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# Good times roll as Limerick claim

LIMERICK	2-8
CARLOW	1-6

Limerick's Junior team won what they hope to be the second of three All-Ireland Camogie titles in 2014 with a 2-8 to 1-6 victory over Carlow in Moneygall on Sunday.

They added the Junior A title to the Minor title won in May and now look forward to the Intermediate Final in Croke Park on September 14. Captain Noreen Barry lifted the Nancy Murray Cup to the cheers of the sizeable Limerick support completing a League and Championship double for the Junior team.

The game was played in wet and blustery conditions and Carlow played with the benefit of the breeze and a slight slope on the pitch in first half and opened the scoring with a point from an Eleanor Treacy free. Caitrin De Bháil replied with a free for Limerick to level the score.

Marian Doyle then scored the half's only point from play to give Carlow the lead. Limerick's prolific goal scorer Sarah Collins had a shot saved by Mary Coady in the Carlow goal and Lisa Scanlon converted the resultant 45 to level the score again on the quarter hour mark.

The remainder of the half looked like remaining scoreless as Limerick goalie Laura O'Neill denied Ciara Quirke three times as Carlow looked to capitalize on the wind advantage. Instead it was Limerick who went in at half time ahead after Lisa Scanlon converted a free just before the break.

Limerick had looked more settled as the half progressed

as the introduction of Rosemarie Rea on 20 minutes was having an impact.

Kristy Carroll came in at the break to add more physicality to the Limerick attack and added to their momentum as Limerick blitzed Carlow in the first 10 minutes of the second half. Lisa Scanlon converted a free and a 45 to open a three point lead inside 5 minutes.

Sarah Collins was also having an impact with her trademark strong runs on goal. Having been denied again by the Carlow keeper she got off the mark with Limerick's first point from play on five minutes then in the next minute after breaking through from the right played the ball across to the waiting Brid Hannon who put the ball in the net to open a seven-point gap.

Carlow though are a quality side and with Ciara Mullins and Tara Wilson impressive in midfield were not going to go out without a fight. Tara Wilson converted a free and Ciara Mullins scored a super point from play to close the gap to five.

Lisa Scanlon and Ciara Quirke exchanged frees until on 25 minutes Sarah Collins finally got her reward and her 14th goal of the season to leave the score Limerick 2-7 Carlow 0-5 with five minutes to go. Donna Mulcahy added a point from play as the game reached its conclusion.

However at the end of normal time Marguerite McCarthy was sent off for a second yellow card and from the resulting free Ciara Quirke squeezed the ball into the corner of the net. Ciara also added a point from a free with the last action of the game but it was too late and Limerick



All Ireland champions: The Limerick camogie team that claimed the All Ireland Junior 'A' title in Moneygall last Sunday when they beat Carlow

were crowned All-Ireland Junior A champions to the jubilation of players, management and supporters.

Lisa Scanlon was deservedly awarded player of the match however it must have been a close call as a case could be made for any number of Limerick players notably goalkeeper Laura O'Neill.

Noreen Barry accepted the Nancy Murray Cup on behalf of the Treaty girls and along with Donna Mulcahy and Sarah Collins led the crowd in a rousing rendition of "Limerick You're A Lady".

The celebrations continued into the evening with a meal for players and management at sponsors the Woodlands Hotel and then on

for a homecoming in captain Noreen Barry's home parish of Killeedy.

This team will re-assemble and continue to train with their Intermediate colleagues over the next three weeks as they prepare for another All-Ireland final this time in Croke Park and look to complete the job and bring home a third All-Ireland Camogie ti-

tle to Limerick in 2014.

Well done also to the U-10 teams from Ballybrown and Treaty Gaels who took part in the mini-games at half-time.

**SCORERS - Limerick:** Lisa Scanlon 0-5 (all frees), Sarah Collins 1-1, Brid Hannon 1-0, Caitrin De Bháil (free) and Donna Mulcahy 0-1 each. **Carlow:** Ciara Quirke 1-2 (all frees), Eleanor Treacy 0-1 (free), Marian Doyle, Ciara



Noreen Barry captain, Mayor Michael Sheahan and Conor Fitzgerald, The Woodlands Hotel, with the Limerick Junior Camogie Team and management and selectors at the Woodlands Hotel after winning the Junior A All Ireland final



# All Ireland camogie crown



Clockwise from above left - Tara Fitzgibbon, Limerick, in action against Lorraine Bible, Carlow; Brid Hannon celebrates her goal; selector Patsy Hall congratulates Muireann Creamer after the game; Noreen Barry, Limerick, battles for possession with Carlow's Eileen Murphy



Mullins and Tara Wilson (free) 0-1 each  
**LIMERICK:** Laura O'Neill (Na Piansaigh),  
 Leanne Browne (Newcastle West), Noreen  
 Barry (Killeedy), Catriona Neville (Croagh  
 Kilfinny), Marguerite McCarthy (Ahhane),  
 Tara Fitzgibbon (Ballyagran), Lisa Scanlon  
 (Killeedy), Donna Mulcahy (Killeedy), Katie  
 Hennessey (Ballyagran), Rebecca Noonan  
 (Grangah Ballingarry), Muireann Creamer  
 (Cappamore), Caitrin De Bhal (Feenagh  
 Killeedy), Brid Hannon (Croagh-Kilfinny),  
 Sarah Collins (Ballyagran), Mairead Clancy  
 (Ballybrown), Subs: Rosemarie Rea (Ballya-  
 gran) for Caitrin De Bhal (21 mins), Kristy  
 Carroll (Galbally) for Mairead Clancy (Half-

time), Margaret Lynch (Grangah Ballingarry)  
 for Rebecca Noonan (45 mins), Grace Lee  
 (Newcastle West) for Catriona Neville (57  
 mins). Subs unused: Catherine Fitzgerald  
 (Adare), Sarah Crotty (Ahhane), Neamh  
 Curtin (Ballybrown), Emer Hickey (Grangah  
 Ballingarry), Emma Quaid (Croagh Kilfinny),  
 Sarah Shanahan (Killeedy), Shauna Tobin  
 (Newcastle West), Orla Condon (Knockad-  
 erry), Marie Donagher (Ballyagran). Man-  
 ager - Ger Curtin; Trainer - Adrian O'Sullivan;  
 Selectors - Teresa Noonan, Joe Quaid, Patsy  
 Hall; Liaison Officer - Mairi McMahon; First  
 Aid - Emma Noonan; Physio - Sara Fitzgerald

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Mayor Michael Sheahan with members of the Limerick County Camogie Board after the All Ireland Junior A final win over Carlow in Moneygall last Sunday. From left - James Johnson, Mairead Dempsey, Donie Browne, Mairi McMahon (secretary), Sean Condon (chairman), Fiona Godfrey, Maurice Barrett (treasurer) and Liz Hennessy at the Woodlands Hotel, Adare



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Tipp U-16 Camogie Captain Karen Kennedy receives the cup for the All-Ireland. P68.

Camogie - Superb win for the Premier girls who claimed their second title

# Tipp's young cubs claim All-Ireland

By ROSE MANNION  
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www.tipperarystar.ie

**TIPPERARY** 3-13  
**GALWAY** 1-7

Tipperary under 16 camogie squad lifted the hearts of followers everywhere when they clinched victory over Galway on Sunday last in the All-Ireland Final which was held in The Gaelic Grounds Limerick.

This was their second consecutive All Ireland victory over Galway who just couldn't get to grips with the Tipperary storm force that hit them so hard. Like Tipperary, Galway came through their campaign with a clear sheet and on paper, this game was prized to have nothing between them at the end of the hour. However, the girls from the Premier county turned proceedings into a one sided affair which in all fairness, Tipperary richly deserved.

Galway had three points on the scoreboard in the opening six minutes as they tore into an early attack with the aid of the breeze. However, this was to be their only three scores in the opening half as Tipperary took control with Sinead Buckley, winning possession, taking the game by the scruff

of the neck and racing through she fired over to give Tipp the opening point in the seventh minute. Within two minutes, corner forward Sinead Meagher found the Galway net giving their custodian Sarah Healy no chance. Meagher had great support in the build up from Buckley, Keely Lenihan, Caoimhe Condon and Grace O'Brien. With a one point lead after nine minutes, Tipperary went on to build on that chance through Chloe Kirwan, O'Brien and Buckley. Galway heads began to drop as their efforts were forced off course by the Tipperary rear-guard with Captain Karen Kennedy gathering in the centre back and driving back to the forwards. Full forward Grace O'Brien's superb accuracy from both play and free taking which was to earn her the well deserved player of the match, was a major support to Tipp's success as she fired over four points without reply. The match ended as a contest when Sinead Meagher struck for her second goal in added injury time and just before the break to leave Tipperary with a 2-9 to 0-3 lead.

Again it was Galway who started the brighter going into the last half with Taragh Moloney sending two free's over, but O'Brien was nipping on heels as she kept the Tipp scoreboard ticking over and wiped out the Galway

attack. Galway tried everything, positional changes and introducing from the bench, but Tipperary fired on winning most of the exchanges throughout the pitch and leaving Galway with too much of a mountain to climb with time ebbing away. O'Brien and Moloney traded points and Galway attacked again with Carrie Dolan finding sub Leanne Freaney who split the uprights. As time was slipping away, Galway needed a goal so Moloney raced in making a great effort to get through and she fired hard at Tipp custodian Caoimhe Bourke who made it all look so simple as she took control and sent back out field and Galway lost their chance once again like so many other occasions now gone from their grasp. Galway did see off two further Tipp attacks but Chloe Kirwan broke in through their back line to gather her second point with seven minutes to go. A Carrie Dolan goal in the 56th minute gave Galway some consolation but it was Tipperary who finished the stronger when Sinead Meagher struck for her hat trick of goals in the last minute of normal time as Tipperary were merely simply the best on the day and that last goal brought great celebrations when the final whistle sounded and tears from Galway who just didn't turn up on the day.

**Scorers:** Tipperary: G



The victorious Tipperary All-Ireland U-16 camogie champions panel

O'Brien 0.9 (0.5f), S Meagher 3.0, SBuckley, C Kirwan 0.2 each. **Galway:** CDolan 1.1, T Moloney 0.3f, E O'Donovan 0.2f, L Freaney 0.1.

**Teams:** **Tipperary:** Caoimhe Bourke (Drom & Inch), Maureen Ryan (Drom & Inch), Caroline Mullane (Newport), Laura Connolly (Cashel), Emer Loughman (Clonoulty/Rossmore), Karen Kennedy, Captain (Sarsfields), Emer Murphy (Silvermines), Sinead Buckley (Eire Og Annacarty), Ciardha Maher (Burgess Duharra), Keely Lenihan

(Newport), Caoimhe Condon (Cahir), Orla O'Dwyer (Cashel), Chloe Kirwan (St. Cronan's, Roscrea), Grace O'Brien (Nenagh Eire Og), Sinead Meagher (Kildangan), Subs: Maeve Coffey (Nenagh Eire Og) for O. O'Dwyer (inj), Jessica Ryan (Ballina) for C. Maher, Clodagh Sheldon (Newport) for E. Murphy, Claire Stakelum (Holycross/Ballycahill) for C. Condon, Sarah Stakelum (Thurles Sarsfields) for C. Kirwan

**Galway:** Sarah Healy, Serena Brehony, Roisin Black, Eva

Gilmore, Christina Hanley, Aisling Downey, Emma Gaffney, Taragh Moloney, Sinead Minihan, Leanne Helebert, Sarah Spellman, Eimear O'Donovan, Ava Lynskey, Carrie Dolan, Siobhan McGrath. Subs: Tara McNally for S. Minihan, Grace Finnerty for E. Gaffney, Leanne Freaney for E. O'Donovan, Mairead Burke for A. Lynskey, Marie Farrell for E. Gilmore.

**Player of the match:** Grace O'Brien (Tipperary).  
**Referee:** Owen Elliott





Congratulations to Tipperary U-16 Camogie captain Karen Kennedy pictured with her father and mother John and Nora after she had claimed the All-Ireland title for the Premier County. Karen plays with Thurles Sarsfields Camogie club. See the match report on page 68.

# Forwards need to up ante for Cork to win



Una Leacy of Wexford celebrates the last-minute goal against Cork in last weekend's All-Ireland semi-final. Picture: INPHO/Cathal Noonan

**TOMORROW**  
Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior camogie championship semi-final replay: Cork v Wexford, Walsh Park, Waterford, 2.30pm

**CORK'S** All-Ireland semi-final replay with Wexford this Saturday could be a different type of game from the one which saw the sides finish at 1-9 apiece in Semple Stadium last weekend.

Some may feel that Cork lost their chance but I certainly don't believe that is the case. Cork were the better team first time around, there is no reason to believe they can't be again.

Wexford's typical style of play where they attempt to pull out half-back lines came a cropper as Eimear O'Sullivan, Gemma O'Connor and Pamela Mackey held firm inside their own 45, protecting their inside line.

Wexford also deployed a sweeper. There is every chance that Wexford will now change this tactic and play player on player or have just one of



**LINDA MELLERICK**

their half-forwards and midfielders fall back and retain that sweeper role.

Player-for-player marking would certainly open up the play. Cork would need to match Wexford's physicality, one on one.

Wexford's build-up to their additional-time goal started around the 45 metre line. They shouldn't have been allowed to run the ball through the way they did.

Cork will hope to get more of a return from their midfield partnership of Aisling Thompson and Rena Buckley. Considering Rena was feeling ill for a couple of days and only lined out at the last minute, her performance was admirable. Both midfielders came more into the game in

the second half and it made a difference.

Wexford will feel that they'll hardly go another day without Katrina Parrock and Kate Kelly scoring or Ursula Jacob scoring just a point from play. That may be so, but even if they do manage half a dozen points or so between them, that shouldn't worry Cork.

They had plenty of scoring chances themselves which they didn't avail of.

What was great to see was Cork's inner belief. Three points up at the break, Wexford brought the margin down to a point entering the final quarter. Jennifer O'Leary and Orla Cotter stretched it to three again.

It was back and forth point for point right up to the 61st minute as Cork responded every time Wexford pulled a score back.

That late goal was a sickener; against the run of play. Una Leacy, only back training three weeks after a knee injury, made a huge impact, scoring 1-1.

She may well be kept in reserve again as a super impact sub but you

may be sure that she will figure, at the latest by half time.

Wexford scored just 1-5 from play, Cork 1-7. The scoring will be higher from both sides this time around.

With little separating the sides, every opportunity must be capitalised upon.

Wexford hadn't played a competitive game since July 19 and last week's replay is sure to have brought them back up to match intensity. Cork were out that bit later on August 10 against Offaly, but that game never reached the intensity or combativeness of last weekend therefore expect Cork to have also benefited.

The Rebels more than made up for their early championship defeat to the Slaneysiders and Wexford will need to up their game if they are to beat Cork.

They will do this but there's a lot more in Cork too, who need to get more from their attacking six. Should this section fire on the cylinders they are capable of, Cork should get back to Croke Park to face Kilkenny in two weeks.



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## Wexford will give Una every chance



Liberty Insurance Camogie  
Championship semi-final replay  
**Wexford v Cork**

Today: Walsh Park, 2.30pm  
Referee: J Dolan (Clare)  
Bet: Wexford 10/11, Cork 11/10,  
Draw 15/2

**Eoghan Cornican**



Una Lacey wasn't supposed to play any part in last Saturday's All-Ireland camogie semi-final against

Cork. Then again, Una Lacey wasn't supposed to play any part in the 2014 championship.

The 26-year old Wexford forward, holder of four All-Ireland medals, underwent surgery in early May to correct a long-standing knee injury.

Further problems were discovered on the theatre table and Lacey had four holes drilled into her right knee while under the knife. The 2014 championship would be a write off.

Lacey, determined to defy doctor's orders, returned to training three weeks ago, and was introduced as a half-time

sub in Thurles last Saturday. Wexford trailed 1-9 to 0-9 entering second-half stoppages, their cause a lost one. On 61 minutes, possession was worked to the unmarked Lacey who rattled the top left-hand corner of Aolfe Murray's goal from close range.

Stalemate. "We are giving Una every chance to prove her fitness this week and take a starting spot for the replay," said Wexford boss Helena Jacob. "It was great to have her on the field last Saturday. She wasn't supposed to be back until next year, but she has worked remarkably hard to

get herself to where she is. Her introduction last week gave all the girls a great lift for she is such an important member of this squad. Una is one of those players who really gives it their all. Brid Gordon, introduced off the bench as well in the drawn game, is just back from her honeymoon so we are returning to full strength at just the right time.

"We told the girls at half-time not to drop the heads. We knew once we kept their lead to within three-points we had a chance. You can never doubt the ability of these Wexford girls and they

again came up with the goods."

Looking forward to today's replay encounter at Walsh Park, Jacob commented: "Key for us will be curbing the impact of their leaders. Cork don't just rely on one or two players, they have key players all over the field. Gemma O'Connor picked up player of the match last week from centre-back, Rena Buckley was excellent at midfield and then you had Briega Corkery, Jenny O'Leary and Orla Cotter causing us problems. "We will have to get to grips with these players to have a chance."

# Valleys need a win to book semi-final spot



Hanna Gatsonidas, Inniscarra and Clionadh Madden Kilbrittain Timoleague at the recent UB camogie blitz in Ballyanly.

**THE EVENING Echo Senior B** championship games dominate a very busy championship schedule tomorrow after the excitement today in Walsh Park when Cork and Wexford clash to find a winner in the Liberty Insurance semi-final replay.

Éire Óg and Valley Rovers meet at mid-day in Cloughduv as the programme of games gets underway.

Valleys had a good win over Carrigaline in their second game, bouncing back after losing out narrowly to Ballygarvan in round one.

A win here against Éire Óg would set them up nicely as the battle for the two semi-final spots on offer.

This is a must-win game for Éire Óg, having lost out to Carrigaline in their opening game. A defeat would end their hopes of qualification. Having reached last season's final they will be determined to stay in contention and this is a game that will be close.

In an all-Carrigdhoun clash Ballygarvan and Carrigaline meet in Castle Road.

It's Carrigaline last game in the group and a game they need to get a result in, having recorded an excellent victory over Éire Óg they failed to overcome Valley Rovers.

Ballygarvan, already with a victory under their belts over Valleys, have one more game to play against Éire Óg and they will be hoping to go into that last round clash with two victories to their credit.

Carrigaline must win this one to have any hopes of reaching the last four.

Ballygarvan having re-graded last season to senior B are an experienced outfit, Carrigaline were promoted this year having won the intermediate last season.

Both have excellent performers and will be determined to gain victory as the Castle Road venue hosts the last of four game down for decision on what will be a very busy Sunday.

Sarsfields made it to the semi-final of the Evening Echo Intermediate championship as they overcame the challenge

## FIXTURES

### TODAY

Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Championship semi-final replay: Cork v Wexford; Walsh Park Waterford 2.30pm  
Evening Echo Junior C Championship quarter-finals: Castlelyons v Cobh; Castlelyons 5.30pm  
Minor B Championship: Newtownshandrum v Ballincollig in Newtownshandrum 7.45pm

### TOMORROW

Evening Echo Senior B Championship: Valley Rovers v Éire Óg; Cloughduv, 12pm; Ballygarvan v Carrigaline; Castle Road 5pm  
Evening Echo Junior A Championship Section play-off replay: Bishopstown v Youghal; Castle Road 12pm

Evening Echo Junior A Championship semi-final: St Vincents v Sliabh Rua; Castle Road 2.30pm

Evening Echo Junior C Championship quarter-finals: Buttevant v Banteer; Buttevant 7pm

Evening Echo Minor A Championship: Cloughduv v Glen Rovers; Cloughduv 3pm; Killeagh v Sarsfields; Killeagh 3pm

Evening Echo Minor B Championship: Enniskeane v Inniscarra; Enniskeane 12pm

### MONDAY

Evening Echo Minor B Championship: St Catherine's v Carrigaline; Castle Road, 6.30pm

## CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

of Newtownshandrum in the last game in their group series.

Enniskeane also emerged from the group with two victories to their credit.

With the semi-final pencilled in for next Saturday a play-off scenario mid week may have to go ahead to keep the games on schedule but results from last night will decide this.

Bishopstown and Youghal will have to meet for the third time after their play-off game in the Evening Echo Junior A Championship had to be abandoned in extra time due to an injury to a Youghal player, which necessitated an ambulance being called to Castle Road.

With light fading rapidly, referee Peter Downey deemed it too dangerous to continue the game with two minutes remaining to be played and Bishopstown leading by a point it was decided to call a halt. Happily the injured player will be ok and will make a full recovery from the leg injury sustained.

Again it was a close on game as the sides battled it out. Level at full time, it went to extra time and again it was close. Bishopstown opened up a two-point lead, but Youghal cut it back and with two minutes remaining the game was still in the melting pot.

Conditions were hard with driving wind and rain spoiling it as a contest

and hopefully when the sides meet again tomorrow in Castle Road it was be much better.

The first of the Evening Echo junior A semi-finals goes ahead at 2.30pm when St Vincent's and Sliabh Rua battle to become the first side into a championship final for 1914.

In the Evening Echo junior B championship Glen Rovers booked their semi-final spot with victories over Cloughduv and Bride Rovers. In a high-scoring game with Cloughduv it finished 6-7 to 4-4 as the sides played out an excellent contest.

Goals from Michaela Hyde, Donna O'Neill and Edel O'Connell in a three-minute spell gave Glen Rovers a great start but Cloughduv, with Emma Dunne, Claire Byrne and Yvonne Burgoine impressing, and were in the game to the full-time whistle.

Finishing strongly, the Glen girls held on to book their semi-final spot.

They overcame Bride Rovers in a top of the top clash on a 3-5 to 2-6 scoreline and they join Bride Rovers, Ballincollig and Ballinascorthy in the last four.

It will be Bride Rovers v Ballinascorthy and Glen Rovers versus Ballincollig.

The Evening Echo Junior C Championship quarter-finals are down for decision tomorrow as well, Castlelyons meet Cobh in "Castlelyons while Buttevant are in action against Banteer in Buttevant.

Ballinora and Millstreet await the winners in the semi-finals, which are down for decision on Saturday next.





The Cork team which drew with Wexford in last week's Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Camogie Championship semi-final in Sempie Stadium.

Picture: INPHO/Cathal Noonan

# Cork girls deserve an All-Ireland shot

**I DON'T** think I've ever been so anxious before a game that I wasn't directly involved with than I was last Saturday when Cork took on Wexford in Sempie Stadium.

I know the huge effort that's gone into this team. Every inter-county management team puts in incredible hours away from the pitch in determining how best to prepare their team, but in all my years involved with Cork camogie I doubt many have burned the midnight oil like Paudie Murray, Matthew Twomey, Brian Barry and the rest of the backroom team have done this season.

The sacrifices are immense. I stand over the fact that I have criticised the commitment of some of this squad in the past, but the work has been put in of late and I'm willing this group to win the All-Ireland like never before.

They deserve it. Cork camogie needs it.

There are just a couple of obstacles in their way; Wexford and Kilkenny. By 3.45pm today we could be in the All-Ireland final facing the Cats and the prospect of preparing for that is exciting to say the least.

Inviting luck, I've my hotel on speed dial!

Wexford were firm favourites before last weekend. They have won four of the last seven titles with 12 of the players that figured last weekend playing a part the day they claimed their last title two years ago.

I don't think they are such favourites today. This game is 50/50.

Yet if Cork produce the same performance they did last weekend they will win.

It's 2009 since Cork last lifted the O'Duffy Cup. You would have to go back as far as the 80s to find such a gap in senior titles coming here; a lapse of eight years from 1984 to 1991. From 1992 to 2009 the longest period that Cork went without a title was three years. Hopefully four is as far as it goes this time around.

Cork remain second in the roll of honour list with 24 titles. Dublin lead the way with 26 after dominating three decades; 40s, 50s and 60s. Kilkenny hold 12, Wexford seven, Antrim six, Tipp five and Galway two.

Last year was a strange one for



LINDA MELLERICK

## CAMOGIE

Wexford. JJ Doyle stood down after a hugely successful period, only to return on the eve of the championship after the departure of his replacement Martin Lynch.

A number of key players were unavailable too and it was only their stubbornness that got them to the semi-final.

They are a different proposition this year. Helena Jacob has taken

over the reins, having been part of the aforementioned All-Ireland winning squads and has also been in charge for many of WIT's recent Ashbourne Cup successes.

Una Leacy is amongst those who have returned to the fold, coming on at half time last Saturday and scoring 1-1.

Wexford won by six points when the teams met in group 1 but the perils of reading too much into round-robin games when you reach the knockouts stages is well documented.

Holding Wexford to just 1-5 from play was a magnificent feat last weekend. You'd have taken that before the game and expect to win it. But such was the tension, tightness and importance of the game it

was a dogged affair; every ball vigorously fought for.

It was a game Cork should have won and won comfortably enough. But just that final bit of decision making cost them up front.

Having said that, Wexford's defence are excellent. Deirdre Codd, Noleen Lambert, Karen Atkinson in the full-back line are as tough a full-back line as you'll meet in the championship and Mary Leacy at centre back is formidable on her day.

Angela Walsh kept her from playing her typical influential role and with Leacy tamed, Cork did split the Wexford defence, Deirdre Codd their saviour on more than one occasion.

Cork should stick to their game plan and let Wexford worry about how they'll counteract that.

My only concern is that Walsh Park is a tighter pitch than Thurles; we need to utilise every inch.

I'm not surprised Galway didn't advance to the final. Having said that they got closer to Kilkenny than I thought they would. I'm taking out of the eight-point winning margin the two blunders Susan Earner let in, leaving just two points between the sides.

They were embarrassing to say the least for any goalkeeper. You might forgive one, but two in a game of that magnitude was a nightmare.

The other two Kilkenny goals were very impressive, particularly Ann Dalton's. Kilkenny are typical Kilkenny; goal scorers supreme.

But they aren't our concern today. Today it's all about Wexford.

The very best of luck girls.



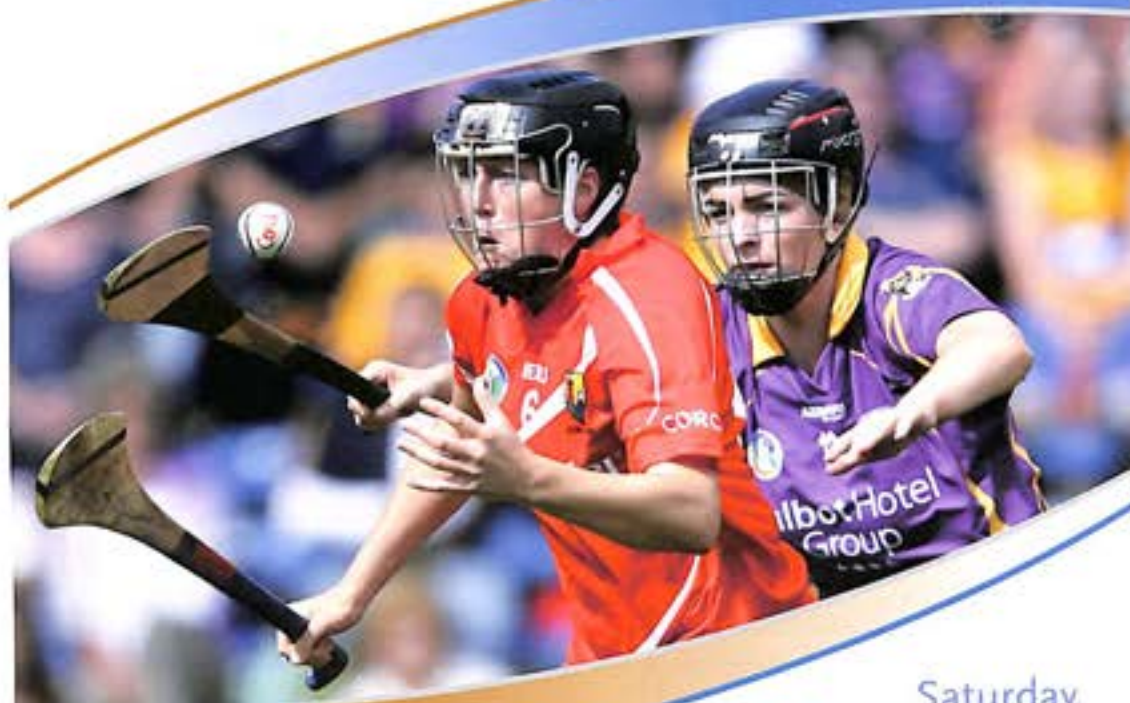
Anxious moments on the touch-line for Wexford's Helena Jacob and Cork's Paudie Murray during last week's All-Ireland semi-final.

Picture: INPHO/Cathal Noonan





**THE CAMOGIE ASSOCIATION**  
An Cumann Camógachta



AUG.  
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Saturday,  
30th August 2014  
Walsh Park, Waterford



## Liberty Insurance Senior Championship Semi-Final Replay

2.30pm Cork v Wexford

Clár Oifigiúil • Luach €2

*John O'Shea*  
And Sturtholtz



## Corcaigh

*Dathanna: Dearg agus Bán*

1  
Aoife Muray  
A. Ní Mhuirí  
Cloughduv

2  
Joanne O'Callaghan  
S. Ní Cheallacháin  
Cloughduv

3  
Anna Geary  
A. Ní Ghadhra (Capt.)  
Milford

4  
Laura Tracey  
L. Ní Threasaigh  
Killeagh

5  
Eimear O'Sullivan  
E. Ní Shuilleabháin  
Bollinrossig

6  
Gemma O'Connor  
G. Ní Chonchúir  
St. Finbarrs

7  
Pamela Mackey  
P. Ní Mhaca  
Douglas

8  
Rena Buckley  
R. Ní Bhuachalla  
Inniscarra

9  
Aisling Thompson  
A. Ní Thomáis  
Milford

10  
Jennifer O'Leary  
S. Ní Laoire  
St. John's

11  
Angela Walsh  
A. Bhreathnach  
Killeagh

12  
Briega Corkery  
B. Ní Chorca  
Cloughduv

13  
Julia White  
S. Ní Bhanáin  
Douglas

14  
Orla Cotter  
O. Ní Oitir  
St. Catherine's

15  
Katriona Mackey  
C. Ní Mhaca  
Douglas

16 Jessica Kavanagh  
S. Chaoimhín  
Douglas

19 Denise Cronin  
D. Ní Chríonín  
Ballincollig

22 Hannah Looney  
H. Ní Luanaigh  
Killeagh

25 Colette Desmond  
C. Ní Dheasúnaigh  
Newcestown

28 Amanda O'Regan  
A. Ní Riagáin  
Douglas

17 Maria Walsh  
M. Bhreathnach  
Milford

20 Leanne O'Sullivan  
L. Ní Shuilleabháin  
Glen Rovers

23 Joanne Casey  
S. Ní Chusthassagh  
Inniscarra

26 Amy O'Connor  
A. Ní Chonchúir  
St. Vincent's

29 Finola Neville  
F. Ní Nía  
St. Catherine's

18 Sara Hayes  
S. Ní Aodha  
Courcey Rovers

21 Hazel O'Regan  
H. Ní Riagáin  
Clonsilla

24 Sara Buckley  
S. Ní Bhuachalla  
Ballincollig

27 Cathriona Foley  
C. Ní Fhoghlú  
Cloughduv

30 Orla Cronin  
O. Ní Chríonín  
Enniskeane

Management: Paudie Murray (Manager), Matthew Twomey, Brian Barry,  
George Fitzgibbon, Billy Dillon Physio: Aoife McAuliffe

## Loch Garman

*Dathanna: Corca agus Ór*



1  
Mags D'Arcy  
M. Ní Dhorchaí  
Na Fianna, Dublin

2  
Deirdre Codd  
D. Ní Óda  
Duffry Rovers

3  
Noleen Lambert  
N. Laimbeart  
St. Martin's

4  
Karen Atkinson  
C. Ní Aidicín  
Oulart-The Ballagh

5  
Siona Nolan  
S. Ní Nualláin  
Manager-Boolevogue

6  
Mary Leacy  
M. Ní Laitheasa  
Oulart-The Ballagh

7  
Shauna Sinnott  
S. Sionóid  
Oulart-The Ballagh

8  
Josie Dwyer  
S. Ní Dhubhuir (Vice-Capt.)  
Ferns

9  
Shelley Kehoe  
S. Ní Eochaidh  
Oulart-The Ballagh

10  
Kate Kelly  
C. Ní Cheallaigh (Capt.)  
St. Ibar's

11  
Fiona Kavanagh  
F. Caomhánach  
Buncloody

12  
Jackie Quigley  
S. Ní Choigligh  
Rathnure

13  
Ursula Jacob  
U. Iacob  
Oulart-The Ballagh

14  
Katrina Parrock  
C. Ní Pharóg  
St. Ibar's

15  
Lisa Bolger  
L. Ní Bholguir  
St. Martin's

16 Laura Brennan  
L. Ní Bhráonáin  
Rathnure

19 Una Leacy  
U. Ní Laitheasa  
Oulart-The Ballagh

22 Clara Stoney  
C. Stóirí  
Oulart-The Ballagh

25 Clara O'Connor  
C. Ní Chonchúir  
Rathnure

28 Mag Kelly  
M. Ní Cheallaigh  
St. Ibar's

17 Brid Gordon  
B. Ní Mhuirneacháin  
Blackwater

20 Stacey Redmond  
S. Ní Réamonn  
Oulart-The Ballagh

23 Linda Bolger  
L. Ní Bholguir  
St. Martin's

26 Clara Donohoe  
C. Ní Dhonnchú  
St. Ibar's

29 Eimear O'Connor  
E. Ní Chonchúir  
Rathnure

18 Fiona Rochford  
F. de Rosfort  
St. Anne's

21 Aine Leacy  
A. Ní Laitheasa  
St. Ibar's

24 Stacey Kehoe  
S. Ní Eochaidh  
Oulart-The Ballagh

27 Louise Sinnott  
L. Sionóid  
Oulart-The Ballagh

30 Bridget Curran  
B. Ní Chorrán  
St. Ibar's

Manager: Helena Jacob Hurling Coach: David Kennedy Physical Trainer: Gerry McQuaid  
First Aid: Bridget Moran Physio: Paul Harrington



## Rebels second-half surge books final spot

By Camogie Association  
Posted 30/08/2014



Cork will face Kilkenny in the Liberty Insurance All Ireland senior camogie final after they overpowered Wexford in their semi-final replay in Walsh Park, Waterford this afternoon (Saturday, August 30th) on a scoreline of 1-15 to 0-08.

Katriona Mackey's first half goal gave the Rebels a precious one point lead at the interval, and they simply tore Wexford apart in the second half, restricting the Leinster side to just a single point in the final thirty minutes.

Although Orla Cotter had given the Cork women an early lead in the first half it was Wexford who settled better and a brace from Ursula Jacob either side of a Shelley Kehoe point put the 2012 champions two points clear by the fifth minute, and the signs were ominous for the Rebels.

However, despite playing against a stiff breeze in that opening half Cork came roaring back and a Katriona Mackey point was followed midway through the half by a stunning goal by the corner forward as she pounced on Jennifer O'Leary's pass and slammed the ball beyond the reach of Mags O'Arcy.

Three Cotter frees against a solitary Wexford reply from the hard-working Katrina Parrock gave Cork what looked like a commanding four point lead going into the break, but three quick-fire Wexford points in injury time gave the score-line a very different complexion.

Jacob, Una Leacy, the Wexford heroine in the drawn game and Brid Gordon reeled off that trio of points to leave R 1-5 0-7 narrowly in favour of Cork going into the second half, but hinting at another closely fought finish.

That however was not to transpire as Cork completely dominated the final half an hour, sweeping over seven unanswered points before Wexford raised their sole white flag of the half with six minutes remaining.

To the credit of the Model County women they never threw in the towel but three brilliant points in the final minutes from Cotter (2) and Mackey confirmed that Cork remain on course for a first Senior camogie title since 2009.

Scorers for Cork: O Cotter 0-8 (4f), K Mackey 1-3, A Murray, J White, B Corkery, J O'Leary 0-1 each.

Scorers for Wexford: U Jacob 0-3 (1f), S Kehoe, K Parrock, U Leacy, B Gordon, L Bolger 0-1 each

CORK: Aoife Murray, Joanne O'Callaghan, Anna Geary, Laura Treacy, Eimear O'Sullivan, Gemma O'Connor, Pamela Mackey, Rena Buckley, Aisling Thompson, Jennifer O'Leary, Angela Walsh, Briege Corkery, Julia White, Orla Cotter, Katriona Mackey.

Subs: Amy O'Connor for White (53m), Joanne Casey for Buckley (56m), Denise Cronin for Walsh (51m)

WEXFORD: Mags O'Arcy, Deirdre Codd, Noeleen Lambert, Karen Atkinson, Brid Gordon, Mary Leacy, Shauna Sinnott, Josie Dwyer, Shelley Kehoe, Kate Kelly, Fiona Rochford, Jackie Quigley, Ursula Jacob, Katrina Parrock, Una Leacy.

Subs: Una Bolger for Gordon (30m), Eimear O'Connor for Fiona Rochford (46m), Fiona Kavanagh for Quigley (54m)

Referee: John Dolan (Clare)

## CORK STORM INTO FINAL



CORK will face Kilkenny in the All-Ireland camogie final after overpowering Wexford 1-15 to 0-8 in their semi-final replay in Walsh Park yesterday.

Katriona Mackey's first-half goal gave the Rebels a one-point lead at the interval, and they tore Wexford apart in the second half.

Despite Orla Cotter's early point for the Rebelettes, Wexford settled quickly, and a brace from Ursula Jacob either side of a Shelley Kehoe point put the 2012 champions two points clear.

However, Cork came roar-

ing back and a Mackey point was followed by a stunning goal by the corner-forward.

A reply from Katrina Parrock was followed by three Cotter frees, and three quick-fire points from the Model women in injury-time cut the lead to 1-5 to 0-7 at the break.

Cork dominated the final half-hour, sweeping over seven unanswered points before Wexford raised their sole white flag of the half.

Pictured is Briege Corkery receiving her player of the match by Annette Ni Dhathailao of Liberty Insurance.



JOY: Cork's Eimear O'Sullivan and Briege Corkery celebrate their win

## Model exit as Rebels triumph

Cork 1-15  
Wexford 0-8  
ALL-IRELAND CAMOGIE  
SEMI-FINAL REPLAY

CORK remain on course for a first All-Ireland senior camogie title since 2009 after they swept aside Wexford with a stunning second-half display in Walsh Park on Saturday.

They join Kilkenny, the side they defeated to lift the O'Duffy Cup five years ago, in the September showdown in what should be a fascinating clash.

Una Leacy was one of three changes to the Model County's starting line-up from the previous week, and their new look forward line was in fine form, especially in the first-half, as they took a 1-5 to 0-7 one point lead in to the break.

## Camogie stars into All-Ireland decider



### Tussle

Katriona Mackey netted the goal in stunning fashion as she pounced on Jennifer O'Leary's pass and slammed the ball beyond the reach of Mags O'Arcy in the Wexford goal.

The expected tussle never transpired though as Cork completely dominated the final half hour of the game, sweeping over seven unanswered points before Wexford raised their sole white flag of the half with six minutes remaining.

CORK: A Murray (0-1), O'Callaghan, A Geary, L Treacy, E O'Sullivan, G O'Connor, P Mackey, R Buckley, A Thompson, J O'Leary (0-1), A Walsh, B Corkery (0-1), J White, O Cotter (0-8 4f), K Mackey (1-3), Sub: A O'Connor for White (53m), J Casey for Buckley (56m), D Cronin for Walsh (61m).  
WEXFORD: M O'Arcy, D Codd, N Lambert, K Atkinson, B Gordon (0-1), M Leacy, S Sinnott, J Dwyer, S Kehoe (0-1), K Kelly, F Rochford, J Quigley, U Jacob (0-3, 1f), K Parrock (0-1), U Leacy (0-1), Sub: L Bolger (0-1) for Gordon (30m), E O'Connor for F Rochford (46m), F Kavanagh for Quigley (54m).  
REFEREE: John Dolan (Clare).

## Drohan delight with outstanding All-Ireland Under 16 champions

BY TOMÁS MCCARTHY

An awesome second half showing in Leixlip earned All Ireland glory for the Waterford under 16s and continued an exceptional 2014 for underage camogie in the county.

"It's been a great year for Waterford camogie," beamed manager Declan Drohan. "There's an awful lot of work being done. If you take the minors and the under 16s have now won All Ireland titles. At club level, Gaultier and De La Salle won at National Féile level and Patricia Jackman won the Poc Fada again."

This talented bunch of Déise girls glided through the league phase as Group 2 table toppers and recorded a facile win over Down in the All Ireland semi final. A nine point triumph over the Oak Leaf back in July brought no guarantees as the underdogs applied all the early pressure. Waterford

withstood the elements and two Derry goals to make the break on level pegging (2-3 to 1-6). "We were playing against the breeze in the first half but we were happy enough going in at half time that we were level. We just asked the girls that they would push on that little bit more. We know that they have an awful lot in them."

They piled on a massive 5-11 in that second period. "In all of the games, the six forwards have all scored and again today the six forwards scored. Credit too has to be given to the backs. They didn't allow anything go through the half back line and Laura Murray did a mountain of work in the back line to drive on the forwards. Without the backs, driving the ball into them, we wouldn't have got the scores."

Beth Carton was crowned player of the match after contributing a personal haul of 2-10. "There is no doubt that she is an

exceptional talent. She strikes off both left and right and she can score goals. She is a star for the future." Drohan was keen to spray around the plaudits and 35 goals in six games shows the threat that the entire forward division posed throughout the championship. "At the same time, the strength in depth in the panel has been proven with six forwards scoring on all occasions. We have great forwards in Anne Corcoran, Kate McMahon and others so it's not just Beth on her own."

There is plenty of talent queueing up for recognition in the adult ranks over the years to come. "There is an exceptional bunch of girls there not just at under 16 but the under 14 team that's there this year will push through to under 16 next year. I can see a lot from these two panels moving on to the senior ranks. It's only a matter of time before they bring home a senior All Ireland title."



# WEXFORD CRASH OUT

**ALAN AHERNE**
*In Walsh Park, Waterford*
**CORK** 1-15  
**WEXFORD** 0-8

CORK OUGHT to have been sickened by their failure to put Wexford away in the drawn encounter a week earlier, but they got their tactics spot on in Walsh Park, Waterford, on Saturday last as a totally dominant second-half display saw them cruise into an All-Ireland final clash with Kilkenny on September 14 with ten points to spare.

It was dispiriting to watch as the Leesiders ripped their rivals apart after leading by the minimum at the break (1-5 to 0-7), with Wexford beaten all ends up as their bid to reach the sport's biggest occasion was clinically dismantled.

The statistics from that second period say it all: Wexford managed just one point, from interval substitute Lisa Bolger, in the 54th minute, plus one wide from a late Ursula Jacob free. All that netminder Aoife Murray had to deal with otherwise were two point-scoring attempts from Jacob and Jackie Quigley that fell short, but hats off to Cork for perfecting a gameplan which had also served them well in Thurles but didn't give them the victory they deserved on that occasion.

They stuck to their guns despite the disappointment of being held, with centre-back Gemma O'Connor playing the loose sweeper's role while the excellent Aisling Thompson dropped back from midfield and proceeded to play a blinder. Indeed, while full-forward Briege Corkery collected the player of the match award, my own choice would have been Thompson for putting so much thought into every ball she won.

I can't recall one pass going astray, with Cork repeatedly mopping up possession in their own half-backs and then driving forward impressively, drawing the next Wexford player and invariably picking out the best-placed colleague with a pass. It was copybook stuff, and it was just a pity that it had to pay off against Wexford.

They knew that Una Leacy - who started on this occasion - posed the biggest threat due to her uncanny ability to grab scores even off scraps. She had managed 1-1 in such circumstances seven days earlier, but this time around all routes to goal were well and truly cut off as she was usually surrounded by three Cork defenders.

That begs the obvious question: what were the other two Wexford forwards who must have been unmarked doing? But the sad reality is that the Slaneysiders didn't play a team game for long spells, particularly up front where the general formation seemed to be all over the place. While Cork stuck rigidly to their seven-strong defence augmented by Thompson, often times they only had two forwards to deal with as Wexford had a lot of bodies in the middle third but still struggled to get on the ball and make use of it.

Una Leacy was one of three substitutes retained along with Brid Gordon and Fiona Rochford, with Siona Nolan, Fiona Kavanagh and Lisa Bolger dropping down to the bench while Cork were unchanged.

Wexford captain Kate Kelly won the toss and utilised the breeze, with Ursula Jacob firing the first of six Wexford wides from an early 65-metre free before another placed ball from further out by Kelly was gathered and cleared by Pamela Mackey.

It was a better-standard game than the draw in my view, not that it will serve as any consolation. And Briege Corkery showed she was up for the challenge in the second minute when she cut in from the left wing and fed Angela Walsh who in turn handpassed to Orla Cotter for the opening point.

Jacob earned a free which she converted for the leveller before a Kate Kelly handpass set up Shelley Kehoe - now positioned at right half-back - for the lead score in the fourth minute. Soon after Wexford had reached the same tally from the first-half of the drawn game as Kehoe and Katrina Parrock combined before Ursula Jacob split the posts from play (0-3 to 0-1).

Jacob and Julia White swapped wides before Katrina Mackey pulled back a Cork point, and she exacted an even better reward in the 15th minute. A Jennifer O'Leary delivery broke off Noeleen Lambert's stick into the path of the corner-forward who bore down on goal before firing past Mags D'Arcy and



■ Cork's Briege Corkery gets a handpass away as Wexford full-back Noeleen Lambert challenges.

repeating her feat from the drawn tie (1-2 to 0-3).

Cork would never lose that lead, with Orla Cotter tapping over a free before Mackey had genuine claims for a penalty turned down when she was held up in the square by Mags D'Arcy after a poorly-struck Briege Corkery point attempt dropped short.

Katrina Parrock and Fiona Rochford switched corners and Jackie Quigley struck a wide before the menacing Corkery was fouled after Mackey initially caught a Cotter delivery, with the latter on target again from the placed ball (1-4 to 0-3).

Parrock pulled back a point from a Shelley Kehoe pass but then saw three further efforts come to nothing in quick succession, with one hitting the post before being cleared while two more were sent wide.

Briege Corkery's tactic of roaming outfield to get on the ball and then running at the defence continued to cause trouble, and another foul on the full-forward was punished by Orla Cotter once more (1-5 to 0-4).

However, the added time at the end of the half proved very productive for Wexford as they pulled back three points to leave them somewhat fortunate to be so close at the break given the general trend of play.

Una Leacy earned a '45 despite having three markers to handle which Ursula Jacob converted before Rena Buckley was yellow-carded for a frontal tackle on Kate Kelly. We were moving into the 34th minute when Mary Leacy dropped in a free and Katrina Parrock handpassed to Una on her left, but her rapid-fire shot flew over the bar.

It was the closest Wexford came to threatening a goal all through, and it was followed by a Brid Gordon point from an Ursula Jacob pass although Lisa Bolger was already poised to replace the Blackwater player.

Wexford resumed with Kate Kelly partnering Josie Dwyer at midfield but they struggled to match Cork in all aspects of the game throughout the field. The physicality of the Munster side saw them win most of the 50-50 battles, and they also topped the overall free count (23-13, and 14-6 in the second-half) as frustration set in.

It did take Cork until the last quarter to pull away though, with a mere three points struck in the opening 15 minutes on the re-start. Jennifer O'Leary hit the first after Deirdre Codd came under pressure from a long Gemma O'Connor free and Julia White handpassed outfield.

A Briege Corkery handpass picked out Orla Cotter for a good effort from distance, with Cork also hitting their three second-half wides (from a mere four in all) around that period before Katrina Parrock was booked for a foul on Katrina Mackey and Aoife Murray came out of her goal to convert the free from 75 metres (1-8 to 0-7).

Eimear O'Connor had been introduced just before for Fiona Rochford, and another yellow card followed for Josie Dwyer as Orla Cotter split the posts again after Jennifer O'Leary was impeded.

The game was slipping away from Wexford fast at that juncture, and it was certainly gone by the 52nd minute after Corkery struck an easy point when she was left unmarked for a Cotter free from the sideline that the backs expected to be aimed towards the posts. Julia White picked out Jennifer O'Leary for the next score before the latter turned provider and Katrina Mackey made it 1-12 to 0-7.

Lisa Bolger latched on to a rare misdirected ball by O'Leary for that sole second-half Wexford point before Deirdre Codd was booked and Cotter did the needful again. There was also a late yellow card for Kate Kelly who ended the game in the full-forward line, with Cork hammering home their advantage in added time as Katrina Mackey and Orla Cotter extended the winning margin to double figures.

## WEXFORD

**SCORERS:** Ursula Jacob (0-3, 1 free, 1 '45), Shelley Kehoe, Katrina Parrock, Una Leacy, Brid Gordon, Lisa Bolger (0-1 each).

1. Mags D'Arcy
2. Deirdre Codd
3. Noeleen Lambert
4. Karen Atkinson
5. Shelley Kehoe
6. Mary Leacy
7. Shauna Sinnott
8. Josie Dwyer
9. Brid Gordon
10. Kate Kelly (capt.)
11. Ursula Jacob
12. Jackie Quigley
13. Fiona Rochford
14. Una Leacy
15. Katrina Parrock

**SUBS:** Lisa Bolger for Gordon (HT), Eimear O'Connor for Rochford (44), Fiona Kavanagh for Quigley (54).

## CORK

**SCORERS:** Orla Cotter (0-8, 5 frees), Katrina Mackey (1-3), Jennifer O'Leary (0-2), Aoife Murray (0-1 free), Briege Corkery (0-1).

1. Aoife Murray
2. Joanne O'Callaghan
3. Anna Geary (capt.)
4. Laura Tracey
5. Eimear O'Sullivan
6. Gemma O'Connor
7. Pamela Mackey
8. Rena Buckley
9. Aisling Thompson
10. Orla Cotter
11. Angela Walsh
12. Jennifer O'Leary
13. Julia White
14. Briege Corkery
15. Katrina Mackey

**SUBS:** Amy O'Connor for White (54), Joanne Casey for Buckley (56), Denise Cronin for Walsh (60 + 1).

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

**VENUE:** Walsh Park, Waterford.



■ Lisa Bolger tries to break away from Julia White of Cork.



AUG.  
2014

# Rebels rout rivals Wexford in semi

Cork  
Wexford

1-15  
0-8

**THIS WAS** one of Cork's finest hours.

A scintillating performance saw them trounce a highly-fancied Wexford side and book their place in the All-Ireland final on September 14 against Kilkenny.

Many felt that Cork lost their chance a week ago when Una Leacy goaled in additional time to force the game to a replay.

Not so. Cork were by far the better team first time round and reinforced that on Saturday with a superb display.

Some of Cork's point-scoring was glorious. You felt it was going to be Cork's day when leading 1-7 to 0-7 45 minutes into the game, Aoife Murray struck an inspirational free over the bar approximately 35 metres from her own goal.

Orla Cotter got Cork off the mark two minutes in but aided by an extremely strong wind, Ursula Jacob (2) and Shelley Kehoe put Wexford two points clear with the game still settling.

Katrina Mackey had just struck a point when she ran onto Jennifer O'Leary's clinical pass and blasted the ball past Mags Darcy. There is no greater player you would wish to see bearing down on goal with ball in-hand. Rarely if ever does she miss.

It was a beauty and from there on Cork led this game.

Briege Corkery was playing a blinder, running at Wexford, winning frees. Cork were attacking incessantly and should have been awarded a penalty which referee John Dolan seemed to signal and then changed his mind.

Three further points from Orla Cotter, who played a huge part in the victory, had Cork leading 1-5 to four points entering additional-time. Playing against such a wind that was blowing directly up the pitch, it was a comfortable position heading into half-time.

However, when Wexford get a run they can notch up scores quickly and three points in additional-time from



LINDA  
MELLERICK

## CAMOGIE

Jacob, Una Leacy and Fiona Rochford narrowed the gap to one and we were in for another tight second half.

Or so we thought.

Cork were simply superb in the next 30, their work-rate all over the pitch a credit to them. Wexford put it up to Cork; this wasn't a poor performance by them. They just couldn't make the breakthrough as Cork's gameplan worked a treat.

Such was the competitiveness of the game, Cork scored just three points in the next 17 minutes but then they took off, hitting sublime point after sublime point. They dominated all over the pitch, holding Wexford to a single point.

Anna Geary was a rock in at full-back, while Laura Treacy came of age, particularly in the first-half where she broke up many attacks.

Eimear O'Sullivan at right half-back had one of her best games in the Cork jersey, and Joanne O'Callaghan was as composed and tidy as ever. Pam Mackey grew in stature, Gemma once again commanded, with Aisling Thompson was highly influential at midfield, well accompanied by Rena Buckley.

Up front, Mackey, Jennifer O'Leary, Briege Corkery, Orla Cotter, Angela Walsh and Julia White all played their part. This was a massive team effort. Briege was awarded the RTE player of the match award; well deserved.

As the clock ticked down Wexford, more and more, had to try and work the ball in and go for goal but this time round there was no getting through as Cork more than matched Wexford's physicality. Kilkenny await! There's nothing won yet. But you have to enjoy the great moments.

Saturday was one of them.

Scorers for Cork: O Cotter 0-8 (0-5 f), K Mackey



Cork's Aisling Thompson and Briege Corkery celebrate at the final whistle as Cork easily beat a fancied Wexford side.

Picture: Inpho

## Story of the game

### PLAYER OF THE MATCH

IT'S difficult to pick a player of the match. The RTE award went to Briege Corkery and I'll endorse that. As always, her work-rate was phenomenal. She took the game to Wexford, particularly in the first-half.

### SCORE OF THE MATCH

A TOSS between Katrina Mackey's wonder goal and Aoife Murray's long-range free. Both were at important stages. We'll go with Mackey's goal. It wiped out Wexford's good start and lifted Cork.

### TURNING POINT

THIS was a game Cork controlled from early on. At half-time there was a concern that Wexford's three first-half points in additional-time would come back to haunt them. No worries though as Cork continued to dominate.

### REFEREE WATCH

JOHN Dolan started poorly, harshly penalising Rena Buckley for taking her time over a free and moving the ball a yard. Then he signalled a penalty for Cork and then changed his mind. These could have been detrimental.

1-3, J O'Leary 0-2, A Murray (0-1 f), B Corkery 0-1 each.

Wexford: U Jacob 0-3 (0-2 f), S Kehoe, K Parrock, U Leacy, F Rochford, L Bolger 0-1 each.

CORK: A Murray, J O'Callaghan, A Geary, L Treacy, E O'Sullivan, G O'Connor, P Mackey, R Buckley, A Thompson, J O'Leary, A Walsh, B Corkery, J White, O Cotter, K Mackey.

Subs: A O'Connor for J White (53), J Casey for

R Buckley (56), D Cronin for A Walsh (61).

WEXFORD: M D'arcy, D Codd, N Lambert, K Atkinson, B Gordon, M Leacy, S Sinnott, J Dwyer, S Kehoe, K Kelly, U Leacy, J Quigley, U Jacob, K Parrock, F Rochford.

Subs: L Bolger for B Gordon (33), E O'Connor for F Rochford (43), F Kavanagh for J Quigley (53).

Referee: John Dolan (Clare).

## Murray composed following excellent display

THE joy surrounding Cork's performance last Saturday was tangible but Paudie Murray wasn't getting carried away, writes LINDA MELLERICK.

He was composed in the aftermath. It was an incredible performance from Cork, what he would have wished for.

"Yeah I suppose it was, the one thing we said to them all week was that they would be viewed on their reaction today more than anything else. I think they knew they

### REACTION

left it behind them the last day and it was all about rectifying that mistake and they did that in fairness to them."

Cork raised their game all over the pitch, can he put a finger on that? "I suppose we were probably lacking a small bit of belief, Brian Barry touched on it today at our team meeting that going in last week maybe there was one or two

not believing that they could beat Wexford so we asked them to believe in it today.

"We're now in a final. I've watched Kilkenny three or four times this year and it's going to take a big effort to beat them. They'll be raging hot favourites but all we can do is go up and do our best and see what happens after that."

Matthew Twomey, one of Cork's hurling coaches was thrilled.

"I'm absolutely delighted, we

dug deep. I suppose after the last day a lot of people thought we were after throwing it away but I had fierce confidence there was more in us. We're thrilled with the performance from the girls, their second half was fantastic.

"At half-time we asked them to calm down, not to take the wind for granted, that our work rate had to be there and our discipline on our game plan. We can't over-emphasise the gameplan we had going out there."



# RADIO SHOW TO REMEMBER KAY

EVERYBODY will be moving the dial for Mick Hanley's fascinating documentary on Dublin City fm 103.2.

'Kathleen "Kay" Mills - A Camogie Legend' will be aired on Wednesday week, September 10th at 3pm.

That's the week of the All-Ireland camogie final. "We will also be broadcasting the programme later on in the year on our sports programme," reveals Mick.

The documentary runs for 58 minutes. It features many personalities who recall Kay's brilliance as a player, and her gentle personality.

They include the iconic duo, Micheal Ó Muirheartaigh and Jimmy Magee, plus author, John Cassidy.

Her team-mates were also interviewed, as was the last Dublin captain to lift the O'Duffy Cup, Ann Colgan.

## CHARM

Association president, Aileen Lawlor, and former president, Liz Howard, speak about the grace and charm of the Inchicore Invincible.

Heather MacLeod is the co-producer. Mick's mother, Carmel (Walsh), won four All-Ireland medals with Kay and also played on the same CIE team.

The documentary is funded by the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland, and it offers a marvellous insight into a player that won a staggering 15 All-Ireland senior medals.

"It's a record that no other player, man or woman, has



LOCAL SUPPORT: At the sponsorship launch by Knocklyon Parish of Ballyboden St Enda's camogie section are (from left) Laura Nagle, Jodie White, Fr Éanna O'Carra, Sarah Nagle, Danny Griffin and Martha O'Donoghue.

achieved in the history of the GAA," reflects Mick.

Kay played for the Dubs through the 40s and 50s. She won her first All-Ireland medal in 1942, and her last in 1961, aged 38.

The Dubs beat Tipperary in that '61 final. Betty Hughes was the Dublin captain. As the pre-match parade was about to start, Betty stood aside to let Kay lead the team.

It was known that it was to be Kay's last appearance in the Dublin jersey, and the Croke Park crowd erupted.

On receiving the O'Duffy Cup, Betty immediately gave

it to Kay, who was carried shoulder-high by her team-mates.

Kay had the feet of a dancer. And her shot had the sting of a wasp. She played with a big heart and she was such a pure striker of the sliotar.

## MEMORY

She died in 1996. Recently, a campaign was launched to name the new bridge over the Liffey in her memory.

It was a close call, but War of Independence heroine, Rosie Hackett, took the accolade. Kathleen would

have been the first to shake her hand.

Kay was selected on the Team of the Century. With husband, George Hill, she ran a number of businesses, contributing to the economic life of the city.

Mick has painted a moving portrait of such a celebrated figure. He is steeped in the games himself. He played hurling and football for St Vincent's and Kilmacud Crokes.

He is the CEO of Dublin City fm, where he hosts the Wednesday night Dublin GAA Show (7pm).

## Dublin's Hall of Fame welcomes Cooper class

CARMEL COOPER is getting used to the furniture in Dublin's Carnegie Hall.

If anybody deserved their seat in the choir, it's Carmel. Her contribution to camogie has spanned the generations.

She was a fine player herself, winning All-Ireland titles with Dublin in the golden era of Kay Mills and co. She steered Woodville to much success, as well as St John of Gods, Artane, who were the first Dublin school to win the All-Ireland Senior A Colleges title.

She made major contributions to Celtic, UCD and Dublin teams. Her daughter, Ann, was a top-class performer.

One of Carmel's roles was that of the Dublin PRO. And you could put the mortgage on it that the phone-call would come on a Monday morning with all the news from the capital.

## BELOVED

And the phone would never go down without a few words on her beloved St Patrick's Athletic.

Where would sport be without generous souls like Carmel Cooper. Today, women's sport is enjoying a higher profile. It was the likes of Carmel who kept the candles lit for so long.

When she was with the Dubs, they beat Tipperary in the 1958 All-Ireland final. As Mary Moran related in her wonderful history of the sport, it was getting harder to secure Croke Park for the All-Ireland final.

That game was played in Croke Park with an August evening throw-in. The Tipperary players had to make their own way to Dublin. They had no money to stay in a hotel, so they had to overnight with relatives.

It was heroic figures like Carmel Cooper who helped to change the landscape. Long may the new red hall carpet soften the soles of her feet.

## BOARD NOTES

- Sincere sympathy to Board PRO and former Chair, Séamus Massey, on the death of his brother, Michael, in Kilkenny.
- Hard luck to the Dublin Minor A team which was pipped by Wexford in the Leinster Championship. The side still has a chance of advancing to the semi-finals with a game left against Kilkenny. The Minor B side exited, falling to Carlow after a brave display. Well done to Ambrose and Barbara.
- Adult Championships: The We are Dublin Senior championships start on Tuesday, 9th September. See website for fixtures.
- Juvenile Fixtures: Please check Dublin Camogie website for important fixture details and information - remaining League back matches and Championship fixtures and times.
- Dublin will also host the 2015 Camogie Annual Congress at which Aileen Lawlor will hand over the Presidency to Catherine Neary. Aileen is pictured below on the left presenting Dublin's Volunteer of the Year award to Marie O'Brien last October.
- The Leinster Council has launched a new website at [www.leinstercamogie.ie](http://www.leinstercamogie.ie). The site contains all the Colleges fixtures for 2014-15 among a range of other information items.



## Parish pride to further boost Ballyboden

THE club championship is only around the corner. Ballyboden St Enda's are the champs.

They have been boosted by the sponsorship of the Knocklyon Parish. It's the seventh year in succession that the Knocklyon Parish have sponsored the club's camogie section.

Chairman Brendan Moran and camogie chairman Gerry White, have expressed their gratitude.

On the field, the arrival of Tipperary All-Ireland winner and All-Star Jill Horan has lifted the mood.

She is a super addition to Richie Sweetnam's squad who are seeking their fifth successive championship.

Marino are the only club to have achieved that feat in 1996. Celtic completed the four-in-a-row in 1979.

The standard continues to rise in

the capital. Last year's final against St Vincent's was a belter. There was only a goal in it.

Boden also beat Vins in the 2012 final, while in 2011 they overcame Raheny, and in 2010 it was Erin's Isle.

Boden have captured the crown nine times. Making double figures will be no easy climb.

But the prayers of the parish are with them.



# Sport

THE BACK PAGE PHOTO



## CAMOGIE DREAMS IN TATTERS

Eimear O'Sullivan of Cork grimaces as she tries to find a route past Wexford duo Josie Dwyer and Shauna Sinnott in the All-Ireland Senior camogie championship semi-final replay in Walsh Park, Waterford, on Saturday last. SEE SPORT PAGE 5



## Hundreds of fans show support for Cork camogie team

At the Cork senior team camogie open night ahead of the All-Ireland final on Sunday, September 14 were:  
1. Claire Landers and Rachel Murtagh, both from Inniscarra.  
2. Orla Cotter, with Caoimhe Buckley and Jodie Sullivan, both Inniscarra Camogie Club.

## Meet and greet Cork camogie players

The Cork camogie team are through to the All-Ireland final after a comprehensive victory over a highly-fancied Wexford outfit at the weekend.

The match - which was a replay following a draw between the two sides a week before - saw a fine performance from Catriona Mackey, who finished with 1-3 to her name; while the RTE player of the match was awarded to Brieger Corkery.

Orla Cotter was another player on form, finishing with eight points and Cork will now feature in their first final since 2009.

In the lead-up to the Lib-

erty Insurance All Ireland Senior Camogie final - where Cork will play Kilkenny - the team will hold an open training session tonight, 4 September, in Castle Road camogie grounds in Blackrock.

Players will be available to meet supporters, get photos taken and sign autographs from 7.15pm onwards, following a training session.

The Costcutter Cork camogie jersey will also be on sale on the night for any supporters who wish to purchase and fans are encouraged to come along and support the team ahead of the final.

9. Katriona and Pamela, Cork senior camogie team with Aoife Keohane, Douglas.

Pictures: Jim Coughlan







Just in time: Cork's Brieghe Corkery in action against Noeleen Lambert of Wexford during the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland camogie championship semi-final replay at Walsh Park, Waterford. (Photo: Ken Sutton/INPHO)

## Rebelettes are on course to end camogie drought

CORK 1-15  
WEXFORD 0-8

CORMAC O'MALLEY REPORTS

CORK remain on course for a first All-Ireland senior camogie title since 2009 as they swept aside Wexford with a stunning second-half display in this semi-final replay in Walsh Park, Waterford on Saturday.

They join Kilkenny, the side they defeated to lift the O'Duffy Cup five years ago, in the September showdown with a display of defensive tenacity and long range point-taking that left Wexford with no answer on a disappointing day for Helena Jacob's side.

Una Leacy, the saviour for Wexford in the drawn game, was one of three changes to the Model County's starting line-up from the previous week, and their new look forward line was in fine form early on as they raced into a 0-3 to 0-1 lead after five minutes.

A brace from Ursula Jacob either side of a Shelley Kehoe point put the 2012 champions two points clear after Orla Cotter's opening score for Cork, and the signs were ominous for the Leesiders as Wexford pinned them in their own half.

The Leinster side were unable to drive home their advantage in that first quarter though and despite playing against a stiff breeze, Cork weathered the Wexford storm, slowly growing into the game as it progressed.

Their pace up front began to trouble Wexford and a point from Katriona Mackey in the 13th minute was followed just a minute later by a stunning goal from the corner forward as she pounced on Jennifer O'Leary's pass and slammed the ball beyond the reach of Mags D'Arcy in the Wexford goal.

Three Cotter frees against a



Top scorer: Orla Cotter.

solitary Wexford reply from the hard-working Katrina Parrock gave Cork what looked like a commanding four-point lead going into the break, but three quick-fire Wexford points in injury time suddenly gave the game a different complexion again.

Jacob, Leacy and Brid Gordon reeled off a trio of points to leave just a solitary point, 1-5 0-7, between the teams heading into the second half, hinting at another closely fought finish.

The expected tussle never transpired though as Cork completely dominated the final half hour, sweeping over seven unanswered points before Wexford raised their sole white flag of the half with six minutes remaining.

Julia White, Cotter, set up by the outstanding Brieghe Corkery, goalkeeper Aoife Murray from long range with a massive free, and Cotter again stretched the lead to five points with ten minutes of normal time remaining as Wexford's forwards simply failed to ignite.

Corkery, Jennifer O'Leary and Mackey all added to the lead as Cork broke for home with the winning post in sight, and even when Lisa Bolger hammered over Wexford's first point of the half, Cork never panicked and finished the game on the front foot.

### Cork open night

IN the lead up to the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior camogie final, Cork v Kilkenny, the Cork camogie team will hold an open training session this Thursday night, September 4th, in Castle Road Camogie Grounds, Blackrock. After their training session the players will be available to meet and talk to supporters, and get photographs taken and sign autographs from 7.15pm onwards. The Costcutter Cork camogie jersey will also be on sale on the night for any supporters who wish to purchase same.

Cotter pointed a free, and Mackey lofted over a beautiful effort to put the finishing touches on a sweeping team move. Moments later, Cotter bookended the scoring nicely with the final point of a productive afternoon, putting the cap on a ten point victory and Cork back into the decider against Kilkenny for a historic eleventh final clash between the two great rivals.

#### Scorers

Cork: O Cotter 0-8 (4f), K Mackey 1-3, A Murray, J White, B Corkery, J O'Leary 0-1 each.

Wexford: U Jacob 0-3 (1f), S Kehoe, K Parrock, U Leacy, B Gordon, L Bolger 0-1 each.

Cork: Aoife Murray; Joanne O'Callaghan, Anna Geary, Laura Treacy; Eimear O'Sullivan, Gemma O'Connor, Pamela Mackey; Rena Buckley, Aisling Thompson; Jennifer O'Leary, Angela Walsh, Brieghe Corkery; Julia White, Orla Cotter, Katriona Mackey.

Subs used: Amy O'Connor for White (53), Joanne Casey for Buckley (56), Denise Cronin for Walsh (61). Wexford: Mags D'Arcy; Deirdre Codd, Noeleen Lambert, Karen Atkinson; Brid Gordon, Mary Leacy, Shauna Sinnott; Josie Dwyer, Shelley Kehoe; Kate Kelly, Fiona Rochford, Jackie Quigley; Ursula Jacob, Katrina Parrock, Una Leacy.

Subs used: Lisa Bolger for Gordon (30), Eimear O'Connor for Fiona Rochford (45), Fiona Kavanagh for Quigley (54).

Referee: John Dolan (Clare).



Cork's Pamela Mackey attempts to stop a sideline cut by Kate Kelly of Wexford in their senior All-Ireland camogie semi-final in Thurles. Cork will face Kilkenny in Sunday's final (4pm). Picture: Inpho



### The mother wasn't bad either

Cathy Landers, left and her son Séamus Harnedy



## Rebel Harnedy learned from the best, thanks to parents Cathy and Seán

While this feature generally focuses on current players' fathers who have also seen inter-county action, there are also some examples of mothers bequeathing their talents.

Cork's Séamus Harnedy is therefore in a very fortunate position, as his father Seán played hurling for Waterford and his mother Cathy Landers was a star on successful Cork sides.

A native of Killeagh in East Cork — and a first cousin of the 1999 All-Ireland-winning captain Mark — Cathy was just 14 when she played on the Cork junior side which reached the All-Ireland final in 1974, losing to Down.

The following year, she graduated to the

senior side and won the first of what would be four All-Ireland senior medals, in 1978.

More followed in 1980 and '82 before she captained the successful '83 side.

Unfortunately, Cork lost three finals in a row from 1987-89, with Cathy retiring after the '89 campaign.

In addition to inter-county success, she also helped Killeagh to create some history. Having first won county senior medals with divisional side Imokilly, Cathy was part of the Killeagh side which went all the way to the All-Ireland club title after winning the Cork championship in 1979 — the only Cork side to win an All-Ireland apart from Glen Rovers before Milford's consecutive wins in 2013 and '14.

### Thompson's family face tough decision as big games clash

**GAA:** Newtownshandrum's Michael Thompson won't have any of his immediate family in attendance for Sunday's Cork SHC quarter-final clash with Na Piarasigh at Páirc Uí Chaoimh (throw-in 2.30pm).

It's not that parents Matthew and Sheila and brother Nigel don't want to give their support, but the game clashes with the All-Ireland senior camogie final, and sister Ashling is on the Cork team which faces Kilkenny at 4pm.

Ashling plays her club camogie with double All-Ireland club champions Milford and so clashes have occurred in the past, though this is the biggest game of her career that he will have missed.

"It has happened to us before, I suppose when Ashling's with Milford and I'm with Newtown, it's bound to happen," Michael says.

"They'll all be heading up to Dublin, I suppose you could hardly blame them! It's a big occasion for the family and, obviously, you'd like to be able to go. Ashling said she'll be checking Twitter to see how we're getting on, I suppose the most important thing is that both of the teams get the right results."

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# Camogie action will be frantic this weekend

## CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

**HARDLY** time for players and mentors to draw a breath as action continues at a frantic pace to get the *Evening Echo* Championship games completed as we wind our way towards the semi-final stages.

Already last week end one club secured their place in the *Evening Echo* JACC final when Sliabh Rua edged out St Vincent's in a thrilling contest. It was close all through and St Vincent's had a chance to grab an equaliser but it wasn't to be as Sliabh Rua held out, in a high scoring contest, to book their place in the final on a 3-11 to 2-13 scoreline.

Amazingly, another 60 minutes of camogie failed to again separate Bishopstown and Youghal as they battled it out in the third play off in their section to find a semi-finalist.

Again it went to extra time and in a nail biting finish it was Youghal who finally grabbed the goal that was to decide it. Leah Broderick found the net with five minutes remaining to send her side through to a semi final meeting with Watergrasshill on 1-10 to 0-11 scoreline.

This semi-final was due to go ahead last evening updates on this on next week's *Evening Echo* Camogie pages.

Ballygarvan ensured their semi-final spot was secured in the *Evening Echo* Senior B championship when they overcame Carrigaline and with one game to go they are guaranteed their semi-final spot. Valley Rovers and Éire Óg played out a draw in their *Evening Echo* Senior B championship clash in Cloughduv 1-8 to 0-11 the full time score, the results means that Éire Óg need to defeat Ballygarvan in their last game tomorrow to force a play off for the second semi-final spot with Valley Rovers. A Ballygarvan win will put Valley Rovers through.

In the other section the clash between Clonakilty and Fr O'Neill's will have decided if a play-off is necessary.

The Cork U15 development squad.



## Cork U15s win inaugural All-Ireland title

OVER the last few weeks a lot of hard work has gone into the Cork U15 developments squad and with a highly organised training programme in place the squad were well prepared for the inaugural U15 blitz last weekend when they travelled to Portlaoise GAA Grounds. Under the management team of Cork minor coach John Middleton, the Cork side

headed to Rathleague in Laois for the U15 championship blitz for phase-one counties. Thirteen teams representing 11 counties participated on a day of non-stop action. Dublin, Limerick, Cork, Clare, Galway, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Wexford, Meath, Antrim and Derry were well represented. Cork were paired in group 2 with Dublin A, Wexford and Tipperary.

Tipperary struck early in their first game with a goal after just 30 seconds, but Cork settled and took over, striking 3-6 to 1-3, as they ran winners on a 3-6 to 2-3 score line. Cork's second game was against Dublin and after a tough physical encounter, Dublin ran out winners 2-3 to 1-3. It was on to game three and all to play for as Cork faced

Wexford. Regaining their composure Cork ran out comfortable 3-7 to 1-2 winners to secure a semi final place against Group 2 winners Galway, who they beat 3-9 to 1-3 to face Kilkenny in the final. Cork set the pace from the start as Donna Kerrigan linked up with Katie Walsh to strike for goal. With Lisa Kiely unerring from frees, Cork led at half time

2-3 to 0-0. Kilkenny worked hard through the second half aided by the wind, but the Cork defence, with Maeve Lynch, Molly Ryan and Ali O'Connell in control, gave Kilkenny no way through. And Cork held on to take the inaugural All-Ireland U15 Blitz title. Captain Maeve Lynch and her team-mates can be proud of their achievements.

Clonakilty are safely through, O'Neill's needed a win or a draw to grab the second spot a defeat would force a play off with Kilbrittan.

The *Evening Echo* Intermediate championship is down to semi-finals stages. This afternoon Enniskeane promoted to intermediate this year following their victory in the Junior A Championship take on Brian Dillon's in Cloughduv at 3pm, league

champions Sarsfields and Blackrock clash in Castle Road tomorrow (Sunday) at 12 noon.

Ballinascarty and Bride Rovers meet in the *Evening Echo* Junior B semi-final in Castle Road tomorrow at 1pm and this is followed by the meeting of league champions Ballincollig and Glen Rovers at 3.30pm.

The *Evening Echo* junior C championship is also down to semi-final stages. League champions Banteer

will make a bold bid for a place in the final when they take on Ballinora today in Carrigrohoid, Castle Road is the venue for the meeting of Castletyons and Millstreet both games at 2.30pm.

In the A grade Cloughduv and Sars had victories over Glen Rovers and Killeagh who now go through the back door. In the B there was a win for Éire Óg over the Barrs.

A busy few weeks still ahead and a

few dates for the diary. The *Evening Echo* Senior championship resumes on Sept 20th Cloughduv v St Finbarr's Glen Rovers v Inniscarra, Ballincollig v Courcy Rovers. On September 21 it's Douglas v Barryroe while the *Evening Echo* Intermediate and Junior B finals are down for decision.

Next week we'll look at the minor championship and Cork senior team's bid for the O'Duffy Cup.

## Laois insist they tried to avoid clash with camogie decider

Cliona Foley

LAOIS County Board says it has made every effort to help players and families who face a serious fixtures clash this weekend when the county contests its second Liberty Insurance All-Ireland junior camogie final in a row.

Their female stars are playing Down, at noon, on Sunday and there is some disquiet locally that the county hurling semi-finals are also taking place that day, especially as there are several families with players in both.

Anne Marie Purcell's brothers (county senior hurlers John and Paddy) are playing for Rathdowney/Errill, as is Emer Delaney's brother Alan, while Mairead Burke's brothers (Tomas

and Gearoid) are lining out for Camross.

Laois secretary Niall Handy said they have a tight schedule to adhere to, and have done everything they can to make sure that players and supporters can attend both events.

"Our 'B' hurling semi-finals are on Saturday so we could not move the hurling ('A') semi-finals," he said.

"The women's final is at 12 noon in Croke Park and, after the feedback we got last year (when a similar clash occurred), we have moved the hurling semi-finals back as late as possible."

It will still mean a quick dash back from Dublin to O'Moore Park for anyone who wants to attend both fixtures.

The hurling semi-final between Rathdowney/Errill and Abbeyleix has a 4pm throw-in and Camross will play Clough/Ballacolla at 5.30.

The Laois women are now managed by former county hurling ace David Cuddy and their stars include captain Sarah Ann Fitzgerald, Delaney (daughter of referee Pat) and Olga Parkinson.

After winning Division Three and losing last year's final to Kildare, they are back in Croke Park after reaching the Division Two semi-finals where they lost to Cork.

They lost to Down in the league but pipped them in the championship, in Rathdowney, thanks to a late Fitzgerald point.

Their opponents know all about difficult travelling arrangements themselves, as half the Down team gets a ferry to training from the Ards Peninsula.

"The girls felt they didn't perform at all in last year's final," said Cuddy, who took over as Laois manager from Mattie Collier this year. "They had ambitions to get back to the final to right those wrongs and have worked really hard to get back."

The Castletown man believes the county's recent surge in hurling has also added confidence to their camogie teams.

"Football took over there for 10 years but Laois is very much a dual county, split 50-50 between hurling and football," he said.



Laois captain Sarah Ann Fitzgerald is hoping to lead her team to victory



# Multi-talented Amy



Cork senior camogie player Amy O'Connor signs the jersey of young fan Kate Weldon from Blackrock at the open training session at Castle Road, Mahon.

Picture: Jim Coughlan

**Barbara O'Connell** talks to Amy O'Connor who has been blazing a trail on the soccer and camogie fields



**R**OLE MODEL is a phrase regularly used when referring to prominent sports people.

Juliet Murphy, Sean Óg, Brian O'Driscoll and Robert Heffernan are just four that we would associate the word role model with in a very good sense. These are individuals who go about their lives, both sporting and personal, in a very clear defined manner and their reputation as good upstanding members of the communities they live and work in is never tarnished. People look up to them, want to be them and certainly want to live and play sport like them. We can add another name to that list. Even though she is only 18, she epitomises everything a role model should be. She is a local girl done good and doing more and more all the time. This year alone she has represented her clubs, (Wilton and

St Vincent's) her division (Seandún), her county (Cork) and her country (Ireland) as well as studying for her leaving certificate. Despite missing more than eight weeks out of the school year due to international commitments with the Irish U19 soccer team, Amy O'Connor still managed to get 515 points in her leaving cert and was the highest points achiever in her school St Vincent's this year. Last week she helped her soccer club Wilton United complete the treble, and with another Munster final to come in two weeks time she is likely to have played her part in her team winning four trophies in one season. Also last week, she started life as a student in UCC where she is on a soccer scholarship. This week she hopes to play a part for the Cork senior team in the All-Ireland camogie final against Kilkenny in Croke Park, hoping to achieve her goal of playing with and winning an All-Ireland senior

# Bring it home ladies!



with Finbarr McCarthy

**Liberty Insurance  
All-Ireland Senior  
Camogie Final**

**Cork vs Kilkenny Sunday  
in Croke Park @ 4pm**

Between them, they have won a total of 36 All-Ireland titles, Cork last won the O'Duffy Cup in 2009, while 1994 was the last time it visited the Marble County.

Cork coach Paudie Murray is confident his side can win and that they have been helped by the extra matches, saying: "The quarter-final win over Offaly was a handy match and then the two games against Wexford have made it a nice run into the final and once the logistics were got out of the way we were able to prepare well."

The win over Wexford, he says, was a huge boost.

"We should have won the first day and, while we were initially annoyed at conceding a late goal to force the draw, once we got back to training on Tuesday I knew we would win the replay as the girls were very determined and it showed."

As for the opposition, Murray agrees that Kilkenny are rightly installed as favourites.

"Unusually, we have not played them this year, but they beat us in the semi-final last year and were easy winners of the league, so that — and the fact that they have had good success

perform in last year's final against Galway but the likes of Denise Gaule, Leanne Fennelly, Anne Dalton, Elaine Aylward, Michelle Quilty, Aisling Dunphy and Katie Power will be better players for that experience and they will be determined to atone for last year's display.

The word 'experience' always crops up in the build up to big games and Cork captain Anna Geary believes it's an area where Cork have an edge.

"A few of us have All-Ireland medals and know how to win in Croke Park and our dual players are also in great form, having won last week against Armagh in the football, so they have another final to look forward to as well."

But just like Murray, Anna is not underestimating the challenge and harbours a healthy respect for Kilkenny.

"It is a good achievement to reach back-to-back finals and with them not having won an All-Ireland for a long time they will be well motivated, but we are too. We will match their hunger, because we realise if we allow them build momentum they could be hard to beat."

It has been a hectic few months for Anna with the little matter of the Rose of Tralee in August to contend with, but for now, the Milford player is focussed on one thing and that is winning on Sunday.

"We have prepared very well. Our backroom team, along with our excellent County Board, have taken care of everything that is required and all that remains for us now is to deliver on the day. There is just 60 minutes left in the

and Pamela, Orla Cotter, Eimear O'Sullivan and Gemma O'Connor bring a wealth of experience and quality to Cork's challenge.

The draw and replay with Wexford will have sharpened Cork nicely for this final; while Kilkenny have not played in over three weeks and with the quality Cork possess they look better balanced and good enough to bring the county title number 25.

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## Rebels are ready to grab the All-Ireland once more



Kilkenny captain Leanne Fennelly makes a bid to take the cup from Cork captain Anna Geary's grasp at the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Camogie finals launch at Croke Park yesterday.

Picture: INPHO

CORK are aiming to bridge a five-year gap when they face Kilkenny in Sunday's Liberty Insurance All-Ireland camogie final. The Rebels are slight underdogs to win a first title since 2009 when they face the

Cats at headquarters, despite a replay victory over Wexford in the semi-final. Cork's great rivals captured the league title earlier this season, and were narrowly beaten by Galway in the 2013 All-Ireland final.

A crowd in excess of 15,000 is expected at GAA headquarters when Anna Geary leads her side out. Both teams will have their names as well as numbers printed on the back of their jerseys for the game.



# It takes a lot more than luck



HANDS ON THE CUP...Camogie captains, Niamh Mallon, left, Down, and Sarah Ann Fitzgerald, Laois, during a photocall ahead of the Liberty Insurance Premier Junior All-Ireland final on Sunday

Picture: Sportsfile

## BY CIARAN WOODS

THIS Sunday, Down's Fionnola Carr will run out onto Croke Park in a fourth All-Ireland Junior Championship final. With three negative outcomes already under her belt, and the pain of those losses still fresh in her mind, surely the tide must turn in favour of one of the county's greatest servants to the game.

However, hailing from a family steeped in GAA pedigree and tradition, she knows that you must do more than just hope that it is 'your turn' to come out on the right side of the result.

"Just because you've been there before, three times as is the case for me, there is no guarantee that this time it is going to go in your favour. You only have to look at the men's football, where Mayo have suffered more disappointments and heartaches than most. You can't just assume that some day it's going to be your day. You have to treat every one of them the same, go out there, work hard, and try to give it your all. That way you create your own luck."

So having suffered such disappointment on the All-Ireland stage before, what is the difference between this Down side and those who have gone before them and fallen short in their search for All-Ireland glory?

"We've worked harder this year. We were back out just after Christmas, so it's been a long run and at times it seems like it has gone on forever. But it has got us to where we want to be."

The year started off really well for us, reaching the Division Two league

## THE GAME DETAILS



ALL-IRELAND PREMIER JUNIOR CAMOGIE FINAL  
**DOWN V LAOIS**  
Croke Park  
Saturday 12pm. Ref: Liz Dempsey (Kenny)

final where we were narrowly beaten by a very strong Cork team, a Cork side that contained a former Cork senior captain, a few former All Stars and players who had three or four All-Ireland medals. We always knew we had the players... It was always about getting everyone singing off the one hymn sheet, and this year they are.

"The past few years, it was the same group of people going at it year after year. Things probably had gone a bit stale, there would have been a bit of friction between clubs and the likes, which is something which you simply can't have if you are trying to be successful."

"This year a lot of new players have come in, players like the Savages from Ballygalget, young Claire McGilligan from Clonduff, Aimee McAleenan from Liatroim and others who are all very good young players who are not only very good players who have



PAINFUL MEMORIES...Down captain Fionnola Carr before last year's final and, right, with Camogie president Aileen Lawlor

Picture: Sportsfile

pushed us on, but who are also full of youthful enthusiasm which has definitely freshened things up and given things a lift.

Having crossed swords twice this season already, Down are under no illusions as to what to expect from their Leinster rivals. Those results should provide Down with plenty of comfort, having beaten Laois in the National League in Newry and having only fallen foul of a late free to deny them at least a draw when they made the journey to Laois in the All-Ireland series.

Sunday is of course a whole different ball game, but Carr is hoping that when the test is put up to her side, they will once again be ready for what lies ahead.

"We know it's going to be very tough. Laois were in the final last year, and like ourselves they will be keen to make amends. They are a strong side, but we know that we can match them."

It's been a lengthy build-up for the Mourne girls, who had the opportunity to mingle with supporters during their pre All-Ireland open night last Friday. Carr reveals that seeing so many people rowing in behind them has given the girls a real fillip ahead of Sunday's Croke Park clash, with the Clonduff player hoping that friends, family and club colleagues will turn out in their numbers once again at Headquarters this Sunday afternoon.

"Last week was the hardest part because it was still a week away, people were getting nervous and wishing the days away. Now we're in the thick of it, it's only a matter of days away, and we really can't wait to get into it. There is light at the end of the tunnel, and the buzz and excitement is growing."

On Sunday morning, Down will make the speedy trip down the M1 and turn their coach onto Jones' Road before it disappears into the bowels of



the Hogan Stand. What happens in those next few hours will determine how Down's 2014 season, and possibly the careers of some of the county's most seasoned stars, will be remembered. There is certainly pressure involved, but Carr is fully confident that if her side get their heads in the right place and deliver the sort of performance they have been working all season towards, then this time glory will not escape them.

"The one thing that we've said all year is that we're not going to settle for second best any more. We're going to set our own standards. Whatever the result this Sunday, I know that every member of the Down panel and management team will have performed to the best of their ability. If you work hard and do everything you can possibly do, then the result should look after itself."

**VERDICT: DOWN**



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At the media evening for the Cork senior camogie team were manager Paudie Murray and players, from left to right, Orla Cotter, Emer O'Sullivan, Joanne O'Callaghan and Anna Geary.  
Picture: Tony O'Connell Photography

## Barry's been busy with club and inter-county

CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

TO process an All-Ireland semi-final is a hard enough task, especially when you come within seconds of getting it right only for Wexford to snatch a late equaliser.

But what about your club facing a dreaded relegation championship battle on the same day? Now that's demanding!

This was the scenario which faced Cork camogie selector Brian Barry as Cork drew with Wexford in Thurles, and a few hours later Killeagh battled it out with Courcy Rovers to hold onto their senior hurling status in Riverstown.

"I suppose really it was, in funny way, a blessing that both games were the same day," reflects Brian. "I had to focus on the camogie game first and that probably kept me occupied and then when that was over I had to switch off and regain my thoughts."

Brian explains it would have been heartbreaking if Killeagh had been relegated.

"To be senior 13 years and then have your status snatched away would be heartbreaking. We had a fairly good year to be fair and were unlucky to find ourselves in a relegation battle."

"Injuries and retirements took their toll, but we just had to knuckle down."

After the game in Thurles, Brian spoke briefly as they regained their composure after Wexford grabbed a late equaliser.

"By nature I am not a nervous person, but I suppose I was a little disappointed that we had not got a result in Thurles after the way we played. I knew we were good enough to finish the job next time out and I suppose really the hurling game was going to be a similar story only the stakes were higher."

"We had a second chance in Thurles, but I knew we had to do the business in Riverstown, full concentration needed." Brian, better known by his nickname 'Blondie', came to be involved in camogie by accident. He struck up a friendship with Paudie Murray through business.

"Paudie was organising my mortgage. We would spend five minutes talking mortgages and 55 talking hurling."

Paudie took over the camogie job in 2012 and asked me to get involved. We had never worked together but I said I would give it a go and enjoyed it."

At the start of this year Brian stepped down as a selector due with work and family commitments, but he was eventually coaxed back by Paudie. "I was involved with Killeagh hurlers as Sean Crowley had asked me to come on board. Paudie came back to me after a while. He got Matthew Twomey, who does the hurling coaching with myself, and Teddy Donovan, who does the goalkeeping coaching."

"I eventually said yes and thrilled I did." Brian has superb back-up in his wife Susan, and they've two small boys Ciarán (3) and Eoin who is just 18 months old. He works with Classic Drinks in Little Island and is also proprietor of Kennedy's Bar in Killeagh. "A typical day would be very full on. Without the support I get from Susan it just would not be possible. She knows I just love the hurling and really that was why I decided, with her full blessing, to say yes to Paudie."

# Murray: Cats are red-hot favourites

IN lots of counties Paudie Murray's record as manager of the senior camogie team would be considered an extremely successful one.

Now in his third year at the helm, Cork — under his watch — have won the Munster title, national league titles, but the big one has escaped him so far.

Paudie has yet to see the O'Duffy Cup come south, but is well aware that it's going to take a massive effort on Sunday to have any chance of doing so. Cork's last win was in 2009 when they defeated Kilkenny in the final by 0-15 to 0-7.

Two years ago they lost in the final to Wexford, by 3-13 to 3-6, and all involved admitted afterwards that Cork were far from their best and mistakes were made on the day.

Last year they lost in the semi-final to Kilkenny, by a point, and now face them again in the final on Sunday at 4pm at Croke Park.

"Obviously we are delighted to be back in the final and two months ago we would have settled for that. Things weren't going as well as we wanted so we are delighted the players turned it around and we are there now."

"But all involved are well aware of

## CAMOGIE

By Rory Noonan

the massive task ahead of us and we know that many will consider them massive favourites to win.

"I think they have averaged 22 points per game in the championship, which is phenomenal scoring. But to me it's not a surprise they are so successful as they have won five minor titles in the last eight years or so."

"As well as that, WIT won the Ashbourne Cup for three years in-a-row and it would have been made up of a lot of these Kilkenny players. So obviously they are red-hot favourites for a reason."

"Looking back to the final two years ago it was a new experience for a lot of us on the sideline and it was something I wouldn't have been used to, along with a few others."

"We certainly made a few mistakes that day and it was a steep learning curve."

"We are more relaxed this year, which I think is important, and have better systems in place now."

"If you look at last year then coming into the semi-final we were unbeaten, which was extraordinary

and maybe that went against us. We had no real tough match up to that semi-final and I think the second problem was that Gemma O'Connor was also missing."

"Players of the class and experience of Gemma are hard to replace so she was a big, big loss to us. This year things got going for us quite slowly. We didn't put a lot of emphasis on the league."

"I think our emphasis in the league was on seeing if we could get a few players to come through and give more a bit of experience of competitive games."

"We have managed to do this and it was really from the Munster championship on that we took things really seriously."

"We have a lot of players that have come of age, the likes of Laura Tracey, the Mackey twins (Pamela and Katrina) and Julia White have come into their own."

"It seems that now some of the younger players are coming through and that is only good for Cork camogie. It has made competition for places on the starting line-up tight and we have 29 on the panel and I think any one of them can do a job for us."

"The replay against Wexford will have done the panel a world of good,

but I would like if we had another week ahead of the final and that's not from the training side of things."

"It just helps from an organisational point of view and two weeks is just crazy from that perspective."

"Look you're not going to do a lot of things training wise at this stage, it's all about getting their heads right and ensuring any little niggly injuries are sorted ahead of the day."

"But we are where we are, and where all sides, wanted to be at the start of the year. We know the challenge we face, we know it's going to be difficult and you know the only thing to do is to meet it head-on."

"We would also appeal to the people of Cork to come out and support us. That's really important, the crowd that Wexford brought to the two games was massive and hopefully the Cork supporters will travel in their numbers on Sunday."

"I spoke to a few supporters after the semi-final and that was their first inter-county camogie game they were at and they couldn't get over the skill level of the players. They said to me they will be there for the final and hopefully they will be joined by many more."

"For now it's all systems go for us and hopefully we will get that little bit of luck you need to win games."



# Stats the way for insight on Cork displays

Niall will have it all figured out on All-Ireland final day

**HOW many times have we all heard winning managers and captains thank their backroom team post All-Ireland victories?**

We acknowledge the sentiment but does the general public truly appreciate just how many hours are put in or the massive role those behind the scenes play in sport at the highest level?

Niall Collins from Dunmanway is the Cork team's stats man.

A first cousin of Paudie Murray they have always been close so last January when Paudie asked Niall to get involved he didn't hesitate.

He had done a little bit of stats before with Doheny's GAA club but nothing like on the scale he is doing now. He recalls how it all came about.

"Performance analysis is probably what the technical term for it is. How I got into it really is that my day job is in IT. I'm a very analytic person," he explained.

"Maths was always something that I loved doing when in school and my passion is GAA so when you combine them both, it's great.

"It's very interesting. I love working with the girls. To be able to work with the elite is not something everyone can say and in Cork these are the elite performers in their code, so the opportunity to work with them in whatever role is a privilege.

"When Paudie asked me about the statistician role I did some research. I spoke to several in the same role with inter-county teams around the country on the software packages they are using.

"I spoke to the Dublin senior footballers, I spoke to people in Cork,



LINDA MELLERICK

## CAMOGIE

Mayo, Kerry, Donegal and I just did a lot of research. At the end I drew up a short-list of the main packages and Performance Sports was the one that won out because it was the one that was economical, financially it worked with our budget.

"We probably went over a bit on that but what we got from it was just far superior to the others, it's one I would highly recommend.

"For ourselves who wanted to study how things were going, where things are, from video analysis, the KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) during games and the post-game analysis, this ticks all the boxes for us."

From speaking with Paudie and watching Cork's performances, there is no doubt that he has raised the bar with his team this year and that having the stats at hand to study has been a huge contributing factor. So how does it work?

"During the game I've an iPad in front of me and I tag particular events during the game; shots on goal, frees, etc. So the information at this stage is only what I'm entering into the iPad.

"You have to have certain KPI's during games. I'm in

contact with Paudie through the earpiece. So if your KPI was that you were to have 10 shots on goal in the first 10 minutes, or monitoring the free count, I'm tracking that."

But surely that's very difficult? How can you track every player and every strike they make?

"Well, what you have is in-game analysis and post-game analysis. In-game wouldn't be as detailed but the post-game analysis is when you sync with the video.

"At that point you break it down into far more minute detail. I sync the game against the application and go into far greater in-depth player analysis; times on the ball, hooking, blocking, passing etc. and that's broken down by player and all the girls can log in to an online platform at any time and watch any game so far this year and view their own game, scores, frees, stats, etc."

This work takes hours. Paudie mentioned to me that after the victory over Wexford on the Saturday, he got Niall's analysis of that game at 2am Sunday morning.

"No one realises the work behind the scenes, the work that goes in, and the hours. It's five hours post-match but a lot of work is also done during the week when

we're analysing.

"I sit down with Paudie some nights for hours. It's constant. It's incredible the amount of work he's put into it.

"I don't think there is any inter-county manager on this planet, no matter what code he's doing has put so much work and passion into it so it would be great if he was successful.

"It's great to be involved with an inter-county team and a successful team and the backroom team; the guys are excellent.

"They're all appreciative of what I do and very appreciative of each other. Every team is as strong as its weakest link.

"Of course, we'll be judged on Sunday. During the year when things weren't going so well I suppose there may have been a mental challenge but we always had the confidence, knew we had the ability.

"To be able to show a team that their performance wasn't as bad as it may seem after a defeat is very beneficial.

"After our group defeat to Wexford I said to Paudie and the selectors, that if you took 10 minutes out of that game, we played well.

"When I showed them the numbers after the game, we had more possession, more shots on goal. It's just that we didn't use our possession well and we got burned in the first 10 minutes.

"That was used as the foundation for moving on."

Those nights of burning the midnight oil will hopefully be all worth in on Sunday afternoon; when Paudie will no doubt, in his post-match interview, pay tribute to his highly-committed backroom team.



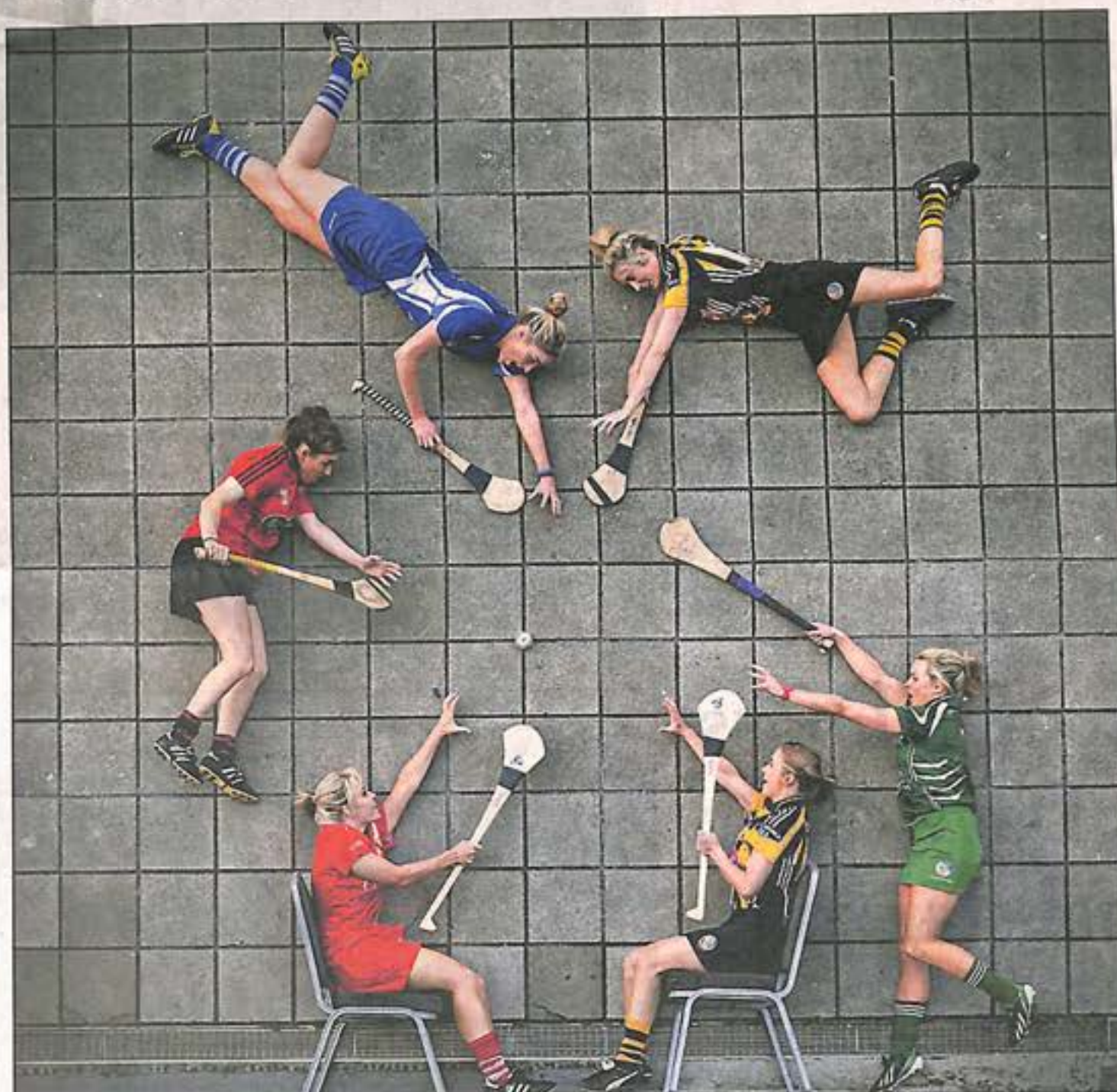
Cork statistics man Niall Collins at the Cork camogie press night. Picture: Jim Coughlan



Cork senior camogie coach Paudie Murray works closely with stats man Niall Collins in preparing the team.



# Fans set to flock to camogie finals



**PICTURE PERFECT:** Clockwise: Cork senior captain, Anna Geary; Down junior captain, Niamh Mallon; Laois junior captain, Sarah Ann Fitzgerald; Kilkenny Intermediate captain, Mags Fennelly; Limerick Intermediate captain, Fiona Hickey and Kilkenny senior captain, Leann Fennelly Park yesterday ahead of Sunday's Liberty Insurance camogie finals. Picture: Inpho/Cathal Noonan

by Colm O'Connor

Camogie officials are hoping to have a record crowd at Sunday's Liberty Insurance All-Ireland finals at Croke Park.

Kilkenny contest the senior and intermediate finals against Cork and Limerick respectively while Down meet Laois in the junior showpiece.

Camogie Association president Aileen Lawlor said: "We have close on

10,000 tickets sold already so the hope is to push that towards 17 or 18,000 in the coming days," she said. "15,000 is generally the benchmark for us on All-Ireland final Sunday. But we are confident of surpassing that this weekend."

Meanwhile, all six teams will have the names of the players on the backs of their jerseys on Sunday. Camogie has led the way in this approach in recent years but this will

be the first time the junior sides will also carry names.

Lawlor said: "The idea is that helmets obviously don't reveal the player's identity and that is particularly important when we are striving to promote the game and the players. Camogie finals are our best attended games each year so adding the surname to the jersey will make it easier for the supporters in the stands and the viewers on TV."

"An All-Ireland jersey is a treasured memento for players and personalising it will add to that even more. All through the All-Ireland campaign the focus has been on 'standing out from the crowd' by focusing on the players' lives and stories, by seeing them in a new light through imaginative photography and then backing this up with ticketing packages that makes it easier and more affordable to attend games."

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## Red-hot Cotter insists cool heads key to Cork

Liberty Insurance Senior Camogie Championship final  
**Cork v Kilkenny**

**Sunday:** Croke Park, 4pm  
**Referee:** John Dolan (Clare)  
**TV:** RTÉ Two  
**Stephen Barry**

There is a lot of positivity coursing through Cork camogie this year.

After the Noughties had provided five titles, the senior side are yet to win an All-Ireland this decade.

Nevertheless, the Rebelettes have been building a strong title claim this year and only unbeaten Kilkenny stand between them and O'Duffy Cup glory. Testament to the upbeat nature of the camp was the reaction to the drawn semi-final with Wexford.

A late Una Leacy goal had denied

Cork a place in the decider, but star forward Orla Cotter maintains that a calm reaction kept Cork heads in the right place. "To let in a goal in injury-time was very disappointing, but we regrouped well and we knew if we played to the best of our ability and got another performance out of ourselves we could beat them on the day. "Everyone is going to make mistakes on the day of a match. It's about what you do after the mistake to rectify that and go again for the next ball. We just looked at staying positive and getting another performance."

The subsequent replay win over Wexford was a seminal moment for the Leesiders, coming against opponents who had soundly beaten them in the round robin stage.

"The loss to Wexford really made us look at where we were in the year. It was at a midway point and it was our first real test. Wexford came at us at the very start of that game and it was something we weren't going to let happen to us again. I think we proved



that in the semi-finals."

Cork had exited the 2013 championship at that semi-final stage, losing narrowly to the same opponents who await them in the final. This year, however, Cork will arrive in full

knowledge of the battle that awaits them and ready to counter with an onslaught of their own.

"Last year we didn't do ourselves justice in the semi-final. I think our attitude this year is a lot stronger and

more positive and we know it'll be a huge fight on Sunday, but it's on and we're looking forward to it."

Cotter has taken over the free-taking this year and her championship tally of 1-40 has helped Cork to wins over the

Paul Roche, Head of Marketing/ Barry Group (sponsor) presenting Cork captain Anna Geary with her jersey at Croke Park prior to the All-Ireland camogie final at Croke Park on Sunday. Included are left to right: Emma O'Sullivan; Finola Neville; Maria Walsh; Paudie Murray, manager; Joanne O'Callaghan and Orla Barry. Picture: Tom O'Connell Photography.





## CAMOGIE

IT'S all systems go at Kilmacud Crokes as new sponsor SE Systems of Cork, announced its sponsorship of the 41st All-Ireland Camogie Sevens Tournament in Croke Park last Tuesday.

The competition which will be hosted by Kilmacud Crokes camogie club will take place on Saturday September 13.

Fifty-four teams are scheduled to play in this year's competition on the eve of the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Camogie finals, competing in three separate divisions incorporating cup, shield and plate grades respectively.

Some of the top players in the country are due to take part, including Kate Kelly and Katrina Parrock who, as members of Oulart the Ballagh, are now participating since Wexford's exit of the senior championship at the hands of Cork last Saturday.

The Kilmacud Crokes 7 a-side tournament is synonymous with All-Ireland camogie weekend.

Enquiries are always made amongst the group of whomever I'm with as to how it's going, who's in the final etc.

The prestige of winning the Kilmacud All-Ireland title ranks up there.

I had the privilege of both playing in and winning the tournament in 1990 with Glen Rovers.

The Glen had a large number of players on the Cork panel at the time.

With Cork having been beaten in the All-Ireland semi-final by Kilkenny, it afforded the Glen the opportunity to partake.

We were due to play Sixmilebridge in the Munster club final the following weekend and so the games were the best match practice we could have wished for.

We finished top of our group and in the quarter final defeated Celtic of Dublin 2-8 to 0-3.

A semi-final victory over Sixmilebridge (who obviously had the same preparative plans as ourselves) 2-5 to 0-2 led us to the final where we emerged as champions against Marino 2-11 to 1-2.

I love the fact that I have that medal.

Milford won it recently too and if I'm not mistaken, are taking part again this year. More Cork clubs should participate.



Linda Mellerick, a former winner of the Kilmacud Crokes 7s, shows off the trophy with sponsor Corkman John O'Leary from SE Systems. Also included are, from left, Kilmacud Crokes senior players Anneka Kilroy, Siofra Walsh and Aisling Whitely, Kilmacud Crokes camogie chairman Aidan Roantree; Eve Talbot from the Camogie Association and Kilmacud Crokes senior hurlers Niall Corcoran and camogie players Sorcha Meagher, Rachel Noctor and Sadhbh McLoughlin.

# Kilmacud 7s medal is the one I cherish



Pictured at the Cork senior camogie team open training session were senior player Julia White with Laura Murtagh and Jenny Mollaghan, Inniscarra, Picture: Jim Coughlan.

With Cork having to go to a replay against Wexford it seems the All-Ireland final is almost upon us.

For the county board and team management there is a lot to organise in a very short space of time.

They didn't tempt fate and provisionally book any hotel beforehand.

I heard that Wexford had the St. Irgan Park Hotel fully booked out.

Plenty of rooms free there now, at knockdown price I'd say.

But all hands on deck means everything is more or less closed off at this stage.

The team are staying in the Louis Fitzgerald and Jason Sherlock will look after them well. A private floor will ensure they get the solitude

they require.

The post-match dinner, win or lose, is open to the public and tickets can be purchased. I'd encourage people to stay over and attend it.

An open night was held in Castle Road last Thursday which was a great night for the kids and the official press night for the squad was held in the Rochestown Park Hotel last night.

Without getting too much into the final at this early stage I think it's 50/50. Many are talking up Kilkenny; certainly they are a fine side and their All-Ireland defeat last year will stand to them hugely in terms of maturity.

Over the past few years I have

stated numerous times that Kilkenny weren't doing it for me.

While they had skilful hurlers all over the pitch, they lacked aggression and fire in their bellies.

I always felt watching them that there was something missing. They had double-digit U16 and Minor titles combined, far more than Cork in the past decade who in fact have none, yet it just wasn't there for me.

I felt Cork threw away an All-Ireland title last year by losing to Kilkenny by a point in the semi-final.

It was an awful Cork performance and still only a point separated the teams. Kilkenny flopped in the final, handing Galway a relatively soft All-

Ireland title.

But Galway won it and Kilkenny reached the final; so my view on it means nothing. Cork were out in the cold.

Kilkenny most certainly are a far stronger team this year; in that the girls have become women; they now know what real hurt is after last year's final defeat; they have the killer instinct they didn't have in the past.

They will leave no stone unturned in making amends for last year's defeat. A certain Mr Brian Cody will no doubt enter their dressing room on more than one occasion ahead of the big day. This is a 50/50 battle. I can't wait.

## progress

interim All-Ireland champions Galway and Wexford this year. But the St Catherine's woman doesn't feel that her new-found responsibility will carry any extra pressure into her fourth final as a starter, and her first operating in advance of the midfield sector. She insists: "All over the team people have a job to do. My role is first and foremost to play to the best of my ability and the frees just come along with that. It's an important job but everyone practises for what they do."

"It's great if you can get the first one, it sets you up nicely for the day, but if you miss one you just have to look to the next one and hope it goes over."

The coming days will be just like standing over a free; looking ahead and staying positive. "Training won't be too hard this week, just getting enough rest and keeping calm. It's just another game and we have to look at it like that."

"We'll be chilled and relaxed on the Saturday and staying positive and focused on the Sunday."

## Fennelly women aim to create own history

WE outlined yesterday the contribution that the Fennelly men and their 149 championship appearances over two generations have made to Kilkenny hurling but worth noting is another angle to the family's extraordinary service in the coming 12 days.

Kilkenny's women are also chasing an All-Ireland double on Sunday week when they will contest the All-Ireland senior and intermediate camogie finals.

The teams are captained by two more Fennellys: Leanne (senior) and Mags (intermediate).

Corner-forward Mags is Michael's daughter and will be shouting on her brothers Michael and Colin this week before going into battle herself, while Kilkenny's senior centre-back Leanne, Liam's daughter, is their first cousin.

To have two more Fennellys captaining two women's teams in All-Ireland finals - on the same day - is another mark of the family's massive service to Kilkenny's history.



Kate Kelly (Wexford)

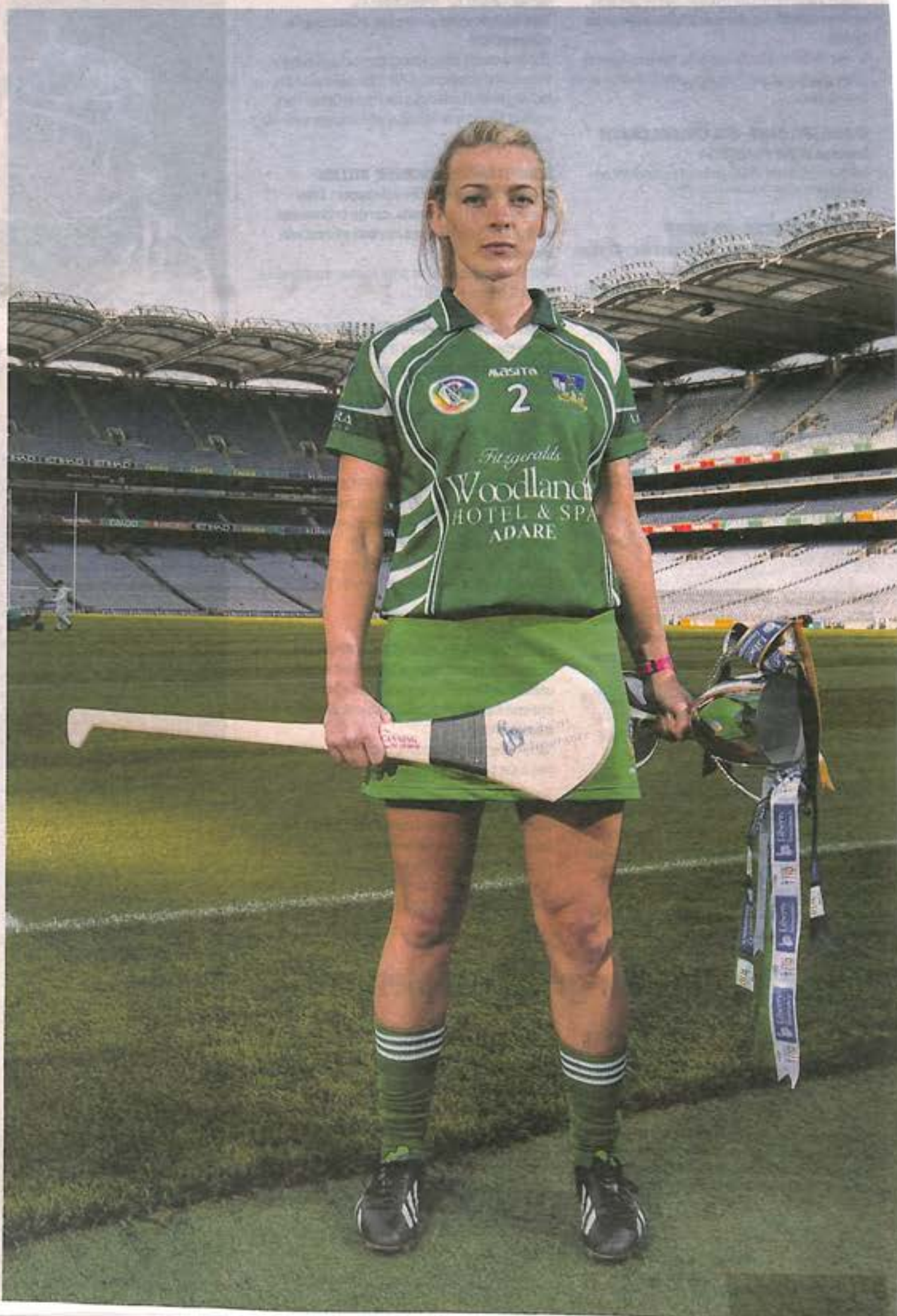


# All Ireland Camogie Final

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PREVIEW OF  
ALL IRELAND  
CAMOGIE  
FINAL



## EYES ON THE PRIZE



## Limerick camogie boss Quaid on a mission to



Liberty Insurance Intermediate  
Camogie Championship final  
**Kilkenny v Limerick**

**Sunday:** Croke Park, 2pm  
**Referee:** Ray Kelly (Kildare)  
**TV:** RTE Two

**Paul Keane**



As an opening line it's a strong one and pretty much sums up manager Joe Quaid's sense of mission with the Limerick intermediate camogie team.

"I'm 42 years on this earth and I've never seen a Limerick person climb up the steps of the Hogan Stand," said Quaid. "I've lost two finals out there as a player and the girls lost one last year."

Quaid, of course, is the former Limerick goalkeeper of some renown who played in the 1994 and 1996 All-Ireland final defeats to Offaly and Wexford respectively.

A few weeks back, Quaid watched the present Limerick hurling team give what he described as 'the best Limerick performance I've ever seen' against Kilkenny in the semi-finals. Yet they still lost.

"You'd wonder what do you have to do?" he pondered.

Still, he hasn't given up ahead of the camogie team's final with the Cats this Sunday, not by a long shot.

In fact, it is his effervescent personality and thirst for success that may just drive the Shannonsiders on to a famous win. Mind you, the job only came about

by default in the first place.

"I planned to be up here with our minors this year because I had them for three years but we didn't get the minor job so that's how I ended up taking on the camogie," he explained.

"To be honest, I'd never been at a match. It took a while to realise they wanted to be treated the same way as the fellas, no sugar coating."

"We've tried to break them (physically) a few times this year now, drove them into the ground in training for two and a quarter hours and just had to stop. They beat us!



# Moynihan focused only on winning

Jerome O'Connell talks to Limerick camogie keeper Sile Moynihan as she looks to make up for the disappointment of last year's final loss

**LIMERICK** camogie goal-keeper Sile Moynihan was this week announced as the county's Player of the Decade.

It's a National Camogie Association initiative and all county winners will be honoured at a function in Croke Park on Sunday at 12.30.

Moynihan will be in Croke Park but down in the dressing room area and not at the function.

"It's a nice award but I can

tell you I would swap it for a win on Sunday, said Moynihan.

"It's a nice award for my family and friends but right now the medal is more important," stressed Moynihan.

In her 10th season with the Limerick camogie team, the Ahane club player is confident that the team go to Croke Park as prepared as possible.

"In my opinion this is a good as we have been. The management have done

everything possible and the players have bought into it," explained Moynihan.

"For me the biggest development was that we really have a panel of 50-players between the seniors, juniors and minors. Every night at training we could play 15-on-15 games and we never had that before in Limerick - there is an unreal buzz around training every night."

Moynihan is one of those who won an All-Ireland senior B championship in 2007 but feels the structures now

are ideal for Limerick to return to the top flight.

"We won in 2007 but that was more isolated but now we have the backbone of the junior and the minors to come through. That is something to build-on," explained the team's vice-captain.

The 24-year old doesn't hide away from the magnitude of Sunday's final.

"It is massive - Sunday is way we are training for the last two years. Last year took the winter to get over but once we had a few hard training sessions done it was all about get-

ting back to Croke Park again."

Playing in Division One of the league will benefit Limerick on Sunday, according to Moynihan.

"The league was a building block. It was great to be playing the top sides and that will stand to us on Sunday."

She also feels that the defeat last September will be ideal motivation for Sunday.

"Everyone in our panel looks at last year as a building block. People last year said we came from nowhere but we had been in two All-Ireland

semi-finals. Last year maybe we were delighted just to run out onto Croke Park, but this year it's not about Croke Park but about winning the All-Ireland."

A teacher in Laurel Hill, Moynihan can see the benefits of the rising tide under Limerick camogie.

"It's great to see the profile we are getting and it helps with young players. I can see it in the school. We are playing top level here now and I think there are young players with great talent coming through."



Michael Collins of Pat Collins Bar, Adare with Michelle Casey, Caoimhe Costelloe, Noreen Barry and Sarah Carey of the Limerick Camogie Team. Pat Collins Bar are one of the many Limerick businesses who are supporting the Camogie team in their drive for All-Ireland glory.

## Limerick U-15s lose to Clare in Munster Development final

**Limerick** 4-4  
**Clare** 5-8

Limerick's U-15s lost out to Clare by 5-8 to 4-4 in a very exciting game in the Munster Development League Final in Monaleen on Saturday.

The opening exchanges were tight and the game was scoreless for the opening period but Clare started to dominate in the middle third of the field and with four goals opened up a decisive lead 4-4 to 0-1 lead.

But Limerick showed great character to come back and two goals from Aine Reynolds and one from Molly Hammersly closed the gap at the break to six points.

Limerick started to dominate possession after the break with Laura Stack, Brid Flanagan and Clodagh Kelly making an impact and they gradually pegged back Clare's lead, eventually closing the gap to a single goal 3-4 to 4-4.

However a late scoring burst by Clare broke Limerick hearts to reopen the decisive lead. Limerick were to get a late goal from Rachel Considine but it was too late and Clare ran out deserving winners.

This has been a great journey for this squad under the guidance of Gary Kirby, Paudie Kelly and Brian Leahy and we will hear from many of these players again in the coming years.

**LIMERICK:** Cornie Sheehan, Elizabeth Maloney, Aine Tangney, Zara White, Jane Kirby, Alice O'Connor, Stacey Flynn, Brid Flanagan, Beth Stapleton, Clodagh Kelly, Laura Stack, Aine Reynolds, Rachel Considine, Molly Hammersly, Isabella Condon. Subs: Cathy O'Toole for Isabella Condon, Jennifer Holmes for Molly Hammersly, Eva Brommel for Zara White, Keena O'Brien for Aine Tangney, Leanne Herlihy for Brid Flanagan.

### RESULTS

**U-16 'A'**  
Newcastle West 3-17 Causeway 1-2; Killeedy 8-17 Ahane 3-5

**U-16 'B'**



Grainagh Ballingarry 5-8 Monaleen 5-0

**U-16 'C'**  
Cappamore 5-4 Treaty Gaels 2-2; Knockaderry/Templeglantine 3-4 Doon 0-1

**U-14 'A' Cup Semi-Finals**  
Newcastle West 2-11 Crough Killinny 3-1; Murroe Boher 4-6 Cill Ida 1-1

**U-14 'A' Plate Semi-Finals**  
Ballygran 4-3 Ballybrown 1-3; Bruff 3-7 Templeglantine 3-1

**U-14 'B' Cup Semi-Finals**  
Creora 4-5 Cappamore 3-1; Galbally 4-1 Patrickswell 1-2

**U-14 'B' Plate Semi-Finals**  
Monaleen 8-3 Kilmallock 3-4; Causeway 3-3

Mungret 1-1

**U-14 'C' Round 2**  
Blackrock/Effin 4-1 Grainagh Ballingarry 0-0; Treaty Gaels 9-5 Knockaderry 4-3

**U-12 'A'**  
Creora A 2-5 Galbally 4-2; Blackrock/Effin 2-8 Knockaderry 3-2

**U-12 'B'**  
Kilmallock 4-3 Monaleen B1-0; Tournafulla 2-2 Bruff 0-0

**U-12 'C'**  
Creora B 0-1 Cappamore/Treaty Gaels 7-6

## right wrongs of the past

"They were walking down the field afterwards talking and yapping and we were wrecked from watching them."

"The level of training they do and are capable of doing is phenomenal. When you tell them something they try and do it whereas fellas would be, 'yeah, I'm listening' but then go out and do what they always did."

As the players gathered in a circle in front of Hill 16 after last year's two-point final loss to Galway, they made a pact to return. And the addition of Aoife Sheehan and Claire Mulcahy has energised them.

Quaid accepts his own shot at glory has passed but reckons this Limerick bunch deserve their day in the sun. They have poured every ounce of effort into the cause.

"I held a tackle bag for them one night and I wasn't able to walk for two days after it," he recalled. "They're as hard as nails. I'd hate to go home to one of them and tell them I lost the wages on a horse! Sarah Carey at centre-back, it's like watching Ciarán (her father). I tell Ciarán he wouldn't lace her boots! When she hits people we say they've been 'Carey-ed!'"

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# Limerick camogie panel-



## **AOIFE SHEEHAN**

The Granagh-Ballingarry player returned to the inter-county scene this season. Was captain of the 2007 All-Ireland winning side.



## **CAOIMHE COSTELLO**

The Adare teenager was the star of Limerick's All-Ireland minor win. In her second year in the Limerick intermediate team



## **CLAIRE MULCAHY**

The experienced Ahane player is another who returns to the Limerick set-up this year. The oldest of the three sisters in the starting team



## **DEBORAH MURPHY**

The Knockaderry girl remains in the team from last season. Was a member of the minor winning side earlier this season.



## **DEIRDRE FITZPATRICK**

The Killeedy star is one of the longer serving members of the Limerick panel. She was midfield last year in Croke Park



## **DONNA MULCAHY**

The Killeedy teenager is another of the rising stars. Already won All-Ireland minor and junior championships in 2014.



## **DYMPHNA O'BRIEN**

The dual player is the one player in the panel that has won silverware in Croke Park. The Killeedy forward was corner forward last year



## **FIONA HICKEY**

The Granagh-Ballingarry defender is team captain. Attempting to add another national title to the All-Ireland Feile she won in 1999.



## **JANE WILSON**

The Na Piarsaigh girl was introduced as a sub in last year's All-Ireland final. A member of Limerick's minor winning team



## **JUDITH MULCAHY**

The youngest of the three Ahane sisters lines out at corner back. One of the survivors from the 2007 All-Ireland victory.



## **KATIE CAMPBELL**

The Na Piarsaigh player has been hampered by injury this season. Starred at Third Level Colleges level in last two years



## **KATIE HENNESSY**

The Ballyagran teenager has won three All-Ireland medals already in 2014. Was midfield on the junior winning side.



## **KAREN O'LEARY**

The Newcastle West player was introduced as a sub in Croke Park last year. Another of the stars of the minor team.



## **LAURA O'NEILL**

The Na Piarsaigh goalkeeper is another chasing a fourth national title, and at the age of just 16.



## **LEANNE BROWNE**

Another of the rising stars to come from Newcastle West. A star of the minor side and corner back with the winning juniors.



Down's Lisa McAliskey about to clear the sliotar during the semi-final as Roscommon's Elaine Daly moves in to challenge.

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# 2014 All Ireland Finalists



## LORRAINE MCCARTHY

The Bruff player won the national league title with Limerick last season and also won a provincial junior title in 2013.



## MAIREAD FITZGERALD

The Granagh-Ballingarry has played her way into the senior plans after fine displays for the junior earlier in the season



## MARGUERITE MCCARTHY

The Ahane player was wing back on the successful junior team this season.



## MARY O'CALLAGHAN

The Bruff player was full forward in Croke Park last year and has filled roles from midfield forward this season.



## MICHELLE CASEY

Was captain of the side last season. The Killeedy player has moved to full back this season. Was Munster player of the year last season.



## MUIREANN CREAMER

The Cappamore player was centre forward on the championship winning junior team. Also prominent at colleges level with UL.



## NIAMH MULCAHY

The talented Ahane attacker carried much of the scoring threat from play and from frees. Young Player of the Year in 2007.



## NIAMH RYAN

The Bruff player has starred at underage level with success in the Laurel Hill College teams. Also holds All-Ireland minor B winners medal.



## NOREEN BARRY

The Killeedy defender was captain of Limerick all-conquering junior team this season. Also won Munster junior title last year.



## REBECCA DELEE

The Newcastle West teenager was wing back last year in Croke Park. Another of the minor winning stars of earlier this year.



## SARAH CAREY

The Granagh-Ballingarry club player is centre back this season after switching from full back. Munster's Young Player of the Year in 2010



## SARAH COLLINS

The Ballyagran attacker was full forward on the successful junior teams and was a key free-scoring component of their victories.



## SILE MOYNIHAN

The Ahane club player has been just announced as Limerick's Player of the Decade. The goalkeeper is the team vice-captain



## SINEAD MCNAMARA

The Na Piarasigh player was introduced as a sub during the semi-final win over Waterford. Another of the minor winning side at full back.



## TARA FITZGIBBON

The Ballyagran players was centre back on the junior and minor winning teams over the past few months.



Limerick's Caoimhe Costello in action in the semi-final against Waterford.



# Seniors set for Sunday's epic battle

By T.J. Mills  
sport@kilkennypeople.ie  
Twitter: @KilPeopleSport

The Kilkenny senior camogie team will be hoping to bridge a 20-year gap when they take on Cork in the All-Ireland final on Sunday.

The Cats, who last won the O'Duffy Cup in 1994, will take on the Rebels in a rematch of the 2009 final when the sides met in the big clash at Croke Park (throw-in 4pm).

Kilkenny have been in impressive form all year. They won the league in April and have suffered only one defeat all season, losing to Wexford in the Leinster final. They regrouped and powered through the All-Ireland championship campaign, rattling off 16-78 on their way to the final.

Kilkenny began their All-Ireland campaign against Offaly in Nowlan Park, easily beating the Faithful County side by 5-16 to 0-8 points. In their second game, against Tipperary, the Premier County frustrated the Cats for periods, but Kilkenny took hold of the clash in the second half and ran out 2-21 to 0-7 winners.

The third game saw Kilkenny travel to Ennis to take on Clare, a game which was always going to be a difficult assignment. In a tough contest, in which Kilkenny played the second half with 14 players, they fought off a late Clare surge to record their third win on a 1-13 to 0-12 scoreline.



Senior captains Anna Geary of Cork and Leann Fennelly of Kilkenny meet ahead of Sunday's Liberty Insurance Senior Camogie Final. The Camogie Association has special advance tickets rates for supporters and are also are running a competition for the best banner celebrating their 110th year, with €1,000 to be won on the day.  
Photo: Cathal Noonan/Inpho

In the final round Kilkenny entertained Derry, knowing that a victory would ensure their qualification for the All-Ireland semi-finals. With such a high prize at stake Kilkenny showed no mercy, running out 4-16 to 1-5 winners against the Ulster girls, setting up a semi-final date with Galway, a replay of last year's All-Ireland.

Although Kilkenny convincingly led by 2-5 to 1-3 at half-time the second half was a different story. Galway came right back at Kilkenny, cutting the gap to a point.

Showing their steel the Cats soaked up everything Galway threw at them. Kilkenny took, responding well as they recorded a 4-12 to 3-7

result that earned them a final berth against Cork, who needed a replay to beat Wexford in the other semi-final.

Cork will bring impressive form to Sunday's final. They were solid in their All-Ireland campaign, losing just one game to Wexford. Forwards Orla Cotter and Katrina Mackey are capable of

causing the Kilkenny defence difficulty, while the Cats will also have to be mindful of the danger that dual player Brieghe Corkery brings to the fold.

However, the Kilkenny full-back line of Mairead Power, Kate McDonald and Jacqui Frisby will relish the challenge. They were miserly in the group stages, conceding

just one goal on the way to the semi-finals.

Cork will also need to be wary of Kilkenny's forwards Denise Gaule, Aisling Dunphy, Aine Connery, Michelle Quilty, Katie Power and Shelly Farrell, all of whom can take advantage of any lapses in Cork's defence.

## Meet the players gunning for O'Duffy glory

### Emma Kavanagh, Rower-Inistioge.

Honours: 1 county intermediate championship, 1 Leinster club intermediate championship, minor and under-21 county championships, 1 Feile medal 2007, Leinster minor and senior medals, 1 National League.

### Mairead Power, Carrickshock

Honours: 2 All-Ireland senior colleges (St Brigid's, Callan); 2 Purcell Cups (DCU); 2 All-Ireland under-16, 2 All-Ireland minor, 1 Leinster senior championship, 1 National League, 1 All-Star.

### Kate McDonald, Thomastown.

Honours: 2 All-Ireland senior colleges (St Brigid's, Callan), under-14, 16, minor and under-21 county championships, 3 All-Ireland under-16, 4 All-Ireland minor, 2 National Leagues, 3 Leinster senior championships. Captained Kilkenny to under-16 All-Ireland in 2007.

### Jacqui Frisby, Ballyhale Shamrocks.

Honours: 1 All-Ireland junior championship, 2 National Leagues, 1 county intermediate championship, 1 Leinster club championship, 1 All-Ireland schools B medal, Leinster under-14, 16, minor and senior. Captained Kilkenny to All-Ireland junior championship in 2002. All-Star 2009.

### Leann Fennelly, Mullinavat

Honours: 1 All-Ireland senior colleges (St Brigid's, Callan), 3 county senior championships, 1 Leinster senior club, 1 National League, 2 under-16 All-Irelands, 3 All-Ireland minor, 1 intermediate All-Ireland, 1 All-Ireland junior football championship, 3 Leinster senior championships. Captained St Brigid's College to colleges All-Ireland win in 2008.

### Edwina Keane, St Martin's (Muckalee).

Honours: 2 under-16 All-Irelands, 3 All-Ireland minor, 2 National Leagues, 3 Leinster senior championships, 1 All-Star.

### Elaine Aylward, Mullinavat

Honours: 3 county senior championships, 1 Leinster club senior championship, 5 Leinster senior championships, 2 National Leagues, All-Star 2009.

### Claire Phelan, Lisdowney.

Honours: 3 All-Ireland senior colleges, 2 All-Ireland junior colleges, 1 intermediate county championship (2010), 1 National League, under-16 and minor All-Irelands, Leinster senior championship.

### Ann Dalton, St Lachtain's (Freshford).

Honours: 3 Ashbourne Cups, 3 All-

Ireland senior club, All-Ireland minor,

3 Leinster senior, 2 National Leagues, 2 All-Stars, camogie player of the year 2009. Captained Kilkenny in 2009 final.

### Katie Power, Piltown

Honours: 4 Ashbourne Cups, Captained WIT to Ashbourne Cup in 2012, 1 county junior championship, 4 Leinster senior, 2 All-Ireland under-16, 3 All-Ireland minor, 2 National Leagues, 2 All-Stars.

### Aisling Dunphy, St Brigid's (Ballycallan).

Honours: 1 All-Ireland senior colleges, 1 All-Ireland junior colleges, 3 under-16 All-Irelands, 2 All-Ireland minor, 2 Leinster senior, 1 National League. Captained Loreto to All-Ireland senior colleges win 2010.

### Collette Dorrer, Paulstown.

Honours: 4 Ashbourne Cups, under-16 All-Ireland, 2 All-Ireland minor, 2 National Leagues, 1 intermediate All-Ireland, 3 Leinster senior, county junior championship.

### Shelly Farrell, Thomastown.

Honours: 2 All-Ireland senior colleges, 2 Ashbourne Cup, under-14, 16, minor and under-21 county championships, 2 under-16 All-Irelands (captain 2008), 2 minor All-Irelands, 1 intermediate All-Ireland, 1 Leinster senior medal, 1

National League Medal, 1 All-Star.

### Denise Gaule, Windgap.

Honours: 2 All-Ireland senior colleges, 4 Ashbourne Cups, minor, under-21 and intermediate county championships, 2 under-16 All-Irelands, 2 All-Ireland minor, 1 intermediate All-Ireland, 2 Leinster senior, 1 National League. Camogie Young Player of the Year 2009.

### Aoife Neary, James Stephens.

Honours: Under-16, minor and junior county championships, 1 junior All-Ireland, 1 All-Ireland senior colleges 'B', Leinster under-14, 16, minor, junior and senior, 2 National Leagues, 2 All-Stars.

### Ann Marie Lennon, Blacks and Whites.

Honours: 3 Ashbourne Cups, 1 intermediate All-Ireland, 1 Leinster senior, under-16 and minor All-Irelands, 1 National League.

### Michelle Quilty, Mullinavat.

Honours: 4 Ashbourne Cups, 3 county senior championships, 1 Leinster senior club, 2 under-16 All-Irelands, 3 All-Ireland minor, 4 Leinster senior, 2 National League.

### Kelly Hamilton, Rower-Inistioge.

Honours: All-Ireland senior colleges 'B', county and Leinster intermediate championships, under-21 county B

championship, Feile 2007, Leinster under-14, 16 and minor, 1 Leinster senior.

### Grace Walsh, Tullaroan.

Honours: 2 All-Ireland colleges junior, 3 All-Ireland senior colleges, Leinster under-16, minor and senior, All-Ireland under-16 and minor, 1 National League.

### Miriam Walsh, Tullaroan.

Honours: 3 All-Ireland junior colleges, 4 All-Ireland senior colleges, captained Loreto to 2013 senior colleges All-Ireland, Leinster under-14, 16, minor, senior, 1 All-Ireland minor, 1 National League.

### Claire Aylward, Mullinavat.

Honours: 1 intermediate All-Ireland, 1 All-Ireland B colleges, 3 senior county championships, 1 Leinster senior club championship, 2 under-21 A county championships, captained Kilkenny minor Leinster final team, Kilkenny Centenary junior Player of the Year 2004, 1 National League.

### Aine Kinsella, Mullinavat.

Honours: 3 senior county league and championship, 1 senior club championship, 1 National League, Leinster senior medal 2013, Leinster under-16 2009, Leinster under-18 2011/2012, Munster intermediate colleges cup 2011,

under-16 C championship 2010.

### Lydia Fitzpatrick, St Lachtain's (Freshford).

Honours: 1 All-Ireland minor, 4 All-Ireland colleges senior, 3 All-Ireland junior, 3 All-Ireland colleges 7-a-side, 2 Leinster minor, 2 Leinster under-16, 2 Leinster under-14, 4 Leinster colleges senior, 4 Leinster colleges junior, 2 Leinster colleges minor, 3 Leinster colleges 7-a-side, 2 Kilkenny senior club, 1 Kilkenny under-14 club championship, 1 National League.

### Stacey Quirke, St Martin's (Muckalee).

Honours: 1 under-16 Leinster, 1 under-16 A All-Ireland, 1 Leinster under-18, 1 under-18 All-Ireland, 2 Leinster junior schools, 1 All-Ireland junior schools, 1 Leinster senior schools, 1 All-Ireland senior colleges, 2 Purcell Cups with DCU, 1 National League.

### Aine Connery, St Lachtain's (Freshford).

Honours: 1 National League, 3 senior club All-Irelands, 5 Leinster senior club titles, 9 senior county medals, Leinster under-age inter-county and club titles 82 senior Irish hockey caps.

Management - Niall Williams, Graham Dillon, John Joe Aylward, Liz Dempsey.



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## SPORT ALL-IRELAND SENIOR & INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE FINALS

# Confident intermediates have Limerick in their sights

BY T.J. MILLS  
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Kilkenny will be hoping to start an historic day in style when they take on Limerick in the All-Ireland intermediate camogie final (throw-in 2pm).

The intermediates have been impressive all year, but were unlucky not to make the latter of the stages of the league.

They quickly shrugged off that disappointment and, with the addition of Ballyhale Shamrocks contingent, hit the ground running in the All-Ireland championship.

Like their senior counterparts the intermediates blasted their way to the knockout stages, going through the campaign undefeated.

Kilkenny began their group games with a tricky encounter away to Cork.

Having led for long periods in the game the team trailed by two points going into the final five minutes. However, late scores from Kellyann Cottrell, Lydia Fitzpatrick and Orla Hanrick ensured Kilkenny came away with the win.

The victorious run continued as Kilkenny followed up this game with a home game against Wexford. The Cats put in a complete performance, clawing past their neighbours with a mammoth 4-20 to 0-1 win in Callan.

In their third game Kil-



Intermediate captains Fiona Hickey of Limerick and Mags Fennelly of Kilkenny meet in the build-up to the Liberty Insurance Intermediate Camogie All-Ireland final. The duo will come face to face again in Croke Park on Sunday.  
Photo: Cathal Noonan/Inpho

kenny faced Waterford, a side many fancied to be favourites for the All-Ireland. Kilkenny never went behind in the contest and, after a blistering start, recorded a 2-9 to 1-6 win.

The final group game saw Kilkenny play host to Meath, needing a victory to guarantee a semi-final spot. Led by captain Mags Fennelly, the Cats gave an assured per-

formance as they ran out 2-15 to 2-10 winners. Fennelly was the scorer in chief, rattling off nine points as she helped her side into the final four.

The Leinster champions

Kildare provided the opposition in the semi-final, but it was a game in which Kilkenny never trailed. They ran out convincing 1-16 to 0-7 winners, the most impressive as-

pect being the performances of the subs, who made an impact when introduced. Mary O'Connell (1-1), Aine Gannon (0-1) and Aisling Butler (0-1) were all on the scoresheet, completing a great team performance. This win set up a final against Limerick, who narrowly beat Waterford (0-9 to 0-8) in the other semi-final.

What will Limerick bring to the final? Like Kilkenny they came through their group games with an unbeaten record and impressively so, running up a tally of 10-83 on their way to the final.

Limerick can boast players all over the field who, on their day, are up there with the best. Kilkenny will have to keep an eye on the in-form forward line of Niamh Mulcahy, Mairead Fitzgerald and Caoimhe Costello. The Treaty County's backline is also highly impressive, with Michelle Casey and Sarah Carey rock solid along the spine of the defence.

However, Kilkenny have plenty of players who can cause Limerick headaches. With forwards Mags Fennelly, Orla Handrick and Anna Farrell in great form they will keep the Limerick defence on their toes.

The backline of Edel Frisby, Catherine Foley, Therese Muldowney were also impressive in the campaign. Capable of keeping the Limerick forwards quiet, it promises to be an intriguing final.

# Double is the dream for Kilkenny

**Ann Marie Lennon.** Blacks and Whites (see seniors).

**Emma Comerford.** Young Irelands (Gowran).

Honours: 2 Ashbourne Cups, 2 All-Ireland junior colleges, 2 All-Ireland senior colleges, under-16 county championship, Leinster under-16, minor and senior, All-Ireland under-16 and minor.

**Sarah Anne Quinlan.** Young Irelands (Gowran).

Honours: 2 All-Ireland colleges junior medals, 3 All-Ireland senior colleges medals, under-16 county championship, Leinster under-14, 16 and minor championship.

**Aine Fahy.** Tullaroan.

Honours: Ashbourne Cup, intermediate county championship, 1 National League, 1 intermediate All-Ireland, 4 Leinster senior medals.

**Mags Fennelly.** Ballyhale Shamrocks. (Captain)

Honours: Intermediate Leinster league and county Leagues 2012, Leinster and All-Ireland minor 2009, 1 intermediate county championship, 1 Leinster

intermediate club championship.

**Meave Mansfield.** St Martin's (Muckalee).

Honours: 1 Ashbourne Cup and colleges League with WIT, 1 minor All-Ireland, 2 Leinster minor, 1 under-16 A All-Ireland and Leinster, 1 colleges C All-Ireland and Leinster C medal.

**Claire Aylward.** Mullinavat (see seniors).

**Aine Kinsella.** Mullinavat (see seniors).

**Mary O'Connell.** Clara.

Honours: 1 All-Ireland minor, Leinster under-14 and 16, 2 All-Ireland 7-a-side colleges, Leinster B minor and junior colleges, 1 Leinster senior, 1 senior Leinster colleges A, 1 senior All-Ireland colleges A.

**Sonia Buggy.** Dicksboro.

Honours: 1 under-16 All-Ireland and Leinster, 2 minor All-Ireland, 2 junior colleges All-Ireland, 3 senior colleges All-Ireland, 1 colleges 7-a-side All-Ireland, 6 Leinster colleges, county junior and intermediate club championship.

**Aisling Nolan.** Clara.

Honours: 1 All-Ireland minor, 2 All-Ireland 7-a-side colleges, Leinster B junior and minor colleges, under-14 Leinster, 1 Leinster and 1 All-Ireland colleges A.

**Megan Farrell.** Thomastown.

Honours: Senior A and B All-Ireland colleges, 2 inter-provincial colleges with Leinster, 1 minor All-Ireland 2013 (Captain), 3 Leinster senior colleges, 3 under-16 Leinster, under-14, 16, minor, under-21 county championships, 1 National League.

**Lydia Fitzpatrick.** St Lachtain's (see seniors).

**Edel Frisby.** Ballyhale Shamrocks

Honours: 1 intermediate county championship, 1 Leinster intermediate club championship, 2 All-Ireland senior colleges, 2 under-16 All-Ireland, 2 minor All-Ireland, Leinster under-14, 16, minor and senior.

**Catherine Foley.** Windgap.

Honours: 6 county medals, 2 under-14 Leinster, 1 under-16 Leinster, 2 Leinster minor, 1 minor All-Ireland, 1 All-Ireland Freshers and 1 Leinster 7's medal.

**Therese Muldowney.** St Brigid's (Ballycallan).

Honours: Colleges senior B All-Ireland, under-14, 16, 18 Leinster, under-21 club championship, 2 Victoria State championships.

**Stacey Quirke.** St Martin's (Muckalee)

Honours: 1 under-16 Leinster and All-Ireland, 1 Leinster under-18 and All-Ireland, 2 Leinster junior schools, 1 All-Ireland junior schools, 1 Leinster senior and 1 All-Ireland senior colleges, 2 Purcell Cups with DCU, 1 National League.

**Sarah Crowley.** Mooncoin.

Honours: 2 under-14 and 16 Leinster, 1 minor Leinster, 1 Munster medal with Mercy Waterford, 1 junior B club.

**Anna Farrell.** Thomastown.

Honours: 3 under-14 Leinster, 3 under-16 All-Ireland, 3 minor All-Ireland, 2 colleges All-Ireland with St Brigid's Callan, 3 inter-provincials, 2 under-14 club championships, 3 under-16 and 2 minor club championships, 2 under-21 club championship.

**Orla Hanrick.** Dicksboro

Honours: Roinn A, B and C primary schools, 4 senior colleges All-Ireland, 2 junior colleges All-Ireland, 3 7-a-side colleges All-Ireland, 1 junior county championship, 1 intermediate county championship.

**Laura Walker.** Windgap.

Honours: 3 Leinster senior A colleges, 2 All-Ireland senior A colleges, 1 All-Ireland under-16.

**Aisling Butler.** O'Loughlin Gaels.

Honours: 1 Leinster senior, 2 junior club championships, 1 junior club All-County League, 1 junior club league, 2 minor club championships, 1 under-16, 1 under-21 club championship, 1 Leinster colleges junior championship.

**Aine Gannon.** Rower-Inistioge.

Honours: 2 under-14 A Leinster, 2 under-16 A Leinster, 1 minor A Leinster, 1 Leinster junior B schools, 1 senior B Leinster schools, 1 club intermediate county and Leinster championship, 1 Feile under-14 All-Ireland, 1 junior B All-Ireland, 1 senior B All-Ireland, 1 minor A All-Ireland, 1 Leinster junior C schools football, 1 under-16 C Leinster football, 1

Feile under-14 All-Ireland football.

**Catherine Connolly.** Ballyhale Shamrocks.

Honours: 1 intermediate county club, 1 club intermediate League, 1 Leinster intermediate club, 1 club Leinster league.

**Kirsty Maher.** Dicksboro.

Honours: 3 All-Ireland senior colleges, 4 All-Ireland junior colleges, 2 All-Ireland colleges 7-a-side, 3 Leinster senior colleges, 4 Leinster junior colleges, 2 Leinster colleges 7-a-side, 2 Leinster colleges minor, 1 Kilkenny colleges First Year Championship, Loreto junior Player of The Year 2013, 1 Kilkenny primary schools county final, 1 Leinster final county under-14, 1 club county.

**Laura Norris.** Piltown

Honours: 1 minor club championship, 1 junior club championship, 1 under-21 club, 1 Purcell Cup with UCC, 1 under-16 Leinster, 2 minor Leinster, 1 Munster schools League.

**Management.** Niall Williams, Graham Dillon, John Joe Aylward, Liz Dempsey.

Physios: Tom Manton/Frank Manogue.



# Positive attitude brought Aylward & Co back to final

BY TREVOR SPILLANE  
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**Losing an All-Ireland camogie final was hurtful, but not performing on the big stage brought more for Kilkenny's Elaine Aylward.**

Having raced their way into the 2013 decider, the Cats were left distraught when their charge stalled against Galway in Croke Park last September.

"Looking back on last year's final we didn't perform near the best of our capabilities and that was the most disappointing thing about it," she said. "To be beaten in an All-Ireland final is obviously disappointing but to not perform in one is even worse."

"There was a lot of regret there that we didn't play to our full potential," she added. "Whether that would have been good enough to beat Galway on the day, who knows, but it would have been nice to be that bit closer to see."

Kilkenny seem to have harnessed that regret, turning it into a positive run that saw them take an unbeaten path through the All-Ireland championship.

"This year we said we would take it one game at a time, whether it be the league or the round robin in the championship," she said. "The championship was week



Fighting their way back to the All-Ireland final wasn't without its challenges, but Elaine Aylward (centre) believes that Kilkenny used the hurt of their 2013 final loss to get their challenge started.

on week so we had a few days to get back in and focus on the next team.

"Last year's regret, and the bit of hurt that was there helped us along, but we wouldn't be here now without taking it week by week."

Taking a measured, cautious route also paid off when Kilkenny came up against the reigning champions in the

semi-final. The idea of unfinished business from last year was discarded.

"It would have been said in the time nearer the game and in the run up to training but avenging the 2013 final defeat wasn't the main motivating factor," she said. "2013 is over and done with and no-one can change the result of that."

"It was all about 2014 as far

as we were concerned; Galway were the next step.

"Luckily the focus was good and we got the result."

Consigning previous defeats to the memory banks is a little easier when a team is looking forward to another final, but Kilkenny have adopted a positive mantra all year.

"It was easier, but in another sense 2013 was done with,"

she said. "We had our analysis done on last year so you don't look back because if you do you'll end up back there."

The new campaign wasn't without its challenges, for players or management, but Kilkenny have come shining through on two fronts.

"Last year's journey was probably new to everyone, management included," she said. "Managing two teams is a big ordeal - getting a group of 40 girls to two All-Ireland finals is no mean achievement."

Sharing the managers has seen a bond develop between the senior and intermediate teams.

"We would have trained a good bit together at the start of the year. The day they beat Kildare in Carlow (the intermediate All-Ireland semi-final) a number of senior girls would have been involved. It was the same when we beat Galway."

"On the day we were all fighting for the one cause, Kilkenny camogie," she said. "We are all in it together."

"It was great to be coming back to training last week and to have the 40 girls there. To have both teams going the full distance is a bonus."

In a year of steps Cork will provide the biggest one on Sunday, but the Cats are ready.

"Cork are a good skilful camogie team," finished Aylward. "We know exactly what to expect."

## Two teams can deliver, says Dillon

The 2013 campaign was a new experience for Kilkenny camogie, but joint manager Graham Dillon is adamant everyone has learned from the process.

"I think the attitude of the girls was always good, but they've upped it a level this year," he said. "Their performances in training and in games have become more ruthless."

"They've learned how to put teams away. When they've gotten the lead they haven't looked over their shoulder they've just kept going."

While the intermediates have a fresh challenge in the shape of their final, Dillon is happy with how the seniors have bounced back from last year's loss to Galway.

"Galway weren't going to give up their title easily - they battled hard and worked away in this year's semi-final."

"It looked like the tide was starting to turn but the girls have got more belief in themselves and their ability," he said. "They now know what they're capable of and I just hope that it comes through on Sunday because it's what they deserve at this stage."

Standing in their way will be a Cork side who will be just as hungry as the Cats.

"Cork were really impressive when beating Wexford in the semi-final replay," he said. "They are physical, athletic and skilful and it will probably be a different game to Galway, there will be more hurling involved. It's going to be a tough battle."

With the intermediates first into action on Sunday against Limerick, Dillon admitted that it was a good time for Kilkenny camogie. The panels have gelled well all year, spurring each other on when needed.

The sides have definitely influenced each other along the way," he said. "There's no special treatment; there's nothing the seniors get that the intermediates don't. I think they appreciate that. They're fully focused on winning their own championship and then getting up into the stand and roaring the senior girls on. Hopefully we can bring the two trophies home, but it won't be easy."

"Limerick are on the intermediate scene a long time," he added. "They are a well-established team and we'll be going back there to just try play as much hurling as possible."

"With the seniors it's going to be just like the hurling at the weekend it's going to be impossible to call. Hopefully we come out on the right side of it!"

# Connery committed to Cats' cause

BY TREVOR SPILLANE  
tspillane@kilkennypeople.ie  
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She has played against the world's best hockey sides for her country, but Aine Connery reckons that when it comes to showing spirit, the county's camogie team is up right there.

"The level of training that this Kilkenny team has put in, together with the skill and fitness shown, is really impressive," said Connery, who has been capped more than 80 times by the Irish hockey team. "I wanted to join that this year, to be a part of it."

"I've been playing the two sports for so long that it's not a problem now," she said. "I started playing hockey when I went to school in the Loreto so I've combined the two since. It just comes naturally to me now. I don't mind chang-

ing between the two - but they do slag me at camogie training for being a hockey player and at hockey for being a camogie player! I can't win with either!"

Although a seasoned hockey player, Connery is no stranger to camogie glory. A club All-Ireland winner with St Lachtain's (Freshford), she relished the chance to change codes and challenge for inter-county honours.

"I like the challenge," she said of the county's tough training programme. "When you come in you want high intensity training and to be tested at every level."

While she missed last year's final defeat to Galway, Connery has been impressed with how her colleagues have responded.

"Although they lost last year's final the girls said they'd bottle that pain and bring it

to training," she said. "That's been proven this year. They turned it into a positive, as the level of training has been brilliant."

That drive has been reflected in the team's performances.

"We've put up high scores but we've been determined to do that," she said. "We wanted to put into practice what we've worked on, and coming into the championship and to be ready."

That resolution was never more tested than when the Cats faced Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final.

"It was a competitive game, but we showed great character to come through it," she said. "Everyone has learned a lesson from last year. When Galway closed to within a point of us we didn't panic. The side showed that extra determination needed to get the scores and win the game."

That determination will be tested again by Cork in the final, but Connery and her colleagues are ready.

"There's no bigger test than Cork, who have a great history of camogie," she said.



Aine Connery in action during the semi-final win over Galway. She has relished the challenge provided by switching from hockey to camogie this year.



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Paul Roche, head of marketing Barry Group, presents Cork camogie captain Anna Geary with her Jersey prior to the All-Ireland camogie final on Sunday at Croke Park.

Picture: Tony O'Connell Photography

**E**VEN though I never place a bet, out of curiosity I went onto the Ladbrokes website the other night to check the odds on the All-Ireland camogie final on Sunday.

Interestingly, they have Kilkenny down as favourites. In layman's language, if you put €50 on Kilkenny you'll get €75 back. Place €50 on Cork and you'll get €125. I'd be more inclined to make it evens but where's the fun in that? That suits Cork fine. Hope Kilkenny believe it too. Maybe I'll place a bet after all.

Of course, I believe Cork can win this All-Ireland. It isn't out of allegiance I say that. All-Ireland finals aren't always 50/50. But this one is.

I don't typically sit on the fence; two years ago I believed that Cork would beat Wexford and said so. I was quietened because Wexford played their best hurling of the year which I didn't see coming and Cork were beaten by a better team, no question.

This is a different Cork, though; not so much in personnel, although there are a few changes, but their preparation, intent, belief and desire, is on a scale I haven't seen in a long while in the camp. Paudie Murray's professionalism has risen considerably over the three years. After two disappointing seasons he knew what was required, what he needed, to go to the next level and this year he surrounded himself with additional resources that could help him raise the bar. That's the sign of a good manager. A manager does need this amount of time, particularly one coming into the inter-county camogie world where it isn't so easy to watch the opposition week in and week out on TV to familiarise yourself. Often the group games clash so jumping into your car isn't an option either. You

# Underdog status suits Cork fine

According to the bookies Kilkenny are favourites to beat Cork in Sunday's camogie final,

**Linda Mellerick**

believes that may play into the Rebels' hands



can go in blind against the opposition. Then you learn your lesson. Cork aren't going in blind this year. They had their homework done for the semi-final against Wexford; they'll have it done again for Sunday.

What of Kilkenny? I won't repeat my old view on their lack of passion, controlled aggression and unabated desire making them non-contenders. That has changed this season. An All-Ireland defeat will do that to you. They are

hurting and longing now. That makes you a dangerous animal. But Cork are hurting too; the memory of that 2012 defeat still lingers, as does the semi-final defeat to the Cats last August. Kilkenny are fast and skilful, I predict they'll go player-for-player with Cork. Like their hurling counterparts the two counties are very similar in how they play; fast, open and with flair. Both sides have impressive forward divisions. Whose defence wins out

**SUNDAY**  
Liberty Insurance All-Ireland  
Senior Camogie final,  
Cork v Kilkenny,  
Croke Park 4pm

will have a major bearing. Cork will need their forward six; Jennifer O'Leary, Angela Walsh, Briege Corkery, Katrina Mackey, Orla Cotter and Julia White firing on all cylinders. Having watched the semi-final between Galway and Kilkenny, taking on the Kilkenny defence causes them problems where, in my view, Katie McDonald at full-back is suspect. They have a strong half-back line yet they made changes twice to their centre-back during that game; Collette Dormer started there having been named at midfield with Leanne Fennelly moving out. When Edwina Keane replaced Jackie Frisby, Dormer moved to the corner and Keane moved to centre-back. Aylward, an attacking left half-back, will love nothing more than racing up the

pitch and distributing cleanly. What is impressive is the bench that Kilkenny possess. To have Aoife Neary and Keane as well as Grace Walsh to come in shows the strength in depth Kilkenny has. Midfield is where they are capitalising lately. Ann Dalton is having a tremendous season, covering acres during a game. She got a wonder goal in the semi but was allowed run straight through the middle without a serious challenge. Big games are needed from Aisling Thompson and Rena Buckley. Emma Kavanagh's puck-outs will just about reach midfield, if that, and we need to win a greater percentage than Kilkenny here. That's paramount. Our half-forward line need to be alert to the puck-outs falling shorter as I don't believe Kavanagh's are that strong.

Expect Aoife Murray's to land further up-field. Kavanagh's distribution when clearing doesn't appear to be as controlled or accurate as Murray's either. Denise Gaule is the in-form forward and a lot of ball is placed down her right wing but ignore Michelle Quilty, Katie Power, Aisling Dunphy and Shelley Farrell at your peril, with Neary waiting in the wings (if not starting).

The nightmare of 2012 where Cork's half-back line got dragged out and their full-back line were as vulnerable as chickens to foxes, won't happen again. That is crucial as Kilkenny will look to test Laura Treacy, being the newest kid on the block, and look to utilise their inside line's pace.

Cork look to have a better system going than Kilkenny but I'm basing that on both semi-finals and Cork's was the more impressive against stiffer opposition, but who's to say there isn't a lot more in Kilkenny. It's going to be a real battle. Now where's that betting slip?



## O'Callaghan excited at the prospect of another final

IF YOU are looking for a model of consistency in camogie then look no further than Cork corner-back Joanne O'Callaghan, writes **RORY NOONAN**.

She captained the side to All-Ireland success in 2006, was on the team when they won again in 2008 and 2009 and was on the losing side two years ago.

After they lost to Galway in the semi-final in 2010 Joanne decided to call time on her inter-county career, simply just having had enough of the commitment of

having to play at the top level. The decision to step back is testament to Joanne's efforts on the pitch and in training, as she wasn't willing to be involved unless she could give it her all.

But two years ago she was asked back on the panel and admitted she had missed it and was

delighted to get involved again.

She was back at corner-back in the loss to Wexford in 2012 and in the semi-final loss to Kilkenny last year.

Now she will take her place in another final on Sunday and will be one of the players that manager Paudie Murray will look to.

"I'm really looking forward to the final and I just can't wait to get out there. Normally, you would have three weeks at least to prepare, but with the replay against Wexford we have only had two so it's come around really fast.

"I'm hoping the two tough games will stand to us, but I'm also conscious that Kilkenny have had three weeks to prepare and get everything right and we have only had two.

"We had a tough week of training last week and then only had two sessions this week to get ourselves right and it's all systems go for Sunday.

"We know we are in for an extremely tough game against Kilkenny as they have won every game they played this year. They beat us in last year's semi and then lost the final afterwards.

"Whereas, we might have a bit of revenge on our minds for that loss have no doubt their efforts and determination this year are all about losing that final last year.

"So I just think that we are really going to be up against it on the day and we will have to give it everything, and nothing less, if we are to have any chance against them.

"You don't go through a league season and an All-Ireland series without losing a game if you aren't a quality side and we are well aware that we are going in as underdogs on Sunday.

"They have been favourites since the start of the year and showed why so with their league campaign and then the All-Ireland series. They have brushed aside a lot of teams and got some great goals against Galway in the semi-final.

"When they are in top form they are an extremely tough side to stop, but we will be going in to give it our all and I have every faith in our squad to give a good account of ourselves.

"Will it be enough to get the better of them? We will have to wait and see but if it isn't it won't be for lack of effort on our part," concluded Joanne.



Cork's ultra consistent Joanne O'Callaghan.

# Only our best will do, says Angela

IT'S been a busy few weeks for Cork camogie and football star, Angela Walsh. On Sunday she lines out with the camogie side in the All-Ireland final against Kilkenny, the sixth week in-a-row she has been in action between football and camogie.

Last Saturday, along with Brieghe Corkery and Rena Buckley, she played a massive part in Cork's win over Armagh in the All-Ireland ladies football semi-final, before she was able to turn her attentions to Sunday's big game.

Win or lose, Angela — along with the county's other dual stars — will be back in Croker in two weeks' time with the football side to take on Dublin, in the hope of making it a double success for the Rebel County.

Over the years — and she is still only 29 — she has learned to balance the two, but did take some time out from camogie for a while.

The Killeagh star returned to the squad last season. They lost out in the semi-final to Kilkenny, the side they face in the final at 4pm on Sunday.

"I was captain of the footballers in 2008 so I decided to take a break from camogie to concentrate on that as there is a lot involved in the role," said Angela.

"As well as on the pitch, there is lots you have to do off it, so I decided to give it my full concentration. I knew I wouldn't be able to give camogie the commitment that it deserved, so I had to stop playing at inter-county level. "I suppose I concentrated on football for a few years after that and before the start of last season, I was asked was I interested in going back. I was at a wedding and selector Brian Barry was there as well. That's when he asked me. I think he caught me in a good mood and I said I would be delighted.

"Joking aside, it's a great honour to represent your county and, just like the rest of the squad, I am looking forward to the massive challenge ahead of us.

"In fairness to Kilkenny, they are the form side this year and nothing less than 100% is going to be good enough. They are an extremely athletic side, move the ball at pace and from their corner-backs out can drive forward to score.

"They have a great forward line, but when it's backed up by defenders or

After helping to see the footballers into their decider, dual star Angela Walsh talks to **Rory Noonan** on what to expect in the coming finals

## Angela Walsh factfile

**Clubs:** Killeagh (camogie) and Inch Rovers (football)

**Position:** Forward in camogie and defender in football

**Age:** 29

**Day Job:** PE teacher

### Honours:

All-Ireland senior camogie winner  
National League and Munster championship medals.

Senior B County Camogie winner  
Eight All-Ireland Senior football titles

Eight National league titles

Two All-Star awards

10 Munster Senior titles

Two O'Connor Cup medals

Five All-star awards

One U18 All-Ireland medal

Three senior county titles.

Three senior Munster title.

One All-Ireland club title.

### Other sporting achievements:

Member of Irish Junior Volleyball squad for three years, one senior volleyball championship medal, two All-Ireland athletics titles, four All-Ireland Schools Orienteering medals.

midfielders doing that, then it really is going to be a massive challenge to get the better of them.

"We were gutted to have lost in the semi-final to them last year by a point, but it only made us more determined than ever to try and reach this year's final and thankfully we have managed to do that.

"The semi-final win over Wexford was a close battle and I think it did a lot to gel the squad together ahead of the final. We were disappointed not to have won the first day and threw away the lead a couple of times.

"We were two points up a couple of times but, thankfully, we were three up



Cork's Angela Walsh in action against Armagh in the football semi-final last weekend.

when they got the late goal. All I could think afterwards was that it was the three points as there was no time to come back and at least we had another chance.

"Had it been two, we were out and it would have been heart-breaking to have lost that one.

"Replays are always difficult to gauge and you never know what's going to happen. I know some were saying we had our chance and they expected Wexford to win.

"But the girls deserve great credit for the spirit and determination they showed and, thankfully for us, we managed to come through. It showed just how much they are willing to do for each other and it gave us a confidence boost ahead of the final.

"That said, we know that Kilkenny are massive favourites and rightly so. They have brushed aside a number of quality teams and, in all honesty, spirit and determination won't be enough on Sunday.

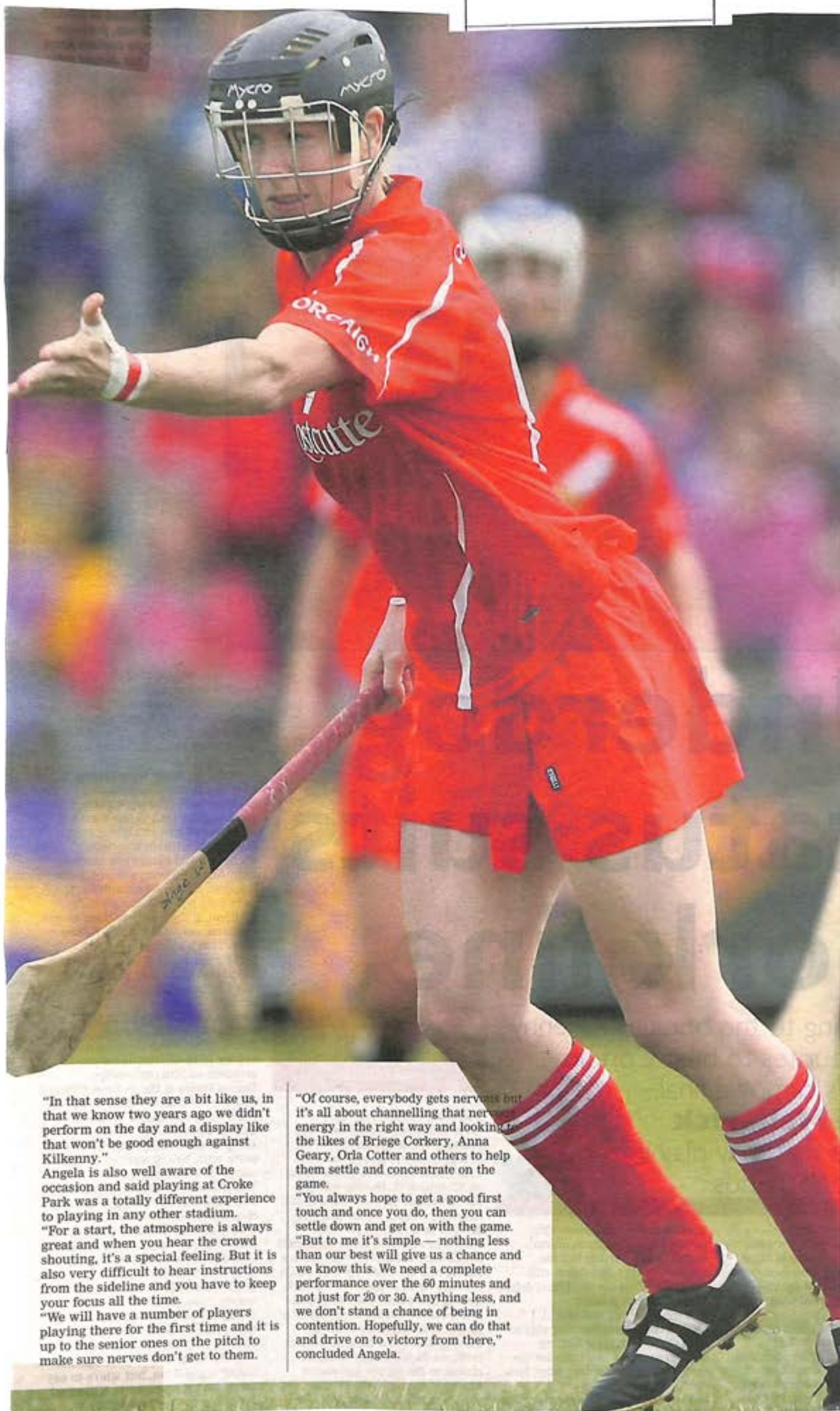
"The way they beat Galway shows just how good a team they are and we have to bring our A game on Sunday. If we don't, then there is no chance the cup coming south on Monday evening.

"They are undefeated all season and, having lost in last year's final, they will be determined to win this one.



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Cork's Eimear O'Sullivan in action against Wexford.

## Eimear: We want to give crowd reason to cheer

JUST like her team-mates, Eimear O'Sullivan can't wait to take to the pitch on Sunday, writes **RORY NOONAN**.

The Ballinhassig player is only 26, but is now a veteran of the side and no doubt her experience at the top level will be something the Rebels will look to on Sunday.

Eimear remembers her last two visits with the Rebels to Croke with very different emotions. In 2009, she played at half-forward in their win over Kilkenny but, in 2012, she had switched to defence as the Cork lost out in the final to Wexford.

Two years on, Cork are back in the final and Eimear can't wait to get going.

"It's definitely where we want to be. We started training in January and that's the aim when you start out back then. Luckily for us, we have managed to reach the final.

"But we are under no illusions of the task ahead of us and we know we are facing the form team this year.

"We were in the final in 2012 and they were there last year. They beat us in the semi-final last year so it should be a great game — we will just see what happens on the day.

"Both of us lost those finals and will have learned a lot from them. It is a massive incentive for both sides on Sunday.

"Kilkenny are coming in undefeated all season and they will have a lot of confidence from that. But we feel we are going in with a bit of momentum as well, especially after the two games against Wexford. They were two tough games and it's always good to have games like that coming into a final.

"But Kilkenny will also feel they have momentum. They beat us in the semi last year and no doubt they will be full of confidence on Sunday. They got some great goals in their semi-final against Galway and coming in undefeated all year can only put you in confident form.

"I have no doubt they will have done their homework on us and Kilkenny will feel they will have the players to get the better of us.

"We have a good blend of experience and youth in our team and, of course, nerves will play their part on the day.

"But once that ball is thrown in, it's all about who wants it more and I have no doubt we have the players who will step up to the mark.

"It's been a few years since we have won and I feel there is massive support all around the county for us. It was great to see the crowds at Castle Road when we had our open training session last week.

"Hopefully, they will travel to Dublin to support us on Sunday and we can give them something to cheer about come full-time," concluded Eimear.

"In that sense they are a bit like us, in that we know two years ago we didn't perform on the day and a display like that won't be good enough against Kilkenny."

Angela is also well aware of the occasion and said playing at Croke Park was a totally different experience to playing in any other stadium.

"For a start, the atmosphere is always great and when you hear the crowd shouting, it's a special feeling. But it is also very difficult to hear instructions from the sideline and you have to keep your focus all the time.

"We will have a number of players playing there for the first time and it is up to the senior ones on the pitch to make sure nerves don't get to them.

"Of course, everybody gets nervous but it's all about channelling that nervous energy in the right way and looking to the likes of Brieghe Corkery, Anna Geary, Orla Cotter and others to help them settle and concentrate on the game.

"You always hope to get a good first touch and once you do, then you can settle down and get on with the game.

"But to me it's simple — nothing less than our best will give us a chance and we know this. We need a complete performance over the 60 minutes and not just for 20 or 30. Anything less, and we don't stand a chance of being in contention. Hopefully, we can do that and drive on to victory from there," concluded Angela.



# Murray has raised the bar for all

**A**OIFE MURRAY was destined to be a great keeper and wear the Cork jersey such was her introduction to hurling at the hands of her brothers.

With the boys boarding in Farrenferris at the time, they would come home at the weekend and place Aoife in goal in their back garden as they played a no holds barred game and belted ball after ball in at her.

Aoife is the youngest of 11 and sister to Cork manager Paudie. She recalls a youth steeped in sport in a sporting family.

"I am very lucky to have older brothers and sisters to look up too especially on a sporting front. As a kid I had both Clara and Emer played underage football with Cork so as a young girl it was great to have female sporting role models. "I think I was about seven when Kevin played in the minor All-Ireland which was great to see at such a young age. I remember supporting Paudie when he played with the junior footballers when they won the All-Ireland. I would like to note I watched the game with Joanne and Orla O'Callaghan and they got stuck in the lift in the hotel after the game!"

Paudie was to have the most influence over Aoife's sporting career. She holds county medals with Cloughduv at U14, U16 and U18 along with three senior county titles. Paudie managed the U18 side that Aoife won honours with and that same year he was manager when the club won their first ever senior title. He went on to manage them to two further senior titles.

Aoife fondly recalls those years as she confirms what we already knew — "I have had great success

with Paudie'. Aoife is also the proud holder of two minor, junior, intermediate and five senior All-Ireland titles, hoping desperately for her sixth title on Sunday. Does it pose any difficulty being the sister of the Cork manager?

"I was lucky that we had the club experience so there wasn't much of an issue. The hardest thing I think is more how do the players treat you being the manager's sister and that's been the hardest thing to get used to. I guess girls would be a bit apprehensive in discussing anything about training/management. But for me I have the utmost confidence in Paudie's ability and it has given me great confidence and belief knowing our manager would if he could move mountains for us to win. No stone is left unturned and furthermore he has put together a great management team.

"I have grown up with Paudie telling me what to do so I am used to that. We fight like any brother sister; he will be the first person to tell me I should have worked harder or hit the ball better."

You would rarely if ever attend a Cork match without seeing the familiar faces of Aoife and Paudie's parents, John and Joan.

"My family love sport, there is a high chance that if you walked into our house sport will be on the TV. My parents love going to the games, they have known most of the girls and their parents for years. They are very proud of my two club mates also (Joanne O'Callaghan and Breige Corkery) so I think they come to support them as much as me."

I've been a massive fan of Aoife's for a long number of years. I put this to her that in my view she has raised the bar professionally far greater than most.

"I have never thought about raising the professional bar, all I've ever wanted is to have no regrets. I grew up with the joke that you put the slow and less talented one in goal and I guess I wanted to put that perception on its head. I remember Kevin telling me what Ger Cunningham was like and then Donal Óg. I picked up a few things

from Kevin on that front about how serious they were and how hard they trained. It almost gave me a confidence to demand more from myself and those that trained me." How does Aoife prepare on a weekly basis?

"As I've got older my week has changed. A few years ago I'd be out hurling every night but now I tend to mind myself a bit more. The week of a match I like to get two training sessions in. I've started to swim this year and it's helped me recover from my back injury so I do a bit of that. I am lucky that work is busy so I don't have a lot of down time to think during the day. Mentally I've done a bit of work previously with sports physiology so I've learned a huge amount from that."

Work is in Dublin for Aoife.

"I've been in Dublin five out of the past 10 summers, went up for two years after college and now this is my third consecutive year back up there. Right now I can't see myself moving back to Cork. I am employed by JLL and they have been a great support. I guess it's hard for Cork people to understand why someone would move away from Cork but I am very happy living in Dublin. It does take a lot of effort and commitment but when you've the honour of representing your club, family and loved ones by putting on the Rebel jersey it's very much worth it."

"In January I thought I wasn't going to be able to play this year so I am just so happy to be a part of it." What are her thoughts on the final? "Wexford was a great win just to prove to ourselves that we have it in us. It took great belief and ability to come back from the drawn game but we took so many positives from the first day that we really looked forward to having another go at them."

"Kilkenny are raging favourites. I guess they have been lighting the championship up all year, scoring for fun it seems so the backs and myself will be under serious pressure. It will take the entire squad on Sunday to get over Kilkenny, every player will have to be at their best but isn't that a great challenge!"

The family background of Cork keeper Aoife Murray meant that she was destined to be a great camogie.





## CHAMPIONSHIP 2014

# Cats heroine bounces back thanks to her 'bionic legs'

**Two torn cruciates and two lost finals still can't take the spring out of McDonald's step**

Cliona Foley

**A** TRENDY café hidden away in the posh Dublin southside suburb of Goatstown provided a welcome refuge for Kate McDonald this week, four days before the All-Ireland final.

She has just started her HDip, teaching maths and geography at nearby Jesus and Mary College (formerly Our Lady's Grove), so this leafy Dublin enclave, where she's heard an Irish rugby legend is living, is all very new to her.

Her students don't even know that she's playing in Sunday's senior final against Cork but she has been delighted to discover that the school already has a junior camogie team.

She'd be delighted to help out when she gets a spare minute and, in time, the school will discover they've gained a useful sporting all-rounder.

In her youth, McDonald (23) and her doubles partner Laura Butler were the top-ranked underage badminton duo in Leinster.

She also won All-Ireland schools volleyball titles with Our Lady's Callan alongside Kilkenny teammates Denise Gaule, Jacqui Frisby and Mairead Power, as well as camogie's equivalent.

### FAMINE

For Kilkenny to finally break their surprising 20-year senior famine on Sunday would be massive, especially for a 23-year-old defender who has already endured not one but two torn cruciate knee ligament injuries.

Women are even more prone, physiologically, to cruciate injury than men. McDonald actually did her first when she was still just 17 and in fifth year in school.

It happened in a league final against Galway in 2008 and, just two years later, her other knee went "in a challenge match for Kilkenny against boys. Ballyragget's U-16s or minors, I think.

"I knew exactly what it was when it happened the second time. It felt like my kneecap moved out to the side and the knee hinged the wrong way," she recalls.

Four years on, the Thomastown defender makes little of her double cruciate nightmare, insisting "I've been lucky, I've a friend that's done three. There's hardly a team in the country without someone who has torn their cruciate.

"I knew I had recovered from one so I could also recover from two. The way I look at it now I have bionic legs," she laughs.

"The big issue coming back is the mental factor, not just building up your leg again but getting it into your head that your



Kilkenny star Kate McDonald in the classroom at Jesus & Mary College in Goatstown in Dublin. EL KEEDAN

## FRIDAY PROFILE

### KATE McDONALD

leg is alright.

"There comes a time where you need to stop thinking about it every turn you take. That's the hardest part, believing and trusting that you're OK, but it just gradually fades from your mind."

After the second one herself and best buddy Leann Fennelly (Kilkenny's senior captain) spent the summer of 2011 in Boston, playing a bit of football and working in a petrol station where "they'd come in to talk to you, just for the sake of talking to the Irish".

After dabbling in accountancy last year, she has landed her "dream job", saying "teaching is all I ever wanted to do".

She was only 14 when she won her first All-Ireland title and, three years later, captained Kilkenny's three-in-a-row All-Ireland U-16s, a team that also won multiple minor titles and formed the platform for their current senior renaissance.

The only piece missing in her sporting jigsaw so far is a senior All-Ireland.

Cork have always been the arch-nemesis for herself and her club team in Thomastown, where Shelly Farrell's parents, Helen and Martin, are pivotal figures.

It was Douglas who beat them in a Community Games final and, a year later, in the Division One Feile final and, a third time, in the Feile semi-finals.

It was Cork who also beat Kilkenny in the 2009 All-Ireland, when McDonald was only 18 and an unused sub.

That one passed a bit over her head but the pain of last year's final loss to Galway has lingered long and hard.

"They say Croke Park can be a lonely place. It is when you're losing," she muses. "We only lost by five points but in the last few minutes of it you could feel it slipping away and then you started hearing the voices (from the crowd). It's funny the things you remember, and what plays on your mind after."

Returning to start another campaign, after losing an All-Ireland final, is the worst ever she says.

"I've been thinking lately of all the work that's been done, the winter work, the dark nights in the 'skins' with muddy hurls.

"You think, 'Lord God, why do we go through all of this?' but then you get to this stage and you think, 'We're nearly there, it might all be worth it!'"



All-Ireland Senior Camogie finalist captains Anna Geary, Cork and Leann Fennelly, Kilkenny, with the O'Duffy Cup ahead of the Camogie Association Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Finals this weekend. Photo: Matt Browne



Liz Dempsey who will ref the Junior All Ireland Camogie Final on Sunday in Croke Park.

Sept.  
2014



Evening Echo  
**Cork**  
**Sports**  
**WORLD**

# They might be giants

Cork women ready to launch  
their attempt on title: P2-6

Picture: Inpho





With the Cork camogie team returning to Croke Park this weekend for the All-Ireland final **Linda Mellerick** took the opportunity to talk to two of the side's most respected and decorated players: Anna Geary and Aoife Murray



# Anna Geared up for decider

Cork captain Anna Geary leads out the team before the start of their recent Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Camogie Championship semi-final at Semple Stadium, Thurles. Picture: INPHO

**C**ATCHING up with Anna Geary, Cork's captain at the team's press night last week we reflected on Cork's last visit to Croke Park in 2012 and their semi-final defeat to Kilkenny last season. I see evidence of a greater hunger this year in the squad; the bar has been raised; maybe feeding off the pain of the last two years? Is there a new found intent in the side?

"Yeah, I think, looking at it from a purely statistical point of view, we haven't won an All-Ireland since 2009 and really, last year we lost to Kilkenny through our own fault. People can say what they want, that Kilkenny stepped it up, but we had that game and we threw it away and a great deal of it was probably complacency on our part.

"I'm a firm believer in showing respect to your opposition, you have to. If you don't respect the team and respect that they are capable of beating you then you are never going to be able to go in and play them and raise your own bar. And I don't think we did that and we paid the price. Losing by a point; I've lost a lot of games in my career but it was one of the worst games I've ever lost because we were capable of winning it, even playing badly we still could have come out with a win and it just goes to show.

"We couldn't have prepared any better. The first 20 minutes we started fine but it was just one of those days when things started to go wrong, they continued to go wrong and none of us were able to pull it back.

"This year you know what, we started at a slower pace. In 2012 and 2013 we won the league and it really got us nowhere. It's great to win the league and it's great to have a cup and all that but no one remembers the league champions. This year we're more consistent in that we're constantly building.

"Our league campaign was very up and

down and our semi-final loss to Clare was a testament to how we actually were going, I think it was quite accurate.

"It's not just about your physical preparation, it has to be about your mental strength as well and I think this year more than any other year we've shown that.

"When Wexford came at us in the replay at half-time we led by a point and they had the momentum because they had got the previous three scores.

"A different day we would have come out and let them get on top again but I think the resilience that we showed for the last 30-plus minutes of that game it's been a long time since I've felt that sheer raw hunger from a team. Now that we're there, if we lose to Kilkenny no one is going to say 'wasn't it great to beat Wexford'.

"It's like Kilkenny last year beating us the way they did. No one remembered it because they did not do themselves justice against Galway. They know that, they'll be out to amend it. But the last time we were in Croke Park in 2012 we didn't go to the level that we can go to so we've both got our own thing to rectify. I don't think either team has an extra motivation going in to the final.

"For them they don't have All-Ireland medals, a lot of us do and we know what it's like to win so we want to feel it again. It's been a long time since any of us felt that. So now that we've got the chance, who's to say that Cork will be in another All-Ireland final. We just don't know.

"So we want to make sure it counts this time."

What about the build-up; will she enjoy it? "I love it, the bigger the game the more I seem to get out of it. I'm never going to be one of these girls that's going to rise to the challenge of a league group game.

"The bigger the game the better I seem to play because when you've no safety net sometimes, that's what you want, when

you know there's no second chance. I love feeling nervous before a game, it's almost like my body is telling me that it's getting ready for something.

"I would also look on nerves and being a bit anxious as a really good sign because it shows you're gradually getting into the zone." Consistency with management is important in my view. With Paudie at the helm for the last three years you can feel that coming through.

Anna agrees, "Yeah you look back at '12 and '13 and for him he's probably able to analyse what he felt agreed with the players.

"I mean you can use a strategy for one group of players and it can work a treat, your next 15 players might not be able to respond to it at all whereas the majority of this group has been together a while so he's able to look at what works for this group of girls and what doesn't work.

"That is crucial because when you get to know your players; it's a team sport but to get the best out of your team you have to get the best out of your individuals."

What would it mean to you to Anna to walk up the steps of the Hogan Stand?

"You know what, when someone asks me, even from the outset, what is it you want to accomplish as Cork captain, I've never said 'to win an All-Ireland'.

"I said 'to walk my team out to Croke Park'. Walking the steps is the cherry. To lead them there, to experience Croke Park with them and knowing that I'm leading out these girls... now there are 15 leaders in our team and I'm lucky in that I've got so much experience everywhere that I don't always have to be the one to raise the team, I've got girls that are willing to take it on and that's huge for me and in a team."





## Key Players for Laois

### SARAH ANNE FITZGERALD

More noted as a defensive pillar at the heart of the defence, Sarah Anne Fitzgerald has proved her skill and adaptability with a seamless switch to centre-forward. In the last four games she has scored heavily with the most dominant performance coming when she scored 1-10 against Dublin in the semi-final. Down will be planning to stop the five time Ashbourne Cup winner but that will be easier said than done.

### LAURA DUNNE

The Laois net minder always looks small when she stands in the goals but she is truly a giant between the posts. A Soaring Star winner last year, there might not be a better shot stopper at any level in the country. Down have scored 13 goals in five games but Dunne restricted them to just one when the sides met in the group stages. She will need another excellent display in Croke Park as Down will create chances.

### EIMEAR DELANEY

When the sides met in Rathdowney earlier this year, it was Down's centre-forward Niamh Mallon was a thorn in their side scoring 1-9 on the day. The task will likely fall to Eimear Delaney who has slotted in at centre-back after Sarah Anne Fitzgerald was moved into the forward line. Mallon captained Down to All Ireland Minor C success in 2012 and she is the linchpin of the county's attack. In last year's final, Kildare's Susie O'Carroll caught Laois with 2-2. They will be determined to make sure Mallon doesn't repeat that trick this year.

## Previous Finals

Since the Premier Junior Championship was introduced in 2006, Down have been to the Final twice (2011, 2012) while Laois appeared in the final in 2013.

Down twice won the old Junior Championship on three occasions, in 1968, 1976, 1991.

Laois won the Junior A Championship in 2007 defeating Meath by 1-15 to 1-9.

# Laois seek redemption in All Ireland Final

By DAMIAN MORAN  
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It is just 12 months since Laois trudged off the pitch at Croke Park a broken side after suffering defeat at the hands of Kildare in the All Ireland Premier Junior Final.

Hopes had been high going into that game but, over the course of the hour, very little went Laois' way with the elements even conspiring against them.

Now, one year on, under new management but with the core of the team still in place, Laois go in search of redemption this Sunday as they take on Down in this year's final.

With the standard of camogie improving year on year in counties across the country, it was no mean achievement for Laois to return to the decider.

Now their target is to go one step further than last year and come home with the Kay Mills Cup firmly in their possession.

After a strong Spring where they reached the semi-final in Division 2 of the League in their first year at that level, Laois went on to dominate the Leinster Junior Championship hammering Offaly's second team by 4-20 to 0-2 in the final.

While their All Ireland Championship campaign started on a shaky note with a



Enjoying the Laois Camogie Night with Alison McEvoy and Aisling Dunphy were Tara Lowry and Lucy Downey. Photo Denis Byrne.

loss to Dublin, they have been building momentum since winning five in a row, including that reversal against Dublin in the semi-final with eight points to spare.

As it turned out, that initial defeat to Dublin might well have been a perfectly timed reminder in the middle of the year that you can take nothing for granted. Since then they have been averaging 3-15 per game while they

only conceded one goal in the remainder of the group stages. Dublin handed out another wake up call when they scored three goals against Laois in the semi-final, and against a po-

tent Down forward line, manager David Cuddy will hope his defence is far tighter in the wide open spaces of Croke Park.

Laois are strong up the spine of the team and are rock solid at the back conceding just under 21 points per game on average. It starts with goalkeeper and 2013 Soaring Star winner Laura Dunne who is undoubtedly one of the best in the game. Full-back Joan Dollard has been consistently strong at full-back while Eimear Delaney has slotted in well at centre-back with Sarah-Anne Fitzgerald moving further up the field.

Around the middle of the park, Sile Burke and Anne Marie Purcell have formed a formidable partnership pro-

viding a platform to attack while also helping out at the back. Up front, Laois have the potential to post a total that Down will struggle to match. Since her conversion from number six to number 11, Sarah Anne Fitzgerald has scored 5-25 in four games while Louise Mahony, usually deadly from frees, has scored 33 points in the championship. Outside of that duo, Niamh Dollard and Dawn Mortimer continue to show an eye for goal scoring seven between them during the campaign.

However facing them is a Down team with plenty of stars of their own, none more

so than Niamh Mallon who scored 1-9, 1-8 from play, when the sides met in the championship in Rathdowney. Halting her progress will be key for David Cuddy's side. At the back, they have been extremely tight conceding less than ten points a game with only one team managing to find the back of their net throughout the championship.

Thankfully from a Laois point of view, they were the team to breach the defence and they did so on three occasions in a hugely entertaining and open game in Rathdowney.

Laois manager David Cuddy summed it up best when he described this game as '50-50'. They have played twice this year with Down winning the league encounter in Down by three points while Laois won at home by one. Both teams showed they can hack it at a higher level by reaching the semi-finals in the league and are desperate to move up the grades in the championship. Both have suffered defeats in recent Premier Junior Finals, Laois in 2013 and Down in 2011 and 2012.

When you throw all that into the mix, it would be a surprise if there is more than a score between them on the final whistle.

For Laois, the memory of final defeat is freshest in the mind and they have the talent, tenacity and sheer power of will to achieve redemption this Sunday.

**"The defeat to Dublin might well have been a perfectly timed reminder that you can take nothing for granted."**

**"Laois manager David Cuddy summed it up best when he described this game as '50-50'."**



Charlie Donnery and Rosie Phelan.



young Aaron Collier with sister Amy and Niamh Dollard. Photo Denis Byrne.



Emma Phelan signs this hurley for Karla Whelan.



Rebecca Treacy, Daniel Fitzpatrick and Lorna Campion.



# Return to Croke Park was the number one goal

By DAMIAN MORAN  
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Twitter: @Express\_Sport

Laois Camogie captain Sarah Anne Fitzgerald has had her fair share of success on the field already in her career.

A five time Ashbourne Cup winner, this year she was named Player of the Match in the final of the Gael Linn Inter-Regionals where she was part of the successful Leinster team. In recent years with her county, she won a Division 3 League in 2013 and followed that up this year with a win in the Leinster Junior Final. However, despite all her success, the Laois captain's sights were set on this Sunday from the start of the year.

"It was our number one goal at the start of the year, to be back in Croke Park. Step one done and please God we can do step two," Sarah Anne explained at the recent Press Night ahead of the All Ireland Final against Down.

While Laois have the experience of playing in the final last year under their belt, the captain is not sure how much of an impact that will have on the game this Sunday.

"Only time will tell on that really after the final whistle whether it stood to us or not. I would be hoping it would be. Hopefully when you step out, the whole aura and awe of the stadium won't effect you too much. You soak it in for two minutes and that's it then and get your head focussed again.

It's hard to say if it's going to affect us or not. Hopefully it will affect us in a good way and a positive way. Last year definitely wasn't positive for us. Hopefully this year will be different."

Although Sarah Anne is unsure as to how the team will react once they reach Croke Park, she is confident that they will be better able to deal with the hype this time around.

**"It was our number one goal at the start of the year, to be back in Croke Park. Step one done and please God we can do step two."**

hype was great. It was a new experience for us all. This year we're a bit more cuter to it all. We're used to it all. It hasn't got the same effect as it had last year. Last year we were very apprehensive and nervous about it all. We're a lot more calm and relaxed this year, there's a completely different vibe in the camp. Anxiety nearly took over towards the end last year but it's a lot different this year and I suppose that's the experience. It's the same routine again but it's a different feeling in the camp this time around."

While Laois proved they were more than capable of mixing it with the Intermediate teams when they reached the semi-finals in their first year in Division 2, they are still

caught in the Junior Championship. Sarah



Anne Fitzgerald knows how important it would be for the county to gain promotion. "It's vital for the county. If Laois want to progress, it starts off with us. If I was younger and saw a Laois woman going up the steps of the Hogan Stand, it would have made a huge difference to me. You'd be hoping if we go up the steps of the Hogan Stand, other girls would want to emulate what we have done." However she also acknowl-

edged the difficulties involved in escaping the third tier.

"It's an awfully difficult competition to get out of but we're in a position now to do it so hopefully we'll take the step and get it done this time around. Not everyone is going to be around next

year or the year after, teams change year in, year out and you'd be happy just now with the opportunity, we're going to grab it with two hands."

After building confidence through their league campaign and romping through the Leinster Junior Championship, Laois were brought back down to earth as they lost out to Dublin in their opening game in All Ireland Series. Sarah Anne Fitzgerald, however, believes that defeat was as important as any game they played.

"That was probably the best thing that happened to us and it probably the turning point in our season really. It refocussed us. We were probably a little bit complacent after being used to beating teams well. The Dublin game really refocussed us and the training session after the game, we set our goals again, re-evaluated things and

vowed not to play like that again. In fairness, we didn't and we made amends in the semi-final against Dublin when it really counted."

More noted as a centre-back, Sarah Anne has been moved further up the field in recent games and she has settled in well scoring 4-26 over the last four games.

"The first day I went up, it was against Down actually, I wasn't used to looking at Laura Dunne, our goalie, and I was wondering why I was looking at her. I was going to hit the ball down to her. But I'm used to it now. I've played there before at underage level and for club and there wasn't too much adaptation towards it."

Laois now are an hour away from putting last year's defeat behind them but, Down are a very experienced team having played and lost out in the final in 2011 and 2012. Sarah Anne Fitzgerald is in no doubt as to the task ahead.

"Down are fierce tough. Like any northern team, they are physical and have a strong physical aspect to their game. They're clever too, more cuteness than anything, so it's going to be a tough game. We know what they're going to bring and likewise they know what we're going to bring. We're just looking forward to it now and you're just hoping that what happens on the training field in Trumera will transpire out on the pitch in Croke Park and not let anything affect us on the day."

## Paths to the Final

### LAOIS

Group  
Laois 0-11 Dublin 0-15  
Westmeath 0-10 Laois 1-15  
Laois 3-12 Down 1-17  
Armagh 0-7 Laois 6-20  
Laois 2-17 Roscommon 0-5

### Semi-Final

Laois 3-12 Dublin 3-4

### DOWN

#### Group

Down 5-14 Westmeath 0-5  
Roscommon 0-7 Down 1-22  
Laois 3-12 Down 1-17  
Down 5-17 Dublin 0-8  
Down (w/o) Armagh (scr)

### Semi-Final

Down 1-11 Roscommon 0-7

## By the numbers

### LAOIS

Total Scored: 15-87  
Total Conceded: 4-58  
Score Difference: +62  
Highest Score: 6-20 (v Roscommon)  
Lowest Score: 0-11 (v Dublin)  
Highest Conceded: 1-17 (v Down)  
Lowest Conceded: 0-5 (v Roscommon)  
Average Scored per game: 22pts  
Average Conceded per game: 11.7pts

### DOWN

Total Scored: 13-81  
Total Conceded: 3-39  
Score Difference: +73  
Highest Score: 5-17 (v Dublin)  
Lowest Score: 1-11 (v Roscommon)  
Highest Conceded: 3-12 (v Laois)  
Lowest Conceded: 0-5 (v Westmeath)  
Average Scored per game: 24pts  
Average Conceded per game: 9.6pts

## Laois' Scorers

Sarah Anne Fitzgerald: 5-27 (0-9f)  
Louise Mahony: 0-37 (0-23f, 0-3'45)  
Niamh Dollard: 4-9  
Dawn Mortimer: 3-3  
Lizzie Ryan: 1-3  
Olga Parkinson: 1-1  
Marion O'Grady: 1-1  
Claire Walsh: 0-3  
Alison McEvoy: 0-1  
Laura Marie Maher: 0-1  
Sile Burke: 0-1

## Last Meeting - All Ireland Premier Junior Championship 2014 - Rd 3

## Fitzgerald point snatches late win for Laois after thriller

LAOIS	3-12
DOWN	1-17

The last time these sides met was in the third group game of this year's All Ireland Premier Junior Championship.

There was nothing to chose between the sides on the day in Rathdowney with only a last minute, long range free from

snatching the win for Laois. Laois made the dream start with a goal from Niamh Dollard but Down kept in touch with a string of points with centre-forward Niamh Mallon leading the way.

Laois responded emphatically when Sarah Anne Fitzgerald was on hand to latch on to a rebound and force home her side's second goal. However by half time, Down had

clawed their way back again and led by a point at the break.

Laois stormed out of the blocks in the second-half with a third goal of the day, Dawn Mortimer applying the finish on this occasion.

It was nip and tuck from there but, just when Laois looked to be pulling away, Niamh Mallon struck for a goal that put the result firmly back in the balance.

Down seemed to be on the front foot but late points from Louise Mahony and the long range free from Fitzgerald, got Laois back in front and they held that slender advantage to the final whistle

Scorers: Laois: Sarah Anne Fitzgerald 1-4 (0-1f, 0-1'45), Louise Mahony 0-6 (0-5f), Dawn Mortimer 1-1, Niamh Dollard 1-0, Sile Burke 0-1. Down: Niamh Mallon 1-9 (0-1f), Catherine McGourty 0-4 (0-1f, 0-1'45), Karen McMillan 0-2, Sara Louise Carr 0-1. Goals: Laois: 3-12, Down: 1-17.

Keown 0-1  
Laois: Laura Dunne, Mairead Dollard, Joan Dollard, Rosemary Bermingham, Marion O'Grady, Eimear Delaney, Aisling Dunphy, Sile Burke, Ann Marie Purcell, Claire Walsh, Sarah Anne Fitzgerald, Louise Mahony, Olga Parkinson, Niamh Dollard, Dawn Mortimer. Subs Used: Catriona Downey, Aisling Burke, Elizabeth Ryan  
Down: Maria McNally, Karen Tinnelly, Ciara McGovern, Jennie Fowler, Catherine Rocks, Lisa McAliskey, Karen McMillan, Fionnuala Carr, Lisa McPolin, Dearbhla Magee, Aniamh Mallon, Aimee McNeenan, Sara Louise Carr, Catherine McGourty, Coleen Clarke, Sub Used: Aoife Keown.



# 'I don't think anyone expects us to win'



Liberty Insurance Senior  
Camogie Championship final  
**Cork v Kilkenny**

**Sunday:** Croke Park, 4pm  
**Referee:** John Dolan (Clare)  
**TV:** RTÉ Two  
**Bet:** Kilkenny 4/5, Cork 5/4, Draw 15/2  
**Stephen Barry**

A decade's worth of experience in handling the pressure of big games is the X-factor which Cork carry into Sunday's All-Ireland final, according to manager Paudie Murray.

The likes of Joanne O'Callaghan and Gemma O'Connor will take the field for their 10th camogie decider, while dual stars Rena Buckley and Brieghe Corkery with play in their 16th and 17th finals between now and the end of September. So while Cork may be aiming for a first title in five years, there remains a well of positive experiences which Kilkenny, without a title in 20 years, can't match.

The Cats do enter as favourites to break that duck but Murray believes the weight of expectation will rest heavily on their shoulders.

"Having lost an All-Ireland last year and being red-hot favourites can't be easy for them. It has to be difficult and there must be a lot of pressure on them," Murray said.

"This year I don't think anyone expects us to win. I was coming off the pitch in Waterford last week after beating Wexford and people were saying: 'Sure ye have your day out anyway.' A lot of people think we are just going up for the day, but we're going up to win."

Sunday will equally be a revenge mission for the ladies in red, who lost out to Kilkenny in last year's semi-final. They had entered in good form but left having conceded two poor goals and on the wrong end of a one-point difference.

It was a loss which hit Cork hard and the turnaround was not easy.

"This year has been difficult for a number of reasons. We've a lot of girls that are working or in college outside the county, so we found it very difficult to get them together early on."

"The main thing about the League was that we blooded a few younger girls and hoped we would get one or two out of that, which I think we have. And it was the Munster Championship that things really started to kick on from."

"It's obviously going to be very hard but I think they've reacted very well and their displays in the last three or



**Paudie Murray:**  
Impressed  
by Kilkenny's  
scoring  
prowess.

four games have shown that as well."

They learned a lot from a group stage loss to Wexford which Murray described as a "learning curve".

"Defensively we had to change things around. Our scoring in front of goal wasn't as good as what it should have been, our puckouts weren't as good... but when we looked at it in the video afterwards, a lot of our play was quite good and we were actually a lot better than what we thought."

Thus, despite their experience, the Leesiders have been a work in progress this year and playing a quarter-final against Offaly gave them more time to develop. They got an additional game at the semi-final stage too, having drawn with Wexford, and Murray is keen to see that as a positive. "Certainly our displays will give the girls massive confidence, there's no doubt about that."

It is a confidence which will be needed against a Kilkenny side averaging over 25 points per game.

"It's pretty phenomenal in camogie terms," says Murray, "but I don't think we're going to do anything different in our own plans. It's 15 against 15. It's a case of win your own battle and you go from there."

## Cats ace Fennelly aiming to avenge 2013 defeat and add to medal haul

by Paul Keane

Leann Fennelly has been asked the question before, but still doesn't have an answer. Finding out exactly how many All-Ireland medals her famous family actually possesses is something she will one day get around to.

In fairness, it would be a waste of time adding them all up just now because there could be a significant increase by the time this month is out.

On Sunday, she will captain the Kilkenny seniors in the All-Ireland camogie final against Cork. Before it, her cousin, Mags, will captain the intermediate team in their quest for a first title since 2008. After all of that, they will turn their attentions to the senior hurling final replay between Kilkenny and Tipperary as Michael and Colin Fennelly are family too. The Cats duo are Mags' brothers.

All of them are the children of Kilkenny greats who have bulging trophy cupboards themselves so you can see why Leann never bothered getting her abacus out.

"Between all the uncles and everything, well, I actually wouldn't be able to give you an exact figure for medals — but a good lot! I have three minor and an U-16. It's not so bad, we were delighted to win each of them. The senior medal now would obviously be great."

Mags is saying the same on the inter-

mediate front and the remarkable possibility exists that Kilkenny could win back-to-back All-Ireland finals on Sunday afternoon.

Of course, the very opposite could just as easily occur and they could both leave empty-handed, a little like the feeling the Fennelly brothers experienced last weekend when the MacCarthy Cup was whipped from their grasp by resurgent Tipperary.

"It was a huge occasion for them," said Leann. "I know they've both been around a few years but it was still an All-Ireland final against Tipp. There was definitely a few nerves."

"I've been delighted for Michael, he's had his injuries but he's been a great addition to the team again. He's so big and strong. I'd say Brian Cody is delighted to have him back fully fit. He did make a difference in the Limerick game and played his part the last day so hopefully they can do the business again in the replay."

As kids, the Fennelly cousins often trooped to Croke Park en masse to watch their fathers. Leann is a daughter of Liam, the All-Ireland winning captain of 1992.

"There's no real pressure there or anything," she maintained. "I suppose it's just nice whenever anyone hears the name and recognises it. It's always the first question you get, 'which one is your father then?'"

"We were just talking about it

recently, the memories of us all going up to Croke Park. We'd park in the local school and it would be tea and sandwiches in the car. They were great days. I don't know how old I was, probably seven or eight. I'd love to go back to having tea and sandwiches before games!"

These days, her pre-match intake is far more scientific, full of proteins and slow releasing energy foods. There is a huge title on the line and the memory of coming up just short in last year's decider against Galway, losing by two, fuels her ambition.

"We just didn't perform as well as we would have hoped to," she said. "So we were disappointed. Personally, and as a team, we didn't perform. Galway were really ready for us. They had their tactics and it worked for them on the day. It was a low-scoring game but hopefully we can rectify that this year."

"But, look, we know what Cork can do. Number one, they have a great bunch of players. Especially the dual players who seem like they are around forever but are actually only 26 or 27. They've won a lot and I suppose that's made it easier for them to keep coming back, year in, year out."

"A lot of our team would have been playing together a long time also, since we were U-14 really. There's a good bunch of us who have known each other for a good few years so it would be great to achieve this together now."



### ROAD TO THE FINAL

#### All-Ireland SCC round 1

**Cork** ..... 4-24  
**Dublin** ..... 0-5  
O'Toole Park, Crumlin

#### All-Ireland SCC round 2

**Wexford** ..... 2-14  
**Cork** ..... 1-11  
Wexford Park

#### All-Ireland SCC round 3

**Cork** ..... 0-15  
**Galway** ..... 0-7  
Páirc Uí Rinn, Cork

#### All-Ireland SCC quarter-final

**Cork** ..... 2-21  
**Offaly** ..... 1-15  
Gaelic Grounds, Limerick

#### All-Ireland SCC semi-final

**Cork** ..... 1-9  
**Wexford** ..... 1-9  
Semple Stadium, Thurles

#### All-Ireland SCC semi-final replay

**Cork** ..... 1-15  
**Wexford** ..... 0-8  
Walsh Park, Waterford

SEPT.  
2014



## All hands on deck for camogie final



Cork senior players, Anna Geary, Joanne O'Callaghan, Eimear O'Sullivan and Orla Cotter at the press night in the Rochestown Park Hotel.

Picture: Jim Coughlan

● LET'S get behind Anna Geary and the Cork Camogie team on Sunday as Paudie Murray's girls take on Kilkenny in the All-Ireland final in Croke park at



Kilkenny senior captain Leann Fennelly gets her hands on the O'Duffy Cup at the media day in advance of Sunday's Liberty Insurance All-Ireland camogie final at Croke Park. Fennelly's senior side will play Cork at 4pm, while the Kilkenny intermediates take on Limerick at 2pm.

Photo: Cathal Noonan/Inpho

## ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CAMOGIE FINAL PREVIEW



President of the Camogie Association Aileen Lawlor, with senior All-Ireland camogie captains, Anna Geary of Cork and Leann Fennelly of Kilkenny, and Liberty Insurance sponsorship executive, Joe Canning, in advance of final at Croke Park in Dublin, this

(Photo: Cathal Noonan/Inpho)



## THE KIERAN SHANNON INTERVIEW



Briege Corkery, along with her Cork colleague Rena Buckley, is on the verge of claiming the highest All-Ireland medal count in GAA history, not that she thinks about such things. There might be life left in the dual star so – and there's certainly plenty of life in this one.

# A DUAL JEWEL

**S**he's not counting. Or if she ever was, she's lost count. Ask Briege Corkery where she reckons she stands in the roll of honour of All-Ireland medals and she "thinks" herself and Rena Buckley are on the same as Mary O'Connor before them at about the 13 mark.

But she's "not sure". "I don't like comparing myself to other people," she says after dashing in from another training session. "I am who I am."

As it turns out, she's slightly off. The bar is currently raised at 12. Angela and Ann Downey each won a dozen senior All-Ireland medals in camogie and, being from Kilkenny, none in football. O'Connor won seven in camogie, and being from Cork, another five in football. But now that triumvirate could well be overtaken this month by a certain duo.

Tomorrow in Croke Park Corkery and Rena Buckley could win their fifth senior camogie title with Cork, and a fortnight later, a staggering ninth with the ladies footballers.

It evokes that famous line the late Sid Waddell excitedly proclaimed as Eric Bristow closed down on yet another world darts championship.

"When Alexander The Great of Macedonia was 33 he cried salt tears because he had no more worlds to conquer... Bristow's only 27!"

Not least because Corkery and Buckley are still only 27.

O'Connor, herself, can only watch in awe at how much more they can still win and how vital they've been in those previous wins; Corkery has being Player of the Year in both football and camogie, winning nine All Stars between the two codes.

"I think it's a phenomenon," says O'Connor, now a director for camogie development. "I use that word sparingly but very deliberately in this instance because, in terms of women's sport in this country, Briege Corkery is simply a phenomenon. To train and play at the level of intensity she has for so long."

"She hasn't just won things with Cork; she's been instrumental in Cork winning those All-Irelands. When those games were in the balance she was the one that took them by the scruff of the neck. Last year she helped her club win their first county. She wouldn't be a noted scorer but she kicked the winning point against my own club in the final because that's what Briege Corkery does, win games for her team."

"And with all the underage talent coming through in both camogie and football in Cork I can see herself and Rena winning a lot more. I know in female sport players retire that bit earlier but they're such athletes they'll be the ones who'll decide how long more they'll play for."

So what's Corkery's secret? It might be in something that could seem a bit of a paradox but makes absolute sense. In the words of O'Connor, "Briege is always happy", off the field and on it. And yet in the words of another old legendary

teammate, Juliet Murphy, "Briege is never satisfied."

Past glories and medals are right away parked to the point she literally can't keep count of them; trying to land the next couple is where the thrill is. But it is a thrill. Playing camogie and football for Cork is something she just loves, something that makes her happy. So, no, you won't hear from her that being a dual player is some kind of grind or ordeal. But she understands why it can sometimes be like that for male dual players.

She and Buckley haven't had to contend with their names and dual status dragged up on The Sunday Game any time Cork lose as poor Aidan Walsh had to numerous times this summer. But the fact she and Buckley have been able to combine the two so well for so long she feels is proof that it can work for the likes of Walsh too.

"I think you can play both," says Corkery. "Without a doubt. It's not that different, what we're doing and what they are; ultimately we're playing at the top level too in our games. I'd just wish people would give them a small bit of a break. As in, don't be making such a big deal out of it."

"I think the biggest issue in being a male dual player is that the media make such a big issue of them being dual players. When I saw Aidan Walsh coming off in the hurling (All-Ireland semi-final) I felt so sorry for him."

"Because you knew what was coming. 'Ah, you can't do both.' But it just takes time to adapt to being able to manage both. Rena and myself have been doing this since we were 14."

"If Aidan Walsh were to do both again next year he'd be better able to cope. People need to chill on the men, the likes of Aidan, (Damien) Cahalane and (Eoin) Cadogan. Just let them do it."

How does she? "I just get up the next day and play it. That's kind of it."

You must be good to rest so? Know when to sit out a training session or step out of one? "Should I say 'Yeah'?" she chuckles. "But no!"

More often than not it's left to Eamonn Ryan and Paudie Murray to pull the reins, such is her reluctance to be seen to be avoiding the work.

The night we meet up she's just after coming from football training, although she only popped her head in there. The previous night and the following night, camogie. Even last night she again drove the 40 minutes down from Macroom into The Farm to look out for the footballers whom she captains this year. "I just like to keep myself occupied," he says. "I'm not used to sitting at home and if I sat there I'd only be thinking of the training."

Ask any teammate about Corkery and they'll say she's a lifeforce and a livewire. Last winter her and teammate Brid Stack headed to the States for 10 days, spending four in San Diego and six in Vegas; Corkery survived and word is Vegas did too, just about.

O'Connor remembers after one of the All-Ireland wins, the side retreated to Quinn's and some friends of Corkery's were wearing a t-shirt that was both a nod to her occupation and personality. 'Briege

Corkery: stonemason by day, stone mad by night."

Juliet Murphy will second that. "Briege trains hard and she plays hard. She'll be the first one dancing on the bar without ever falling off the bar. She's just got such energy. She never misses training but more often than not she'll be flying in there on two wheels coming from work. She's just always on the go."

She does occasionally relax. After training she'll put on the telly, and will particularly enjoy The Inbetweeners and Orange Is The New Black. She has a boyfriend, Diarmuid. But she won't lie. With Diarmuid running a farm, some of their dates can be helping milk the cows together. When you have as much on as she does, a passive life isn't really an option.

It's probably down to how she was reared. She grew up on her parents' farm, the second-youngest of 10 children. That meant "a lot of great fights," she smiles, and a love for the outdoors. "Mum would try to get me to do housework when I was younger and I'd sneak out the yard." Her first summer jobs were really working on that farmyard and it's something she's ended up returning to now that she no longer works as a stonemason by day after work dried up in that sector; the day job now is as an assistant to a veterinary agency in Macroom.

Sport was another outdoor passion. In football her club is St Val's from Aghinagh, while she's always hurled with Cloughduv, just as her mother did. She's been playing with Cork adult senior teams since she was 16, coming on a sub in the 2003 camogie senior final defeat to Tipperary. Two years later Cork would reverse that result, with Corkery starting at wing forward. A couple of weeks later she would win a football All-Ireland at wing back. Just like Teddy McCarthy, she had done the double, and would go on to do another three before the decade was out.

Things have changed since then. In 2010 she took the year out to travel Down Under with her boyfriend Diarmuid and in her absence the ladies footballers would suffer a shock quarter-final exit to Tyrone, their only defeat in the last 10 years in the All-Ireland series. Since her return they've returned to winning every All-Ireland going but in the camogie Cork are still waiting for their first title since 2009. Comparisons between the two setups have been unavoidable, not least to Corkery.

"You'll always be comparing, to be fair. We've been very up and down in the camogie since 2009. We've been good enough but we just haven't pulled it together. At times people would be missing training which is something that never happens in the football. There have definitely been years in the camogie where you could feel things haven't been right. I'm sure in the future that will happen in the football too and there'll be quiet years in it but for now we're always conscious of what Eamonn says which is when you're

on top milk it for all its worth because it does not last forever."

This year she feels better about the camogie. The turning point for her was a visit to Spike Island, best known for being the station of a prison. It was there the Cork camogie team paid some penance too and were all the better for it. "We put down a really hard day there. It was soaking wet, absolutely lashing, and the army really put us through our paces. We'd be carrying dead weight, with blindfolds on and next thing you'd just hear a scream and someone had been fired into the water. Afterwards the army lads pointed out our deficiencies. Some people didn't respect other people. Our communication needed to be better. It all came to the fore and since then there's been a huge difference. I think girls just tuned in a bit more, started taking it more serious. We've become closer, better at communicating, better friends really. Everyone is training so hard we're really looking forward to Sunday and to performing and not having regrets like we had two years ago in the final. We just had a very bad mental attitude going up there. If you gave it 100% and lost it's some consolation it but we were only operating at 60%."

Even the footballers have had their little wobbles and have required some interventions. Early last summer they were twice beaten by Kerry in Munster. Things picked up slightly when Juliet Murphy returned but they needed Murphy's leadership off the field to fully get back on track. She asked each player to write about each player and what words came to mind when they thought of them. That simple exercise completely changed the mood.

"It just lifted all of us. In hindsight we had become too hard on each other, cranky even. We just needed to remember that we could play football, it was all in our head, it was all about attitude. I know I sometimes would doubt myself if I was working hard enough, but when I saw that sheet it gave me huge confidence, that people still had confidence in me."

Juliet Murphy is astonished to think Corkery ever doubted herself. They never doubted it. Alongside her name were a range of compliments: Inspirational. Courageous. Determined. Fearless. Murphy could have kept on and on.

"There will never be anyone like Briege Corkery in football again. That combination of athleticism, determination and I've never seen a more fearless player. She's not afraid of any opponent or going into any challenge or of hurting herself in training or in a game. In the 2009 final she went into a tackle and landed head over heels trying to stop herself from falling, got up and played on. Afterwards in the celebrations she said her ribs were feeling a bit sore. It turned out she'd fractured one yet she'd played on. I have no doubt with her ability to get up and down the field that if she'd dedicated herself to being a middle-distance runner she'd have run for Ireland in the Olympics. She can lift the team by making a block or carrying the ball to relieve the team or win a knockout just when we need it."

Corkery herself rates herself as a much better footballer than a hurler, which is



"I don't like comparing myself to other people. I am who I am," says Cork's Briege Corkery. Picture: Inpho

Sept. 2014





**TALKING TACTICS:** "You hear a lot about decision-making in GAA now. Well Brieghe Corkery is probably the best decision-maker in camogie and football there is," says Mary O'Connor.

Picture: Inpho

why if she had a preference it would be for the big ball. "I don't really rate myself as a camogie player," she softly laughs. "I seem to spend most of my time on the ground. I love camogie as well but if I was to pick one it would be football because I feel I have more to offer it."

Mary O'Connor though would dispute that perception. Corkery hasn't been a four-time All Star and All-Ireland winner and Player of the Year in the small ball by accident.

"You have to realise about Brieghe that not only is she humble but she is a fantastic camogie player. You just don't know where she'll pop up. She might be lining out at wing forward but she'll be back in the halfback line

looking for a pass. Her real strength is her ability to get on the ball and take people on, draw two or three players and then see and play the pass. She might only score a couple of points but you can be sure she'll be fouled another four or five times for another four or five. You hear a lot about decision-making in GAA now. Well Brieghe Corkery is probably the best decision-maker in camogie and football there is."

Earlier in the year though she had to make some decisions and there were some decisions made about her, all which ended up working out for the best. While in January she returned to the footballers she would take until March to resume with the camogie. A

few months in though she found herself dropped for the first time in 10 years for the league semi-final against Clare.

"At the start of the year we were just all over the place but the big turning point for me was when Paudie dropped me that time. I felt 'God, why is he dropping me?' I was absolutely gutted. So I called one of the selectors wondering, 'Am I not good enough anymore? What do I need to do to get back on the team?' And in fairness he said, 'Look, let's just improve your hurling, there's plenty of time to get it right, we'll get there.' And looking back it was the right decision. It was like a kick up the arse for me.

It's been what's really drove me on this year

in the camogie."

And so, since then, herself and Buckley, the two dual players, will meet up a couple of mornings a week in the ball alley in Cloughduv before work and get in some practise there. It's brought on their hurling. The day in Spike Island has brought on the team's sense of mission and spirit. She likes how things are shaping up ahead of tomorrow. Thinks this year they're more focused.

And then after that? Why, she'll focus on something else. As she says about any of other wins, it's "YAY! WE WON! Forget about it, drive on."

That's how she rolls. Always happy, never satisfied.



## Picture Diary

**EYES ON THE PRIZE:** Clockwise, Cork senior captain Anna Geary, Down junior captain Niamh Mallon, Laois junior captain Sarah Ann Fitzgerald, Kilkenny Intermediate captain Mags Fennelly, Limerick Intermediate captain Fiona Hickey and Kilkenny senior captain Leann Fennelly, strike a pose in advance of the Liberty Insurance camogie finals tomorrow, where Cork meet Kilkenny in the senior final.

INPHO/Cathal Noonan



# All-Ireland title would cap Rebel Rose's perfect year

Cliona Foley

THAT clever photo depicting the All-Ireland camogie captains flying through the air like 'Wonder Women' this week was surely designed with Anna Geary in mind.

Like anyone reared on a farm, the 26-year-old is a gifted multi-tasker and the perfect, bubbly poster-girl for the YOLO (you only live once) generation.

Last month she was Cork's representative in the Rose of Tralee, juggling all that involved with her marketing job for Dell while also leading Cork back to their first Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior camogie final since 2012.

Kerry's annual pageant wasn't the first time Geary had crossed from sport into popular culture.

Her Bikram Yoga routine in RTE's excellent 'Skin the Game' documentary about elite GAA players last year was a YouTube sensation.

Others were more interested in her on-field skills and how hard she trains on and off the pitch.

Her haul of All-Ireland medals to date is 20, between school (St Mary's Charleville), college, county and club, and her most recent was won with Milford in this year's club finals.

And while she has personally been in the limelight recently it really is all about the collective for Geary (pictured), whether on the pitch, TV screen or stage.

## DOCUMENTARY

Part of the reason she did the TV documentary was "because I was very conscious that I was representing women in sport as well, not just camogie. It was an opportunity for people to see we are on a par with men in terms of commitment."

She viewed the Rose of Tralee as a similar opportunity and actually likens it to the GAA.

"Both are totally steeped in Irish heritage and are about representing and being proud about where you come from."

With her 'marketing' cap on she loved the fact that every time the 'Cork Rose' was mentioned a reference to camogie automatically followed.

"People were filling my head and being sceptical about it, like 'Isn't it a big fake? Were there any of them you didn't get on with?'" she reveals.

To her it was simply 12 exhilarating days shared with like-minded women from across the globe whom she describes as "ambitious, friendly, articulate and approachable."

Alison from Washington and Imelda from Sydney are expected her to surf their couches soon but first there is the major matter of another All-Ireland final for the four-time All Star.

If anything, being a 'Rose' underlined for her "the great solace that comes from the fact that you've 14 other women behind you on a field."

Cork contested eight senior finals in-a-row in the noughties and won five before Wexford edged them off their pedestal.

## WEEKEND PREVIEWS

### TODAY

#### ALL-IRELAND U21 HC FINAL (EXTRA-TIME IF NECESSARY)

Clare v Wexford, 7.0, Semple Stadium, C McAllister (Cork) \*LIVE TG4

Clare, backboned by a host of youngsters who have already won a senior All-Ireland, are chasing an U21 three in-a-row while Wexford memorably knocked out the Banner seniors this summer and have put the county back on the hurling map.

Featuring Conor McDonald and Jack Guiney, JJ Doyle's team impressed in their semi-final against Galway but with Shane O'Donnell back from a hand injury, and players like Tony Kelly, Colm Galvin and Seadna Morey trouncing Antrim in their semi-final in a re-match of last year's final, Clare are favourites.

**Odds:** Clare 2/9 Wexford 4/1 Draw 12/1 **Verdict:** Clare

#### ALL-IRELAND U21 'B' FINAL (EXTRA-TIME IF NECESSARY)

Kildare v Roscommon, 5.10, Semple Stadium, O Elliott (Antrim) LIVE TG4

Kildare are three in-a-row Leinster champs but haven't played competitively since as Tyrone gave them a walkover in the semi-finals.

Roscommon beat a fancied Kerry side and these two meet for a third time in three years with honours split evenly so it's going to be close.

**Verdict:** Roscommon

### TOMORROW

#### ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CAMOGIE FINAL

Cork v Kilkenny, 4.0, Croke Park, J Dolan (Clare) \*LIVE RTE 2

A rematch of the 2009 final. Cork haven't won one since, Kilkenny lost last year's final to Galway and haven't won one in 20 years.

Ann Dalton, Leanne Fennelly, Denise Gaule, Katie Power and Michelle Quilty are Kilkenny's stars. They've been racking up big scores and conceding little and got the tough game they needed against Galway in the semis.

Briege Corkery, Jenny O'Leary, Angela Walsh and Katriona Mackey lead Cork's attack and defensively Gemma O'Connor will marshal the troops and they'll shut up shop with extra defenders.

Unusually these two haven't met since last year's semi-finals but Cork's two-game semi with Wexford showed they're back to top form.

**Odds:** Kilkenny 4/5, Cork 13/8, Draw 19/2

**Verdict:** Cork

#### ALL-IRELAND INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE FINAL

Kilkenny v Limerick, 2.0, Croke Park, R Kelly (Kildare) \*LIVE RTE 2

Limerick, who lost last year's final, have stars in Caoimhe Costello, the Mulcahys, Sara Carey and Rebecca Delee but just pipped Waterford in the semi-final. Kilkenny, captained by Mags Fennelly (Colin and Michael's sister), impressed in their semi-final win over Kildare and are chasing a big double. This will be very tight.

**Verdict:** Limerick

#### ALL-IRELAND JUNIOR CAMOGIE FINAL

Down v Laois, 12.0, L Dempsey (Kilkenny)

Laois, led by Sarah Anne Fitzgerald and Niamh Dollard, lost last year's final but Down, with the Carr sisters (Ross' daughters), Niamh Mallon and Catherine McGourty, lost two finals in 2011-12.

**Verdict:** Down

your shoulders."

Climbing the steps to lift the O'Duffy Cup tomorrow could certainly crown a phenomenal year for Geary but you will never hear her complaining about juggling so many work-loads.

"The one thing I wanted to get across in that documentary is that, while there is sacrifice involved in playing at this level, the honour far outweighs the sacrifice," she remarks.

"I think people go on about 'oh poor us, there's so much sacrifice involved in doing this', but there's so many people that would give their right arms to be doing this. I don't ever forget that any time I go out to play for Cork."

"If Milford can do well, Cork can do well and being the Cork Rose, yeah, it would probably go down as one of those years when you ticked all the boxes," she admits.

"We're so close to getting there but if we take anything for granted we'll easily come out the wrong side of it."

Galway finally won their first crown in 17 years last year and now Kilkenny are back in their second final in-a-row, chasing their first title in 20 years.

The Cats have been the form team of the season but no one can underestimate the skill and ferocity that Cork's Wonder Women can produce.

Wexford put it up to them in a replayed semi-final but they kicked on to win by a 10-point margin.

"But we can't be looking back at the semi-final, saying 'weren't we great that day?' because if you go in with that attitude you will get smashed and will go home with nothing except your pride left behind you," Geary says.

"As much as it sounds a cliché you just have to go in and treat it as another game. We haven't been here since 2012, and haven't won since 2009. If you allow all of that to seep in it will weigh heavily on



# Focal ón Uachtarán

**I**S CÚIS mhór áthais dom fáilte a chur romhaibh go léir go Páirc an Chrócaigh don ócáid speisialta seo. Tá súil agam go mbeidh tri cluichí den scoth againn inniu. Guím gach rath ar na himreoirí agus ar na hoifigigh go léir inniu.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to Croke Park for the Liberty Insurance All Ireland Camogie Finals. This year is also particularly significant as it marks the 110th year of the Camogie Association.

I extend a very warm welcome to President Michael D. Higgins and his wife Sabina and to all our dignitaries in attendance. A special welcome to the CEO of Liberty Insurance Patrick O'Brien and his colleagues in Liberty Insurance who join us this afternoon.

Today's finals promise to be exciting encounters with five counties vying for silverware and for a coveted All Ireland title. The road to Croke Park for the players and managers started a long time ago on wet muddy fields in January and this afternoon, they are one step away from their goal. It has been an exciting journey for each county. I hope that each player performs to the best of their ability and the games reflect the endless hours of training and personal commitment that they have put in over the last number of months.

Cork made this year's senior final, after coming through a tough replay with Wexford while Kilkenny overcame 2013 title holders Galway to book their spot. Cork last won the title in 2009 and will be eager to end that wait.

Kilkenny will aim to use last year's All Ireland Final experience to their advantage and will be hoping to bring an All Ireland title back home, after a remarkable twenty year absence.

Limerick have collected silverware this season with Minor and Junior A All Ireland titles and a National League crown. The Intermediate team will be hoping to put last year's disappointment behind them and capture that elusive All Ireland crown. Kilkenny last won the title in 2008 at this level. They looked very impressive throughout the championship and will certainly provide exciting competition for the Limerick side.

The Premier Junior pairing sees Down play Laois and Croke Park is no stranger to both sides.

Down have had a few heartaches here on All Ireland Finals' Day, while Laois were beaten in last year's final. Both teams will be hoping to put their respective ghosts to rest and get over the winning line.

Congratulations to all the Under 14 players who participated in the National Inter-County blitzes this weekend. Thank you to the host clubs and everyone involved in this successful event.

This year's Camogie Championship campaign, **Our Game Your Game** has been a great success with interviews and video bringing you the stories behind the dedication, commitment, skill and talent of our top inter-county players. In addition to marking our 110th year with **Our Game Your Game**, we are also honoring 24 County players of the decade. Congratulations to you all and thank you for giving us many years of enjoyment.

A sincere thank you to all of the officials this afternoon, to Croke Park Stadium, to the Camogie Association full-time team and to all of our many volunteers for their role in today's finals.

Finally a special word of thanks is due to all who attended our games throughout the year. Your support is very much appreciated.

Ar aghaidh lenár gcluichí.

Eibhlín Uí Leathlóbhair

EIBHLÍN UÍ LEATHLÓBHAIR



# Clár an Lae

**12 noon:** Liberty Insurance Premier Junior Championship Final  
**DOWN v LAOIS**

**12.32pm** Mini Games

**2.00pm:** Liberty Insurance Intermediate Championship Final  
**KILKENNY v LIMERICK**

**2.32pm:** Musical Entertainment **Corner Boy**

**3.52pm:** Senior Teams Parade

**3.58pm:** Amhrán na bhFiann

**4.00pm:** Liberty Insurance Senior Championship Final  
**CORK v KILKENNY**

**4.32pm:** Under 14 County Development Squads' Parade

*In the event of a draw, the replay date for all games is Sunday, 5th October*



Liberty Insurance Senior  
Camogie Championship

## Paths to the 2014 Final

### GROUP 1

21/06/2014	Dublin	0-5	Cork	4-24
05/07/2014	Wexford	2-14	Cork	1-11
19/07/2014	Cork	0-15	Galway	0-7

### GROUP 2

21/06/2014	Kilkenny	5-16	Offaly	0-8
05/07/2014	Tipperary	0-7	Kilkenny	2-21
12/07/2014	Clare	0-12	Kilkenny	1-13
19/07/2014	Kilkenny	4-16	Derry	1-5

### QUARTER-FINAL

09/08/2014	Cork	2-21	Offaly	1-15
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### SEMI-FINALS

24/08/2014	Kilkenny	4-12	Galway	3-7
23/08/2014	Wexford	1-9	Cork	1-9
30/08/2014 (replay)	Cork	1-15	Wexford	0-8

## Meet the Match Officials

### SENIOR

Referee: **JOHN DOLAN (Clare)**

Club: Clarecastle

Occupation: Engineer

Family: Wife Nuala, sons Patrick, Paul, Daragh, Evan and daughter Enya Mairie

Appointments of Note: Intermediate All Ireland Final 2011, Intermediate All Ireland Club Final 2011, Camogie Shinty International 2012, U16B All Ireland Final 2011, County Senior Final, Ashbourne Finals 2013, Roscommon County Finals, Munster Finals all grades, All Ireland Club Intermediate Final replay 2013.

Standby Ref/Line Umpire: Alan Lagrue

Line Umpire: Owen Elliott

4th Official: Aiden O'Brien

5th Official: Rosemary Hughes-Merry

Umpires: Donal O'Brien, Michael Dunne, James McMahon, John Jenkins



### INTERMEDIATE

Referee: **RAY KELLY (Kildare)**

Club: Robertstown

Occupation: Roofing and general building

Family: Wife Rachel, daughters Sophie and Mia

Appointments of Note: All Ireland Junior A Final 2013, All Ireland Junior Club Final 2013, National League Div 2 Final 2014, County Senior Finals.

Standby Ref/Line Umpire: Mike Sheehan

Line Umpire: Peter Dowd

4th Official: Aiden O'Brien

5th Official: Rosemary Hughes-Merry

Umpires: Ray Kelly snr, Michael Lynch, Patrick Moore, Patrick Bagnall



### PREMIER JUNIOR

Referee: **LIZ DEMPSEY (Kilkenny)**

Club: Thomastown

Occupation: Accounts Assistant

Appointments of Note: Underage County Finals, Intermediate & Junior County Finals, All Ireland Colleges Semi-Finals, All Ireland Junior B Final 2013, Division 4 League Final 2013, Fr. Meachair Final, All Ireland Minor B Final 2014.

Standby Ref/Line Umpire: Jenny Byrne

Line Umpire: Julie O'Neill

4th Official: Pat Kehoe

5th Official: Louise Smith-Reilly

Umpires: Paul Dempsey, Richard Prendergast, John Dempsey, Eoin Hayes



Jenny Byrne



# One hell of a tussle in store

Therese O'Callaghan previews the meeting of Cork and Kilkenny in this year's Liberty Insurance All Ireland Senior Camogie Final

IT IS hard to believe it is 20 years since Kilkenny last won the O'Duffy Cup. In those days the Cats were regular visitors to Croke Park and were almost certain victors. They have been back five times since. More recently, in 2009 when they lost out to today's opposition and twelve months ago the challenge was Galway.

It will be a different Kilkenny this afternoon –

a Black and Amber with every confidence in their ability to succeed. Lots of underage success has come their way, but the breakthrough at adult level has yet to happen. Is there one more big performance in them?

What they will have learned in defeat is critical. This stadium is intimidating and has derailed many a good player. Mental preparation is so important. Graham Dillon and Niall Williams will have kept them away from all the hype. From what we have seen, Kilkenny are set. Their championship and league form suggests we can expect a massive display from them.

Ann Dalton is a phenomenal player. Denise Gaule, Shelly Farrell and Katie Power move quickly and easily, just as they did against champions Galway in the semi-final. Despite a battling western outfit, the Leinster side were too good and in reversing last season's result they sent out a message. Kilkenny has serious talent in that forward line.

So too has Cork – Orla Cotter, Katriona Mackey, Jenny O'Leary and Briege Corkery have pace to burn. They were in superb form two weeks ago in Walsh Park and if they can bring this sharpness with them today, be prepared for one hell of a tussle.

Fifteen versus 15 (no sweepers), this has all the ingredients of a fantastic shoot-out. The Rebels were involved in one of the most unforgettable finals in 2012 – a six-goal thriller, eventually going Wexford's way. It is credit to Paudie Murray they are back once more. Currently the Red and White have twice as many All Ireland senior titles as the Cats (24/12).

Predicting a winner is no easy task. Fifty/fifty I would think. There is nothing to suggest one over the other. For definite both sets of defenders will be tested by the vastness of this massive ground and which team can dominate that space is half way there.

Unusually, Kilkenny are League or Championshi

this decider even more intriguing. We are, more or less, starting with a clean sheet. What we do know is Kilkenny are Irish Daily Star League champions, and how they have matured. However, these Cork women have pockets full of medals and what's more they appear to be hitting their peak, just at the right time.

The manner in which the Cats bounced back from the 2013 loss cannot be underestimated too. Everyone knows you have to get back on the horse at some stage but to do so right away says a lot about their character. What else would you expect from a Fennelly led team?

Equally, Leaside skipper Anna Geary, who comes from Milford, leads by example. Anna, Ashling Thompson and Maria Walsh have already climbed those Hogan Stand steps to collect All Ireland senior club honours. So, should it come down to experience?

It most definitely will, but it will also boil down to desire. Both counties are at their pinnacle now and this should bring the very best out in each other. Kilkenny conceded only one goal in four championship round-robin matches, but they let in three against Galway. That is a slight concern.

Still, Kilkenny are an accomplished side. Mairéad Power, Kate McDonald, Jacqui Frisby and Elaine Aylward are on top of their game. Dalton and Fennelly will probably pair off at midfield. This is a key area because whoever wins this fight will supply the able dealers up front.

The Munster representatives have grown into this championship. They lorded it over their semi-final opponents, the Slaneysiders, and the timing of their 10-point victory is a huge boost. Gemma O'Connor is as good a centre back as one would wish to see. Joanne O'Callaghan and Pamela Mackey compliment Eimear O'Sullivan and Laura Treacy. Rena Buckley and Ashling Thompson are real workers.

Many punters believe this is Kilkenny's year, that they have finally arrived. Well, if they have, they will earn it because Cork won't do them any favours. I am finding this decider truly hard to call.

Sport, like life, doesn't always go to plan. We all know that. One thing we are sure of is it is every camogie player's dream to run out onto

this hallowed turf. Not one of them comes here to lose. They all believe they can win. That is what we love about it.

The belief.

Will it be title 25 (one nearer Dublin who top the Roll of Honour with 26) or Lucky 13?

Cork's Ashling Thompson is challenged by Wexford's Shelley Kehoe during the drawn semi-final at Semple Stadium, Thurles.



Aine Connery  
(Kilkenny)



# Cork survive everything to claim another title



**Malachy Clerkin**  
at Croke Park

Late scores and crucial call by referee see them over finish line

**Cork** 2-12  
**Kilkenny** 1-9

It's easy now to say that experience told in this camogie final because the bare bones of the day make it look that way. Cork, with their team dripping All-Irelands from as far back in some cases as 2002, found a way to dig themselves out of a six-point hole against Kilkenny, whose barren run in the competition now stretches out to 21 years.

A 12-point turnaround across half an hour of an All-Ireland final draws a neat and tidy line between one group who've seen and done it all before and another with no points of reference to call on. Rocket science, this ain't.

Except that with a minute to go and still just two points between the teams, Kilkenny substitute Aoife Neary was fouled for just about as stonewall a penalty as you could wish to see. Clare referee John Doolan had his choice of two separate fouls to call on desperate Cork defenders but somehow ended up giving neither.

## Deserved win

Kilkenny's spirit doused, Cork tackled on 1-1 in injury-time to gild the scoreline lily. They probably deserved to win here but six points is overegging the pudding just a touch. It's to the credit of Kilkenny joint-manag-

er Graham Dillon that he refused to make a big deal out of the non-penalty decision afterwards.

"You know as well as I do when you're standing on that sideline in Croke Park, you can only see the girl beside you," said Dillon. "Whether it was or wasn't a penalty, you still have to stand up and score it so we won't blame it on a penalty. Cork probably showed more intensity in the second half and we failed to match it."

In a game where both sides set up defensively, Kilkenny needed to take advantage of a stiff first-half breeze. And by the time the break came around, it looked like they'd done a reasonable job. They went to their tea 1-6 to 0-4 ahead and were well worth it.

Full-forward Katie Power was giving Anna Geary a chasing and though Michelle Quilty fluffed one early goal chance set up for her by Power, she pounced on a second to score the Kilkenny goal on 17 minutes. With wing-forward Denise Gaule's frees a consistent threat, they looked to have little enough to worry about come the second half.

But this wasn't Cork's first rodeo. Eleven of the starting 15 had All-Ireland medals before yesterday, in most cases multiple ones and in Briege Corkery, Angela Walsh and Rena Buckley, a trio with a decade's football All-Irelands behind them and a tilt at another coming in a fortnight. Whatever they were going to do, panicking wasn't an option.

## Chipped away

They chipped away with points from Katrina Mackey and the excellent Orla Cotter. And when the game was there to be turned, it was another of their veterans who delivered.

Jenny O'Leary actually retired last year. Having moved from west Cork to south Armagh, her intention had always been to step away from the Cork team with which she'd won her first All-Ireland away back in 2002. And having been convinced to return to the side, her life was turned on its head

■ Aoife Neary of Kilkenny is tackled by Cork goalkeeper Aoife Murray in a pivotal moment of yesterday's final. No penalty was awarded.

PHOTOGRAPH DONALL FARMER/INPHO

just a fortnight ago with the death of her sister. Where anyone gets the strength to just turn up after that is a mystery. Yet it was O'Leary who turned the game, striking a classy goal on 40 minutes after a strong run and pass from Walsh.

It put Cork into a 1-8 to 1-7 lead – their first of the day and one they wouldn't give up. Further points from Cotter and

## 11

Number of players in Cork's starting XV with previous All-Ireland medals



Corkery saw them close to the finish line before a late goal from Walsh got them across it. They survived the penalty scare, they survived everything.

## Bereavements

"We've had some people who've had bereavements this year, we've had other struggles," said Cork captain Geary afterwards. "Everybody has struggles. But this is sport. Sport is an opportunity to create a little bit of happiness through the sadness and that's what happened here today. We've a lot of people who have things going on in their lives but for 60 minutes here they put it out of their minds and just played."

"It is a terrible thing but you look at the Clare under-21 player who lost his dad and went out and played. That's the power of

sport. Things like that drive teams on because you realise how lucky you are to be involved and to be in this position. You realise how lucky you are that you're not in that position and going through something that somebody else is going through. You have the power to lift someone else up when they're down. I couldn't be more proud."

**CORK:** Aoife Murray, Joanne O'Donoghue, Anna Geary, Laura Treacy, Eimear O'Sullivan (0-1), Gemma O'Connor, Pamela Mackey, Rena Buckley, Ashling Thompson, Jenny O'Leary (1-1), Angela Walsh (0-0), Briege Corkery (0-2), Julia White (0-1), Orla Cotter (0-6, 0-3 frees, 0-145), Katrina Mackey (0-1). Subs: Joanne Casey for O'Leary, 62 mins.  
**KILKENNY:** Emma Kavanagh, Maibead Power, Kate McDonald, Jacqui Frisby, Claire Phelan, Collette Dwyer (0-1), Elaine Aylward, Leann Fennelly, Ann Dalton, Denise Gaule (0-5, 0-4 frees), Aisling Dunphy, Aine Conery, Shelly Farrell (0-1), Katie Power (0-1), Michelle Quilty (1-1). Subs: Miriam Walsh for Conery, 44 mins; Aoife Neary for Farrell, 54 mins; Edwina Keane for Fennelly, 56 mins. Referee: John Doolan (Clare)

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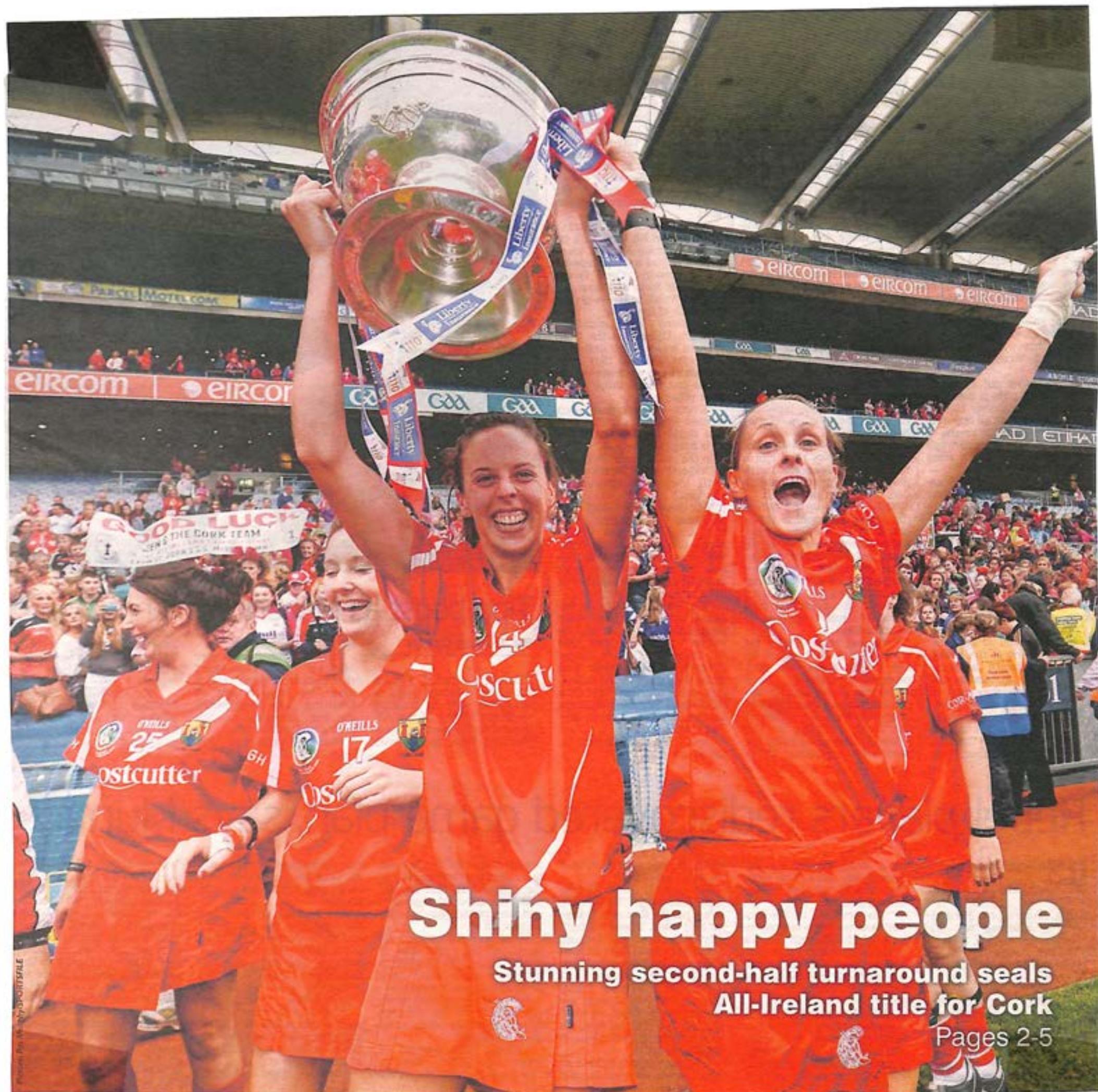
Kilkenny's Ann Dalton leads the way in the semi-final at the Gaelic Grounds, Limerick, pursued by Galway's Niamh Kilkenny and Sinéad Cahalan.

## Kathleen Mills leads way

I read the Kieran Shannon interview in your *Weekend Sport* edition (September 13). He writes about the wonderful achievements of Briege Corkery and Rena Buckley. He goes on to say that the bar for All-Ireland medal winners was set at this moment at 12 by those two great Kilkenny hurlers Ann and Angela Downey. The player with the most All-Ireland Senior medals in any code is the late great Kathleen (Kay) Mills of Dublin with 15. Since 2010 the trophy presented to the winners of The All-Ireland Junior Camogie Final is the Kathleen Mills Cup.

Tony McMahon  
The Ward  
Co Dublin





# Shiny happy people

**Stunning second-half turnaround seals  
All-Ireland title for Cork**

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## MATCH ANALYSIS

**GALWAY**  
IRISH CRYSTAL

### PLAYER of the MATCH



**JENNIFER O'LEARY**  
(CORK)

WHEN the need was at its absolute greatest, O'Leary stepped up with 1-1 at the start of the second half to push the Rebelettes into a winning position.

It was a huge contribution and gave Cork the springboard to go on and win the match.

Considering the tragedy the wing-forward has gone through recently, it was a stunning performance.

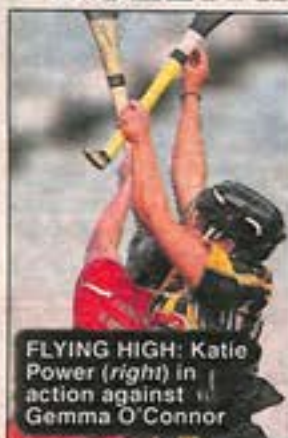
### YOU CAN QUOTE ME ON THAT

ANNA Geary on the Rebelettes looking to complete a ladies football-camogie double in two weeks:

"I think everyone today down in Cork has got a little bit of a lift out of this. I really do."

"We're the first Cork team to bring back the All-Ireland but I hope we're not the last. I hope the ladies footballers do it as well."

### DUEL of the GAME



**Anna Geary (Cork)**  
**v Katie Power**  
(Kilkenny)

BOTH players made a considerable impact in the game and the Cats drove a number of high balls into the square as they chased goals when it really mattered.

Power scored a point and set up a couple of chances for her team-mates.

However, Geary held firm during the second-half revival and shaded this duel.

**FLYING HIGH:** Katie Power (right) in action against Gemma O'Connor

### TURNING POINT

THE PENALTY decision in the dying moments was a huge turning point. Kilkenny were two points down at the time when Aoife Neary was clearly dragged to the turf inside the area.

Referee John Dolan allowed the game to go on and Cork cleared, before netting at the other end.



**GREETINGS:** President Michael D. Higgins is introduced to the Kilkenny team

### MATCHSTATS

CORK		KILKENNY
2 (0)	<b>GOALS</b>	1 (1)
12 (4)	<b>POINTS</b>	9 (6)
5 (2)	<b>WIDES</b>	6 (4)
17 (10)	<b>FREES</b>	9 (6)
0 (0)	<b>YELLOW CARDS</b>	1 (0)
0 (0)	<b>RED CARDS</b>	0 (0)

# REBELS IN TOP GEARY

**Anna inspires famous triumph**

Cork 2-12 Kilkenny 1-9

**ALL-IRELAND CAMOGIE FINAL**

CORK boss Paudie Murray says experience got his side over the line as they beat Kilkenny by 2-12 to 1-9 in the senior All-Ireland camogie final yesterday.

Kilkenny led by five points at half-time but 1-1 from Jennifer O'Leary and a late goal from Angela Walsh carried the Rebelettes over the line at Croke Park.

"I said very little to them at half time to be honest," said Murray.

#### Window

"We didn't start well, our game-plan went out the window so at half-time all we said was get back to the game plan and start doing what we're good at."

"We've put an awful lot into it this year so, heads down, work your socks off really."

"All year we've had our struggles," he added. "There's great character in this team and when they were facing defeat they came together."

"There's a lot of them there now with six All-Irelands, you can't buy that stuff."



**CHAMPIONS:** Cork captain Anna Geary lifts the trophy as her teammates celebrate after the match; (inset) enjoying the moment with the fans



# O'Leary goal the catalyst as spirited Rebels find second wind



Liberty Insurance Senior Camogie Championship final

CORK 2-12  
KILKENNY 1-9

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Croke Park

**H**ow to make sense of it all? The literal game of two halves, the most tactical camogie game ever seen, a clear winner and yet some controversy at the end that may have had an impact on the final result.

It was notable too that the Kilkenny management made nothing of being denied a clear penalty in the 59th minute, however, even though they were only a goal down.

It was remarkably magnanimous but told perhaps, of their acknowledgement that once Cork got into their stride, they were by far the better team.

This was a sweet success, given that many of these players' hunger had been questioned as they went five years without a title.

The difficult build-up adds to the notability of it but the fact is, Cork have timed their run astutely, improving all year to give their best performances in the semi-final replay against Wexford, and the final. Or the second half of it anyway.

They were pretty dismal in

the opening spell, leaden-footed and confused. There was no bite to their play and Kilkenny should probably have been more than five points ahead at half time.

Cork star Jenny O'Leary admitted the team hadn't performed at all in the opening period.

"It was just so tight, even in the last couple of minutes" said O'Leary. "It could have gone any way. Fair play to Kilkenny, they never gave up. We have waited a long time for this though."

"I don't know if the occasion got to us or our heads were in our boots but we just said at half time that we'd worked too hard and we weren't going to let it behind."

"It was just a puck of the

ball between us and thankfully we came out on the right side of it."

O'Leary played a big role in the turnaround with her goal and increased involvement in the second half. By that stage, Cork had already shown a newfound zeal and intensity. They ramped up the physicality noticeably in defence and as a result, speedsters Brieghe Corkery and Julia White, and the graceful Orla Cotter were able to exert a much greater influence at the other end of the field.

This was an extremely tactical affair, with both sides withdrawing players deep and Cork pulling Cotter back on Denise Gaule for puckouts, in a bid to nullify the Windgap forward's aerial strength.

The Leesiders didn't look comfortable in the first half though. They were only a point behind at the end of the opening quarter but Kilkenny had certainly settled better.

Aoife Murray made an outstanding reflex save from Michelle Quilty in the seventh minute after the excellent Katie Power had caught a long delivery and offloaded quickly but the Cork goalkeeper was unable to deny Quilty 11 minutes later. Gaule added three points but Cotter and Eimear O'Sullivan were on target for Cork to keep them in touch.

It was evident from the opening seconds of the throw-in that Paudie Murray had lit a fire under his players at the

## GAMEZone

Cork v Kilkenny

1 A Murray		
2 J O'Callaghan	3 A Geary	4 L Tracey
5 M Gully	6 K Power	7 S Farrell
8 E O'Sullivan	9 G O'Connor	10 P Mackey
11 B Galan	12 A Quigley	13 A Connery
14 B Buckley	15 A Thompson	
16 A O'Brien	17 L Kennedy	
18 J O'Leary	19 O Cotter	20 B Corkery
21 E Ashling	22 C Donohue	23 C Phelan
24 J Whittell	25 A Walsh	26 K Mackey
27 J Flaherty	28 K McDonnell	29 M Power
30 E Kennedy		

■ Cork ■ Kilkenny

## THE 60 SECOND REPORT

### Game-changer

Half time probably. By the time Jenny O'Leary goal in the 41st minute, the complexion of the game had already changed. Cork were a completely different outfit in the second half.

### Talk of the town

That remarkable turnaround. From seeming completely out of sorts in the first period and certainly second best in the tactical battle, they were dominant in every area on the restart. The biggest factor was the massive increase in intensity.

### Did that just happen?

How John Dolan failed to award Kilkenny a penalty in the 59th minute, with a goal separating the sides, was bewildering.

### Best on show

Brieghe Corkery's engine is the eighth wonder of the world. Even when Cork were struggling, she was digging deep. She was everywhere in the second half and scored two vital points. Julia White runs her very close as she was involved in most that was good up front. Orla Cotter deserves a mention too.

### Sideline superior

This was a tactical maelstrom that was difficult to fathom at times, with Ashling Thompson and Orla Cotter playing at wing-back for Cork at times in the first half. Kilkenny continued to find free players though and certainly won the battle in the first half. Cork though were a different animal after the break and won battles throughout the field.

### The man in black

John Dolan awarded a couple of soft frees at times. Jenny O'Leary took a lot of steps for her goal but the ref was probably awarding advantage for a foul. Not awarding Aoife Neary a penalty after being rugby tackled late on was inexplicable. His umpires were perfectly placed.

Daragh Ó Conchúir

break and though Shelley Farrell stretched the margin to six soon after the resumption, Cork proceeded to score 1-5 without reply. White set up Katriona Mackey for a point in response and Cotter (free), O'Leary, Corkery (with White again the provider) had the deficit down to a goal



UP FOR THE CUP: Cork captain Anna Geary and teammates celebrate with the O'Duffy Cup after defeating Kilkenny at Croke Park yesterday. Picture: Paul Mohan/Sportsfile

when O'Leary struck for the defining score.

It had its genesis in some stout defensive work that forced a turnover and Cotter worked the ball out to Ashling

Thompson. The Milford midfielder sent the ball down the left wing to Angela Walsh who hand-passed to O'Leary. There was still plenty of work to do and she certainly



Patricia Jackman and Brendan Cummins photographed at this year's Poc Fada.

## Jackman lands her sixth Poc Fada

**W**ATERFORD'S Patricia Jackman and Tipperary's Brendan Cummins emerged victorious from a host of big names at the rearranged 2014 M. Donnelly GAA All Ireland Poc Fada Finals (August 24th 2014).

Jackman captured her sixth title while Cummins took an unprecedented eight crown.

Patricia, a decorated camogie player with Waterford, was a favourite to make history and she did exactly that by winning again with 29 pucks, 62 metres.

Catriona Daly and Martine McMahon were in second and third place respectively.

Jackman was always going to face strong competition from Daly (Galway) and McMahon (Limerick) but she managed to come out on top on a splendid day in the Cooley Mountains.







# Mulcahy savours Limerick redemption



Liberty Insurance Intermediate Camogie Championship final  
**LIMERICK** ..... 1-12  
**KILKENNY** ..... 0-10  
**Daragh Ó Conchúir**  
 Croke Park

**N**iamh Mulcahy made no attempt to disguise the hurt which drove her and her Limerick team to victory in yesterday's Liberty Insurance intermediate camogie final.

Twelve months ago, Mulcahy and her colleagues had to endure defeat at the last hurdle on this same pitch. Manager Joe Quaid promised that they would be back and they delivered in the best possible fashion.

"I left here last year absolutely gutted," said Mulcahy, yesterday's player of the match after scoring 0-7, including three great efforts from play in the second half.

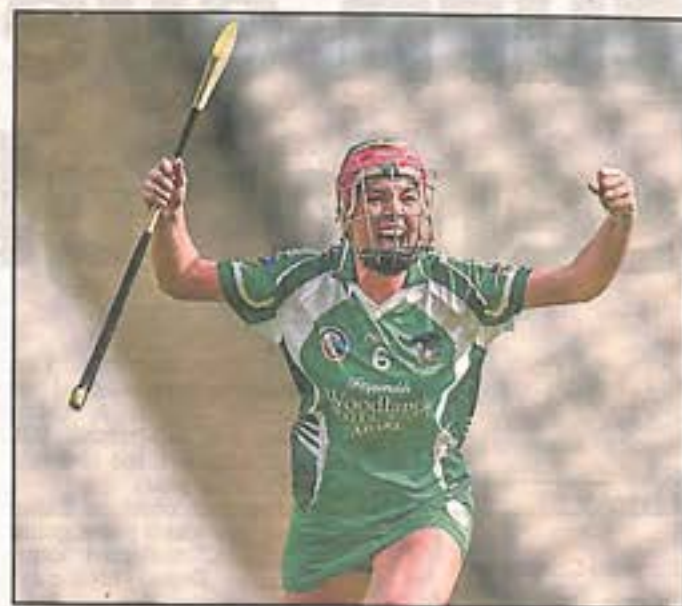
"We put in so much work last year and to come back here now and to win, it's brilliant. We had a junior team also this year and there was a real panel ethos that has really paid off."

Mulcahy played a huge role in victory, converting four frees in the first half. But it was in the second half she really flourished, as her switch with Rebecca Delee paid dividends for both.

The Limerick defence kept the shackles on Mags Fennelly and Orla Hanrick, and few could argue the merit of this result.

Kilkenny captain, Fennelly gave her team a good start with a point from distance after just 30 seconds but Mulcahy gave an early reminder of her dead ball prowess by converting two placed balls in response.

They held that two-point lead when Deborah Murphy



**WE'VE DONE IT:** Limerick's Sarah Carey celebrates at the final whistle after beating Kilkenny. Picture: Paul Mohan

scored a vital goal in the 20th minute, after the pacy Delee and Mairead Fitzgerald had combined well down the left. Fitzgerald's delivery across the square broke to Murphy and she cut back inside to bury an unstoppable shot.

Kilkenny showed their mettle though to finish with three points in the last four minutes, two from Hanrick frees, either side of a mammoth score — also from a placed ball — by full-back Catherine Foley. That left it delicately poised at the break 1-5 to 0-6 and Kilkenny had the margin down to one when Hanrick pointed early in the second half.

Minor star, Caoimhe Costello sent over two excellent points in response for Limerick but once more, there was an impressive reply from Fennelly and Hanrick.

Quaid moved Mulcahy to the right wing in the second half, Delee going to centre-forward, and both players really enjoyed the change of scenery, scoring five points from play between them to

help Limerick pull clear. Mulcahy started the run with two excellent scores and added another, in between two excellent points by Delee.

That gave Limerick a five-point lead and with Michelle Casey and Fiona Hickey magnificent in the full-back line, Kilkenny never looked likely to deny the Shannonsiders.

**Scorers for Limerick:** N Mulcahy 0-7(4fs); D Murphy 1-0; R Delee, C Costello 0-2; M O'Callaghan 0-1.

**Scorers for Kilkenny:** O Hanrick 0-5(3fs); L Fitzpatrick, M Fennelly 0-2 each; C Foley 0-1(f).

**LIMERICK:** S Moynihan, F Hickey, M Casey, J Mulcahy, K Campbell, S Carey, C Mulcahy, N Mulcahy, C Costello, R Delee, M O'Callaghan, L McCarthy, D Murphy, A Sheehan, M Fitzgerald.

**Subs:** S McNamara for McCarthy (ht), D O'Brien for Fitzgerald (ht), K O'Leary for O'Callaghan (45), N Ryan for Murphy (60), D Fitzpatrick for Sheehan (60).

**KILKENNY:** AM Lennon, E Frisby, C Foley, T Muldowney, C Aylward, A Fahy, S Quirke, M Farrell, M O'Connell, S Crowley, A Farrell, L Norris, L Fitzpatrick, O Hanrick, M Fennelly.

**Subs:** A Gannon for Norris (ht), A Kinsella for Quirke (50), SA Quinlan for Hanrick (52).

**Referee:** R Kelly (Kildare)

took a lot of steps as she cut inside but John Dolan was probably giving advantage for a foul. A goal ensued and the sides were level.

Cork pushed on and Cotter launched a fantastic score. Emma Kavanagh made two excellent saves from Mackey and Walsh to keep Kilkenny

in touch but points from Corkery and a Cotter '45 put three between them.

There was drama late on as Aoife Neary had solid claims for a penalty turned down and in the game's final act, Walsh took another pass from Julia White to score a goal to spark wild celebrations.

**Scorers for Cork:** O Cotter 0-6 (4fs); J O'Leary 1-1; A Walsh 1-0; B Corkery 0-2; E O'Sullivan, J White, K Mackey 0-1 each.

**Scorers for Kilkenny:** D Gaulie 0-5(4fs); M Quilty 1-1; C Dorner, S Farrell, K Power 0-1 each.

**Cork sub:** J Casey for O'Leary (60+2).

**Kilkenny subs:** M Walsh for Connerly (44), A Neary for Farrell (53), E Keane for Fennelly (56). **Ref:** J Dolan (Clare)

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Liberty Insurance Junior Camogie Championship final  
**DOWN** ..... 1-12  
**LAOIS** ..... 1-8  
**Daragh Ó Conchúir**  
 Croke Park

**D**own scored the last seven points of the decider to deny Laois in a dramatic All-Ireland premier junior camogie final at Croke Park yesterday.

Down took the lead when Catherine McGourty pointed a 45 and they were 0-4 to 0-3 ahead when Niamh Dollard reacted quickest to Maria McNally's batted clearance to

goal for Laois 35 seconds into the added time.

McGourty found the net at the other end as Down led 1-4 to 1-3 at the interval.

But far from being downbeat, Sarah-Anne Fitzgerald and Niamh Dollard slotted five points between them as last year's beaten finalists Laois went three points clear by the 43rd minute.

But crucially, they failed to score again.

At the other end Karen Gribben ended a 16-minute drought for Down and the Mourne outfit with renewed confidence, as points from McGourty and Niamh Mallon brought the teams level. Gribben sent over a sensational score from tight on the right to put Alastair McGilligan's crew ahead. McGourty,

Karen McMullan and Aimee McAleenan added scores to cement the victory.

**Scorers for Down:** C McGourty 1-4 (0-1f, 0-1 45); K McMullan, N Mallon, K Gribben 0-2 each, A McAleenan, SL Carr 0-1 each.

**Scorers for Laois:** SA Fitzgerald 0-5 (4fs); N Dollard 1-2; L Mahony 0-1.

**DOWN:** M McNally, K Tinnelly, C McGovern, B McGourty, C Rocks, L McAliskey, F Carr, A Keown, K McMullan, L McPolin, P Gribben, C McGourty, N Mallon, SL Carr, K Gribben.

**Subs:** G O'Higgins for Rocks (30), C Clarke for McPolin (37), N Branniff for Clarke (57), E McCormick for Keown (60+1), A McAleenan for Gribben (60+2).

**LAOIS:** L Dunne, M Burke, R Bermingham, A Burke, M O'Grady, E Delaney, A Dunphy, S Burke, AM Purcell, L Mahony, SA Fitzgerald, E Mahony, D Mortimer, N Dollard, LM Maher.

**Subs:** C Walsh for Burke in (4), O Parkinson for Maher (55). **Referee:** L Dompsey (Kilkenny)



# We stuck to plan says boss Murray

REACTION

By Mary Newman

YOU'D have forgiven him for any wild celebrations after an epic All-Ireland title triumph. However, Cork manager Paudie Murray was as composed as ever while he relished his side's victory and more importantly the manner it was achieved.

"We are thrilled with the win and, more importantly, of the display the girls gave in the second half. Five points down at the break (and six just after) a lot of people were thinking we were gone, but we had a gameplan and we simply had to stick to it." He explained that his management and players didn't panic, despite an alarming return of just 0-4 in the opening period, notwithstanding the gale that had given Kilkenny an obvious advantage.

"At half-time we were calm and collected. We sat down and just had a look at our first-half performance.

"We went out in the second half and played like we can play, we delivered the ball in and put them under pressure."

Pauline acknowledged Jennifer O'Leary's goal was crucial in terms of shifting the momentum



Cork camogie manager Paudie Murray.

away for their rivals.

"It came at a vital time for us as it put us ahead and we drove on from it, from the start of the second half we picked off the points and the goal was a huge boost."

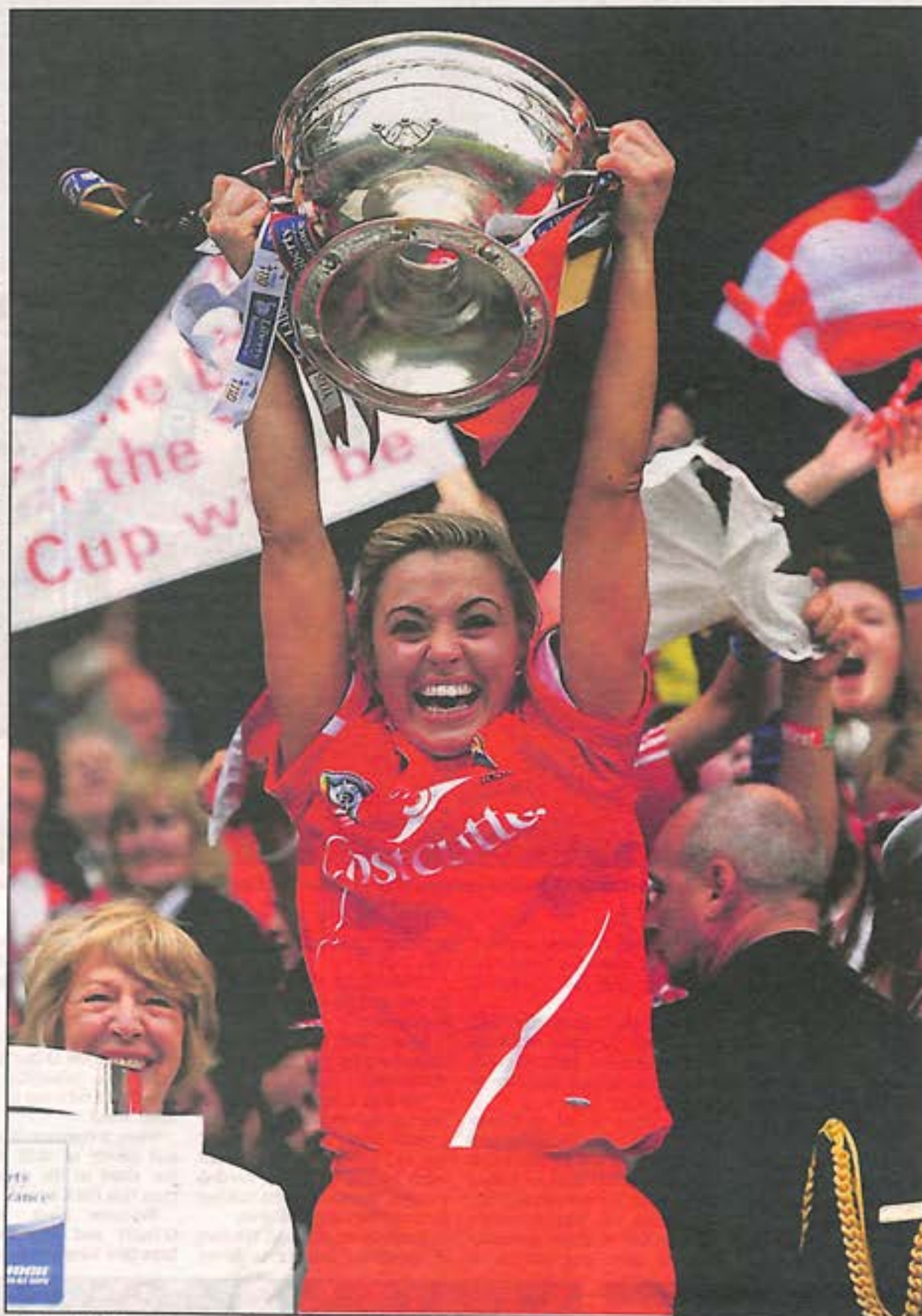
Murray had huge praise for all his charges young and old.

"These girls simply don't know the meaning of the word defeat. They played with huge heart, commitment and passion particularly in the second half when we were pressing for scores to gain control.

"We have great players and the younger players who we introduced this year fitted in so well with the more experienced players and blended in superbly." While not being drawn on his own future at the helm, Murray said Cork have the ability and drive to push on in the coming seasons, having waited five years to regain the O'Duffy Cup.

"A lot of these girls have a lot more left in them. Cork camogie needed this win badly and the game will benefit hugely in the

# Win was one of



Cork captain Anna Geary raises the O'Duffy Cup after they beat Kilkenny in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland camogie final at Croke Park yesterday.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare



LINDA MELLERICK

## CAMOGIE

Cork 2-1  
Kilkenny 1-4

### OUR FINEST ever victory!

When emotions are high we can all over exaggerate things. But I don't believe I'm doing that now.

Forget that this bunch of players and management needed this victory, forge the fact that Cork camogie badly needed this victory, the manner of Cork's second half comeback make this one of, if not, the sweetest of them all.

I'd put it on a par only with our 199 victory over Kilkenny.

Were we worried at half time? Absolutely! The five points wasn't the issue it was that Cork seemed flat.

Kilkenny seemed to have their own work done on how to counteract Cork's defensive system which saw the Rebels leave their six backs in a traditional formation, even with the Cats pulling extra players into the middle third Cork didn't play a sweeper, they just kept their six defenders in their positions per the programme. The problem was Kilkenny was using the wind well and snapping up the breaks in the middle third by swarming that sector.

The suggestion at that stage was that we should go player-for-player on the two Kilkenny wing-forwards that had pushed out to midfield. But no! Cork remained composed and confident and their 2-8 to 0-3 second-half performance was top class.

And it could have been more, Jennifer O'Leary having to stretch just that bit too much after Katrina Mackey's shot was parried by Emma Kavanagh and Angela Walsh could have had one off her left but was blocked down for a 45.

Cork were at this stage firing on all cylinders.

We lost midfield in the opening half four on two, it was inevitable. They also still deployed three inside forwards, and then attempted, quite successfully, to bypass the Cork half-back line.

Winning the ball at centre-field they then struck it behind Cork's half-backs and Shelley Farrell, Katie Power and Michelle Quilty were causing real problems up top. But for magnificent flexibility by Aoife Murray after seven minutes Kilkenny would have found the net.

Eimear O'Sullivan won a tremendous amount of ball when the pressure was on, having her best every display in a Cork jersey. I mentioned after the semi-final that she had given her best yesterday topped that again.

A very busy Murray could do nothing to stop Michelle Quilty's flick after she had stopped from Aisling Dunphy. Despite Kilkenny's dominance during this period they weren't pulling away hugely from Cork. It stood at 1-4 to 0-3 entering the final minutes of the half but two frees from very scoreable positions

## THREE REASONS WHY CORK WON

### BELIEF IN THE GAME PLAN

PAUDIE MURRAY and his backroom team decided a number of weeks before they played Wexford the defensive system they were going to play, stay back, don't get sucked out no matter what. The entire squad bought into it.

Both in the semi-final and yesterday when one wondered was it going to pay off, the only people who didn't doubt it would were the squad itself. Their composure and confidence was a credit to them and a credit to a magnificent management team.

### LEADERSHIP

EVERY team needs leaders. If you don't have them you're on a hiding to nothing. And the bigger the occasion the more you need them.

Eimear O'Sullivan and Aoife Murray are two that come to mind with regards opening half leaders but my God in the second half Cork had them all over the pitch.

Gemma O'Connor, Briege Corkery, Rena Buckley, Aisling Thompson, Julia White, Jenny O'Leary, Angela Walsh all stood up.

### TEAM UNITY

IT would be wrong to single out just a handful of the senior players here.

Young Laura Treacy was excellent in the corner, making one mistake and recovering brilliantly.

Joanne O'Callaghan was as tidy and pleasantly annoying a corner-back as ever, Anna Geary played a captain's role. The Mackeys worked extremely hard, Pamela keeping star forward Denise Gaule to just one point from play. A tremendous second-half performance all round.



# best of all time



Cork's Briege Corkery on the break past Kilkenny's Colette Dormer during the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland camogie final at Croke Park.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

tions gave Wexford a six point lead in additional time; an excellent O'Sullivan point narrowing it to five.

There were no harsh words at half time in the Cork dressing room. The belief that has surrounded this team in the last number of weeks is phenomenal.

Their composure was a credit to them.

When Shelley Farrell struck the opening score of the second half it didn't faze Cork. The next 11 minutes belonged to them. Katrina Mackey, Orla Cotter, Jenny O'Leary and Briege Corkery picked off some lovely points.

And when Jenny was at the end of a magnificent Cork move involving Cotter, Aisling Thompson and Angela Walsh to blast to the net you just felt that Cork were going to dominate from that stage, even though they only led by one.

Cotter's point a few minutes later from a composed one-two move with Briege Corkery put Cork two ahead.

They could have stretched it further.

## Story of the game

### PLAYER OF THE MATCH

It has to be Eimear O'Sullivan who led from the outset at right half-back.

Winning a huge amount of ball, a couple of frees and scoring a magnificent point on the stroke of half-time, she gave her best ever display wearing the red and white.

### TURNING POINT

CORK'S 11-minute spell between the 32nd and 43rd minutes which saw them hit 1-5 without reply and take a two-point lead was decisive.

Kilkenny were always hanging on from here and the Rebels were deserved winners.

Their confidence was up.

Leaders came to the fore; Gemma O'Connor, O'Sullivan, Briege, Rena Buckley, Walsh, O'Leary and Julia White came thundering more and more

### SCORE OF THE MATCH

THIS has to be Jenny O'Leary's wonder goal 10 minutes into the second half which gave Cork a lead they never relinquished. A brilliantly executed goal, involving Orla Cotter, Aisling Thompson and Angela Walsh, the latter feeding Jenny, she finished clinically.

### REFEREE WATCH

CLARE'S John Dolan gave a few dubious decisions for both sides. He penalised Eimear O'Sullivan for over carrying just before half time which seemed harsh, and Kilkenny will question his decision to award a free out to Cork in additional time as they searched for goal.

in the game.

Kilkenny has no such front runners. They hung in there though and a point from Collette Dormer gave Cork that awful, ever-dangerous two-point lead.

Kilkenny's attack, which saw the ball almost on the Cork line, was very dangerous. It's so easy to give away a penalty or free in camogie.

It was difficult to watch. But discipline was crucial and when John Dolan blew for a free out we knew that was it. Orla Cotter's point steadied our beating hearts.

Angela Walsh's goal on the stroke of full time was what dreams are made.

**Scorers for Cork:** O Cotter 0-6 (0-4 ft), J O'Leary 1-1, A Walsh 1-0, B Corkery 0-2, E O'Sullivan, K Mackey, J White 0-1 each

**Kilkenny:** D Gaule 0-5 (0-4 ft), M Quilty 1-1, K Power, S Farrell, C Dormer 0-1 each

**CORK:** A Murray, J O'Callaghan, A Geary, L Treacy, E O'Sullivan, G O'Connor, P Mackey, R Buckley, A Thompson, O Cotter, A Walsh, J O'Leary, J White, B Corkery, K Mackey

**Sub:** J Casey for J O'Leary (61).

**KILKENNY:** E Kavanagh, M Power, K McDonald, J Frisby, C Phelan, C Dormer, E Aylward, L Fennelly, A Dalton, D Gaule, A Dunphy, A Connery, S Farrell, K Power, M Quilty

**Subs:** M Walsh for A Connery (43), A Neary for S Farrell (53), E Keane for L Fennelly (56).

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





Front row (l.-r.): Angela Walsh, Sara Hayes, Rena Buckley, Briege Corkery, Joanne O'Callaghan, Eimear O'Sullivan, Laura Treacy, Jennifer O'Leary, Colette Desmond, Gemma O'Connor, Amanda O'Regan, Denise Cronin. Back row (l.-r.): Sarah Buckley, Orla Cotter, Katriona Mackey, Joanne Casey, Anna Geary (Capt), Leanne O'Sullivan, Julia White, Ashling Thompson, Hazel O'Regan, Pamlea Mackey, Jessica Kavanagh, Maria Walsh, Amy O'Connor, Orla Cronin, Hannah Looney, Finola Neville, Aoife Murray.

Liberty Insurance ALL IRELAND CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS 2014



- (16) S. Chaomhánach  
Jessica Kavanagh  
Douglas
- (17) M. Bhreatnach  
Maria Walsh  
Milford
- (18) S. Ní hAodha  
Sara Hayes  
Coursey Rovers
- (19) D. Ní Chróinín  
Denise Cronin  
Ballincollig
- (20) L. Ní Shúilleabháin  
Leanne O'Sullivan  
Glen Rovers
- (21) H. Ní Riagáin  
Hazel O'Regan  
Clonakilty
- (22) S. Ní Luanaigh  
Hannah Looney  
Killeagh
- (23) S. Ní Chasthasaigh  
Joanne Casey  
Inniscarra
- (24) S. Ní Bhuachalla  
Sara Buckley  
Ballincollig
- (25) C. Ní Dheasúnaigh  
Colette Desmond  
Newcestown
- (26) A. Ní Chonchúir  
Amy O'Connor  
St. Vincent's
- (27) A. Ní Riagáin  
Amanda O'Regan  
Douglas
- (28) F. Ní Nía  
Finola Neville  
St. Catherine's
- (29) O. Ní Chróinín  
Orla Cronin  
Enniskeane

# CORK

Dathanna: Dearg agus Bán

## SENIOR



(1) A. Ní Mhuirí  
**AOIFE MURRAY**  
Cloughduv



(2) S. Ní Cheallacháin  
**JOANNE O'CALLAGHAN**  
Cloughduv



(3) A. Ní Ghadhra (Capt.)  
**ANNA GEARY**  
Milford



(4) L. Ní Threasaigh  
**LAURA TRACEY**  
Killeagh



(5) E. Ní Shúilleabháin  
**EIMEAR O'SULLIVAN**  
Ballinhassig



(6) G. Ní Chonchúir  
**GEMMA O'CONNOR**  
St. Finbarrs



(7) P. Ní Mhaca  
**PAMELA MACKEY**  
Douglas



(8) R. Ní Bhuachalla  
**RENA BUCKLEY**  
Inniscarra



(9) A. Ní Thomáis  
**ASHLING THOMPSON**  
Milford



(10) S. Ní Laoire  
**JENNIFER O'LEARY**  
St. John's



(11) A. Bhreatnach  
**ANGELA WALSH**  
Killeagh



(12) B. Ní Chorca  
**BRIEGE CORKERY**  
Cloughduv



(13) S. Ní Bhanáin  
**JULIA WHITE**  
Douglas



(14) O. Ní Oisíir  
**ORLA COTTER**  
St. Catherine's



(15) C. Ní Mhaca  
**KATRIONA MACKEY**  
Douglas

Management: Paudie Murray (Manager), Matthew Twomey, Brian Barry, George Fitzgibbon, Billy Dillon. Physio: Aoife McAuliffe



# Kilkenny

SENIOR



Back row (l.-r.): Áine Kinsella, Claire Phelan, Grace Walsh, Claire Aylward, Leann Fennelly, Elaine Aylward, Denise Gaule, Lydia Fitzpatrick, Ann Marie Lennon, Aisling Dunphy, Edwina Keane, Áine Connery, Stacey Quirke, Miriam Walsh, Aoife Neary.  
Front row (l.-r.): Ann Dalton, Emma Kavanagh, Collette Dormer, Mairéad Power, Kate McDonald, Jacqui Frisby, Katie Power, Michelle Quilty, Shelly Farrell, Áine Gannon, Kelly Hamilton.

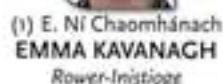
LIBERTY INSURANCE ALL IRELAND CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS 2014

	TEAM LEADER	TEAM LEADER	CHIEF
CILL			
CILLIN			
SEACHAI			
4th			
SAM			
POCANNA			

## KILKENNY

Dathanna: Dubh agus Ómra

SENIOR



(16) A. M. Ní Leannáin  
Ann Marie Lennon  
Blocks & Whites

(17) E. Ní Chatháin  
Edwina Keane  
St. Martin's

(18) A. Ní Náraigh  
Aoife Neary  
James Stephens

(19) G. Ní Bhreatnach  
Grace Walsh  
Tullaroan

(20) M. Ní Bhreatnach  
Miriam Walsh  
Tullaroan

(21) C. Hamaltún  
Kelly Hamilton  
Rower-Inistioge

(22) L. Ní Giolla Phádraig  
Lydia Fitzpatrick  
St. Lachtain's

(23) S. Ní Coirc  
Stacey Quirke  
St. Martin's

(24) C. Aighleart  
Claire Aylward  
Mullinavat

(25) A. Cinsealach  
Áine Kinsella  
Mullinavat

Management: Niall Williams, Graham Dillon, John Joe Aylward, Liz Dempsey  
Physio/First Aid: Tom Manton Doctor: John Synott





**ANNA GEARY** (Captain)  
Milford  
All Ireland Senior and Minor Championships, All Ireland Colleges medals with St Mary's Charleville, Senior County Championship Provincial and All Ireland Club Championship with Milford, Senior B Club Championship, National League titles, Colleges All Star Award, Camogie All Star award, Represented Cork in this year's Rose of Tralee



**JULIA WHITE**  
Douglas  
Senior All Ireland Championship, All Ireland Senior B College's medal with Christ the King, Senior County Championship medals, National League titles, National Féile na nGael Division one titles, underage championship honours with Club and County.



**RENA BUCKLEY**  
Inniscarra  
All Ireland Senior Championships, All Ireland Minor Championships, National Leagues and Provincial titles in both Camogie and Ladies Football, Camogie Colleges Centenary All Star team, All Stars in both Camogie and Ladies Football, Captained Cork footballers to titles.



**AOIFE MURRAY**  
Cloughduv  
Senior, Intermediate, Junior and Minor All Ireland titles, National League titles, Munster Championship honours, 3 Cork Senior Championship medals with Cloughduv, captained in 2005, Camogie All Star awards.



**LEANNE O'SULLIVAN**  
Glen Rovers  
Senior & Junior Provisional Championship with Cork, Senior B Championship, Minor & U16 Championship with club, U16 Munster and Junior B County medals with school, National school basketball title with school St Aidan's, National League title, Munster and Purcell Cup titles with UCC.



**BRIEGHE CORKERY**  
Cloughduv  
Senior, Intermediate and Minor All Ireland medals, National League titles, Inter-Provincial titles, Senior County Championship medals, Senior All Ireland Football medals, National Female Sports Person of the Year in 2005, All Star awards in Camogie and Football.



**LAURA TREACY**  
Killeagh  
National League Div 2 2014, Ashbourne and Fresher's titles with WIT, Colleges County and Munster titles, Provincial Senior title with Cork 2014, underage titles with club.



**DENISE CRONIN**  
Ballincollig  
Junior and Senior B County Championship with club, Senior County with Muskerry division, All Ireland Senior and Provincial titles, National League titles.



**ASHLING THOMPSON**  
Milford  
Senior and Senior B County Championship, Munster Senior Club Championship, All Ireland Club Championship titles, Munster Senior Championship, National League titles, underage titles with Cork.



**ANGELA WALSH**  
Killeagh  
Senior B County Championship, All Ireland Senior Championship, National League title, Provincial titles in both Camogie and Football, Senior All Ireland football medals, Captained Cork to All Ireland football title.



**SARAH BUCKLEY**  
Ballincollig  
All Ireland & Provincial College titles, National League Div 2 title, Munster Intermediate title, Minor, Junior, Senior B & Senior Championship with club.



**JOANNE CASEY**  
Inniscarra  
Provincial & National League titles, County Provincial Championship Club, County Provincial College Championship, Purcell Cup with UCC.



**JESSICA KAVANAGH**  
Douglas  
Senior B and Senior County Championship, All Ireland Colleges with Christ the King, All Ireland Féile na nGael, underage titles with club, National League titles, Munster Intermediate and Senior Championship medals.



**SARA HAYES**  
Courcey Rovers  
All Ireland Senior title, All Ireland U16 title, Ashbourne Cup, Provincial and National League titles, Inter-provincial titles, underage titles with club, Junior and Senior B titles with club.



**JOANNE O'CALLAGHAN**  
Cloughduv  
All Ireland Senior and Minor Championships, National League titles, Provincial titles, Gael Linn medals with Munster, Senior All Ireland winning captain 2006, 3 Cork Senior Championships.



**ORLA COTTER**  
St. Catherine's  
Cork Minor team captain 2006, Senior team captain 2010, All Ireland Senior & Senior B titles, All Ireland U16 Championship medals, All Ireland Junior Colleges titles, National League titles, All Star awards.



**EIMEAR O'SULLIVAN**  
Ballinhassig  
All Ireland Senior & Senior B Championships, National League titles, Inter-Provincial medals, Ashbourne Shield with CIT, Senior B Championship titles with club.



**JENNIFER O'LEARY**  
St. John's  
All Ireland Senior, Intermediate and Minor Championships, National League titles, Inter-Provincial Gael Linn medals, Ashbourne Cup 2005 with UL (Captain), All Star Awards, Senior B Club Championship.



**PAMELA MACKEY**  
Douglas  
Senior All Ireland Championships, National League titles, Senior County Championship titles, All Ireland Colleges with Christ the King, National Féile na nGael Div 1 titles.



**KATRIONA MACKEY**  
Douglas  
Senior All Ireland Championships, Senior County Championship titles, National League titles, All Ireland Colleges with Christ the King, National Féile na nGael Div 1 titles, Provincial titles with Cork.



**FINOLA NEVILLE**  
St. Catherine's  
Senior County titles, Underage Club Championships, Provincial and National League titles with Cork.



**HAZEL O'REGAN**  
Clonakilty  
U16, Junior & Senior B All Ireland titles, Munster U16, Minor, Junior, Senior B, Munster Colleges, Cork Colleges and All Ireland Fresher, U16, Junior and Intermediate Championship with club, National League titles, Provincial titles.



**GEMMA O'CONNOR**  
St. Finbarr's  
Senior and Junior National League medals, Provincial titles, All Ireland Senior Championships, All Ireland U16 and Provincial Championships, Senior and Senior B County Championship with club, Camogie All Stars, Camogie Player of the Year 2005.



**MARIA WALSH**  
Milford  
Senior County Championship, Provincial Club title, All Ireland Club titles with Milford, Underage Munster Championships, Juvenile Club Championship titles, National League titles, Provincial and National Senior titles with Cork.



**AMANDA O'REGAN** Douglas  
4 All Ireland Senior medals, Senior County Championship 2008 (captain), 3 Ashbourne Cup medals with University of Limerick, All Ireland Minor, Junior and Senior titles, National League and cup titles in Basketball, Captained Cork to Div 2 National League 2014.



**HANNAH LOONEY**  
Killeagh  
Provincial Minor title, underage titles with schools and club.



**COLETTE DESMOND**  
Newcestown  
Captained Cork to Munster Intermediate title 2012, All Ireland Senior, Intermediate and Minor titles, U16 Provincial titles, Minor, Junior and Intermediate titles, National League Div 2 2014.



**AMY O'CONNOR**  
St. Vincents  
Minor Provincial title 2014, Junior Club Championship title, Junior League Club title, Player of the match Munster Minor final 2014, Member of the Irish U19 soccer squad.



**ORLA CRONIN**  
Enniskeane  
Junior County Club Championship title, Junior County Club League title, Championship titles with school Colaiste na Toirbhíre Bandon, Provincial and National League title with Cork.

# Anna GEARY

CORK







**LEANN FENNELLY** (Captain)  
Mullinavat  
All Ireland Senior Colleges medal St. Brigid's College Callan, 3 County Senior Championship medals, 1 Leinster Senior Club Championship, 1 National League medal, 2 U16 All Ireland medals, 3 All Ireland Minor medals, 1 Intermediate All Ireland medal, 1 All Ireland Junior Football Championship medal, 3 Leinster Senior Championship medals, Captained St. Brigid's College Callan to Colleges All Ireland medal in 2008.



**EMMA KAVANAGH**  
Rower-Inistioge  
1 County Intermediate Championship, 1 Leinster Club Intermediate Championship, Minor & U21 County Championship, 1 Féile medal 2007, Leinster Minor & Senior medals, 1 National League medal.



**MAIREAD POWER**  
Carrickshock  
2 All Ireland Senior Colleges medals St. Brigid's Callan, 2 Purcell Cup medals DCU, 2 All Ireland U16 medals, 2 All Ireland Minor medals, 1 Leinster Senior Championship medal, 1 National League medal, 1 All Star.



**KATE McDONALD**  
Thomastown  
2 All Ireland Senior Colleges medals St. Brigid's Callan, U14, U16, Minor & U21 County Championship medals, 3 All Ireland U16 medals, 4 All Ireland Minor medals, 2 National League medals, 3 Leinster Senior Championship medals, Captained Kilkenny to Under-16 All Ireland in 2007.



**JACQUI FRISBY**  
Ballyhale Shamrocks  
1 All Ireland Junior Championship medal, 2 National League medals, 1 County Intermediate Championship, 1 Leinster Club Championship, 1 All Ireland Schools B medal, Leinster U14, U16, Minor & Senior medals, Captained Kilkenny to All Ireland Junior Championship in 2002, All Star 2009.



**SHELLY FARRELL**  
Thomastown  
2 All Ireland Senior Colleges medals, 2 Ashbourne Cup medals, U14, U16, Minor & U21 County Championship medals, 2 U16 All Ireland medals, 2 All Ireland Minor medals, Captained Kilkenny to U16 All Ireland in 2008, 1 Intermediate All Ireland medal, 1 Leinster Senior medal, 1 National League medal, 1 All Star.



**KATIE POWER**  
Piltown  
4 Ashbourne Cup medals, Captained WIT to Ashbourne Cup in 2012, 1 County Junior Championship, 4 Leinster Senior medals, 2 All Ireland U16 medals, 3 All Ireland Minor medals, 2 National League medals, 2 All Stars.



**AISLING DUNPHY**  
St. Brigid's  
1 All Ireland Senior Colleges medal, 1 All Ireland Junior Colleges medal, 3 All Ireland U16 medals, 2 All Ireland Minor medals, 2 Leinster Senior medals, Captained Loreto to All Ireland Senior Colleges title in 2010, 1 National League medal.



**COLLETTE DORMER**  
Paulstown  
4 Ashbourne Cup medals, All Ireland U16 title, 2 All Ireland Minor medals, 2 National League medals, 1 All Ireland Intermediate, 3 Leinster Senior medals, County Junior Championship.



**DENISE GAULE**  
Windgap  
2 All Ireland Senior Colleges medals, 4 Ashbourne Cup medals, Minor, U21 & Intermediate County Championship medals, 2 U16 All Ireland medals, 2 All Ireland Minor medals, 1 All Ireland Intermediate medal, 2 Leinster Senior medals, Camogie Young Player of the Year in 2009, 1 National League medal.



**AOIFE NEARY**  
James Stephens  
U16, Minor & Junior County Championship medals, 1 All Ireland Junior medal, 1 All Ireland Senior Colleges B medal, Leinster Under-14, Under-16, Minor, Junior & Senior medals, 2 National League medals, 2 All Stars.



**ANN MARIE LENNON**  
Blacks & Whites  
3 Ashbourne Cup medals, 1 All Ireland Intermediate medal, 1 Leinster Senior, U16 & Minor All Ireland medals, 1 National League medal.



**MICHELLE QUILTY**  
Mullinavat  
4 Ashbourne Cup medals, 3 County Senior Championship medals, 1 Leinster Senior Club Championship, 2 All Ireland U16 medals, 2 All Ireland Minor medals, 4 Leinster Senior



**EDWINA KEANE**  
St. Martin's  
2 All Ireland U16 medals, 3 All Ireland Minor medals, 2 National League medals, 3 Leinster Senior Championship medals, 1 All Star.



**ELAINE AYWARD**  
Mullinavat  
3 County Senior Championship medals, 1 Leinster Club Senior Championship, 5 Leinster Senior Championship medals, 2 National League medals, All Star 2009.



**CLAIRE PHELAN**  
Lisdowney  
3 All Ireland Senior Colleges medals, 2 All Ireland Junior Colleges medals, 1 Intermediate County Championship medal 2010, 1 National League medal, All Ireland U16 & Minor medals, Leinster Senior Championship medal.



**ANN DALTON**  
St. Lachtain's  
3 Ashbourne Cup medals, 3 All Ireland Senior Club medals, All Ireland Minor medal, 3 Leinster Senior medals, 2 National League medals, 2 All Stars, Camogie Player of the Year in 2009, captained Kilkenny in 2009 All Ireland Final.



**LYDIA FITZPATRICK**  
St. Lachtain's  
1 All Ireland Minor medal, 4 All Ireland Colleges Senior medals, 3 All Ireland Junior medals, 3 All Ireland Colleges 7-A-Side medals, 2 Leinster minor medals, 2 Leinster U16 medals, 2 Leinster U14 medals, 4 Leinster Colleges Senior medals, 4 Leinster Colleges Junior medals, 2 Leinster Colleges Minor medals, 3 Leinster Colleges 7-a-side medals, 2 County Senior Club Championship medals, 1 County U14 Club Championship medal, 1 National League medal.



**CLAIRE AYWARD**  
Mullinavat  
1 All Ireland Intermediate medal, 1 All Ireland B Colleges medal, 3 Senior County Championship medals, 1 Leinster Senior Club Championship, 2 County U21 A Championship medals, Captained Kilkenny Minor Leinster Final team, Kilkenny Centenary Junior Player of the Year 2004, 1 National League medal.



**KELLY HAMILTON**  
Rower-Inistioge  
All Ireland Senior Colleges B medal, County & Leinster Intermediate Championship medals, U21 County B Championship medal, Féile medal 2007, Leinster U14, U16 & Minor medals, 1 Leinster Senior medal.



**GRACE WALSH**  
Tullaroan  
2 All Ireland Colleges Junior medals, 3 All Ireland Senior Colleges medals, Leinster U16, Minor & Senior medals, All Ireland U16 & Minor medals, 1 National League medal.



**MIRIAM WALSH**  
Tullaroan  
3 All Ireland Junior Colleges medals, 4 All Ireland Senior Colleges medals, Captained Loreto to All Ireland Senior Colleges 2013, Leinster U14, U16, Minor & Senior medals, 1 All Ireland Minor medal, 1 National League medal.



**AINE KINSELLA**  
Mullinavat  
3 Senior County League medals, 3 Senior County Championship medals, 1 Senior Club Championship, 1 National League medal, Leinster Senior medal 2013, Leinster U16 medal 2009, Leinster U18 2011 & 2012, Munster Intermediate Colleges Cup 2011, U16C County Championship 2010.



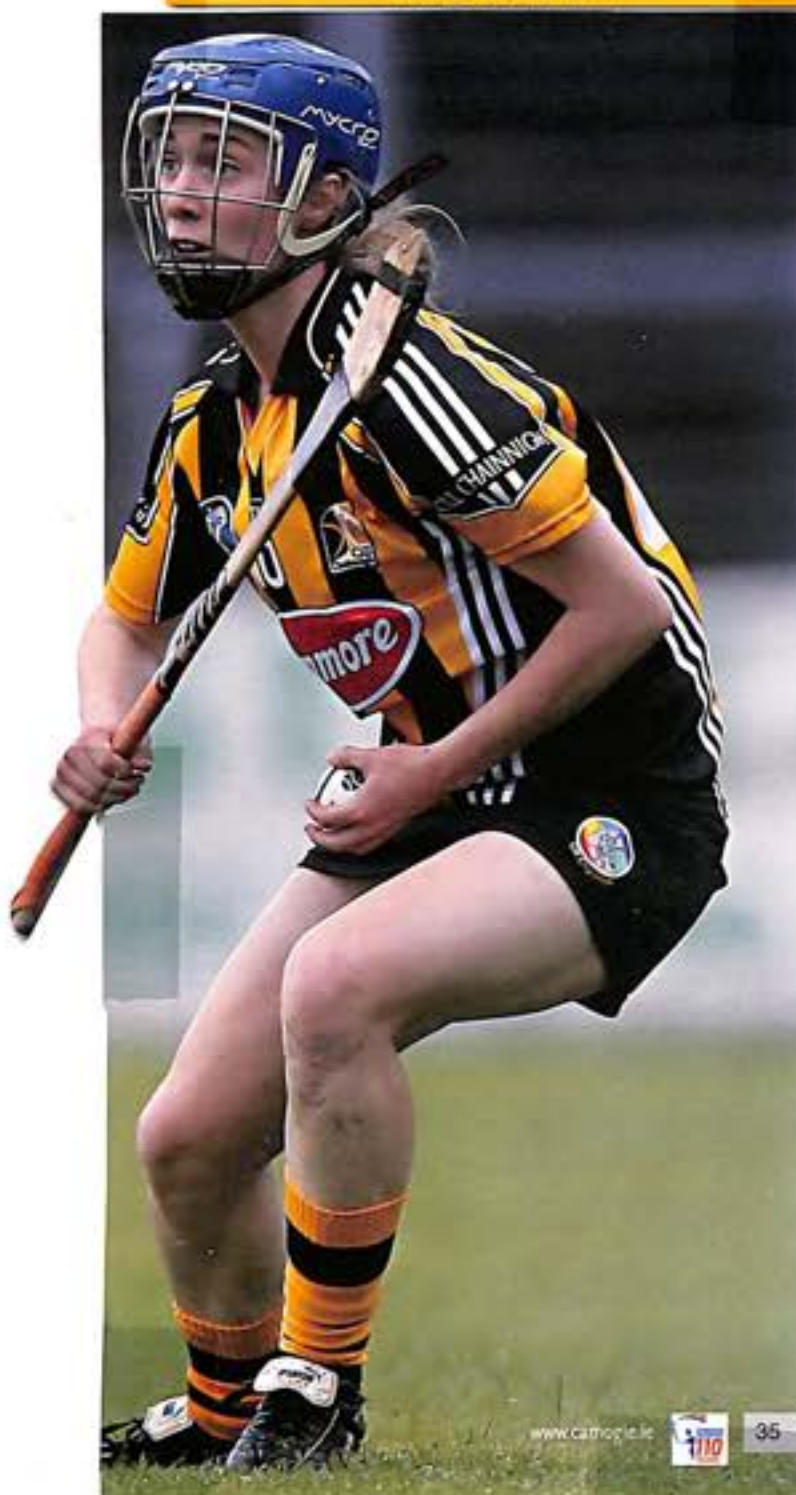
**STACEY QUIRKE**  
St. Martin's  
1 Leinster U16 medal, 1 All Ireland U16 medal, 1 Leinster U18 medal, 1 All Ireland U18 medal, 2 Leinster Junior Schools medals, 1 All Ireland Junior Schools medals, 1 Leinster Senior Schools medal, 1 All Ireland Senior Colleges medal, 2 Purcell Cup medals with DCU, 1 National League medal.



**AINE CONNERY**  
St. Lachtain's  
National League 2014, 3 Senior Club All Ireland titles, 5 Leinster Senior Club titles, 9 Senior County medals, underage Leinster Inter county titles, underage club titles, 82 Senior Irish International Hockey Caps.

## Leann FENNELLY

KILKENNY





## PLAYER RATINGS

**AOIFE MURRAY:** Made a number of vital saves in the first-half when Cork were playing poorly and kept them in the game. Her puck-outs played a huge part in the second-half as she found Cork players to set up attacks. 8

**JOANNE O'CALLAGHAN:** Did what all defenders have to do and that was to keep her opponent from scoring. Didn't get the chance to go forward, but job done over the 60 minutes in a fitting swansong for the experienced corner-back. 7

**ANNA GEARY:** Made a number of crucial blocks in the first-half but the defence was under pressure to deny Kilkenny and their long deliveries with the wind. In the second half was simply outstanding, tough, and really got grips with the Cats' threat under the dropping ball. 8

**LAURA TREACY:** Showed maturity beyond her years and is certainly one who will play a huge part in the future of Cork camogie.

Was up against a tough opponent and once she got to grips with Michelle Quilty kept her quiet. 7

**EIMEAR O'SULLIVAN:** Over the hour was Cork's most consistent defender. Never gave her opponent an inch and scored a vital point in the first-half to keep Cork in touch. After the break made a number of inspirational runs forward. 9

**GEMMA O'CONNOR:** Came storming into the game after the break and caught a number of balls that she had no right to. This despite an injury to her thumb before half-time that twice required attention. A true leader in this side and played a vital part in the win. 8

**PAMELA MACKEY:** Again like many of the side was struggling in the first-half and was under a bit of pressure. In the second half she set up a number of attacks that led to vital scores.

The half-back line's dominance in the closing 30 minutes was the platform for the victory. 7

Rory Noonan

# The O'Duffy Cup

## CAMOGIE

By Rory Noonan

IN trouble, looking as if they were unsure of what they were doing and playing second fiddle to Kilkenny. That would be a fair assessment of Cork's first-half display yesterday.

But the second half was a completely different matter. Some stern words from manager Paudie Murray and coach Matthew Twomey, at the break, along with the players' own personal pride, saw a far different Cork afterwards.

Kilkenny dragged Cork all over the pitch in the first-half and maybe nerves or memories of two years ago got to some of the them.

Once they got in at half-time, regrouped and realised what had to be done there was only going to be one winner of the O'Duffy Cup. A simply sensational second half by the Rebels tuned a five-point deficit at the break, into a two-point lead 13 minutes in the second half.

Cork hit 1-5, without reply, in 11 minutes and from here on it was going to be a case of how much, rather than if, they were going to win.

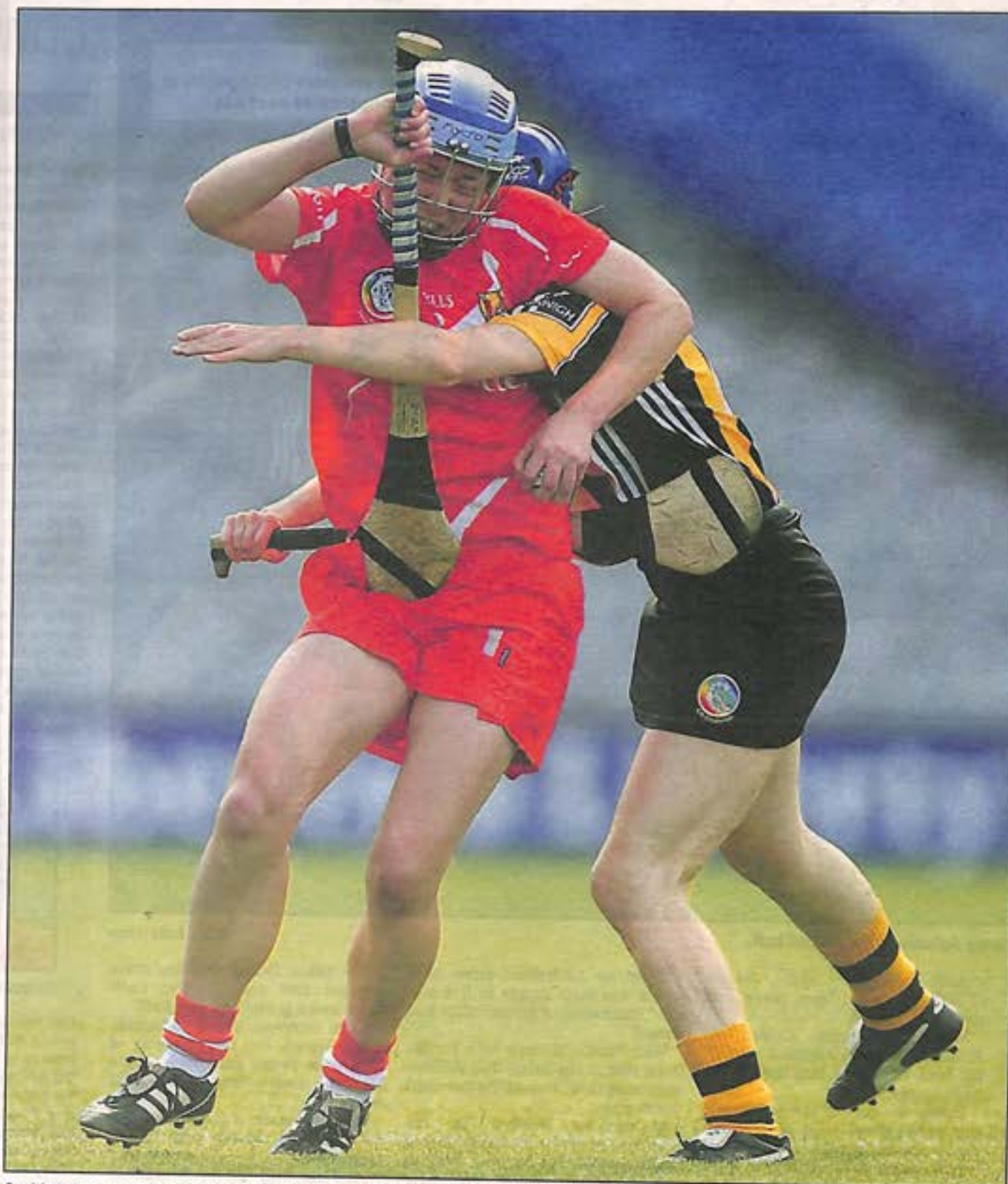
Kilkenny came back at Cork, but the Rebels stood strong in defence and set the platform for their forward line to get the vital scores needed.

Afterwards, midfielder Ashling Thompson, admitted they were not great in the first-half.

"It's difficult to describe how we are feeling now, especially the way the first-half went. Going in at half-time we knew we hadn't played well and were struggling all over the pitch."

"But I think we really got in Kilkenny's heads in the second-half and drove on from there. I think we were only going around 40% in the first-half and on a day like today that's not acceptable and we knew this."

"We knew ourselves we



Cork's Rena Buckley is tackled by Kilkenny's Leann Fennelly during the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland camogie final at Croke Park yesterday.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Sisters Pamela and Katriona Mackey celebrate their over Kilkenny in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland camogie final.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Cork's Joanne O'Callaghan celebrates the win over Kilkenny in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland camogie final at Croke Park.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare



# is coming home

## PLAYER RATINGS



Cork's Julia White is tackled by Kilkenny's Ann Dalton during the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland camogie final at Croke Park yesterday.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

didn't want to be going home upset and annoyed that we hadn't given it our all and that we had a lot of making up to do once we got back out on the pitch.

"As long as we gave it 100% and we lost then that would be fair enough, but we knew we hadn't and every one wanted to make sure we came off that pitch saying we couldn't have done anymore to try and win.

"There were a few stern words in the dressing-room at half-time from Paudie and Matt and to be fair we de-

served it. We were much the better afterwards and thankfully it worked out in the end.

"This is my first senior All-Ireland medal so it's a really special feeling for me and one that I am going to savour for some time. It was great to win here with my club and this caps off a great year so far.

"We will enjoy the celebrations and we are looking forward to bringing the cup back to Cork tomorrow night."

Ashling's sentiments sum up the feelings of many watching,

with the words, Cork couldn't be as bad after the break, repeated around the ground at half-time.

But all great sides dig deep when they have too, draw on their experience, bad and good, of previous games and rise to the challenge.

"We went in at half-time knowing we hadn't performed and hadn't stuck to our game plan which had won us games in the past. We were struggling and knew we had to revert back to the way we normally play to have any chance of

winning," said Eimear O'Sullivan.

"Thankfully we managed to do that and it's an unbelievable feeling now.

"The crowd here were brilliant and gave us great support all through.

"We had a good spell at the start of the second-half and all I could think was get another one as I knew Kilkenny would come back at us. So we needed to keep the scoreboard ticking over to make sure we won.

"Luckily we did and it's just a wonderful feeling to come

out on top. It more than makes up for the heart-break of two years ago when we know we didn't do ourselves justice," concluded Eimear.

So it's welcome back to Leeside to the O'Duffy Cup to-night and hopefully a huge crowd will turn out to welcome them home.

When it comes to heart, guts, and plenty of skill there are few sides in the game better than this Cork squad.

Welcome back to Cork O'Duffy and may your stay here be a long and happy one!

**RENA BUCKLEY:** Part of a midfield duo that was under pressure in the first-half and would be the first to admit was far from her best.

But you can't keep good players down for long and made a few telling passes, as well as blocks when needed in the second-half. 7

**ASHLING THOMPSON:** Again was not at their best early on and would have been the first to say so.

But like lots of those around her was far more influential afterwards as she got to grips in the middle of the park. 7

**JENNIFER O'LEARY:** One of the few players that could hold her head up at half-time knowing she had given it her all. She battled hard when things weren't going Cork's way and got her just rewards in the second-half. 9

**ANGELA WALSH:** She put in a real shift around the middle third in the second half, breaking up the play and assisting a goal. Plus she crowned her impressive display with a well-deserved goal in the final minute. 7

**BRIEGE CORKERY:** At this juncture, Corkery is one of the icons of Cork GAA, full stop.

Yet again she worked tirelessly all through and popped up all over the pitch. What a player! 8

**JULIA WHITE:** Was well shackled in the first-half and struggled to get into the game.

However once the right supply of ball came her way, White's pace and ability to turn her marker and cut infield was a major element in the threat Cork posed to the Kilkenny rearguard. 8

**ORLA COTTER:** Cool and calm under pressure and kept Cork in the game in the first-half. Played around midfield in that period against the strong wind, but like others really came into her own after the break in a more traditional system.

She hit some huge frees from distance at vital stages. 8

**KATRINA MACKEY:** Had a quiet first-half and like some of her fellow forwards was finding it difficult to get into the game.

But after the break was much more influential and got the point that started to turn the tide in Cork's favour. 7

**Sub:** Joanne Casey came on in the final minute.



Cork players Angela Walsh, Orla Cotter and Eimear O'Sullivan after defeating Kilkenny in the All-Ireland camogie final.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Cork's Jennifer O'Leary celebrates with fans from her home club Barryroe after yesterday's All-Ireland final win.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Rory Noonan



## Dream is realised for star captain Geary

CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

A HECTIC campaign in every sense ended in a dream come true for Rebel captain Anna Geary. Having captured All-Ireland club titles for the past two years running with her club Milford at Croke, the teak-tough full-back was desperate to lead her county up the steps of the Hogan Stand. An amazing few weeks thrust her into the spotlight nationally at the Rose of the Tralee, before returning to play a significant part in defeating Wexford in the replayed semi-final.

It all culminated in a massive second-half showing yesterday and then the glory of lifting the O'Duffy Cup.

"I am hugely honoured to captain such a fantastic group of girls. It's superb to be All-Ireland champions we worked so hard to win this title, our management put in huge effort and we all worked as a unit, we got superb support from our sponsors Barry's Group and our county board it's great to be able to prepare without any worries." Anna wasn't hugely worried at



Anna Geary.

half-time even though Cork trailed by five points, and Kilkenny were certainly causing problems to utilising the strong wind to drill balls into their full-forward line.

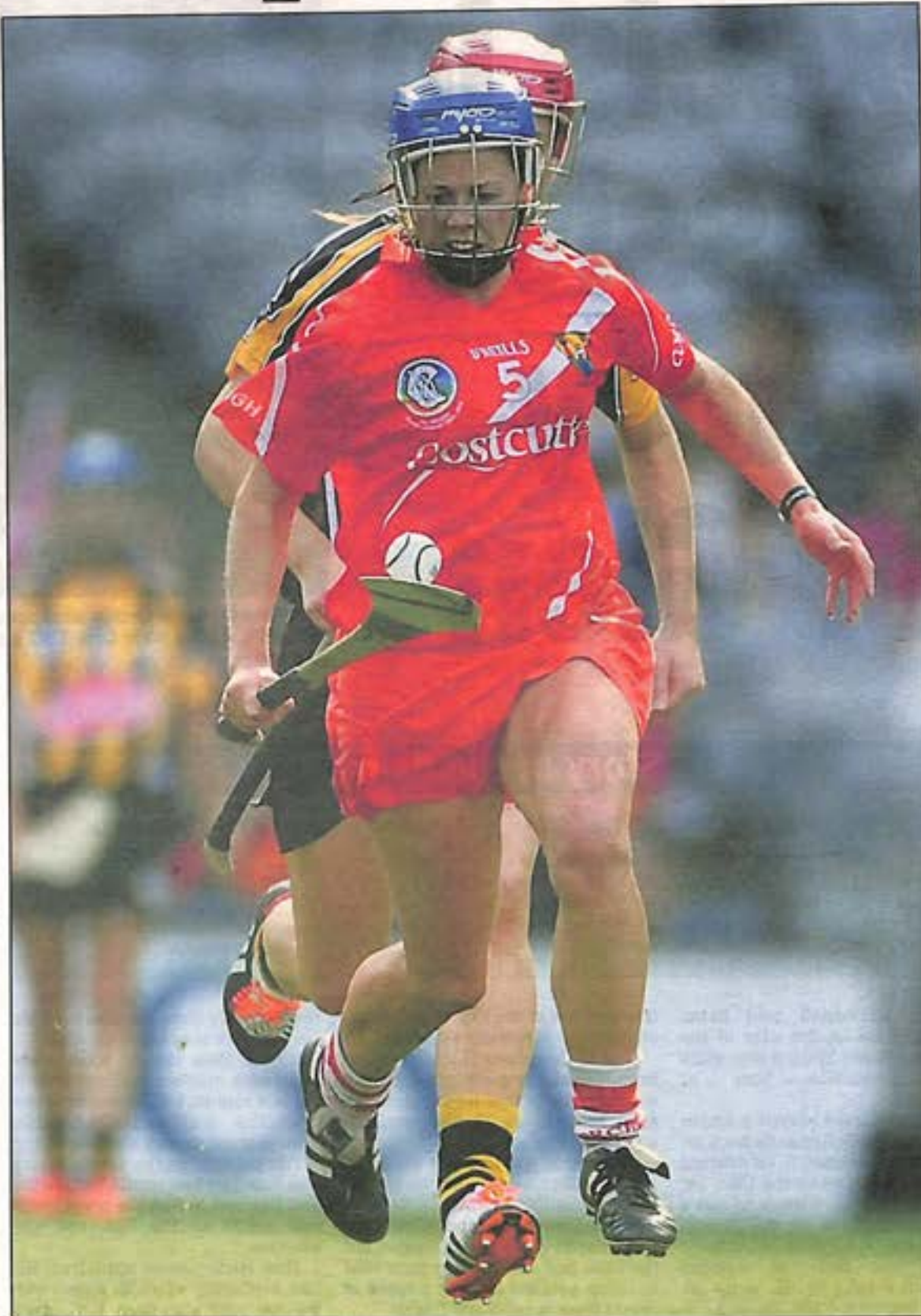
"We were under a lot of pressure at the back in the first-half and the girls knew up front that we needed to up the pace, fair play to them they were incredible from the start of the second half and we pressurised them from the off and never took our foot off the pedal."

Anna gave an emotional speech and she explained it was a release after a five-year wait since their last victory at GAA headquarters, back in 2009.

Since then the Rebels suffered a few agonising defeats, as well as picking up two league titles, not least in the semi-final against the Cats last summer.

"We have waited a while for this and I wasn't going to forget anybody, it's a time to acknowledge all those who have helped us and I said you have 10 minutes so go for it, have no regrets after and I certainly don't. I'm thrilled now to be champions."

# Inspired Rebels



Cork's Eimear O'Sullivan on the break against Kilkenny during the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland camogie final at Croke Park yesterday.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare



EAMONN MURPHY

## CAMOGIE

**YESTERDAY** was one of the most memorable days in the history of Cork camogie.

And for a county that now has 25 All-Irelands - just one behind Dublin in the roll of honour - that's saying something.

To defeat Kilkenny as underdogs was one thing, but to deliver an electric second-half showing which saw them complete a 12-point turnaround, from 1-7 to 0-4 in arrears to 2-12 to 1-9 champions, was another.

The Rebels will bring the O'Duffy Cup back to Leaside tonight to what should be a rousing reception because they had heroes in every line at Croke Park.

Anna Geary's tussle with Katie Power at the edge of the square was the most enthralling in the game.

The Cork captain survived an early aerial bombardment to anchor the defence with authority from there.

The Rose of Tralee contestant is the most high-profile member of the team because of that, but when it came to the grunt work of hooks, blocks and tackles, she didn't shy away.

Milford duo Geary and Aishling Thompson were All-Ireland winners with their club for the past two years; they did their parish proud again here.

For club and county, it's a combination every player dreams of.

Gemma O'Connor survived a hand injury to pull down sliotar after sliotar at number six, while Eimear O'Sullivan was the undisputed Player of the Match on the wing.

When Cork's backs were to the wall in the first half, O'Sullivan hovered up possession and her striking was immaculate.

O'Connor, with six senior medals, now has more than any Defence Forces member, male or female.

There's a strong push at the moment to get equal billing and coverage for sporting achievements across the board.

O'Connor has earned that right.

The dual contingent too. Briege Corkery, Rena Buckley, and Angela Walsh will face Dublin in two weeks to complete the double, but it's nothing new. Corkery and Buckley now have 13 senior All-Ireland medals across the two codes, Walsh 11.



Cork's Hannah Looney and Amy O'Connor celebrate their win over Kilkenny in yesterday's All-Ireland camogie final.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Cork's Leanne O'Sullivan celebrates with fans from her home club Glen Rovers.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare



# lead the way



**Photo Gallery:**  
You can see more photographs at  
[www.photosales.eecho.ie](http://www.photosales.eecho.ie)

## The perfect finale as O'Callaghan bows out

**CAMOGIE**

**By Rory Noonan**

CORK corner-back, Joanne O'Callaghan, had plenty of reasons to celebrate yesterday, touched with a tinge of sadness. Sadly, she announced her retirement from inter-county camogie. "That's it, my inter-county career is over," she said afterwards. "I wanted to finish on a high and it doesn't come any better than this. I have had a great time playing with Cork over the years and enjoyed my fair share of success, but I think this one has to top it all."

"Not too many people gave us any chance of beating Kilkenny, but I knew last June that there was an All-Ireland in this side. We went away and I thought that weekend really jelled us as a squad and from there on I was confident of winning. "At half-time we knew we hadn't performed anywhere near as well as we could and needed to put that right in the second half. We have great players all over the pitch and when they needed to dig deep they did to see us come out on top."

"It's just an unbelievable feeling to win an All-Ireland and I am going to savour this one as I know it's my last."



**Joanne O'Callaghan.**

I will miss playing for Cork and pulling on the red jersey but you have to call a halt at some time. "I'd like to pay tribute to all those I have played with over the years and also to all the coached, managers and backroom staff in my time with the county. "They all helped me to have a great career, with more highs than lows. "I have been privileged to play with some great players over the years and this side is a match for any of them. Lots of these players were here two years ago when we lost and knew we hadn't done ourselves justice. "Again, last year we lost out narrowly in the semi-final to Kilkenny and to come back this year to win was just out of this world. I have no doubt this squad can go on to win more finals, but I will be watching from the stand cheering for them from now on. "Playing with the county has been a huge part of my life and it will be something I am going to miss," concluded Joanne. Just as we were finishing up, Joanne suddenly realised she had another reason to celebrate. "I just remembered I won €800. I put €200 on us to win the All-Ireland in June!"

**Julia White was too fast for the Kilkenny defence in the second half.**

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

They hurtled through the second half yesterday like they were chasing their first.

Orla Cotter and Jennifer O'Leary showed that same desire to burst through for key scores, and the contribution of O'Leary - who moved to Armagh and retired from the Cork colours a year ago, before returning in the spring - was particularly uplifting.

Cotter converted monster frees, even with the wind, worthy of winning any All-Ireland.

Aoife Murray and Joanne O'Callaghan have been there and done it before too.

When Cork were slipped by Kilkenny in the All-Ireland semi-final back in August 2013 they could have opted out.

Indeed the core of the squad and the management were at a crossroads then, despite back-to-back league titles, because they'd been outmuscled by Wexford the previous September.

They weren't far off the mark but

without an All-Ireland since 2009, which was their fourth in five seasons, their aura of invincibility had waned.

With Paudie Murray back for his third year at the helm, they deliberately took their foot off the gas until the summer.

Losing to Wexford in the round-robin series of championship raised doubts, but burying them in the semi-final replay was only topped by yesterday's joyous second half.

The Yellow Bellies won four titles between 2007 and '12. Can Cork move into a golden era now too?

Some veterans, like O'Callaghan, will move on. But there's plenty of offer from young guns such as the Mackeys, Laura Treacy and Julia White.

Amy O'Connor, if the lure of soccer isn't too strong, and Denise Cronin too.

Play like they did for 30 minutes yesterday and no team will live with them.

## Eimear worthy winner of award

THE Liberty Insurance Player Of The Match Eimear O'Sullivan was a worthy choice yesterday.

Her performance over the 60 minutes was inspirational.

"I suppose in the first half we didn't play to our potential but at half time we just knuckled down and said we had 30 minutes to become All-Ireland Champions and we were going to give it one hell of a shot in the second half."

Eimear played a huge role in keeping Cork in the game

### PLAYER OF THE MATCH

**By Mary Newman**

in the opening 30 minutes as she turned defence into attack on numerous occasions. "I suppose really it was all about getting the ball up the field and away from the damage zone."

"And to be fair everyone did their bit as we battled to contain their attack especially in the opening 30 minutes when they threw everything they had at us."

Eimear got a vital point just before half time to cut

the deficit to five points.

"I just kept going and was thinking would I have a go and when it went over it was a great boost and I suppose in the second half were gradually picked off the points."

"Then Jennifer got a vital goal to give us the lead and thankfully we held it to the final whistle."

"It's a great feeling to have won it and we will enjoy it. I'm honoured to have been chosen as Player Of The Match and I will cherish it."



**Eimear O'Sullivan, gets her award from Liberty Insurance CEO Patrick O'Brien after Cork defeated Kilkenny in the All-Ireland camogie final.**



# Cork courage makes dream come true



Liberty Insurance Senior Camogie Championship final

**CORK** ..... 2-12  
**KILKENNY** ..... 1-9

**Daragh Ó Conchúir**

Croke Park

their explosive start to the second half tilted momentum irresistibly in their favour.

For those of us who aren't customarily on the camogie beat, the challenge yesterday was a simple one: write the game like any other game you cover, or dish out the journalistic equivalent of a pat on the head? If you went for the latter option, there were plenty of obvious pitfalls, from comparing players with their more famous brothers or fathers to making any reference at all to the appearance of those on the field. The missteps being taken by those 'discovering' that women play sport in recent times needn't be rehearsed here, though.

Yesterday didn't match the quality on offer in Croke Park last Sunday week, but there's no disgrace in that. You'd need to go back to Olivier's debut as Archie Rice to hit those heights.

For the record, Kilkenny had the wind and asked Cork questions from the start, withdrawing wing-forwards to give them extra bodies between the 65s.

It told for them when Cork tried to clear, as they had a numerical advantage, with players coming off the shoulders of those in possession.

They racked up 1-6 before the break, the goal a tough break on Cork's fine keeper Aoife Murray: having shown great reflexes earlier in the proceedings, Aisling Dunphy's shot squirted away from Murray midway through the half-time and Michelle Quilty nudged it over the line.

Cork had been slow to get into the game and trailed by five at the break, but they reorganised superbly. They withdrew in numbers in the second half and then attacked in groups from the middle of the field, running at the Kilkenny defence at every opportunity, stringing killer

passes together.

They blitzed 1-5 in the opening 10 minutes of the second half, Jennifer O'Leary slamming home the goal that gave their challenge the impetus it needed.

O'Leary took a lot of steps before striking for goal decisively, but Cork supporters will no doubt rely on the old saying about things evening out, and point to an agricultural pull suffered by one of their forwards before the break when bearing down on goal.

Referee John Dolan didn't take any action then, and he took no action late on when Kilkenny had a strong appeal for a penalty. Cork swept down field from that scare for Angela Walsh to goal with the last puck of the game.

Kilkenny joint manager Graham Dillon felt the final margin was a touch unfair to his side: "I'd feel that even though there were six points in the end, I don't think it was a six-point match."

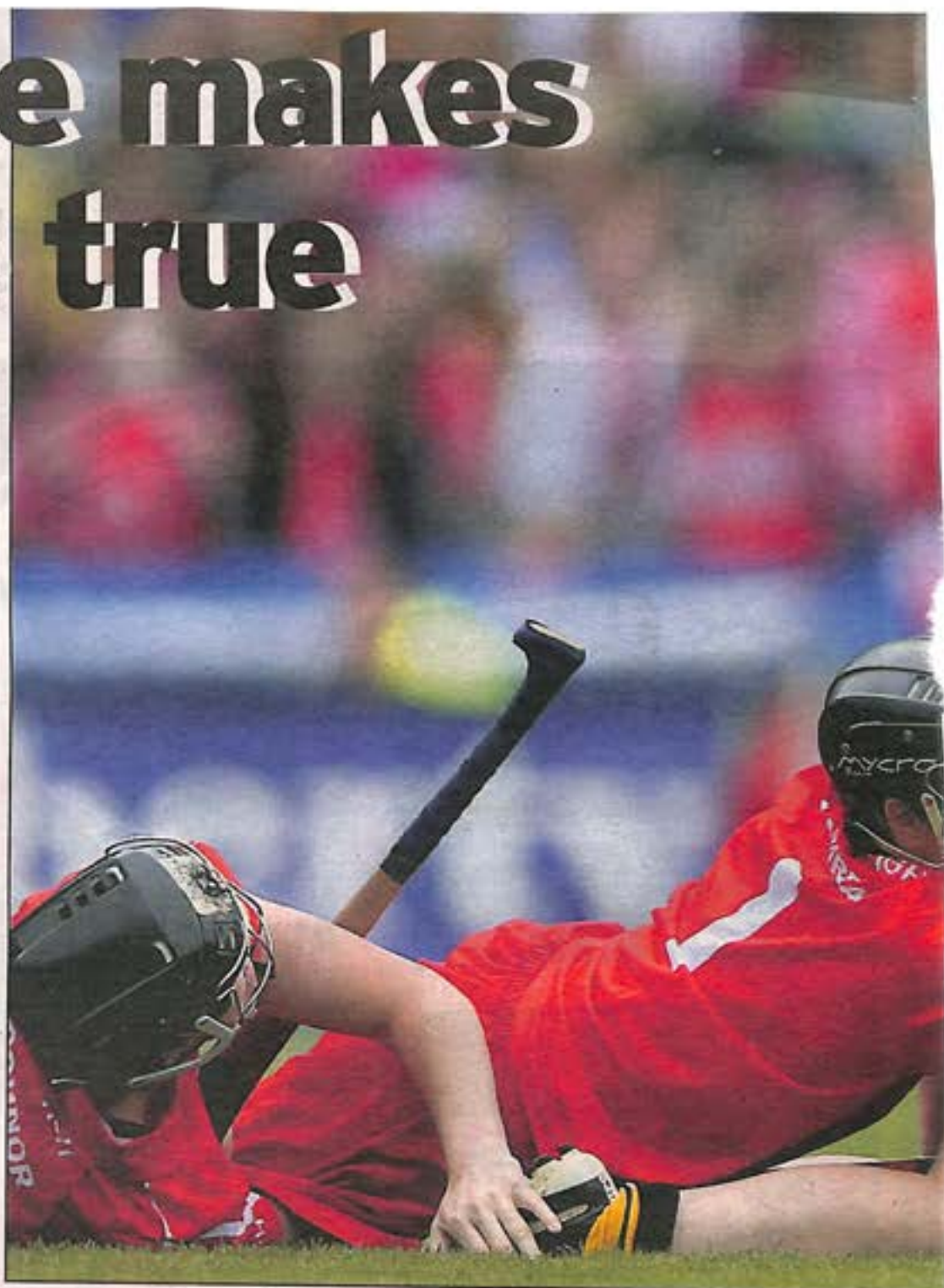
"Every one on that pitch wanted that O'Duffy Cup and you could see how hard the girls fought at the end."

In the red and white corner, manager Paudie Murray was swift to pay tribute to his charges.

"All year we've had our struggles," said Murray. "It's not something we spoke about, there were other issues that have gone on over the last 12 months that have brought the team together a little bit more."

"We wanted to do it for Jenny (O'Leary) and other people close to the team, we weren't going to lose this All-Ireland. There's great character in this team and when they were facing defeat, they came together. There's a lot of them there now with six All-Irelands, you can't buy that stuff."

Character. A winner in any sport.



## Tipp boost as Maher recovering well

By Jackie Cahill

Tipperary forward Patrick 'Bonner' Maher took a restricted part in training yesterday ahead of the All-Ireland senior hurling championship final replay with

Kilkenny on September 27.

Assistant team manager Michael Ryan confirmed that Maher is "much better" after he limped out of training last Wednesday evening, following a collision with Paul Curran.

Maher's knee was still

heavily bandaged yesterday but the combative forward is expected to be fit for the replay.

Tipp trained at Semple Stadium and while Maher was moving reasonably well, his progress was closely monitored throughout.

## Rebel players rediscovered game plan, says Murray

By Michael Moynihan

Cork manager Paudie Murray claimed he said "very little" to his team at half-time yesterday, when they were five points down to Kilkenny.

"We didn't start well, our game plan went out the window so at half-time, all we said was 'get back to the game-plan and start doing what we're good at'."

"Kilkenny came with their own plan and probably upset

us a small bit but we still didn't play ours. The game plan was to take the ball on the whole time."

"The problem in the first half was we were hitting the ball aimlessly out of the backs, whereas in the second half we were able to carry it out and our midfield came into it and worked it up the field."

Murray paid tribute to Jennifer O'Leary. "Based in the North, yeah, she's given phenomenal commitment, down every second week and every fitness test we've done,

she's number one in it, that tells its own story."

His captain, Anna Geary, echoed Murray: "There were a few people that said things (at half-time), it was the honesty. There's no point beating around the bush, you have to come out and say what you know is the truth, and sometimes the truth hurts. We knew ourselves we weren't performing, we were playing too defensively, we weren't attacking the ball, it wasn't our ball."

"We were playing them at their game, we had to play

our own, we had to come out from the very first whistle of the second half and we did that. We attacked that ball and we started playing like we wanted it."

"That was the reason we came out the right side. It was just that little bit of extra hunger because there was nothing between the teams."

Geary also paid tribute to the spirit of the players facing adversity away from the field of play.

"That's the power of sport," she said, "That it unites people and things like

that sometimes drive people on, because you realise how lucky you are to be in this position."

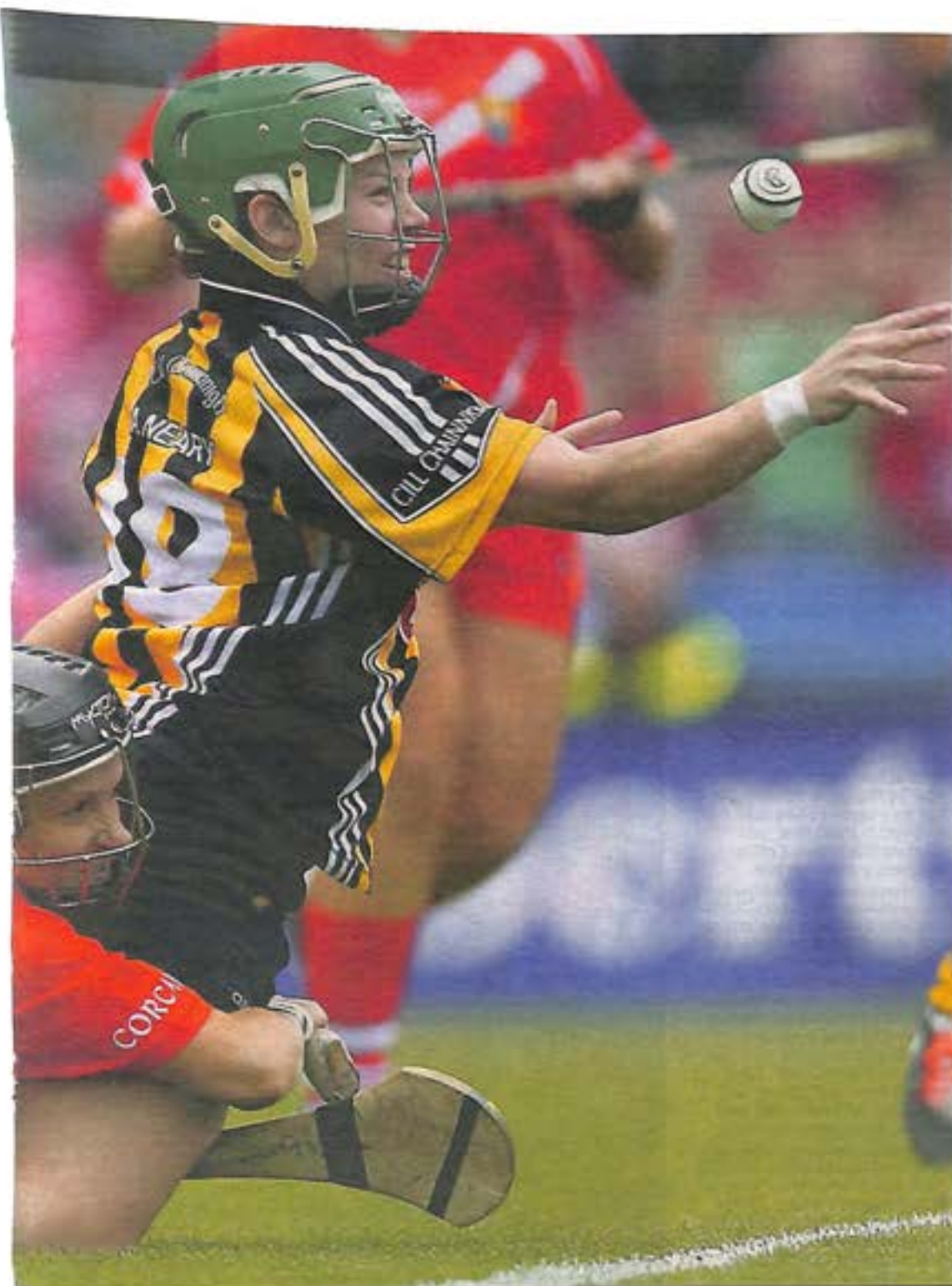
"You realise how lucky you are that you are not going through something that somebody else is going through, and that you have the power, I suppose, to lift someone else up when they're down."

"And that's what sport does. It lifts people up. I think everyone today down in Cork has got a little bit of a lift out of this. I really do."

Kilkenny joint manager

Graham Dillon wasn't blaming the referee for a penalty his side might have won in the last minute: "Whether it was or wasn't a penalty, you still have to stand up and score it, so we won't blame it on a penalty. Cork probably showed more intensity in the second half and we failed to match it. You have to credit the girls for fighting to the end and they got in around the square around the end. There were calls for a penalty and things happening, but at the end of the day they weren't given."





# Cork's second-half display unforgettable

Therese O'Callaghan



What a day in Croke Park yesterday. And what a victory for Cork, giving one of the greatest second-half displays I have seen in years.

All week, I leaned towards Kilkenny to end a 20-year title drought, chiefly because of their consistency through the season but there was a view that Cork were beginning to peak at the right time.

This is the 110th anniversary of the Camogie Association and they must be commended for showcasing the big day really well. We got three very good competitive matches, with players leaving everything on the field.

Down had to lose two Premier Junior finals before winning the 2014 edition while in the intermediate final, Limerick roared back following defeat in 2013. Well done to these counties too.

But it is the senior game that had everyone enthralled, and especially how a game can turn so quickly. Michelle Quilty's goal had Kilkenny in the ascendancy at the interval and seemingly set for glory. But then Cork emerged a

different, more driven team on the restart. They blew their opponents away on the restart dominating the second 30 minutes plus — outscoring Kilkenny 2-8 to 0-3.

The camogie was magnificent also, so too the passion and intensity, as Cork finished out in style.

From corner-back Laura Treacy, appearing in her first All-Ireland senior final, to her Killeagh club mate Angela Walsh who set up Jennifer O'Leary for the game-changing goal, this was a stunning turnaround. Jennifer and Briege Corkery raised two crucial white flags prior to that to lead the revival. Eimear O'Sullivan stood out too, and her point just before half-time was critical.

Remember no Cork sub was introduced until the dying seconds and for 15 players to withstand such pressure and physicality was amazing. Praise too for manager Paudie Murray, in his third year in charge, and to his management who kept cool heads. They never panicked when Gemma O'Connor and Orla Cotter suffered early knocks and both went on to make telling contributions.

It was a miserable day for Kilkenny, losing the intermediate decider as well. The Noreiders took the game to the Cork in the senior clash from the throw-in but Cork can be thankful to Aoife Mur-

ray for keeping them in the game, with some brave goal-keeping and good reflexes. Behind by five points at the changeover and under a sort of pressure, Cork reverting to a more orthodox format was far more effective.

When Kilkenny were on top, they missed too many scoring chances. Their inside forward line was a threat but once Cork — ably led by Anna Geary — shut down defensively, the Cats looked beaten with 10 minutes to go. They could have had a penalty when Aoife Neary appeared to be held in the closing minutes, but it was not to be. Cork had more movement in their attack and caused chaos when they ran at the Kilkenny defence. That they could raise their game to such a high level is both admirable.

This is Cork's 25th title, one win away from equalling Dublin's record of 26.

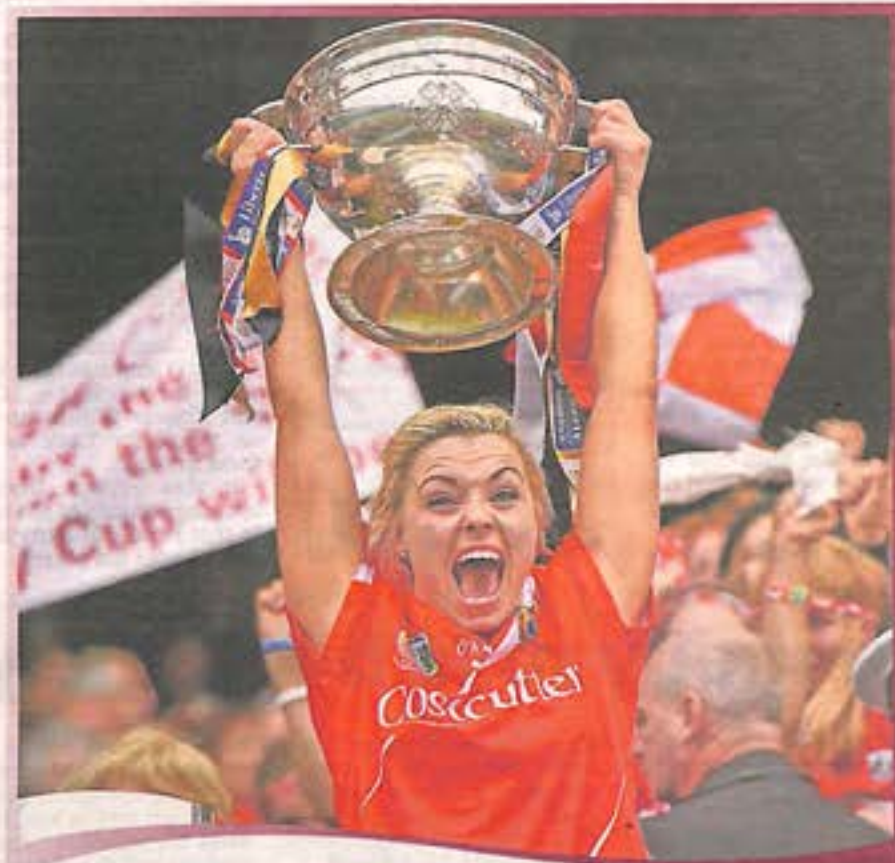
Joe Quaid's Limerick made it a Munster double — and the sight of the former county goalkeeper celebrating with his players was memorable. He had witnessed a phenomenal performance from his players who will make the step up to senior with ease. The three Mulcahy sisters — Claire, Judith and the brilliant Niamh — Sile Moynihan, Michelle Casey, Sarah Carey, Caoimhe Costello, Rebecca Delee and Deborah Murphy all played their part.

FULL STRETCH: Kilkenny's Aoife Neary is tackled by Cork goalkeeper Aoife Murray and Gemma O'Connor, far left, during yesterday's Liberty Insurance Senior Camogie Championship final at Croke Park.

Picture: INPHO/Donall Farmer

SEPT.

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# Murray's faith in players justified

**YESTERDAY'S** All-Ireland camogie final was certainly a game of two halves as far as Cork were concerned.

At half-time in this final Cork looked lost, were trailing by five points.

Kilkenny controlled the opening half with Cork's defensive tactics playing into Kilkenny's hands in essence.

Only goalkeeper Aoife Murray played to the expected standard with all the Cork forwards struggling to make an impact with only four scores in the opening half, two from frees and only one wide, which shows how limited they were in attack.

At the break is the time where the manager Paudie Murray and his team earn their keep. This 15-minute period is where they calm nerves, change tactics, make changes in personnel and restore lost confidence.



**JOHN  
McHALE**

## SPORT VIEW

I couldn't wait to see how they lined-out for the second half and was hoping to see a change in attitude as well as personnel as they tried to reduce Kilkenny's five-point lead (1-6 to 0-4).

With the wind at their backs, I hoped we would see a much-improved Cork attack, which would take on the Kilkenny defence by running at them.

Cork made no changes at the break, which disappointed me, as I felt they needed a lift and sometimes change does this. Depending on the wind to be the difference left too

much to chance for me.

Kilkenny hit the opening score and it looked ominous for Cork, even at this early stage as they trailed by six points.

But Paudie Murray knows his players best of all and his faith in them was confirmed with a superb second-half performance with Cork out-scoring Kilkenny 2-8 to 0-3 once the shackles were removed from the forwards.

Suddenly, Cork found two quick points and the lead was down to four and I wondered if this was a sort of turning point in this game.

Could Cork get the next vital score? They did, in the 38th minute, thanks to Jennifer O'Leary and the tempo and initiative was Cork's with a goal between the sides (1-7 to 0-7).

Briege Corkery reduced it to two. Then a moment of magic from Jennifer O'Leary after Angela Walsh found her with a great pass and O'Leary, despite being fouled, bur-

ied the ball to the back of the net and Cork were ahead for the first time, 1-8 to 1-7.

Orla Cotter put two between the teams and suddenly it was Cork's game to lose.

Kilkenny replied with a free which to be fair to Rena Buckley was never a free in. It should have been a free out. Briege hit her second and Cork were two ahead again with 10 to play.

Dual star Angela Walsh was denied a goal by a great save by the Kilkenny goalkeeper in the 52nd minute, but Orla Cotter punished them from the resulting 45 to see Cork lead by three.

Kilkenny reduced the lead to two 1-11 to 1-9 with two minutes to play. Cork survived a late penalty scare when Aoife Neary was fouled inside the small square. Orla Cotter added her sixth in added-time, Angela Walsh goal and Cork were champions for the 25th time.

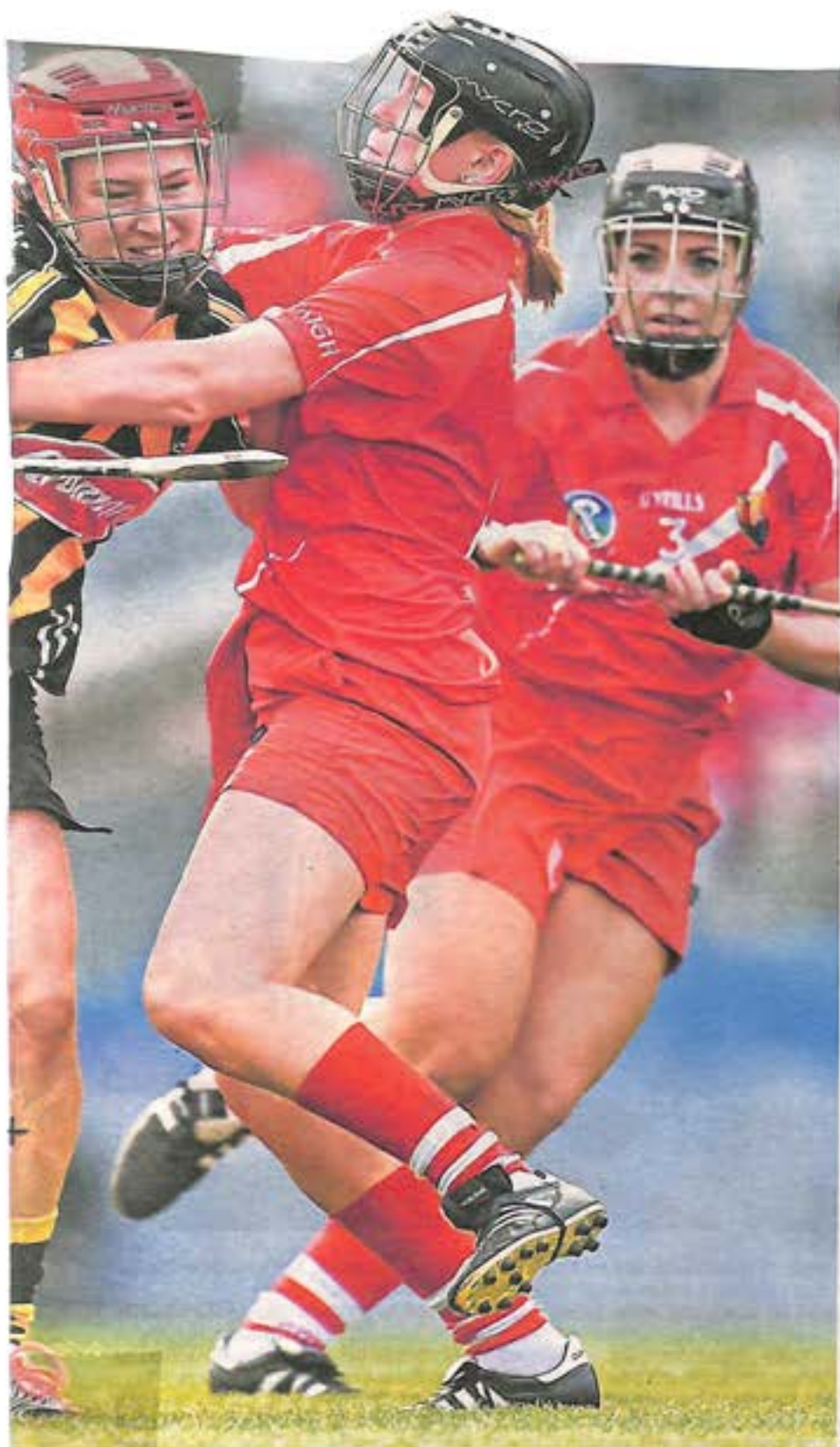
Congrats to all involved.



Cork's Briege Corkery on the break past Kilkenny's Colette Dormer during the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland camogie final at Croke Park.

Picture: Eddie O'Hair





# Sweet redemption for Down after rousing rally foils Laois

DOWN	1-12
LAOIS	1-8

Daragh Ó Conchúir

ALL-IRELAND CAMOGIE JNR FINAL

DOWN scored the last seven points of the game to deny Laois in a dramatic decider at Croke Park.

It was sweet redemption for a team that had lost the 2011 and 2012 finals but a bitter pill for Laois to swallow, given that they were experiencing defeat for the second consecutive year themselves.

Both sides were wasteful in the first half, with Down just being that bit more economical in attack.

Laois were dealt a major blow when influential midfielder Síle Burke twisted her knee straight from the throw-in, but to their credit, they did not allow the setback to affect them.

## POINTED

The Mourne County took the lead when Catherine McGourty pointed a 45 and they held a slight upper hand for the remainder of the half, although Laois equalised on a couple of occasions thanks to Sarah-Anne Fitzgerald.

Down were 0-4 to 0-3 ahead entering injury-time when Niamh Dollard reacted quickest to Maria McNally's batted clearance to gather and hold off a defender before shooting low to the corner of the net.

McGourty found the net at the other end, though, to leave it 1-4 to 1-3 at half-time.

Far from being downbeat, Laois resumed in commanding fashion. Fitzgerald had two quick scores that were out of the top drawer and though Sara Louise Carr responded, a brace from Niamh Dollard pushed Laois three points clear by the 43rd minute.

Laois failed to score again, however. Karen Gribben ended a

## THE GAME AT A GLANCE

### PLAYER OF THE MATCH

**Catherine McGourty (Down)**  
Niamh Dollard received the official honour but McGourty was the difference between the sides with her contribution of 1-4, with all but two points from play.

### TURNING POINT

It could be McGourty's goal a minute after Dollard's but it was probably Karen Gribben's 49th minute point that started the Down fightback.

### TALKING POINT

Laois appeared to have this game won but went on the defensive and paid the price.

### MAGIC MOMENT

Down captain, Niamh Mallon finished brilliantly after a soaring catch to bring the teams level with six minutes left.

### REF WATCH

Liz Dempsey handled proceedings well.

### WHAT THEY SAID

**Alastair McGilligan (Down manager)**

Three years of hard work and hard toll and two years of maybe picking up the pieces, have all paid off.

**David Cuddy (Laois manager)**

The girls have given great commitment this year but it just wasn't to be their day.

### MATCH STATISTICS

#### WIDES

Down 9(5)

Laois 7(4)

#### FREES

Down 7(4)

Laois 11(6)

#### YELLOW CARDS

Down 1 (P Gribben 52)

Laois 0



Down captain Niamh Mallon

16-minute drought for Down and that infused the Mourne outfit with renewed confidence, as points from McGourty and team captain Niamh Mallon brought the teams level.

Gribben sent over a sensational score from tight on the right and not far outside the 20m line to put Alastair McGilligan's crew ahead.

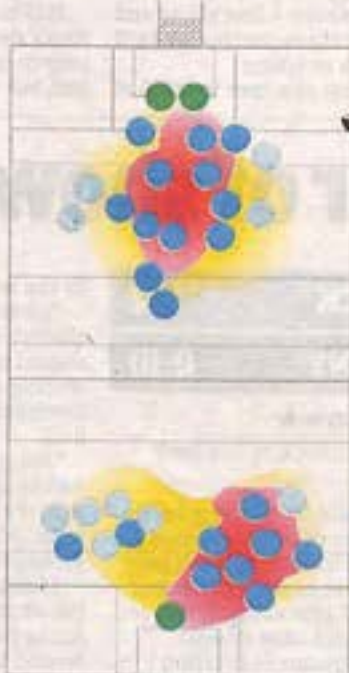
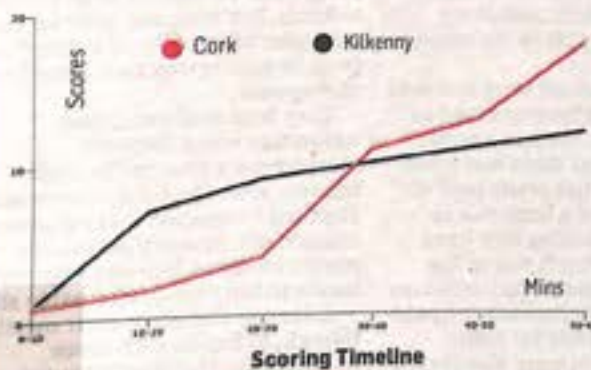
It was all Down now and McGourty, Karen McMullan and Aimee McAleenan pointed to secure the return of the Kay Mills Cup to the Ulster county for the fourth time.

**SCORERS** - Down: C McGourty 1-4 (D 11, D 14S), K McMullan, N Mullin, K Gribben 0-2 each, A McAleenan, SL Carr 0-1 each. Laois: SA Fitzgerald 0-5 (4Fs), N Dollard 1-2, L Mahony 0-1. **DOWN** - M McNally, K Tinnelly, C McGovern, B McGourty, C Rocks, L McAiskey, F Carr, A Keown, K McMullan, L McPolin, P Gribben, C McGourty, N Mallon, SL Carr, K Gribben. **Reps**: O O'Higgins for Rocks (33), C Clarke for McPolin (37), N Braniff for Clarke (37), E McCormick for Keown (50-1), A McAleenan for Gribben (50-2). **LAOIS** - L Dunne, M Burke, R Bermingham, A Burke, M O'Grady, E Delaney, A Dunphy, S Burke, AM Parrott, L Mahony, SA Fitzgerald, E Mahony, D Mortimer, N Dollard, LM Maher. **Reps**: C Walsh for Burke (4), O Parkinson for Maher (55). **REF** - L Dempsey (Kilkenny).

## A CLOSER LOOK WITH LIBERTY INSURANCE

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Cork	Stats	Kilkenny
2	Goals	1
12	Points	9
5	Blocks	6
2	Shots saved/dropped short	2
2	Wides	4
8	Down puck-outs won	8
7	Opposition puck-outs won	9
53	Tackles	47
17	Frees	9
0	Red cards	0
0	Yellow cards	1
11	Contested clean catches	14
87%	Pass completion rate	85%



TOP 3 INFLUENCERS  
B. CORKERY  
D. COTTER  
D. GAULE

### PLAYER OF THE MATCH

**Briege Corkery (Cork)**  
Aoife Murray and Gemma O'Connor were also contenders but over the full hour the Cloughduv dual star was immense and also scored a point on either side of their crucial first goal.

### TURNING POINT

Cork's first goal from Jennifer after 40 minutes. She took a lot of steps but it came at the perfect time. It gave Cork their first lead of the game and from then on they never looked like losing.

### TALKING POINT

The refereeing. Kilkenny were left scratching their heads at the free count (they got only nine to Cork's 17) but the key one was not getting a penalty in the dying minutes which might have clawed them back into it.



### MAGIC MOMENT

Aoife Murray made a marvellous save in the seventh minute and then an even more spectacular diving block not long after. Both were spectacular, both were game-savers.

### REF WATCH

John Dolan did not have a great game and particularly in the late stages when Kilkenny, trailing by three, were not awarded a stone-wall penalty when Aoife Neary was dragged down in the square.

### ATTENDANCE

12,473

Source: Cliona Foley (Editorial)  
Ray Boyne (Table & Infographics)

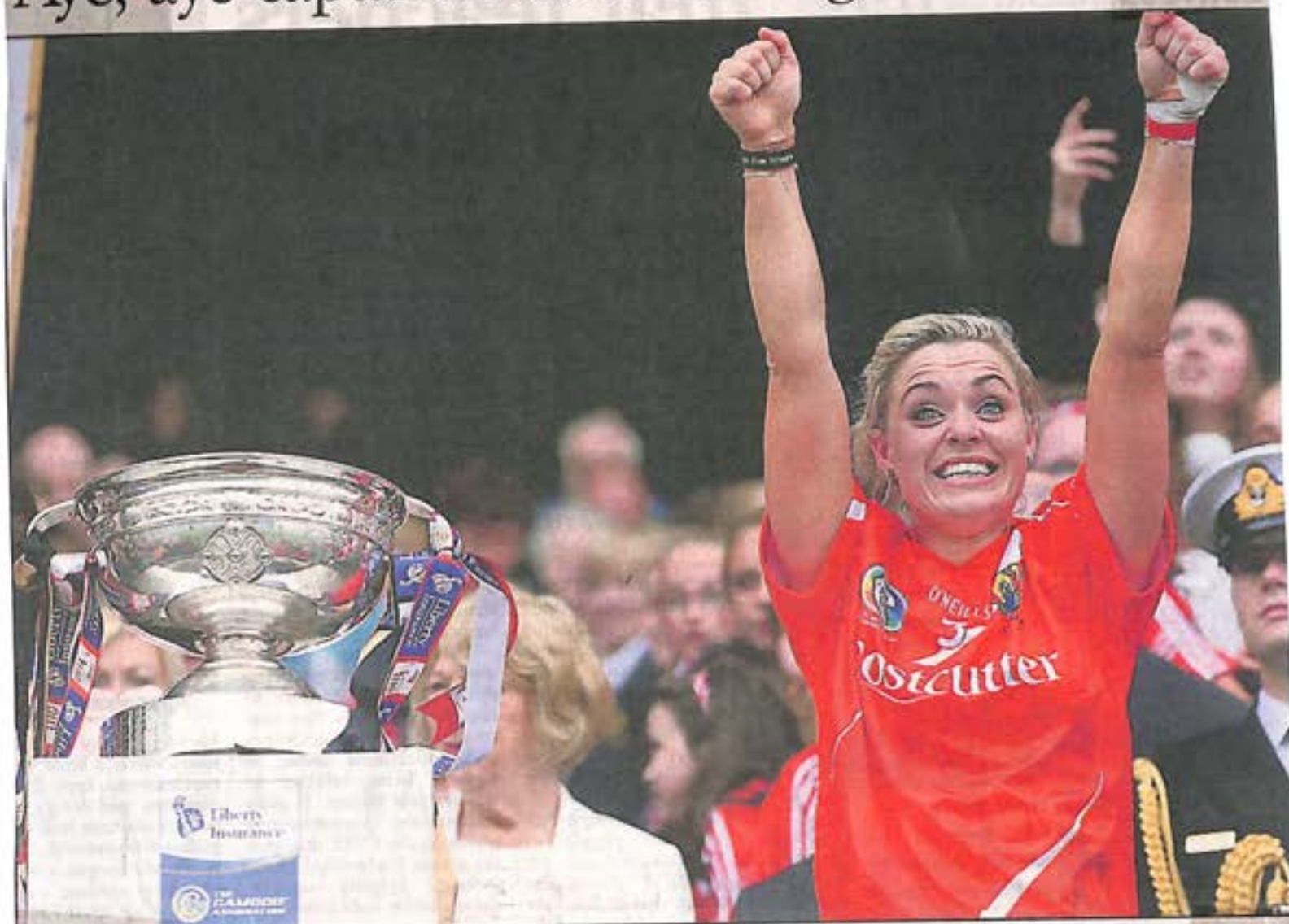


**Liberty Insurance**

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## Aye, aye captain: Rebel-rousing win at Croke



Captain Anna Geary shows her delight prior to being presented with the cup after Cork beat Kilkenny in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship final at Croke Park.

Picture: Donall Farnham

## Ladies in red slay Cats at Croke

Clash of the ash as Cork fend off hungry Kilkenny in gripping All Ireland camogie final

Nicola Anderson

AT the final whistle, the Kilkenny girls slumped to the ground amid utter devastation and despair, inconsolable - frozen in sheer misery to the pitch.

They had tried but failed to conquer the obstacles that have seen them walking in the same shoes as the Mayo male footballers, unable to fish a victory out of the bag despite successes all the way to Croke Park, unbeaten in either League or Championship.

It has been 20 years since Kilkenny have managed a victory in the camogie final and this time the female Cats were determined to walk alone on the path that led to the shining O'Duffy Cup.

A bright and enthusiastic parade of under-14 camogie players from 10 counties filed out onto the pitch at half-time to celebrate 110 years of the Camogie Association.

But the Cork side were back in the dressing rooms plotting how to finally start playing.

The first half saw both sides staying neck-in-neck in a pretty unexciting kind of way. But by the second half, we finally saw the true All-Ireland pressure pot beginning to boil, as the ladies in red took off, leaving the hungry Cats for dust.

Valiantly, Kilkenny upped their game when they saw that all they had to do was to get a goal to pull them through.



The Cork team celebrate with the O'Duffy Cup after the All Ireland Senior Camogie Championship Final. Inset: Cork captain Anna Geary celebrates at the final whistle. Photos: Paul Mohan / SPORTSFILE

But Orla Cotter's free sailed over the bar and put Cork three ahead. A final goal delivered by Angela Walsh in the last minute of the game sealed their decisive victory to leave a scoreline of Cork 2-12 to Kilkenny 1-09.

And as Cork captain Anna Geary raised the O'Duffy Cup and shook it in

pure glee, it was clear that she had just capped her perfect year. She had shone as the Cork Rose in the Rose of Tralee - but it was on the hallowed ground of Croke that she truly blossomed.

"I don't know if the occasion got to us or our heads were in our boots but we just said at half-time that we'd

worked too hard and we weren't going to let it behind us," said Leesider Jenny O'Leary afterwards.

Cork Mayor Mary Shields was thrilled: "My son is captain of the Cork footballers but they brought home no cups this year. It took the girls to do that," she said.

Trisha Treacy, from Killeagh, Co Cork, mother of player Laura, said her 19 year old daughter had just achieved her dream of an All-Ireland medal. "It's fantastic," she said.

See Sport supplement for full match report





Cork players celebrate defeating Kilkenny in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie final at Croke Park yesterday. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

# Cork camogie is back on top

**THE famine is over for Cork camogie.**

After a five year absence, the O'Duffy Cup is back on Leaside following a superb second-half performance from Paudie Murray's girls to blow Kilkenny away and capture the cup for the first time since 2009.

Inspired by player of the match Ballinhassig's Eimear O'Sullivan, goalkeeper Aoife Murray and Brieghe Corkery, Angela Walsh and Jenny O'Leary in the second half, Cork scored 2-8 to kill off the Kilkenny challenge.

"We didn't start well, our game plan went out the window so at half-time, all we said was get back to the game-plan and - start doing what we're good at," Cork manager Paudie Murray said.

"Kilkenny came with their own plan and probably upset us a small bit

## Leesiders capture the O'Duffy Cup for the 25th time in style

### CAMOGIE

By John McHale

but we still didn't play ours. The game plan was to take the ball on the whole time.

"The problem in the first half was we were hitting the ball aimlessly out of the backs, whereas in the second half we were able to carry it out and our midfield came into it and worked it up the field."

Murray also paid tribute to Jennifer O'Leary, whose goal was the turning point.

"Based in the North, yeah, she's given phenomenal commitment."

● See P48-53 for more.



Cork captain Anna Geary and manager Paudie Murray celebrate with the O'Duffy Cup after defeating Kilkenny in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie final at Croke Park yesterday. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

### Let's give camogie status it deserves

I WATCHED the All-Ireland camogie final and was thrilled by the sporting prowess of the wonderful Cork and Kilkenny women, who played their hearts out for the 60 minute display of skill and athleticism.

While I wanted Kilkenny to win, I wouldn't begrudge the gallant Cork women their hard-won and well-deserved victory.

But what saddens me is the unequal status accorded to the great game of camogie, which is really hurling by another name, and to the talented women who play it. There were vast swathes of empty seating in the stands, unlike the congested stadiums on All-Ireland hurling day.

RTE broadcasts a lavish 'up for the final' programme the night before the big hurling showdown, with celebrities, hurlers, assorted wise-crackers, top-of-the-range commentators and hearty singers setting the scene for the eagerly-awaited clash. But we see no similar pre-match TV gala for the women.

It's time the GAA accorded full parity of esteem to the camogie women. I suggest that their All-Ireland final be held on the same day as the mighty hurling event.

John Fitzgerald



### Rebel roar for victorious lady in red

Cork captain Anna Geary lifts the O'Duffy Cup after her team won the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship Final against Kilkenny in Croke Park. SEE PAGE 7 AND SPORT



Kilkenny took the initiative from the early stages as Aine Connery got on to the world of ball in the half-forward line.

Katie Power, at full-forward, was giving Anna Geary headaches on the edge of the square too and she opened the scoring from the right flank after being fed by Shelly Farrell.

Julia White levelled soon after for Cork but they managed just six more shots in the half as the Cats imposed themselves for the next 20 minutes.

Quilty had a spooned goal effort beaten away by Cork keeper Aoife Murray after Power transferred on a high delivery from Connery — and that stop would prove key.

The same players combined for Quilty to open her account on ten minutes, though, and then the first of three first-half frees from Denise Gaule gave Kilkenny a two-point lead.

Orla Cotter pared the lead but then came the decisive move of the opening half hour — Ailsing Dunphy was half-blocked by the Cork defence but Murray spilled the ball back out to Quilty, who flicked the sliotar to the net.

#### Lead

It gave Kilkenny a four-point lead and scores from Cotter and Eimear O'Sullivan allowed Cork to keep it that way until the short whistle: 1-6 to 0-4.

"There were a few people that said things, it was the honesty," explains Cork captain Geary.

"There's no point beating around the bush, you have to come out and say what you know is the truth and sometimes the truth hurts.

"We knew ourselves we weren't performing, we were playing too defensive, we weren't attacking the ball, it wasn't our ball.

"We were playing them at their game, we had to play our own, we had to come out from the very first whistle of the second-half and we did that."

But when Farrell hit the first score of the second half for the Leinster side, it seemed at that stage as if they would coast to the finish line.

But not before time, the Rebelettes finally kicked into life as they shot 1-5 without reply to go from six down to two ahead.

First Katriona Mackey split the posts after a burst from White before Cotter converted a free of her own making.

O'Leary roared into the second half and finished after being set up by Mackey before Corkery swung over a beauty from 35 metres.

Kilkenny were on their heels and St John's girl O'Leary punished them further by finishing off a slick Cork move.

She took the ball into the Cats area and, despite attempts to haul down the wing-forward, O'Leary lashed into the net for a 1-8 to 1-7 lead.

Cotter and Gaule (free) traded scores as Kilkenny looked to regain some sense of control.

But a couple of missed chances were compounded by Corkery splitting the posts on 50 minutes: 1-10 to 1-8 at



THAT WINNING FEELING: Cork captain Anna Geary celebrates at the final whistle of yesterday's All-Ireland Senior Camogie final

that stage.

Angela Walsh had a tame goal effort saved but the nerveless Cotter knocked over the 45 to put three between the teams.

Niall Williams and Graham Dillon unloaded the Kilkenny bench as they hunted for a way back into the game.

Of those who remained on the field, it was the half-back pairing of Elaine Aylward and Colette Dormer who combined for the latter to score a much-needed point.

Heading for injury time, then came the most controversial moment of the final.

Substitute Aoife Neary was clearly hauled to the ground but referee John Dolan allowed play to go on.

Cats joint manager Dillon didn't want to focus too much on that decision but felt that his charges had left too many scored behind in the first half.

A 60-metre free from Cotter and a late goal slammed in by Walsh ultimately put a gloss on the scoreline for Cork.

"You know as well

as I do when you're standing on that sideline in Croke Park, you can only see the girl beside you," says Dillon.

"Whether it was or wasn't a penalty, you still have to stand up and score it so we won't blame it on a penalty.

"Cork probably showed more intensity in the second half and we failed to match it. You have to credit the girls for fighting to the end and they got in around the square around the end.

"There were calls for a penalty and things happening, but at the end of the day they weren't given.

#### Points

"I'd feel that even though there were six points in it at the end, I don't think it was a six-point match," he adds.

"Everyone on that pitch wanted that O'Duffy Cup and you could see how hard the girls fought at the end.

"Cork pushed on in the last few minutes and got a goal at the end so fair play to them."

CORK: A Murray, J O'Callaghan, A Geary, L Treacy, E O'Sullivan (0-01), G O'Connor, P Mackey, R Buckley, A Thompson, J O'Leary (1-01), A Walsh (1-00), B Corkery (0-02), J White (0-01), O Cotter (0-06, 4f), K Mackey (0-01).

Sub: J Casey for O'Leary (60+1). KILKENNY: E Kavanagh, M Power, K McDonald, J Frisby, C Phelan, C Dormer (0-01), E Aylward, L Fennelly, A Dalton, D Gaule (0-05, 4f), A Dunphy, A Connery, S Farrell (0-01), K Power (0-01), M Quilty (1-01). Subs: M Walsh for Connery (44), A Neary for Farrell (53), E Keane for Fennelly (56). REFEREE: J Dolan (Clare)

## BOSS HAILS O'LEARY

CORK boss Paudie Murray hailed the bravery of seven-time All Star Jennifer O'Leary as her 1-1 fired the Rebelettes to All-Ireland glory.

The St John's club-woman recently lost her mother and then her sister too, and her participation in the final had been in question.

But with her side looking down and out, trailing by six points to Kilkenny early in the second half, O'Leary hit 1-1 in three minutes to set up a thrilling comeback.

"Very tough but it wouldn't surprise me with Jen because she's a real, real tough lady, I knew she would put on a good performance," said manager Murray.

"It's not something we spoke about, there were other issues that have

Shane STAPLETON

gone on over the last 12 months that have brought the team together a little bit more.

"We wanted to do it for Jenny and other people close to the team, we weren't going to lose this All-Ireland."

#### Moved

O'Leary moved to Armagh after getting married and makes the long trek back to Leaside to be part of Murray's push for honours.

"Jennifer is based in the North, yeah, she's given phenomenal commitment, down every second week and every fitness test we've done she's number one in it, that tells its own story really."

Captain Anna Geary

admits that O'Leary's tragedy put things into perspective but said that had to be put aside for the hour.

"We've had some people having bereavements this year and struggles," says Geary.

"Everybody's got struggles nowadays."

"It puts it into perspective. I mean this is sport and sport is an opportunity for people to create a little bit of happiness throughout the sadness and that's what happened with us today."

"A lot of people have stuff going on in their lives but for 60 minutes they put it out of their minds."

"It was just a group of girls going out to do a job and that's exactly what we did. I couldn't be prouder of them."



1934	1983
1935	1992
1936	1993
1939	1995
1940	1997
1941	1998
1970	2002
1971	2005
1972	2006
1973	2008
1978	2009
1980	2014
1982	

## Rebel glory!

Cork camogie captain Anna Geary is smothered in celebration as her team-mates gather around the cup after defeating Kilkenny by 2-12 to 1-9 in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland camogie final at Croke Park. It is the 25th time that Cork has won the O'Duffy Cup. See Page 3 and Sport for more.





## Liberty Insurance All Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship Final

## KILKENNY v LIMERICK

## Will Limerick make up for last year's final heartbreak?

LIMERICK were heartbroken after losing last season's final to Galway by just two points. Standing in the bowels of Croke Park, manager Joe Quaid vowed that this squad of players would return, having learned from the experience. A Division 1 League campaign was probably even more invaluable though in

terms of being prepared for the championship. While consolidation was the target, Limerick were in fact on the brink of making the semi-finals, which would have been an incredible achievement.

They sailed through the group stages of the championship, winning their games over Kildare, Antrim, Galway and Tipperary by an aggregate of 76 points – that's an average 18-point winning margin.

Waterford shaved 17 points off that in a fiercely-fought semi-final but Limerick showed that they have the intestinal fortitude to go with their flare.

Niamh Mulcahy is the key player for Limerick, from play and placed balls, while minor star, Caoimhe Costello and long-serving Aoife Sheehan – now operating in the forwards to good effect on her return to the fold – offer vital support.

Kilkenny also emerged from their group involving Waterford, Cork, Meath and Wexford with a 100% record. They only had a point to spare over the Rebels but were impressive in dispensing of Waterford by six.

They were never really tested in the semi-final against Kildare, although they led by five points when Catherine Foley made amends for conceding a penalty by saving it. From there, they eased clear



Niamh Mulcahy (Limerick)

to win by 12 points.

Orla Hanrick, Mags Fennelly and Lydia Fitzpatrick are just some of the threats to Limerick's ambitions of returning to the senior ranks, having won this title last in 2007, when the aforementioned Sheehan was captain.

For their part, Kilkenny will be trying to win their first Intermediate Championship since 2008.



Megan Farrell (Kilkenny)

## Victorious Limerick First title since 2007

Limerick .....1-12  
Kilkenny .....0-10

A few minutes after last year's narrow All-Ireland intermediate final loss to Galway, the Limerick players gathered in a huddle in front of Hill 16 and promised they'd be back.

Under enigmatic manager Joe Quaid they've proven as good as their word, returning to Croke Park and securing a fully-deserved victory at the second attempt.

They set the agenda for the greater part of this game with a high-quality performance and had a match winner in Niamh Mulcahy. The centre forward began the game at midfield and aside from scoring seven crucial points drove the

Shannonsiders on to a first title since 2007.

The sides were twice level early on before Limerick broke clear, opening up a 0-5 to 0-3 lead before scoring the game's only goal. Deborah Murphy was the player who netted though she owed much to the industry of Mairead Fitzgerald who set her up with a great run.

A storming final-quarter display lit up by the brilliance of Catherine McGourty and helped secure the Junior title for Down by 1-12 to 1-8 over Laois. Beaten in the 2011 and 2012 finals, Down looked set for further heartache when they trailed by three with 11 minutes remaining. But seven points without reply, including two from McGourty, who shot 1-4 overall, secured victory.



JUBILATION: Fiona Hickey lifts the cup

## Treaty ladies put Cats to the sword to claim crown

LIMERICK emerged from the embers of last year's final defeat to deservedly claim the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland intermediate camogie title at Croke Park.

In the process, they ended Kilkenny's double bid at the first hurdle, although it was a tremendous achievement for the young Noreiders to get this far.

Limerick really opened up in the second half and the switch of Rebecca Delee and player of the match, Niamh Mulcahy, paid handsome dividends as they scored five points from play between them in the second half.

Their defence also played their part, keeping the shackles on Mags Fennelly and Orla Hanrick and few could argue the merit of this result.

## Response

Kilkenny captain Mags Fennelly gave her team a good start with a point from 40m after just 30 seconds but Mulcahy gave an early reminder of the folly of conceding frees by converting two placed balls in response.

Lydia Fitzpatrick brought the teams level but scores from Mulcahy (free) and Mary O'Callaghan gave Limerick a lead that they never relinquished.

They held that two-point advantage when Deborah Murphy finished for the vital goal in the 20th minute, after the pacy Delee and Mairead Fitzgerald had combined well down the left.

Kilkenny showed their mettle to finish with three points in the last four min-

Limerick 1-12  
Kilkenny 0-10

utes, two from Hanrick frees, either side of a mammoth score – also from a placed ball – by full-back Catherine Foley.

That left it delicately poised at the break on 1-5 to 0-6, and Kilkenny had the margin down to one when Hanrick pointed early in the second half.

Minor star Caoimhe Costello sent over two excellent points in response for Limerick but once more, there was an impressive reply from Fennelly and Hanrick.

## Flourished

Joe Quaid moved Mulcahy to the right wing in the second half, with Delee going to centre-forward and both players flourished to help Limerick pull clear.

Mulcahy fired over two fantastic points from play and added another, in between two excellent scores by Delee, to guarantee the Shannonsiders' success.

**LIMERICK:** S Moynihan, F Hickey, M Carey, J Mulcahy, K Campbell, S Carey, C Mulcahy, N Mulcahy (0-7, 4fs), C Costello (0-2), R Delee (0-2), M O'Callaghan (0-1), L McCarthy, D Murphy (1-0), A Sheehan, M Fitzgerald. **SUBS:** S McNamee for McCarthy (16), D O'Brien for Fitzgerald (16), K O'Leary for O'Callaghan (45), N Ryan for Murphy (60), D Fitzpatrick for Sheehan (60). **KILKENNY:** AM Lennon, E Frisby, C Foley (0-1), T Muldowney, C Aghard, A Fahy, S Quirk, M Farrell, M O'Connell, S Crowley, A Farrell, L Norris, L Fitzpatrick (0-2), O Hanrick (0-5, 3fs), M Fennelly (0-2). **SUBS:** A Gannon for Norris (10), A Kinsella for Quirk (50), SA Ournian for Hanrick (52). **REFEREE:** R Kelly (Kildare).



## Liberty Insurance Intermediate Camogie Championship

## Paths to the 2014 Final

## GROUP 1

21/06/2014	Kildare.....0-4	Limerick.....2-16
28/06/2014	Limerick.....4-21	Antrim.....2-3
05/07/2014	Galway.....0-6	Limerick.....1-14
12/07/2014	Limerick.....3-23	Tipperary.....0-9

## GROUP 2

22/06/2014	Cork.....0-12	Kilkenny.....1-10
28/06/2014	Kilkenny.....4-20	Wexford.....0-1
05/07/2014	Kilkenny.....2-9	Waterford.....1-6
19/07/2014	Meath.....2-10	Kilkenny.....2-15

## SEMI-FINALS

16/08/2014	Limerick.....0-9	Waterford.....0-8
	Kilkenny.....1-16	Kildare.....0-7



# Limerick



Back row (l.-r.): Katie Campbell, Mairéad Fitzgerald, Lorraine McCarthy, Judith Mulcahy, Tara Fitzgibbon, Niamh Mulcahy, Mary O'Callaghan, Sarah Carey, Michelle Casey, Deirdre Fitzpatrick, Sarah Collins, Sinéad McNamara, Aoife Wilson, Aoife Sheehan, Niamh Ryan, Marguerite McCarthy. Front row (l.-r.): Claire Mulcahy, Noreen Barry, Karen O'Leary, Rebecca Delee, Jane Wilson, Donna Mulcahy, Katie Hennessey, Síle Moynihan, Deborah Murphy, Caoimhe Costello, Fiona Hickey, Leanne Browne, Dymna O'Brien. Mascot: Sophie Quaid.

	1st LEAN	2nd LEAN	3rd LEAN
DATE			
COLOUR			
SEASON			
AGE			
SIGNATURE			

## LIMERICK

Dathanna: Glas agus Bán

### INTERMEDIATE



(1) S. Ní Mhuineacháin  
**SÍLE MOYNIHAN**  
Ahane



- (16) L. Ní Néill  
**Laura O'Neill**  
Na Píarsaigh
- (17) D. Ní Bhriain  
**Dymna O'Brien**  
Killeedy
- (18) L. Ní Chárthaigh  
**Lorraine McCarthy**  
Bruff
- (19) C. Ní Cathmhaoil  
**Katie Campbell**  
Na Píarsaigh
- (20) N. Ní Riain  
**Niamh Ryan**  
Bruff
- (21) S. Ní Conmara  
**Sinéad McNamara**  
Na Píarsaigh
- (22) S. Ní Choileáin  
**Sarah Collins**  
Ballyagran
- (23) S. Ní Liam  
**Jane Wilson**  
Na Píarsaigh
- (24) L. de Brún  
**Leanne Browne**  
Newcastlewest
- (25) D. Ní Mhaolchathaigh  
**Donna Mulcahy**  
Killeedy
- (26) N. de Barra  
**Noreen Barry**  
Killeedy
- (27) M. Ní Chárthaigh  
**Marguerite McCarthy**  
Ahane
- (28) C. Ní hAonasa  
**Katie Hennessey**  
Ballyagran
- (29) T. Ní Giobúin  
**Tara Fitzgibbon**  
Ballyagran
- (30) M. Ní Threáinir  
**Muireann Creamer**  
Cappamore

Manager: Joe Quaid    Selectors/Coaches: Ger Sheehy, Patsy Hall, Willie Banks, Ann Herbert,  
Adrian O'Sullivan    First Aid/Physical Therapist: Sara Fitzgerald    Doctor: Marcella O'Callaghan  
Backroom Team: Ger Curtin, Theresa Noonan    Liaison Officer: Fiona Godfrey



# Kilkenny

INTERMEDIATE



Back row (l.-r.): Kirsty Maher, Catherine Foley, Emma Comerford, Orla Hanrick, Aisling Butler, Mags Fennelly, Catherine Connolly, Laura Norris, Maeve Mansfield, Lydia Fitzpatrick, Aisling Nolan, Ann Marie Lennon, Mary O'Connell, Aine Kinsella, Laura Walker.  
Front row (l.-r.): Megan Farrell, Aine Gannon, Edel Frisby, Claire Aylward, Anna Farrell, Sarah Crowley, Stacey Quirke, Therese Muldowney, Aine Fahey, Sarah Ann Quinlan.



- (16) L. Nic Shiúlaí  
Laura Walker  
Windgap
- (17) A. de Buitléir  
Aisling Butler  
O'Loughlin Gaels
- (18) A. Nig Fionnáin  
Aine Gannon  
Rower-Inistioge
- (19) M. Ní Chonaill  
Mary O'Connell  
Clara
- (20) A. Ní Nualláin  
Aisling Nolan  
Clara
- (21) C. Ní Chonghaile  
Catherine Connolly  
Ballyhale Shamrocks
- (22) E. Nic Cumascaigh  
Emma Comerford  
Young Irelands
- (23) S. Á. Ní Chaoinleáin  
Sarah Ann Quinlan  
Young Irelands
- (24) C. Ní Mheachair  
Kirsty Maher  
Dicksboro
- (25) M. Ní Mhóinbhiol  
Maeve Mansfield  
St. Martin's
- (26) S. Ní Bhogaigh  
Sonia Buggy  
Dicksboro

## KILKENNY

Dathanna: Dubh agus Ómra

INTERMEDIATE



(1) A. Ní Leannáin  
**ANN MARIE LENNON**  
Blocks of Whites



(2) E. Ní Fhírbhisigh  
**EDEL FRISBY**  
Ballyhale Shamrocks



(3) C. Ní Fhoghlú  
**CATHERINE FOLEY**  
Windgap



(4) T. Ní Mhaoldomhnaigh  
**THERESE MULDOWNEY**  
St. Brigid's



(5) C. Ní hAighleart  
**CLAIRE AYLWARD**  
Mullinavat



(6) A. Ní Fhathaigh  
**AINE FAHEY**  
Tullaroan



(7) S. Ní Choirc  
**STACEY QUIRKE**  
St. Martin's



(8) M. Ní Fhearail  
**MEGAN FARRELL**  
Thomastown



(9) A. Ní Chinsealach  
**AINE KINSELLA**  
Mullinavat



(10) S. Ní Chruaíoch  
**SARAH CROWLEY**  
Mooncoin



(11) A. Ní Fhearail  
**ANNA FARRELL**  
Thomastown



(12) L. Ní Réis  
**LAURA NORRIS**  
Piltown



(13) M. Ní Fhionnalaigh (Capt.)  
**MAGS FENNELLY**  
Ballyhale Shamrocks



(14) O. Ní hAnraic  
**ORLA HANRICK**  
Dicksboro



(15) L. Ní Giolla Phádraig  
**LYDIA FITZPATRICK**  
St. Lachtain's

Management: Niall Williams, Orlaith Curran, Graham Dillon, John Joe Aylward, Liz Dempsey  
Physio/First Aid: Frank Manogue Doctor: John Synott





**MAGS FENNELLY** (Captain)  
Ballyhale Shamrocks  
Intermediate Leinster League & County League medals 2012, Leinster & All Ireland Minor medal 2009, 1 Intermediate County Championship, 1 Leinster Intermediate Club Championship.



**ANN MARIE LENNON**  
Blacks & Whites  
3 Ashbourne Cup medals, 1 All Ireland Intermediate, 1 Leinster Senior, All Ireland U16 & Minor medals, 1 National League medal.



**EMMA COMERFORD**  
Young Irelands  
2 Ashbourne Cup medals, 2 All Ireland Junior Colleges medals, 2 All Ireland Senior Colleges medals, U16 County Championship medal, Leinster U16, Minor & Senior medals, All Ireland U16 & Minor medals.



**SARAH ANNE QUINLAN**  
Young Irelands  
2 All Ireland Colleges Junior medals, 3 All Ireland Senior Colleges medals, U16 County Championship medal, Leinster U14, U16 & Minor Championship medals.



**AINE FAHY**  
Tullaroan  
Ashbourne Cup medal, Intermediate County Championship, 1 National League medal, 1 All Ireland Intermediate medal, 4 Leinster Senior medals.



**MAEVE MANSFIELD**  
St. Martin's  
1 Ashbourne Cup medal with W.I.T., 1 Colleges League medal with W.I.T., 1 All Ireland Minor medal, 2 Leinster Minor medals, 1 All Ireland U16A medal, 1 Leinster U16A medal, 1 All Ireland Colleges C medal, 1 Leinster Colleges C medal.



**MEGAN FARRELL**  
Thomastown  
All Ireland Senior A & B Colleges medals, 2 Interprovincial Colleges medals with Leinster, 1 All Ireland Minor medal 2013 (Captain), 3 Leinster Senior Colleges, 3 Leinster U16 medals, U14, U16, Minor & U21 County Championship medals, 2 National League medal.



**EDEL FRISBY**  
Ballyhale Shamrocks  
1 Intermediate County Championship medal, 1 Leinster Intermediate Club Championship medal, 2 All Ireland Senior Colleges medals, 2 All Ireland U16 medals, 2 All Ireland Minor medals, Leinster U14, U16, Minor & Senior medals.



**CATHERINE FOLEY**  
Windgap  
6 County medals, 2 Leinster U14 medals, 1 U16 Leinster medal, 2 Leinster Minor medals, 1 Minor All Ireland medal, 1 All Ireland Freshers medal & 1 Leinster 7's medal.



**THERESE MULDOWNEY**  
St. Brigid's  
All Ireland Colleges Senior B medal, Leinster U14, U16 & U18 medals, U21 Club Championship medals, 2 Victoria State Championships.



**STACEY QUIRKE**  
St. Martin's  
1 Leinster U16 medal, 1 All Ireland U16 medal, 1 Leinster U18 medal, 1 All Ireland U18 medal, 2 Leinster Junior Schools medals, 1 All Ireland Junior Schools medal, 1 Leinster Senior Schools medal, 1 All Ireland Senior Colleges medal, 2 Purcell Cup medals with DCU, 1 National League medal.



**AINE GANNON**  
Rower-Inistioge  
2 Leinster U14 A medals, 2 Leinster U16A medals, 1 Leinster Minor A medal, 1 Leinster Junior B Schools medal, 1 Leinster Senior B Schools medal, 1 Club Intermediate County & Leinster Championship, 1 All Ireland Féile U14, 1 All Ireland Junior B medal, 1 All Ireland Senior B medal, 1 All Ireland Minor A medal, 1 Leinster Junior C Schools Football medal, 1 Leinster U16 C Football medal, 1 All Ireland Féile U14 Football medal.



**SARAH CROWLEY**  
Mooncoin  
2 Leinster U14 medals, 2 Leinster U16 medals, 1 Leinster Minor medal, 1 Munster medal with Mercy Waterford, 1 Junior B Club medal.



**AISLING BUTLER**  
O'Loughlin Gaels  
1 Leinster Senior medal, 2 Junior Club Championship medals, 1 Junior County League medal, 1 Junior Club League medal, 2 Minor Club Championship medals, 1 U16 & 1 U21 Club Championship medals, 1 Leinster Colleges Junior Championship medal.



**CLAIRE AYLRWARD**  
Mullinavat  
1 All Ireland Intermediate medal, 1 All Ireland B Colleges medal, 3 Senior County Championship medals, 1 Leinster Senior Club Championship, 2 U21A County Championship medals, Captained Kilkenny Minor Leinster Final team, Kilkenny Centenary Junior Player of the Year 2004, 1 National League medal.



**AINE KINSELLA**  
Mullinavat  
Senior County League & Championship medals 2010 & 2012, Leinster Senior medal 2013, Leinster U16 medal 2009, Leinster U18 2011 & 2012, Munster Intermediate Colleges Cup 2011, U16C County Championship 2010, 1 Leinster Senior Club Championship, 1 National League medal.



**MARY O'CONNELL**  
Clara  
1 All Ireland Minor medal, Leinster U14 & U16 medals, 2 All Ireland Seven-A-Side Colleges medals, Leinster B Minor & Junior Colleges medals, 1 Leinster Senior medal, 1 Senior Leinster Colleges A medal, 1 Senior All Ireland Colleges A medal.



**SONIA BUGGY**  
Dicksboro  
1 All Ireland U16 medal, 2 Leinster U16 medals, 2 All Ireland Minor medals, 2 All Ireland Junior Colleges medals, 3 All Ireland Senior Colleges medals, 1 All Ireland Colleges Seven-A-Side medal, 6 Leinster Colleges medals, County Junior & Intermediate Club Championship medals.



**AISLING NOLAN**  
Clara  
1 All Ireland Minor medal, 2 All Ireland Seven-A-Side Colleges medals, Leinster B Junior & Minor Colleges medals, Leinster U14 medal, 1 Leinster Colleges A medal, 1 All Ireland Colleges A medal.



**LYDIA FITZPATRICK**  
St. Lachtain's  
1 All Ireland Minor medal, 4 All Ireland Colleges Senior medals, 3 All Ireland Junior medals, 3 All Ireland Colleges 7-A-Side medals, 2 Leinster Minor medals, 2 Leinster U16 medals, 2 County Senior Club Championship medals, 1 National League medal.



**ANNA FARRELL**  
Thomastown  
3 Leinster U14 medals, 3 All Ireland U16 medals, 3 All Ireland Minor medals, 2 All Ireland Colleges medals with St. Brigid's Callan, 3 Inter Provincial medals, 2 U14 Club Championship medals, 3 U16 Club Championship medals, 2 Minor Club Championship medals & 2 U21 Club Championship medals.



**ORLA HANRICK**  
Dicksboro  
Roinn A, B & C Primary School medals, 4 All Ireland Senior Colleges medals, 2 All Ireland Junior Colleges medals, 3 All Irelands 7-A-Side Colleges medals, 1 Junior County Championship medal, 1 Intermediate County Championship medal.



**LAURA WALKER**  
Windgap  
3 Leinster Senior A Colleges medals, 2 All Ireland Senior A Colleges medals, 1 All Ireland U16 medal.



**CATHERINE CONNOLLY**  
Ballyhale Shamrocks  
1 Intermediate Club medal, 1 Club Intermediate League medal, 1 Leinster Intermediate Club medal, 1 Leinster Club League medal.



**KIRSTY MAHER**  
Dicksboro  
3 All Ireland Senior Colleges medals, 4 All Ireland Junior Colleges medals, 2 All Ireland Colleges 7-A-Side medals, 3 Leinster Senior Colleges medals, 4 Leinster Junior Colleges medals, 2 Leinster Colleges 7-A-Side medals, 2 Leinster Colleges Minor medals, 1 Kilkenny Colleges First Year Championship, Loreto Junior Player of the Year 2013.



**LAURA NORRIS**  
Piltown  
1 Minor Club Championship medal, 1 Junior Club Championship medal, 1 U21 Club Championship medal, 1 Purcell Cup with UCC, 1 U16 Leinster medal, 2 Minor Leinster medals, 1 Munster Schools League medal.

## Mags FENNELLY KILKENNY







**FIONA HICKEY** (Captain)  
Granagh/Ballingarry  
All Ireland U14 Féile 1999, All Ireland Club runners up 2004, Munster Club Winners 2004, Munster Club Runners up 2010, Limerick Club Championship Winners 2004, 2006, 2010, 2013, 2 All Ireland U16B County titles, National League Div 2 2013.



**TARA FITZGIBBON** Ballygran  
All Ireland Minor A 2014, All Ireland Junior A title 2014, U12A County League & Championship 2009, U14 County League 2011, U16A County League & Championship 2013, U18A County Championship 2013, Junior A Colleges 2013, Munster Junior A Schools 2013.



**MICHELLE CASEY** Killeedy  
Junior and Intermediate County League and Championship titles, 5 Senior County Championship titles, 2 Senior County League titles, All Ireland Colleges Purcell Cup medal with LIT, All Ireland Colleges Ashbourne Shield Medal with the Garda College, All Ireland Féile na nGael Skills winner, National Junior League medal, 4 Munster Intermediate Championship medals, All Ireland Senior B League title 2007, All Ireland Senior B Championship medal 2007, Munster Camogie Player of the Year 2013.



**JUDITH MULCAHY** Ahane  
All Ireland Senior B League and Championship 2007, All Ireland Minor B 2009, Munster Intermediate 2010 & 2011, Munster Minor A 2007, Club Senior B League & Championship, U14 League Championship Féile, 2 Division 1 League with UL 2012, 2014, Ashbourne Cup 2014 with UL, 2 Ashbourne All Star 2013, 2014, National League Div 2 League 2013, Junior Gael Linn 2013.



**DEIRDRE FITZPATRICK** Killeedy  
5 Club Senior Championship medals, 2 Club Senior League medals, Club Junior Championship 1996, Club Junior League 1996, Sports Star Award U16 1996, Pan Celtic U16 1998, Division 1 College Camogie 2004, All Ireland Senior B League medal 2007, All Ireland Senior B Championship medal 2007, Munster Intermediate Championship medals 2011, Munster Camogie Intermediate Player of the Match 2011.



**NIAMH MULCAHY** Ahane  
All Ireland Senior B League and Championship 2007, National League Div 2 2013, 2 Munster Intermediate titles 2010, 2011, Munster Minor title 2007, 3 Junior Gael Linn, Senior B County League and Championship, U14 Division 1 All Ireland Hurling Féile, All Star Young Player of the Year 2007, All Star Nominee 2009, Intermediate Soaring Star 2013, Purcell Cup All Star 2010, Fr. Meachair Cup 2012 with Mary I.



**CAOIMHE LUSTY** Adare  
1 All Ireland Minor A title, 1 National League Div 2 title, 1 All Ireland Minor B title, 1 All Ireland U16 B title, All Ireland Féile Skills, Junior & Intermediate Club Championship titles.



**REBECCA DELEE** Newcastle West  
All Ireland football Féile title, U14, U16, Minor and Senior A League County medals with Newcastle West, All Ireland U16 title, All Ireland Minor A Championship title 2014.



**DEBORAH MURPHY** Knockaderry  
All Ireland U16B title, Munster Minor title 2013, All Ireland Minor A title 2014, underage titles.



**AOIFE SHEEHAN** Granagh/Ballingarry  
All Ireland Senior B League & Championship 2007 (Captain), 2 All Ireland Senior Club titles, 4 Munster Senior club titles, 9 Senior County Club titles, Féile na Gael title 1996, Féile na Gael Skills title 1998, Kilmacud Crokes 7's 2002, 3 Ashbourne Cup titles with UL, 2 Ashbourne League titles with UL, 1 Senior & 1 Junior Gael Linn Inter-provincial, 3 All Ireland Senior & 2 Junior Colleges titles with St Mary's Charleville, 4 7-a-side Colleges All Ireland titles.



**JANE WILSON** Na Piarasigh  
4 Underage County Championship, 2 County League, All Ireland U16 Championship 2011, All Ireland Minor B Championship 2011, All Ireland A Minor Championship 2014.



**LAURA O'NEILL** Na Piarasigh  
U12 & U16 County titles, Intermediate League title, National League Div 4 2014, All Ireland Minor A title.



**DYMPHNA O'BRIEN** Killeedy  
5 Senior County Championships, 2 Senior County League medals, All Ireland Senior B Championship 2007, Munster Intermediate Championship 2010 & 2011, National League Div 2 2013.



**NIAMH RYAN** Bruff  
1 Junior Club Championship, 1 Intermediate Club Championship, Munster School League and Championship with Laurel Hill, All Ireland Minor B Championship, National League



**KATIE CAMPBELL** Na Piarasigh  
Munster Minor 2007, All Ireland Minor 2009, Munster Intermediate 2010, 2011, Intermediate League final 2013, Junior County title 2006, Intermediate County title 2007, Player of the Match Intermediate 2007, Intermediate League 2013 (captain), Purcell All Star 2012, 2013, Player of the Tournament Colleges finals 2012.



**MARY O'CALLAGHAN** Bruff  
All Ireland Junior League and Championship titles, County Intermediate League and Championship, Minor B All Ireland Championship, Junior County League and Championship, Club Intermediate League and Championship titles.



**KAREN O'LEARY** Newcastle West  
All Ireland Minor A Championship Medal, All Ireland Féile U14 Football medal, Several Club County and Munster medals.



**SARAH CAREY** Granagh/Ballingarry  
1 All Ireland Minor B title, 2 Munster Intermediate Championships, National League Div 2 title, 3 Senior County Leagues titles, 2 Senior County Championships, Young Munster Player of the Year 2010.



**LEANNE BROWNE** Newcastle West  
U14 Féile title 2010, U14 County Championship 2010, U14 County finalists 2011, U16 County League winners and championship finalists 2011, U16 County A Championship 2012, Minor Championship 2012, Minor Championship runners up 2013, Senior A League 2014, All-Ireland Minor A 2014, All Ireland Junior finalists 2014.



**DONNA MULCAHY** Killeedy  
Captain West Schools winners 2008, Neville Cup 2008, 2009, underage titles, Senior County Championship 2012, Minor B County Championship 2013, Munster U16 C Championship 2011, Munster Junior Championship 2013, Minor A Shield 2013, All Ireland Minor A 2014, National League Div 4 2014, County and Munster with Hazelwood College.



**KATIE HENNESSY** Ballygran  
U16 County Shield Blackrock 2012, All Ireland U16 Championship 2011, Munster Minor A Championship 2013, Munster Junior Championship 2013, Munster Senior Club Championship 2013, All Ireland Minor A Championship 2014, National League Div 2 2013, National League Div 4 2014.



**LORRAINE MCCARTHY** Bruff  
National League Div 2 title 2013, Intermediate C 2010, Senior B league Cham,



**SARAH COLLINS** Ballygran  
All Ireland Senior B Medal 2007, County Senior League 2010, Munster Minor A 2007, National League Div 4 League 2014.



**MAIRÉAD FITZGERALD** Granagh/Ballingarry  
National League Division 4 2014, National League Division 2 2013, Munster Junior Championship 2013, Limerick Senior Championship 2013, 2010, Limerick Senior League 2010 & 2013, Munster Council GAA Bursary 2012, 2011, 2010, underage medals.



**NOREEN BARRY** Killeedy  
5 County Senior titles, Junior Munster 2013, National League Div 2 2013, National League Division 4 2014, All Ireland Junior A title 2014.



**SINÉAD MCNAMARA** Na Piarasigh  
underage County titles, Minor A County Championship, Intermediate County League, All Ireland Minor A, Junior Schools All Ireland Mini 7s, All Ireland Junior Schools Championship, Munster School Senior Championship.



**MARGUERITA MCCARTHY** Ahane  
National League Div 4 2014.



**SÍLE MOYNIHAN** Ahane  
All Ireland Senior B Championship & League 2007, National League Div 2 2013, Gael Linn Senior & Junior titles, Munster Minor title 2007, Munster Intermediate title 2010, 2011.



**CLAIRE MULCAHY** Ahane  
2 All Ireland Minor B titles, National League title, All Ireland Senior B Championship title, Munster Intermediate title.



**MUIREANN CREAMER** Cappamore  
Junior League & Championship 2013, All Ireland U16, Minor Munster Plate, National League Div 4 2014.

# Fiona HICKEY

LIMERICK



Limerick players Jane Wilson, Donna Mulcahy, Katie Hennessy and Leanne Browne celebrate after defeating Kilkenny in the All Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship Final at Croke Park. PAUL MOHAN / SPORTSFILE



Can Laois claim their first title?

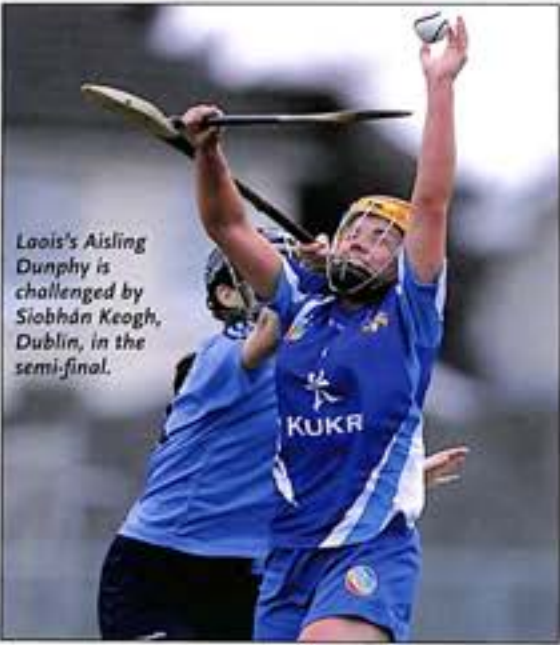
DOWN were the inaugural winners of this championship in 1968 but the most recent of their two subsequent victories arrived in 1991. Since then, they have lost three finals including the 2011 and 2012.

Laois have never won this title, with last term's final appearance their first. While they competed well in the first half, Kildare's big guns opened up in the second, but the experience has served them well and they have looked strong this year.

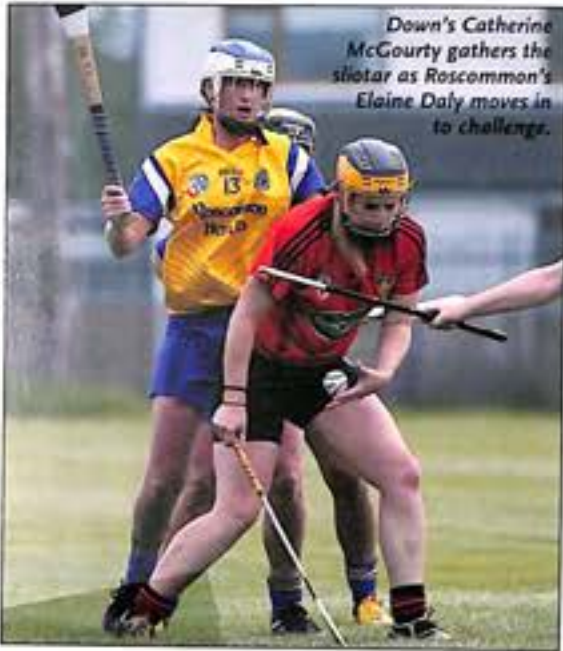
The competitiveness of this grade was illustrated in the round-robin stages. These two teams crossed swords in Rathdowney on July 13th and after one of the most exciting games you'd ever hope to see, the hosts prevailed by the minimum (3-12 to 1-17).

Laois had lost their opening game to Dublin though and yet Down turned in a scintillating performance the week after losing to Laois by trouncing the Dubs by 24 points.

It was a Laois-Dublin rematch in the semi-final and this was a much closer affair. Laois showed their composure after conceding two goals in the first seven minutes of the second half to fall three points down. They held the Metropolitans



Laois's Aisling Dunphy is challenged by Siobhán Keogh, Dublin, in the semi-final.



Down's Catherine McGourty gathers the sliotar as Roscommon's Elaine Daly moves in to challenge.

scoreless for the remainder of the game.

Sarah Anne Fitzgerald scored a goal and 10 points overall and with Niamh Dollard also finding the Dublin net, Laois cemented their final berth with eight points to spare.

Down had to work much harder than many expected in their semi-final against Roscommon. They had 18 points to spare earlier in the campaign but trailed by two after 20 minutes in the penultimate round. A late purple patch saw them go in at the break leading by a goal and they ground it out in the second half to win by seven in the end.

Fionnuala Carr, Catherine McGourty and Niamh Mallon are just some of the key players in the Mourne outfit, who were only denied the Division 2 league title by a late Cork charge at the beginning of May.

Even in that campaign, very little separated Down and Laois, with the Ulster girls carving out a 2-7 to 2-4 win on that occasion. While the scoring is likely to be more prolific this time around, it would be a huge surprise if it deviated from previous clashes in terms of the final margin of victory and defeat.



PROUD OF THEM-SELVES: Down celebrate after victory in the Kay Mills Cup final over Laois

Brilliant Down shine in late, late show to clinch the title

DOWN produced a blistering final quarter to win their fourth Liberty Insurance All-Ireland premier junior camogie title at Croke Park.

It was sweet redemption for a team that had lost the 2011 and 2012 finals but a bitter pill for Laois to swallow.

Both sides were wasteful in the first half, with Down just being that bit more economical in attack.

Laois were dealt a major blow when influential midfielder, Sile Burke twisted her knee straight from the throw-in but to their credit, they did not allow the setback to affect them.

The game was extremely tight until the three minutes of injury-time awarded for the stoppage as Burke received treatment.

Quickest

Down took the lead when Catherine McGourty pointed a 45 and they were 0-4 to 0-3 ahead when Niamh Dollard reacted quickest to Maria McNally's clearance to goal for Laois. McGourty found the net at the other end though but far from being downbeat, Laois resumed in commanding fashion.

Sarah-Anne Fitzgerald had two quick scores that were out of the top drawer and though Sara Louise Carr responded for Down, a brace from Niamh Dollard pushed a dominant Laois three points clear.

That score arrived in the 43rd minute but

Down 1-12  
Laois 1-8

Laois failed to score again. Karen Gribben ended a 16-minute drought for Down and that infused the Mourne outfit with renewed confidence, as points from McGourty and team captain, Niamh Mallon brought the teams level.

Gribben sent over a sensational score from tight on the right and not far outside the 20m line to put Alastair McGilligan's crew ahead.

McGourty, Karen McMullan and Aimee McAleenan pointed to secure the return of the Kay Mills Cup to the Ulster county for the fourth time.

DOWN: M McNally, K Tinnelly, C McGovern, B McGourty, C Rocks, L McAliskey, F Carr, A Keown, K McMullan (0-2), L McPolin, P Gribben, C McGourty (1-4), N Mallon (0-2), SL Carr, K Gribben (0-2). Subs: G O'Higgins for Rocks (30), C Clarke for McPolin (37), N Braniff for Clarke (57), E McCormick for Keown (60+1), A McAleenan (0-1) for Gribben (60+2). LAOIS: I Dunne, M Burke, R Bermingham, A Burke, M O'Grady, E Delaney, A Dunphy, S Burke, AM Purcell, L Mahony (0-1), SA Fitzgerald (0-5), E Mahony, D Mortimer, N Dollard (1-2), LM Maher. Subs: C Walsh for Burke inj (4), O Parkinson for Maher (55). REFEREE: L Dempsey (Kilkenny).



Liberty Insurance Premier Junior Camogie Championship

Paths to the 2014 Final

22/06/2014	Down.....5-14	Westmeath.....0-5
	Laois.....0-11	Dublin.....0-15
29/06/2014	Roscommon.....0-7	Down.....1-22
	Westmeath.....0-10	Laois.....1-15
13/07/2014	Laois.....3-12	Down.....1-17
20/07/2014	Armagh.....0-7	Laois.....6-20
	Down.....5-17	Dublin.....0-8
03/08/2014	Laois.....2-17	Roscommon.....0-5
24/08/2014 Semi-Finals	Down.....1-11	Roscommon.....0-7
	Laois.....3-12	Dublin.....3-4





# Laois



Back row (l.-r.): Louise Mahony, Rosemarie Phelan, Joanne Prior, Claire Walsh, Elaine Mahony, Lorna Campion, Rebecca Treacy, Sarah-Anne Fitzgerald, Rosemary Bermingham, Grace O'Neill, Marion O'Grady, Emer Delaney, Caitriona Downey, Aisling Burke.  
Front row (l.-r.): Joan Dollard, Lizzy Ryan, Laura Dunne, Olga Parkinson, Sharon Moylan, Emma Phelan, Sile Burke, Niamh Dollard, Dawn Mortimer, Mairéad Burke, Aisling Dunphy, Laura Marie Maher, Anne Marie Purcell. Missing from photograph: Alison McEvoy.

	1st	2nd	3rd
CLG			
CLG			
CLG			
CLG			
CLG			

## LAOIS

Dathanna: Gorm agus Bán

### PREMIER JUNIOR



(1) L. Ní Dhoinn  
**LAURA DUNNE**  
St. Brigid's



(2) M. de Burca  
**MAIRÉAD BURKE**  
Camross



(3) S. Dollard  
**JOAN DOLLARD**  
The Harps



(4) R. Ní Fheorais  
**ROSEMARY BERMINGHAM**  
O'Moore's



(5) M. Ní Ghráda  
**MARION O'GRADY**  
St. Brigid's



(6) E. Ní Dhúlaíne  
**EIMEAR DELANEY**  
St. Brigid's



(7) A. Ní Dhonnchaidh  
**AISLING DUNPHY**  
O'Moore's



(8) S. de Búrca  
**SILE BURKE**  
Camross



(9) Á. Ní Phuirséil  
**ANN MARIE PURCELL**  
St. Brigid's



(10) C. Ní Bhreatnach  
**CLAIRE WALSH**  
The Harps



(11) S. Á. Ní Gearailt (Capt.)  
**SARAH-ANNE FITZGERALD**  
Camross



(12) L. Ní Mhathúna  
**LOUISE MAHONY**  
The Harps



(13) O. Ní Phéarain  
**OLGA PARKINSON**  
Camross



(14) N. Dollard  
**NIAMH DOLLARD**  
Camross



(15) D. Ní Mhuireartaigh  
**DAWN MORTIMER**  
Camross



(16) E. Ní Fhaoláin  
**EMMA PHELAN**  
Camross

(17) A. de Burca  
**AISLING BURKE**  
Camross

(18) E. Ó Mhathúna  
**ELAINE MAHONY**  
The Harps

(19) L. M. Ní Mheachair  
**LAURA MARIE MAHER**  
O'Moore's

(20) E. Ní Riain  
**ELIZABETH RYAN**  
Camross

(21) S. Ó Mhaoileáin  
**SHARON MOYLAN**  
St. Brigid's

(22) A. Ní Fhlóbhul  
**ALISON MCEVOY**  
O'Moore's

(23) C. Ní Dhúnaigh  
**CAITRIONA DOWNEY**  
O'Moore's

(24) L. Caimpion  
**LORNA CAMPION**  
The Harps

(25) R. Ní Fhaoláin  
**ROSEMARY PHELAN**  
The Harps

(26) G. Ní Néill  
**GRACE O'NEILL**  
Donard/Glen

(27) S. Ní an Phlora  
**JOANNE PRIOR**  
The Harps

(28) R. Ní Threasaigh  
**REBECCA TREACY**  
St. Brigid's

Manager: David Cuddy Selectors: Mary Dunne, Ber Fitzpatrick, Martin Moore,  
Brendan Lowry (Maor Foinne) Physio: Miriam Harrison  
Camán/Uisce: Niamh Coss, Aoife Burke Administration: Sarah Conroy





**SARAH-ANNE FITZGERALD** (Captain)  
Camross  
3 Soaring Stars, 2 Ashbourne All Stars,  
Senior Inter-provincial Gael Linn 2014,  
4 Ashbourne medals, 1x Leinster,  
2 County Club (Camross), underage  
county titles.



**LOUISE MAHONY**  
The Harps  
National League Division 3 2013,  
3 Junior All Ireland Club Championship,  
2 Intermediate County Club titles,  
2 Intermediate Leinster Club, Junior  
Gael Linn team, 4 Junior Leinster  
Club, 4 Junior County Club, 1 Leinster County title, Soaring  
Star 2013, All Star Nomination 2009, Laois Player of the  
Decade 2014.



**ELAINE MAHONY**  
The Harps  
1 Division 3 League, 3 Junior All Ireland  
Club Championship, 2 Intermediate  
County Club titles, 2 Intermediate  
Leinster Club, Junior Gael Linn team,  
4 Junior Leinster Club, 4 Junior County  
Club, 1 Leinster County title, underage titles.



**CLAIRE WALSH**  
The Harps  
3 County Junior titles, 2 County  
Intermediate titles, 3 Leinster Junior  
Club, 2 Leinster Intermediate Club,  
2 All Irelands Junior Club titles, National  
League Division 3 2013, 1 Leinster,  
All Ireland Minor C 2009, Schools All Ireland C 2011.



**JOANNE PRIOR**  
The Harps  
1 County Intermediate Club, 3 Leinster  
Intermediate Club, 3 All Ireland Junior  
Club Championship, 5 County Junior  
Club Championships, 3 Leinster Junior  
Championships, Leinster Express  
Laois Camogie Player of the Year 2010, All Ireland  
Championship Nancy Murray Cup 2007, County Minor  
title, Schools Senior Leinster title, Schools Minor Leinster  
title.



**OLGA PARKINSON**  
Camross  
1 Leinster title 2014, 1 National  
League Div 3 2013, 2 County titles 2012  
& 2013, underage medals.



**ELIZABETH RYAN**  
Camross  
Leinster Junior title 2014, 1 Laois  
Camogie Championship 2013, 1 Leinster  
League U16, Junior Camogie player of  
the year Mountrath Community School  
2012, 1 Club Leinster League, 1 Leinster  
Minor 2011, 2 Féile na nGael, 1 County Minor, Cumann na  
mBunscoile 2009, underage titles.



**EIMEAR DELANEY**  
St Brigid's  
Leinster Junior title 2014, National  
League Div 3 2013, Senior and Junior  
All Ireland Colleges, Junior Champions  
2004, Leinster Gael Linn Panel 2013.



**CAITRIONA DOWNEY**  
O'Moore's  
Leinster Junior title 2014, 2 National  
League titles 2013, 2011, Nancy Murray  
Cup 2009, Purcell Cup and All Star  
team 2002.



**ROSEMARY BERMINGHAM**  
O'Moore's  
Leinster Junior title 2014, 2 National  
League Div 3, All Ireland Minor C 2009,  
Leinster Minor B 2009, Laois Senior  
Football 2013, 2011, 2008, Leinster Club  
Football 2013, 2008.



**LAURA MARIE MAHER**  
O'Moore's  
Leinster Junior 2014, Leinster Minor  
2012, 2013, Senior Ladies Football 2013,  
Leinster Football Championship 2013,  
Giles Cup Football 2014.



**NIAMH DOLLARD** (Vice-Captain)  
Camross  
Leinster Junior 2014, Soaring Star 2013,  
Laois player of the year, RCTLC Award,  
Laois Senior Championship, National  
League Div 3 2013, Laois Senior  
Championship 2012, All Ireland Minor  
2009, under age titles.



**JOAN DOLLARD**  
The Harps  
Leinster Junior 2014, National League  
Division 3 2013, 2 Leinster Intermediate  
Club Championship 2010, 2011,  
4 Leinster Junior Club Championships  
2006-2009, 3 All Ireland Junior Club  
Championships 2006, 2007, 2008.



**SÍLE BURKE**  
Camross  
1 Leinster 2014, 1 National League  
Div 3 2013, 2 Minor Leinster titles,  
2 All Ireland Minor titles, 2 Senior  
County Championships, under age



**ROSIE PHELAN**  
The Harps  
1 Leinster Championship title 2014,  
1 Leinster SFC runners-up 2014, Fr.  
Meagher Cup winner with Carlow IT.  
2014, Senior Club Football League  
Winners 2014, Div. 2 Football League  
Winners with Carlow IT 2013, All Ireland Schools  
Championship 2012, 2 Camogie County Championships  
2011 & 2010, 2 Camogie Leinster titles 2011 & 2010.



**DAWN MORTIMER**  
Camross  
1 Leinster title 2014, 3 Junior County  
finals, All Ireland Minor title, 5 Minor  
County finals, 3 Juvenile club All  
Ireland's, U14 & U16 Club  
and County medals.



**AISLING BURKE**  
Camross  
1 Leinster 2014, 1 National League  
Div 3 2013, 1 Minor Leinster title,  
1 All Ireland Minor title, 2 Senior  
County Championships, underage  
medals.



**MAIRÉAD BURKE**  
Camross  
1 Leinster 2014, 1 National League  
Div 3 2013, 1 Minor Leinster,  
1 All Ireland Minor title, 2 Senior  
County Championships, underage  
medals.



**AISLING DUNPHY**  
O'Moore's  
Leinster Junior 2014, National League  
titles 2013, 2009, All Ireland Minor C  
2009, Leinster Minor B 2009, Laois  
Senior Football 2013, 2011, 2008,  
Leinster Club Football 2013, 2008,  
Soaring Star 2013.



**LORNA CAMPION**  
The Harps  
Leinster Final winner 2014,  
National League Division 3 2013,  
Minor Leinster Final 2012, Senior  
Club County Final 2010, 2011,  
Intermediate Leinster Club Final  
2010, 2011, All Ireland Senior Colleges 2011, All Ireland  
Junior Colleges 2010, Leinster Junior Colleges finalist  
2009, U14 County Shield 2008, 2009, Féile runner up



**LAURA DUNNE**  
St Brigid's  
Leinster Junior title 2014, National  
League Division 3 2013, Soaring Star  
2013, Leinster Gael Linn team 2013.



**ANNE MARIE PURCELL**  
St Brigid's  
Leinster Junior title 2014, Junior  
Champions 2004.



**MARION O'GRADY**  
St Brigid's  
Leinster Junior title 2014, National  
League Div 3 2013, Senior and Junior  
All Ireland Colleges, Junior Champions  
2004.



**REBECCA TREACY**  
St. Brigid's  
Leinster Junior title 2014, Leinster  
Minor title 2012.



**SHARON MOYLAN**  
St Brigid's  
Leinster Junior 2014, National League  
Div 3 title 2013, Senior and Junior  
All Ireland Colleges, Junior Champions  
2004.



**EMMA PHELAN**  
Camross  
Leinster Junior title 2014, National  
League Div 3 title, Laois Senior  
Championship 2012 & 2013, under age.



**ALISON McEVY**  
O'Moore's  
Leinster Junior title 2014, Senior  
Ladies Football 2013, Leinster Football  
title 2013.



**GRACE O'NEILL**  
Donard Glen  
Leinster Minor 2013, Leinster  
Under 16 2013.

# Sarah-Anne FITZGERALD

LAOIS

I've Done; Foo Fighters – Pretender; Take That  
– Greatest Day.

What is your personal motto?  
'If in doubt, boot it out'.





# Down



Back row (l.-r.): Karen Gribben, Sara-Louise Carr, Fionnuala Carr, Gráinne O'Higgins, Emma McCormick, Niamh Mallon, Nicola O'Hagan, Lisa McPolin, Karen McMullan, Dearbhala Magee, Dearbhala Savage, Aimee McAleenan, Catherine Rocks, Brid McGourty, Paula McKay, Aoife Savage, Claire McGilligan. Front row (l.-r.): Paula Gribben, Karen Tinnelly, Jenny Fowler, Maria McNally, Ciara McGovern, Anna Rogan, Nicola Braniff, Nicola O'Gorman, Aoife Keown, Lisa McAliskey, Catherine McGourty.



- (16) C. Ní hUiginn  
Gráinne O'Higgins  
Liatroim Fontenays
- (17) S. Ní Fhogláir  
Jennie Fowler  
Ballycran
- (18) E. Ní Cormaic  
Emma McCormick  
Liatroim Fontenays
- (19) C. Ní Giollaigáin  
Clare McGilligan  
Clonduff
- (20) D. Sabhaois  
Dearbhala Savage  
Ballygalget
- (21) A. Ní Rhuagáin  
Anna Rogan  
Castlewellan
- (22) C. Ní Chléirigh  
Colleen Clarke  
Ballygalget
- (23) A. Ní Giolla Fhinnéin  
Aimee McAleenan  
Liatroim Fontenays
- (24) D. Nig Aoidh  
Dearbhla Magee  
Liatroim Fontenays
- (25) N. Ní Bhrannuibh  
Nicola Braniff  
Ballycran
- (26) A. Sabhaois  
Aoife Savage  
Ballygalget
- (27) P. Ní Aodha  
Paula McKay  
Bredagh
- (28) N. Ní Ghormáin  
Nicola O'Gorman  
Ballyholland
- (29) N. Ní hAgáin  
Nicola O'Hagan  
Clonduff

## DOWN

Dathanna: Dearg agus Dubh

### PREMIER JUNIOR



(1) M. Ní an Fhailí  
MARIA McNALLY  
Portaferry



(2) C. Ní Thisnorealaigh  
KAREN TINNELLY  
Ballyholland



(3) C. Nig Shamhráin  
CIARA McGOVERN  
Liatroim Fontenays



(4) B. Ní Dhorchaídh  
BRID MCGOURTY  
Ballycran



(5) C. Ní Concharraige  
CATHERINE ROCKS  
Bredagh



(6) L. Mhic Con Uisce  
LISA McALISKEY  
Liatroim Fontenays



(7) F. Ní Carra  
FIONNUALA CARR  
Clonduff



(8) A. Ní Eoghain  
AOIFE KEOWN  
Castlewellan



(9) C. Ní Mhaoláin  
KAREN McMULLAN  
Liatroim Fontenays



(10) L. Ní Póilín  
LISA MCPOLIN  
Clonduff



(11) P. Ní Gribín  
PAULA GRIBBEN  
Clonduff



(12) C. Ní Dhorchaídh  
CATHERINE MCGOURTY  
Ballycran



(13) N. Ní Mhealláin (Capt.)  
NIAMH MALLON  
Portaferry



(14) S. L. Ní Carra  
SARA LOUISE CARR  
Clonduff



(15) C. Ní Gribín  
KAREN GRIBBEN  
Clonduff

Manager: Alastair McGilligan    Selectors: Noreen Keown, Marty Mallon  
Moor Uisce/Comdn: Mairín McAleenan, Pauline Green  
Medical Team: Catrina Rodgers, Ann Rogers    Admin/Liaison: Róisín Rogers

	Team	Team	Team
	CLASH	CLASH	CLASH
CLASH			
CLASH			
CLASH			
CLASH			
CLASH			





**NIAMH MALLON (Capt.)**  
Portaferry  
Ashbourne Combined All Star 2014,  
1 Ulster Shield Winners, Senior League title  
2012, Ulster Minor Championship 2012, All  
Ireland Minor C Championship 2012, Ulster  
Minor Player of the Year 2012, Down Minor  
Championship, 2 Ulster Colleges All Star, 2 Soaring Star Awards.



**MARIA MCNALLY**  
Portaferry  
2 Ulster Shield Winners, Senior League title  
2012, National League title 2009, Junior League  
title 2004.



**KAREN TINNELLY**  
Ballyholand  
4 Intermediate Club League & Championship  
titles, 4 Ulster Minor Championships,  
National League title 2009, All Ireland Minor B  
Championship 2006, 3 Soaring Star Awards,  
Ulster Colleges All Star.



**CIARA MCGOVERN**  
Liatroim  
9 Down Senior League & Championships,  
4 Senior Ulster Club Championships, 2 Junior  
Ulster Club Championships, 2 All Ireland Junior  
Club.



**BRÍD MCCOURT**  
Ballycran  
2 Senior Club Championship, 1 Ulster Club  
Championship, Ulster Minor Championship  
2012, All Ireland Minor C Championship 2012,  
Ulster Schools title Our Lady & St Patrick's,  
Knock.



**AOIFE KEOWN**  
Castlewellan  
Ulster Schools title Assumption GS 2014,  
2 Ulster Colleges All Star 2013, 2014, Junior  
County Championship 2013, Ulster Minor  
Championship 2012, All Ireland Minor C  
Championship 2012, All Ireland U16 C  
Championship 2011.



**AOIFE SAVAGE**  
Ballygalget  
Ulster Plate Winners 2014, Kilmacud Crokes  
All Ireland Camogie Sevens Plate Winners 2013,  
Ulster Medal for College, All Ireland Shield for  
University Level.



**KAREN GRIBBEN**  
Clonduff  
3 County Senior League, 3 County  
Championships 2007, 2009, 2010, Senior Gael  
Linn 2007, Purcell Cup Winner QUB,  
All Ireland Kilmacud 7's Shield Winners.



**PAULA GRIBBEN**  
Clonduff  
3 County Senior League, 3 County  
Championships 2007, 2009, 2010, All Ireland  
Minor B Championship 2006, 3 Ulster Minor  
Championships, Ulster Colleges All Star 2008.



**LISA MCPOLIN**  
Clonduff  
3 County Senior League, 3 County  
Championships 2007, 2009, 2010, Ulster  
Colleges All Star 2009, Senior Gael Linn 2007,  
All Ireland Minor B Championship 2006,  
3 Ulster Minor Championships.



**NICOLA O'HAGAN**  
Clonduff  
3 County Senior League & Championships  
2007, 2009, 2010.



**LISA MCALISKEY**  
Liatroim  
2 All Ireland Junior Club Championships,  
3 Senior Ulster Club titles, 3 Junior Ulster Club  
titles, 10 County Senior League, 10 County  
Championships, 2 Purcell Cup, National League  
Div 3 title 2009, Soaring Star 2012.



**GRÁINNE O'HIGGINS**  
Liatroim  
2 All Ireland Junior Club Championships,  
6 County Senior Championships, 7 County  
Senior Leagues, 2 Junior Ulster Club,  
1 Intermediate Ulster Club, 1 Kilmacud Shield,  
All Ireland Minor B Championship 2006,  
3 Ulster Minor Championships.



**AIMEE MCALEENAN**  
Liatroim  
Ulster Schools title Assumption GS 2014,  
2 Ulster Colleges All Star 2013 & 2014, 1 Minor  
Club League, 1 Minor Club Championship 2013,  
Senior Club League & Championship winners  
2013, Ulster Intermediate Club Championship  
Winners 2013, U16 League and Championship winners 2012,  
U14 Down and Ulster Féile winners 2010.



**EMMA MCCORMICK**  
Liatroim  
6 Down Senior Championships, 7 Down Senior  
Leagues, 2 Junior Club All Ireland's, 2 Junior  
Ulster Club, 1 Intermediate Ulster Club,  
1 Kilmacud Shield.



**DEARBHILA SAVAGE**  
Ballygalget  
Ulster Plate Winners 2014, Kilmacud Crokes  
All Ireland Camogie Sevens Plate Winners 2013,  
Ulster Colleges All Star 2013, Ulster Medal for  
College, Ulster Minor Championship 2012,  
All Ireland Minor C Championship 2012,  
All Ireland U16 C Championship 2011.



**COLLEEN CLARKE**  
Ballygalget  
Ulster Plate Winners 2014, Kilmacud Crokes  
All Ireland Camogie Sevens Plate Winners 2013,  
Ulster Colleges All Star 2013.



**KAREN MCMULLAN**  
Liatroim  
6 Senior Club Championship, 7 League titles,  
3 Ulster Club Intermediate titles, 2 All Ireland  
Junior Club titles, National League title 2009,  
1 Ulster Senior County Championship, 1 Senior  
Gael Linn, Kilmacud Sevens Shield Winners,  
Ulster Colleges All Star Winner, Club Senior  
Player of the year 2007, 2008, 2009.



**CLARE MCGILLIGAN**  
Clonduff  
Ulster Senior Schools Winners Our Lady's GS,  
Newry 2014, U16 County Player of the Year  
2013, Ulster Minor Championship 2012,  
All Ireland Minor C Championship 2012,  
County Féile Champions 2011, U12 League  
& Championship 2009.



**FIONNUALA CARR**  
Clonduff  
3 County Senior League, 3 County Senior  
Championships, National League Div 3 title  
2009, 2 Ashbourne Combined All Star, Senior  
Gael Linn 2007, UUJ Full Colours Award 2007,  
Purcell Cup Winner & All Star UUJ 2006,  
Ulster Senior Championship 2006, Club & County Player of the Year  
2006, Ulster Junior Championship 2004 & 2005, All Star Nominee  
2004, 2 Soaring Star Awards, All Ireland Kilmacud 7's Shield Winners.



**SARA LOUISE CARR**  
Clonduff  
3 County Senior League & Championships,  
Soaring Star 2012, Ashbourne All Star UUJ  
2012, Ulster Colleges All Star 2008, All Ireland  
Minor B Championship 2006, 3 Ulster Minor  
Championships.



**DEARBHILA MAGEE**  
Liatroim  
U16, Minor and Senior Club League and  
Championship Winners 2013,  
Ulster Intermediate Club Championship  
Winners 2013, U17 Down and Ulster Schools  
Championships Winners 2012 & 2013,  
U16 League and Championship Winners 2012, U14 Championship  
Winners 2011, U14 Down and Ulster Féile winners 2010, Represent  
Northern Ireland at Mountain Running 2012, 2013, 2014.



**JENNIE FOWLER**  
Ballycran  
1 Minor Ulster Championship, 3 Down  
Senior Championships, 1 Ulster Senior  
Championship.



**CATHERINE MCGOURTY**  
Ballycran  
3 County Championships, 1 Ulster Club  
Championship, 1 Ulster Senior Championship  
National League Div 3 title 2009, Senior Gael  
Linn 2007, Ulster Junior Championship 2004  
& 2005, 2 Purcell Cup, Purcell All Star,  
Ashbourne All Star, 3 Soaring Stars.



**NICOLA BRANIFF**  
Ballycran  
3 County Championship, 1 Ulster Club  
Championship.



**NICOLA O'GORMAN**  
Ballyholand  
2 Club Intermediate League, 2 Club  
Intermediate Championships, Ulster Minor  
Championship 2012, All Ireland Minor C  
Championship 2012.



**ANNA ROGAN**  
Castlewellan  
Ulster Colleges All Star 2013, Junior  
County Championship 2013, Ulster Minor  
Championship 2012, All Ireland Minor C  
Championship 2012.



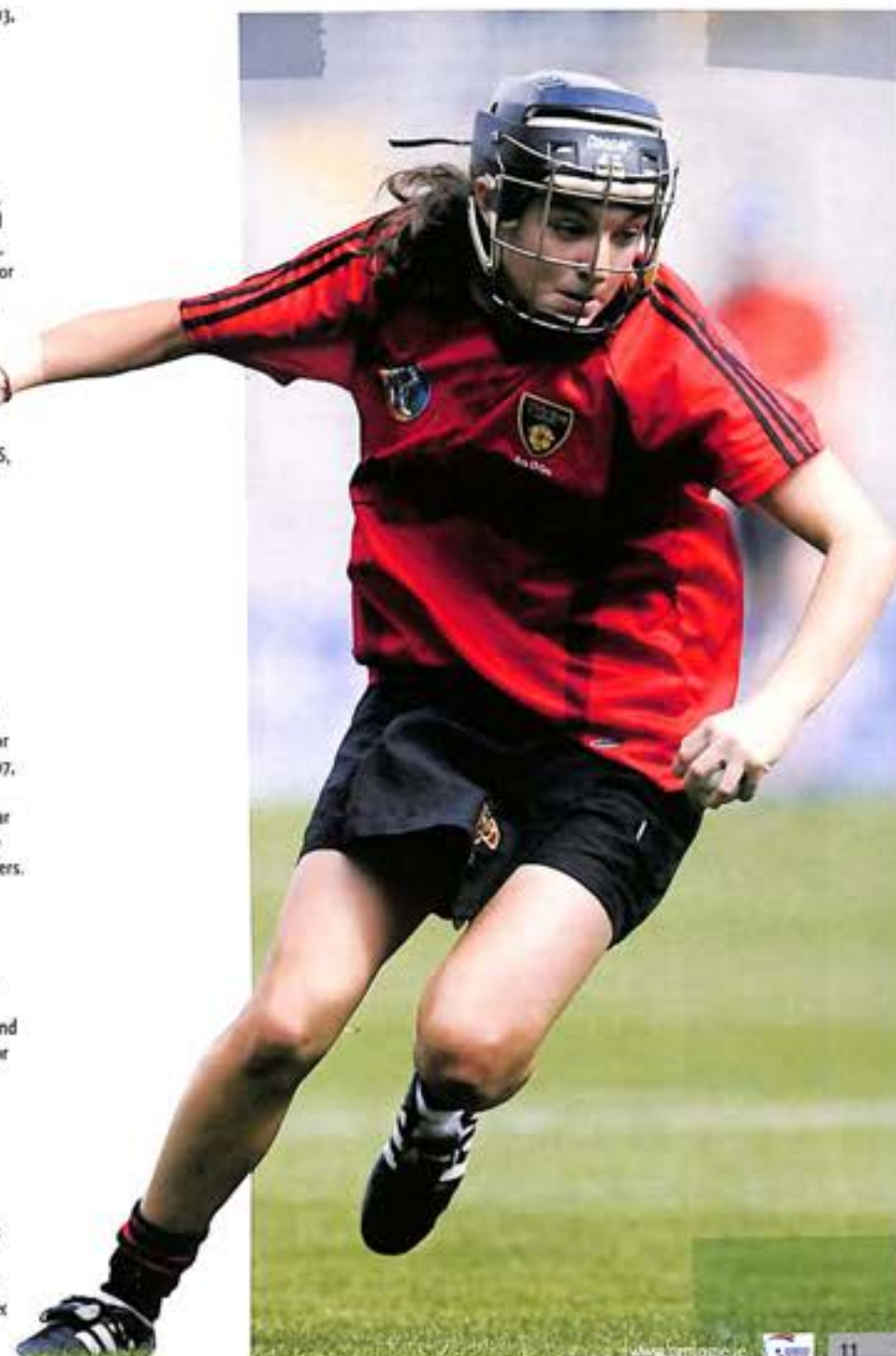
**CATHERINE ROCKS**  
Bredagh  
Fr Meachair Shield Winners 2014 St Mary's  
University, Division 2 County Championship  
2012, Ulster Minor Championship 2012,  
All Ireland Minor C Championship 2012, 2011  
All Ireland U16 C Championship.



**PAULA MCKAY**  
Bredagh  
Division 2 County Championship 2013, Ulster  
Colleges Senior Championship Our Lady &  
St Pat's Knock 2011.

# Niamh MALLON

DOWN



## Real Rebel spirit a winner in All-Ireland

CORK'S All-Ireland-winning camogie team arrived home last night to a deserved warm welcome.

Anna Geary, pictured, and her team showed the real Rebel spirit when coming from behind against Kilkenny at Croke Park. The commitment and dedication shown by these young women is incredible. They live the lives of professional athletes, while working for a living or studying full-time.

Everyone in the county appreciates the huge effort and sacrifices made by the players and coaches to bring All-Ireland glory to Cork. Now the hope is that the lady footballers will make it a double on September 28. Up the Rebels!





# Glory days for Limerick girls

**JEROME O'CONNELL**

IN CROKE PARK

joconnell@limerickleader.ie  
@JeromeSport

LIMERICK	1-12
KILKENNY	0-10

AN hour after the final whistle in Croke Park the Limerick players were still celebrating on the Cusack Stand sidelines and in no rush to leave the scene of their triumph.

The outpouring of emotion as captain Fiona Hickey lifted the Jack McGrath Cup on the steps of the Hogan Stand told the story.

Just twelve months previous the scenes were very different as Limerick suffered final heartbreak against Galway.

But this time round there was no denying Limerick.

The win for the Joe Quaid managed side ensures that Limerick win promotion to the senior championship next season.

Limerick have never won the senior camogie championship and this was their third success in the second tier competition with previous wins in 1996 and 2007.

Both those previous wins came outside of Croke Park, but Limerick have tasted championship success in Croke Park on two previous occasions - the junior camogie championship wins of 1977 and 1995.

Indeed just like last Sunday, the win over 1995 came twelve months after Limerick have lost the decider the previous year.

Last Sunday's thrilling final win, brought an end to a remarkable year for Limerick camogie.

2014 has seen Limerick return to the top division in the league, while silverware was won in a first ever minor A championship and the juniors won both league and championship honours.

Indeed 11 of the Limerick panel of 30 were part of that successful minor panel, which beat Cork in their final.

Limerick, who beat Kildare, Antrim, Galway, Tipperary and Waterford enroute to Croke Park, went into this final as favourites and led 1-5 to 0-6 at half time after playing into the wind.

It was Kilkenny captain Mags Fennelly that had the



Happy days: the Limerick camogie team (above) celebrate after their All Ireland intermediate final win over Kilkenny in Croke Park; below - captain Fiona Hickey lifts the trophy

opening score of the game but two Niamh Mulcahy frees had Limerick settled and ahead by the fifth minute.

Aoife Sheehan had a brief glimpse of goal but the chance was smothered by the

Kilkenny defence.

Mulcahy had a third free to increase the Limerick lead before Mary O'Callaghan had the first Shannonside point from play in the 14th minute for a 0-4 to 0-2 advantage.

With usual attackers Niamh Mulcahy and Caoimhe Costello playing and dominating midfield and the half back trio of Katie Campbell, Sarah Carey and Claire Mulcahy on top Limerick were beginning to dominate.

Mulcahy's fourth free maintained the lead before the crucial score of the half came in the 19th minute.

Costello and Mairead Fitzgerald created the opening up the left wing and when the ball was crossed into the goal-mouth Deborah Murphy kept her composure to crash the ball to the Hill 16 net for a 1-5 to 0-3 lead.

Murphy had an outstanding first half when given a free role across the half forward line to deny Kilkenny momentum when backed by the wind.

But that was it for Limerick in the half and they were to go the next 11-minutes without a score. Bit by bit Kilkenny's found their feet and had the last three scores of the first half, all frees, after going through their own barren spell. That left it 1-5 to 0-6 to Limerick at half time.

It was a half that saw Limerick hit four wides and Kilkenny just one.

On the resumption Kilkenny looked to reduce the deficit and had three points from play in the opening 10-minutes.

The Limerick reply came

from minor star Caoimhe Costello. Twice she was at the end of moves to split the posts into the Davin End Stand.

Those early scores left it 1-7 to 0-9 with 20-minutes to play.

It was now Limerick showed all the experience of last year. The substitutions introduced made impacts while the switch of Niamh Mulcahy to the half forward line made her an instantly a more dangerous attacking threat.

The next three scores came the way of Limerick and the attack was now brimming with confidence as Mulcahy, and Rebecca Delee increased the lead to four points entering the final quarter.

The first of Mulcahy's three second half points from play was a wonderful team effort with Murphy playing a superb cross-field ball before Sinead McNamara popped a short pass to Mulcahy.

The run of scores from Limerick came despite hitting 10-wides over the course of the game. But it was a final quarter that Limerick dominated and Kilkenny were to score just once in the final 20-minutes. An Orla Hanrick free in the 47th minute of the game merely interrupted the Limerick flow.

Player of the Match Niamh Mulcahy had her third point of the half to stretch the lead in the 50th minute and then

another of the minor stars Delee registered her second to seal the win.

Limerick stood solid in the final minutes before the elation of the final whistle, which was greeted with Limerick You're a Lady blaring out over the Croke Park PA system.

**SCORERS:** Limerick: Niamh Mulcahy 0-7 (4frees), Deborah Murphy 1-0, Caoimhe Costello and Rebecca Costello 0-2 each, Mary O'Callaghan 0-1. Kilkenny: Orla Hanrick 0-5 (3frees), Mags Fennelly and Lydia Fitzpatrick 0-2 each, Catherine Foley (free) 0-1.

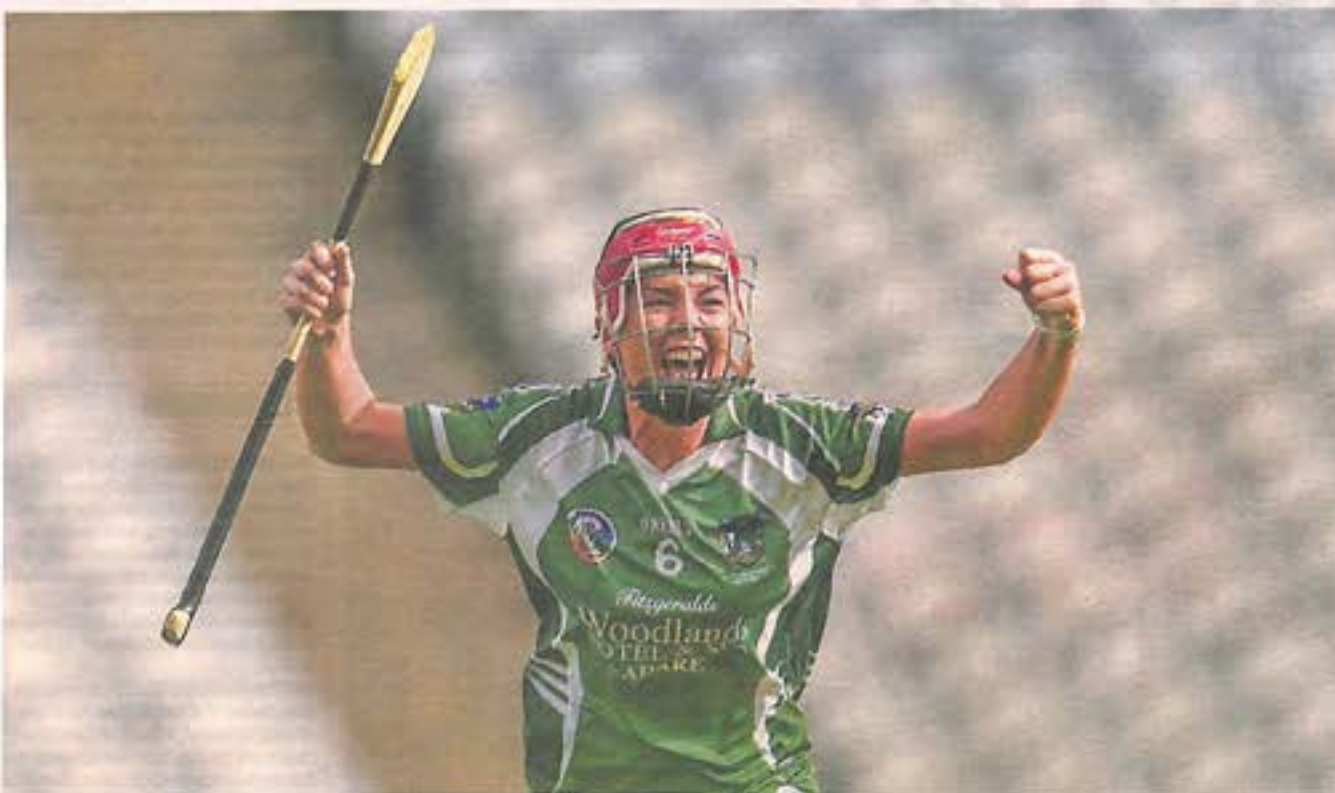
**LIMERICK:** Silé Moynihan (Afhane); Fiona Hickey (Granagh-Ballingarry), Michelle Casey (Killeedy), Judith Mulcahy (Afhane), Katie Campbell (Na Piarasigh), Sarah Carey (Granagh-Ballingarry), Claire Mulcahy (Afhane), Caoimhe Costello (Adare), Niamh Mulcahy (Afhane), Lorraine McCarthy (Bruff), Mary O'Callaghan (Bruff), Rebecca Delee (Newcastle West), Deborah Murphy (Knockaderry), Aoife Sheehan (Granagh-Ballingarry), Mairead Fitzgerald (Granagh-Ballingarry). **Subs:** Dymphna O'Brien (Killeedy) for Mairead Fitzgerald (0-1), Sinead McNamara (Na Piarasigh) for Lorraine McCarthy (0-1), Karen O'Leary (Newcastle West) for Mary O'Callaghan (43mins), Niamh Ryan (Bruff) for Deborah Murphy (50mins), Deirdre Fitzpatrick (Killeedy) for Aoife Sheehan (60mins). **Remaining panel:** Laura O'Neill (Na Piarasigh), Sarah Collins (Ballygran), Jane Wilson (Na Piarasigh), Leanne Browne (Newcastle West), Donna Mulcahy (Killeedy), Noreen Barry (Killeedy), Marguerita McCarthy (Afhane), Katie Hennessy (Ballygran), Tara Fitzgibbon (Ballygran), Mairead Creamer (Cappamore).

**KILKENNY:** Ann Marie Lennon, Edel Frisby, Catherine Foley, Therese Muldowney, Claire Aylward, Aine Fahey, Stacey Quirk, Megan Farrell, Mary O'Connell, Sarah Crowley, Anna Farrell, Laura Norris, Mags Fennelly, Orla Hanrick, Lydia Fitzpatrick. **Subs:** Aine Gannon for Laura Norris (0-1), Aine Kinsella for Stacey Quirk (49mins), Sarah Ann Quinn for Orla Hanrick (51mins). **REFEREE:** Ray Kelly (Kildare).





## GAA - ALL IRELAND INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE FINAL



That winning feeling: Limerick centre back Sarah Carey (above) celebrates at the final whistle; below - Rebecca Delee takes on the Kilkenny defence

# Captain gets lost in emotion of victory

**JEROME O'CONNELL**  
GAA Correspondent  
In Croke Park

**FIONA Hickey** became just the third ever Limerick camogie captain to lift All-Ireland honours in Croke Park.

And, the Granagh-Ballingarry defender can't remember the historic moment!

Hickey follows in the footsteps of Carrie Clancy (1977) and Helen Clifford (1995), who captained Limerick to junior championship wins

in GAA Headquarters.

But Hickey admits that accepting that Jack McGrath Cup from Aileen Lawlor, President of the Camogie Association, is a blur!

"I don't really remember it to be honest, it's all a blur - I had Aileen Lawlor in my ear telling me what to do and I needed that," recalled the Limerick captain outside the victorious dressing room beneath the Cusack Stand.

"Thank god we came out the right side. It's disbelief because I never thought I

would be here," he said with a broad smile.

"That was unbelievable. With about two or three minutes to go and we were five points up I was very emotional and I remember being very emotional last year with two or three minutes to go but it was just a totally different emotion - it was pure confidence and relief this year whereas last year it was 'this isn't happening'. Two polar opposites."

She continued: "I think there was a patch when we scored three points in a row and I was nearly getting emotional thinking about it but Kilkenny came back to score three points and I was brought back down to earth fairly lively! It was such a good feeling knowing that we were five points up and not much could have gone wrong at that stage - goals can happen but they didn't and we kept driving on."

What about lifting the winning trophy?

"I didn't think about it beforehand and I didn't even think about it at the time. We had it in our hands last Thursday at the captains day and I was looking at it and I just knew it would be mine. We have such potential and Limerick camogie is back where it should be back up senior and I just know that

the girls will drive it on next year and that they will compete at senior level," said a determined Hickey.

He added: "This is after capping off a perfect year for Limerick camogie."

Hickey felt that the 2013 final loss proved a valuable learning experience.

"We learned from last year's mistakes - the preparation was so different, everything rolled off to a tee. Coming up the night before was brilliant and thanks so much to Tommy Moran for that - we all nearly had sleep in our eyes getting off the bus last year."

At half time Limerick were two points up, but Hickey said that it was a content interval dressing room.

"We knew this year not to panic - we just said who wants it more and we knew we wanted it more and we showed that in the second half. We just said we won the first half, let's go out and win the second half. There was no panicking, I thought we were a bit panicky last year," she recalled.

"After winning the toss, things were going well and we were delighted to be play to play into the wind in the first half. That made a huge difference because we didn't get that last year," outlined the Limerick captain.

## Mulcahy: 'To win an All-Ireland in Croke Park is why you play camogie'

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LIMERICK camogie star Niamh Mulcahy has revealed that a half-time pact inspired their All-Ireland victory.

The Player of the Match Mulcahy said the disappointment of losing the final last season was a key motivation.

"Last year the big thing was that everyone came off the field with regrets and we came in today (at half-time) knowing that we had more in us and we made a promise at half-time that no one was leaving with regrets," outlined Mulcahy, one of three Ahane sisters in the team in Croke Park.

"I don't think when you play sport there is no worst feeling than losing and losing in Croke Park was absolutely gutting. Subconsciously there was an element that the fear of failing was driving us on - we weren't coming off the field without winning," she said.

"To get the win is absolutely brilliant - the minute the final whistle went there was a moment of sheer relief. After losing last year, it took a few seconds to realise what we had achieved. We had set out at the start of the year to win this and then to hear that final whistle and to know that it has actually happens it turns to relaxation, happiness, joy."

She added: "To win an All Ireland in Croke Park is why you play camogie - it is your dream from when you are young. To finally achieve this is unbelievable for everyone in Limerick camogie - not just this panel of players."

Mulcahy scored seven points in the 1-12 to 0-10 final win over Kilkenny, but felt the first half goal was crucial.

"The goal was badly needed because they had been picking off points from play and we hadn't really got into a roll - the goal came at a crucial stage because if we hadn't got that and they tagged on a point or two

we could have gone in at half time having to chase the game and maybe an element of panic could have set in. Being two points up was a bonus because we knew ourselves that we hadn't played well," she said.

While Mulcahy is a survivor from the 2007 All-Ireland win, there are rising stars aplenty in this Limerick side.

Adare's Caoimhe Costello was one of three minors in the starting team in Croke Park. But her thoughts were with the panels' older members.

"Thank god they finally got the All-Ireland medal that they richly deserve - they have soldiered without any reward for the last 10-15 years and this is for those girls. Us minors are coming in when Limerick camogie is going brilliant and we were on a high from last year even though we lost - we have never experienced having to come back year after year to do the hard work and get no reward. Those girls deserve huge credit and they are the leaders all over the field," outlined Costello.

"It's been a magic year for Limerick - it's not every year we win a minor, a junior and this. This is what dreams are made of and why we play. The feeling inside in that dressing room is something to savour and something I will never forget as long as I play camogie and I am only 18 years and there are plenty years left in me but I don't think anything will top this," said the Adare teenager.

"I think the hurt of last year helped lots. Last year it was Croke Park, oh my god.... but this year it was a case of Croke Park is another field and we are going up to play a match and we have to get a result and nothing else mattered. It was tough out there because the field is a lot bigger than Adare or Mick Neville Park but Croke Park is where we wanted to be. I think no matter where the game was on we were going to come with a performance."



Star turn: Niamh Mulcahy, Limerick, receives the player of the match award from Patrick O'Brien, CEO, Liberty Insurance after the All Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship Final in Croke Park on Sunday





In the picture: the Limerick camogie team celebrate their All Ireland final win over Kilkenny in Croke Park on Sunday. See pages 3,4 and 5 for more as well as centre-page poster

## Selfie congratulations for Limerick ladies



Limerick goalkeeper Sile Moynihan celebrates by taking a 'selfie' with her teammates after they beat Kilkenny in the Liberty Insurance Intermediate Camogie Championship final at Croke Park.

Picture: Ryan Byrne

## Glory day



Limerick celebrate after defeating Kilkenny in yesterday's All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship final in Croke Park.

Picture: Sportsfile



# Oh so cruel to be beaten again, but Cork are a master team

WRITTEN BY  
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CORK	2-12
KILKENNY	1-9

Fate was against Kilkenny! They played better than they did last year. They had a right go, but they ended up being beaten in successive finals for the first time ever.

Oh how cruel! To the finish it was tough, tough going for brave Kilkenny in this All-Ireland senior camogie final against excellent Cork, who took their 26th crown in Croke Park on Sunday.

In the space of a few minutes during a frantic finish Kilkenny were denied what looked a definite penalty. The call didn't go their way. And then in the dying seconds Cork grabbed their second goal to bury the opposition deeper than was fair on the run of play.

"It is hard to take something like that," admitted Kilkenny manager, Niall Williams. "The girls gave so much and then at the finish everything turned against them. It was cruel, very cruel."

The penalty incident didn't appear to be a perhaps or maybe issue. The losers had worked the ball virtually to the Cork line at the Hill 16 end goal, but Aoife Neary was

tackled rugby like and was knocked to the ground. The referee read the incident as a stumble or something, because there was no whistle.

Eventually a free out was awarded. The score was 1-11 to 1-9 at the time. There was barely a minute of normal time remaining.

Instead of getting a crack at a possible game changing penalty, Kilkenny were hit for a point from a free by the fine striking Orla Cotter and a late goal by Angela Walsh, who fairly creased the net after being put in the clear by a lovely hand-pass from the hugely effective Julia White.

That was the final chapter in a premier class final during which every crust was earned. The losers were the better team during the opening half. They wouldn't have been flattered had they been more than the 1-6 to 0-4 clear they were at the rest.

Cork goalie, Aoife Murray, denied them a goal in spectacular style in the sixth minute when saving a tapped effort

from close range by Michelle Quilty after Aine Connery and Katie Power had combined to cut the defence wide open.

**Penalty call**  
There was no dispute. It was a penalty after Aoife Neary was knocked to the ground

Cork, however, upped the tempo after the turn. With powerful hurling by strong centre-back, Gemma O'Connor, Eimear O'Sullivan, Briege Corkery, Orla Cotter as free taker and space creator and the hard running Julie White they put the opposition under ferocious pressure.

There was inspired movement to Kilkenny's opening

play, as they swarmed around any opponent in possession. It was a high pressure game. They executed it well. Part of the plan was to drill high ball to full-forward, Katie Power, and she had a great hand when fielding high ball.

Anyway, after Power and Julia White swapped early points the Cork goal was saved by their goalie before Michelle Quilty won the lead for last year's losing finalists

(0-2 to 0-1). Kilkenny showed the way to the rest.

Their goal arrived in the 17th minute, a neat tap home by the probing Michelle Quilty after Denise Gaule and Ann Dalton drilled a hole in the winners defence (1-3 to 0-2). When Gaule added a quick point from the left wing, Kilkenny were moving well and with menace as they employed a strong pressure game.

At half-time the score was: Kilkenny 1-6, Cork 0-4. The Cats looked good, especially Ann Dalton, Collette Dormer, Jacqui Frisby, Elaine Aylward, Gaule, Power and Quilty.

The winners were hit for another point within a minute of the restart. Shelly Farrell finished smartly after a good catch and lay-off by Power following a free in by Denise Gaule.

Cork were only warming up. This time they chased down the opposition at every turn. They went on a scoring run of 1-5 without reply, with Jennifer O'Leary bagging the goal after an assist by the deadly Angela Walsh (1-8 to 1-7).

The winners added a point to that lead through Orla Cotter. Kilkenny's next score, af-

ter a 14 minute barren spell, was landed by Denise Gaule. It was a one point game, 1-9 to 1-8 with 15 minutes remaining.

Kilkenny drove two wides as they chased the equaliser. Cork shot one at the other end before Briege Corkery claimed an invaluable point. Cotter converted a 45 next after goalie, Emma Kavanagh saved from Angela Walsh. A score from Collette Dormer, who had moved into the attack, left Kilkenny very much in it when she pointed on 58 minutes.

The penalty appeal followed. The game blew up in Kilkenny faces after that.

**Scorers:**

**Cork** - Orla Cotter (0-6, three frees, one 45); Jennifer O'Leary (1-1); Angela Walsh (1-0); Briege Corkery (0-2); Eimear O'Sullivan, Julia White, Katriona Mackey (0-1 each). **Kilkenny** - Denise Gaule (0-5, four frees); Michelle Quilty (1-1); Collette Dormer, Katie Power, Shelly Farrell (0-1 each).

**Kilkenny** - Emma Kavanagh (Rower-Inistioge); Mairead Power (Carrickshock); Kate McDonald (Thomas-

town), Jacqui Frisby (Ballyhale Shamrocks); Claire Phelan (Lisdowney), Collette Dormer (Paulstown), Elaine Aylward (Mullinavat); Leann Fennelly, capt (Mullinavat), Ann Dalton (St Lachtain's); Denise Gaule (Windgap), Aisling Dunphy (St Brigid's), Aine Connery (St Lachtain's); Shelly Farrell (Thomastown); Katie Power (Piltown), Michelle Quilty (Mullinavat). Subs - Miriam Walsh (Tullaroan) for Connery 43rd min; Aoife Neary (James Stephens) for S. Farrell 52nd min; Edwina Keane (St Martin's) for L. Fennelly 56th min.

**Cork** - Aoife Murray; Joanne O'Callaghan, An-

na Geary (capt), Laura Tracey; Eimear O'Sullivan, Gemma O'Connor, Pamela Mackey; Rena Buckley, Ashling Thompson; Jennifer O'Leary, Angela Walsh, Briege Corkery; Julia White, Orla Cotter, Katriona Mackey. Sub - Joanne Casey for J. O'Leary 60th min. Ref - John Dolan (Clare). Frees - Kilkenny 9 (6 and 3); Cork 18 (10 and 8). Wides - Kilkenny 6 (4 and 2); Cork 5 (2 and 3).



Cork's Orla Cotter finds herself under pressure from a black and amber defensive wall during Sunday's senior camogie All-Ireland final in Croke Park.

Photo: Ryan Byrne/Inpho



Kilkenny's Claire Phelan reaches in to hook Cork's Katriona Mackey.

Photo: Cathal Noonan/Inpho



# Experience and hurt from last year's defeat drove on Limerick

WRITTEN BY

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**LIMERICK** 1-12  
**KILKENNY** 0-10

The Kilkenny dream of claiming their second Jack McGrath Cup in the intermediate camogie All-Ireland final in Croke Park on Sunday ended in heartache.

The hard going, hard chasing Cats had to give way to a superior Limerick outfit, who made up for the disappointment of losing last year's decider in what was a mighty battle for honours.

The losers opened well. Mags Fennelly got them into the groove when scoring an excellent point in their first raid within 30 seconds of the throw-in. Niamh Mulcahy responded for Limerick with a free from 45 metres.

Mulcahy doubled Limerick's account in the fifth minute when she put the Shannonsiders ahead. Lydia Fitzpatrick equalised for Kilkenny but the deadly Niamh Mulcahy put Limerick back in the lead again with a point in 12th minute after Rebecca Delee was fouled.

## DOUBLED ADVANTAGE

Mary O'Callaghan doubled Limerick's advantage with a brilliant point from play before Lydia Fitzpatrick responded for the losers with an excellent point in the 15th

minute. This was typical of the exchanges - one side scored, then the other.

The winners, who were playing into the breeze, then hit a high gear and scored 1-1 without reply in what turned out to be a crucial stage in the contest. Niamh Mulcahy tapped over a free in the 18th minute before Deborah Murphy got in for the opening and only goal in the contest.

Murphy latched on to a breaking ball before blasting home from 14 metres (1-5 to 0-3).

Shaken but far from floored by the concession, Kilkenny stormed back into the game and scored three points without reply. Orla Handrick started the good run with a point in the 26th minute after she was fouled on the 20 metres line. Full-back Catherine Foley continued the comeback when she converted a massive free from all of 80 metres.

Orla Handrick cut the gap to two points before the interval with a free in the 32nd minute to leave it 1-5 to 0-6 at the break.

Kilkenny, who are inexperienced at this grade, showed great fighting qualities to get back into the

**Driven**  
 Limerick were driven by the experience of losing last year's intermediate final.

game after the concession of the Murphy goal and they were not overcome by the occasion.

They showed great character to get back into the contest against a driven Limerick outfit who operated at senior level throughout the League.

The losers started the second half brightly. They took less than 60 seconds to open the scoring. Orla Handrick latching onto a Catherine Foley free to tap over from 21 metres. The gap was down to the bare minimum.



Kilkenny goalkeeper Ann Marie Lennon clears her lines as Aoife Sheehan (Limerick) moves in to make the challenge during the intermediate camogie final in Croke Park on Sunday.  
 Photo: Cathal Noonan/Inpho

Limerick bounced back for a brace of points from Caoimhe Costello (1-7 to 0-7). The first a good distance. She put three between the teams when she pointed on 40 minutes to keep Limerick's good run going.

## GAVE CHASE

Kilkenny gave chase again. Mags Fennelly got to the end of a delivery from Catherine Foley and pulled back a minor. When Orla Handrick showed good skill to add another, it was back to a one point game again (1-7 to 0-9).

Limerick's experience then began to show. The outstanding Niamh Mulcahy led them to safety yet again. She started a burst of scores with a point from 40 metres.

Mulcahy then tapped over another point in the 45th minute. Limerick looked strong, and their belief was growing.

Rebecca Delee, who was tremendous in the contest,

then extended Limerick's lead to 1-10 to 0-9 as the match drifted into the last quarter.

Orla Handrick stopped the rot for Kilkenny when she pointed a free from the edge of the large square following a foul on Anna Farrell. Limerick took this blow on the chin and roared back and closed out the game with two points from Niamh Mulcahy in the 50th minute before Rebecca Delee pointed in from 30 metres.

Try as they might the young and brave Kilkenny side couldn't get through for the crucial goal that might have sparked a game saving effort. Limerick ran down the clock and ran out deserving winners.

Obviously the result was a huge disappointment at the end of the season for Kilkenny, who put together an unbeaten run to qualify for the final.

However, the bitter experience of this day should stand to the girls in the future. No

one could take an iota from a terrific Limerick outfit, who were simply outstanding on the day.

They showed great determination. Kilkenny are a very young outfit. In time they will get over the disappointment, but that could be the fuel that will drive them to victory on another day.

## SCORERS:

**Kilkenny** - Orla Handrick (0-5, three frees); Mags Fennelly, Lydia Fitzpatrick (0-2 each); Catherine Foley (0-1, free). **Limerick** - Niamh Mulcahy (0-7, four frees); Deborah Murphy (1-0); Caoimhe Costello, Rebecca Delee (0-2 each); Mary O'Callaghan (0-1).

**Kilkenny** - Ann Marie Lennon, Edel Frisby, Catherine Foley, Therese Muldowney, Claire Aylward, Aine Fahey, Stacey Quirke, Megan Farrell, Mary O'Connell, Sarah Crow-

ley, Anna Farrell, Laura Norris, Mags Fennelly (capt), Orla Handrick, Lydia Fitzpatrick.

**Subs** - Aine Gannon, Aine Kinsella, Sarah Ann Quinlan (used); Laura Walker, Aisling Butler, Mary O'Connell, Aisling Nolan, Catherine Connolly, Emma Comerford, Kirsty Maher, Meave Mansfield, Sonia Buggy.

**Limerick** - Sile Moynihan, Fiona Hickey (capt), Michelle Casey, Judith Mulcahy, Katike Campbell, Sarah Carey, Claire Mulcahy, Rebecca Delee, Mary O'Callaghan, Deborah Murphy, Niamh Mulcahy, Caoimhe Costelloe, Lorraine McCarthy, Aoife Sheehan, Mairead Fitzgerald.

**Subs** - Sinead McNamara, Dymphna O'Brien, Karen O'Leary, Niamh Ryan, Deirdre Fitzpatrick (used).

Referee - P. Kelly (Kildare).



Kilkenny's Anna Farrell and Niamh Mulcahy of Limerick.  
 Photo: Ryan Byrne/Inpho



# Winning is great, but the journey is about excellence

I left Dublin too late last Thursday and had to hare it down the motorway to get to CIT in time. On the drive south I wondered what I could possibly offer the Cork camogie team that they hadn't got already. I had been invited to give them a brief chat. I had said, yes. Then I wondered what I could really chat about.

I was right to worry. They were ready and waiting in a meeting room we often used for team meetings with the Cork hurlers. They were a young looking bunch but they had an air of seriousness that matched any team who had ever met in that room.

I said my bit, answered a few questions, wished them luck and headed off to club training feeling a bit like a fraud. They were ready before I walked into that room. In the car as I drove towards Cloyne I realised that they had given me more than I had given them. They had hooked my interest. I knew I would definitely be driving back up the motorway on Sunday morning to go and see them play in last Sunday's All Ireland final.

When people talk about women's sport two things always annoy me as much as they must annoy women. First is the endless comparison with men. Paul O'Connell/Robbie Keane/ Henry Shefflin would have been happy with that shot there. Misses the point completely. First, you don't compare the paintings of one type of painter with those of a completely different artist. If you said, you know Van Gogh, that painting is so good Picasso would put his name to it I'm sure Van Gogh would cut your ear off and then carve your tongue out. Things are excellent on their own terms or they're not. That's the only way to judge.

During the season and before the game it's all about winning. It must be. But if you have played sport and had a few wins you realise something else. That there is an intense pleasure in actually winning but there is a quick comedown where you ask, "is that it?" or, as Briege Corkery put it in an interview last Saturday: "Yay! We won! Forget about it, drive on."

The great teams and the great players regard winning as a critical benchmark but the journey is about excellence and getting the most out of yourself as a team and as individuals. Expressing yourself, leaving all the potential and all the promise on the field, coming off with nothing more to give, being better this year than you were last year, knowing you'll be better again next week. When you view sport that way comparisons are stupid and they limit your potential for enjoyment.

The second annoying thing is the pat on the head style of lip service. They're all grand girls. All the matches they play in are great entertainment. Bullshit. They're not. There are good players and bad players, beautiful games and ugly games. Geniuses and wasters. Players who make it and players who don't. That's why they keep score. Winners and losers.

When I was driving to Cloyne last Thursday I knew I wanted to be in Croke Park because I had come away from the meeting room in CIT with some idea of the story of the Cork camogie team. There's no story where grand girls always play grand games and everyone is a winner. That's not interesting.

The story of any team is the struggle to keep it together, it's where you go on the bad days, what happens in the times when it all seems as if it is going to fall apart. Half an hour in a room with the Cork camogie team I wanted to see how the story came out.

They say about the bad media coverage of women's sport that you can't force people to be interested. True. Grand girls playing great games all the time isn't interesting. But if you tell the stories people will get interested anyway. How could anybody not sit in a room with these people and not wonder just what sort of story ties all these characters together. You have Anna Geary, a Rose of Tralee contestant, and Ashling Thompson, whose tattoos tell the story of what's in her head on bad days and Briege Corkery a stonemason by trade and possessor of more All-Ireland medals than a lot of counties have and Jenny O'Leary, who travels from Monaghan for training, and Orla Cotter, who stands over frees like a foal with a bad leg but still converts them beautifully... There's a story in every single one of them in the room. You couldn't think about them as a group and not want to see how it will end for them.



## Dónal Óg Cusack

The great teams and the great players regard winning as a critical benchmark but achieving it is also about excellence and getting the most out of yourself as a team and as individuals



**REBEL SALUTE:** Leanne O'Sullivan celebrates with fans from her home club, Glen Rovers, after Cork's victory over Kilkenny in last Sunday's All Ireland senior camogie final in Croke Park.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Croke Park. The pitch was perfect, the day was lovely and if you are at the end of a year's hard work why not show it on the biggest stage. If people don't come that's their loss.

Cork made heavy weather of the first half. Kilkenny had the middle third of the field crowded with bodies and Cork's running game kept breaking down there. Kilkenny had what breeze there was and looking back they might regret that they weren't more ambitious. They broke down a lot of Cork's puckouts and clearances but, with their wing-forwards out around the middle, they weren't working much quality ball into their full-forward line.

**T**he Cork sideline team, being on the side of the pitch where the crowd were making so much noise, couldn't get the messages they wanted out onto the field. At times like that you need the old hands to take control. Aoife Murray, who had looked exceptional in goal for Cork, had the misfortune that a ball slipped back out into Michelle Quilty's path after about 17 minutes and Kilkenny scored a goal to go four points up. A few seconds later Kilkenny added another point. Five ahead.

About a minute later you saw Briege Corkery move from attack into the middle of the pitch. It was like a teacher walking in on a free class. Order. When the teams went in at half-time the gap was still five.

I'm told that it was calm in the Cork dressing room at half-time. Teams who have been through a lot together don't need much shouting and roaring. Cork came out in the second half and applied their running

fidet team the sheer frustration makes you more tired.

It was the stories that mattered though. Cork's first goal came from Jennifer O'Leary. She retired last year when she got married and move to Monaghan. They changed her mind for her though. She trained while she was on honeymoon. She kept coming down from Monaghan to training while she had two family bereavements. She hit every fitness mark they set for her.

The older Cork players have been to parts of the country they never thought they'd see in the few years since they last won an All-Ireland in 2009. It was never assumed they would get back to Croke Park. This year early on they still weren't sure but the people they had question marks over fell away of their own accord and as they did communication between the rest became more simple and more clear. They had a famous day out to Spike Island in June though, working with the army lads, carrying each other about, being thrown blindfolded into the water, learning to work as a team and communicate as a team. When that was done Joanne O'Callaghan put €200 on her teammates to win the All-Ireland. She got 6-1 at the bookies.

Around the time the team were in Spike Island the women's football season was taking off. Rena Buckley Angela Walsh and Briege Corkery were committed to both. One weekend the footballers played and beat Clare on Saturday afternoon and the next morning at half eight the camogie side gathered to travel to Dublin for camogie championship.

I can't explain how any of the dual players do it but if Cork win the football All-Ire-

ing corner-back in her first All-Ireland with O'Connor out commanding the half back line. Kilkenny and the teams lining out in the two other finals must have had just as many stories.

I enjoyed the day. At one point in the stand I complained loudly about the refereeing. A woman in front of me turned around and calmly said that she was part of the CCC which had appointed him. A man with an English accent sitting behind me exploded with emotion at one stage. A woman in front of me who must have been at least 80 turned and gave him a death stare which shut him up straight away.

I found myself remembering my own childhood and wondering why I was surprised to be enjoying myself. On my mother's side my aunts, Marie and Kathleen, both played for Cork and won All-Ireland medals. Marie was a full-back and was picked on the Camogie Team of the Century. She won a four in-a-row in the early seventies with the county. Kathleen was a goalie and won three All-Irelands.

I used to hear camogie stories from my grandmother as I was growing up. I couldn't get those days out of my head last Sunday, especially my grandmother Joanne Costine, a woman who wouldn't have been slow to express herself at matches. That trait has been lost in the family since.

As kids if we were in nanny Costine's house we'd hear camogie stories and the walls were covered in pictures of camogie players and statuettes of camogie players. In my grandmother Cusack's (Frances Ring) house it was pictures of hurlers, especially the Ringer himself. I always remember one pencil drawn picture of Ring marching with the Cork team before the '54 final I think it was. I loved that picture.

My father's family and my mother's family both lived on a terrace of small houses. Eleven children in my father's family, 14 in my mother's family next door, 15 in the O'Shea's house a few yards further. No shortage for endless games of hurling. It is remembered in each family that often Marie was a dominant figure in any of those



# Believe because the talent is there

It was a disappointing day for Kilkenny camogie with the senior and intermediate teams losing their respective All-Ireland finals.

A late rally by Kilkenny in the senior game made for an exciting finish but that was all in vain when Cork went on to score a second goal. Kilkenny played well in the opening half when aided by the breeze. Cork opted to play with seven defenders and at times it could have been eight.

An early Katie Power point gave Kilkenny the best possible start and for much of the half the play focused on the Cork goal. Kilkenny's problem was that too many long deliveries ended up being cleared. The Noreiders were dominating and their scoring rate should have been greater.

An alert Michelle Quilty gave Kilkenny a great boost midway through the half when she goaled following a save by Cork goalie Aoife Murray. The Mullinavat player also had another effort on goal which was saved.

Although Kilkenny followed Quilty's goal with a couple of points from Denise Gaule, Cork was making good use of limited possession at the other end. A five point margin was not a big lead heading into the second half. Immediately on the restart Cork reverted to a standard formation.

More importantly, they played to a much higher tempo. They slowly eroded the Kilkenny lead and when Jenny O'Leary scored their first goal the pressure was on.

The Noreiders struggled to respond with their defence under constant pressure. In contrast, every Cork defender started to dominate her immediate opponent. The result was that Kilkenny got few opportunities for scores.

With two minutes remaining three points separated the teams. Cork was on top. Kilkenny battled bravely for a goal that would draw the game. They almost got one but were penalised and a free out resulted.

Kilkenny could legitimately argue that it should have been a free in as Aoife Neary was fouled as she attempted to

palm the ball to the net. Losing the senior final two years in-a-row is a big disappointment but the talent is definitely there to win the O'Duffy Cup.

Kilkenny needs to learn from both defeats. The side is generally small in stature so there is little point playing high balls into the attack. It worked only occasionally on Sunday.

It was noticeable in the second half that Cork adopted a running game to great effect. Their ability to quickly switch play from one side of the field to the other made it testing for the opposition. Miriam Walsh made a big impression when introduced and I was surprised she was not brought on earlier.

Kilkenny also looked far more threatening when Katie Power and Denise Gaule switched positions in the second half. In hindsight that move might have been made earlier.

Experience is a huge asset in an All-Ireland final. When questions were asked of Cork in the second half it was principally the players with many Celtic Crosses who came up trumps. Next year may seem a long way away for the Kilkenny players but the 2015 League and championship will arrive quickly. The future should be viewed positively by all the players.

Kilkenny also came out second best in the second game against Limerick in the intermediate All-Ireland. This was Limerick's first team and they were looking to avenge a narrow two-point loss to Galway last year.

There was little between the sides in the opening half with Limerick holding a narrow 1-5 to 0-6 interval lead. The closeness of the play continued but all changed when the Shannonsiders took control.

The star was centre-forward Niamh Mulcahy. The Ahane player scored some wonderful points from play and frees. Mulcahy, whose grand-uncle was the legendary Mick Mackey, was the Player of the Match award, an honour she also secured the last time Limerick won this final in 2007.



Edel Frisby (Kilkenny) tries to wriggle away from Lorraine McCarthy (Limerick) during the intermediate camogie All-Ireland final. Photo: Donall Farmer

## ALL-IRELAND FINAL 2014



### BRIEGHE CORKERY AND TONY KELLY

CLARE'S U21 hurlers and Cork's camogie stars passed huge milestones last weekend.

The Banner's third All-Ireland U21 title in-a-row, after a terrific tussle with Wexford, showed that their senior future is in very safe hand, and seven points from Tony Kelly led the way.

The Rebelettes, who once



dominated their game in similar fashion, had to battle from behind to beat Kilkenny and win their first senior title in five years and, once again, tireless dual star Brieghe Corkery provided massive skill and leadership.

Irish Independent

Croke Park last Sunday. Straight up, the crowd was smaller than I expected it to be. Three All-Ireland finals deserved a bigger crowd, but that's comparisons again. The value of anything isn't decided by its popularity. The price perhaps but not the value. There was the same intensity, excitement and passion as you'd get at any sporting occasion. I thought for a moment that maybe it would be better to play the camogie final at a small venue, but then again I'm sure if you asked the players they'd want

game. After conceding an early point they had a run where they scored 1-5 without any answer from Kilkenny and by then it was as good as over. Kilkenny looked fairly spent before the scoreboard told the story. The game was physical with a few dirty strokes and a referee who didn't seem to have his yellow card with him. Kilkenny eventually started feeling heavy-legged - the way teams did when they used to play Newtownshandrum's hurlers a few years ago. When you are being run through by a con-

land later this month, Rena Buckley and Brieghe Corkery will each be winning their 14th All Ireland senior medal. You'd imagine Brieghe must be nearing 50 after all she has crammed into life. She's 27 and she took a year off to go travelling. These aren't remarkable women. They are remarkable people. End of.

Gemma O' Connor was away with the armed forces last year and they missed her hugely. On Sunday it must have been a thrill for somebody like Laura Treacy to be play-

games, always wearing a leather glove as she went about terrorising opposition forwards.

I was leaving Croke Park when I heard Anna Geary say in her speech something I really believe in. Bad times don't put sport into perspective. It's the other way around. Sport helps us put bad times into perspective. Sport makes us walk on. "It's an opportunity to create a little bit of happiness through the sadness," Anna said.

There's nothing that can be added to that. Twitter: @donalovec



## 2014 Championship season

### TOP SCORERS

Orla Cotter 1-47 (0-30 f, 0-1 45)  
Katrina Mackey 4-18  
Jenny O'Leary 3-15 (0-4)  
Briega Corkery 0-8  
Julia White 0-7

### EVER PRESENT

Aoife Murray, Joanne O'Callaghan, Pamela Mackey, Rena Buckley, Aisling Thompson, Briega Corkery, Katrina Mackey, Orla Cotter, Eimear O'Sullivan (1 as sub), Anna Geary (2 as sub).

### GROUP STAGE

Dublin 0-5 Cork 2-24

**Scorers:** J O'Leary 2-9 (0-4 f), O Cotter 1-5 (0-1 45), K Mackey 1-5, R Buckley (f), J Casey, H Looney, D Cronin, B Corkery 0-1 each.

**CORK:** A Murray, J O'Callaghan, M Walsh, L Treacy, P Mackey, R Buckley, E O'Sullivan, J Casey, A Thompson, H Looney, D Cronin, B Corkery, K Mackey, O Cotter, J O'Leary.

**Sub:** A Geary for O'Callaghan (43).

Wexford 2-14 Cork 1-11

**Scorers for Cork:** K Mackey 1-3, O Cotter 0-4 (0-3 f), J Casey 0-2, A Thompson, G O'Connor 0-1 each.

**CORK:** A Murray, J O'Callaghan, M Walsh, L Treacy, E O'Sullivan, R Buckley, P Mackey, A Thompson, G O'Connor, J Casey, D Cronin, B Corkery, H Looney, O Cotter, K Mackey.

**Subs:** A Geary for M Walsh (19), J White for D Cronin (in-t), S Hayes for H Looney (51), C Foley for J O'Callaghan (58).

Cork 0-15 Galway 0-7

**Scorers for Cork:** O Cotter 0-9 (0-6 f), K Mackey, J White 0-3 each.

**CORK:** A Murray, J O'Callaghan, M Walsh, A Geary, P Mackey, G O'Connor, L Treacy, R Buckley, A Thompson, O Cotter, J Casey, B Corkery, J White, K Mackey, D Cronin.

**Subs:** E O'Sullivan for L Treacy (27 in), S Hayes for A Thompson (60).

### ALL-IRELAND QUARTER-FINAL

Cork 2-21 Offaly 1-15

**Scorers for Cork:** O Cotter 0-12 (0-10 f), D Cronin, Amy O'Connor 1-0 each, J White, K Mackey, B Corkery 0-2 each, J Casey, J O'Leary, G O'Connor 0-1 each.

**CORK:** A Murray, J O'Callaghan, A Geary, L Treacy, P Mackey, G O'Connor, E O'Sullivan, R Buckley, A Thompson, O Cotter, D Cronin, J Casey, J White, B Corkery, K Mackey.

**Subs:** A Walsh for J Casey (45), A O'Connor for K Mackey (54), S Hayes for E O'Sullivan (56).

### ALL-IRELAND SEMI-FINAL

Cork 1-9 Wexford 1-9

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

**CORK:** A Murray, J O'Callaghan, A Geary, L Treacy, E O'Sullivan, G O'Connor, P Mackey, R Buckley, A Thompson, O Cotter, A Walsh, J O'Leary, J White, B Corkery, K Mackey.

### ALL-IRELAND SEMI-FINAL REPLAY

Cork 1-15 Wexford 0-8

**Scorers:** O Cotter 0-8 (0-5 f), K Mackey 1-3, J O'Leary 0-2, A Murray (f), B Corkery 0-1 each.

**CORK:** A Murray, J O'Callaghan, A Geary, L Treacy, E O'Sullivan, G O'Connor, P Mackey, R Buckley, A Thompson, J O'Leary, A Walsh, B Corkery, J White, O Cotter, K Mackey.

**Subs:** A O'Connor for J White (53), J Casey for R Buckley (56), D Cronin for A Walsh (61).

### ALL-IRELAND FINAL

Cork 2-12 Kilkenny 1-9

**Scorers for Cork:** O Cotter 0-6 (0-4 f), J O'Leary 1-1, A Walsh 1-0, B Corkery 0-2, E O'Sullivan, K Mackey, J White 0-1 each.

**CORK:** A Murray, J O'Callaghan, A Geary, L Treacy, E O'Sullivan, G O'Connor, P Mackey, R Buckley, A Thompson, O Cotter, A Walsh, J O'Leary, J White, B Corkery, K Mackey.

**Sub:** J Casey for J O'Leary (51).

# Always ready



**W**HEN they headed in for the half-time break at Croke Park last Sunday, Cork appeared in trouble.

They trailed 1-6 to 0-4 to a vibrant Kilkenny side that hadn't lost all season, and it would have been more but for a wonderful reflex save in the early stages by Aoife Murray. It wasn't insurmountable, especially with the wind to come, but with the Cats squeezing the middle third and Cork disjointed up front, they were going to have to hurl up a storm to prevail.

Yet the players were reasonably confident as they sat in the bowels of GAA headquarters.

The hard yards had been put in since the depths of winter. Four hurling sessions a week with coach Mattie Twomey, including significant tactical work. Two mornings at the gym on top of those, under the watch of Michael Carroll at Fitnessworx in Toghre. The stats and video feedback from Niall Collins, the access to sports psychology, Teddy Donovan's input as goalkeeping coach, and Brian Barry's handle on the logistics, meant this was the best organised camogie management structure Cork ever had.

Donal Óg Cusack gave them a talk at CIT last Thursday. Little details. "Everything we required to win was in place this season," Cork captain Anna Geary explains. "Now what works for one team mightn't work for another. Individuals have different

Cork learned their lessons from the 2012 All-Ireland final loss. Combine a professional management structure and determined, talented players, it was inevitable they'd deliver this season, explains **Éamonn Murphy**



requirements, but once you create a positive environment which pushes everyone to the maximum, you can't have any excuses."

For Joanne O'Callaghan their fitness ensured they were primed to peak when it mattered.

"We had a training day in Spike Island. It was a nightmare at the time, but having got through it you could get through anything. We had pictures on the dressing room wall from the camp. We were able to call on that."

The management didn't spare them at half-time though. They couldn't. For Paudie Murray and his backroom, three years hung in the balance.

The pressure of delivering on Jones Road might have been an issue, and certainly Cork had failed to adhere to their gameplan. Once they adjusted they were unstoppable in that second half. Jenny O'Leary's goal ignited the revival, and even if Kilkenny might have been had a late penalty, Angela Walsh raised a second green flag at the finish to frank Cork's second half-dominance and

a 12-point turnaround.

On the journey home last Monday, team Geary took a call from Kilkenny icon DJ Carey. Obviously he'd been in Croke to cheer on his own county, but he felt Cork's closing 30 minutes was one of the most impressive he'd ever seen. High praise indeed.

Just two years ago the Rebels lost a classic to Wexford, before a harrowing semi-final defeat by Kilkenny last season. Eleven of the 2012 All-Ireland side started on Sunday, but the shape of the team was different. Geary had moved from centre-forward to number three, Rena Buckley full-back out to midfield, and Briega Corkery the wing instead of full-forward. Prolific goalscorer Síle Burns retired but Katrina Mackey blossomed, with a return of 4-18 from play in seven games. Angela Walsh had won two camogie All-Irelands in 2005 and '06, played last year, and came back in mid summer. It could have upset the balance of the panel.

"We were at all the club games," says Paudie Murray, "and Angela

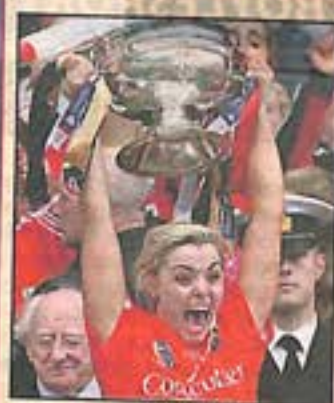
was superb for Killeagh and she'd been excellent last year too. As a management team you've got to get the best players on the panel." Crucially talismanic centre-back Gemma O'Connor was available after being abroad with the Defence Forces in 2013, and Jenny O'Leary reversed her decision to retire, despite moving to Monaghan to teach.

"You can't argue with the level of commitment," states Geary, "there are players coming from Armagh, Dublin, Portlaoise, and you've students in Carlow and Waterford. There's no mileage so you could say camogie and ladies footballers deserve even more respect than the men."

"Nobody is doing it for fame. It's all about loving the game, and obviously trying to win." There were personal tragedies off the field, and the displays given despite those just make this group all the more commendable. "We wouldn't have won the All-Ireland without Jenny if you look at her performances in the final and against Wexford," agrees



# to stand tall



Anna Geary lifts the cup.

## The path to O'Duffy Cup glory

### PEAKING AT THE RIGHT TIME

CORK won back-to-back leagues in 2012-'13, but those titles weren't worth much in the heat of championship. They eased up this spring and weren't too bothered when Kilkenny beat Clare in the league decider.

It wasn't as easy as flicking a switch in the summer though, as a chastening loss to Wexford in the round-robin series forced the selectors to re-jig the team. That defeat stood to them. Offaly were blitzed in the quarters, before sweet revenge against the Yellow Bellies and the Cats.

### MAKING THE HARD CALLS

After the Wexford set-back, Anna Geary came in at full-back and young Laura Treacy dropped back to the corner, while Rena Buckley switched to midfield. They bolstered the panel too, recruiting Irish U19 soccer star Amy O'Connor - who hurls with St Vincent's - and recalling dual powerhouse Angela Walsh.

It solidified the side even if talented players like Maria Walsh, Denise Cronin and Joanne Casey then missed out on starting. The depth of the panel wasn't a factor last weekend, but ensured fierce intensity at training.

### CLASS AND HUNGER

Kilkenny lost last year, were beaten by Cork in 2009, and captured their 12th senior title back in 1994. Add in the fact the Cats have lifted five minor All-Irelands since the competition went from U16 to U18 in 2006 and Cork haven't (though they reached three finals and lost the past two after replays), and they should have had an edge on both counts.

Yet the warrior spirit of the likes of Aoife Murray, Gemma O'Connor, Jenny O'Leary and Orla Cotter resulted in an awesome second-half triumph.



Cork players Gemma O'Connor with her parents Geraldine and Donal and Joanne O'Callaghan and her parents Bina and Donal after last Sunday's All-Ireland final.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Cork coach Paudie Murray.

Paudie. "She's irreplaceable, given her skill, work-rate, attitude. Same with Gemma. "A lot of big players shone. Briege was right back in form, Joanne was very good, Orla Cotter, Eimear (O'Sullivan)."

And there was new blood as well. "Laura Treacy is only coming out of minor but she was superb at corner-back, her mother and father were fine players so she knows what it's all about." Everything is framed in the prism of All-Ireland glory, but Cork undoubtedly approached the season and the final with their eyes wide open. Selector Brian Barry liaised with former Dublin star Jason Sherlock

who works for the Louis Fitzgerald Hotel. They'd a floor to themselves for team meetings and an area nearby for a puck-around. "The whole weekend was so relaxed," says Joanne O'Callaghan, who won her sixth All-Ireland and had a sizeable bet to earn €600 on it too. "It was all centred on being right for the game and there were no distractions. Fair enough we didn't get do it right Sunday until the second half, but the approach

definitely paid off." Geary was in the spotlight more than most, having dazzled as the Cork Rose, she came back into the fold was the responsibility of minding the square. "I'd been playing camogie 20 years but I'd never wore the number three jersey, but it probably made me more determined. I didn't get carried away after the Rose, I actually felt refreshed, I was training on the Thursday with a pep in my step really."

It culminated in her shutting down Kilkenny's marquee forward Katie Power, who'd struck 1-6 from play in the 2012 semi-final.

"Anna saw off (Katrina) Parrock, (Ursula) Jacob, Una Leacy and Power," states Paudie. "What more can you say."

Even though they savoured the celebrations this week - the return to Leeside and then up to county champions Milford on Monday, the tour of The Castle, Larry Tompkins', Soho, and Reardens on Tuesday night with the O'Duffy Cup - there's already talk of next year.

Joanne O'Callaghan has retired having won "the sweetest of them all", and a couple of others could follow. Paudie Murray has yet to decide his future, but he's certain of one thing.

"This team is capable of at least another All-Ireland. Whoever is in charge, the structure is there and the standards have been set." That's Cork camogie again. Setting the standards for the rest to follow.





The Cork team celebrate with the O'Duffy Cup after beating Kilkenny in the All-Ireland final at the weekend. After a shaky first-half, Cork stormed into the second half, outscoring their opponents 2-8 to 0-3, to be crowned champions for the 25th time in their history. The match finished 2-12 to 1-9 with Ballinhassig's Eimear O'Sullivan picking up the RTE Player of the Match afterwards. Photo: Paul Mohan

# Camogie champions!

**Louise Cashell**

lcashell@corkindependent.com

**There was a rousing reception for the victorious Cork camogie team upon their return home this week.**

The team, who captured title number 25 after beating Kilkenny on Sunday, made one stop in Mal- low to meet fans before arriving in to Kent Station and boarding a double decker bus for a parade that finished at the South Mall.

Hundreds of fans took to the streets awash in a sea of red.

Cork captain Anna Geary led her teammates and management, with the

O'Duffy Cup, on to the stage where Lord Mayor Mary Shields welcomed them and thanked the team on behalf of the county for their heroics in Croke Park.

The match itself, saw the Cork team turnaround a five point deficit at half-time and finish the game in emphatic style, beating Kilkenny 2-12 to 1-9, thanks to Jenny O'Leary and Angela Walsh goals.

Manager of the team Paudie Murray, along with Anna, Camogie Board Chairperson Marian McCarthy, PRO Mary Newman, Jim Barry of the Barry Group (team sponsors) and county mayor Alan Coleman, also addressed

the crowd before it ended with a round of 'The Banks of my Own Lovely Lee'.

Dual players Briege Corkery, Rena Buckley and Angela Walsh will barely have time to catch their breath before they play in the All-Ireland Ladies Football final in less than two weeks on 28 September, where Dublin will be their opposition.

A ninth title in 10 years is on the cards for Eamonn Ryan's team and All-Ireland title number 14 for both Corkery and Buckley, should the team come away with a win.

Throw-in time for that match is at 4pm in Croke Park.



Cork camogie captain Anna Geary with the O'Duffy Cup at South Mall. Photo: Tony O'Connell



A section of the large attendance at South Mall to welcome back the All-Ireland camogie champions. Photo: Tony O'Connell



Cork captain Anna Geary shows off the O'Duffy Cup at last night's homecoming for the Cork camogie team and inset, Cork's dual stars Rena Buckley, Angela Walsh and Briege Corkery who will be chasing more All-Ireland glory in the ladies football final in two weeks.

Picture: Eddie O'Hara







**CHILD'S PLAY:** Before travelling home yesterday after winning the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior camogie final at Croke Park, the Cork players visited Our Lady's Children's Hospital in Crumlin. With team members Anna Geary, left, and Aisling Thompson is four-month-old Sam Kinahan and mom Chloe from Baldoye, Co. Dublin.

Picture: Mark Stedman/Photocall Ireland

## Camogie chiefs will use hurling to grow fan base

Colm O'Connor



**C**amogie chiefs will look at playing more and more games alongside hurling championship fixtures in the coming years to build the profile of the sport.

Officials are 'reasonably happy' with the 12,476 attendance for Sunday's All-Ireland triple-header at Croke Park, though it fell well short of the predicted 15,000.

Despite those figures there appears little appetite to take the games out of GAA headquarters to a smaller venue or returning to the policy of playing alongside the U21 finals.

Instead, camogie bosses believe increasing the profile will attract new fans and grow attendances.

Camogie and stiúrthóir Joan O'Flynn said: "Playing the three finals in Croke Park elevates the status of the senior, intermediate and junior championships. Take Limerick as an example. They won the intermediate final on Sunday and their manager Joe Quaid said it was the first time in over 40 years he had seen a Limerick player collect an All-Ireland trophy in the Hogan Stand. That was facilitated only by the triple-header arrangement.

Giving the opportunity to as many players as possible to realise their All-Ireland dream in Croke Park is of standout importance.

"That said, bringing camogie to the widest audience possible is also very important to the association. When there are opportunities for double-headers [with hurling] during the year we take them. The National League senior camogie and hurling decider in Thurles this year was such an example; along with the All-Ireland senior camogie semi-final with the U21 hurling semi-finals in August also in Thurles.

"That is something we want to build on. Increasing the number of camogie double-headers with provincial hurling championship games or All-Ireland

hurling qualifiers are also other options we will look at, but we are at a very early stage right now."

In terms of the crowd at Croke Park, she said: "We were reasonably happy with the attendance. 15,000 was our benchmark and we would have liked to have gone to that and beyond. But the hurling and camogie communities are one and the same, so perhaps the fact that Kilkenny and Limerick were both a week earlier in the senior and minor hurling deciders impacted on us. And of course you have various other factors at play."

Cork's All-Ireland senior final victory over Kilkenny attracted an average audience of 221,500 viewers to RTE on Sunday which equated to a share of 27% of the available audience.

## Ladies in red: U14 camogie girls blitz it in Dublin



**Girl power:** The U14 B camogie development squad that took part in the Cooper All-Ireland blitz in Dublin on Saturday. Back row, from left, Niamh Ní Riain (Clonakilty), Kelly Guiney (Buttevant), Ellen Fitzgerald (Watergrasshill), Grainne O'Flynn (Valley Rovers), Mary Kate Fehin (Milford), Aisling O'Donovan (Newcestown), Caitlin O'Donovan (Enniskeane), Katie Buckley (Glen Rovers), Elizabeth Gulnane (Sarsfields), Shannon Wynne (Ballygarvan), Meadhbh Moynihan (Tracton), Leah Cambridge (St Vincent's), Hannah Belton (Fr O'Neills) and Naoise Wallace (Glen). Front row, from left, Malread Shinnick (Buttevant), Deirdre Corcoran (Fr O'Neills), Eadaoin Coghlan (Carrigaline), Ellen O'Regan (Ballygarvan), Rachel O'Regan (Carrigaline), Evelyn Collins (Ballinhassig), Katie Jones (Ballincollig), Caitlin Sheehan (Charleville) and Lauren Whelan (Enniskeane).

### Camogie clubhouse

● FOLLOWING the All-Ireland win on Sunday the Cork Camogie Board has received more good news with planning permission granted for a new clubhouse at its grounds in Blackrock. City Hall planners have given the go-ahead for a single-storey clubhouse building adjacent to the existing playing field. It will include new changing rooms and an assembly hall.





Wexford's Josie Dwyer is presented with her 'Player of the Match' award by Annette Ni Dhathlaol, Head of Marketing Liberty Insurance - June 21st.

## Liberty Insurance 'Player of the Match' award presentations

(Photos: Inpho)



Annette Ni Dhathlaol, Head of Marketing Liberty Insurance, presents Clare's Marie McGrath with her 'Player of the Match' award - June 28th.



Ursula Jacob, Wexford, is presented with her 'Player of the Match' award by Annette Ni Dhathlaol, Head of Marketing Liberty Insurance - July 5th.



Joe Canning, Sponsorship and PR Executive Liberty Insurance, presents Kilkenny's Elaine Aylward with her 'Player of the Match' award - July 12th.



Cork's Orla Cotter is presented with her 'Player of the Match' award by John Coffey, Sponsorship and PR Manager at Liberty Insurance - July 19th.



Lorraine Ryan, Galway, is presented with her 'Player of the Match' award by Liberty Insurance Sponsorship and PR Executive Joe Canning - August 9th.



Cork's Orla Cotter is presented with her 'Player of the Match' award by Joe Canning, Sponsorship and PR Executive Liberty Insurance - August 9th.



Cork's Gemma O'Connor is presented with her 'Player of the Match' award by Annette Ni Dhathlaol, Head of Marketing Liberty Insurance - August 23rd.



Annette Ni Dhathlaol, Liberty Insurance's Head of Marketing, presents Kilkenny's Ann Dalton with her 'Player of the Match' award - August 24th.



Briege Corkery, Cork, is presented with her 'Player of the Match' award by Annette Ni Dhathlaol, Head of Marketing at Liberty Insurance - August 30th.

## Evening Echo

Linn Dubh, Assumption Road, Blackpool, Cork

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Cork's evening newspaper since 1892

## Team sports equip young for life's challenges

OUR review today by Linda Mellerick of Cork's All-Ireland camogie win last Sunday is well worth reading. Her view that this was one of the greatest ever victories, if not THE greatest ever, is particularly authoritative coming as it does from one of the finest and most decorated sportspeople in a county which prides itself on its sporting achievements. The young women who wore the Rebel red last Sunday brought honour to our county in many ways.

Genuine amateur athletes, they sacrificed so much to train to the level required to win, travelling long distances and spending many tough hours preparing. Then they unleashed a performance of real power and skill.

Their demeanour on and off the pitch is superb and they provide an excellent example for young people.



Not only was Anna Geary's, pictured, captain's victory speech celebratory, it was reflective and thought-provoking. Recalling tragedies which had affected members of the squad, she pointed out that sport gave an opportunity to create a little bit of happiness through the sadness.

Apart from its many other benefits of physical development and health, the supportive power of team sports has enormous value for participants, and helps to equip them for the many challenges of life — as well, of course, as helping them to truly enjoy the precious moments they have as young people. Like our brilliant Cork players, our young generation is full of idealism and ambition and carries a great work ethic. The All-Ireland camogie winners have shown them where these can lead. Just like their camogie colleagues, the Cork ladies football team go into battle at Croke Park tomorrow. We wish them the very best. Up the Rebels!

## Courceys are likely to avail of opportunity

**TOMORROW**  
**Evening Echo Senior**  
**Championship:**  
**Courcey Rovers v**  
**Ballincollig,**  
**Cloughduv 2pm.**

**BALLINCOLLIG**  
contested last season's final and they will be hoping to go one better this term.

In the opening round they went to a replay with Killeagh before losing out and they face a Courcey Rovers side that lost out to Ballinhassig as both now battle to stay in the championship.

Ballincollig will be hoping to improve and have excellent players in Denise Cronin, Linda Dorgan, Leah Weste and Aisleen Sheehan and they will put Courceys under a lot of pressure.

They conceded four goals last time out and will need to tighten up defensively to hold the lively Courceys' inside line where Linda Collins and Jacinta Collins were to the fore against Ballinhassig.

Courceys were disappointed not to get it right against Ballinhassig in a game that was a thriller from start to finish. They will have regrouped and worked hard to get it right this time out and Mark Prendergast will be confident of his side getting a positive result.

**TOMORROW**  
**Evening Echo Senior**  
**Championship:**  
**Inniscarra v Glen**  
**Rovers,**  
**Castle Road 5pm.**

Four points separated Inniscarra and St Catherine's in a hard-fought opening round.

Glen Rovers took Cloughduv to a replay before losing out. Both sides come to Castle Road hoping to keep their championship fortunes alive. Inniscarra, back-boned by Cork senior players Rena Buckley and Joanne Casey, are strong in all sectors.

Liz Hayes will be expected to return to their line-out having missed the opening game due to travelling. Sinéad Ni Riain, Rosemary O'Mahony, Aoife Kavanagh, Katie O'Mahony and Treasa McCarthy are experienced players at this level and they will hope to put that experience to good use against last season's Senior B champions, Glen Rovers.

**CAMOGIE**

**By MARY NEWMAN**

The Glen, to their credit, have embraced their promotion to the senior grade with enthusiasm. They gave it their all in their opening game against Cloughduv and were somewhat unlucky not to grab a late winner, Aoife Murray at her best denying them late on. In the replay they never reached the same heights and coach Sandy Fitzgibbon will be hoping her charges can improve on that display and stay in contention in this, their first season in the top-flight.

Lauren Callanan, Jennifer Hosford, Leanne O'Sullivan, Nicole O'Brien and Kaylynn Lee are products of the club's two county minor-winning sides and they, along with their more experienced team-mates will battle to get it right.

**TOMORROW**  
**Evening Echo Senior**  
**Championship:**  
**St Finbarr's v**  
**Cloughduv, Ballincollig**  
**5.30pm.**

Cloughduv and St Finbarr's were both winners in their opening rounds and are somewhat unlucky to find themselves in round two where two winning teams play-off for a place in the quarter-finals.

St Finbarr's easily accounted for Barryroe in their opening game while Cloughduv had to go to a replay to overcome Glen. Cloughduv, back-boned by three Cork seniors Joanne O'Callaghan, Aoife Murray and Briege Corkery, will fancy their chances of making it to the last eight. St Finbarr's are a well-balanced side. Cork senior Gemma O'Connor is their key player, Lynda O'Connell and Rachel Murray wear their hearts on their sleeves and they will battle it out with Cloughduv to the end.

● Also this weekend are the Evening Echo Senior B semi-finals; Ballygarvan v Fr O'Neill's and Clonakilty v Valley Rovers.

The Evening Echo Intermediate replay, Brian Dillon's v Enniskeane and the Evening Echo Junior B final, Glen Rovers v Bride Rovers and the Junior C final Millstreet v Banteer will all be previewed in tomorrow's page.

Sept. 2014



# Camogie celebrates

The Camogie Association celebrates its 110th anniversary this year and to mark this milestone we honour our County Players of the Decade who have given outstanding service to their clubs and county. The Camogie Association launched the County Player of the Decade initiative in June and invited all County Boards to submit their nomination for their respective County Player of the Decade. Clubs in each county were invited to submit their nominees to their County Board (clubs were not allowed to nominate their own club players). Nominees were judged on their role model/sportsmanship, playing excellence at County level, longevity of playing career and dedication and commitment to their County.

The Camogie Association congratulate all of today's award recipients on their tremendous achievements.

## Antrim

### JANE ADAMS

One of Antrim's most talented and accomplished camogie players who joined the inter-county set-up in 1997 and played up to 2012. A forward of fantastic skill and ability, one of her most memorable performances was her display in the 2012 All Ireland Final against Wexford.

## Armagh

### BERNIE MURRAY

Bernie captained her side to All Ireland success in 2011, and was also hugely involved in the county's 2006 winning campaign. She is heavily involved in promoting camogie within her own club and is regarded as a key figure in Armagh camogie.

## Carlow

### MARY COADY

The St Mullins club player is a key part of Carlow camogie club and inter-county scene. Mary has won numerous

honours at county level including provincial Junior titles and an All Ireland Junior B crown in 2012. She was most recently part of the Carlow team that contested the Liberty Insurance Junior A final.

## Clare

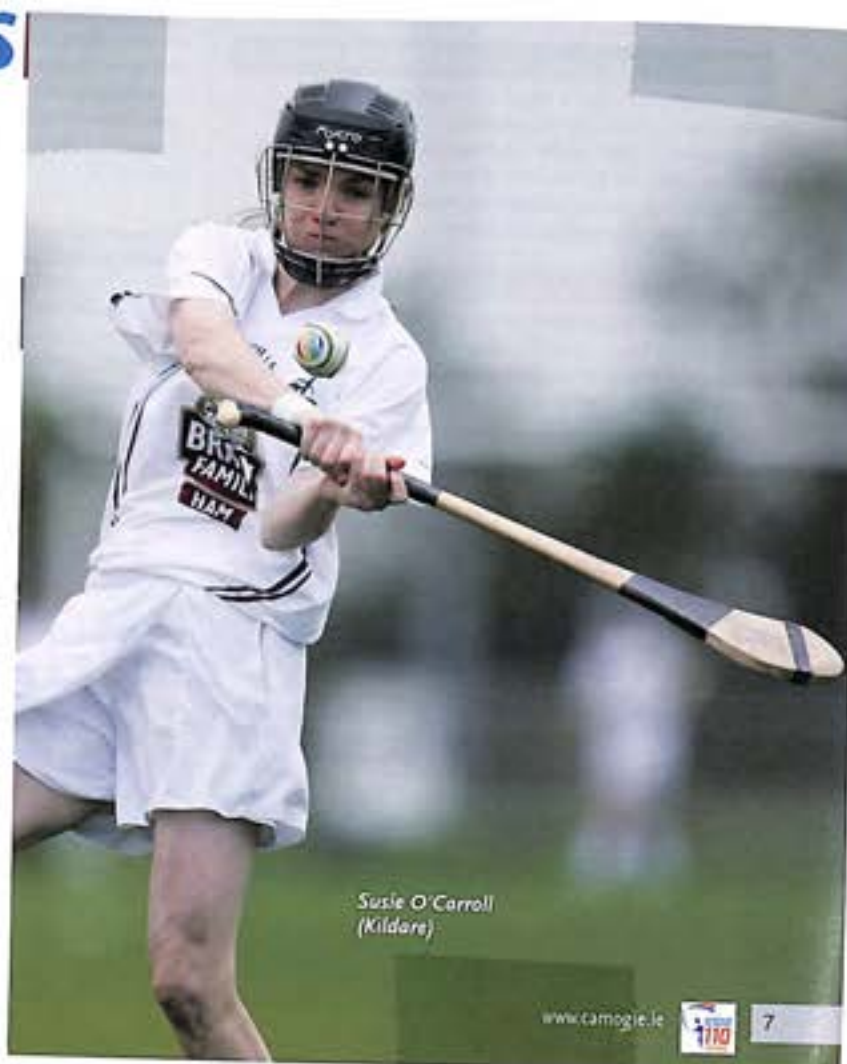
### DEIRDRE MURPHY

Deirdre has been a long standing member of the Clare camogie team, performing at a consistently high level for both club and county. She captained Clare to All Ireland success in 2008 and has played a key role in all of Clare's championship seasons.

## Cork

### MARY O'CONNOR

Mary has enjoyed a long and distinguished career with Cork, since joining the panel in 1996. She is one of the most decorated players in Gaelic games, winning All Ireland medals in both camogie and football. She retired from inter-county action in 2010 but continues her camogie career with Killeagh.



Susie O'Carroll  
(Kildare)

www.camogie.ie



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# Players of the Decade

## Down

### CATHERINE MCGOURTY

The Ballycran club player is the holder of 3 Soaring Star awards as well as Ashbourne & Purcell All Star awards. A mainstay of the Down camogie team, bidding for All Ireland honours this afternoon.

## Derry

### CLAIRE O'KANE

The Castledawson club player has been an integral part of the Oak Leaf County set-up contributing enormously to various Ulster titles and All Ireland inter-county successes in a long career.

## Dublin

### LOUISE O'HARA

One of Dublin's longest serving camogie players, the Erin's Isle club player is still representing both club and county with distinction. The holder of an All Star in 2006, O'Hara lined out at centre back for Dublin in this year's championship campaign.

## Laois

### LOUISE MAHONY

Louise is a member of The Harps, one of the most successful club sides in Laois. She is the holder of All Ireland and provincial honours at club and county level. Her displays at wing-forward were rewarded with a Soaring Star award in 2013. She lines out for her county this afternoon.

## Limerick

### SÍLE MOYNIHAN

The Ahane club player is a key part of a Limerick side which is bidding for All Ireland glory this afternoon. Moynihan plays her camogie in goals and in a long and varied career has collected inter-county provincial and national league honours.

## London

### RÓISÍN O'NEILL

O'Neill has been a key part of the camogie scene in London, contributing enormously to the promotion and

## Galway

### THERESE MAHER

One of the most iconic figures in the game, Maher finally won a much coveted and cherished All Ireland senior medal with her county last September. The holder of five All Star awards, she plays her club camogie with Athenry.

## Kildare

### SUSIE O'CARROLL

The Celbridge club player is one of the most potent forwards in the game. The holder of an All Ireland and Leinster championship titles, National League honours and Ashbourne Cup medals, O'Carroll has been one of the key figures in Kildare inter-county and club camogie.

## Kilkenny

### CATHERINE DOHERTY

Catherine has been one of the most inspiring figures in Kilkenny inter-county and club camogie over the past decade. She captained her county with distinction and was one of the key figures in the Kilkenny defence. She continues to play club camogie.



development of the game. She captained London in 2006 and was club person (Bros Pearses) of the year in 2005, 2006, 2007. Aside from playing she has also refereed from 2003 to 2008.

## Louth

### CONNIE CREHAN

Connie is a member of the St Anne's Club and enjoys a playing career which commenced in the early 70s. She is the holder of a Junior All Ireland medal and Leinster championship medals with the Wee County.

## Meath

### AILEEN DONNELLY

The Kilmessan club player has enjoyed an illustrious career for both her local side and county, with honours including eight club titles and All Ireland inter-county success in 2006 and 2012. She has also been part of the Leinster Gael Linn teams.

## Monaghan

### SIOBHÁN McKENNA

Siobhán is a member of the Truagh Camogie Club and was a key part of the side that claimed Senior league honours in 2009. She was part of the All Ireland winning Monaghan side in 2010 (defeating Cavan) and captained the team the following year to victory over Wicklow.

## Offaly

### ELAINE DERMODY

Elaine is one of Offaly's most accomplished camogie players and one of the top forwards in the country. The Drumcullen player, deadly accurate from play and frees, was rewarded for her exploits in 2013 with an All Star award and was part of Offaly's All Ireland Junior and Intermediate successes since 2009.

## Roscommon

### ANNETTE McGEENEY

Annette began her playing career with Athleague and continues to be an integral part of the club. She is a valued member of Roscommon inter-county camogie team winning Connacht Junior titles as well as an All Ireland in 2009.

## Tipperary

### CLAIRE GROGAN

Claire was a pivotal member of the Tipperary camogie team, collecting five All Ireland medals in a career full of highlights at inter-county and club level (winning All Ireland titles also with Cashel in 2007 and 2009). She is the holder of three All Star Awards and is regarded as one of the most exciting players of her generation.

## Tyrone

### JULIE LAGAN

Julie has been one of Tyrone's leading players in the past decade, in both a playing and coaching capacity giving wholehearted commitment to the promotion and development of camogie within the county and province.

## Waterford

### PATRICIA JACKMAN

Patricia is one of the mainstays of Waterford camogie. A player of note, she is the current All Ireland Poc Fada champion, winning her most recent title this August. A key member of the all-conquering Waterford Institute of Technology team, the Gailltír club player has All Ireland, Ashbourne and provincial accolades to her name.

## Westmeath

### PAMELA GREVILLE

Pamela of the Raharney Club has been one of the driving forces in Westmeath camogie over the past decade, contributing enormously to her club and county's success. She is one of the leaders in the Westmeath side, noteworthy for her tremendous performances in defence and attack.

## Wexford

### KATE KELLY

One of Wexford's most decorated and talented camogie players, The holder of 7 All Star Awards and All Ireland titles (2007, 2010, 2011, 2012), Kelly played a major role in Wexford's championship run this season and also captained the side.

SEPT.

2014



# Cork back on top of the world

**Courageous  
Cork camogie  
team comes  
good at the  
right time**

**CORK** 2-12  
**KILKENNY** 1-9

DARAGH Ó CONCHÚIR REPORTS

CORK inflicted a second consecutive defeat on Kilkenny to claim their first Liberty Insurance All-Ireland title since beating the same opposition in 2009.

It was a strange game that didn't get going in the first half, although that had much to do with Kilkenny's clear superiority.

The Cats went in at half time leading by 1-6 to 0-4 and that in no way flattered them.

Cork star Jenny O'Leary admitted that the Leesiders hadn't performed at all in the first half and resolved to change that in the latter period.

'I don't know if the occasion got to us or our heads were in our boots but we just said at half time that we'd worked too hard and we weren't going to let it behind us,' the West Cork woman said.

'It was just a puck of the ball between us and thankfully we came out on the right side of it. We have waited a long time for this.'

O'Leary played a big role in the turnaround with a goal that brought the sides level in the 41st minute.

By that stage, Cork had already shown a newfound zeal and intensity. They ramped up the physicality noticeably in defence and as a result, speedsters



Goal! Jennifer O'Leary.



Ecstatic: Ashling Thompson.

Briege Corkery and Julia White, and the graceful Orla Cotter were able to exert a much greater influence at the other end of the field.

This was an extremely tactical affair, with both sides withdrawing players deep and Cork pulling Cotter back on Denise Gaule for puckouts, in a bid to nullify the Windgap forward's aerial strength.

The Leesiders didn't look comfortable in the first half though. They were only a point behind at the end of the opening quarter but Kilkenny had certainly settled better.

Aoife Murray made an outstanding reflex save from



The smile says it all: Cork's Anna Geary, holding the O'Duffy Cup, celebrates with supporters after winning the Liberty Insurance senior camogie championship final against Kilkenny in Croke Park on Sunday.

(Photos: Cathal Noonan/INPHO)

Michelle Quilty in the seventh minute after the excellent Katie Power had caught a long delivery and offloaded quickly but the Cork goalkeeper was unable to deny Quilty 11 minutes later.

Gaule added three points but Cotter and Eimear O'Sullivan were on target for Cork to keep them in touch.

## Evident

It was evident from the opening seconds of the throw-in that Paudie Murray had lit a fire under his players at the break and though Shelley Farrell stretched the margin to six soon after the resumption, Cork proceeded to score a goal and five points with-

out reply.

White set up Katriona Mackey for a point in response and Cotter (free), O'Leary, Corkery (with White again the provider) had the deficit down to a goal when O'Leary struck for the defining score.

It had its genesis in some stout defensive work that forced a turnover and Cotter worked the ball out to Ashling Thompson. The Milford midfielder sent the ball down the left wing to Angela Walsh who hand-passed to O'Leary.

There was still plenty of work to do and she certainly took a lot of steps as she cut inside but John Dolan was probably giving

advantage for a foul. A goal ensued and the sides were level.

Cork pushed on from there and Cotter launched a fantastic score. Emma Kavanagh made two excellent saves from Mackey and Walsh to keep Kilkenny in touch but points from Corkery and a Cotter 45 put three between them.

There was drama late on as Aoife Neary had solid claims for a penalty turned down and in the game's final act, Walsh took another pass from Julia White to score a goal to spark wild celebrations.

## Scorers

Cork: O Cotter 0-6 (4f), J O'Leary 1-

1, A Walsh 1-0, B Corkery 0-2, E O'Sullivan, J White and K Mackey 0-1 each.

Kilkenny: D Gaule 0-5 (4f), M Quilty 1-1, C Dormer, S Farrell and K Power 0-1 each.

Cork: A Murray, J O'Callaghan, A Geary, L Tracey, E O'Sullivan, G O'Connor, P Mackey, R Buckley, A Thompson, J O'Leary, A Walsh, B Corkery, J White, O Cotter, K Mackey.

Sub used: J Casey for O'Leary (62). Kilkenny: E Kavanagh, M Power, K McDonald, J Frisby, C Phelan, C Dormer, E Aylward, L Fennelly, A Dalton, D Gaule, A Dunphy, A Connelly, S Farrell, K Power, M Quilty.

Subs used: M Walsh for Connelly (44), A Neary for Farrell (53), E Keane for Fennelly (56). Referee: J Dolan (Clare).

## Cork's perfect mix of bravery and warriors is the real story



**Sarah O'Donovan**  
reflects on a great day for the Rebels

SIX points the worse for wear it looked incredibly bleak for the Rebels as they emerged from the tunnel for the second half of Sunday's All-Ireland senior camogie final.

They were being beaten by a better, sharper side, doing everything in its power to bury the demons of losing the previous year's All-Ireland final to Galway.

Kilkenny were unbeaten in 2014, had the league title in their trophy cabinet and were favourites to secure a first All-Ireland title since 1994.

Cork had won more than its share of All-Ireland titles in that interim but

none since 2009 and for players like Jenny O'Leary, Aoife Murray, Joanne O'Callaghan and Gemma O'Connor that hunger to secure one more proved the driving force for an immense second-half turn around.

Cork had managed just four points in the opening 30 minutes, Orla Cotter and Julia White raising white flags before player of the match Eimear O'Sullivan split the posts with a stunning long-range effort to provide the only bright point for Cork outside of two brilliant Aoife Murray saves.

There were some home truths that needed to be told at half-time as Cork players were asked if they wanted to remember their day in Croke Park as the day they watched Kilkenny win an All-Ireland title.

They were also asked if at the final whistle they were still losing by six points would they be satisfied with their lot.

The answer, of course, was an unequivocal no and the Cork team that emerged from the tunnel was a team prepared to die on its sword.

Despite this new resolve it was still Kilkenny who hit the first score of the second half but then the wheel began to turn for Cork.

Three unanswered points from Katriona Mackey, Orla Cotter and Jenny O'Leary had helped Cork to claw back the deficit to just three points with eight minutes played of the second half.

The brave running of Briege Corkery also bore fruit and it was a two-point game when Jenny O'Leary raced through the Kilkenny defence to smash home Cork's first goal of the game.

There were questions marks about the number of steps taken by O'Leary but camogie is intended to be a non-contact sport and the punishment taken by O'Leary as she went past three of the Kilkenny defence cannot be

dismissed.

O'Leary's goal settled the Rebels but the game was by no means decided.

Kilkenny, immensely dangerous in their attack, were just a point behind but a plethora of wides from the Cats would prove costly.

Briege Corkery provided breathing room with a point, Orla Cotter stretched the lead to three and then it was a case of backs to the wall as Cork defended their precious lead.

Kilkenny will feel aggrieved for not having been given a stonewall penalty with time nearly up.

The Cork defence used all manner of knacks to ensure the ball stayed out of the net and not all of them legal but sometimes you have to ride your luck and deal with the consequences later.

For Cork on this occasion there were no consequences but there was evidence, a brilliant photograph of goalkeeper Aoife Murray with arms

wrapped around Aoife Neary proving Kilkenny's call was warranted.

The legitimacy of the call mattered little to Cork as Angela Walsh closed the game out with a well-worked goal deep in injury time to ensure the tables had been firmly turned, Cork the victors by six points at the final whistle.

In the aftermath of the game enough wasn't made of the hard work by Cork in the second half.

Present camogie players commenting on the game skipped over Cork's second half haul of 2-8 to focus instead on Kilkenny's shortcomings.

This did both teams an injustice. Kilkenny didn't play badly in this year's All-Ireland final, it was that Cork were just better, better mentally and better physically.

Cork were the perfect mix of bravery and composure in a second half that needed warriors and to dismiss that powerful cocktail is to miss the story.

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# Cork strike back at Cats

ALL IRELAND CAMOGIE FINAL

Cork 2-12  
Kilkenny 1-9

CORK inflicted a second consecutive defeat on Kilkenny to claim their first Liberty Insurance All-Ireland title since beating the same opposition in 2009.

It was a strange game that didn't get going in the first half, although that had much to do with Kilkenny's clear superiority. The Cats went in at half-time leading by 1-6 to 0-4 and that in no way flattered them.

Cork star, Jenny O'Leary, admitted that the Leesiders hadn't performed at all in the first half and resolved to change that in the latter period.

"I don't know if the occasion got to us or our heads were in our boots but we just said at half time that we'd worked too hard and we weren't going to let it behind us. It was just a puck of the ball between us and thankfully we came out on the right side of it. We have waited a long time for this."

O'Leary played a big role in the turnaround with a goal that brought the sides level in the 41st minute. By that stage, Cork had already shown a newfound zeal and intensity.

They ramped up the physicality noticeably in defence and as a result, speedsters Brieghe Corkery and Julia White, and the graceful Orla Cotter were able to exert a much greater influence at the other end of the field.

This was an extremely tactical affair, with both sides withdrawing players deep and Cork pulling Cotter back on Denise Gaule for puckouts, in a bid to nullify the Windgap forward's aerial strength. The Leesiders didn't look comfortable in the first half though. They were only a point behind at the end of the opening quarter but Kilkenny had certainly settled better.

Aoife Murray made an outstanding reflex save from Michelle Quilty in the seventh minute after the excellent Katie Power had caught a long delivery and offloaded quickly, but

the Cork goalkeeper was unable to deny Quilty 11 minutes later.

Gaule added three points, but Cotter and Eimear O'Sullivan were on target for Cork to keep them in touch. It was evident from the opening seconds of the throw-in that Paudie Murray had lit a fire under his players at the break and though Shelley Farrell stretched the margin to six soon after the resumption, Cork proceeded to score a goal and five points without reply.

White set up Katrina Mackey for a point in response and Cotter (free), O'Leary, Corkery (with White again the provider) had the deficit down to a goal when O'Leary struck for the defining score.

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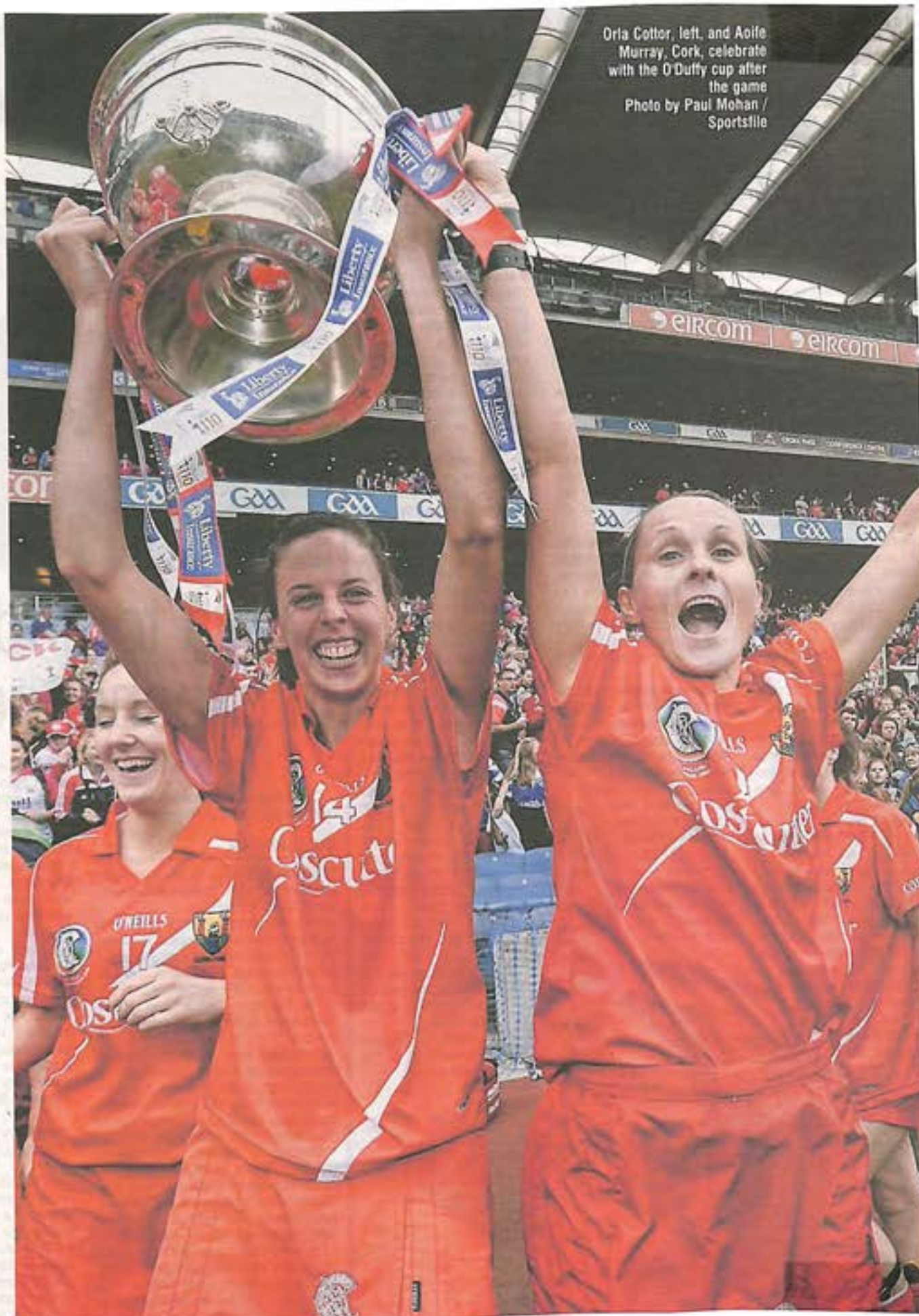
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**CORK:** A Murray, J O'Callaghan, A Geary, L Tracey, E O'Sullivan (0-1), G O'Connor, P Mackey, R Buckley, A Thompson, J O'Leary (1-1), A Walsh, B Corkery (0-2), J White (0-1), O Cotter (0-6 4f), K Mackey (0-1) Sub: J Casey for O'Leary (60+2)  
**KILKENNY:** E Kavanagh, M Power, K McDonald, J Frisby, C Phelan, C Dorrner (0-1), E Aylward, L Fennelly, A Dalton (0-5, 4f), D Gaule, A Dunphy, A Connery, S Farrell (0-1), K Power (0-1), M Quilty (1-1) Sub: M Walsh for Connery (44), A Neary for Farrell (53), E Keane for Fennelly (56)  
**REFEREE:** J Dolan (Clare)

Orla Cotter, left, and Aoife Murray, Cork, celebrate with the O'Duffy cup after the game  
Photo by Paul Mohan / Sportfile





# 'O'Neill's will give Ballygarvan a run for money

WE have the makings of two cracking games as three South East sides remain in the hunt for honours in the Evening Echo Senior B Championship.

Ballygarvan, in their second year in the Senior B grade, having dropped down from senior in 2013, look to be the form team they are strong and experienced but Fr O'Neill's are young and lively and could trouble them.

Nora Ahern, former Cork and Fr O'Neill's star, is guiding her club's fortunes this season and she has them going well.

They defeated Mallow, Aghabullogue and a strong Clonakilty side to emerge from their group and book their semi-final spot on merit. Sarah and Kate Harrington, Ciara McGrath, Rebecca Walsh and Keelagh Cullinane will spearhead their challenge for a place in the final.

Ballygarvan topped their group with victories over Valley Rovers, Éire Óg and Carrigaline and they are a well balanced outfit.

New signing from Carlow, Lyndsey Condell, is a huge asset in goal and all over the field they possess a lot of strength.

Ann Keohane, Mary Ellen O'Donovan and Ella Ryan are excellent in defence. Catriona Kelly, Suzanne Lynch and Caitriona Keohane are experienced players who have played in the top grade whilst Michaela Buckley is a young player who has slotted in well to adult camogie.

Clonakilty have prom-

# Junior C final will be a real cracker

THE Evening Echo Junior C Championship final is a repeat of the league final where Banteer took the honours.

Millstreet will be battling to reverse that result this time out, while it is Banteer's first time in the final.

A lot of their line up would have won honours with Castlemagner club and they are no strangers to finals.

The league final was a top class encounter both sides battling hard to take honours and we can expect much of the same tomorrow.

Millstreet overcame

SENIOR B  
By Mary Newman

ised a lot in recent years and will relish a chance to get back to the senior B final. In 2012 they took Barryroe to a replay before losing out by the narrowest of margins.

Last season they failed to make it to the final and are determined to get back there this year. In the round-robin series they looked sharp as they beat Kilbrittan/Timo-league, Aghabullogue and Mallow before losing to Fr O'Neill's by two points in the last game in the group.

This season St Colum's Libby Coppinger is eligible to play adult camogie with Clonakilty as her club does not field at this level.

Clíodhna O'Regan, Sinead O'Neill, Hazel O'Regan and Nicola O'Donovan are good players who will relish another chance to get to the final and make amends for losing out in 2012.

Valley Rovers are going well but have a few injuries and players unavailable due to holidays and if this is the case they could be in trouble.

They have put in a huge effort to reach the semi final and it would be a pity to be missing players at this crucial stage. Liz Bugler, Eileen Foley, Clodagh Deasy and Susan O'Leary will work hard to make it to the final. They will put the Clonakilty girls under huge pressure in their quest for victory.

JUNIOR C  
By Mary Newman

Castlelyons to book their place in the final. Alanna Barry, Lydia O'Reilly, Maire Ellen O'Connor and Ava Barry will all be to the fore for them.

Banteer overcame Ballinora in a tight contest where they had to call on all of their reserves.

Tara Sheehan, Lynda Dunlea, Gemma Cashman and Rosie Twohig lead their quest for the double.

The weather should be good so make sure to get out and take in a few of the excellent games.

# Second helping



Cork captain Anna Geary and the players celebrate in the dressing room after the win over Kilkenny and main picture, Geary at the full-time whistle.

## I SAT down last Wednesday night to watch the All-Ireland final again.



LINDA MELLERICK

## CAMOGIE

It was great to watch it with a steady heart and enjoy it.

There is so much more you see when watching for a second time and when you're relaxed.

What was staggering was the 61% to 39% possession stats in favour of Cork after 16 minutes.

It didn't feel like that at the time. But watching it again Cork were better in the first half than I thought. It was that they didn't work the ball out and push forward like they did in the second. No doubt, Niall Collins told them that at half-time.

Yes, there were a few comments about Kilkenny's failure to get a penalty but that happens, there were a couple of harsh decisions against Cork

too and Cork were full value for their six point win. They were by far the better team.

I said last week that when Galway ran at Kilkenny in the semi-final it caused them problems. Cork demolished the Kilkenny back six with their speed.

Kilkenny could have been nine points up at the break instead of five but I still think Cork would have won this game.

Some tremendous battles! Jacqui Frisby was brilliant but so too was Julia White.

That was probably the best

dual battle I've seen in the long time. Katie Power and Anna Geary was another.

There were times when Katie had possession and you'd think she was gone but Anna got that flick/push/block, in.

As expected Cork kept their back six intact, as did Kilkenny. And both forwards tried to pull them out, ensuring the middle part of the pitch was saturated.

But once Cork ran at them they always looked like they had an extra player. And still they managed to swarm Kilkenny at the other end when under attack. A bit like Donegal defensively and on the counter attack.

The second half was a great spectacle. It had everything. Brilliant.

Laura Treacy played with incredible confidence for her first All-Ireland; a great game.

I had a good feeling going in to the game. I couldn't understand why Kilkenny were such favourites.

Surely anyone that saw the replay against Wexford would have realised that Cork had



Cork captain Anna Geary with her parents Michael and Ellen Ann after last week's game.



Jack and Shane Griffin and Rory Walsh, Ballinhassig welcome home the Cork camogie team.



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# was even better

Cork's Laura Tracey celebrates with her parents after last week's All-Ireland win. Picture: Eddie O'Hare



every chance. I placed my bet on the way to Croke Park!

This team had its problems throughout the year. But the way they gelled in the past month or so has really been incredible. All the work, the talking, the analysis, the camaraderie, just seemed to finally click.

The referee was a talking point on *The Sunday Game*. That should never happen but all too often it does. I'm fed up of giving out about referees and their lack of consistency. But the rules are just ridiculous and leave too much to interpretation.

Imagine if that was allowed to fully flow. Imagine the spectacle we'd have had, imagine the thousands more that would sit up and take notice.

It's extremely frustrating for the players, management and spectators. What is wrong with

letting girls get stuck in for a ball and may the best woman win.

The worst of all is this 'charging' rule. You never know when a running forward and an advancing defender collide which way the free will go. Why give a free at all? The free against Rena Buckley was wrong.

I remember being interviewed after the 1995 All-Ireland and saying that the rules had to change, that camogie is a contact sport and trying to make it otherwise is killing the game.

Galway's Aislinn Connolly stood up at a 'Business for Women in Sport' networking event that I attended last week and said the same words almost verbatim.

The desire the players had to win was there for all to see. Every point was celebrated as

if it were a goal. Brieghe, Orla, Julia, Jenny, Katrina and Angela were simply outstanding in the second half.

Brieghe's run to take Orla's sideline and the latter's coolness in finding her which led to a point epitomised the confidence that grew in Cork as the game went on.

I was particularly thrilled to see Angela Walsh net in the dying seconds.

Always the unselfish provider, it was great that she was the one on the end of another brilliant move involving Julia. Gemma was just magnificent once again. What a player she has been for Cork over the past decade. Aisling Thompson played a huge role in the team this year. And what about Eimear O'Sullivan! What a momentous occasion for her and Ballinhassig. Cork's game plan suited her. Her speed out of de-

fence and her distribution were excellent, her point sweet.

Joanne O'Callaghan had a tough day at the office in September 2012. Her strength to bounce back from that and have one of her best seasons in the red and white is no surprise to those who know her.

She worked hard on her game and got her reward. With the high regard I hold for Aoife Murray I was delighted she displayed some of her mastery with that first half save.

Add in the massive contribution of Pamela Mackey and Rena Buckley and we now have a Cork team quite capable of winning further honours.

That didn't come about overnight. To Paudie Murray and his management and backroom team, many congratulations on a job exceptionally well done.

## Brian Dillon's will have learned from experience

INTERMEDIATE  
By Mary Newman

ENNISKEANE and Brian Dillon's came back again to find a winner after it finished level last time.

In that game, Enniskeane grabbed a last minute goal to level the game in a nail-biting finish where either side could have snatched it.

Dillon's led at the break by five points and looked to be in control but Enniskeane upped the pace and turned in a great second half performance.

Dillon's have excellent players in Claire Dooley, Lauren Barry and Shauna Cronin, up front Jane Dooley is dangerous and she will trouble the Enniskeane defence as she did last day out.

Shauna Walsh in goal was excellent as Enniskeane battled to get back into the game.

She denied them with some good saves and having lost a five point lead in that outing

Dillon's will be hoping to do the business this time out and book themselves a final spot against their great rivals Sarsfield's.

Enniskeane will have other ideas. Promoted this season to intermediate having won the Junior A title in 2013, this season has been a good one for them as they have settled well into the higher grade.

Cork senior panellist Orla Cronin as well as Claire O'Mahony, Sinead Curtin and Katie Buttimer are amongst the players who are in their line out.

You can expect them to battle hard for a place in the final. However, one might suspect that Brian Dillon's, having let a good lead slip last day out, won't make the same mistake this time.

## Bride to give Glen tough test

JUNIOR B  
By Mary Newman

IT'S the battle of the Rovers in the Evening Echo Junior B Championship final when Glen Rovers and Bride Rovers clash in Castle Road.

It's the Glens second string taking on a Brian Murphy coached Bride Rovers side in a battle for the title, both clubs had good semi-final victories both notching up 2-10 in their respective clashes.

Bride Rovers accounted for a fancied Ballinascarty side while the city girls knocked out Ballincollig.

With their senior team in action on Saturday, Glen Rovers will be hoping that everything goes their way there, Beth Hackett (Walsh) captains the side and she has given tremendous service to the club and will be hoping to lead them to victory.

Alison Dowling, Sinead Gallen and Lisa Cotter lead their quest for sil-

verware and with a mixture of experience players combining with minor and U16 players in their line up, they go in search of a title last won by the club in the 1980s.

Bride Rovers are coached by former Cork hurler Brian Murphy and have been the side tipped for victory since the start of this campaign. They came through the group stages impressively and were league winners in 2012.

Grace Kearney, Jennifer Cahill, Eleanor Aherne, Carol Noonan, Laura Quirke and Jennifer Barry have been turning in good solid performance all through this campaign and they will battle with all their might to take the championship title to Rathcor-mac.

## Weekend fixtures

**TODAY**  
Evening Echo Intermediate Championship replay: Brian Dillon's v Enniskeane; Ovens 3pm.

Evening Echo Senior Championship: Ballincollig v Courcy Rovers; Cloughduv 2pm; Glen Rovers v Inniscarra; Castle Road 5pm; St Finbar's v Cloughduv, Ballincollig 5.30pm.

**TOMORROW**

Evening Echo Senior B Championship semi-finals: Ballygarvan v Fr O'Neill's Castle Road, 2pm; Clonakilty v Valley Rovers Bandon, 2pm.

Evening Echo Junior C County Final: Millstreet v Banteer; Carrigrohoid, 12.30pm.

Evening Echo Junior B County Final: Glen Rovers v Bride Rovers Castle Road, 5.30pm.



Katie Whelton, Blackrock gives the Cork team the thumbs up at the homecoming. Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Douglas girls welcome home the Cork camogie team after last Sunday's All-Ireland camogie success. Picture: Eddie O'Hare



# Vaughan shines as Banteer win with ease

## CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

Banteer	7-14
Millstreet	0-8

A PHYSICALLY stronger Banteer captured the *Evening Echo* Junior C championship title in Carrigrohilly yesterday as they overcame a young Millstreet side who battled to the final whistle and never gave up the chase.

Banteer raced into an early lead, Imelda Vaughan, who finished the game with 4-1 to her credit, was hugely effective at full-forward while Una Twohig, Aine Cott, Lisa Howard and Sinead Casey held the upper hand as they put the Millstreet defence under huge pressure. Maura Ellen O'Connor and Alanna Barry scored Millstreet points but they had a mountain to climb as Banteer led 5-1 to 0-2 at the break.

All credit to Millstreet who came out for the second half in determined fashion and through the half they began to gain a grip around the middle of the field and this resulted in a much-improved second-half performance as they began to show confidence in their own ability. This saw Millstreet begin to pick off points with Alanna Barry, Maura Ellen O'Connor and Kate O'Keefe finding their range, but with Imelda Vaughan and Sinead Casey adding to the Banteer tally they held their lead.

Maura Ellen O'Connor added a goal before the full-time whistle for Millstreet and it was no more than they deserved on a day when the stronger Banteer, having set the foundations for victory in the opening half, never looked in danger of losing.

**Scorers for Banteer:** I. Vaughan 4-1, U. Twohig 1-5 (0-3 f, 0-1 45), A. Cott, S. Casey 1-2 each, T. Howard 0-2, E. Twohig 0-2.

**Millstreet:** Alanna Barry 0-5 (0-4 f), M. E. O'Connor 1-2, K. O'Keefe 0-1.

**BANTEER:** T. Sheehan; L. Dunlea, K. O'Donoghue, E. O'Donovan; L. Murphy, G. Cashman, R. Twohig; M. Twohig, U. Twohig; V. Weathers, Aine Cott, L. Howard; S. Casey, I. Vaughan, E. Twohig.

**Subs:** M. McAuliffe for L. Murphy (45); K. O'Keefe for S. Casey (45); J. Coleman for L. Dunlea (51); O. Roche for L. Howard (57); M. Weathers for E. O'Donovan (57).

**MILLSTREET:** E. Cronin; C. Murphy, S. Dennehy, L. Dennehy; A. J. O'Reilly, L. O'Reilly, L. Murphy; Alanna Barry, K. O'Keefe, S. Sheehan; A. Buckley, M. E. O'Connor; E. Twomey, D. Looney, Ava Barry.

**Subs:** J. Dunne for D. Looney (35); E. Cronin for M. Lane (51); D. Looney for E. Twomey (53); M. Lane for Ava Barry (55).

**Referee:** John Horgan (Gleann Na Laoi).



PETER McNAMARA

## CAMOGIE

Ballincollig	1-12
Courcey Rovers	0-11

BALLINCOLLIG progressed to the *Evening Echo* Cork County Senior Camogie Championship quarter-finals after clawing back a four-point half-time deficit to overcome Courcey Rovers in Cloughduv last Saturday afternoon.

With Jacinta Crowley deadly accurate from frees – she nailed four in the first-half and seven overall – Courceys were 0-7 to 0-4 up at the interval and were battling ferociously having gone into the tie as the favourites in the eyes of many commentators on the sport.

Yet, the Brendan O'Driscoll-coached Collig went through the gears thereafter and increased their work-ethic – last year's beaten finalists accumulated a total of 23 in terms of hooks, blocks and turnovers overall – and eventually won out by four points.

The turning period of the contest occurred from the 37th to the 46th minutes.

Collig hit points from Patricia Buttimer, Maria O'Donoghue, captain Linda Dorgan – each scoring their second – and Sam Coomey which was a leveller to the leave the tie balanced at 0-8 each on 40 minutes.

Then Jess Hennigan's major following Denise Cronin's cleverly-placed incisive pass in behind Courceys' cover and Dorgan's third point, meant the Muskerry outfit led 1-9 to 0-8.

The Cork squad member's intelligence in generating the goal was rightly lauded by all at the venue. It was an ingenious pass from Cronin.

Crowley hit back with two converted frees for Courceys on 47 and 53 minutes but Sinead O'Callaghan and Cronin restored Collig's four-point buffer by the 58th minute.

Courceys' Linda Collins was subsequently denied a goal by net-minder Ashleen Sheehan prior to Cronin padding out Collig's advantage to five.

Cork panellist Sara Hayes then attempted to raise a green flag for Courceys but her effort was steered over the bar as O'Driscoll's outfit advanced.

Crowley, in the fifth minute, had



Cloughduv's Katherine Corkery battles with St Finbarr's Clodhna Sargent, during their *Evening Echo* Senior Camogie Championship match at Ballincollig.

Picture: David Keane

# Ballincollig progress to the last eight

given Courceys the lead from a free. Yet, Dorgan and Buttimer sent Collig in front, 0-2 to 0-1.

Collig's full-back line comprising of Adele Kiely, Alison Coughlan and Leah Weste were sweeping up well throughout but experienced operator Eimear O'Reilly hit two brilliant points either side of a Crowley free meaning Courceys controlled the tie by the 13th minute leading 0-4 to 0-2.

O'Callaghan responded for Collig and moments later Coomey thought

she had found the net with a blistering shot however, was dismayed as it rebounded to safety off Claire Duggan's crossbar.

Crowley then added two more frees while Julie Mulcahy also pointed prior to the break affording Courceys their four-point cushion but Collig were frustrated having not enhanced their tally after O'Callaghan's 17th minute score.

Still, Collig were a different animal thereafter.

**Scorers for Ballincollig:** J. Hennigan 1-0, L. Dorgan 0-3, P. Buttimer, S. O'Callaghan (0-1 f), M. O'Donoghue, D. Cronin 0-2 each, S. Coomey 0-1.

**Courcey Rovers:** J. Crowley 0-7 (0-7 f), E. O'Reilly, J. Mulcahy, S. Hayes 0-1 each.

**BALLINCOLLIG:** A. Sheehan; A. Kiely, A. Coughlan, L. Weste; S. Buckley, K. O'Donoghue, J. Hennigan; A. Cott, D. Cronin; M. O'Donoghue, L. Dorgan (c); S. O'Callaghan; S. Coomey, P. Buttimer, C. Ryan.

**Sub:** S. O'Sullivan for O'Callaghan (62).

**COURCEY ROVERS:** C. Duggan; S. Keating, C. Hayes (c), A. Keating; A. O'Reilly, K. Keohane, S. Hayes; J. Crowley, A. Moloney; E. O'Reilly, P. Collins, C. O'Neill; J. Mulcahy, L. Collins, E. O'Reilly.

**Referee:** Andrew Larkin (Douglas).

# Casey fires for Inniscarra in a one-sided encounter

Inniscarra	5-10
Glen Rovers	1-4

## CAMOGIE

By John Leonard

INNISCARRA will meet Killeagh in the quarter-finals of the *Evening Echo* Cork County Senior Camogie Championship after recording a comprehensive victory over last year's Senior B champions Glen Rovers in Saturday evening's losers' round tie at Castle Road.

The Muskerry side, who were back-boned by Cork senior players Rena Buckley and Joanne Casey, had the Glen restricted to a single point in the second half. Wayward shooting from early placed balls was proving to be

costly for the Blackpool side before Inniscarra seized the initiative.

Margaret Cosgrave drilled home the game's opening goal in the sixth minute. Inniscarra's Aileen Sheehan exchanged points with Kelly Fitzgerald before Caitlin Looney and Casey tagged on unanswered points to give Inniscarra a lead of 1-3 to 0-1.

The Mid Cork side found themselves on the back-foot entering the second quarter as Denise Luby pointed a 45.

The Glen were also awarded a penalty

from which Luby got their only goal in the 23rd minute to leave the minimum between the sides.

Looney and Casey then slotted over further points. Looney capitalised on sloppy defending by the Blackpool side to pounce for Inniscarra's second goal. Casey and Sheehan added further points in stoppage-time to give the Muskerry side an interval lead of 2-7 to 1-2.

Luby pointed a free for the Glen two minutes after the break but they were exposed at the back for most of the second half as Katie O'Mahony and Casey added unanswered points.

Thereafter, two goals from Casey, a goal by Cosgrave and a point from Alla-

nah Twohig put the tie beyond the Glen.

**Scorers for Inniscarra:** J. Casey 2-4 (0-1 f), M. Cosgrave 2-0, C. Looney 1-2, A. Sheehan 0-2, K. O'Mahony, A. Twohig 0-1 each.

**Glen Rovers:** D. Luby 1-2 (1-0 pen, 0-1 45; 0-1 f), K. Fitzgerald 0-1.

**INNISCARRA:** S. Ni Ráin; R. McCarthy; E. Hayes, M. Buckley; K. Jones, R. O'Mahony; S. McCarthy; A. Kavanagh, A. Sheehan; R. Buckley, C. Looney, K. O'Mahony; T. McCarthy, J. Casey, M. Cosgrave.

**Subs:** Amanda Twohig for Cosgrave, C. Healy for Kavanagh (both 50); Allannah Twohig for T. McCarthy (55); D. O'Callaghan for S. McCarthy (58); N. Lombard for Looney (61).

**GLEN ROVERS:** K. Lee; N. Gowen, L. O'Sullivan; S. Busteed; K. Falvey, L. Callanan, L. Cunningham; J. Hosford, S. Hayes; D. Luby, L. O'Connell, K. Fitzgerald, S. O'Halloran, N. O'Brien, A. Wallace.

**Subs:** A. O'Keefe for Wallace (40), S. Fahy for Gowen (47).

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



Sept. 2014

## CAMOGIE

By Peter McNamara

Cloughduv 2-10  
St Finbarr's 2-7

# Ryan excels as Courceys earn victory

**CLOUGHDUV** orchestrated a three-point success over St Finbarr's last Saturday night in Ballincollig in the Evening Echo Senior Camogie Championship with Ann Marie Ryan and Brieghe Corkery impressing for the victors.

Ryan registered 2-2 of Cloughduv's total, all four scores from open play and she proved to be a menace throughout for Jim McEvoy's outfit. Brieghe Corkery, who started at midfield alongside Mairead Corkery, another who was absolutely immense during the tie driving at the Barrs' defence relentlessly from deep positions, performed magnificently and complemented her overall display with two fine points, both in the first-half.

Cloughduv led 2-2 to 1-1 at half-time with Ryan slamming in both of their goals.

Corkery had given Cloughduv, a unit that began the clash with eight minors, the lead in the second minute.

However, prior to Ryan raising the first green flag of the encounter in the eighth minute as she bundled the ball over the goal-line, Barrs had hit four wides and despite the fact they had more possession in this opening spell the southsiders found themselves four points in arrears.

Brieghe Corkery pointed again on 12 minutes before Niamh McGreevy registered the Barrs' first score of the contest and it was an essentially one at that as she billowed the back of Aoife Murray's net moments later Brieghe Corkery had put Cloughduv five points to the good.

Yet, Brieghe Corkery's long-range attempt at a point dropped short seven minutes later and Ryan was on hand to steer the rebound from goalkeeper Catherine McCarthy's stick to the corner of the net affording Cloughduv a 2-2 to 1-0 advantage.

Keeva McCarthy responded for the Barrs on 27 minutes converting a free however the city side still trailed by four points at the interval.

Gemma O'Connor, who went on to finish the match with a personal tally of 1-3 after a switch into the attack in the second half, had been partnering Lynda O'Connell in midfield initially and despite the fact the Barrs eventually succumbed to Cloughduv, both O'Connor and O'Connell produced astounding performances.

O'Connell's tenacious work-rate in the middle third was a highlight from the Barrs' perspective and she galvanised her side in the second period while O'Connor's power was a factor as she troubled Cloughduv's defence.

Katherine Corkery registered the opening score of the second half but O'Connor hit back for the Barrs.

Nevertheless, Becky Hannigan and Ryan, following excellent build-up play from Brieghe Corkery, extended Cloughduv's lead to six points with 38 minutes on the clock, 2-5 to 1-2.

However, Katie Crowley, McCarthy and O'Connor brought the Barrs to within three points of their opponents, 2-5 to 1-5 by the 42nd



St Finbarr's Lynda O'Connell clears the ball as Cloughduv's Catriona Foley closes in during their Evening Echo Senior Camogie Championship match at Ballincollig.

minute.

Katie Corkery (free) exchanged scores with McCarthy before the former drilled over a 45.

Niamh O'Leary then added a beautifully-struck point on 50 minutes and suddenly Cloughduv were five clear again, 2-8 to 1-6.

However, O'Connor's ground stroke after a free dropped short nestled in the net and the Barrs were given a lifeline.

The southsiders required the next

score to enhance their growing momentum.

Yet, Ryan pointed instead for Cloughduv.

O'Connor maintained the Barrs' fight with another gem but Katherine Corkery, splitting the posts from a 45, had the final say.

**Scorers for Cloughduv:** A Marie Ryan 2-2, K Corkery 0-4 (0-2 45, 0-1 f), B Corkery 0-2, B Hannigan, N O'Leary 0-1 each.  
**St Finbarr's:** G O'Connor 1-3 (0-1 f), N McGreevy 1-0, K McCarthy 0-3 (0-2 f), K Crowley 0-1.

**CLOUGHDUV:** A Murray, N McCarthy, Eva Dunne, A Kelleher, A Corkery, C Foley, O O'Driscoll, M Corkery, B Corkery, Emma Dunne, K Corkery, A Barry Murphy, A Marie Ryan, J O'Callaghan, B Hennigan.

**Sub:** N O'Leary for Emma Dunne (50).

**ST FINBARR'S:** C McCarthy, S Punch, Ciara Sargent, Jessica Keating, R Finn, Clodhna Sargent (c), C Ryan, G O'Connor, L O'Connell, E Ryan, M Cahalane, C Keating, N McGreevy, K McCarthy, R Myers.

**Sub:** K Crowley for McGreevy (36).

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



Sinéad Walsh scored 1-4 for Bride Rovers in their win over Glen Rovers.

## Walsh stars as Bride get on their bike to earn win

### CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

Bride Rovers 3-12  
Glen Rovers 2-8

**BRIDE ROVERS** had to call on all of their experience as they closed out this Evening Echo Junior B championship final in Castle Road last evening.

Leading at the interval 0-9 to 0-4, they looked to be in control but a storming last quarter saw the Glen girls cut the lead to a goal and almost snatch an equaliser before the Bride girls regrouped with a point and a last minute goal to seal victory.

Sinéad Walsh had three points and with Grace Kearney Jennifer Cahill and Chloe O'Flynn on the scoresheet they held the early advantage.

Michaela Hyde kept the Glen on-target through an opening half where Bride Rovers made the Glen defence work hard.

Donna O'Neill, with a point, and a Michaela goal cut the deficit before Chloe O'Flynn grabbed a Bride Rovers' goal but two points in a row cancelled it out as the Glen began to tear into the game.

Sinéad Walsh goaled to put eight points between the sides but responding, the Glen fought back two Hyde points and an Edel O'Connell goal had three points between the sides as the sides fought to gain control, twice the Glen came close Jennifer Cahill relieved the pressure on Bride Rovers with a point before Grace Kearney's long-range free squeezes into the corner of the net in added-time to ensure victory was secured after a superb contest.

**Scorers for Bride Rovers:** S Walsh 1-4, C O'Flynn 1-1, J Cahill 0-4, TG Kearney 1-2, T O'Sullivan 1-1.

**Glen Rovers:** M Hyde 1-7, E O'Connell 1-0, D O'Neill 0-1.

**BRIDE ROVERS:** S O'Flynn, E Ahern, M Pearl, C Noonan, L Quirke, J Barry, E Collins, C Power, J Cahill, K Connor, G Kearney, T O'Sullivan, C O'Flynn, S Walsh, M Hazelwood.

**Subs:** E Roche for M Hazelwood, B Bartley for K Connor, M Kelleher for C O'Flynn.

**GLEN ROVERS:** L Dineen, E Foley, L Twomey, H Duggan, L Cotter, S Brickley, S Goggin, M Hyde, A Dowling, B Hackert, L Hickey, S Gallen, D O'Neill, E O'Connell, T Kenneally.

**Subs:** M Sheehan for T Kenneally, S Ryan for L Hickey.

**Referee:** Gerard Ahern (Cloughduv).



# Collig will be slightly fancied to win



Denise Cronin can prove a key player for Ballincollig in their Senior Championship quarter-final clash against Ballinhassig. Picture: Sportsfile

**TOMORROW,**  
Senior Championship  
quarter-final:  
Ballincollig v Ballinhassig,  
Brinny, 2pm

## CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

**THE first of the *Evening Echo* quarter-finals are down for decision tomorrow in the senior championship.**

One of the last four games goes ahead, due to the All-Ireland ladies football final, the other three are scheduled for the following week.

Last season's defeated finalists Ballincollig are back in contention as they overcame Courcey Rovers following their defeat at the hands of Killeagh in a first-round replay.

Ballinhassig recorded a first-round victory over Courceys to set-up this meeting with Ballincollig and looking at all three teams there is very little between them.

Ballincollig had to call on all of their resources to hold off the stiff challenge posed by Courceys, likewise Ballinhassig in their clash with Courceys who made both clubs

battle to the finish for victory.

It has taken Ballinhassig a while to adjust to senior level and, now in their third year in the grade, they are beginning to find their feet and reaching the quarter-final is a huge boost and they now have huge incentive to go a step further.

Player of the Match in the All-Ireland senior final, Eimear O'Sullivan is an inspirational player for them.

She performed superbly in their opening round clash and the players around her upped their game in response.

Up front, Catriona Collins is playing superbly, U16 player Ger Collins has slotted in well to Denis McCarthy's side while experienced players such as Linda Griffin in goal Amanda Coleman, Deirdre Coomey and Orla Murray showed

plenty of determination as they overcame Courcey Rovers with three points to spare.

Ballincollig, having drawn first time out with Killeagh, failed to get over the first fence in the replay but for last weekend's back-door encounter with Courcey Rovers they regrouped and got it right in the finish.

Now in their fifth year in the senior grade, they made it to last season's final, but were totally overpowered by a strong Milford side.

This year they are determined to get back to the final and make amends and with a strong panel still available, plus the addition of Sinead O'Callaghan who transferred from Ballinhassig to join Ballincollig this season, they will be confident of getting to the semi-final.

O'Callaghan now finds herself up against her former team-mates with whom she won Senior B championship honours in 2011 as Ballinhassig blazed a trail to take honours and win promotion to the top

grade.

The full-forward didn't line-out with the club in 2012 or 2013 and played her first senior game with her new club in the 2014 championship having earlier in the season lined-out with the Ballincollig junior side who won the junior B league.

Coached by former St Finbarr's player Brendan O'Driscoll they are a fine side with plenty of physical strength, Linda Dorgan, Jess Hennigan, Sarah Buckley Leah Weste and Denise Cronin have plenty of inter-county experience while Ashleen Sheehan, Adele Kiely, Alison Coughlan and Kate O'Donoghue are established championship campaigners.

Several of the Ballincollig side hold senior championship honours won with Muskerry in 2007 but they would dearly love to get back to the final this year and atone for last seasons defeat.

Ballincollig go in as slight favourites but Ballinhassig will not be unduly worried by this.

## Clonakilty should make hay in senior B showpiece

**TOMORROW**  
Senior B Camogie final:  
Ballygarvan v Clonakilty  
Castle Road, 5pm

Ballygarvan will bid to rejoin the top-flight as they battle with Clonakilty to get their hands on the *Evening Echo* Senior B championship title, writes **MARY NEWMAN**.

Having re-graded in 2013 to senior B, they are now on the verge of stepping back up after just two years and, on form, it is hard to see them being stopped.

They were impressive in their semi-final outing as they confidently overcame Fr O'Neill's and having come through the group stages undefeated they will go into this as favourites.

Clonakilty contested the final in

## SENIOR B CAMOGIE

2013 and took eventual winners Barryroe to a replay before losing out narrowly, they overcame Valley Rovers in a tough semi-final and this game will have stood to them as they had to call on all their resources to fashion out a splendid victory.

Both sides have excellent performers, Ballygarvan's Suzanne Lynch, Bernadette Keohane, Mary Ellen O'Donovan and Ella Ryan are experienced campaigners.

Clonakilty, having lost out two years ago, will be hoping to make amends. Hazel O'Regan, Nicola O'Donovan, Aileen McCarthy Ciara Nagle, Beulah McManus and St Colum's Libby Coppinger, who

plays her adult camogie with Clonakilty, will battle hard to take the first senior B title to Clonakilty.

**TOMORROW**  
*Evening Echo* Intermediate  
Championship final  
Sarsfield's v Brian Dillon's  
Castle Road, 2pm

The curtain-raiser in Castle Road is a repeat of the league final as neighbours Sarsfield's and Brian Dillon's meet to decide the destination of the championship title.

In the league final just four points separated the sides as Sarsfield's took their first adult title since 1989. In that outing both sides showed fierce determination as they battled it out for the title.

Brian Dillon's were minus several players tied up with Leaving Cer-

tificate exams for the league final and with these players now available they are stronger.

Last weekend they overcame Enniskeane in a semi-final that went to a replay and with these competitive games behind them so close to the final it will have stood to them while Sarsfield's have had to wait since their semi-final when they overcame Blackrock three weeks ago.

Both will battle hard for the title. Emer Fennell, Katie Barry, Jenny Murphy, and Maeve McCarthy will give it their all to take the honours to Riverstown while Niamh O'Leary, Sinead Mills, Susan Kate Brosnan and Claire and Jane Dooley will do likewise to ensure victory for Brian Dillon's in what promises to be a close contest.

Sept. 2014



Aghada  
claim a  
first title  
for girls

CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

AN EXTREMELY talented and determined Aghada took their first county title when they captured the U14B league title with a victory over Sliabh Rua. Enniskeane overcame St Catherine's to be crowned U14 C champions, while Erin's Own and Buttevant have to do it all again after it ended all square in the U14 D league final.

This season the juvenile board introduced a new U13 championships in three grades A, B, and C, to prepare 12-year-olds for the step-up to 15-a-side camogie after the Go Games model. The U13A semi-finals take place today with Douglas v Carrigaline and Charleville against the Glen. The B semi-finals have Ballinora meeting Castlemartyr at 1.40pm, and Inniscarra taking on Millstreet at 3.15pm, both in Ballinlough.

In the U13C semi-finals Bishopstown meet Rockbawn at 3pm in Bishopstown with Grenagh awaiting the winners. At U16, Aghabullogue versus Milford/Ballyhea and Sarsfields v Ballygarvan are the A pairings. The U16 B semi-finals will be contested by Barryroe, who play the winners of Youghal versus Sliabh Rua, while Enniskeane are awaiting the winners of Bishopstown versus Éire Óg.

In the U16 C final Aghada overcame Douglas 2. The U16 championships are at the quarter-final stages at A level: Courcy Rovers v Glen Rovers, Sarsfields v Newcestown, the Milford/Ballyhea combination versus Carrigaline today (Sat), and it's St Finbarr's against Killeagh.

At B level, Sliabh Rua advanced with a victory over St Vincent's, Éire Óg and Fr O'Neill's ended all square, and Charleville take on Dungourney. In the C, it's Ballinascorthy versus will meet Newtownshandrum in the semi, while Douglas 2 and Watergrasshill, and Erin's Own versus Valley Rovers are the remaining quarter-finals.

# Ladies must create their own stories



LINDA MELLERICK

## CAMOGIE

**I ATTENDED a Business of Women in Sport networking event in Croke Park two weeks ago.**

Sponsored by Liberty Insurance, the sponsors of the camogie and hurling championships, the event was well attended by males and females alike.

Hosted by RTE's Jacqui Hurley with panellists Rob Hartnett, CEO of sport for business, Annette Ní Dhathlaí of Liberty Insurance and Mags Darcy, Wexford's goalkeeper, the discussion centred on the future of sports for women in Ireland and how those in leadership positions can help keep women's sport moving forward.

It was a fantastic 60-minute discussion. We could have stayed there all day. This wasn't just about camogie.

It was about all sports and many current stars were in attendance from all codes.

It also wasn't a case of a 'let's fight our cause', 'women deserve more', 'we aren't getting the respect we deserve' Amazonian battle charge by women who feel hard done by.

It was an honest and open healthy discussion on how far women have come in sport in Ireland and what we can all do to further enhance it.

The perfect world would present no differentiation between women and men's sports; a female athlete would be recognised as a sports star first and foremost who happens to be a woman. It would be great if in 10 years we weren't talking about women's sport because we don't talk about men's sport. We talk about sport and it just happens to be played by men and women.

What was agreed upon is that women don't support women. There is an obligation on us to assure young girls have appropriate role models. A star is what you see, not what's put in a newspaper.

The fallacy that women's sport isn't as good as men's, that it's not as fast, not as skilful was rubbished by Rob Hartnett.

A total of 500,000 people tuned into TG4 to watch the Rugby World Cup semi-final against England, in the early evening.

This wasn't primetime or Sunday afternoon viewing, he said.

That's two thirds of the people that tuned in to watch the All-Ireland hurling final three weeks ago. People will watch great sport, they will follow great stories and there is no gender luck on those.

Aishling Thompson's tattoos were mentioned. The last time Rob took such notice of a tattoo was on David Beckham.

He feels that Aishling's are almost as famous now and her story is a great



Rosie Twohig, Banteer is presented with the Evening Echo Junior C Championship Cup by Marion McCarthy, chairwoman of the Cork Camogie Board. Picture: John Tarrant

## SEANDÚN FIXTURES

**Seandún U15 A semi-finals:** St Finbarr's v Bishopstown, Na Piarasigh v Glen Rovers

**Seandún U15 B semi-finals:** Douglas v St Vincent's, St Finbarr's 2 v Brian Dillon's

**Seandún U15 Shield semi-finals:** Losers of Glen Rovers v Na Piarasigh v Losers St Finbarr's

**2 v Brian Dillon's:** Losers of St Finbarr's v Bishopstown v Losers of Douglas v St Vincent's

**Seandún U13 A semi-finals:** Glen Rovers v Na Piarasigh; Douglas v St Finbarr's

**Seandún U13 B semi-finals:** Bishopstown v Brian Dillon's; Blackrock v St Vincent's

one. Don't give out, he said, that the media aren't writing about women. Create the right story.

People love stories. People know the Anna Geary story via the *Skin in the Game* documentary and the Rose of Tralee. That's what they want. Rob's mantra was; don't go into promoting your game thinking 'I have to sell, I have to sell'. Tell the stories. It doesn't matter that they're about women.

Jacqui re-iterated the point — a story is a story. The Irish rugby team is a great story, they beat New Zealand.

The Cork ladies footballers' record is a great story. She felt that social media has been a huge game changer for women in sport, that mainstream media is picking up some great stories from that and taking it further.

Cliona Foley, sportswriter for the *Independent* stated that unless women go and watch women play we are struggling to sell our sports to the media. We need bums on seats.

Joan O'Flynn, CEO of the camogie association encouraged the dads in the room to bring their children to the camogie finals the following Sunday. Interesting research in the USA to examine why women follow men's basketball as opposed to women's basketball showed they picked this up as children going to men's games with their dads.

Joan said that it should be as normal for a boy to go to a camogie match as it is for a girl to go to a hurling game. We are influenced by our parents. Aislinn Connolly, Galway camogie player, felt that the broadcasters could do more, referring to the two minutes camogie gets on *The Sunday Game* at the very end of the show. Jacqui agreed saying that we would all love more, her producer would like more.

Rob also spoke about the draw for businesses looking in as Jacqui presented him with the question — what's attractive for them in sponsoring women's events? He made some valid points, once being that it is much cheaper.

It is possible to get coverage at a national and international level, such as the women's rugby team, for an awful lot less money than it is for a men's sport. That window is going to close a little bit he feels.

AIB sponsor the club championships, Continental Tyres sponsor women's soccer. They have 180,000 employees worldwide; they have revenue of 34 billion.

BMW sponsored women's rugby in France. These sponsors are big brands and they get it!

We will get setbacks to moving forward; it isn't going to be an explosive moment. But we need to keep fighting.

It doesn't need for us to wear a sign saying I'm an advocate of women's sport, it just needs us to do our bit.

We all came away inspired to try and do a little bit more. Keeping the momentum now is what's important.

Finally, to Eamonn Ryan and the ladies footballers; the best of luck tomorrow. Keep that incredible record motoring! We are basking in the glory.



## Ballincollig are step closer to redemption

### CAMOGIE

By Joe Kennefick

Ballincollig	2-16
Ballinhassig	2-4

LAST SEASON'S defeated finalists Ballincollig took a major step in their quest to go one better this season when they had a comfortable victory over Ballinhassig in the quarter-final of the Evening Echo Senior Camogie Championship.

Played at Brinny on Saturday goals from Sam Coomey in the 17th minute and Patricia Buttner in the closing stages were the decisive scores, but on balance Ballincollig were a better all-round team against a youthful Ballinhassig who never gave up.

Ballincollig led 1-9 to 1-2 at the interval. While Ballinhassig rallied after the break, Ballincollig always had too much firepower.

Ballincollig raced into a three-point lead with points from ex-Ballinhassig player O'Callaghan (2) and Dorgan before Ballinhassig replied with similar scores from Niamh Sheehan and Catriona Collins to leave them 0-3 to 0-2 in front after nine minutes.

O'Callaghan increased their lead before Coomey goaled from close range after a powerful run by Dorgan. Ballinhassig replied almost immediately when Collins caught a long delivery and finished to the net to leave the score 1-4 to 1-2 after 19 minutes.

Collins pointed a free after she was fouled and O'Sullivan then pointed after receiving a short free from Emma Jordan but this was as good as it got for Ballinhassig.

Despite the best efforts of Coomey, O'Sullivan, Linda O'Sullivan in goal and Miriam Rearden,

Cronin, O'Callaghan, Elaine Casey, Dorgan and Buttner all had points before Coomey set up Buttner for their second goal. Ballinhassig were beaten but they kept trying and were rewarded when their best forward Collins found the net after a good move involving Jayne O'Leary and Jordan but it was Ballincollig's day and they move into the semi-final.

**Scorers for Ballincollig:** S O'Callaghan 0-7 (0-3 f, 0-2 45), S Coomey, P Buttner 1-1 each, L Dorgan, D Cronin 0-3 each, E Casey 0-1.

**Ballinhassig:** C Collins 2-2 (0-1 f), N Sheehan, E O'Sullivan 0-1 each.

**BALLINCOLLIG:** A Sheehan, A Kiely, A Coughlan, L Weste, S Buckley, K O'Donoghue, J Hennigan, A Cotter, P Buttner, M O'Donoghue, L Dorgan, E Casey, S Coomey, D Cronin, S O'Callaghan.

**Subs:** C Ryan for M O'Donoghue (54), L Cooper for S O'Callaghan (54), M Cronin for E Casey (55), F O'Brien for A Kiely (56), O Ni Chathsaigh for L Dorgan (60).

**BALLINHASSIG:** L O'Sullivan, E O'Donovan, M Rearden, K Coleman, A Coleman, E O'Sullivan, K Bohane, N Sheehan, E Jordan, O Murray, D Coomey, R Moynihan, G Collins, C Collins, K McCarthy.

**Subs:** C Butler for O Murray (40), J O'Leary for O Murray (46), L O'Leary for K McCarthy (53).

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

# Holland leads Sars' to title-winning tilt

### CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

Sarsfield's	2-14
Brian Dillon's	1-5

SARSFIELD'S breached a 25-year gap as they annexed their first adult championship title since 1989 when they were crowned *Evening Echo* Intermediate Camogie champions in Castle Road on Saturday.

Tears of joy were shed as their players and supporters relished the moment and with the majority of their current squad not even born when an adult camogie title last wound its way to Riverstown, you could understand their joy.

Claire Holland got their challenge off to a perfect start grabbing a goal with their first attack and it quickly settled her side as they laid down the gauntlet and took the game to Brian Dillon's.

Despite being aided by the strong wind in the opening half, Dillon's attack found it hard to break down the solid Sarsfield's defence, where Ellen Murphy commanded matters on the edge of the square with good support from Katie Barry and Lauren Casserly.

Caroline Craughan and Caoimhe Rodgers were on-target for Dillon's from frees, but with Lucy Allen deadly accurate and Holly Herlihy adding to their tally Sars had opened up a 1-7 to 0-4 lead at the break.

Dillon's started the second half brightly and putting huge pressure in the Sarsfield's defence, they won frees. Rodgers added a point before blasting a close-in free to the net and just two points separated the sides as the pace of the game grew in intensity.

Sensing a Dillon's revival, Sars got



Claire Holland celebrates her goal against Brian Dillon's just minutes after Dillon's brought themselves back into the game with their first goal in the Evening Echo-sponsored Nano Nagle Cup, Intermediate County final at Castle Road.

Picture: Larry Cummins

back their shape and upped the ante with some excellent, direct hurling, and with Emer Fennell and Niamh O'Callaghan impressively steadying proceedings at midfield they got ball to their inside line, who showed huge skill in front of goal.

Emma Casey, Holly Herlihy and Maeve McCarthy did huge work as they set about consolidating their advantage.

Lucy Allen converted a 45 to steady the nerves and piling on the pressure Holland killed the game off with a super goal after McCarthy superbly picked her out unmarked on the edge of the square with a cross-

field ball, and she made no mistake from close range.

From here on, Brian Dillon's were chasing the game and in the closing quarter it was all Sars. McCarthy popped over three points, Allen converted a free and a 45 before McCarthy had the last say with a point on a day that 25 years of disappointment was finally put aside.

Sarsfield's defender Ellen Murphy was named as player of the match, as an emotional Emer Fennell collected the Nano Nagle Cup for a jubilant side, who made it a double having earlier in the season collected the league title.

**Scorers for Sarsfield's:** L Allen 0-8 (0-5 f, 0-2 45), C Holland 2-1, M McCarthy 0-4, H Herlihy 0-1.

**Brian Dillon's:** C Rodgers 1-4 (1-3 f), C Craughan 0-1 f.

**SARSFIELD'S:** C Casey, L Casserly, E Murphy, G Donoghue, N Hickey, J Murphy, K Barry, E Fennell (c), N O'Callaghan, H Herlihy, L Allen, E Casey, J Allen, M McCarthy, C Holland.

**Subs:** L Kelly for N Hickey (inj 40), O Keane for J Allen (53), M O'Farrell for E Casey (58), C Tobin for C Holland (59).

**BRIAN DILLON'S:** S Walsh, C Craughan, N O'Leary, D Keane, E Sharpe, A Dorgan, A Smith, S K Brosnan (c), S Cronin, C Dooley, S Mills, R Brosnan, J Dooley, C Rodgers, T Deane.

**Subs:** E O'Connell for R Brosnan (25), S Cotter for D Keane (28), A O'Brien for C Craughan (47), L Barry for T Deane (49).

**Referee:** Mike O'Kelly (Ballyheal).

## Kelly exemplifies Ballygarvan's sheer dominance

Ballygarvan	2-12
Clonakilty	1-6

### CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

THIS game, as a contest, never delivered, as Ballygarvan comfortably took the *Evening Echo* Senior B Championship title at Castle Road.

From the throw-in, Ballygarvan used possession well, and the experience of plying their trade in the senior grade up to two years ago through the likes of Catriona Kelly, Suzanne Lynch and Lorraine Browne.

Rebecca Murphy, who was hugely effective over the hour, pointed from the throw-in. Libby Coppinger had replied with a long-range effort splitting the posts before Kelly showed

her skills at free-taking as she edged Ballygarvan in front. Despite being just 16, Michaela Buckley showed huge composure as she grabbed the opening goal turning her marker with a with a superb burst of speed before firing to the net. This settled any nerves Ballygarvan had and they tore into the game with huge confidence from here on in.

Inside five minutes, Murphy struck for a second goal and all through the half the Clonakilty defence came under huge pressure. Aine O'Leary and Hazel

O'Regan pointed for Clonakilty but again Kelly was on target and Ballygarvan led by seven at the interval.

Clonakilty battled hard to get into the game but again Murphy had the first say with a Ballygarvan point. Clon reshuffled their line-up and the introduction of Marie O'Donovan brought experience into the side. Sinead O'Neill and O'Regan cut the deficit with points and you sensed a Clonakilty revival just may be on the cards.

Kelly struck a long-range effort to break the momentum but it took two good saves from Ballygarvan keeper Lyndsey Condell to keep the Clonakilty attack at bay. Kelly pointed twice and with Catriona

Keohane adding one as Ballygarvan stretched their lead to 10.

However, the pace of the Clonakilty attack began to pay off as Marie O'Donovan grabbed a goal and it took the width of the upright to deny them a second. Sensing a let-off Ballygarvan added two Kelly frees as the game petered to its conclusion. Ballygarvan's Rebecca Murphy was named as player of the match after an excellent hour for her side.

**Scorers for Ballygarvan:** C Kelly 0-9 (0-5, 0-2 45), R Murphy 1-2, M Buckley 1-0, C Keohane 0-1.

**Clonakilty:** M O'Donovan 1-0, H O'Regan 0-2, C O'Regan, L Coppinger, S O'Neill, A O'Leary 0-1 each.

**BALLYGARVAN:** L Condell, L Kennefick, B Keohane, A Keohane, M E

O'Donovan, L Browne, E Ryan, S Lynch, C Murphy, M Moynihan, C Kelly (c), C Keohane, M Buckley, R Murphy, R Keohane.

**Subs:** K O'Donovan for R Keohane (40), E Martin for M Buckley (58), C Dillon for R Murphy (59).

**CLONAKILTY:** A O'Hea, A O'Neill, N O'Donovan, A McCarthy, C Nagle, B McManus, N Desmond-Collins, C O'Regan, A O'Leary, S O'Neill (c), N Deasy, L Coppinger, H O'Regan, L Collins, S Forristal.

**Subs:** M O'Donovan for L Collins (37), J Brennan for N Desmond-Collins (40), S O'Brien for S Forristal (48), A Campbell for H O'Regan (58).

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

● The camogie board has asked that everyone be made aware that the timing of this game for 5pm on Saturday was with full agreement and consultation with both clubs, who wanted it to go ahead at this time.

Sept. 2014



# Vaughan powers Banteer to junior title dream

**Banteer 7-14  
Millstreet 1-8**

Banteer proved too strong as they were crowned Junior C champions recently in Carrigrohoid with a victory over a young Millstreet side that battled to the final whistle.

Imelda Vaughan who finished the game with 4-1 gave Banteer an early lead

and she proved a handful in the full-forward berth for Millstreet while Una Twohig, Aine Cott, Lisa Howard and Sinead Casey were to the fore as Banteer put Millstreet under huge pressure.

Maura Ellen O'Connor and Alanna Barry had Millstreet points in the opening half but it was Banteer who lead 5-1 to 0-2 at the break.

Millstreet came out for the second half in determined

## JUNIOR C

fashion and through the half they began to gain a grip around the middle of the field. This resulted in a much improved second-half perform-

ance. Millstreet begin to pick off points with Alanna Barry, Maura Ellen O'Connor and Kate O'Keeffe finding the range but with Imelda Vaughan and Sinead Casey adding to the Banteer tally they held their lead.

Maura Ellen O'Connor added a goal before the full time whistle for Millstreet and it was no more than they deserved on a day when the stronger Banteer, having set

the foundations for victory in the opening half, never looked in danger of losing.

**Scorers for Banteer:** I Vaughan 4-1, U Twohig 1-5 (0-3fs 0-145), A Cott, S Casey 1-2 each, T Howard 0-2, E Twohig 0-2.

**Scorers for Millstreet:** Alanna Barry 0-5 (0-4fs), M E O'Connor 1-2, K O'Keeffe 0-1.

**Banteer:** T Sheehan; L Dunlea, K O'Donoghue, E O'Donovan; L Murphy G Cashman, R Twohig; M Twohig, U Twohig; V Weathers, Aine Cott, L Howard; S

Casey, I Vaughan, E Twohig.

**Subs:** M Mc Auliffe for L Murphy(45); K O'Keeffe for S Casey(45); Y Coleman for L Dunlea(51); O Roche for L Howard(57); M Weathers for E O'Donovan(57).

**Millstreet:** E Cronin; C Murphy, S Dennehy, L Dennehy; A J O'Reilly, L O'Reilly, L Murphy; Alanna Barry, K O'Keeffe, S Sheehan; A Buckley, M E O'Connor; E Twomey, D Looney, Ava Barry.

**Subs:** J Dunne for D Looney(35); E Cronin for M Lane(51); D Looney for E Twomey(53); M Lane for Ava Barry(55).  
**Ref:** John Horgan (Gleann Na Laoi).

## JUNIOR B

# Bride storm home in style

**Bride Rovers 3-12  
Glen Rovers 2-8**

Bride Rovers had to call on all their experience to close out this Evening Echo Junior B championship final.

Leading at the interval 0-9 to 0-4 they looked to be in control but a storming last quarter saw the Glen cut the lead to a goal and almost snatch an equalizer before Bride Rovers got a point and a late minute goal to put the game out reach.

Sinead Walsh had three points and with Grace Kearney, Jennifer Cahill and Chloe O'Flynn on the score sheet, Bride Rovers laid the foundations for victory early. Michaela Hyde kept Glen in the hunt but Bride Rovers forced their defence to work hard.

Donna O'Neill's point and a Michaela Hyde goal helped cut the deficit before Chloe O'Flynn grabbed a Bride Rovers goal. Glen rallied and scored two points in a row.

Sinead Walsh then goaled to put eight points between the sides. Glen fought back with two Hyde points and an Edel O'Connell goal.

Twice the Glen went close to grabbing an equaliser but Jennifer Cahill relieved the pressure on Bride Rovers with a point before Grace Kearney's long range free squeezed into the corner of the net in injury time to ensure victory was secured after a superb contest.

**Scorers for Bride Rovers:** S Walsh 1-4, C O'Flynn 1-1, J Cahill 0-4, TG Kearney 1-2, T O'Sullivan 1-1.

**Glen Rovers:** M Hyde 1-7, E O'Connell 1-0, D O'Neill 0-1.

**Bride Rovers:** S O'Flynn; E Ahern, M Pearl, C Noonan; L Quirke, J Barry, E Collins; C Power, J Cahill; K Connor, G Kearney, T O'Sullivan; C O'Flynn, S Walsh, M Hazelwood.

**Subs:** E Roche for M Hazelwood, B Bartley for K Connor, M Kelleher for C O'Flynn.

**Glen Rovers:** L Dineen; E Foley, L Twomey, H Duggan; L Colter, S Brickley, S Goggin; M Hyde, A Dowling; B Hackett, L Hickey, S Gallen; D O'Neill, E O'Connell, T Kenneally.

**Subs:** M Sheehan for T Kenneally, S Ryan for L Hickey.

**Ref:** Gerard Ahern (Cloughduv).



Ballygarvan Camogie U10 Team won the Declan Crowley Blitz which took place in Ballinhassig. This is Ballygarvan's first time winning the Blitz. Picture shows team captain Gira Kidney with the cup.

# Ballinhassig U10s scoop cup blitz

## CROWLEY CUP

Once again Ballinhassig pulled out all the stops as they held their annual Declan Crowley memorial Under10 Go games blitz recently. Twelve clubs were invited to attend, with Bishopstown, Tracton, Valley Rovers, Sliabh Rua, Ballygarvan, Eire Og, St Finbarr's, Barryroe, Ballincollig, Glen Rovers, Courcy Rovers and Ballinhassig lining out.

Teams were divided into groups playing games through the day and when the dust was settled it was on to semi-finals and finals.

The Declan Crowley cup competitions was contested between Ballygarvan and Tracton where it was nip and tuck as the youngsters battled it out for a place in the decider. At the end Ballygarvan reached the final where they met their hosts Ballinhassig. The game proved to be hugely exciting and in a closely contested game it was Ballygar-

van that were ahead 2-1 to 1-0 as they took the title for the first time.

The Tony Jeffers plate was also keenly contested with Glen Rovers and St Finbarr's battling it out. The Glen girls proved too strong for their opponents and in the final of the Joan Lucey Shield Eire Og came out on top beating Sliabh Rua.

After a very enjoyable and successful day the host club are to be complimented on the huge work that they put in. All through the day mentors and parents were looked after with

refreshments provided whilst all the young participants were looked after to the highest standards which is always the case with the host club who year after year put on a splendid show as they honour the memory of one of the mentors who sadly passed away.

For all the club members the tournament is a labour of love and youngsters in every club look forward as it usually signals the return to school for everybody. Ballinhassig take a huge bow once again. You did yourselves proud.



# ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CAMOGIE

# CC




**Liberty  
Camogie**

Back row (l to r): Aoife Murray (Cloughduv), Amy O'Connor (St Vincent's), Orla Cronin (Enniskeane), Katrina Mackey (Douglas), Orla Cotter (St Cal), Gemma O'Donnor (St Finbarr's), Anna Geary (Milford), Pamela Mackey (Douglas), Maria Walsh (Milford), Angela Walsh (Killeagh), Jessica

Front row (l to r): Julia White (Douglas), Collette Desmond (Newcestown), Briege Corkery (Cloughduv), Sara Hayes (Courc), Hazel O'Regan (Clonakilty), Sara Buckley (Ballincollig), Jenny O'Leary (

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All-Ireland Ladies Camogie  
Sunday, September



# MOGIE CHAMPIONS 2014

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Championship

herne's), Ashling Thompson (Milford), Hannah Looney (Killeagh), Denise Cronin (Ballincollig), Joanne Casey (Inniscarra),  
Kavanagh (Douglas), Leanne O'Sullivan (Glen Rovers), Fiona Neville (St Catherine's), Amanda O'Regan (Douglas).

ey Rovers), Rena Buckley (Inniscarra), Joanne O'Callaghan (Cloughduv), Laura Treacy (Killeagh)  
St John's), Eimear O'Sullivan (Ballinahassig).

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