close to the panel, you can put your hand down 'cause you are probably lying.

The only people who really truly believed they could land the title were the only people who really mattered the players and management. And the way the thrilling battle with Tipp unfolded on September 18, they needed every ounce of belief.

There was the hoodoo the blue and gold had held over them for the best part of seven years since the Tipp breakthrough in 1999 including beating them earlier in 2005 in the Munster final. Tipp seemed destined to add a second three-in-a-row to the run that Cork briefly interrupted in 2002.

The Rebels were without the now retired legend Linda Mellerick or a player like Fiona O'Driscoll who could plunder a tally like the 3-2 as she did in 2002's win. But there were new heroes stepping to the plate - Briege Corkery, Aoife Murray, Rachel Maloney and young guns who had won in 2002 and were getting better - Jennifer O'Leary, Emer Dillon and Gemma O'Connor, But no one really felt they had enough facing the awesome power and experience of Tipp.

The form guide did not point to a Cork triumph before the final. Cork had Been shocked 1-06 to 0-06 by Galway in the league final, and scraped by 2-08 to 0-13 against the same opposition in the early group game of the championship.

Tipp were more convincing in a five-point win against the Galway in the semi. The facile nature of Cork's 5-17 to 0-05 dismantling of Limerick in their semi-final couldn't be used as a guideline, though Emer Dillon's 2-2 signalled what would be a brilliant final for the Ballygarvan corner-forward.

By the time the half-time whistle arrived in the final, the portents were even darker. Though Tipp talisman Deirdre Hughes was well



Above: Cork manager John Cronin celebrates at the final whistle @INPHO/Lorraine O'Sullivan. Below: Colette Desmond. Rachel Moloney and Linda O'Connell celebrate.



### **Final Team**

Aoife Murray; Rena Buckley, Rosarie olland, Amanda O'Regan; Anna Geary, Mary O'Connor, Briege Corkery; Vivienne Harris, Rachel Moloney; Una O'Donoghue, Gemma O'Connor, Jennifer O'Leary; Emer Dillon, Stephanie Dunlea, Elaine Burke (c).

Subs: Joanne O'Callaghan for Harris (second half); Sarah O'Donovan for Burke (51st); Angela Walsh for O'Donoghue (55th).

### Centre

E Dillon o-4; J O'Leary o-4 (o-2 frees); A O'Regan 1-0; G O'Connor o-3; S Dunlea, R

Moloney, E Burke, U O'Donoghue, A Walsh and B Corkery o-1 each.

shackled they trailed 1-10 to 0-08. The doubts were surely setting in, the voice in the back of the head warning that, once again, the blue and gold ribbons would hang from the O'Duffy Cup.

The press evening at Páirc Uí Chaoimh the week before was attended by a Cork team that were relaxed and laid back, relishing the game of the year at Jones' Road.

We chatted to Stephanie Dunlea, Jennifer O'Leary, Amanda O'Regan and others that evening - the theme was belief. Belief in themselves; belief in the management; belief and Cork camogie tradition (now 21 to five on the all-time roll for honour for Cork and Tipp).

The trump card came at half-time new to the senior role but familiar with the players from underage, John Cronin shuffled his deck. Briege Corkery, one of the better players of the opening half, was paired at centre-field with Gemma O'Connor. The players were steeled and ready. Yes they were five points down, but three of those were from a lucky goal - time to believe.

Slowly they crawled back into the game with Rebel heart and passion, and when a guiding hand from the heavens directed Amanda O'Regan's loft from distance into the net the scene was set.

Tipp fought back with two scores to snatch the lead by a point, but Cork hit top gear. Emer Dillon clipped two beauties, dual star Angela Walsh fired a point as a sub, the tireless Briege Corkery and ice cool Jennifer O'Leary added two more - if it was a boxing match the ref would have asked Tipp to return to their corner.

Cork had knocked them out with a flurry of late, precise jabs. The belief, the switches, the timing of O'Regan's goal and the fitness of the side (Fiona O'Driscoll's presence was crucial here) were the vital components for the win.

Crucial too was the 'team effort' - it seems like the soft option, giving everyone their due - but the facts back it up. Emer Dillon and Jennifer O'Leary grabbed four points each and Vodafone Player of the Year Gemma O'Connor hit three, but seven other players raised a flag each, a shared scoring threat is virtually impossible for a team to counteract.

And the question now is where to from here? There were Munster wins at junior, intermediate and U18, and though the minors underachieved the talent is pouring

### The Road to O'Duffy Cup Glory

### Final

Cork 1-17 Tipperary 1-13

### Semi-Finals

Cork 5-17 Limerick 0-05 Tipperary 1-13 Wexford 1-08

### Group Stage

Cork Winners of Group B

TEAM	PLAYED	W	D	L	PTS
Cork	2	2	0	0	4
Wexford	2	1	0	1	2
Galway	2	0	0	2	0

Wexford 3-06 Galway 0-07 Cork 2-16 Wexford 2-07 Cork 2-08 Galway 0-13

through. At club level, there are quality teams competing at every level, and the standard of the junior grades and numbers playing have risen sharply in the past decade.

There are issues country wide with the competitiveness of the senior competition and the number of teams involved, but they're for another forum. All we know is with the age profile of the current side, the future has a shade of Rebel red in camogie.

Keeper Aoife Murray is certainly confident. When asked what player she'd transfer to the Cork panel she responded: "I can't think of anyone to be honest. I think the talent in Cork is good enough to pick the best 15 in Ireland, why bring anyone from outside Cork in?"



Cork winners, from left, Jennifer O'Leary, Gernma O'Connor, Rachel Moloney, Mary O'Connor, Anna Geary and Erner Dillon, at the 2005 Camogie All-Star Awards, in association with O'Neills. Citywest Hotel, Dublin, Picture credit: Ray McManus / SPORTSFILE



Name: Aoife Murray

Age: 22

Club: Cloughduy

First trophy won: Under 14 A County

## Biggest influence(s) on club

career: John Cronin and my brother Paudie Murray(our senior team's trainer).

Biggest influence(s) on intercounty career: Fiona O'Dricoll

Club highlight: Winning our first ever senior A county title in 2001

Club lowlight: Not fulfilling our senior team's ability/potential in 2002 and 2003 championships.

Intercounty highlight: Winning my First All-Ireland in 1998 as a minor, clubmate Katherine Corkery was captain and it was the start of John Cronin's intercounty managerial carrier,

Intercounty lowlight: Losing the 2004 All-Ireland Final to Tipperary

Toughest opponent(s): The inside Tipperary forward line.

## Favourite GAA game you played

in: This year county semi-final against Milford.

## Favourite GAA game you watched:

This years hurling All-Ireland Semi Final: Galway against Kilkenny.

## GAA player(s) you idolised as a

kid: The Downey sisters of Kilkenny; together with Ger Cunningham.

Other sports player(s) you idolised as a kid: Paul McGrath

Favourite GAA player(s) of all time: Peter Canavan

Favourite other sports player(s) of all time: Sonia O'Sullivan, Roy Keane and Lance Armstrong

Best GAA goal you've ever seen: John Fenton's pull on the ground against

## Best GAA point you've ever seen:

Emer Dillon's over head-pull in this Year's All-Ireland Semi-Final against Limerick

Favourite non-GAA sports: Darts, soccer, rugby.

### Favourite teams in other sports: Glasgow Celtic and Munster

## Unfulfilled career aim:

Wining a club All-Ireland.

## Favourite movie(s):

The Shawshank Redemption

Favourite tv show(s): Lost

Favourite Actor: Morgan Freeman

### Favourite Actress: Jennifer Anniston

Favourite Food: Meat

## Best sports movie(s) of all:

Any given Sunday

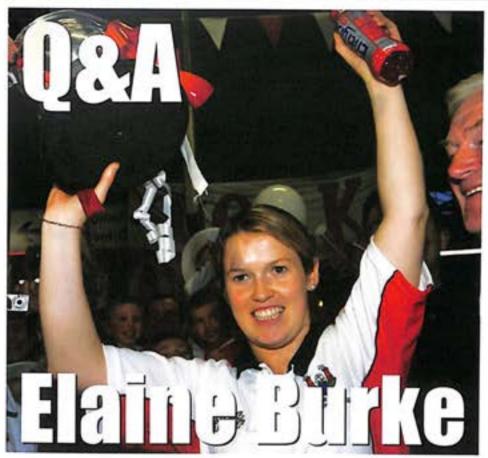
Best sports book(s): Last Man Standing

## Non-GAA sporting highlight(s) of 2005: Roy Keane's transfer to Celtic

## Player you would transfer to play for Cork:

I can't think of anyone as I think the talent in Cork is good enough to pick the best 15 in Ireland - so I wouldn't transfer anyone.

## **0&A** with Elaine Burke



Name: Elaine Burke

Age: 24

Club: Valley Rovers

First trophy won: Sciath na Scool final when I was in 4th class with Scoil Eoin, Innishannon : if it's adult competition, the u16 Munster Final with Cork against Tipperary)

## Biggest influence(s) on club ca-

reer: Gerard Crowley, my family as well for First introducing me to hurling

## Biggest influence(s) on intercoun-

ty career: Both as a player and now as trainer Fiona O Driscoll. Also Rob Lotty our U 16 trainer with Cork, Rob is still doing amazing work with the U 14 Cork Colleges camogie Team. They have won the All Ireland for the last two years.

Club highlight: Winning the Junior A County Final last year

Club lowlight: Losing it the previous

Intercounty highlight: Initially just being elected captain of Cork was a huge honour and then winning the All Ireland this year. Obviously it's an honour to be captain but just getting to play for Cork

and to play on the same side as some truly great players is the best thing.

Intercounty lowlight: Being defeated by such Tipperary last year in the Final. They seemed to be on a different level that day and afterwards the morale was very low. We came in for a lot of criticism. afterwards. Some of it was a bit harsh, Losing the League Final and Munster Final this year was also a hard blow.

Toughest opponent(s): Tipperary. Galway in the league final and championship this year. Wexford are also a very tough side.

### Favourite GAA game you played

in: U 18 Munster Final against Limerick. We went to Limerick as raging favourites only for Limerick to come out very strongly to leave us trailing at half time. We made a great comeback in the second half to win. We played so well that day in the finish. A lot of the players from that team are now on the Senior Panel.

### Favourite GAA game you watched:

Cork and Kilkenny in last years All Ireland Final. It was great to see how Cork really took control in the latter stages. The Cork and Offaly Semi final in 1999 was also a very good match. For sheer excitement and goals it would have to be Kilkenny v Galway in the All Ireland Semi this year or the League Final a couple of years ago

between Tipperary and Kilkenny

### GAA player(s) you idolised as a kid: Jimmy Barry Murphy, Teddy Mc Carthy and Brian Corcoran

Other sports player(s) you idolised as a kid: Michael Jordan

## Favourite GAA player(s) of all time: Brian Corcoran, Peter Canavan,

Jimmy Barry Murphy

Favourite other sports player(s) of all time: Michael Jordan, Lance Armstrong, Roy Keane

## Best GAA goal you've ever seen:

Eoin Mulligan's goal this year versus Dub-

### Best GAA point you've ever seen: One that stands out is the point Brian

Corcoran got on his comeback in the championship against Limerick from his knees.

Favourite non GAA sports: Rugby, Basketball, Golf

### Favourite teams in other sports: The Munster Rugby team, The All Blacks

Unfulfilled career aim: Well I'm still a trainee solicitor so I have a lot of them

Favourite movie(s): Zoolander

Favourite tv show(s): I don't really have one that I would make sure I watch every time It's on. There hasn't been much time for TV since the All Ireland

Favourite Actor: Morgan Freeman, Ben Stiller

Favourite Food: Chinese

Best sports movie(s) of all: Remember the Titans for the feel good factor

Best sports book(s): I just finished reading Hurling the Revolutionary Years and really enjoyed it. Lance Armstrong's 'Its Not about the Bike' is a great read. Paula Radcliffe's and Mickey Harte's books are also good

## Non GAA sporting highlight(s) of

2005: It was great seeing Paula Radcliffe win the marathon world championship especially after Athens 2004

Player you would transfer to play for Cork: Emer Mc Donnell

## A Hectic But Rewarding Year in Cork Camogie

VERY sportsperson reflects on the year gone by. Championships won or lost, defining moments, personal form, achievements and disappointments.

In a county like Cork, success is demanded. Let's be honest; in GAA circles anything short of an All-Ireland victory is seen as failure. Cork camogie is no exception and in a county absolutely thriving In the game, 2005 has been a hectic but very rewarding year.

Kicking off last February from third level to colleges, to inter-county to club, Cork has represented themselves admirably on the playing fields. Both UCC and CIT travelled to Waterford Institute of Technology for the Ashbourne cup and shield competitions in February.

It was double heartbreak however as both Cork colleges returned home emptyhanded after an action packed weekend. UCC fell at the semi-final to a superbly fit UL while CIT, after a tremendous 90 minute semi-final battle, which included two periods of extra time, couldn't find the reserves to take them one step further, UL's superior fitness and speed proved too much of a handful for UCC and despite an Cork College onslaught in the dying minutes it wasn't enough to deny UL a two-point victory.

One consolation for Cork was that their own Jennifer O'Leary starred for UL in a side which also included corner back Amanda O'Regan, St Mary's, Charleville were first up in their efforts to bring an All Ireland title to Cork. Once again they took Munster senior and junior honours and marched on.

A long journey took the junior squad north to Armagh for the All Ireland semi-final where they heartbreakingly fell to an injury time goal to St Mary's of Magherafelt. Their senior squad convincingly advanced to the final where they faced arch rivals Coláiste Bride of Enniscorthy. And what a battle it turned out to be! In appalling, mucky, heavy underfoot conditions Enniscorthy made it back to back titles on a score line of 1-8 to 2-3. It was devastating for Charleville. To lose two All-Ireland finals back-to back- is agonising. To lose them to the same opposition makes it harder again.



Cloughduv's Sinéad Buckley tries to go by Milford's Áine Watson in the Cork Senior Camogie Championship Semi Final, Picture: Neil Danton

Charleville had their chances on the day. They never got going to play the free flowing hurling they are capable of. But once again they can hold their heads high. Six senior, eight junior and 14 seven a side titles rest comfortably on the shelf. There are more to follow.

The inter-county scene also got under way in February with both the Cork seniors and juniors kick starting their national league campaigns. Many double headers saw the two teams advance at the expense of Dublin, Kilkenny and Tipperary. The juniors had an extra outing against Offaly with the Rebels digging deep to run out victors by two points.

Both teams topped their group and advanced to the semi-finals. The seniors took on Wexford in Nenagh in May and with a below-par display managed to reach the final by two points.

Two positional changes involving the move of Rachel Moloney and Angela Walsh to centre field and Breige Corkery and Emer Dillon to right half forward and centre forward respectively swung the game in the rebels favour. The juniors comfortably disposed of the challenge presented to

them by Laois and both teams headed for a final showdown on the 29th May. In the meantime the Cork juniors had to switch from league to championship mode as they travelled to Bodyke, Co. Clare to play the home county in this year's Munster championship semi-final.

With no back door, this game was all-ornothing. In a demanding schedule which must be addressed for 2006, Cork took to the field for their third competitive fixture in 19 days. The demands allowed for little or no recuperation or recovery time for knocks picked up. It took its toll and Cork lost their Munster and All Ireland crowns by the narrowest of margins.

Seven days later the same team had to lift themselves for the league final against Galway. And what a performance they gave. All the hurt and frustration of the previous week came out and the relief and joy when the final whistle blew was evident.

A huge battle against Galway ensued. Three points behind after 42 minutes, level on 50, Cork went on to win by three. When one considers that Cork had to field a completely new squad for the 2005 season having won the title in 2004 their



Cork County Camogie Championship quarter final game. Picture: Richard Mills.

achievements were highly commendable.

To take a league title and to fall by a single point to the team which contested the All Ireland final in September deserves much praise. With one league title tucked away, the seniors took to the field an hour later and against the same opposition were hot favourites to take their 13th National League title.

Cork had the upper hand in the opening exchanges but couldn't convert it into scores. Despite having 65 percent of possession, they found themselves with only two points and four wides on the board after 20 minutes. Galway gained momentum and the pendulum began to swing. In a period of nine minutes they scored 1-4 with Veronica Curtin the main tormentor. The second half continued much the same way and Cork could only manage three points from play in 60 minutes. They acknowledged defeat and Galway took the title by a single goal, 1-6 to 0-6.

Nine days after their league final defeat Cork faced arch rivals Tipperary in Semple Stadium in the Munster final. With the All Ireland series an open draw competition the significance of the Munster championship has waned but psychologically one felt that Cork needed this victory.

Having defeated Tipp by 1-13 to 0-5 in the National League Cork felt they could take the game.

They lost on a score line of 4-11 to 2-8 and a gloom hung in the air. A league final defeat to Galway and a Munster final defeat to Tipp in less than two weeks, Cork just weren't performing. The opening game of the All Ireland championship saw Cork have home advantage to Galway.

Oozing confidence after their league victory, Galway took the game to Cork and dominated play. Cork looked to be in serious trouble but dug deep in the second half and won by a single point much to the dismay of the westerners, who, over the 60 minutes, deserved a draw at the very least. Next came Wexford and finally Cork hit form. A magnificent second half display saw Cork give their best performance to date and ran Wexford ragged all over the pitch. After plenty of recent scepticism and criticism the team and the mentors were equally overjoyed with their re found

They had topped their group and faced Limerick in the All Ireland semi-final in Nowlan Park on August 20. Without ever reaching great heights Cork comfortably disposed of the weak Limerick challenge.

17 to 0-5 drubbing by the Rebels. It was hard to judge just how ready Cork really were for the All Ireland final four weeks ahead. The semi-final told them little or nothing but one impressive note to take from the day was Cork's hunger. Even with the game firmly won they never let up; the competition for places very much evident on the day. And so it was Cork and Tipp for the fourth year in a row in the All Ireland senior camogie final. Cork needed to win this title. Tipperary were hot favourites to make it a second three-in-a-row in seven years. The build up was huge and with the final coming just seven days after Cork's magnificent hurling triumph, Cork was buzzing with All Ireland fever. The girls didn't let them down. In one of the most magnificent second half performances seen in Camogie for a long time Cork totally outplayed Tipp to win their 21st title in dramatic style. Cork were struggling in the first half. They began the game on top and led by two points to one after five minutes. But they missed three gilt-edged chances and Tipp gained momentum. Tipp finished the first half on a far superior footing than Cork. Leading by five points it was hard to see Cork making a comeback. Apart from the margin they just didn't look as if they had it in them to stage a fight back. How wrong we were. Cork thundered into the game. Gemma O'Connor was in a class of her own and drove her team forward. Showing incredible fitness and picking off some sublime points, Cork narrowed the gap. With 11 minutes remaining they went in front for the first time and there was no going back. Sensing victory they were a joy to watch in the remaining 10 minutes as they hit over point after point. Cork scored 1-9 in the second half. They kept Tipp scoreless from play, their single point coming from a placed ball. What joy when the whistle blew. It was a magnificent team performance filled with desire, passion, character and pride. The inter-county U18 squad had a Munster Championship victory over the same opponents (Tipp) on a score line of 2-9 to 1.5. On the home front Cloughduv won their third senior county title against Inniscarra. The senior championship introduced a back door system for the first time and it proved a huge success with some mouth watering clashes. Ballygarvan won the senior B title after a replay against St. Catherine's. The juvenile board ran a packed agenda to perfection with no fewer than 550 games played at underage level during the season. It's been a magnificent year; capped of course with Cork's All Ireland triumph. Cork camogie is very much alive and strong. To everyone that played a part, no matter how small, take a bow. Here's to 2006.

Limerick left the field dejected after a 5-

camogie sustainable in Mayo. Our

joint approach with the Camogie

Association on this initiative is a huge

carried out. Other initiatives to promote hurling in Mayo include U14 schools of excellence and U16 development squads that will run for eight weeks during June and July. Two academies from Mayo will also take part in Féile na nGael, the national hurling and camogie competition for U14's, in Cork the weekend of June 17th and 18th. Another exciting initiative is a three-day residential Connacht school of hurling in which seven up and coming U15 Mayo hurlers will take part.

The targeted schools for the "Camáin le Chéile" programme are located around the existing hurling clubs in Mayo. Anyone interested in becoming involved in developing hurling or camogie in Mayo should contact Damien Coleman or Caroline Murray.

Anybody interested in playing camogie or simply becoming involved



Miriam O'Callaghan stood down after a hugely successful term as camogie president



# Gweld with Olhausen

by Maire Ui Scolai



### LIZ HOWARD HEADS THE ASSOCIATION

Liz Howard is the person elected to lead the Association as Uachtarán for the next three years following her election at the Camogie Congress recently in the Court Hotel, Tullamore.

The Tipperary native has plenty of experience both on and off the field over the years as she was a member of the first Tipperary team to win the inaugural National League back in 1977. Since then the Premier County lady went on to play with her adopted Dublin and also won championship and League medals with the famous Celtic club.

Liz also wore the Blue and Gold of Clare at one stage but it is with Tipperary that Liz is best known for. Her niece Sheena has played with Tipperary and also took her place with the Garda College in the Ashourne Shield Final earlier this year.

The talented lady gave many years of service to Tipperary GAA as PRO and early in 2003 became involved in Cumann Camógaiochta na nGael. Since then the player come administrator became a member of Management and also sat on the PR and Communications committee. A strong believer in the integration process this is something she will be very anxious to drive home and she is also very much backing the National Strategic and Development Plan which she considers to be the Bible of the Association for the next couple of vears'.

She is in no doubt but she has a hard act to follow Miriam O'Callaghan who travelled the length and breath of Ireland and beyond for the past three years. While she will carry on some of Miriam's ideas she will also wish to make her own mark on the Association.

While the election of the President was of huge importance at Congress motions that were passed included the compulsary wearing of helmets with face guard compulsory for all players under the age of eighteen. A number of playing rules were also passed including a motion to bring the rule in relation to a player taking the ball into her hand to bring it in line with that of the GAA and likewise with the use of the yellow card which until now was not used in camogie. Due to an increase in the number of games being played under the new competition structures introduced in 2006 and a consequent increase in the expected number of disciplinary matters a motion was passed to introduce a Central Disciplinary Committee.

These days there are many challenges facing the Assocation and employing people on a full time basis is something the Association has increased significantly. The most recent new employee is Meath Lady Brónagh Gaughan who plays her camogie with Donaghmore. Challenged with the whole area of fixture allocation, this now brings to six the number of fulltime employees and add one part-time person to that and one can see just how the Association has grown in the past five years.

The major development that the regional development officers have already succeeded in doing is phenomenal. As featured in last month's magazine Mary O'Connor has done huge work accross Munster while Caroline Kelly recently spent a day in Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo with Damian Coleman.

The initiative, "Camáin le Chéile," is part of the Mayo Hurling Development Plan and the Camogie Strategic Plan and aims to strengthen existing hurling clubs and to create new hurling and camogie clubs around the county. It includes coaching sessions in selected schools. Go-Games national opportunities and incorporates the recently launched VHI Cúl Camps. Selected schools will be visited by camogie/hurling officials and will receive two ten-week blocks of coaching. The initiative also includes coaching courses and workshops for mentors as well as Coach Education programmes in the areas of skills development and nutrition.

Speaking at the event Liz Howard, President of the Camogie Association said: "This is an exciting joint initiative for camogie and hurling in Mayo. If we get the children from the 35 schools invited to participate in the initiative playing our wonderful games we will be on a very strong footing by the end of this year. Children from Mayo participated in a Go Games exhibition at last years All Ireland Camogie final and we look forward to seeing camogie and hurling players in the green and red of Mayo in Croke Park in the future. I thank the GAA and Camogie Connacht Councils and the Mayo County Board for their joint work on this initiative. I know

that camogie is in safe hands here in Mayo with our Regional Development Co-Caroline ordinator Damien Murray, Connacht Coleman. Hurling Administrator." Coleman, Damien Hurling Connacht

Administrator, is coordinating the programme with the Mayo Hurling Board, Mayo Games Manager Billy McNicholas, Caroline Murray and Connacht Camogie Council. Speaking at the launch Coleman said: "Our overall plans include a strong club development aspect which will be essential to make hurling and

tenm recorded a good vicover holders Tipperary to book their place in the Munster final which is fixed for this coming weekend ... With the All Ireland series now being played on an open draw basis the Munster championship is being used by the selectors to build a team and certainly looking at the sides on Saturday last Cork were by far better prepared. Sharper on the ball than their opponents it was evident from the throw in

that Cork aided by the strong wind in the opening half were going to make all the running. Catriona Collins and Darina O'Callaghan opening the scoring with early points to which Catriona Walsh replied for Tipperary. Cork extended their advantage with a Catriona Collins free from twenty metres going all the way to the net and despite the best efforts of Tipperary they failed to breach a strong Cork defence that held a 1-4 to 0-1 interval advantage. Cork continued the pressure in the second half Catriona Collins extending the lead as Emer Shanahan replied for Tipperary. Cork substitute Claire Keohane made her presence felt when she set up Darina O'Callaghan for Cork's second goal but Tipperary battled on and were unlucky not to grab a goal when Cork goalkeeper Dawn O'Keeffe's clearance was blocked down by Emer Shanahan but her shot spin wide. The pressure finally paid off for Tipp when Shanahan finished Laura Reid's cross to the net, Cork who replied with points from Fiona O'Connell and Collins to secure victory.

While the backroom team will be happy to book a Munster final spot a lot of work remains to be done if an All Ireland crown is to be annexed.

Clare will provide the opposition for the Munster final which was originally fixed for Scariff on Monday but at the time of going to print Clare have requested that game be brought forward Saturday or Sunday.

## Historic first title for combined Cork colleges

the Cork Colleges of Further Education who recorded a historic first taking the Meagher Shield on Saturday last. Under the guidance of former inter county hurler Bertie OG Murphy camogie was organised within the Cork Colleges of Further Education four years ago. Bertie has worked tirelessly aided by enthusiastic student Cian O'Brien from Glen Rovers/ St Nicks and both never once doubted their charges ability. Cian and Bertie OG acted as joint coaches and selectors and were determination to bring the first camogie trophy back. At times it must have been hard given that the girls attend three different colleges St Johns College, Stiofan Naofa and Cork College of Commerce but over the years they have kept camogie alive and soldiered on to make the breakthrough. The victory is a tribute to many who have worn the colours of the colleges but more so to Bertie OG and Cian who can be very proud of their role in such a huge achievement.

WELL done to the girls from The team had a good league campaign and this helped build team spirit for the Meagher competition which is open to any institute participating in the Ashbourne or Purcell competi-

The competition is played on a thirteen a side basis and on Saturday last the Cork girls set the pace from the throw in led superbly by Captain Linda Dorgan. Marion O'Donovan and Dorgan pointed to give Cork the lead and they held the upper hand through the first half leading 1-5 to nil at the interval. In the second half Ann Marie Moyles and Linda Dorgan adding points as Cork extended their lead with the holder's struggling to get into the game. Aoife Finnegan stood firm in the Cork goal as Carlow applied the pressure but a Noelle Collins goal sealed victory for

Well done to all concerned on a huge achievement, lets hope it will help the game to further develop in the three colleges in the years ahead.

## Kilkenny record wins on the double half but trailing by nine points had a

A BAD day for both senior teams as Kilkenny grabbed both sets of points on offer on Sunday last. The Senior Division 1 A side showed signs of their holiday as they struggled to keep in touch with a more determined Kilkenny side. Cork

Scored 1-2 in the last three minutes to presents a better but on the day they played second fiddle to a Kilkenny team that showed more determination and a will to win.

Kilkenny's defence were superb and seldom pout a foot wrong closing down Cork at every opportunity.

They broke up attack after attack while at mid field Bridget Mullally and Eileen Fitzpatrick ensured the Kilkenny forward division enjoyed plenty of possession. Jackie Frisbee and Sinead Millea kept the Cork defence busy Millea in particular showing her skill from placed balls. Such was the home sides dominance that Cork filed to register a first half score after their point in the eight

A Jackie Frisbee goal helped Kilkenny enjoy a 1-9 to 0-2interval lead. Cork improved for the second

mountain to Two Emer Dillon points cut the arrears but with Marie O'Connor grabbing a second goal the lead was increased. Cork did rally in the closing minutes recording with out reply but on the day the better team ran out deserving winners Cork now face Tipperary in their next game which was to have been played this weekend it now looks as if it will take place towards the middle of next week.

## Important rule changes at Congress for camogie

by Mary Newman

DELEGATES at the recent Camogie congress votes to make several changes to the rules and it's important for players and mentors to note the changes to the rules which come into effect from April 25

Camogie has only now decided to implement the yellow card rule and it comes into effect under rule 19.14 and will be under the powers of the referee to implement the wording of the rule will now be as follows.

Another very important change which effects under age players is the mandatory wearing of helmets with facial guards prior.

The most important rule change is the one which now limits players

to two catches of the ball. Detailed wording of the rule listed below will be a help to players, supporters and mentors alike as we look forward to a good season of camogie.

RULE CHANGES AS FOL-LOWS Rule 19.14 The Referee shall dismiss a player from the field of play in the following instances: 19.14 (b) Where a player who, having already been warned once by the Referee in connection with rough and/or dangerous play, and the Referee has indicated this by showing the player a Yellow Card, commits a second offence of this nature, and the Referee has indicated this by showing the player a second yellow Card and has also indicated her dismissal by showing the player a

LAST week the gremlins deleted one line from the junior "A" championship draws. My apologies to Killeagh.

Here goes again:

Tower View Developments Junior "A" Cham-pionship. Two groups to be played on round robin. Top four to semi finals.

Group 1 Watergrashill Killeagh Newtown-shandrum Sarsfields.

Group 2 Tracton Blackrock Rockban Ballyhea.

Red Card; Rule 19.14 (c) Where a player who, having already been warned once by the Referee for dissent or the use of abusive language, and the Referee has indicated this by showing the player a Yellow Card, commits a second offence of this nature, and the Referee has indicated this by showing the player a second Yellow Card and has also indicated her dismissal by showing the player a Red Card.

20.5 Each team shall provide the Referee with a list in duplicate on Form C.C.2 (either hand written or electronically generated) of the full names in Irish and English of its players and substitutes. The list shall be signed by an Official authorised by the Club/Board/Council. The team list shall be given to the Referee by the commencement of the second half of the match. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine being imposed on the defaulting team by the committee in

charge of the competition. 20.9(B) In all camogie games and training sessions it shall be mandatory for all players up to and including under 18 'Minor' grade to wear a helmet with a facial guard.

Rule 20.9(B) Applies to U18 players irrespective of the competi-

tion in which she is participating.

Rule: 20.9(B) Failure by a player to comply with Rule 20.9 (B) shall be dealt with under Rule 19.14 (c) dissent.

20.20 A player may: (b) Lift the sliotar off the ground with the hur-ley or with the feet or with a combination of hurley and foot; (c) A player may catch the sliotar, play it on her hurley and bring it back into her hand once. A player who has not caught the sliotar may play it from the hurley into her hand

THE National League remains wide open still, following two Division 1 games at the weekend, where Kilkenny trimphed as expected over Limerick while Wexford had a much closer call against League champions Galway. It was a case of double Slaney joy for Wexford as they narrowly defeated Galway in the Division 1B game in Pairc Garman. Dublin maintained their 100 per cent League record in tact with a 2-10 to 0-7 win over Kilkenny, but there was no such joy for Dublin's second string as they fell heavily to Antrim 3-9 to 5-12 in Division 2A. Also in division 2A Derry had a good 3-7 to 1-8 win over Derry while Waterford triumphed over London, 5-12 to 2-2. In Division 3, Carlow triumphed 3-11 to 3-4 over Meath.

> APRIL 2006



## **County draw** sets up some great encounters

By LINDA MELLERICK

Camogle latest

THE draw for the Cork Senior A Championship has thrown up some mouthwatering clashes.

The draw is as follows:

Preliminary Round: Muskerry v Carbery

Round 't:Aghbullogue v Fr. O'Neill's; Inniscarra v Ballygarvan; Kilbrittan v Courcey Rovers; Clough-duv v St. Finbarr's; Milford v Barryroe.

Round 2:Losers Millord v Barryroe. V Imokilly, Losers Cloughduv / St. Finbarrs v Carrigdhoun; Losers Aghbullogue / Fr. O'Neills v Seandur; Losers Innistarra / Ballygarvan v Avondhu; Losers Kilbrittan / Courcey Rovers v Winners Muskerry / Carbery.

Muskerry went out at the preliminary stage last year and as it was an all-divisional affair there was no way back for them. Carbery advanced to the semi-final but were defeated by Inniscarra while Courcey Rovers and Kilbrittan once again find themselves paired. An impressive 4-9 to 1-10 winning margin saw Rovers advance against the same opposition in 2005.

Having won the B title in 2004, Aghabullogue did their club proud in their first year in the A competition reaching the quarter final and losing to eventual champions Cloughduy.

Inniscarra also took the scalp of Fr O'Neill's in round one and O'Neill's lost in round three to Seandûn.

Barryroe lost to serious contenders Milford and lack the all round balance to stake a real claim on the title. The two sides meet again, this time in round one.

Ballygarvan are now in the big time having won the B competition last year.

Their senior A status seriously depletes Carrigdhoun, the 2004 champions.

Ballygarvan have a strong, balanced team on paper but tend to make very hard work of championship games.

Now for the big guns - Cloughduv, Miltord and St. Finbarrs. The three best games of last year's championship by far were the games involving these three.

Had the back door system not been introduced for the first time last year Cloughduv would have had a very long summer.

Defeated in the first round after a replay against Milford, they then faced Imokilly a few short days later. To their credit they advanced. Next saw a cracker of an encounter against St Finbarr's.

They escaped by the narrowest of margins to set up a semi-final show down with first round opponents Milford.

And what a game.

Trailing 2-5 to 0-5, Milford took the second half to Cloughduv and led with four minutes remaining. Cloughduv upped the tempo and flatteringly won by four.

They went on to become champions, defeating Inniscarra in the final.

If kept apart, expect these three sides to be at the business end of the competition.

Cloughduv and the Barrs meet in round one but through the back door may avoid each other again along the way.

Cloughduv now have three titles in five years and are a relatively young side.

Milford on the other hand have a team of youth all over the field. Once they win their first senior title the floodgates will open.

They might not agree with this but the agonising defeats they've suffered in the last two years will make them a better outfit and more appreciative of the title when it arrives.

With the new senior inter-county format and with Cork fielding five inter-county teams trying to find suitable dates will be a headache for the Cork County Board.

## Pan Celtic honours shared

THE thirty fifth Pan Celtic Festival was a great success held in Letterkenny, Donegal with camogie clubs from Munster, Leinster and Connacht taking part as well as one team representing Donegal. The Parade which was held on the Friday afternoon was a sea of colour with the Celtic visitors wearing their traditional garb while the camogie teams wore their camogie uniforms. Cardonagh camogie club proudly marched down the mainstream of Letterkenny in the glorious sunshine which lasted almost all weekend.

A total of thirty games were played, with two U16 Divisions (A & B), while the same also applied for the senior. Two venues were used, Killygordon and O'Donnell Park, Letterkenny which also hosted the Go Games on the Sunday involving players from St.Eunans, Letterkenny, St.Mary's Tooban, and Markevich, Killygordon. Some of the players taking part in the Go Games were as young as four years of age! and they showed their delight as they took to the beautiful O'Donnell pitch with families in toe.

However, the main attraction were the many games played over the weekend, displaying some fine skill and providing many clubs with extra competition as they prepare for their own county championships later on in the year.

The top honour of the day went to Good Counsel of Dublin who captured the senior 'A' trophy in fine style defeating Mullagh of Galway 2-7 to 1-6. At half time Mullagh were ahead 0-4 to 0-1, the Mullagh points having come from Sarah Dervan (0-2), Ann Hardy and Sinéad Cahalan who put in a superb performance throughout the weekend. Good Counsel, who had to line out without their regular goalkeeper Lizzie Mc Guinness who injured her back the previous day showed real hunger in the second half when they got to grips with the game midway and after seventen minutes never allowed Mullagh to score again.

A goal in the eighteenth minute from Edel Reid, left just two points in it, Mullagh 1-6, Counsel 1-4. From there on in it was all Counsel, despite the best efforts of Mullagh who kept fighting all the way. With four minutes remaining, and just a pont dividing the sides, Counsel 1-7, Mullagh 1-6, 2005 Dublin All-Ireland winner Eve Talbot found Joleen Hoary right on cue to bang home the winning goal, one minute into injury time.

Incidently, the Mullagh captain was Imelda Hobbins who back in 1996 became the first Galway captain to accept the O'Duffy Cup in Páirc an Chrócaigh, while the Counsel captain was their injured goalkeeper Lizzie Mc Guinness.

There was consolation for Mullagh, however when they captured the U16 'A' title defeating Toomevara of Tipperary 3-2 to 2-2 in a very tense and exciting final with the result in doubt until the very end. Mullagh were ahead at the break 1-1 to 0-2 thanks to a first half goal from top scorer Laura Gaynor, who finished the day with a total of 2-1. Toomevara, the club of the legendary Deirdre Hughes did not give up and when Nicola Walshe scored the club's second goal near the end, the title was still there for grabs, but Mullagh goalkeeper Riona Daly was superb, denying the Tipperary side any chance of a goal.

Yet another camogie tile is resting in Carlow this weekend with the news that Myshall brought the first ever Pan Celtic trophy to Carlow when they captured the senior 'B' tile defating three teams on route. Playing in O'Donnell Park, Letterkenny they took on Donegal, Geraldines Portglenone, and Na Magha from Derry. Myshall over the years have always done well in the county, and now have a blend of youth and experience.

Players the calibre of long serving intercounty star Nuala Quirke, whose daughter Niamh was on duty with the county minors, was also assisted with fine displays from fellow intercounty Olivia Maye, Olivia O'Neill at centre forward, while Treasa O'Neill at centre back was rocklike. At midfield Nikita Doorley never gave up, while captain Lily Slyle was jubiliant in her accaptance of the Pan Celtic Shield by National Development CO- Ordinator Lynn Kelly.

Also played on Saturday was the U16 'B' Final which Blackrock of Cork won, thus capturing the title for the first time ever. A well known Cork hurling club, camogie was rejuvinated there some years ago when Mairéad Ui Mhaolóin worked on juvenile camogie with the result that they now have a junior 'A' adult team togeher with some fine young teams on the way up.

Great credit must go to all the hardworking people involved in the organising of the Festival over the weekend, from the go games to the competitive games it was superb and now it is hoped that Donegal will now become a force in camogie in the next while.

#### Double For Douglas DOWN TO THE

THEIR last game in the junior grade was one of celebration as Douglas defeated a spirited Sarsfields side to take the 2005 league title. Promoted for 2006 to Senior B for 2006 following their championship success Douglas finished the season in style defeating a Sarsfields side that can be proud of their display.

Sarsfields enjoyed plenty of first half possession but failure in front of goal was their downfall as they failed to grab the clear goal chances that arose. A Jenny O'Donovan goal inside three minutes settled Douglas but Orla Barry replied with Sarsfields point. Rachel O'Sullivan stretched the lead when she finished Sinead O'Leary's long clearance from mid field to the net. Douglas added four points to their tally thanks to Amanda O'Regan, Sinead O'Leary and Rachel O'Sullivan, Orla

Barry replied with a pointed free but it was Douglas who held the upper hand.2-5 to 0-2 at the break

Sarsfields lost the services of inter county player Emer O'Farrell with an ankle injury on the half time whistle and she was a huge loss to them as they battled to stay in the game but the strength of Douglas was obvious. Niamh O'Donovan and Orla exchanged Barry points inside six minutes and two goals inside a minuet from O'Sullivan Rachel extended the advantage. Helen O'Mahony, Amanda O'Regan and Jenny O'Donovan had added points before an Amanda O'Regan goal sealed the league/ championship double for Douglas Sarsfields must be complemented for their display while it's well done to Douglas on achieving the double.

# WIRE FOR SENIOR

A GOOD victory over Tipperary on Thursday evening last ensured that the Sunday's national league game with Wexford will in effect be a semi final, the winners from the Tipperary/ Kilkenny also going through to the final. The script could not have been written for a better finish to the league with all four teams still in contention on level points battling for a place in the final. Wexford have over the last two years built a young team, last year they failed at All Ireland semi final stage to Tipperary a second half revival after a dismal first half almost enough to see them through. They have plenty of young talent Kate Kelly, Una Lacey, Ursula Jacob and Aine Codd and they will be determined to book a place in the league final. Cork showed plenty of determination against Tipperary as they battled to stay in the league, Aoife Murray, Gemma O'Connor and Joanne O'Callaghan leading the way with spirited displays, if they can remain as focused on Sunday a place in the decider is on the cards.

#### Division 1B side face stern test

A WIN is a must for the Division 1 B team is hopes are to be kept alive of a place in the closing stages of the league; Cork lost out to Dublin and Kilkenny and will face a stern test from Wexford Sunday. Linda O'Connell is defiant non

starter following a recent injury playing football while an injury also to Emer O'Farrell in the junior league final will almost certainly rule her out here's hoping both Linda and Emer are on the road to recovery.

#### Camogiechat

DELEGATES at the recent Camogie congress votes to make several changes to the rules and it's important for players and mets but now the referees must implement the new rule. This move is certainly a welcome one

## Seandun finals

evening (Thursday) Seandun hold the finals of their under 15 A and B championships for 2005. In the A final Douglas and Glen Rovers meet at 6pm with the B Final Passage against Douglas following at 7pm.

#### Camogie Fixtures

#### Spórt agus Spraoi na Colaístí- sunshine in Waterford

(2006-04-28)

When a dislike of the day is cited to be 'going home' then you know it has been an enjoyable day. Such were some of the comments received from students and teachers alike on Wednesday last when WIT hosted their Spórt agus Spraoi na Colaístí, the final one in this year's series of the WIS initiative of Cumann Camogaiochta na nGael made possible by the funding received from the Irish

Some glorious sunshine and WITs army of helpers greeted the 307 first and second year secondary school girls at the Waterford Crystal Playing fields from 9.30am onwards and by 10.15am 160 girls were playing 7 a side games over 8 pitches while the others had some skills training under the care of 14 coaches. Over the course of the next ninety minutes there were some keenly contested games, the odd broken hurley and lots of red faces from the 'hectic day' as one girl put it. After a short interval the groups alternated from skills to matches and from matches to skills culminating in a series of finals at 1.40pm after which all headed to the Dome for dinner and where participants received medals and certificate of participation.

The participants came from 46 camogie clubs and some of the beginners are now joining two local Waterford clubs. As part of the follow up process there is demand for two coaching courses and Code of Ethics training both of which are being organised by the two local Sports Partnerships. A huge thanks to the 23 teachers and mentors for their support and great to see the blend of talented people involved including Angela Downey, Noelle O Driscoll, Brendan Williams, Eleanor Walsh to name but a few. Thanks also to Eamonn Browne, Chairperson of Munster Council who deputised on behalf of Uachtaran Liz Howard, to Morgan Conroy, Vice-Chair of Munster Council also, Waterford and Kilkenny Sports Partnership, to the 2 Local GPOs Eoin Breathnach and Pat Caroll and to Waterford and Kilkenny County Boards for their support. This day would not have succeeded without the wonderful help of the 34 WIT students from across the clubs four codes and their work in co-ordinating schools, coaching, refereeing, co-ordinating pitches and results and organising the certificates of participation was excellent.

Participating schools:

Colaise Cois Suire, Mooncoin, Castlecomer Community College, Loreto Kilkenny, Scoil Airgeail, Ballyhale, St Brigid's Callan, Grennan Colege, Abbey Community College, Ard Scoil Dungarvan, Blackwater College, Mercy Waterford, St Paul's Community College, St Declan's Community College, Kilmacthomas, St Mary's New Ross, Ramsgrange Secondary School and Greenhills Secondary School Carrick-on-Suir.

#### Cork start U16 campaign with win

Galway

1-10

CORK recorded a four-point victory over a Galway in the opening game in the round robin series of the All Ireland U16 championship in But-

tevant yesterday. Level on four points apiece, Cork took the lead when Catriona Collins found the net from close in.

Two points from Sinead O'Callaghan stretched Cork's lead before Galway's Noreen Coen and Clare Kechane exchanged points as Cork went to the dressing room leading 1-7 to 0-5.

Inside a minute of the restart Coen pointed before she efficiently dispatched the DOL IMO minutes later and now just one point separated them.

Roisin De Faoite and Alison Clarke swapped points before O'Callaghan gave Cork breathing space when extending the lead to two. Their position was

By MARY NEWMAN

U16 camogie

strengthened further when Collins found the net with seven minutes remaining.

Galway refused to die, though, and Stacy and Coen pointed for them. However, Fiona O'Connell replied as Cork kept their noses ahead. And O'Callaghan had the final say, pointing in reply to Clarke's effort three minutes into injury time. Cork now meet Limerick in round two on May 13.

CORK: D O'Keeffe, C O'Neill, M Foley, M O'Donovan, L O'Shea, M Walsh E Harringson, E Kelleher, F O'Connell (0-1) R De Faoite (0-1) C. Krohane (0-1) A Thompson (0-1). D O'Cellaghan S O'Cellaghan (0-4) C Collins (2-3; 2-2 play, 0-1 free)

Subs: J Lynch for D O Callaghan (45mins) K Hickey for E Harrington (52mins)

on (52mins)
GALWAY: E Concannon, D Fahy,
A Hobbins, C Killeen, C Kelly, C
Kennedy, M Duane, N Flannery, C
Linnane, N Coen (1-5) 1-4 play 0-1
freel, C Donnelly (0-1) L Gaynor, T
Rutledge, M Moran A Clarke (0-3)
Subs: N Rafterry for C Kennedy
(26mins) A O'Brien for C Kelly
(bt), S Coen (0-1) for N Flannery
(43mins)

Referee: John Morrissey

#### Cork begin championship campaign against Galway

By MARY NEWMAN

SUNDAY, All Ireland U16 Camogie Championship, Cork V Galway, Buttevant, 1pm

A CHANGE in format this year has the U16 All Ireland championship contested on a round-robin format with two regional groups battling it out with the top two in each group progressing to semi finals.

Galway are included in group one with Cork, Tipperary Limerick and Clare while holders Kilkenny, Wexford, Dublin and Offaly are joined by Antrim in group two.

Cork's title quest begins on Sunday when they meet Galway.

They have prepared well and are boosted by victories over Tipperary and Clare on their way to taking the Munster championship crown, but they will be wary of the threat posed by a Galway side that lost their title to Kilkenny in last year's final.

Six of the side that lined out in that final are still available while 15 of the panel are still underage.

Coach and county Chairman John Kane from the Turloughmore club is looking ahead to a good season.

"Cork have the added advantage of having had a provincial campaign while this is our first outing," he said, "however with 15 of the panel available since last year, our job has been made that bit easier. Losing out last year in the final was hard but the girls have bounced back and are looking forward to the new look round robin series this year."

Cork have looked impressive in their two competitive outings. Against Tipperary they were always in control while in the Munster final a superb second half display ensured they were crowned champions.

Such was their dominance that they held the Clare attack scoreless from the 20th minute of the opening half to the 29th minutes of the second. At the half time whistle it was level at 1-3 to 0-6 but once Cork upped the pace from the start of the second half Clare were forced to play second fiddle, Catriona Collins, Ashling Thompson, Clare Keohane and Darina O Callaghan all impressing.

Selector Rose White is hopeful that it will be a repeat performance from her side on Sunday next,

"Clare put us under pressure in the Munster final but the girls upped the pace in the second half and we were pleased to be crowned Munster champions. That's forgotten now and we are focused on the All Ireland and that lie ahead. With four games to be played every game is vital, so we will be asking the girls to take it to another level on Sunday and hopefully gain two valuable points."

Certainly, while the round robin series does allow for a margin of error, a win on Sunday would set Cork up nicely for their second game which is against Limerick on May 13.

Clare are the opposition on June 18 before the last game in the group away to Tipperary on July 2.

Galway will, however, provide by far the stiffest test to date but one which the Cork youngsters can cope with.

# Cork face a must battle

IT'S all to play for in Ballinlough on Sunday as Cork take on Wexford in a must-win game if they wish to advance to the final stage of National League division

This game is the last game of the group but in effect it is really the semi-final.

Only one division was entered at the outset containing Cork, Tipp, Galway, Limerick, Wexford and Kilkenny.

Each team played one another in a round robin system and now only four remain.

While Cork entertain Wexford, Kilkenny and Tipp meet to determine which two teams ad-

Each of these four dropped two points along the way and go into Sunday's encounters level peg-

Wexford had a great 2004, recording back-to-back Leinster titles and reaching the National League final before falling, unluckily, by just a point to Tipp in the All-Ireland semi-final.

Much was expected of them for championship, last July and we

By LINDA MELLERICK Division 1A camogia

They met Cork in the semi-final of the league 12 months ago and Cork advanced by the skin of their teeth on a score of 1-11 to 2-6.

Wexford entered the dressing room at the break leading 1-4 to

The second half started with Cork again pushing the pace.

The Cork mentors made two positional changes which had an immediate effect. Rachel Moloney and Angela Walsh moved to centrefield with Breige Corkery and Emer Dillon switching to right half forward and centre forward respectively.

Moloney and Walsh thrived in their new roles and Cork began to drive forward. With 14 minutes remaining it was all level at 1-8 to

A point separated the sides entering injury time when substitute Ciara Healy scored an excellent point to leave two between the sides at the final whistle.

The sides met again, in the

saw a different Cork. A magnificent second half display saw the Rebels emerge as comfortable winners, 2-16 to 2-7.

Cork, trailing by a point at half time, turned around to give their best performance of the year and ran Wexford ragged.

It was the right time to come good. Cork did not have the best of league performances behind them. From that moment on their form changed and they played tremendous camogie culminating in their All-Ireland triumph September.

Wexford can be dogged. It would be unwise to treat them with disrespect. When Cork approach games in this frame of mind, they are at sixes and sevens. When they go in with a hunger and focus they are capable of wiping the opposition off the field.

The extremely accurate Kate Kelly will be one to watch at midfield. Catherine O'Loughlin at full back, Mary Leacy at centre back Una Leacy at centre forward and Michelle Hearne at full are outstanding players and won't bow to the All Ireland champions.

Cork won't have it all their own



Cork's Rachel Moloney played a pivotal role in the side's victory over Wexford in last year's exciting league clash.



Ciara Healy's late point secured league victory for Cork against Wexford last year.

way. Once again they will wait until Sunday to announce their starting 15. They are sure to field as strong a side as possible and despite the fact that Wexford defeated Kilkenny who in turn defeated Cork, the Rebels should advance.

FIXTURE

# Rebels' semi-final hopes are out of their hands

Cork's REGARDLESS performance on Sunday, their destiny may be out of their hands as far as a place in the semi-finals of this year's National senior league Division 1B competition.

Cork take on Wexford in Ballinlough in the final game of their group.

defeat A first round All-Ireland Junior champions Dublin and a loss to Kilkenny a fortnight ago means that the Cork side have dropped four points and it looks like it may not be enough to see them through.

On the off chance that Tipp beat

By LINDA MELLERICK

Division 1B camogle

Kilkenny, also on Sunday, then Cork go into a play off situation. Anything is possible.

It would be a pity if Cork don't advance because if there is one thing this team needs it's plenty of match practice.

Cork may rue the opening day of the league when, had they been allocated a number of senior squad members, they would surely have taken the two points against Dublin.

They had the possession but

didn't have the penetration up

front to clinch victory.

The senior squad, too, played their opening league game on the same day and decided to rest the majority of their squad, particularly those involved in third level competitions.

For this reason they selected a lot of B players who in turn did not turn out for the actual B encounter. One more quality forward would have sealed victory for the B side but it wasn't to be.

A fortnight ago, Cork just didn't perform against Kilkenny and can have no complaints about dropping

the points there.

Cork have a talented squad on paper. They may not reach the latter stages of the league but can give the championship a rattle.

Challenge games and lots of them is what they need. A few runs against the Senior A team wouldn't

go amiss. They should go into Sunday's clash with this in mind and use it as preparation for a tough championship ahead.

> FIXTURE: Sunday

National Senior League Division 18: Cork v Wexford, Ballinlough, 3.30pm.

#### Tipperary and Cork for National League final with Guinness Munster championship match

(2006-04-30)

CORK and Tipperary will join the hurlers of Tipperary and Limerick on Sunday May 14th following National League semi-final wins over Wexford and Kilkenny at the weekend. A 3-17 to 3-7 victory for Tipperary over the Cats while Cork overcame Wexford 2-9 to 0-5 in Ballinlough. This year's National League final will go ahead with the Guinness Munster championship match between Tipperary and Limerick which will also have the same two teams taking part in the Intermediate championship match the same day.

With a League final spot in Semple Stadium awaiting the winners, Cork showed the more hunger early on with a Emer Dillon point with only two minutes on the stop watch. Cork clocked up a further total of 0-3 before the Slaney siders sent over their opening a Stacey Redmond point just beyond the half way mark. Cork, who were determined to make it to the League final this year having tasted defeat in Semple Stadium last year were given a real cash injection with the first goal of the day after twenty two minutes. Full-forward Sarah O'Donovan who has found her shooting boots this season was once again right on the spot to hammer home the opening goal from about fifteen yards out to leave it Cork 1-4, Wexford 0-1.

Cork's defence of Regina Curtin, Amanda O'Regan and Mary O'Connor were rock-like and did not allow the Wexford forwards any space with the result that the Model county only sent over one more first half pont from Kate Kelly. That may well have been a turning point of the game for Wexford as that point was a penalty which Kelly blazed over the bar. Cork went in at the break leading 1-7 to 0-2 and that lead was always theirs in the second half.

However, the second half was much about defence as both sides found scoring a bit difficult. Perhaps due to the fact that these two sides will meet again in the championship at the end of May that neither were giving too much away. Amazingly, Cork never scored following an early Emer Dillon point until two minutes into injury time when substitute Emer Watson got Cork's second goal. Three minutes later Emer Dillon scored her third and last point of the day.

Even though Wexford's defence kept Cork almost scoreless until injury time, they could not capitalise on this and Wexford's best reply were three Kate Kelly second half frees. Wexford will probably not be too disappointed having reached the last four of the National League and as they were without both Mary and Una Leacy can look forward to the champinship with much hope.

Cork,however can expect a much tougher game on May 14th when they meet Tipperary who over came Kilkenny 3-17 to 3-7 in Pilltown, Kilkenny in the second semi-final.

Tipperary who last reached the League final in 2004 got off to a flying start with an Emer Mc Donnell point after just one minute. The same player added a further 1-1 before the referee blew the final whistle. However, the 2005 All-Star was not on her own as she was much assited by a fine midfield performance from Philly Fogarty as well as Clare Grogan who finished the day with a total of 0-10, only three from frees. However, the Cats who were seeking their first League final appearance since 1997 showed real hunger in the opening half and by the midway stage were up 0-4 to Tipperary's 0-3.

But then Tipperary full-forward Emily Hayden found the ball coming towards her on the edge of the square and pulled on it for the first goal of the day. That goal put Tipperary ahead 1-3 to Kilkenny's 0-4. Three minutes later Lizzie Lyng replied with a Kilkenny point. While Clare Grogan sent over a further two points, one from a free, the next few moments belonged to the Cats who were fortunate to score a goal just before the break.

Aoife Neary was heading towards goal when she saw Marie O'Connor ahead of her, passed to her and the ball finished up past the Tipperary 'keeper Jovita Delaney. Kilkenny's Lizzie Lyng added another point before the break, but it was Clare Grogan who equalised for the Premier side with her fourth point of the first half to leave it 1-6 each at the break.

#### Teams/Scorers:

Kilkenny team Div 1 A:

C Ryan: S Costelloe Cash, G Dillion Maher, D Minogue; E Alyward, K Kinahan, D Delaney; B Mulally, E Fitzpatrick; L Lyng, S Millea, I Kennedy; J Frisby, A Neary, M O'Connor. Scorers: 3-7: S Millea 1-2(1-2F), M O'Connor, A Neary 1-0 each, L Lyng 0-3, I Kennedy 0-1

Tipperary: J Delaney; S Kelly, Ú O'Dwyer, M Tynan; S Nealon, J Kirwan, M Shortt; P Fogarty, T O'Halloran; C Grogan, C Hennessey, J Ryan; E Mc Donnell, E Hayden, G Kinnane.

Scorers: 3-17: E Mc Donnell 1-2, E Hayden, G Kinnane 2-0, C Grogan 0-10(3 f), C Hennessey, J Ryan 0-2 each, T O'Halloran 0-1.

Cork: Murray; J O'Callaghan, C Foley, A O'Regan; R Buckley, M O'Connor, R Curtin; R Moloney, G O'Connor; J O'Leary, A Walsh, Ú O'Donoghue; E Burke, S O'Donovan, E Dillion.

Subs: S Hayes for R Buckley, C Desmond for E Burke, B Corkery for R Moloney, E Watson for J O'Leary.

Scoers:2-9: E Watson, S O'Donavan 1-0 each, E Dillon,0-3, G O'Connor 0-2, J O'Leary, Ú O'Donoghue,E Burke, A Walsh 0-1 each.

Wexford:M Darcy; Nolan, C O' Loughlin, E Carroll;S Redmond, A Codd,O Hernan; B Furlong, R M Breen; M Walsh, K Kelly, K Parrock; L Holohan, U Jacob, B Curran.
Subs:S Nolan for L Holohan, C Storey for K Parrock.
Scorers: 0-5: K Kelly 0-4 (0-3F 0-1 penalty.), S Redmond 0-1.

# Tipperary chasing home final spot

by Therese O'Callaghan

THERE are two crunch games in the final round of the National Camogie League tomorrow. With all four teams level on points, the outcome of the Kilkenny/Tipperary and the Cork/Wexford clashes will decide who will meet on the May 14 final. This will be played at Semple Stadium as part of a triple-header after the Guinness Munster SHC and IHC ties involving Limerick and Tipperary.

Obviously, the greatest incentive lies with the Premier County. Top-scoring forward Claire Grogan admits it would be a huge boost if they could secure a

final spot.

"Of course, it would mean so much to have all that home support. But, we have to beat Kilkenny first," she said. "To be honest, we are very anxious about the game. They are flying at the moment, and are training very hard. We know it will be some battle, especially in Pilltown. It is never easy to get a win there. They are the only team to have beaten Cork in the league this year, so that must count for something."

Cork expecting tough test from Wexford

Cork have home advantage against Wexford at Ballinlough. However, midfielder Rachel Moloney is taking nothing for granted.

"Wexford are coming good over the last few years and always provide a physical challenge for us. Their schools are doing very well at colleges level so this will be no easy fixture for us. We are going well this year. We will be at full strength and our sights are set on a league title. We showed poor form at this stage last year. I know we went on to win the All-Ireland, but it would be nice to start this season with a league under our belt."

Elsewhere, 2005 league champions Galway take on Limerick, with only neighbourly bragging rights at stake.



Rachel Moloney: taking nothing for granted against Wexford.

APRIL 2006

#### Cork cruise Hollow win still gives Rebels encouragement

Wexford

2-10 By LINDA MELLERICK

National League Senior 1B

thrown in at Ballinlough yesterday, Cork were aware that they were out of this year's National Senior League Division 1B competition.

Kilkenny had defeated Tipperary earlier in the day and with it, finished off any chance that Cork might have of entering a play-off situation.

Still they took to the field with a strong line-out and took the two points in what they could only use as vital match practice for the championship ahead.

Orla Cotter opened the scoring with a free after two minutes following by the first of Marie O'Neill's three first half points.

Wexford's Frances Doran hit the net after six minutes but it was cancelled out another six minutes later by a Miriam Deasy first-time drive to the net.

Catherine Corkery added another goal for Cork on 19 minutes to give the home side a six-point advantage.

A free from the wing, 40 yards out saw the ball dip under the Cork crossbar leaving just three between the sides. Cotter gave the perfect response and pointed from the puck out.

Four points separated the sides at the break and

Walsh (Cork): On April 27,

2006, peacefully, at the

EVEN before the ball was it was Cork who took the game to their opponents in the opening stages of the second half.

Three points inside four minutes from Marie Watson, O'Neill again and Catherine Corkery gave them a comfortable sevenpoint advantage.

Cork, sensing that victory was theirs, began to 'empty the bench'.

Five substitutes didn't weaken their position.

Wexford's three secondhalf points came from dead balls such was Cork's dominance, in a game which, despite having little significance was ample warm-up for the bigger picture ahead.

Scorers Cork: C Corkery 1-1, M O'Neill 0-4, M Deasy 1-0, O Cotter 0-3 (0-1f), M Watson, and G Collins 0-1 each.

Wexford: C O'Connor 1-4 (1-3f, 0-1 45), Doran 1-0.

CORK: G Harrington; A M Fleming, E O'Riordan, S Corkery; J Duffy, L Hawkes, E O'Sullivan; L Doegan, O Cotter; M Corkery, M O'Neill, M Jagoe; M Watson, M Deasy, C Corkery, Subs: G Collins for M Watson (39min), T Roche for E O'Sullivan (43 min), D Hayes and H O'Regan for A M Fleming and M Deasy (53 min). C Deasy for M Jagoe (55 min). sy for M Jagoe (55 min).

WEXFORD: S Kehoe; S Nolan, C Atkinson, K Atkinson; N Lambert, C Storey, A Moran; S Kehoe, T Bergin; S Kehoe, D Ryan, C O'Connor; E Moran, F Doran, S Carr. Subs: L O'Con-nor for S Kehoe (17 min), K Dunne for A Moran (58 min).

into the final

0-5 Wexford CORK will play Tipperary in this year's National League Division 1A final in Semple Stadium on May 14 after their

10-point victory over Wexford in

Ballinlough yesterday afternoon.

The final scoreline somewhat flattered Cork in what was a tough, lively encounter. A goal in injury time from substitute Emer Watson, followed by a point from Emer Dillon put a greater distance between the

sides at the final whistle. Cork showed eagerness from the throw-in. They looked sharp and fast, particularly up front and raced four points ahead inside 10 minutes.

Wexford were winning possession but failed to translate it into scores.

Over-running with the ball and taking on the Cork backs wasn't working as the home county covered back well.

Still Wexford fought hard out the field with Aine Codd at centreback, Bróna Furlong at midfield and Kate Kelly at centre-forward making

By LINDA MELLERICK

2-9

Natinonal League 1A

Cork work all the way. Despite this, Cork were never in danger of losing their advantage, a firsthalf total of nine wides reflecting their domin-

ance in general play. The defining moments came within minutes of each other.

Wexford were awarded a penalty on 19 minutes when Bridget Curran was pulled down in front of goal.

Up stepped Kate Kelly who struck well but blasted inches over the crossbar. Three minutes later Sarah O'Donovan rattled the net for Cork. Picking up the ball 15 yards out on the right side of goal, O'Donovan shot a rocket to the bottom left hand corner of the net.

Three further points from Gemma O'Connor. Elaine Burke and Angela Walsh gave Cork a 1-7 to 0-2 half-time lead.

Wexford upped tempo in the second half and Cork started to lose their cool composure.

They lacked the liveliness shown in the first 30 minutes and lost their direction a little.

Ursula Jacob through for a goal after 10 minutes but her shot was smothered by Aoife Murray.

Cork defence The began to come under pressure Regina Curtin, Amanda Mary O'Regan and O'Connor gave sterling performances and steadied the ship, ably assisted by Joanne O'Callaghan.

Some great passages of strong fast camogie was played with Wexford refusing to throw in the towel. Over-elaboration of the hand pass and not enough direct hurling the two reasons their out field efforts were not reflected on the score- off the line twice in the lenge and see the Rebels



Cork's Angela Walsh gets away from Wexford's Áina Picture: Neil Danton / News Digital

board.

Wexford's attacking then came Cork's goal Cork score only a single point in 32 minutes.

Aoife Murray saved

second half form saw and a point in the second and fifth minute of injury time to put an end to Wexford's chal-

last eight minutes and

advance to the National Senior League final for the second year in a

Picture: Nell Danton / News Digital

Scorers Cork: S O'Donovan 1-0, E Watson 1-0, E Dillon 0-3, G O'Connor 0-2, J O'Leary 0-1 (f), U O'Donoghue, E Burke and A Walsh 0-1 each.

Wexford: K Kelly 0-4 (0-1p, 0-1/45, 0-2f) S Redmond 0-1 (f).

Murray; C Foley, CORK: A Murray: J
O'Callaghan, C Foley, A
O'Regarc, R Buckley, M O'Connor, R Curtin: R Moloney, G
O'Connor; J O'Leary, A Walsh,
U O'Donoghue; E Burke, S
O'Donovan, E Dillon. Subs: B
Corkery for R Moloney (half
time, injl. S Hayes for R
Buckley (52min), C Desmond
for E Burke (57 min), E Watson
for J O'Leary (51 mins).

WEXFORD: M D'arcy; A No-lan, C O'Loughlin, E Carroll; S Redmond, A Codd, O Hemen; B Furlong, R M Breen; M Walsh, K Kelly, K Parrock; L Holohan, U Jacob, B Curran, Suba; S Nolan for L Holohan (half-time), C Storey for K Par-rock (Sömin). (half-time), C Storey for K Par-rock (56min).

Mercy University Hospital, MAURA (nee Coleman), late of Carraig na bhFear, Whites Cross and Mayfield, (ex Car-raig na bhFear and Glen Rovers Camogie Clubs). Deeply regretted by Harry and her sons Brian, Colman, Daragh and beloved daughter Aoife, brothers Joe and Tom and sister Margaret, daughters-in-law, grandchildren, nephews, nieces, relatives and a wide circle of friends. Lying in repose at the Coburg Street Funeral Home of Jerh O'Connor Ltd. Rosary on this (Thursday) evening. Removal on tomor-row (Friday) at 8pm to St. Joseph's Church, Mayfield. Requiem Mass at 2pm on Saturday, Funeral afterwards to Ballinaitig Cemetery. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a

# Impressive Douglas take title

Douglas Glen Rovers

TWO first-half goals proved vital as Douglas took the Seandun U15 A title for 2005 last night at St. Vincent's grounds writes MARY NEWMAN. Douglas, holding the lead from the throw in, forced the Gien to play catch up as aided by the gale force wind in the opening half they made better use of their possession.

Moira O'Donovan pointed inside the opening minute and five minutes later Leeann O'Shea extended the advantage when she found the net. Glen finally found their range with a

Lorna Crowley goal but with 1-3 O'Donovan pointing from a free Douglas continued to hold the upper hand

They increased their advantage six minutes from the break when O'Donovan waltzed past the Glen defence to hand pass to the net and seconds later she pointed a free as Douglas maintained the pressure. Denise Luby narrowed the gap with a point just before the break as Douglas turned over 2-3 to 1-1 ahead. It was Douglas who applied the pressure from the restart but with the Glen defence now holding a firmer grip

they found scores harder to come by.

Sinead O'Halloran pointed for the Glen

10 minutes in and they were now enjoying a good share of possession. Douglas grabbed their first score of the second half when from a superb Maire O'Mahony clearance, Kelly Humphries, standing ever so close to Glen keeper Emma Dunlea finished to the net, despite the protests of square ball. Again Glen applied pressure from the puck out but the Douglas defence stood firm time out of number clearing

Lorna Crowley pointed to narrow the gap and as the clock tick away the minutes the Douglas defence were superb under pressure as the Glen struck the upright with a close in shot. Again Douglas cleared and so it stood to the final whistle Douglas having done enough to ensure victory with a solid performance through the 40 minutes

For Douglas, O'Donovan, Emma Jordan and Julia White were superb while for Glen Rovers Stephanie Callanan and Laura Egan showed plenty of spirit and determination.

DOUGLAS: N Leo, S Long, J Dempsey, C Murphy, D. Connolly, C O'Driscol, E Jordan, M O'Mahony, M O'Donovan (1-3: 1-1 play, 0-2 frees) J White, L O'Shea (1 goal), J Kelleher, K Hogan, A O Connell, K. Humphnes (1-0).

GLEN ROVERS: E Duniea, L Egan, C Welsh, S Callanan, Z Buckley, D Lubyl0-1ft, L Con-ningham, A. Murphy, A Keating, L Crowled (1-1), A M Horgan, S Falty, S Gallen, S O'Hal-loran(0-1), Sub: H Keane for A M Horgan.

# Cork hosts Feile na nGael

AN ideal opportunity for Cork clubs to get some valuable games under their belts as the Cork Feile na nGael competition gets under way on Sunday next. Cork will host national Feile again this

year and do not need to hold a competition to get representatives from the county as every club can compete in the national competition.

At convention many clubs felt that Cork should still hold a local Feile and give the players another competition, as the under 14's only have a league com-petition. Cork Feile has always been their championship and so the scene is set for some exciting under 14 action next weekend.

Games will take place at six venues through the city and county, with the top team in each section going through to the next rounds where there will be two teams going straight to semi-final, with the other four contesting the quarter-finals.

Host venues are: Section "A" Inniscar-

Camogie

**Mary Newman** 

ra where the home side will welcome ra where the home side will welcome Ballygarvan, Blackrock and Aghbullogue, games getting under way at 11am with Sile Golden coordinating.

Section B will see All Ireland Feile champions Douglas hosting St Catherines, Eire Og, and Mallow 11 also the starting time here.

Section C will see Passage hosting a group that has Rockban, Clonakilty and Ballinhassig and again 11am is the throw

Ballinhassig and again 11am is the throw in for the first game Liz Farr and Celina Hyde the co -coordinator here. Section D is coordinated by Pat Mur-

ray and the Host club is Bishoptown where the throw-in at 11am will feature the home side against Valley Rovers, Brian Dillon's and Watergrashill also participating in this group. Section E has an 11.30am starting time

out in St Finbarrs and it's Milford, St

Finbarrs and last year's All Ireland section three winners Killeagh. Section F has an early starting time of 10.30 as Ballincollig welcome Glen Rovers and Courcey

The line up for the quarter-finals which will take place on Tuesday, May 9, are as follows: Section A winner's v Section D Winners, Section B winner's v Section C Winners. The semi-final which take place on Thursday, May 11, areas follows semi-final Winners Section F v Winners A / D Quarter-Final Winners of B/ C Quarter-Final v Winner's E The final will take place on Monday, May 15, again venues to be confirmed

for quarter-, semi-finals and final. The Cork Feile na nGael skills competition takes place on Tuesday, May 16, at Inniscarra starting at 6pm. Each club is

allowed two participants.



Camogie stalwarts, Rose Malone, Éire Óg and Mary Casey, Blarney honoured by the **Munster Council** for their contribution to

# Camogie tribute for two stalwarts

by Catherine Ketch

Camogic Munster Council has saluted two camogie stalwarts with a combined total of 56 years of service

The Council paid tribute to Rose Malone (Eire Og) and Mary Casey (Blarney) who retired at the 2006 Convention as secretary and treasurer, respectively, at a function, at the Silver Springs Hotel in Cork.

The contribution of Rose and lary complemented each other and ran parallel with a marked development in camogie in Munster.

Two exceptional women, they epitomise what is best in camogie and sports circles, providing role models for sports administrators. With 26 years and 30 years each served, it is a commitment that can hardly be equalled.

Eamonn Browne, chairman of Munster Council, said voluntary ef-fort was critical. "We are very fortunate that these two ladies gave exceptional time to administration and 56 years is some record between

them. The single most important thing about their contribution was that it was top class, innovative and given with an extraordinary generos-

Rose Malone has a great love for camogie and her beloved Eire Og club and to all who know her is welcoming, efficient and above all helpful. She is a proven administrator and served as chairman, vice chairman, registrar and runai of the Munster Council and is presently a member of Central Council, Cumann Camo-

gaiochta na nGael. As runaí she excelled in her com mitment, efficiency and sheer capability, handling her routine duties like clockwork. Her reports were always focused and designed to advance and promote camogie and her great strength is her ability to lend a careful ear to any club or county and to deal fairly with any issues raised.

Her prudent advice was often sought and generously given. She made telling contributions to debates and always protected the better image of camogie. In her playing days Rose played for Eire Og and Muskerry as a goalkeeper and won

Senior, Intermediate and Junior County medals and helped Eire Og to a three-in-a row senior championship titles in the late Seventies. She supported everything in camogie and indeed won an All-Ireland CCD title in a novelty act. Soft spoken Mary Casey took the purse strings for Munster in 1975

and for 30 years, every penny and cent was accounted for and wisely spent. She has set benchmarks for others to follow and her reports were always detailed, accurate and above question. She was the first cisteoir to introduce audited accounts as she constantly sought to enhance the reputation and professionalism of the game in Munster.

Mary played in goal with Blarney and Cork and the highlight of her career was leading the Cork Junior team out in Croke Park in 1968. Mary won junior and intermediate county medals with Blarney and Seandun and helped Cork to win a Munster Junior title.

The Committee of Munster camogie saluted and paid tribute to the two stalwarts, wishing them both years of contentment and happiness.

## Double triumph for Douglas

Douglas Glen Rovers

#### by Mary Newman

IT was a good night for Douglas as they captured the Se-andún under 15 A and B ti-tles for 2005 with victories over Glen Rovers and Passage at the county GAA pitch in the St Vincent's complex.

Douglas: N Leo, S Long, J Dempsey, C Murphy, D Connolly, C O' Driscoll (capt), E Jordan, M O'Mahony, M O'Donovan (1-3: 1-1 play, 0-2 frees) J White, L O'Shea (1-0), J Kellehy, K Hogan, A O'Connell, K Humphries (1-0).

Glen Rovers: E Dunlea, L Egan, C Watsh, S Callanan, Z Buckley, D Luby (0-1f), L Cunningham, A Murphy, A Keating (capt), L Crowley (1-1), AM Horgan, S Fahy, S Gallen, S O' Hallo-ran(0-1) Sub: H Keane for AM Hor-

Referee: M Myers.

Douglas Passage

FAILURE to capitalise on their first-half possession cost Passage in this Under 15B Seandun final, as aided by the gale force, they held nearly all of the possession.

Dougles: Aine O' Donovan, S Bevin, E O'Sullivan, S Kearney, D Cotter, P Mackey, S Duggan, C Mackey, C Lynch, L Horgan, Alleen O'Donovan, L Jackson Icapti, R Baxter, C O'Driscoll.

Passage: E Lydon, J Cooney, C Mur-phy, J Power, C O'Brien, L O'Sulfivan (capt), S Reitly, Laura Mc Carthy, E Twomey, A Costello, K Twomey, N O'Sulfivan, Laura Mc Carthy, C Doyle, L O'Brien, Subs: S Jordan for Laura McCarthy (midfield).

Referee: D O'Neill

# MAY 2006

# Tipp take off in blistering second half

Tipperary 3-17 Kilkenny 3-7

By Gerry Slevin

Kilkenny's Indian sign on Tipperary's hurlers in recent years is being replicated in reverse - on the camogie field. On Sunday in Piltown, they were forced to concede, bowing to a visitning side that had the same -authority as that imposed of clate by Kilkenny's male hurlers on their Tipp counterparts.

A ten point winning margin did not flatter Tipp, "Kilkenny's third goal com-

from a Sinead Millea free three minutes into added >time. The end result of quite fian entertaining contest that was very evenly contested throughout the first half saw Tipp qualify for the National League decider against old rivals Cork in . Semple Stadium on Sunday t week.

But whatever about the first half - and Kilkenny did look very sharp in that period - Tipp took off with a rejigged attack that left Kilkenny trying in vain to catch them. It was 1-6 each at half time and while Claire Grogan edged Tipp ahead fifteen seconds into the second half, Kilkenny's response was swift and lethal, an Aoife Neary goal before the opening minute was up. Back came Tipp, a brace of points from Claire Grogan to bring parity with afive minutes of the half gone.

A fine inter-passing move begun by Claire Grogan and

Eimear added McDonnell ended with Geraldine Kinane belting home Tipp's second goal. It was the signal for a Tipp take off and for the remainder of the hour, the small attendance was treated to as fine a display of cohesive, attacking camogie as has emerged from Tipperary.

Principally to admire was the quality of Claire Grogan's play. Is there a better player in the land? Her dashing runs were complemented with seven excellent points, some of which from difficult angles would be hailed as classics if converted by the Eoin Kellys and Henry Shefflins of the hurling world. Claire teamed up very well with Eimear McDonnell in the corner and they led the Kilkenny defence a merry dance throughout an action packed second half that also



Suzanne Kelly

saw Tipp denied three points because of umpiring inadequacies.

Ten minutes from the end, another quality goal, again from Geraldine Kinane and following an Eimear McDonnell solo run

and pass, put the game beyond Kilkenny's reach at 3-14 to 2-7 and for the closing minutes manager Paddy McCormack (with selectors Martin Bourke and Tipp All Ireland medal winner in 1971, Dinny Ryan) could afford to give five subs a run as the match wound



Joanne Ryan

down to its inevitable conclusion.

3-14 was a most respectable score, praiseworthy indeed in that 3-11 of it came from play.

Overall, it was a display that was all the more admirable because of the absence of no fewer than six of the side that contested last year's All Ireland final. Retirements and injuries ensured that Ciara Gaynor, Therese Brophy, Angie Noelle McDermott, Kennedy, Deirdre Hughes and Jill Horan weren't there.

It would seem that Julie Kirwan is being groomed as Ciara Gaynor's successor at centre back and she did her cause no harm at all on Sunday, showing confidence and composure though up against a quality player in Sinead Millea.

Suzanne Kelly and Una O'Dwyer gave their usual polished displays in the



Claire Grogan

inner defence line and Tipp help the upper hand at mid field with team captain Philly Fogarty and Trish O'Halloran always in control. Farther in, there were the wiles of Claire Grogan and Eimear Mc Donnell to enjoy along with the skills of Joanne Ryan and Geraldine Kinane.

The back room team may still be unsure about some positions but the encouraging aspect is that the players are there, so too is the appetite and a trial and error procedure will surely bring about the finished product as Tipp move on to take up the challenge of seeking to regain the All Ireland status they have held and enjoyed so proudly over recent years.

Referee John Pender travelled without a complement of officials, resulting in spectators being coerced into acting as umpires and linesmen. Hardly a satisfactory situation for the semi final of the game's second most important competi-

It was also interesting to see the Kildare man penalise in turn, Sinead Millea and Una O'Dwyer

for allowing the sliotar to rest on their sticks while in the process of taking frees, something that Eoin Kelly does to great effect. Referee Pender wasn't having any of it; he cancelled the frees and instead awarded a throw-in-

Scorers for Tipp were C. Grogan 0-10 (3 frees), G. Kinane 2-0, E. Hayden 1-0, McDonnell. Hennessy, J. Ryan 0-2 each, T. O'Halloran 0-1.

Kilkenny's replies came from S. Millea 1-3 (1-2 frees), M. O'Connor and A. Neary 1-0 each, L. Ling 0-2, I. Kennedy, and J. Frisby 0-

TIPPERARY - Jovita Delaney, Suzanne Kelly, Una O'Dwyer, Maria Tynan, Sinead Nealon, Julie Kirwan, Michelle Shortt, Philly Fogarty (captain), Trish O'Halloran, Claire Grogan, Emily Hayden, Joanne Ryan, Eimear McDonnell, Cora Hennessy, Geraldine Kinane.

Subs - Aine Mulcahy for Philly Fogarty, Lizzie Woods for Suzanne Kelly, Deirdre Dunne for Eimear Deirdre McDonnell. McDonnell for Maria Tynan, Lorraine Bourke for Claire Grogan.

KILKENNY - Catriona Ryan, Sinead Costello Cash, Gillian Dillon, Danielle Minogue, Elaine Aylward, Kiara Kinahan, Deirdre Delaney, Bridget Mullally, Eileen Fitzpatrick, Lizzie Lyng, Sinead Millea, Imelda Kennedy, Jackie Frisby, Aoife Neary, Marie O'Connor.

Julieanne for Eileen Woodcock Fitzpatrick.

Referee -- John Pender,

### Douglas on the Double

DOUGLAS captured the Seandun under 15 A and B tiles for 2005 with victories over Glen Rovers and Passage at the county GAA pitch at St Vincent's on Thursday last. Both games were spoiled for the young players by the extremely high grass on a pitch which was unsuitable for camogie with all four teams mentors disappointed that on such a glorious evening the players were not allowed show off their skills to the best of their abilities given that he very long grass made it difficult for all. In the A final Douglas they an early lead and aided by the gale force wind they made good use of their possession Moira O'Donovan getting the games opening point in the first. Leeann O'Shea extended the advantage finishing to the net before Glen replied with a Lorna Crowley goal. Douglas held the upper hand and increased their advantage with two points from Moira O'Donovan. The same player hand passed to the net seconds later as Douglas continued to pressurise the Glen defence. Glen enjoyed plenty of possession but failed to capitalise on it as the Douglas defence held the advantages, Denise Luby narrow the gap with a point just before the break as Douglas turned over 2-3 to 1-1 ahead. Douglas applied the pressure from the restart but now the Glen defence were making it harder as they closed the Douglas attack down. Ten minuets into the half Sincod O'Halloran pointed as Glen pressed continuousy, a good clearance from Maire

O'Mahony under pressure found Kelly Humphries who finished to the net for Douglas only score of the second half. Again Glen attacked from puck out but the Douglas defence stood firm. Lorna Crowley pointed to narrow the gap and again the Douglas defence were superb under pressure as the Glen struck the upright with a close in shot, try as they might they failed to grab the vital scores as Douglas ran out winners after an exciting contest. Failure to turn first possession in to scores cost Passage in this Under 15B Seandun final as aided by the gale force they had the Douglas defence under constant pressure through the opening half. Continuously they attacked but the Douglas defence remained solid with Aine O'Donovan in goal and ber defence in control and extremely calm under pressure. It was in the second half that the scores finally came inside thirty seconds Jessica Kayanagh finished a long free from Aileen O'Donovan to the net before Catriona Mackey pointed to extend the lead. Passage continued to try and get into the game but aided by the wind the Douglas defence were now on top and in control .Two quick Douglas goals the first from Jessica Kavanagh who finished well from close range before Catriona Mackey's hand pass to the net signalled no way back for Passage. To their credit they battling on were rewarded with a Lisa O'Sullivan pointed free with seconds remain-

#### LEAGUE FINAL PLACE FOR SENIORS

ANOTHER meeting with old rivals awaits the Cork senior side who recorded a 2-9 to 0-5 victory over Wexford. Goals from Sarah Donovan and Briege Corkery helping ensure the final spot was booked. Tipperary proved to strong for Kilkenny running up an impressive 3-17 to 3-7 winning margin. The league final will take place on May 14 in Thurles; this venue is an amazing choice considering the involvement of Tipperary. It's to be played after the Tipperary / Limerick Munster hurling championship game but will any of these followers stay to watch the game? League deciders are always played at neutral venues and in face in their fixture schedule given out last November states the div1 and B finals would be played at neutral venues, why now the change

Sunday next at six venues brough the city and county the op team in each section going brough to the next rounds, there will be two teams going straight to semi final with the other four conesting the quarter finals. The parter finals which will take slace on Tuesday, May 9 the semi insister on Thursday, May 11 the

#### GOOD START FOR UNDER CORK 16 SIDE

A VICTORY in their first game in round-robin series gave Cork the two points on offer in Buttevant on Sunday. In what was a busy day for camogie in the break. Galway the county with three inters county teams in action the board officers are to be complimented for the organising and hosting all three big games on the same afternoon. There was never very little between the teams and Cork despite enjoying plenty of possession they failed to avail of the many chances in front of goal and found the going tough against a Galway strong defence. Level at four points each Cork took

the lead as Sinead

O'Callaghan set up

Catriona Collins who

finished to the net.

Two points from

mate

her club

Sinead O'Callaghan stretched Cork advantage before Noreen Coen and Keohane Clare exchanged points as Cork led 1-7 to 0-5 a t it was a much improved performance for the second half. From the throw in Noreen Coen pointed before she had the ball in the Cork net two minutes later, now just one point separated the sides.

Roisin De Faoite and Alison Clarke swapped points before Sinead O'Callaghan continuing to cause the Galway defence huge headaches gave Cork breathing extending the lead to two. Digging deep Cork continued to press and again it was goal poacher

supreme that came to the rescue Catriona Collins evading the Galway defence to finish strongly to the net with seven minutes remaining.

Camogiechat

Galway refuse to shot had ten wides in die and battled on the opening half but with determination Stacy and Noreen Coen pointing to which Fiona O'Connell replied with an excellent long range effort as Cork kept their noses ahead. In the finish it was the hard working Sinead O'Callaghan who had the final say pointing in reply to Alison Clarke late effort three minutes into injury time. Cork now met Limerick in round two on May 13 and will be hopeful of continuing their winning run. A word of praise to Phil Healy and the Buttevant club for the superb condition of the pitch.

# So many miss Maura's smile

THE warm smile, good humoured nature, the infectious enthusiasm and laugh of Maura Walsh will be missed by many.

Aged 61, Maura passed away peacefully and suddenly on April 27 and the huge crowd that turned out to pay their final respects to her was a reflection of the high esteem in which she was held.

A native of Carrig na bhFear, Maura Walsh, nee Coleman, also lived in Whites Cross and in latter years Mayfield.

Many will have known her as a minister of the eucharist at Our Lady Crowned Church in Mayfield, as the secretary at Maria Assumpta Primary School and as a Glen Rovers camogie player.

Former Glen Rovers team mate Deirdre Sutton said she first played with Maura 45 years ago.

"We first played for St Vincent's when we were going to school and won the Schools Championship for the first time.

"Then we played with St Vincent's past pupils and won the Junior Championship," Deirdre

"I joined Glen Rovers in 1960 and Maura followed about a year after that. I was a goal keeper and Maura played at the other end of the pitch. She had a beautiful style.

"She was a great player and in later years a great selector, always there for the team.

"Maura would do anything for

#### Maura Walsh

you and it was a pleasure to have played with her and to have known her. The one thing I'll always remember is that she never drank tea or coffee, always boiling water," added Deirdre.

Maura's achievements on the camogie pitch included;

She was a member of the Glen team to win seven consecutive Senior County Championships between 1962 to 1968.

 In 1971 and 1973 she won two All-Ireland medals for Cork.

 She was a member of the 1974 Glen team who won the Intermediate County Championship.

• In 1983 she was a member of the senior panel that took the County Senior Championship title after a lapse of 17 years.

 In 1983 she also lined out in the Cork County Junior A championship final.

 In the 1990s, Maura became a selector with the junior team.

Glen Rovers club secretary Mary Newman said her lasting memory of Maura is of her running up and down the pitch in a pink track suit.

"Maura was straight to the point and if she had something to say, she said it. We played together in 1983. Maura was the older one on the team and the one we all looked up to. She was my idol and it was a

pleasure in later years to become a friend of hers," Mary said.

Two of Maura's prized possessions were sliothars signed by Christy Ring and Jack Lynch.

For the past eight years, Maura worked as school secretary in Maria Assumpta Girls' Primary School.

Principal Josephine Brennan said Maura was the first employee she took on when she started as principal.

"The staff, parents and children are heartbroken. She was the hub of the school," she said.

As coordinator of the after-school club, Maura was the first into the school in the morning and last out in the evening. She knew all the children's names and their families and her interest in her job was beyond the call of duty.

"Words can't say what she meant to the school. She was my right hand, left hand and heart. I miss her chats, her scones and the way she had to take off her glasses to wipe the tears from her eyes when she laughed," Mrs Brennan said.

Maura was also highly respected in her community at Our Lady Crowned Church in Mayfield.

Mayfield Parish Priest Fr Robert Young said: "Sport and religion were very important to Maura and



Maura Walsh was well-known as a camogie player and selector with Glen Rovers.

she passed those values to her family.

"Maura was a good woman, the like of whom are praised in the Scriptures.

"In my dealings with her I never found malice or negativity. She was most helpful.

"She made a great contribution. And while we will be the poorer for her not being here, we thank the Lord that we knew her and hope the good qualities of her life will live on in the people who knew and loved her," added Fr Young.

Maura Walsh is survived by Harry, her sons Brian, Coleman and Daragh, daughter Aoife, brother Joe and Tom and a large circle of family and friends.

# Camogie teams will play to empty stand

Cork are through to another National League Division 1A final on Sunday 14th

It's great.

It's also great that it's against arch rivals Tipp as we are guaranteed a thrilling hour of camogie.

One thing is playing on my mind though.

An 'Integration Task Force' committee was formed in 2002. This task force consists of representatives of the Camogie association, the GAA association and the Ladles Football association. The force was established to develop closer links between all three organisations and explore the possibility of joint/overall membership. With many obstacles to over-

come a schedule extending to 2008 has been agreed.

Mr Sean Kelly, ex president of the GAA, was absolutely tremendous to Camogie and female sport

in general during his reign. We hope Nicky Brennan will be as pro-active and supportive. One of the items on the agenda was to ensure that as many Camogle and Ladies Football matches as possible would be scheduled in as curtain raisers to inter-county hurling and football championship games.

So on Sunday week Cork play Tipperary AFTER the Intermediate and Senior Munster hurling Championship games between Limerick and Tipp. I highlight AFTER because this is my issue.

If the camogie association think that the crowd will stay on then they are very much mistaken.

Most Limerick and Tipp supporters will go to the intermediate game. The rest will certainly make the second half. Then they'll watch the senior game.

Will they stay on for a third match? Not a hope! Food, drink and the journey home will

be uppermost on their minds.

Now if the game was in between both hurling games it would have been fant-

astic. You'd have had the Intermediate following who would stay on for the senior clash and you'd have had the senior supporters wandering in for their game early. A perfect scenario!

I ask another question! Why, once again, when Cork and Tipp meet and the association decide to use it as a hurling curtain raiser is it always when the Tipp hurlers are playing?

In 1999 Cork played Tipp in the National League final in Thurles before a Tipperary senior hurling championship match. In 2003 Cork were 'asked' for the good of camogie if they would consider going to Portlaoise to play Tipp in the Munster final. Now its absolutely crazy to play a Munster final in Leinster but Tip-

perary and Laois were playing in a senior hurling championship fixture and the camogle association were bursting to play the camogle match before it. Of course Cork obliged (as we

do).

MELLERICK

In 2004 the Munster Final between Cork and Tipp was held in Thurles (albeit not as a hurling curtain raiser).

In 2005-The National League Final between Cork and Galway was played once again in Thurles and AFTER the Munster Junior and Senior football championship games between Tipp and Kerry. The game was fixed for 5.30pm and Cork did play to an empty stand (apart from the camogie travellers).

Last year Cork did manage to get a home league fixture (first outing) against the same opposition but how is this hap-

I hope to God I'm right and that Cork do get to play in front of an empty stand on the 14th because even if it's only an eighth full they are at a huge disadvantage ever before the ball is thrown in.

Maybe Cork should stop playing the 'good guy' and start asking questions. At the end of the day you look out for yourself because when you're at the top they all want to knock you.

#### The scoring exploits of Jane Adams, worth reading!

(2006-04-27)

The return of Jane Adams to the Antrim county colours this season has already made a huge impact - after just four National League games. During those games, the Saffrons have notched up 9 goals and 39 points. The 2005 Ulster GAA Writers' Player of the Year has scored a remarkable 6-34. Yes the rest of the forward line can account for only 3-5!

True the Antrim team this season is very inexperienced and badly needs the experience that Jane and her Rossa team-mate Gráinne Connolly brings to them.

Grainne has been superb at centre-half back, allowing the team management gradually edge Jane closer to the full-forward slot from where she can really wreak havoc on opposing defences.

Her shooting stats during April must set her apart right across the inter-county spectrum of Gaelic Games.

National League:

2nd April Antrim 2-10 Kildare 4-4 (Jane Adams 2-9)

9th April Antrim 1-7 Derry 5-5 (Jane Adams 1-6)

16th April Antrim 5-12 Dublin 3-9 (Jane Adams 3-12)

23rd April Antrim 1-10 Offaly 3-9 (Jane Adams 0-7)

And her scoring exploits have not been confined to the inter-county arena. Two years ago Ulster Council organised the Ulster Premier Club league to give clubs, who were dominating in their own counties, the opportunity to get tougher games.

Jane and her Rossa clubmates don't look as if they have been stretched that much though.

They beat Swatragh in the first game by 5-10 to 1-4 to maintain their unbeaten record in the competition. Jane scored 2-8, Gráinne Connolly in her club role as a forward notched 2-1.

The following week, same story against Clonduff (4-13 to 1-6) with Jane accounting for 3-9 and Gráinne 0-3, and to cap a marvellous scoring spree, Jane fired home 2-11 in the 31-4 to 0-6 win over Keady.

Ulster Premier League:

April 12th Rossa 5-10 Swatragh 1-4 (Jane Adams 2-8)

April 19th Rossa 4-13 Clonduff 1-6 (Jane Adams 3-9)

April 26th Rossa 3-14 Keady 0-6 (Jane Adams 2-11)

#### Camogie

NATIONAL CAMOGIE **LEAGUE DIVISION 3** FINAL

Sunday 2.00pm Venue - Portlaoise or Nenagh Waterford V Roscommon

The county camogie team go in search of a first national title on Sunday.

The venue will be confirmed late in the week with a decision to be made between O'Moore Park, Portlaoise or McDonagh Park, Nenagh. The final against Roscommon will be a double billing with the Division Two Final where Clare oppose

Their last outing in the Munster Intermediate champi-onship against Tipperary brought an end to the Deise girls winning run.

Having won all games in Division 3B the panel of players are now looking forward to the

Cork

by Mary Newman

honours.

ANOTHER meeting between Cork and Tipperary on Sunday next as both go in quest of National League

Cork used the league to in-troduce new faces to their team. Exams may dictate the

availability of several players

while Regina Curtin is a def-inite non-starter following a

hand injury sustained recently in a bicycle accident, but the

mood in the Cork camp is

positive. The sides have met

twice this season, Cork com-

ing out on top in a league

clash where a win was a must

to stay in contention. Last weekend the sides again clashed with Cork strolling to

a Munster championship vic-tory in a game that was of lit-

tle significance given the big-

ger appointment on Sunday

next. On the evening of their

league meeting Tipperary

provided a stern test, but Cork stood up and were

In their league games this

ason Cork dropped two

points to Kilkenny, who in

turn lost out comprehensively

to Tipperary in their semi-fi-nal clash. Cork did just enough without setting the

world alight to record a se-

mi-final victory over Wex-

Cork are captained by Joanne O'Callaghan from the

Cloughduv club, who are last year's county champions. Having lost out in last year's

league final to Galway Cork

will be hoping to put one over on the old enemy on Sunday and add to their roll

ford.

of honour.

divisional showdown with the Westerner's

The sides clashed in last year's National League in Lismore with Waterford taking the points on that occasion. The teams are also due to meet in the All-Ireland Junior championship in July.

The players have worked hard over the last few months in their quest for national honours. Defensively they are a strong unit with the outstanding Aisling O'Brien from the Lis-

more club in goal. In front of her full back Sally O'Grady has improved with each outing and corner back Aisling Kelly from Butlerstown is starting to play to her full potential.

Bella Daniels and Nicola Morrissey have established an excellent partnership at midfield. In attack the selectors have still not come up with a settled arrangement but with Karen Kelly and Aine Lyng is such good form they will pose a serious threat to Roscommon.

The club season is in full flow in Waterford. Three rounds of the league and the championship first round completed, the players are not short of match fitness.

In most cases they have played two games over the last number of weekends. This will hopefully stand to them on

Roscommon reached the final by virtue of a win over Westmeath courtesy of a last minute goal scored by Lizzie Glennon, one of their out-standing players. A close contest is expected, why not come along and support the players and enjoy the skills of a hard working committed team.

# Camogie blitz date set

Saturday, June 3 at 11am.
Galway, Clare, Tipperary,
Waterford, Offaly, Kildare,
Kilkenny, Wexford, Laois, Limerick Colleges, Cork (two teams) have confirmed they are participating in the All Ireland blitz. The competition was the brainchild of James Hurley, former Cork Colleges Camogie Chairman, in whose name the cup is commemorated.

The counties will play a round robin series of games with cups for the A and B winners on four pitches with multiple substitution ensuring

every player has ample oppor-tunity to display their skills.

Tipperary are the favourites this season, although champi-ons Cork Colleges, will at-tempt to add to the Clare blitz trophy they won.

The introduction by Ard-

The introduction by Ard-

Joanne Casey from Coach-

CORK Colleges are hosting the seventh annual Intercoun-ty "James Hurley" U14 camogie blitz at Inniscarra on

chomhairle of the develop-ment squad scheme, has encouraged many counties to organise their under 14 panels, following the trend set by James Hurley who had begun the process in the late nineties. Cork Colleges coach John Joe Breen is delighted with the progress of his

ford captains the Colleges side with Aisling Byrne of Christ the King vice captain. The strength in depth of the rebel county is emphasised by the fact that they have two teams participating in the competition. Tracy Sheehan (Sars), Ester O'Leary (Mallow) and Ger Sheehan (Douglas) are at the helm and hope star players Katie Buckley (Mallow), Sonia Buckley (Buttevant), Aine O' Connor and Aine Ni Riain (Inniscarra) will be at their best on the day. Games commence at 11am with the hosts providing lunch for all panels.

#### **Camogie in the sunshine at WIT**



Action from Blackwater Lismore & Scoil Mhuire, Greenhill, Carrick-on-Suir at the recent 'Spórt agus Spraoi le Coláisti', a Camogie fun-day at WIT in conjunction with the Irish Sports Council, Waterford and Kilkenny Partnerships.

When a dislike of the day is cited to be 'going home' then you know it has been an enjoyable day. These were some of the comments received from students and teachers alike on Wednesday last, when WIT hosted their Spórt agus Spraoi na Colaistí. It was the final one in this year's series of the WIS initiative of Cumann Camogaiochta na nGael, made possible by the funding received from the Irish Sports Council.

Some glorious sunshine and WITs army of helpers greeted the 307 first and second year school girls at the Waterford Crystal Playing fields from 9.30am onwards. By 10.15am 160 girls were playing 7 a side games over 8 pitches while the others had some skills training under the care of 14 coaches. Over the course of the next ninety minutes there were some keenly contested games, the odd broken hurley and lots of red faces from the 'hectic day' as one girl put it. After a short interval the groups alternated from skills to matches and from matches to skills culminating in a series of finals at 1.40pm, after which all headed to the WIT Dome for dinner and where participants received medals and certificate of participation.

The participants came from 46 camogie clubs and some of the beginners are now joining two local Waterford clubs. As part of the follow up process there is demand for two coaching courses and Code of Ethics training both of which are being organised by the two local Sports Partnerships. A huge thanks to the 23 teachers and mentors for their support and great to see the blend of talented people involved including Angela Downey, Noelle O Driscoll, Brendan Williams, Eleanor Walsh to name but a few. Thanks also to Eamonn Browne, Chairperson of Munster Council who deputised on behalf of Uachtaran Liz Howard, to Morgan Conroy, Vice-Chair of Mun-

ster Council also, Waterford and Kilkenny Sports Partnership, to the 2 Local GPOs Eoin Breathnach and Pat Caroll and to Waterford and Kilkenny County Boards for their support. This day would not have succeeded without the wonderful help of the 34 WIT students from across the clubs four codes and their work in co-ordinating schools, coaching, refereeing, co-ordinating pitches and results and organising certificates of participation was excellent. Participating schools: Colaise Cois Suire, Mooncoin, Castlecomer Community College, Loreto Kilkenny, Scoil Airgeail, Ballyhale, St Brigid's Callan, Grennan Colege, Abbey Community College, Ard Scoil Dungarvan, Blackwater College, Mercy Waterford, St Paul's Community College, St Declan's Community College, Kilmacthomas, St Mary's New Ross, Ramsgrange Secondary School and Greenhills Secondary School Carrick-on-Suir.

#### **Gaultier Camogie Club**

COUNTY SENIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP Gaultier 2-11 Ardkeen 0-4

A Herculean effort by the Barony Girls in Butlerstown saw them account for the city side in the first round of the County Camogie Championship. Due to clashes with school events on the bank holiday weekend Gaultier commenced the match with thirteen players. Midway through the first half Ruth Hannon arrived to increase their numbers to fourteen.

As is often the case in these circumstances, Ardkeen never got to grips with their numerical advantage, the confusion this created worked in Gaultier's favour. However all credit must be given to the victors for the courage and commitment they displayed for the hour. The losers will have a chance to regroup in the round-robin series and try to win through to the semi-

The Gaultier selectors commenced with a single player in the full forward line and a solid spine to their team with county players playing in all central positions. Operating at centre forward the energetic Jenny O'Grady opened the scoring in the 5th minute with a point. A 25 meter free a short time later and their ace marks-women Aine Lyng pilfered a goal.

This was the ideal start for the underdogs and further galvanised

their play. Ardkeen had their share of the sliothar but found Emma Hannon at full back in irresistible form, time and time again she repelled attacks. Behind and beside her she had willing allies, in the youthful Aisling Flood and Sara Smith and the determined Zoe

Ardkeen opened their scoring with a brace of points to narrow the margin. They would deem themselves unlucky not to have a goal when the sliothar rebounded from the butt of the upright but as the saying goes "Fortune favours the Brave"

Gaultier were next to score when centre back Aileen Cummins pointed a 45. Indeed Aileen had her finest game for some time. When Rome was attacked all those years ago the city's Fathers sent Horatius to guard the bridge. When Gaultier supremo Tony Cummins found himself in a similar position he sent Aileen to hold the bridge. As with Horatius she was flanked by two superb lieutenants in Margo Heffernan and Emily Dower. Both sides traded points before the break to leave the half time score at 1-3 to 0-3 in Gaultier's favour. At this stage the pundit's favoured Ardkeen as the effort required would certainly take its toll in the closing stages on the numerically challenged team.

Playing into the Cork Road goal Gaultier increased the tempo on the restart. The platform established at

midfield by their dynamo Bella Daniels and Captain Sally O'Grady ensured a succession of scoring opportunities for the attack. These were converted from play and placed ball by the outstanding for-ward on view Aine Lyng who finished with a personal tally of 1-8 as she prospered in the open spaces.

Her fellow attackers Carol Anne Power and Ruth Hannon busied themselves harrying the defence constantly. The game clinching scores came from the brave Amy O'Sullivan who played through the pain barrier and contributed a goal and point in quick succession to finally kill off the Ardkeen challenge.

The winners will be all to well aware that at the same stage last year they accounted for the eventual champions St.Anne's only to fall to them subsequently in the semi-

Teams: Gaultier - Aisling Flood, Sarah Smith, Emma Hannon, Zoe Power, Emily Dower, Aileen Cummins, Margot Heffernan, Sall O'Grady, Bella Daniels, Ruth H-Y non, Jenny O'Grady, Carol Ana Power, Aine Lyng, Amy O'Sulliva

Ardkeen: Kayleigh Sutton, Rc. Delahunty, Jenny McCarthy, / asin -Marie Bennett, Jean Dooley, Vicki Gaffney, Jennie Simpson, Susan Finn, Roisin Heylin, Laura Murphy, Ciara Keogh, Rachel Bennett, Sara Phelan, Ann Marie Drohan, Lisa Dower.

#### National League firsts for Clare and Waterford

(2006-05-07)

PÁIRC Tailteann was the venue where Clare captured their first ever National League title defeating Derry 1-14 to 3-7 in the Division 2 final. For a long time this was rather a dull match but when Derry full-forward Claire Mc Cloy took her side's second goal with eight mintes remaining the game suddenly came to life. Another goal from Katie Mc Auley a minute later and only a goal divided the sides, Clare 1-13, Derry 3-4. The final moments were pulsating with both sides exchanging scores, but in the end it was Fióna Lafferty who became the darling girl from Clare with a last minute gasp point to clinch victory.

However, Clare who were chasing their first ever League title remained cool and defended brilliantly. The game was only two minutes old when Clare's Sarah Donnellan sent over the opening score, a fine point, but half a minute later Gráinne Mc Goldrick who also had a fine game at midfield sent over the opening score for the Oak Leaf County. However, after that Clare came to life and were the dominant side until the break with Clare Mc Mahon sending over a total of 1-6, the goal having come from a close in free with eight minutes of the of the opening half gone.

Just when it appeared to be maybe going out of Derry's reach and the Banner leading 1-7 to 0-4, upcomes left half forward Aileen Laverty to head goalwards, where she found full-forward Clare Mc Cloy to fire home the Oak Leaf's first goal. It could not have come at a better time with just two minutes of the half remaining.

The second half once again seemed to belong to the Banner side, with top scorer of the day Claire Mc Mahon sent over three frees to put the Blue and Gold ahead 1-12 to 1-4 after twenty one minutes gone. Then this Division 2 final took on a life of it's own with Derry's Clare Mc Cloy scoring the second Derry goal. The Banner responded immediatley, with a Sarah Donnellan point. Not to be outdone in this great finish, Derry's Katie Mc Auley raced through the Clare defence to score their third goal. The excitement was now running high.

The same player sent over her first point of the day and Aileen Laverty put only a point in for Derry. Within the space of a minute, Derry were given real hope of a draw when Katie scored her side's final point. Just as referee Aileen Lawlor was about to blow full time, Fióna Lafferty became th toast of Clare with her winning point on the brink of full-time.

When captain Cathy Halley stepped up accept the League trophy, she said she did not have a speech prepared as they are directing all their energies on the championship this year, a real Clare shout for all counties to hear.

Meanwhile the experience of playing some of the higher teams for the past couple of seasons stood Waterford well yesterday as they took their first ever National League Div 3 title defeating Roscommon 5-12 to 1-10. Inspiring captain Pauline Cunnigham played a real captain's part in this final with a goal and a point in the opening half. That goal was the second Decies goal, the first having come in the fourth minute of the game when full-forward Karen Kelly scored her side's second goal to leave it Waterford 2-2 to 0-2 after just nine minutes.

However, Roscommon never gave up and were rewarded with a goal from Niamh Coyle following a great run three minutes from the break to leave it Waterford 2-7 to 1-5 for Roscommon at hald time.

It was Rsocommon who got the better start to the second half with two rapid fire points from Annette Mc Geeney and Cáit Kenny but when Waterford full-forward Karen Kelly got her second goal following a free it meant curtains for Roscommon. Inspired by their third goal, the same player made

it a hat trick of goals when she scored her third goal four minutes later.

Roscommon, who like Waterford were chasing their first ever League title did not give up, and their star player Annette Mc Geeney played her heart out at left half forward, however Roscommon could only notch up a further two scores while Waterford addded a further 1-3, the fifth goal coming from midfielder Nicola Morrissey on the stroke of fulltime.

Roscommon: S Finneran; E Farrell, F Connell, C Morris; D Kelly, S Coyle, C Moran; P Lennon, C Kenny; N Connelly, G Egan, A Mc Geeney; K Hopkins, L Glennon, N Coyle.

Subs:O Hughes for E Farrell 26mins,C Feeley for N Connelly 52mins.

Scorers: 1-10: N Coyle 1-2, C Kenny 0-5 F, G Egan, A Mc Geeney, K Hopkins 0-1 each

Waterford: A O'Brien; A Kelly, S O'Grady, V Gafney; J O' Grady, A Raher, J Simpson; N Morrissey, B Daniels; Á Breathnach, Á Lyng, E Hannon; P Cunningham, K Kelly, R Heylin. Subs; L Prendergast for R Heylin 49mins, M Murphy for J O'Grady 52mins, A Cummins for B

Daniels, C Raher for E Hannon 57mins each. Scorers: 5-12: K Kelly 3-4 (0-4f),P Cunningham, 1-1, N Morrissey 1-0, Á Lyng 0-4, E Hannon 0-2,L

Prendergast 0-1 Referee: C Egan, Cork

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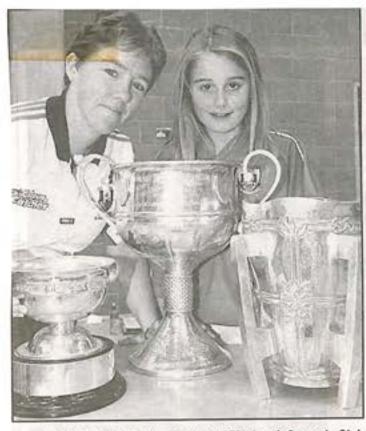
Derry: C O'Kane; A O'Kane, J Carey, K Pickering; K Laverty, C Doherty, C Cusnihan; G Mc Goldrick, B Convery; K Mc Auley, D Mc Cann, A Laverty; J Kelly, C Mc Cloy, S Cassidy.
Scorers: 3-7: C M Cloy 2-1, K Mc Auley 1-2, A Laverty 0-2, G Mc Goldrick, D Mc Cann 0-1 each

Clare: D Lynch; J Scanlon, D Corcoran, J O'Leary; S Lafferty, C Halley, M Whelan; L Linnane, S Mc Mahon, A Ryan; F Lafferty, S Donnellan; C O'Loughlin, C Commane, C Mc Mahon. Subs: M O'Halloran for Ryan, 43mins, E Keating for M Whelan 59mins. Scorers: 1-14: C Mc Mahon 1-9 (1-9f), F Lafferty 0-3, S Donnellan 0-2.

#### CAMOGIE

National League Div 2 final:
Roscoammon 1-10: N Coyle 1-2, C Kenny
0-5 F, G Egan, A Mc Geeney, K Hopkins
0-1 nach: Waterford 5-12: K Kelly 3-4
(0-41) P, Cureningham, 1-1, N Morrissey
1-0, A Lyng 0-4, E Hannon 0-2, L Prendergast 0-1. Div 3 final:
Clare 1-14: C Mc Mahon 1-9 (1-90, F Lafferty 0-3, S Dunnellan 0-2; Derry 3-7; C
M Cloy 2-1, K Mc Auley 1-2, A Laverty
0-2, G Mc Goldrick, D Mc Cann 0-1 each,
MSC Cork 3-11 Tipperary 0-5, Ulister junior championship: Down 6-15 Tytone 0-2.

MAY 2006



Fiona O'Driscoll with Katelyn Hickey of Blackrock Camogie Club with the All-Ireland hurling, camogie and ladies football cups on display at The Fiona O'Driscoll Camogie Academy.



Coach Hilda Donnelly with Coláiste Choilm Camogie team and the All-Ireland hurling, camogie and ladies football cups on display at The Fiona O'Driscoll Camogie Academy, a four day intensive coaching academy for 10 to 16 year olds.

# Academy develops camogie potential



Douglas Camogie Club members Sinead Kearney and Sinead Duggan practices the skills learnt at The Fiona O'Driscoll Camogie Academy.



Ballincollig Camogie Club members Deirdre Murphy, Emily Burns and Aisling Walsh at The Fiona O'Driscoll Camogie Academy.



Ballinascarthy Camogie Club members Emma Walsh, Caroline Sugrue and Liz Hurley with the All-Ireland hurling, camogie and ladies football cups on display at The Fiona O'Driscoil Camogie Academy, a four day intensive coaching academy for 10 to 16 year olds at Ballincollig Community School.

By PJ AHERN

Camogle Academy

THE future of Cork camogie is looking bright.

That is the opinion of Cork camogie legend Fiona O'Driscoll who was impressed by the standard she witnessed at the recent Easter camogie academy, which took place in Ballincollig Community School.

She said, "The players had lots of enthusiasm, they were anxious to learn and showed good ability during the course at the academy."

Fiona O'Driscoll knows her stuff as she has won numerous All-Ireland medals and she coached the Cork seniors to All-Ireland glory against three-in-a-row chasing Tipperary last September.

A total of 110 future stars took part in the academy, from the ages of 10 to 16, and it was open to those who have played camogie for over two years.

Players of all skills took part ranging from club players to upcoming inter-county stars.

The aim of the academy was to improve the participants skills and understanding of the game.

They were thought how to improve their tactical and technical skills, while also receiving talks on nutrition, concentration and maintaining general fitness.

There's no doubt that a few of these players will be following in the footsteps of Elaine Burke and will collect the O'Duffy Cup just as she did and some of the girls may even pick up an All-Star, as Rachel Moloney did, in a few years time.

There are plans to host a future camp in August but should that fall to materialise then the next academy will be held at Easter time again.



Cork Senior camogie coach Fiona O'Driscoll and Rachel Maloney, (camogie All-Star 2005) with Ballincollig Camogie Club players and the All-Ireland hurling, camogie and ladies football cups on display at The Fiona O'Driscoll Camogie Academy, a four day intensive coaching academy for 10 to 16 year olds at Ballincollig Community.



Douglas Camogie Club member Deirdre Bevan practices her skills at The Fiona O'Driscoll Camogie Academy.



Douglas Camogie Club member Clodagh Duggan practices her skills at The Fiona O'Driscoll Camogie Academy.



Ballinora Camogie Club players Aine Fitzgerald, Caoimhe O'Keeffe, Lauren Walsh, Karen Lane and Jennifer Sorensen with the All-Ireland hurling, camogie and ladies football cups on display at The Fiona O'Driscoll Camogie Academy.



Inniscarra Camogie Club members enjoying the fun at The Fiona O'Driscoll Camogie Academy.



Brian Dillons Camogie Club members Rebecca Myers, Rebecca O'Mahony, Michelle Ring and Kate O'Brien ready for action at The Fiona O'Driscoll Camogie Academy.

# A memorable day for Waterford Camogie with first senior title

Waterford 5-12 Roscommon 1-10

A first National Title at an adult grade was the prize garnished in Navan on Sunday where Waterford's ability to convert possession into scores on the board was the key difference between the teams. As in previous contests where the exchanges have been evenly balanced, the Deise attack led by the outstanding Karen Kelly, make good use of the sliothar and scored freely.

Roscommon had the first score of the day, a Niamh Coyle point on 54 seconds. Their lead lasted all of 20 seconds when wing forward Emma Hannon restored parity with a point from the left wing. One minute later Karen Kelly pointed a free to give Waterford a lead, which they never relinquished.

Two goals in two minutes put daylight between the teams, First a save by Sharon Finneran in the Roscommon goal saw full forward Kelly react first and shoot to the net. A minute later a sweet cross-field pass from the same player found captain Pauline Cunningham in space and she blasted to the net.

The Western girls battled bravely to get back into the game but some courageous defending by Sally O'Grady and Aisling Kelly preserved the lead. The concession of two frees saw Cáit Kenny reduce the deficit by two points. The siege to the Waterford goal was lifted and they added three points between the 13th and 19th minutes from Kelly, Cunningham and centre forward Áine Lyng. The Deise girls were now making good use of the wide open spaces of Páirc Tailteann. They looked very strong on the left side of their defence where Vicki Gaffney and Jennie Simpson played some exciting camogie.

Further points were exchanged with Lyng cancelling out Grainne Egan's effort for Roscommon. On the 27th minute the girls from the west finally got the breakthrough their work deserved when Niamh Coyle goaled.

However Aisling O'Brien's accurate puckout found Lyng who managed to get free from Annette McGeeney and restored the lead. Roscommon had the last score of the half a point from Kelly Hopkins. Half Time Score 2-7 to 1-5. Roscommon stared the second half confidently and reduced the lead to 3 points when first their outstanding player McGeeney and then Cáit Kenny pointed.

It looked ominous for the young challengers from the South East. However continued pressure was repelled with centre back Annette Raher giving a commanding display. Alongside her Jenny O'Grady came to the fore and the tide was turned.

Karen Kelly added 1-1 in a two minute spell and although Cáit Kenny pointed a free on the 11th minute the lead was never seriously threatened thereafter.

Making use of their strong panel the Waterford selectors introduced Lisa Prendergast and Mairead Murphy. This added fresh impetus and soon after Karen Kelly scored her



Liz Howard, Camogie President, presents the Camogie League Div 3 cup to Waterford captain Pauline Cunningham.

third goal of the day. Points were exchanged in the 19th minute and again the selectors made further changes which saw the introduction of Aileen Cummins, Niamh Ryan and Charlotte Raher in place of players showing the effects of battle. On the 20th minute Emma Hannon had the outstanding score of the day when pulling overhead she pointed from 20 meters, a beautiful skill executed to perfection.

This was followed up by a point from Lyng and one from Lisa Prendergast on the 28th minute. Niamh Coyle had Roscommon's last score a point soon after.

The last score of the day was to go to one of Waterford's hero's the tireless Nicola Morrissey.

Having had a goal harshly disallowed for over carrying on the 27th minute, Nicola again gained possession 25 meters out in injury time, broke through two defenders and shot to the net. Soon after referee Cathal Egan from Cork blew the final whistle and history was confirmed. President of Cumann Camogaiochta Liz Howard made her first trophy presentation since her recent election at Congress to a jubilant Pauline Cunningham.

#### POST MATCH COMMENTS

Bryan Cunningham (Selector) "We knew at half-time we had a battle on our hands, that the five point lead was inadequate turning around to play into a strong breeze.

When Roscommon got within 3 points, its then we started to show their superiority and hurl play with confidence.

Fitness and skill prevailed, Waterford ran out comfortable winners in the end. The Championship trip to Roscommon in July will be very interesting, they are a fine team and will present a formidable challenge on their home ground"

Daithai O'Brien (Selector) "First half was very tight and tense. Roscommon were putting their bodies on the line to limit scoring opportunities when we had the benefit of the elements. At the half time break I was hopeful that our speed and skill would win the day. The next 30 minutes was the best we have seen from this ever maturing group of dedicated players. With the championship just around the corner we all wait with anticipation as to what lies ahead. Na Deise Abu!"

Emma Hannon "We can only learn and move forward from this experience" Charlotte Raher "The skill of the Waterford players really showed through today"

Next up is the Munster Junior Championship semi-final against Cork on Saturday evening, most likely at Killeagh at 7.00pm

Waterford: Aisling O'Brien, Aisling Kelly, Sally O'Grady, Vicki Gaffney, Jenny O'Grady, Annette Raher, Jennie Simpson, Nicola Morrissey (1-0), Bella Daniels, Aine Breathnach, Aine Lyng (0-4), Emma Hannon (0-2), Roisin Heylin, Karen Kelly (3-4), Pauline Cunningham (1-1), Charlotte Raher, Breda Kennedy, Jane Hickey, Lisa Guiry, Mary Murphy, Fiona Kiely, Lisa Prendergast (0-1), Patrice Clancy, Aileen Cummins, Niamh Ryan, Roisin Delahunty, Bridget Phelan, Ciara Keogh, Niamh Lonergan, Mairead Murphy

Roscommon: Sharon Finneran, Eimear Farrell, Fiona Connell, Cathriona Morris, Donna Kelly, Siobhan Coyle, Ciara Moran, Patricia Lennon, Cair Kenny, Niamh Connelly, Griinne Egan, Annette McGeeney, Orla Hughes, Lizzie Glennon, Niamh Coyle, Maeve Healy, Edel Kenny, Caroline Feeley, Brenda Hughes, Kelly Hopkins, Catherine Glennon, Claire Curley.

## Cork set for final as Healy strikes

By PJ AHERN

Munster junior camogle semi-final

Cork Waterford 3-13 1-7

CORK defeated a disappointing Waterford side in Killeagh on Saturday to book their place in the Munster junior camogie final.

The difference between the sides was simple in the end: Cork's creativity going forward was far greater than their opponents'. They utilised all options in attack and built up patiently. Full-forward Clara Healy benefited most from Cork's use of the sliothar as she scored 2-7.

the sliothar as she scored 2-7.

Meanwhile, Waterford were one-dimensional, offering little in the way of creativity and relying solely on Karen Kelly for scores.

Waterford began the sprightlier but their flaws, which would ultimately cost them, soon exposed themselves as they threatened in attack but never looked like scoring unless the ball was in Kelly's possession. Cork struggled to quell her threat in the first half but they did shut her down in the second half.

Cork's Ciara Healy pointed the opening score and the sides were tit-for-tat scoring for the remainder of the first period.

With half-time approaching and Cork leading by a point, they finally achieved breathing space with a Hazel O'Regan goal.

Although Karen Kelly reduced the gap to three points, Cork were in the ascendancy and exploited Waterford at the back.

The Cork half-forward line were in total control, as Cork eased into a six-point lead with points from Ciara Healy, Jean Lucey and Catherine Corkery.

While Waterford continued to struggle in attack, with erratic shooting and dependency on a silenced Karen Kelly, Cork pulled further ahead when Ciara Healy dispatched a penalty.

The pace of the game dropped and Waterford attempted to mount a charge but to no avail although Nicola Morrissey did breach the Cork full-back line to goal and add some respectability to the score-line (2-13 to1-7).

The Cork win was capped with a fine goal by Ciara Healy.

Scorers for Cork: C Healy 2-7 (0-3f, 0-1 '45), H O'Regan 1-0, C Corkery 0-2, J Lucey 0-2, C Deasy 0-2.

Waterford: K Kelly 0-6 (0-2f), N Morrissey 1-0, B Daniels 0-1.

1-0, B Daniels 0-1.

CORK: E White, A Fleming, S Corkery, T Roche, O Neville, E O'Sullivan, L O'Regan, M O'Donoghue, M Corkery, J Lucey, L Dorgan, H O'Regan, C Corkery, C Healy, C Dessy, Subs: T Murphy for T Roche, E Morgan for L O'Regan, T Harrington for A Fleming, D Cronin for J Lucey, M Browne for C Deasy.

WATERFORD: A O'Brien, A Kelly, S O'Grady, V Gaffney, J O'Grady, A Raher, J Simpson, N Morrissey, B Daniels, A Breathnach, A Lyng, E Hannon, P Cunningham, K Kelly, L Prendergast, Subs: C Keogh for N Morrissey, A Cummins for 8 Daniels, C Raher for J Simpson, M Murphy for L Prendergast.

Referee: J Morrissey (Tipperary).

# Coachford crowned champs of Munster camogie

Coachford College Ursuline's, Thurles

#### U-14s quarter and semi-finals

Coachford College were crowned champions at the Munster Colleges first year A Camogie blitz, played at Charleville on Saturday.

The Muskerry side had beaten Colaiste Bandon and Carrignavar earlier in the month and were pitted against arch rivals Charleville in the first match.

Captain Aine O' Connor led her charges well from the pivotal centre back position with Eimear Mc-Carthy, Grace O'Sullivan, Emily O'Donovan and the stylish Laura McCarthy defending well. Susan Buckley opened the scoring with a well executed goal and followed up with another goal after good approach play from Marie Corkery. Maeve Hennessy, Laura Burke and Rosie O'Mahony dominated midfield during the early exchanges, but Charleville, playing with a stiff

by Mary Newman

THERE was plenty of U-14 camogie action over the weekend as the Cork Feile Na Gael competition took place at six different

In section A, in Ballyanley, Inniscarra proved to strong for Blackrock Ballygarvan and Aghbullogue to book their place in tonight's semi-final, where they will meet Valley Rovers who beat Brian Dillon's, Valley Rovers, Bishopstown and Watergrasshill.

In section C, Ballinhassig and Rockban recorded victory and it came down to scoring difference to put Ballinhassig through to the

breeze, began to reorganise. Sharon Curtin converted a free for St.

semis where they meet Douglas, who came through section B with wins over Mallow and Eire Og.

Milford, who came through in section E defeating Callaghan St Finbarrs, go through to Thursday's semi awaiting the winners of the Douglas/Ballinhassig quarter final. Glen Rovers beat Ballincollig and Courcey Rovers in section F and they await the winners from the Inniscarra Valley Rovers game.

#### **Fixtures**

Tonight: quarter-finals — Valley Rovers v In-niscarra in Ballinlough, 6.30pm; Ballinhas-sig v Douglas in Ballinlough, 7.30pm; se-mi-finals — Thursday, Glen Rovers v Innis-carra or Valley Rovers, 6.30pm, Milford v Ballinhassig or Douglas, 7.30pm.

Mary's and Sinéad O'Flynn, began to test the Coachford defenders.

Colette Kelleher scored a goal with Kate Keane adding a point, but Coachford closed the door immediately. Both schools used the multiple substitution rule to good effect, but Coachford maintained a well deserved lead to finish 3-1 to 1-2.

Ursuline's Thurles were seven points down in the second game against reigning champions Charleville with 10 minutes remaining. Sinéad O'Meara and Claire Kavanagh rallied their forces, and when Michelle Ryan converted a free, the six point deficit appeared fragile. Indeed, Tori Clegg broke through to score a goal for the Tipperary school, but Charleville re-sponded immediately with a goal from O'Flynn. Thurles were rewarded with two late goals from Dearbhla Kennedy and Maeve Broderick.

In the final Coachford got off to a flier against Thurles, with Joanne Casey notching 1-1 from two close

in frees in the first minute. Aine O' Connor scored a great point from the wing but score of the day was a superb ground stroke from Aoife Barry-Murphy from 35 yards to billow the roof of the Thurles net, giving keeper Ciara Corcoran no chance. After the resumption, Tori Clegg scored two points for Ursuline's but Barry Murphy, Casey and O'Connor responded to put day-light between the sides. Best for Coachford were Emily Donovan. Grace O'Sullivan, Eimear McCarthy and Marie Corkery whilst Dearbhla Kennedy, Tori Clegg and Alice Fog-arty impressed for Thurles.

Coachford: G. O' Sultivan, E. McCarthy, L. McCarthy, E. Donovan, R. O' Mahony, M. Hennessy, A. O' Connor ICL L. Burke, A. Barry-Murphy, M. Corkery, J. Casey, S. Buckley, N. Doherty IVel, E. Casey, L. Galvin, N. Buckley, G. Flynn, R. Manley Thurles: C. Coccoran, S. O' Meara, C. Kavanagh, C. Hughes, D. Nash, D. Kennedy, T. Clegg, A. Fogarty, M. Ryan, M. Broderick, E. Clendenne, C. Hennessy, R. Lappin, C. Gleeson, C. Barry.

# Banner County top division for first time

CLARE 3-07 DERRY

#### BY AILEEN WATTERS

CLARE held out for a one point win yesterday in Navan to ensure that the National League Division Two camogie title travels to the Banner County for the very first time.

Both teams were fighting to win their first league title but it was Clare who held out against Derry's late comeback to win the game.

Clare were first off the mark with Sarah Donnellan pointing inside the first minute.



1-14



Grainne McGoldrick

Derry replied quickly with much needed goal. Grainne McGoldrick striking a super point from her midfield

threshold.

Despite missing the influential Deirdre Murphy due to injury, Clare still dominated much of the first half notching three points thanks to the freetaking expertise of Claire McMahon.

Derry were rattled in the 22nd minute when a McMahon free squeezed past Derrygoalkeeper Clare O'Kane to end up in the back of the net.

Derry responded however in the 28th minute when cornerforward Clare McCloy got the better of the Banner goalkeeper Denise Lynch to claim a

Fiona Lafferty and McMahon both pointed for the Clare team just before the break to leave them leading 1-9 to 1-4 at the interval.

Derry came out for the second half firing on all cylinders but they failed to capitalise on their scoring opportunites while Clare were making full use of theirs.

Clare looked to be well in control when McMahon pointed three frees inside the opening minutes of the second half.

However, McCloy caught the Clare defence napping to score a superb goal for Derry in the 51st minute to redue the deficit back to five.

Clare still looked comfortable but when Katie McAuley rattled the back of the Banner net it was game on.

Derry pinned the Banner onto the back foot and when McAuley and then Sarah Donnellan pointed there was just a single point between the sides.

With three minutes remaining, another McAuley point levelled matters in the game for the first time since the opening minutes.

Derry were very much in the ascentency but despite their best efforts to snatch the winner and upset the odds, it was to be Clare's day with a point from Fiona Lafferty sealing it for the Banner.

#### Kilkenny take 1st Division 1B Title

(2006-05-14)

Kilkenny are back in town having won the first ever National League Division 1B title in a great final with the result in doubt until the very end, but in the dying moments it was Kilkenny who pipped Dublin 2-8 to 2-7 in St.Peregrines.

With normal time up the two sides were locked on 2-7 each, but when Aine Fahy broke loose out on the right wing she saw only the cross bar and she popped over a great point to deny the Dubs a draw.

This was Dublin's first defeat since their championship defeat of 2004, but they will not be too down as they have the championship around the corner. One must hand it to Kilkenny's backroom team who made a great move at the break when they brought on Edwina Keane who earlier captained the U16's to victory over Dublin. She made her presence felt almost immediately with her side's first goal to put the Cats ahead 1-6 to Dublin's 1-4.

The excitement was high now with the large crowd in the stand. The home side were then given a great boost midway when O'Gorman scored her second goal for Dublin to put the home side ahead 2-6 to 1-6. Both sides defended very well and while they shared the points from then until the end it was Aine Fahy who became the toast of Kilkenny with the winner five minutes into injury time.

Kilkenny: 2-8:E Kane, A M Phelan 1-0 each, C Alyward 0-4 (0-2f), T Muldowney 0-3, (0-2f), Á Fahy 0-1.

Dublin 2-7: M O'Gorman 2-1,L O'Hara 0-2, J Draper 0-2 (0-1'45),N Taylor, C Durkan 0-1 each.

## Cork are ready for Limerick battle

By MARY NEWMAN

#### Cork v Limerick, Saturday May 13th, Ballyagran 1pm

CORK U16s face a tough encounter with Limerick U16s in Ballyagran in the second game in the round robin format Under 16 All Ireland championship on Saturday.

A good victory in their opening game over a good Galway side has helped build Cork's confidence. If they can record their second victory they would almost certainly secure a semi-final place with just one game to go in the round robin series.

Preparations have been hampered a little by exams with several of the panel involved in junior certificate study but nevertheless they have worked hard and will give a good account of themselves.

Cork used the Munster championship to prepare their team and winning the title was a huge boost to the side.

Against Galway their first touch was very good and Sinead o Callaghan, Claire Keohane and Catriona Collins were particularly impressive in attack while Christine O'Neill, Moira O'Donovan and Mairead Foley were solid in de-

With no injury worries to report Cork are looking cautiously ahead.

Selector Rose White was impressed with her sides display against Galway "When they applied the pressure in the second half we stood the test. The girls are very focused and the aim is to make it to the All Ireland final. We have to take one step at a time and Limerick will provide another huge obstacle on Sat-

"A win will give us full points going into our last game with Tipperary and, while a lot of the girls are studying for exams, we are confident they will give us anoth-

Ger Mulcahy, coach of the Limerick side, is under no illusions to the task facing his girls "This is our first game in the round robin series, we lost out to Clare in the Munster championship and, while we are coming off a smaller base than Cork, we have prepared well. Exams again have caused a little disruption but we are looking forward to the game.

Limerick will field a strong side with five of their panel playing college camogie in St Mary's Charleville including captain Aisling Mc Auliffe, Rosemary Rea. Annette Mc Auliffe, Noel O Connor and Ann Mc Aulitfe who are members of Mulcahy's back room team.

With the top two teams qualifying from the group both sides will be up foe the challenge facing them.

Cork Panel

Dawn O'Keeffe, Buttevant; Christine O'Neill, Courcey Rovers; Mairead Foley, Rockban; Moira O'Donovan, Douglas; Leeann O'Shea, Douglas; Maria Walsh, Ballyhea; Emer Harrington, Buttevant; Ella Kelleher, Eire Og; Fiona O'Conneell, Inniscarra; Roisin de Faoite, Blackrock; Claire Keohane, Kitleagh; Aisling Thompson, Millord; Darina O'Caflaghan, Buttevant; Sinelad O'Callaghan, Ballinhassig; Catriona Collins, Ballinhassig; Marie Donovan, Clonakity; Jeonifer Lynch, Tracton; Mary Ann Hawkes, Valley Rovers; Niamh Dilworth, Inniscarra; Lydia Cunningham, Glen Rovers; Niamh Carrie, Valley Rovers, Niamin Devorts, Inns-carrie, Lydia Cunningham, Glen Rovers; Niamh O'Donovan, Douglas; Katle Hickey, Bishop-stown; Grace Kearney, Bride Rovers; Cliona Glavin, Mildord; Rebecca Finn, Milford; Sinéad O'Brien, Clonakity; Elaine Murphy, Buttevant; Aoife Mc Carthy, Eire DG.

# Cork won't

Mary Newman talks to Tipperary manager Paddy McCormack about Sunday's National League final against Cork.

THE hunger and determination is as strong as ever as Tipperary face up to old rivals Cork on home soil in Semple Stadium on Sunday next.

Paddy McCormack knows it will not be easy but he is determined to bring what would be his first national title to a county that has enjoyed huge camogie success since 1999.

When Raymie Ryan called it a day after just two years at the helm Paddy stepped into the ring taking up the mantle previously also held by his good friend Michael Cleary. No stranger to the big time Paddy guided the fortunes of Tipperary minor and under 21 hurlers, with the minors taking a three in a row of Munster championship titles from 2001 to 2003.

"Cork stopped us in 2004 with the last puck of the ball so I guess I owe them one. To be honest I was a bit surprised when Michael approached me and said Raymie was retiring. I was taking a break after seven years involved with hurling but I thought about it and decided to give it a go. It was a hard act to follow taking over an All-Ireland winning team and certainly a rough year losing out as we did to Cork in the All Ireland final."

Now twelve months down the line it's a reversal as Paddy faces up to Cork and no doubt about it but it's a revenge mission -"It would nice to put one over on Cork and on my good friend John Cronin. This is a new Tipperary side and while many of the girls would have won medals as subs, it's a big test on Sunday but one I am sure they will stand up to. Cork are All-Ireland champions and are a good side. We have enjoyed a successful campaign but they have already beaten us twice this year."

It's a changed Tipperary team to the one that took five All-Ireland titles. With the retirement of stalwarts Ciara Gaynor, Noelle Kennedy, Treasa Brophy, Angie Mc Dermott and Deirdre Hughes and the nonavailability of Jill Horan, new faces have come into the panel this year and Mc Cormack is happy with the new additions. 'Trisha O'Halloran, Michelle Shortt, Geraldine Kinnane, Cora Hennessy and Marie Tynan have slotted in well and are now breaking onto the team and while they would have medals as subs there is nothing like winning on the field of play."

The league has been very competitive this year with all the teams in division 1A playing each other, the games have been top class and very competitive. Tipp have two national league titles to their credit, the first annexed in 1977, they had to wait until 2004 for their second. Last season not much attention was paid to the league and was a settling in period for McCormack but this year is different. From the word go they have been focused on reaching the final, a six-points victory over a Wexford side who have always troubled Tipperary was the hallmark of their campaign. They followed up with a comprehensive 4-16 to 0-8 victory over Limerick before they demolished Galway 1-11 to 0-4. The only bleep in their campaign was their defeat at the hand of Cork. This was a game Cork had to win to stay in the league and a dream start enabled them to keep their noses ahead des-



Michelle Shortt (left) is one of the young players Tipperary boss Paddy McCormack has introduced to the panel.

# McCormack dreams of first title

pite a strong second-half display which saw over eight points from placed balls when display, notching up three goals and seventeen points as they cruised past Kilkenny. A noticeable feature has been the huge amount of points being scored, 3-17 against Kilkenny, 4-16 against Limerick and eleven points in their games against Galway and Cork. McCormack is giving little away: "We have done nothing different in our approach, maybe we are just taking a little more time and are relaxed in our shooting. On Sunday we will be coming up against a strong Cork defence and scores will be harder to come by."

While the new faces have fitted in well to the panel the more established players are the ones that Tipp will look to when the pressure comes on. Clare Grogan slotted

Tipp almost snatch it at the final whistle. the sides met last and the Cork defence On to their last league game which effect- must not concede frees with a markswoively was a semi-final against a fancied man of this calibre in the Tipp lineout. Kilkenny side. Here was another superb Emily Hayden is playing well and when moved to centrefield caused problems as did Joanne Ryan. While Tipperary have not named their team we can expect the experienced Jovita Delaney in goal with a probable defence of Maria Tynan, Una O Dwyer, Julie Kirwin, Sinead Nealon, Trisha O'Halloran and Michelle Shortt. Emily Hayden or Joanne Ryan could start at midfield with captain Philly Fogarty but certainties in the inside line will be Claire Grogan, Emer Mc Donnell and Cora Hennessy.

The Tipperary backroom team is an experienced one with former senior hurler and All-Ireland medal winner in 1971 Dinny Ryan from the Sean Tracy's club working alongside Maureen Connolly and Martin Burke.

# hold back

## Rebels will field strongest team



WE'RE going all out for it" re the words of Cork senior amogie manager John cronin as he prepares to face rch rivals Tipperary in next unday's National Senior Diision 1A League final in hurles.

Any thoughts people might have ad that Cork would be keeping their ards close to their chest for champinship time have been put to bed vith that one sweeping statement.

Having decided not to name their team until Friday evening John insists that the strongest team possible will take to the field on Sunday. "We have a few injuries. Rena Buckley is out with shin splints and is a definite non-starter. Gemma O'Connor is also suffering with the same complaint and while she may start we don't know how long she'll last."

Cork travelled to Tipp a short few weeks ago for a national league tie and recorded a one-goal victory in a great battle. Cork led comfortably at half-time but Tipp threw everything at them in the second period and the rebels were pushed to hold on to their advantage at the final whistle. Both teams battled in out in 'The Rag' again last Sunday in the Munster championship final. Nothing much can be read into the result (Cork winning by 5 goals) as both teams, particularly Tipp, kept the cream of the crop on the sideline in anticipation of next Sunday.

John is very clear in his belief that Tipperary must be kept down. To give them an inch would only boost their confidence once again.

So are Cork really going to give this everything they have? "Oh God, we are," he adamantly states. "Our last few trips to Tipp weren't very rewarding (referring to, amongst others, the 2005 Munster final defeat). We only scraped home a few weeks



Gemma McCarthy (left) is suffering with shin splints and may not last the full match for Cork.

ago and you can't read anything into last Sunday's victory. They'll be up for it and it's important we keep them down."

Tipp have their share of gaps to fill after the retirement of some of their star players, most notably the dominant Ciara Gaynor and goal-poacher supreme Deirdre Hughes. Noelle Kennedy is another along with Therese Brophy and Angie McDermot. There are talks that Brophy and McDermot may return for the championship.

However Cork should not be fooled into believing that these retirements guarantee them victory. Tipp still have players of exceptional talent and are ensuring the supply continues to come through. Jill Horan was virtually unknown 2/3 years ago. Now she is one of the most lethal forwards in the country with lightning speed. Partner her with the best forward in the Country — Emer McDonnell - and the supply going through would want to be minimal.

Cork too, have their share of those calling it a day. Stephanie Dunlea announced earlier in the year that her inter-county career was over. She is a huge loss to a team who relied on her experience and guidance. John admits that she is hard to replace, "Steph is a big loss to us. She was extremely experienced and brought on

a lot of the players around her. Emer Dillon fed off her very well last year and they worked well together. But players come and go and I'm confident we'll nail her position down again."

Vivienne Harris declared herself unavailable for the league. It is unknown yet if she will return in the coming weeks. But all the attention for now is on the players taking to the field on Sunday. The crowd should stay for this one, It promises to be up there with the best.

Fixture:- National League Division 1A Final, Cork V Tipp, Semple Stadium, Thurles Sunday 14th May 4pm.

## Rebels to face fired-up Deise

By MARY NEWMAN

Munater Junior Championship

#### Cork v Waterford, Saturday May 13th, Killeagh 7pm

Cork and Waterford open their Munster provincial campaigns when they meet on Saturday evening in Killeagh. Cork, by virtue of their grading as a senior county, are no longer eligible for participation in the Junior All-Ireland championship which is now confined to junior counties but with the provincial competition open to all counties irrespective it's all systems go. On Sunday last Waterford took their first adult camogie trophy when they defeated Roscommon to take the division three national league title and the victory is fitting reward for the huge amount of work being done in the county. It's a very young Waterford side captained by Pauline Cunningham who played a big role for WIT in the Ashbourne Cup as did Roisin Haylin while sisters Jenny and Sally O'Grady were members of the successful UL winning side, Sally having captained UCD in the 2005 Ashbourne Cup. Cork-based teacher Annette Raher and sisters Aisling and Karen Kelly make up a formidable side who are looking ahead to the bigger picture of championship in the months ahead

Fielding what is the county's third adult team, Cork have found preparations hard according to selector Brendan Coleman. "We have been picking up players from the senior division 1 B team and the county minor (U-18) panels and are have found it hard to fit in a separate night to get the panel together with their club commitments as well. Amongst the players we have eligible to participate are Niamh Bowles, Ciara Healy, the Corkery sisters Catherine and Marie and Sinead Corkery and while we have named a strong panel we really don't know who is available to us but we are hopeful of giving a good account of ourselves."

Any player who has won a Munster Junior championship medal in the last three years is also excluded from participation, therefore, Cork are again limited in their selection but given the huge numbers available to them the selectors should not have any bother fielding a strong side. Last year when the sides met Cork recorded a big victory. This time out it will not be easy against an ever-improving. Waterford who are continuing to go in the right direction.

# Rebels super seven close in on the double

by Therese O'Callaghan

THE big news in camogie circles this week was the announcement of the first commercial sponsor of the All-Ireland senior championship on Tuesday.

However, of more immediate concern is the Division One National League final between old foes Cork and Tipperary tomorrow in Semple Stadium (4pm). The home side report a clean bill of health, while the visitors have doubts over midfielder Gemma O'Connor (shin splints) and half back Rena Buckley (leg), while Regina Curtin is out with a broken wrist.

Nevertheless, there is huge incentive for the Rebels to add to the ladies football win of last weekend, and for the seven dual players — Briege Corkery, Mary O'Connor, Angela Walsh. Rena Buckley, Elaine O'Riordan, Catriona Foley and Regina Curtin there is the possibility of a double.

Captain Joanne O'Callaghan from the Cloughduv club is eagerly looking forward to playing after the Guinness Munster SHC clash between Limerick and Tipperary.

"Over the years our games with Tipp have always gone down to the wire," the 23-year said. "They obviously will have the great following playing in Thurles, but we expect our hard core fans will travel. We have played them twice over the past few months and we have come out on top. We are excited playing immediately after the hurling match.

"We have taken the league very seriously and are in the healthy position of having a very strong panel to select from if the two girls are unfortunate enough not to make the cut. I know people will say it is Cork and Tipp again, but I believe it will be much different in the championship.

"Watch for Kilkenny, Wexford and Galway. I feel they will have a big say before the season is out."

Tipperary All-Star full back Una O'Dwyer believes this will be a major test for the Blue and Gold, who have lost five household names from the 2005 championship final. Ciara Gaynor, Therese Brophy, Angie Mc-Dermott, Noelle Kennedy and Deirdre Hughes have retired.

While she says they will be wary, she insists they will not be fearful of Cork.

"They have pace and skill and every team in the country dreads playing them. But, we have new girls who are relishing the challenge. Up to now, our team was so predictable they had little chance of making an impression, but now the door is open. So, it is not necessarily all negative.

"Cork will be hot favourites, but performing in front of our own fans means pride is to play for. It is important we stay with them for the first 20 minutes. This will be crucial too if we are to hold the crowd. A lot of girls on either side are doing exams (yesterday, today and Monday) so we will have to see how they respond."

TIPPERARY: J Delaney; S Kelly, U O'Dwyer, M Tynan; S Nealon, J Kinwan, M Shortt; P Fogarty (Capt), T O'Hallocan; J Ryan, C Hennessey, C Grogae; E Mc Donnell, E Hayden, G Krnane.
CORK: A Murray: J O'Callaghan (capt), C Foley, A O'Regan; AN Other, M O'Connot, A Geary; AN Other, R Moloney; U O'Donoghue, J O'Leary, A Walsh; E Dillon, S O'Donowan, E Burke.

III RTE's Sunday Game will show highlights.

MAY

# Sunday's League Final opens season in earnest

By Gerry Slevin

stealth Almost by Tipperary find themselves greatest rivals Cork, in Semple Stadium on Sunday. Not a competition taken too seriously in the past, the league has been of particubecause of the changes that have been wrought in perfared so outstandingly since against Cork. 1999 begins its inevitable disintegration process.

Limerick. Galway. Wexford and Kilkenny have the occasion and Sunday all fallen by the wayside, a narrow defeat to Cork, despite a brilliant second half down in Golden, being the only blot on the landscape to date. The recovery from that defeat was very evident when Tipp lined out against Kilkenny in their final group game in Piltown last Sunday week. Slow enough to start, Paddy McCormack's charges left no doubt whatever as to their mastery in the second half. With newcomers seeking to impress and regulars intent to holding on to what they have there was a championship flavour about the performance and augurs well for the season ahead.

And what a season it promises to be!

Dinny Ryan, who lined out with Tipp in the 1971 All Ireland hurling final against Kilkenny and scored a famous goal in the process, has joined Paddy McCormack and Martin Bourke in the selectorial department. Philly Fogarty dons the captain's armband from her mid field berth. It will be strange to see her lead out the team minus the at any opportunity. services of such as Deirdre Noelle Kennedy and Angie McDermott. Brophy hasn't played in the league but may well return for championship action while Jill Horan, another absentee since the All Ireland final, is also expect- semi finals. This year, all

Tipp won the league two years ago, camogie's centein the National Camogie nary year, a season that saw League final against their the 'big three' titles come to the Premier County - All Ireland, league and provincial. It was only Tipp's second success in the league, the first being the inaugural lar benefit this season one in 1977, although there were some near misses, not least the previous year sonnel, as the team that down in Pairc Ui Rinn

Tipp and Cork always manage to bring out the best in each other no matter what should be no exception. Playing the final as part of the Munster hurling championship programme that also sees Tipp and Limerick in intermediate and senior contention, is laudable. But having it as the third game is questionable, if only from the aspect that not many spectators having viewed two games are likely to remain on for a third, irrespective of how appealing it might be.

In recent years, the quality of Tipp's subs has been one of the strong points in a very busy schedule and while some of them have dropped out, there are still several there only too eager to seek a place in the championship line-up. Players like Michelle Shortt, Maria Tynan, Ger Kinane, Trish O'Halloran, Cora Hennessy and Lorraine Bourke have laid down a marker and there are others such as Aine Mulcahy, Eimear Ryan, Lizzie Woods, Paula Bulfin, Joanne Nolan and Jenny O'Halloran knocking at the door and seeking to impress the backroom team

Irrespective of how Hughes, Ciara Gaynor, things turn out on Sunday, the big one, of course, is the Therese championship and a championship with a difference it will be this year. In recent years, there were two groups of four, the top two emerging to the All Ireland



Eimear McDonnell in typical turn of foot.

eight teams will meet each other and the top four at the end of that round robin circuit meet in the semis. In contrast to what obtained in the past few years, this new arrangement should ensure that the eventual top four are the strongest teams around, thus providing. hopefully, for two competitive semi finals, and not just one as has been the case.

Cork, again, will be the team to beat and with Tipp in something of a transition existence, Cork will fancy their chances of repeating their achievement of last September, Certainly, Tipp have the incentive to do well this year. Since 1999, they have suffered but two championship defeats, both to Cork and both in finals (2002 and 2005). That is indeed some record and watching the recent performance against a highly motivated and confident Kilkenny side, one came away convinced that when the chips are down, it will be very difficult to get the



Philly Fogarty - new captain.

too to have the pleasure of being presented with the league and All Ireland trophies by a Tipperary President in the person of Liz Howard? Maybe that's a lot to expect from a side that has lost so many great players. Still, Sunday in Semple Stadium against Cork in the league final ought to provide more than just an inkling of how Tipp's season will progress, for those who are committed enough to remain on after the Tipp/Limerick matches.

#### **Camogie crisis at County Board Level**

better of this Tipp team, in

And wouldn't it be nice

transition or not.

As Tipperary camogic sets out on what is hoped will be another successful season, the on-field preparations have become overshadowed, somewhat, by rumblings of disquiet at County Board level, writes Gerry Slevin.

The Guardian has learned that at a board meeting last week three separate votes of no confidence in the chairperson, Stephen Fitzgerald from Fethard were proposed and seconded. All were ignored by him on the grounds that such moves had to be submitted in writing.

Also, the Munster Council treasurer Jean Hayden, Cashel was ordered to leave the meeting on the grounds that she had no authority to be there, notwithstanding the fact that she was proposed to stand for the position of provincial council treasurer at the Board's Convention last December.

Last week's meeting also approved the co-option of former County GAA Board chairman Donie Shanahan, Toomevara as a member of the Development Committee, a move with which the chairperson disagreed and would not allow to happen.

It is understood that several delegates walked out of the meeting, and no date was fixed for the next meeting at which the votes of no confidence might be dealt with.

#### Junior championship has started!

(2006-05-14)

e & cheu

At a photocall ahead of the National League final are Rena Buckley, Cork, Liz Howard, president, Cumann Camogaolochta na nGael, and Julie Kirwan, Picture: David Maher/Sport Carlow:0-4 V Crean 0-4.

the junior All-Ireland championship series got off to a fine start with wins for Cavan over Laois while Offaly had an expected win over Carlow. Cavan's victory of 2-8 to 0-5 is the county's first championship victory in many years and no doubt will give the game a great boost in the county. Two first half goals from Marie Brady and Lisa Mc Govern settled the side very quickly and they led 2-2 to 0-4 at the break. They kept the pressure up in the second half and only allowed the visitors to Kingspan Breffni Pk just one point while they added a further six points. Offaly who reached the Division 2 League play off had an easy 4-17 to 0-4 victory over Carlow with goals from Aoife Kelly Fióna Stephens, Emma Carey and Natalie Mc Cabe.

Cavan: 2-8:L Mc Gaharn 1-1, M Brady 1-0, M Smith 0-3, T Briody, E Prior, M Murphy, M Mc Cabe 0-1 each

Laois: 0-5: L Dunne, D Quigley 0-2 each, T Bennett 0-1.

Offaly:4-17 N Mc Cabe 1-3, E Carey, F Stephens, A Kelly 1-1 each, E Corcoran, K Nugent 0-3 each, M Davis 0-2, E Dermody, M Moloney, A Dooley 0-1 each

## Cork and Tipperary In league decider

THE Senior National League final is the centre piece of another busy weekend on the camogie scene as Cork head to Semple Stadium to take on the home side Tipperary in a bid to be crowned Senior Camogie. National League champions. Once again the top two have come through their respective campaign and are the last two standing and it's sure to be another classic. Cork have continued to work hard through the winter months and haven't sut back or eased off following a terrific 2005. They introduced new faces to their panel and its all systems go as they look ahead to the bigger picture and championship. Exams may dictate the availability of several players while Regina Curtin is a definitely non starter following a hand injury sustained recently. The sides have met twice this season Cork coming out on top in a league clash where a win was a must to stay in contention. On Sunday last they met again with Cork strolling to a Munster championship victory in a

game that was of little significance given the bigger appointment on Sunday next as both teams put out experimental sides. In their league clash Tipperary provided a stern test but when the need was greatest Cork stood firm to record a god victory which kept them in the league a defeat on the night would have ended Corks campaign.

In the league Cork dropped two points to Kilkenny who in turn lost out comprehensively to Typperary in their semi final clash. Cork did just enough without setting the world alight to recorded a semi final victory over Wexford. Cork captain. is Joanne O'Callaghan from the Cloughduv club who are last year county champions. Having lost out in last years league final to Galway Cork will be boping to put one over on the old enemy on Sunday and add to their roll of honour.

Tipperary are focused this year in their league campaign, last year they showed little interest in the league. They to have included many

represent the county. The availabil-

ity of players due to exam commit-

ment many hamper the selectors in

their team selection and it will be

Saturday before they know who is

available to them.

new faces in their panel, regular centre back Ciara Gaynor and forwards Deirdre Hughes and Noelle Kennedy are reportedly retired from the Tipperary and while they have not participated to date in the league it would not be a huge surprise to see all back in the action. Suzanne Kelly, Una O'Dwyer Trish O'Halloran and Emily Hayden all performed well and no doubt will be to the fore on Sunday as Tipperary continue to are using the league to build what they hope will be a championship winning side.

Cork have some changes since last year, Sarah O'Donovan has been making the full forward spot her own with some superb performances while Elaine O'Riordan and Catriona Foley have been added to the panel and have played well in defence. A league title would not go amiss as Cork prepared for the defence of the O'Duffy Cup but as in all clashes against Tipperary nothing will be achieved easily

#### Feile semi finals

IT'S down to four as the semi finals of the Cork Feile Na Gael take place this evening in Ballinlough. In Tuesday quarter finals Inniscarra booked their place with a flawless display against Valley Rovers while Douglas recorded a good victory over Ballinhassig. At 6.30 it Inniscarra versus Glen Rovers and at 7.30 Douglas take on Milford.

Camogiechat

#### Cork U16s meet Limerick

THE Cork under 16 team play their second game in the All Ireland championship round robin series on Saturday when they meet Limerick. Cork recorded a good victory in their first game against Galway and a win on Saturday would place them in contention for a semi final

Exams will have disrupted

preparations a little but Cork are focused on the task in hand and are confident of giving a good account of them selves. Its Limericks first game in the round robin series and having lost out to Clare in the Munster championship they may just find Cork a little to hot to

#### Late Maura Coleman-Walsh

ANOTHER link with the Glen Rovers seven in a row county champion wining team of 1962 to 1968 was severed with the untimely passing of Maura Walsh nee Coleman last week. Maura won many honours in the game both with Cork whom she had two senior All Ireland medals and with Glen Rovers and Carrignavar. She played for many years and indeed came out of retirement and played when we won the junior "A" champi-

onship in 1983 making it a double for our club. I had the pleasure to have played on that team with her and she was a friend for many years. One of her proudest moments was when her son Coleman won an under 21 county championship medal with the Glen in 1995, that day Maura cried tears of joy, last week we shed tears of sadness at her sudden passing. Rest in peace dear Maura.

Thursday May 11th Cork Feile an NGael Semi finals ш

Ballinlough 6.30pm and 7.30 pm Saturday 13th May All Ireland under 16 Championship

Cork v Limerick Ballyagran 1pm Munster Junior Championship Cork v Waterford Killengh 7pm Sunday 14 May

Senior Division 1 A National League Final Cork v Tipperary Semple Stadium 4pm

Ulster semi-finals

ITS a first outing in the Munster

junior championship for Cork when

they face newly crowned division

three national league winners

Waterford in Killeagh on Saturday.

This year Cork cannot participate at

junior level in the All Ireland series

therefore this is the only chance

(2006-05-14)

Ulster Junior semi-finals:

Down 5-7 Antrim 1-10

Derry 1-8 Armagh 0-3

The limitations of both Antrim and Armagh were exposed yesterday as Down and Derry qualified to contest the Ulster Junior final.

Antrim's inexperienced team is relying too much on Jane Adams. The Rossa ace, who picked up the Bass UGAA Writers' Player of April, did very well once more picking off eight points in the wind assisted first half - but that was only good enough for the Saffrons' to go in level with Down 2-3 to 0-9.

Karen Gribbin was clinical in finishing an early goal in the third minute and in bagging a second midway through the half.

Jane Adams fired home an Antrim goal immediately on the re-start, but Gribbin grabbed her fourth 2 minutes later.

However Down didn't open up a gap until Catherine McGourty's 44th minute goal and Karen Gribbin finished off a great day at the office with her fourth goal during the last 10 minutes.

Down: Karen Gribbin 4-0, Catherine McGourty 1-1, Caitriona McCrickard 0-2 frees, Mairin McAleenan 0-2 frees, Fionnuala Carr 0-1, Ciara McGovern 0-1. Antrim: Jane Adams 1-9, Elaine Dowds 0-1.

Up in Slaughneil, Derry got a brilliant start when Sinead Cassidy finished to the net inside the first minute and Aileen Laverty added a point from the puck-out.

However they failed to score for the next 25 minutes, but added three late points - 2 from Katie McAuley - to lead 1-4 to 0-3 at the turnover. Armagh's full-back line played very well, but their limitations up front were emphasised by their failure to find the range at all during the second

Derry were marginally better in their shooting - but their defence with Catherine Pickering, Emma McIlvar and Claire Doehrty in excellent form looked very compact.

Sinead Cassidy looked the sharpest of the forwards with Katie McAuley and Grainne McGoldrick in and out of the play.

Derry: Sinead Cassidy 1-1, Katie McAuley 0-3, Grainne McGoldrick 0-3, Aileen Laverty 0-1.

Armagh: Collette McSorley 0-3. Séamas Mac Giolla Fhinnéin

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